



February 11, 2014

Mayor Sam Kooiker
300 Sixth Street
Rapid City, South Dakota 57701

Mayor Kooiker and City Council Members –

Thank you for holding the special City Council meeting last night. It was good to listen to the both the concerns and the support statements from businesses last night regarding Summer Nights. I want to reiterate that First National Bank is not in opposition of the event itself as we think it is a nice downtown gathering which brings the community together for an evening of fun. Downtown Rapid City has really come alive with Main Street Square and all the changes that have happened over the last few years. Our staff has volunteered to help at this event every year.

It is obvious the event will never satisfy all of the downtown businesses and therefore must be considered carefully to have a limited impact on the downtown business owners. I do have to say that I am not in agreement with Mr. Brooks regarding the placement of the stage next to First National Bank. Please also be aware that we are not the only tenants in this building as the upper unit is occupied by Noonay, Solay & Van Norman LLP Attorneys. They just like First National Bank have specific needs for parking and access for customers and the proposal submitted last night will totally interrupt both for both businesses. Mr. Brooks stated that there will still be access to our drive-up and as I informed the council the access will be from the wrong direction requiring our customers to have to make a U-turn in the alley to get access. The front access which is our main access will already be closed off by the closure of Main Street. It is not feasible to also shut down our access from the west side which is basically what the current proposal will do. As I stated last night if the closure of 7th Street includes next to our building it will basically close the street pretty much all the way back to the railroad tracks. The closure doesn't just stop at the end of the schematic provided. With the equipment and trucks and beer and supply trucks that come in to drop stuff off it will choke off traffic on the west side of our building. The bands also use this area to pull up and unload their

equipment. If you factor all that traffic in you can see that this will be a huge bottleneck especially if there is not through traffic onto main street headed west. (Take my word I have observed this from my office on that side of the building for the last two years) In addition we will be losing the 8 parking spaces on the west side of the building.

Mr. Brooks emphasized that the event will require compromise by everyone to make it work. The compromise that we offer is this. Return the event to the setup it was two years ago with the band stage sitting cross ways in the intersection of 7th and Main with vehicular traffic still allowed to turn right going south onto Main Street then proceeding west from there and do not close off the area next to our building. It is a big enough interruption to our daily business and we have to ask our clients to make special accommodations to do their business. Our very large business accounts do not normally come in until the end of the day and it is a big issue for them. We believe that by offering the setup referenced above that we are working with both the City and Summer Nights to make this a workable situation for everyone. Let me state again that First National Bank DOES NOT endorse the proposal that was presented last night during the special council meeting.

I would be happy to discuss this with you Mayor or any of the City Council members if you have questions. I can be reached at 605-399-0990.

Thank you for careful consideration of this.

Best regards!

Thomas L Lessin
Branch President