

FAQs

FOLLOW UP FROM RAPID CITY COUNCIL MEETING 11/2/20

The Rapid City Indian Boarding School Lands team was not provided an opportunity to speak at the Monday night Rapid City Council meeting, but several questions were asked of our team. Below find answers to some of the questions asked of us.

Q: WHO IS THE RAPID CITY INDIAN BOARDING SCHOOL LANDS PROJECT?

A: We are a group of Rapid City community members, with broad experience and expertise who are all committed to our Mission Statement:

- To uncover and reveal the history of the Indigenous Community in Rapid City – particularly regarding the lands which comprised the Rapid City Indian Boarding School/Sioux Sanatorium. Lands which were dispersed to non-Native entities through the “Act of 1948.”
- To discuss the resulting dispossession, dislocation, and segregation of Indigenous people in Rapid City.
- To honor the vision of the grandmothers before us – by helping find a resolution to the “Act of 1948” land violations.
- To honor the lives, memories and spirits of the children and relatives who passed away at the Indian Boarding School and the Sioux Sanatorium TB Clinic.
- To preserve this history for generations to come.
- To use these truths to promote dialogue and healing about the challenging history of racism, the systematic marginalization of Indigenous people, in Rapid City – so that together we may move forward in a positive way.

The Rapid City Indian Boarding School Lands Project **is not** a 501(c)3 nonprofit or a formal organization under any other legal status. We do not represent the Department of the Interior, any Native Nation, or any other entity in any formal capacity. We are a group of a 100 or so community volunteers, and many more allies and partners, representing membership from every tribal nation in South Dakota, who live in Rapid City who care deeply about making Rapid City a stronger community for the benefit of all.

Our team first started when elders asked some of us to help find the unmarked graves of the children at the Rapid City Indian Boarding School. Thus far we have identified at least 50 children who died at the school. While conducting that research, we also found questionable land transfers on four west Rapid City properties that sidestepped the 1948 federal law which doled out 1,200 acres of Boarding School property. Transfers which unjustly excluded the city’s Native community from obtaining or using any of that land for any purposes that benefited the indigenous community living in Rapid City.

After rediscovering our city’s difficult history – which was preserved by Lakota uncles, or grandmothers, for decades – we formed teams with three objectives: (1) Education, (2) Remembering the Children, and (3) Resolving the Land Issues. The entire project is volunteer and all community members are invited and welcome.

The Education Team has done more than 100 presentations of our difficult history, titled “The Inconvenient Truth,” posted numerous YouTube’s, created three websites, a Facebook page, a twitter account, and obtained dozens of pieces of coverage in radio, newspapers and tv. The need additional help going forward through the development of RCAS K-12 and college level curriculums, a website archiving the historical documents, and a documentary film.

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The Remembering the Children Team's goal is to ensure that the damaging history of the Boarding School – and the children who died there – are not forgotten. The team hosts an annual “Memorial Walk” to honor each child who passed away on Native American Day, and just launched a \$2 million fundraiser to build the Children's Memorial Park to protect their unmarked graves. The community can see the design and contribute to the Memorial at: www.RememberingTheChildren.org.

The Land Issues Team works on solutions for parcels of Indian Boarding School land that have questionable deeds. One of them is West Middle School, which was originally gifted to the City but was sold to the School Board contrary to the restrictions on land use in the 1948 statute, eventually resulting in the creation of Sioux Addition. The other three parcels are lands transferred from the United States to the City or School, for municipal or educational purposes, respectively, and are the subject of the current City Council resolution.

The 1948 statute, and the Deeds on these tracts make it clear that once these tracts are no longer used for municipal and educational purposes, title to the land reverts to the United States, specifically the Department of Interior (DOI). They are currently occupied by the Canyon Lake Senior/Activities Center, Monument Health-Behavioral Health Center, and Clarkson Health Care-Westhills Village under purported lease agreements with Rapid City and the Rapid City School District. Since that time, even when city, nonprofit, and federal leaders have publicly suggested that these parcels were being used pursuant to the 1948 Act, they have known internally that these claims are tenuous at best, and disputed.

In 2017, the DOI sent a letter to the City and the School Board confirming that these three parcels are subject to reversion to the United States. The three current occupants do not want the parcels to revert to federal ownership, so we hope they finally engage and assist in a solution. The three occupants have had and continue to have opportunity to engage in a solution. They have attended at least one meeting of the Project. If we are unable to craft a local solution, as was recommended in the 2017 DOI letter, the federal government or federal courts will.

Fortunately, the 1948 law provides an option: it allows for the parcels to be exchanged for other land if it benefits “needy Indians.” Thus, the Rapid City Indian Boarding School Lands Project and Native community members have developed a proposal that provides a framework for a local solution.

For 70 years the Native community has asked for land under the 1948 law, most often for a community center, affordable housing, and culturally-focused economic development projects.

Using that history as a framework, our team held a series of meetings for four years, and then last year conducted in-person and online polls where community members voted on preferred solutions. The results showed overwhelming support for a land exchange to provide the location for a non-profit Native American community center. The votes were also in support of the formation of a for-profit community development corporation to subsidize the community center and ensure sustainability. The votes for the industries for the corporation to generate revenue in were even between housing, hotel, and cultural tourism. None of these entities would be designed or formed until after a City Council resolution passes and more consultation occurs.

