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MAYOR'S OFFICE



United States Department of the Interior

BUREAU OF INDIAN AFFAIRS
Great Plains Regional Office
115 Fourth Avenue S.E., Suite 400
Aberdeen, South Dakota 57401

IN REPLY REFER TO:
Real Estate Services
MC-306

JUL 13 2017

William Bear Shield, Board Chairman
Sioux San Unified Health Board
Post Office Box 719
Rosebud, South Dakota 57570

Dear Chairman Bear Shield:

We are in receipt of your December 14, 2016, letter titled "Rapid City Indian Boarding School Lands." Upon initial review of your letter and documentation, it appears as if the analysis is correct: three parcels that were deeded originally to the Rapid City School District and the City of Rapid City would now be subject to reversion to the Department of Interior – Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) because they are no longer being utilized for the deeded purposes.

We will continue to collect any additional documentation and information available, but the lands originally belonging to the Rapid City Indian Boarding School have a very specific and limited statutory criterion for allowable use. From our conversations, it is our understanding that the Sioux San Unified Health Board, comprised of the Rosebud Sioux Tribe, Cheyenne River Sioux Tribe, and the Oglala Sioux Tribe, as well as the Rapid City Native American community, would like us to consider the use, or exchange, of these parcels for "needy Indians," particularly for the use of the Rapid City Native community, as is permissible under the statute.

Considering the long history of unanswered requests to the BIA made by the Rapid City Native community and Tribes for use, or exchange, of the Rapid City Indian Boarding School lands, we are supportive of this effort to use these three parcels, or exchange them for such use. We look forward to working together with all affected parties to find a creative solution that helps rectify these deed violations and this historical imbalance. If you need further information, please contact Darrell Laducer, Jr., Acting Realty Officer, or Gregg Bourland, Deputy Regional Director - Trust Services, at (605) 226-7618.

Sincerely,


ACTING Regional Director

cc: Chairman, Cheyenne River Sioux Tribe
President, Oglala Sioux Tribe
President, Rosebud Sioux Tribe
Superintendent, Cheyenne River Agency
Superintendent, Pine Ridge Agency
Superintendent, Rosebud Agency
Superintendent, Rapid City Area Schools
Mayor, City of Rapid City