

Subject: Support for Resolution #2011-128
From: Evelyne Villines <evelynev@ecity.net>
To: Kooiker Sam <Sam.Kooiker@rcgov.org>
CC: mkrause@bhws.com

Mayor Sam Kooiker
Rapid City, South Dakota
September 24, 2012

Dear Mayor Kooiker,

I am pleased for the opportunity to endorse Resolution #2011-128, which provides consideration for employment to people with disabilities.

I have worked in the field of Employment for Persons with Severe Disabilities for over 40 years. In that time I have witnessed discrimination in just giving a person with a disability an opportunity to be interviewed.

As a member of the Iowa Civil Rights Commission, I ruled on case after case of blatant discrimination against persons who were disabled. For 10 years I served as Director of the Governor's Commission on Employment for People with Disabilities. In that capacity, I witnessed discrimination, not only in employment practices, but also in housing. I had the opportunity to work very closely with Senator Tom Harkin when he authored the American with Disability Act. This act brought about an opportunity for persons with disabilities to finally have their own civil rights law.

I applaud the tremendous efforts of the City Counsel of Rapid City in passing your RESOLUTION IN ESTABLISHING A POLICY TO GIVE CONSIDERATION TO PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES WHEN INTERVIEWING FOR OPEN POSITIONS WITHIN THE CITY OF RAPID CITY. You are fortunate to have such excellent training programs in Rapid City which can provide qualified workers. I would also support a change in the Resolution which would allow this Resolution to be permanent.

I've been a speaker in all 50 states and have never been made aware of a city taking such a positive approach to assist in the unemployment of qualified persons who just happen to be disabled.

If you should need further information, I would be available as a consultant or speaker for the appropriate audience. My email is evelynev@ecity.net.

With Warm Regards,

Evelyne Villines

Consultant, National Industries for the Significantly Disabled