

Mayor –

Eva Syverson called to express her opinion about Wal-Mart. She said that it appears to her that it should be a go. She said the area will be developed at some point, and with Wal-Mart there, it will be done nicely. Something else might not be as friendly to the neighborhood. Ms. Syverson said that it is fair now that they have reduced their TIF request.

She does not expect a call back but her contact information is below if needed.

She asked that I pass her comments along to the Mayor and the TIF Committee.

Eva Syverson
829 E Indiana St.
342-9550

Thank you!

RECEIVED

JAN 27 2011

Rapid City Growth
Management Department

Growth Management Department
300 S1xth Street
Rapid City, South Dakota 57701-5035

January 25, 2011

I am opposed to the Proposed Tax Increment District located adjacent to my property. The area certainly does not meet the definition of a blighted area by any stretch of ones imagination.

The use of this location for a BIG BOX RETAIL STORE is inappropriate and will destroy the character and integrity of the area. The natural use for the land along Fifth Street , if zoning is not changed to High Density Residential , is Medical Office or Office Commercial . The Big Box type of development should be south of Catron Blvd .



Donald J. Semancik
Registered Architect (Retired)

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Copy of this letter sent to Alderman Gary L Brown .

From: Fred Weishaupl [<mailto:fredandkaryl@rap.midco.net>]

Sent: Saturday, March 05, 2011 11:31 AM

To: Brown Gary; Waugh Bill; Weifenbach Ron; Costello Aaron; Kroeger Ron; Hadcock Deb; Kooiker Sam; Davis Dave; Petersen Bonny; Mason Jordan; Hanks Alan

Cc: fredandkaryl@rap.midco.net; Bulman Karen; Elkins Marcia; Emilie Rusch; KOTA News - Jack Siebold; news@blackhillsfox.com; KNBN - Kara Strickland; dwwray@rap.midco.net

Subject: South Robbinsdale TIF or TID for the 2nd Wal-Mart store.

We all know that anyone with a \$1000 has the right to request a Tax Increment Finance District for improvements on or near their property. There is also a requirement that the area must have a blighted area of at least 25%, just about any project in Rapid City can qualify for this because of the City's **ambiguous** definition of blight. However, that is no reason to give the **richest retail corporation** in the world our tax dollars.

There are some questions that need to be addressed:

1. **Does the Wal-Mart site deserve a TIF??** The answer to a rational person is **absolutely not**. All of the improvements requested in the TIF are solely for the Wal-Mart development and should be paid for by the developer or end user (Wal-Mart).

2. **Does the Wal-Mart site need a TIF??** Again the answer is resounding **NO**. Why should the tax paying citizen's of Rapid City pay for improvements for the richest retail corporation in the world.

It has been stated by the developer that the TIF is for \$1,495,056 which is only the cost of the improvements but as always the interest is for more than the TIF. The interest in this case is \$1,552,834.73 for a grand total of **\$3,047,890.73**. It like the old adage 'Figures don't lie'. So lets review the facts:

Fact 1 - The existing TIF will have to be paid off first! Which according to City Staff is estimated to take another 5 years. And Rapid City tax paying citizens had to pay **\$2,500,000** as the City's share of the project.

Fact 2 - The developer stated that the TIF could be paid off in 11 years, but that cannot begin until after the first TIF is paid off. So it would be a minimum of 16 years (2027) before the City of County would see any increase in property tax revenues. Is this really worth it **-no!**, when without a new TIF both the City and County would see an increase in property tax revenues in 2016.

Fact 3 - The City's comback is that the City will get sales tax revenues, which is true. However, even if the sales tax revenues were \$50,000/month (which I doubt) it would take 6 years to recoup the \$3,000,000 TIF. So without the TIF both the City and County would see an increase in property tax revenues in only 5 years. So, again is giving the richest retail corporation in the world worth it? **Absolutely not!!**

Now for some general observations:

A. When the Wal-Mart project was on Hwy 16 (2nd try) I heard a few of the City Council members say that they would "never" give Wal-Mart a TIF. But, as always in life, circumstances change and the City Council elections are only 3 months away. So will these same Councilmembers stay true to their word or will they want to get re-elected. There are 5 Councilmenbers and the Mayor up for re-election.

B. In my opinion it is a given that the Planning Commission will approve the TIF unanimously, because they are all appointed by the Mayor and this Mayor wants approval of the 2nd Wal-Mart at any cost as his legacy to Rapid City.

C. Wal-Mart has stated that they will not close the existing store, and from the reaction of the Mayor & City Councilmembers they actually believe them. However, if

history teaches us anything, this has been told to other communities, but as soon as a store does not meet their expectations Wal-Mart closes it down.

D. Also Wal-Mart is like most other large conglomerates and about 2/3rds of their employees are 'part time' so they do not have to pay any benefits. Now for some real irony! The City approved a Business Improvement District for the downtown business district most of whom are direct competitors of Wal-Mart; and now the City Council wants to give Wal-Mart a **\$3,048,000** TIF. Incidentally the downtown BID tax of **\$180,000+ / year** will go on forever, because there was no sunset date on it. So in the 16 years it will take to get the Wal-Mart TIF paid off the Bid property owners will have paid **\$3,024,000+** in additional taxes. Kind of ironic that the BID district will in essence foot the bill for their competitor. **It just doesn't make sense to give property tax dollars to the richest corporation in the world!** Now some of you are thinking that Wal-Mart is not asking for the TIF, and you also know that is not true. All of the improvements are solely for the development of the Wal-Mart site, and Stoneridge Development Co. is owned by a member of the Walton family whom are the major stockholders of Wal-Mart. So don't lie to yourselves this TIF is for Wal-Mart.

The developers have already played their trump card by stating that if the TIF is not approved it could "**kill the project**". And I am sure that there is a majority of Councilmembers and the Mayor that actually believes that. It is too bad that City Council & the Mayor is not as respectful to the citizens of Rapid City as they are scared of a big box developer.

One Councilmember told me, and I'm sure that other Councilmembers and the Mayor believe, that the citizens want another Wal-Mart on the south side of town. However, I don't believe that they indicated that the City Council and Mayor should give away the farm aka our property tax dollars.

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PS: Be sure and read the editorial by Dan Baker in today's (Saturday, March 5, 2011) Journal. The only thing he left out is the \$1,555,843.73 in interest.