



RAPID CITY POLICE DEPARTMENT

Steve Allender, Chief of Police

June 20, 2013

Mayor Sam Kooiker
Rapid City Council Members
300 Sixth City Street
Rapid City, SD 57701

Dear Mayor Kooiker and Council Members,

The upgraded City Ordinance regarding pawn and precious metals is not without controversy, but I want to point out some positives:

Last year, our City suffered 908 shoplifting incidents, 909 thefts from vehicles, over 1,000 generic thefts and 589 burglaries. Many others were not reported to police.

The overwhelming majority of the cases listed above, involved stealing property in order to convert that property to cash. The fastest and easiest way to do this is to take the property to a pawn, precious metal or second-hand dealer. It happens all the time.

It's obvious to me, and should be to any reasonable person, that some regulation is needed in order to safeguard against stolen property disposal at local businesses. Also obvious, is the fact that the police cannot do it alone—we need the help of the pawn, second-hand and precious metal dealers.

The proposed ordinance accomplishes what it should – it creates an environment where the business owner uses caution against purchasing stolen property and also gives police the tools to detect and apprehend thieves, thereby protecting current and potential victims.

Yes, there is some burden placed on local dealers, but if we relieve them of all duties related to this ordinance, we will fail in our efforts to reduce crime.

The new ordinance is a good example of a public/private partnership albeit forced by law.

My recommendation to you is to approve this ordinance in its current form.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Steve Allender".

Steve Allender
Chief of Police