

**Deborah Glasscock**  
**14694 Heppner Dr**  
**Box Elder, South Dakota 57719**  
**(605) 923-5618**  
[rapidcitydeb@cs.com](mailto:rapidcitydeb@cs.com)

May 14, 2002

Dear Rapid City Planning & Zoning Members:

I am writing to offer my support and encouragement in your task of developing ordinances to control adult-oriented businesses in Rapid City.

Though I do not live within city limits, I work with children and families in Rapid and have two children attending school in town so do have a pertinent interest.

It was grievous to see the establishment calling itself Rapid City Gentleman's Club open up right in the middle of downtown. This place is located only 1 block from a high school and child care center, 2 blocks from NAHA's temporary lodging for women and children, 1 block from our courthouse and 1 block from our main post office. Video Blue has a porn shop right on Main Street. Surely we do not need to have these public nuisances located directly in our downtown area.

I work in my job with a family whose 3-year-old was raped by her biological father after he had heavily frequented the downtown porn shop. Two 14-year-old girls from Jefferson Academy were admitted to what was then called The Hideaway Lounge (now RC Gentleman's Club). Both met up with predators there who were more than 10 years older than they – both are raising babies at taxpayer's expense.

Growing up in southern Arizona, even 100 miles southeast of Tucson, we all heard about South Tucson's reputation: "Dirty!" "Sleazy!" "I wouldn't take my dog through that place" were the comments heard. Porn and strip clubs had been allowed in; property values plummeted and respectable businesses relocated to other parts of the city. No one wanted to live, work, or even do business in South Tucson. (My parents, who live in Tucson, won't even drive through that area due to the high rate of crime there.)

Rapid City is obviously in a growth pattern. Suburban shopping areas and business districts are springing up. We run the very real risk of having our city "rot" at its center like an old-growth forest tree as has happened to so many urban areas. These illegitimate businesses are planting the very seeds of that rot today.

Please know that you have a silent majority who are behind you in protecting Rapid City's future! Thank you in advance for what I hope will be a courageous stand in this matter.

Sincerely,

**Deborah Glasscock**

Deborah Glasscock

## Anderson Trish

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**From:** BRIAN [christensen@Cathedralolph.org]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, May 14, 2002 9:48 PM  
**To:** trish.anderson@ci.rapid-city.sd.us  
**Subject:** Zoning

Dear Mrs. Anderson,

Mayor Munson has commissioned a group to study the dangerous effects that adult oriented businesses have on our community. This committee has made recommendations which the City Council has forwarded to the Zoning Board. The harmful effects of adult oriented businesses (topless casinos, strip clubs, and adult bookstores) are well documented. They include: increased crime, decreasing property values, and urban blight. The awful consequences suffered by men, women, and children are horrific. These are not Rapid City values; they are not up to our community standards.

Many cities around the nation (Cincinnati, Phoenix, and Gary, IN, to name but a few) have already established many ordinances which strictly regulate the place, time, and manner of operation for these types of businesses. There are well established precedents that have met constitutional muster. Many communities in the Black Hills have passed ordinances restricting the operation of adult oriented businesses. It's time that we do the same for the sake of our children and our families.

Please, when you consider the zoning ordinance from the adult oriented business committee, place the quality of life and the safety of our citizens in the forefront of your discussions. These are important steps for the common good of our city and our people.

Sincerely yours,

Rev. Brian P. Christensen  
520 Cathedral Drive  
Rapid City, SD 57701  
<mailto:christensen@cathedralolph.org>

## Bauer Nadine (City Planning)

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**From:** Anderson Trish  
**Sent:** Wednesday, May 15, 2002 1:03 PM  
**To:** Bauer Nadine (City Planning)  
**Subject:** FW: upcoming adult oriented business zoning

another letter to be linked to this ordinance. You should have three letters. thanks, trish  
-----Original Message-----

**From:** Kent & Jean French [mailto:kentandjeanhve9kids@rushmore.com]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, May 15, 2002 2:16 PM  
**To:** trish.anderson@ci.rapid-city.sd.us  
**Subject:** upcoming adult oriented business zoning ordinance

Dear Member of the Planning and Zoning Committee:

RE: Adult Oriented Businesses Zoning Ordinance

My family and I wished to take a moment of your time to encourage you in your efforts in finding a good and safe balance concerning the zoning of adult oriented businesses in Rapid City. You are in a unique position to make a difference for the women and children of our community and we want you to know how very important your works are in addressing this zoning issue. We appreciate your insights and cooperative efforts with the city council and hope that your committee is able to advocate protective ideas and solid language for the foundation of this proposed ordinance. Thank you for all you do for our city and if there is anything that my family and I may do to support you in this issue, please let us know.

