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MAYOR'S OFFICE

September 20, 2012

Councilmen and Councilwomen

Dear Sir/Madam:

This letter is written in support of the continuation of Resolution No. 2011-128, which establishes a policy to give consideration to people with disabilities when interviewing for employment within the municipal structure of Rapid City. This resolution does not ask that the applicants be given a preferential opportunity, only that they be given an equal opportunity.

In my work as an orthopedic surgeon I cared for many patients and their families who, as a result of an unfortunate event or accident, had disability introduced into their lives. It is remarkable and indeed inspirational to see how many can rise above their difficulties, to return to be a productive and vital part of our work force.

In the interest of full disclosure I would like to point out that, for the last three years I have served as Director of the Special Olympics of the Black Hills. Furthermore, I have a daughter who, as a consequence of an illness, now requires braces and crutches for her mobility. Thus, you can see that my advocacy for this issue is highly personal, and not merely an academic exercise.

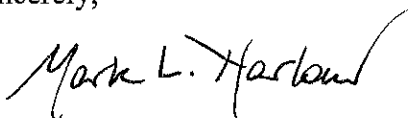
I would respectfully ask that you give full consideration to making this resolution part of your permanent policy. When I consider the ethical and moral issues that are brought to bear in this decision, I usually distill it down to two essential questions:

If not now, then when?

If not us, then who?

Thank you for your consideration of this important matter, and thank you for your service to Rapid City.

Sincerely,



Mark L. Harlow, M.D.