



**I.A.F.F. Local 1040**  
**P.O. Box 2313**  
**Rapid City, SD 57709**  
**(605) 394-4180**

Mayor Sam Kooiker  
City of Rapid City  
300 6<sup>th</sup> St.  
Rapid City, SD 57701

Mayor Kooiker,

This letter is in reference to the proposed city ordinance preserving the relationship between the Rapid City Fire Department and the Rapid City Regional Airport.

The Rapid City Fire Department has provided exemplary service to Rapid City Regional Airport with regards to the life safety of its citizens and the people who are visiting our community. Crash Fire Rescue along with EMS response and airport security has long been our mission at this facility. 24 hours a day, 365 days a year for over 40 years our dedicated employees have met this mission.

RCFD has a proven record of incident response and service that has been validated by previous Airport Administrations along with consistent A+ ratings from the FAA.

Frankly Mayor, we find the current Airport Administrators solicitation of an RFP for these services as a very sneaky underhanded attempt to sever this outstanding relationship our city has had with the RCFD. This appears to us to be a decision they made based on control and bottom lines, with control being out in front. In 1989, Chief Tish took a very strong leadership stance that the life safety needs of the people in this community would be provided for by Rapid City Firefighters, not the lowest bid contractor. Chief Tish won the battle along with strong Council support.

We thought the issue had been resolved back then with an ordinance that was diluted to an MOU. Fast forward to 2015 and here we are again. An ordinance will ensure the cooperative relationship between the City and its airport, and reduce its chance that this will rear its ugly head for future administrations Local 1040 is in full support of your efforts to bring this ordinance forward.

Thank you for your support.

Jim Frybarger  
President IAFF Local 1040  
1/8/15