



# RAPID CITY POLICE DEPARTMENT

Steve Allender, Chief of Police

August 27, 2013

Mayor Sam Kooiker  
600 Sixth Street  
Rapid City, SD 57701

Dr. Timothy Mitchell  
Superintendent of Schools  
600 Sixth Street  
Rapid City, SD 57701

Gentlemen:

As you know, the layout of the City Council/School Board chambers has been the same since it was built. There are occasionally issues that arise at City Council and School Board meetings that result in heated emotions. I have conducted a review of the City Council Chambers to determine if there are any simple measures that could be taken to improve the physical security of the room. I've also had a preliminary meeting with RCAS Support Services Director Mike Kenton and a few other city and school district staff members to gather input. As a result, I believe the following relatively simple actions could improve the safety and security of the room and surrounding area.

- Construct a decorative half wall barrier that separates the public seating area from the elected official/staff seating area. This should include an easy to open swinging gate on each end for staff, and another gate in the center for times when the public is invited to the front for awards presentations, etc....
  - This will create a reactionary gap which would allow more time to address any potential threat. It will also send an unspoken signal to the public that it is a non-public area.
- Cut out and install glass in the upper portion of both public entry doors in the back of the room. Also, remove the blinds from the window that goes across the back of the room.
  - This will create a better visual and will allow for a more immediate response to any threat that may enter the room.
- Move the podium to the west side of the room and slant it at a 45 degree angle towards the front of the room.
  - This will allow for a better visual of the room for officers that are present. It will also allow for a better visual for members of the

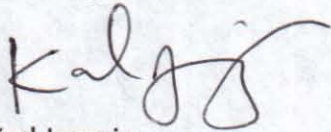
public rather than looking at the back of someone's head. The person speaking will be facing the elected officials and the public at the same time, so it will be physically less confrontational when compared to the current set-up. This would also resolve our current complaint from media that they cannot get facial shots of speakers. Overall, this will cause a more transparent process, and will let audience members see body language in addition to hearing what is said.

- Create a barrier between the restroom area and the hallway leading to the caucus room. Ideally, you could have an aesthetic glass doorway installed. In the alternative, you could utilize temporary decorative fencing to partially block the area, and signal that it is a non-public area.
  - Signage for the caucus room should be implemented indicating "Elected Officials and Staff Area." Members of the public could still be invited into the area to discuss issues, etc...
- Ensure proper decorum during meetings. Setting a professional tone from staff and elected officials will naturally cause the members of the public to show the same decorum.

If these measures are agreeable to you, I would like to work with the RCAS Buildings and Grounds to estimate costs. Once costs are projected, I would recommend the City and RCAS consider cost-sharing this project.

Let me know if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Karl Jegeris', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Karl Jegeris  
Assistant Chief of Police