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MAYOR'S OFFICE

February 6, 2006

Dale Schumacher  
1611 North 7<sup>th</sup> Street  
Rapid City, SD 57701

Dear Fellow Citizen/Council Members,

My wife Alice & I are long time residents of Rapid City since 1960. Our genuine interest in giving our City a more appealing image stems back to when the late Arthur LaCroix was Mayor of our City. I believe that Mr. LaCroix was the man that coined the phrase: Tree City USA.

Most recently I have taken a renewed interest in beautification and cleaning up our city, and of course, City Code Enforcement. Code Enforcement is in the best position to address many if not most of the problems that plague our city environment.

*We are- what we look like:*

- Reflects directly upon our City Government and the tolerance of the resident population that live within our City limits.
- Reflects directly upon our City Council and the environment that surrounds the neighborhood and area which they represent.
- Reflects directly upon our Police Department and the crime roster that is generated on a daily basis. How about CPTED: (Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design).
- Reflects directly upon all of us and the entire City as a whole, regardless of our address or our Zip Code.
- Reflects directly upon our Rapid City Municipal Codes, how they are written, what they mean and how they are interpreted. Most of all it reflects on how our code is enforced or the lack of enforcement.
- Tells whether our City Government cares. I trust that our City Officials will work toward a unified common goal and serve in accordance with the issues at hand concerning our City and the image we present to all who come here and put self interest aside. Most of us as residents remember very distinctly, the ringing of our door bell, flyers in our mail boxes and billboards prior to election time. Promises were made to represent us in our respective Wards.

I personally spend extensive hour's online, reading, studying and reviewing the written Rapid City Code. Some areas need to be explained in more detail and others should be rewritten in their entirety. Certain Codes should be written in their own paragraph rather than be intermingled within another paragraph. Most importantly they NEED TO BE ENFORCED.

I recently attended several organizational, group and committee meetings. Code Enforcement is always one of the topics for discussion. I have spoken with several key personnel about Code Enforcement. My findings are that we spend hours having meetings, and creating lots of paperwork. We talk and exchange ideas, keep Minutes, but no ACTION. In order to accomplish and reap the fruits of our meetings we must come to a point where we take ACTION.

My recent experience with Code Enforcement was that the interpretation of the written code is not clear or sometimes misinterpreted as written. I am not impressed with the present system and with hundreds upon hundreds of violations in our community will prove my point.

In order to show accomplishments for our efforts, we must work together, we must have the will to do so and do it in an organized and coordinated fashion. We must structure our system and direct our efforts toward working with our youth and adult residents, with businesses and civic groups, with our city government and law enforcement. We must do these using proven methods, through better communication and cooperation from all departments of city government.

In order to have better communication with the public and with one another in our respective departments of city government, there must be a central point of coordination in the municipal structure that is approachable to all without hesitation or apprehension.

Having said the above let me offer a solution. Thanks for reading this far, please continue.

It was my past experience over many years that prompted me to come up with a better way.

Attached please find a copy of the chart:

#### **Rapid City Municipal Code Enforcement Organizational Structure Chart.**

This chart shows in squares the offices as they are filled at the present time. The oval as it appears on the chart represents the office that should be created. This office would be the Code Enforcement Coordinators Office, under supervision of the Rapid City Police Department. This would be the point of contact and communication not only for the public residents to approach, but all departments in city government. A central data base would allow the Code Enforcement Officers to input data from day to day as a contact is made on a violation with follow-up data automatically flagged as to when the follow-up inspection needs to be made. This office would have communication (indicated by 2 way arrows) with the Attorney's Office on legal issues and communicate with the Rapid City Council Members, dealing with any concerns or violations in their respective Wards. This office would delegate the work load to the respective Code Enforcement Officers. No one would loose their present employment. This would streamline the Code Enforcement efforts and make everyone's job easier and more productive with less confusion.

The duties of this office would be many in addition to code enforcement. I am not qualified to write a job description, nor do I suggest where this office would be located or to state what this position should be paid. Whatever the cost, the payback for the City of Rapid City would be ten fold. Code Enforcement would reduce crime, take control over Slum Lords, and eliminate junk yards in residential areas which would increase our tax base.

This position should be filled with someone that has a genuine interest. He/She must be a good public relations communicator, know police protocol and be willing/able to work with law enforcement.

I presented this plan to Mayor Jim Shaw on the 17<sup>th</sup> of January 2006. The Mayor was very receptive to the idea and had apparent enthusiasm. This is a wonderful opportunity to promote our City and help Mayor Jim Shaw leave a memorable legacy during his time in office as our Mayor. After all we are the people that elected him, thereby giving him the power and authority to enforce our City Code.

Please study the chart and visualize what this could do for our municipal organizational structure. This would streamline everyone's position and enable all to do their job better.

So, I am asking each and every one of you to cooperate with Mayor Jim Shaw. Give him your support and help him to create and fill this position as soon as possible. Lets work together to make Rapid City a cleaner, safer community we can all be proud of.

For more information on this issue, please contact me at ([schad@rap.midco.net](mailto:schad@rap.midco.net)). I can be available for further discussion, individually or as a group.

I thank you in advance for listening and look forward to hearing from all of you soon.

Sincerely;



Dale Schumacher

cc: Mayor Jim Shaw

Tom Johnson

Sam Kooiker

Karen Gundersen Olson

Ray Hadley

Malcom Chapman

Mike Schumacher

Deb Hadcock

Bill Okrepkie

Ron Kroeger

Bob Hurlbut

Police Chief Craig Tieszen

City Attorney Jason E Green

Sr.Officer Wayne Asscherick

**Rapid City  
Municipal Code Enforcement  
Organizational Structure**

