

April 30, 2014

Sam Kooiker, Mayor
Chad Lewis, Chairman
and members of the Legal and Finance Committee
300 6th Street
Rapid City, SD 57701

Dear Mayor Kooiker and members of the committee:

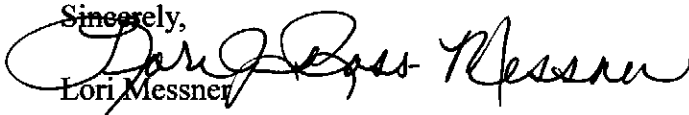
My name is Lori Messner and I am in support of the proposed amendments in Ordinance #5993 that will require certain adult oriented businesses to provide unobstructed view in patron permitted areas. I feel that the content neutral regulations in your Adult Oriented Business Ordinance are necessary to protect the public, the establishment, and their employees from illegal sexual and drug activity, and also solicitation of human trafficking.

In January 2011 the City Council in Lead SD started the process of developing an Adult Oriented Business Ordinance to regulate a proposed exotic dance bar to be located on Main Street. This AOB ordinance would supersede the already existing SD State Law protecting communities by restricting where an AOB could legally operate for business within the city limits. Since this establishment would be located next to a residential area alarmed citizens formed the organization, "Concerned Citizens for a Safe Community" and retained Stephen Wesolick for legal counsel with which my husband and I were his contact people for our group.

Ideally we were hoping that with enough statistical information provided to them by attorney Wesolick on the secondary effects of an AOB the council would table the agenda completely, but it became apparent that they were going to proceed with a very poorly written ordinance with no enforcement planned. So we focused on trying to persuade the council to develop a more restrictive, responsible ordinance with the assistance of our attorney Stephen Wesolick. In writing he provided evidence of numerous land use studies proving increased crime rates associated with an AOB and the need for strict regulations. In one paragraph of the letter in a well written opinion he stated, "Law enforcement authorities across the country, are faced with the challenge of conducting vice operations, often times undercover, to ensure that the undesirable activity is not occurring in these establishments. These enforcement activities are costly. Further minimal regulations such as "buffer zones" between dancers and patrons, restrictions against "VIP" or private rooms, and even licensing of employees (along with operators), are necessary to ensure that operators do not knowingly allow their establishments to be used as places of illegal sexual activity or solicitation.

So in support of what Stephen Wesolick wrote to the Lead City Commissioners, I too believe a governing municipality has the responsibility to protect their community with strictly enforced regulations on Adult Oriented Businesses to ensure safety. I thank you all for your time and leadership in considering the proposed amendments to this ordinance.

Sincerely,


Lori Messner