Sincerely,

Kent and Jean French

561 Hanover Dr.

Rapid City, SD 57701

718-3764

Judith G. Franzel  
13874 Hwy. 40  
Hermosa, South Dakota 57744  
jfranzel01@aol.com

RECEIVED

MAY 21 2002

Rapid City  
Planning Department

May 20, 2002

City of Rapid City  
Planning and Zoning Department  
Attn: Marcia Elkins, Director  
300 Sixth Street  
Rapid City, South Dakota 57701

Dear Rapid City Planning and Zoning Members:

I understand that you are involved in developing ordinances to control adult-oriented businesses in Rapid City. It is encouraging to know that this action is high on the list of priorities for the planning and development of Rapid City.

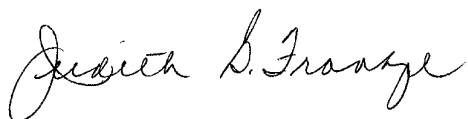
I do hope that your committee is supporting the suppression of blatant advertising for businesses such as Video Blue, Outer Limits, Shotgun Willie's and the RC Gentleman's Club. I offer you my further encouragement to also consider and implement limitations on the number of this type of business in our fair city.

Many studies and considerable research has been dedicated to the effect that this type of business has on the residents and crime rates of any given locale. Unfortunately, Rapid City has been given a "label" of rape capital in the US. This is truly sad, since this is a wonderful city and a beautiful area within South Dakota. It is so important to "put our best foot forward," so to speak, when allowing advertising, signage, etc. Businesses of that sort do not need advertisement, patrons can find them easily enough, so this is not about restricting them in doing business.

I believe that it is the responsibility of Rapid City Government to support good moral values and the sanctity of family life in this community. Not to even mention the responsibility toward our many visitors and tourists. This is a city of pride and home of a great tribute to the founding fathers of this land. I do encourage you to protect that image in developing your plan.

My husband and I are relatively new to this city, having chosen it as our place of retirement. While we live in Hermosa, we are as much Rapid City residents as if our address was Rapid City. I applaud you in taking a courageous step toward establishing a plan for our city that reflects the morality, honesty and integrity of its residents.

Sincerely,



RECEIVED

MAY 23 2002  
Rapid City Planning Department  
Julie Wilber  
1111 12th Street  
Rapid City, SD 57701  
721-9302

Dear Marcia Elkins:

I am pleased that the Rapid City Planning and Zoning Committee will be addressing the adult-oriented businesses in Rapid City. Thank you for taking the time to read of my concerns regarding these businesses.

My family and I live close enough to walk downtown, and frequently do so for movies, shopping, meals, and taking in the arts. My husband works at the Journal. Visiting him there has not been the same since last year when my (then) 8 year old daughter looked across the street to Video Blue and asked about the sign -- the pair of women's legs and "Oh So Sexy" printed on the building. (It has since been taken down.) She asked if being sexy is a *good thing*. I can't pretend to know what went through her mind, but I know what discussions came of it.....Does being sexy assure happiness in life? Does being sexy mean you will get a better job/ make more money? Does it mean you will find the man of your dreams? Certainly, an in depth conversation came of this incident, but how many parents just blow off the questions, leaving it up to the child to find out? Does that mean she has forgotten the sign? She noticed right away when the sign came down, now the curiosity is more about the business itself.....What is it for? What do they do in there? I don't want to "go there" in conversation with her or to visit that particular block. We don't drop in to see Dad much anymore, never visit the Bagel Shop or Main Street Market -- we loved going there. I've heard of several parents say the same thing. Maybe it is putting my head in the sand, but we can get bagels and vitamins elsewhere without being bombarded with questions of sexy lingerie, videos, and "Why would it be here if it were a bad place?" Kids aren't easily misled; she smells a rat and wants to know the truth. Unfortunately, I can't give her the answer.

I've seen in the Journal Letters to the Editor response from Video Blue's owner saying it is so much worse in Nevada, California, with rampant prostitution, live sex shows, etc. I know it is. Before having children, we lived in San Francisco. One of the reasons we moved back 'home' where I grew up was to raise our family in an environment where children can be children; no rush on growing up. I wasn't challenged as an eight year old or even fifteen year old with the same questions going through my daughter's mind. It saddens me. If there is any possibility of keeping innocence in childhood, we have the responsibility to do so. I can't deny the First Amendment, but it doesn't allow for being readily available to children and teens as most of the adult-oriented businesses in Rapid City are.

I wonder about the tourists that come to this "City of Presidents" with families. As they walk along downtown looking at the (soon to be) presidents on every corner, they will be passing some seedy door fronts, and I wonder if they will receive questions like the ones I got. In their memory bank will they remember Rapid City for it's Family-Feel or for the time they spent trying to avoid confrontation with these 'Sexy Places'?

