



October 14, 2014

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

Mayor Kooiker, Police Chief Jegeris, and City Council Members –

I have been staying abreast of the ongoing developments pertaining to the dual submission of permit requests by both Summer Nights and Main Street Square/RCDA and have both questions and concerns which I feel need to be passed on to all of you since both permits are going to legal and finance October 15, 2014 and potentially to the City Council for a presentation and a vote.

First let me reiterate that First National Bank is not in opposition of either event if it can work for all downtown businesses that are potentially affected.

That being said I have challenges with both requests. I will address Summer Nights first. I have attended various meetings with both individual business owners and on at least one occasion in a group setting with both business members represented and also Summer Nights board members represented. The biggest complaint conveyed by business owners is the elimination of parking and shuttering of the downtown streets. At the meeting with the Summer Nights board representatives there were numerous alternative locations proposed to try and alleviate the current location issues. The board members refused to consider any of the alternatives saying that only the current location was workable due to utility (power) or weather issues. Their position was either we do Summer Nights in its current location or we will just quit and shut it down. One of its own board members, Tony DeMaro had even volunteered to have the event in front of his business at 9<sup>th</sup> and Main. The parking and street closure issues continued last year with the event at 7<sup>th</sup> and Main St. First National Bank had customers that did not think they could reach the bank due to the closure of 7<sup>th</sup> Street from Main to the rail road tracks. The alley being blocked, the road closed sign at Apaldo and 7th, and the stage crossing the entire intersection on 7th and Main is not an acceptable option going forward. We

basically had to ask our loan officers to not schedule any client meetings in the afternoon on Thursday's and we also had difficulty with deposit customers being able to get here especially commercial depositors who have multiple deposits and large amounts of cash. (A safety issue to say the least) As for the Summer Concert Series expansion it would take the biggest issue off the table which is the closing of either Main St. or St. Joseph St. All business owners would have unrestricted access to their businesses by their customers. The only challenge is the closure of the City parking lot behind First National Bank and there would have to be a workable arraignment for those parking space lessors to be able to have parking in other locations at no cost and with no fear of parking tickets. I have spoken to Megan Whitman as the current Main Street Square permit request asks for closure at 8 a.m. I spoke with her directly and told her that this is not a viable option that it would have to be noon at the very earliest. She said she would relay this information to the legal and finance committee for their consideration of that permit request.

Furthermore First National Bank could not support the approval of both permits as that would basically land lock us and shut us down completely so this is not even seen as an option.

Although we are not retail in nature we still have a business to run and we must have access for our customers.

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

Thank you for careful consideration of this.

Respectfully,

Thomas L Lessin  
Branch President