

February 14, 2013

Dear Mr. Laurenti and Mr. Nordstrom;

Re: Fireworks

It seems that Rapid City is about to take a step to curtail another activity that senior citizens can enjoy. I have lived in Rapid City for close to forty years and have enjoyed the downtown fireworks for many of those. I don't remember any serious fires resulting from those. While the New Years Eve fireworks display at Main Street Square is laudable, it is not feasible for many seniors due to weather, including low temperatures, as well as traffic concerns. The July 4<sup>th</sup> display is much better for weather and traffic/parking concerns. If that is gone, what will we do to celebrate? Nothing? I already have fireworks keeping me awake in my neighborhood late into the July 4<sup>th</sup> night as well as days preceding with little or no response by the police department. I suspect that not having a city fireworks display will only encourage more of this. Yes, other places such as the Elks and Arrowhead Country Club have fireworks displays but many are not members of these organizations and thus don't have access to them. To try and park on the surrounding streets is a traffic nightmare. Many years ago while visiting friends on July 4<sup>th</sup> on the road going past the Elks I was stopped on the road and told to pay five dollars to continue. I refused and was allowed to go through but that behavior on the part of Elks members was inexcusable. I understand that some years (such as last) it is necessary to cancel the fireworks display, but to permanently move them to New Years Eve is a slap in the face to seniors or perhaps handicapped who cannot get there due to weather concerns. Southern cities often have New Years Eve displays, but we are not in the south. Please don't allow a ban on July 4<sup>th</sup> fireworks by the city of Rapid City.

Sincerely,

Ann Marie Barri