Maybe families aren't our tourist draw. Are we inviting and remaining open to a mixed message?

Please take a stand on cleaning up our downtown area of adult-oriented businesses. Not only for those of us who love to live here, but for those we hope will love to visit here.

*Most Sincerely,*  
*Julie Wilber*

Jo Ann Parsons  
12920 LaRene Drive  
Black Hawk, SD 57718  
May 21, 2002

RECEIVED

Rapid City Planning & Zoning  
300 Sixth Street  
Rapid City, SD 57701

MAY 23 2002

Rapid City  
Planning Department

Dear P&Z Members:

**SUBJECT: WHAT IS RAPID CITY SOUTH DAKOTA DOING IN A HANDBASKET?**

The subject question is what my daughter Darla in Denver asked when I told her some of the stuff going on in Rapid City.

I am writing to you because I do not know the status of the current efforts to bring some kind of control and limits to the types and numbers of local immoral businesses. What is being done is very important to me because I would like to move into Rapid City in the near future, but even more importantly, what Rapid City is like affects the entire area including where I live now. It seems so out of control right now that I can't consider living in town.

If you are working on developing some new laws to limit and control the so-called adult-oriented or sexually-oriented businesses, I want to say how much I appreciate that. And I am sure you have plenty of opposition and difficulty in accomplishing this. But it is very encouraging to think you are doing it -- it is like a laser beam of light piercing the darkness that hangs around us!

In short, I want to see the character of Rapid City drastically changed for the better. It is time to stop pretending the city is prospering by the ill-gotten gains from pandering to people's lower natures. That is creating an exceedingly low class society with not only vile moral values, but low standards, and very limited potential.

When tourists come through this summer, one hopes they will greatly enjoy seeing the elegant statues on the downtown streets, the beautifully groomed areas such as Halley Park, the historic buildings, etc., as well as Mt. Rushmore; and at the same time one hopes they do NOT see the nude bars, porn parlors, prolific casino signs, etc. etc. that greatly cheapen the City's appearance. In a large city those types of establishments would be in the so-called slum areas -- the part of town most people stay away from -- where the indecent stuff and most of the crime is going on. Of course, the desirable number of porn shops and strip joints should be zero in Rapid City! Let them move to Nevada! Please especially protect school areas, downtown locations, & residential areas.

Having been born in SD and raised in Rapid City, and later raised my children here for several years before moving the family to Arizona, my perspective is a lot different than people who have always lived here. What scares me is the failure of many of them to recognize and be able to admit the depths to which Rapid City has fallen - or coasted. It's time to take a good, hard, critical look and try to fix it!

If it is true that Rapid City has been named "rape Capital" TWICE, then it is absolutely certain that there is a lot more wrong here than meets the eye, and that radically powerful steps must be taken to restore or create the kind of city that people really want it to be! Wishy-washy won't work! Your action in this regard is our hope for the future of Rapid City. I believe an outstanding potential exists for you right now to accomplish some superb improvements in how the city governs these things.

Hopefully,

*Parsons*

-----Original Message-----

**From:** Kelly Patterson [mailto:krp777@hotmail.com]

**Sent:** Thursday, May 23, 2002 12:30 PM

**To:** marcia.elkins@ci.rapid-city.sd.us; vicki.fisher@ci.rapid-city.sd.us; lisa.seaman@ci.rapid-city.sd.us; trish.anderson@ci.rapid-city.sd.us; karen.bulman@ci.rapid-city.sd.us

**Subject:** Zoning - SOB's

I am writing to each of you to ask that you support zoning ordinances to limit SOB's (sexually oriented businesses) in our community. The placement of several of these businesses are dangerously close to or directly located within areas that include schools, neighborhoods and the downtown area .

I personally work as a counselor and support group facilitator for victims of sexual abuse. From my personal experience, I can tell you that many of these victims were subjected to abuse directly after their abusers viewed pornography, forced the victim to view pornography, and/or had pornography acts simulated upon them.

**Fact:** Rapid City is again rape capital of the US according to 2000 FBI Uniform Crime Report.

**Fact:** Sexually oriented establishments are linked to increased crime rates, increased urban blight, and decreased property values according to the National Law Center for Children & Families' Summaries of Crime Impact Studies by Municipal and State Governments on Harmful Secondary Effects of Sexually Oriented Businesses.

**Fact:** Rapid City currently has no restrictions on these establishments.

We, as a community, have the right to set these zoning laws and the right to set a community standard that is protected by law.

Please vote to protect our community by supporting the restriction of sexually oriented establishments.

Thank you for your consideration. Sincerely,

Kelly Patterson  
Restored Life Outreach  
PO Box 599  
Rapid City, SD 57709  
(605)484-4227  
[krp777@hotmail.com](mailto:krp777@hotmail.com)

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05/23/2002