



**American
Red Cross**

City of Rapid City
Mayor Alan Hanks
300 Sixth Street
Rapid City, South Dakota 57701

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MAY 04 2010

MAYOR'S OFFICE

Dear Mayor Hanks,

The American Red Cross and the City of Rapid City have a long history dating back to 1917. The relationship has grown and evolved as we responded to floods, fires and blizzards. As we move into the future, the needs of the chapter and of this community continue to change and evolve.

Very soon, Fire Station # 7 at the corner of North Maple Avenue and Anamosa Street will become vacant as firefighters move to a larger, updated facility to meet the needs of the community. We too strive to serve the needs of our community and upgrading our facilities would help us to accomplish more in the face of disaster. That is why we are asking the City to consider leasing to us the soon to be vacated fire station.

There are several benefits the American Red Cross would receive that would better allow us to respond in times of disaster. By leasing the property, the American Red Cross would see many benefits such as:

- Improving our response to disasters by bringing most supplies together in one location.
- Providing a meeting place to serve the community including Red Cross training.
- Preserving our equipment from the weather.
- Allowing us to create a short term small shelter in times of bad weather.

Several times, this and previous winters, we could not get our equipment out to respond because of snow and ice. Red Cross is always on-call to respond to emergencies with trailers loaded and staged to set up a shelter at a moments notice. By utilizing the fire station we would protect our response vehicles from the elements and shorten our response time.

Currently, we lack adequate storage space to keep all disaster relief supplies in one location. The additional space that would be gained would be invaluable to decreasing our response time, and allowing us to have additional supplies on hand.

Oftentimes a situation arises requiring us open short term shelters for a day. Having a facility to meet those unexpected needs onsite and in a convenient location would allow us to save money and resources and better meet the needs of those individuals being served.

The City of Rapid City and the American Red Cross have had a wonderful relationship that is fast approaching 100 years. By leasing the fire station we hope to strengthen and grow our partnership in serving our community into the future.

Thank you for taking the time to consider this request.

Sincerely,

Richard Smith
Executive Director
American Red Cross
Black Hills Area Chapter
605-342-4010