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September 27, 2001

Rapid City Planning Commission

Re: Cornerstone Rescue Mission - Wood Lot

Greetings;

I have been asked to represent the Mission in its attempt to create a retail firewood lot on property next to the Mission which has been leased from the Rapid City Journal.

One of the Mission's major goals is to promote a work ethic in its clients such that they are more likely to look for a job than for a handout. For several years the Mission has been planning a firewood lot from which loads of cut and split firewood could be sold as well as creation and sale of shrink wrapped bundles of firewood. The main function of the wood lot would be to provide a place where clients of the Mission and others in similar circumstances could be offered the opportunity to work to earn money rather than to receive it as a handout.

The City has informed the Mission that this use of the land is contrary to provisions of the planning code, particularly a section which prohibits outside storage of goods produced for retail sales.

The Mission (and the area where the wood lot would be placed) are evidently zoned commercial and the Mission requests that the Commission consider a proposal to amend the rules for a commercial zoning district to allow outside storage, splitting, packaging, and sale of firewood. The Mission realizes that such an amendment may require setting of standards for such an operation.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely yours;

Gene R. Woodle  
Reg. No. 36,973

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