The resolution offers a creative, local solution that resolves several outstanding issues in Rapid City, while creating the building blocks for a stronger future for all.

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Q: WHAT WOULD THE RESOLUTION DO?

A: Four out of the five pages acknowledge the history that our ancestors have known for 70 years and that the City and others have not, to date, acknowledged in official action, about these parcels on the Rapid City Indian Boarding School Lands. A full recitation and formal acknowledgement of this history is essential. Our team loosely modeled its approach to this issue on communities across the country and the world who have engaged in truth and reconciliation efforts around difficult histories, in a climate of racial and ethnic tension. In almost every case, from Germany, to South Africa, to Canada (where similar issues between Indigenous and non-Indigenous peoples are at the forefront), formal acknowledgement of the past is the critical first step towards progress and healing. In our case, the Resolution takes that first step by acknowledging this history, and honoring and validating the decades of work by community members, whose efforts were ignored, to tell the truth. Such an acknowledgement ensures that the next generation of Native community members do not have to spend another ten years, as we have had to, to piece the truth together.

The final page of the resolution creates a process to include all community voices and all stakeholders in formulating a plan and a path forward. It emphasizes participation by the Native community because they have borne the burden and harm from the deed transfers, and because the “needy Indian” clause in the 1948 Statute refers specifically to the use of the land to serve this segment of the community.

The broad outlines are that any land exchange must be for the same value as the land and the buildings on these three parcels. The contours of our plan have not been shaped by personal interest or opinion. Instead, they reflect our efforts to honor the historical requests made by our predecessors, the information and valuation provided by Rapid City, and to incorporate feedback and preferences collected in surveys of the Native community in Rapid City conducted in several formats over many years. During our outreach and survey work, the community members participating expressed that one of the primary (but not only) goals would be to build a RC Indian Community Center--an asset that Rapid City does not currently have, despite the fact that most major urban centers with prominent Native populations do. The other core pillar of our plan also came from the community: that a Community Development Corporation would also be created to generate revenue to subsidize the Community Center to ensure that it is self-sufficient long term.

The text of the resolution can be found at:

https://www.rcgov.org/index.php?option=com_docman&view=download&alias=19030-lf102820-09-resolution-no-2020-084-final-rc-boarding-school-land-exchange&category_slug=10-october-lf-4&Itemid=149

Q: THE THREE OCCUPANTS OF THE THREE PARCELS CLAIM THEY WERE UNAWARE OF THESE ISSUES?

A: Since at least the 1950s, various stakeholders have periodically raised questions about the status of the land and their position on it. Even if officials gave tacit approval of existing use, they were internally aware that the status of the land was questionable at best. Any assertions that the DOI or any other official entity consistently believed the land to be in full compliance with the 1948 Act over the last 70 years is a gross oversimplification. While it may be possible that the assertion by some current occupants may have been unaware of the deed restrictions on the lands they are occupying in

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the past, or they received inaccurate legal advisement on the deed restrictions, that clearly changed in 2016.

On October 18, 2016, almost exactly four years ago, the Rapid City Indian Boarding School Lands Project and Mayor Allender hosted a briefing for all stakeholders located on the original boarding school lands. Each stakeholder was handed a copy of their deeds. Present from the Canyon Lake Senior Center were Michael Garfield, Ron Roland, Edna Steinberg, and Jim Margadant. Present from Rapid City Regional/Monument Health was Mike Diedrich. Present from the Clarkson Healthcare/Westhills Village was Jared Degen. Present for the Rapid City Area Schools was Dave Janak.

Further, regarding the Canyon Lake Senior Center, on August, 3, 2017, in his interview with KOTA, “Canyon Lake Senior Centers’ Director Michael Garfield said he was hopeful that some solution could be reached. “We are looking at some kind of creative ideas to get around this reversionary clause where both parties can come to some kind of agreement,” he said. “I think we can get there because I think everyone's entering in good faith. No one wants to hurt the other party. We certainly understand (the tribal leaders’) standing and their grievances so we are hoping we can come to some kind of agreement.”

Regarding Monument Health, in addition to speaking on behalf of this issue for Monument Health today, Mr. Mike Diedrich was also the Rapid City city attorney in the 1980s when the unci/grandmothers brought forth these deeds violations to him personally. Mr. Diedrich was acting as a government attorney in the early 1980’s, and indicated to the Unci’s that they did not have a legitimate claim, which was untrue, and now Dietrich is acting as a corporate executive of Monument Health, a successor tenant of the original church and Bennett Hospital land occupation. Mr. Diedrich has recently attempted to object to the use of truthful language in the resolution. The team has reviewed the historical records and documents, including records and correspondence outlining the City’s, the BIA/DOI’s, and the hospital’s awareness of the need to resolve the restrictions on the deeds.

Regarding the RCAS, in 2019 the team provided a private full presentation for the Board and provided them again with the deed documents for both the Canyon Lake Senior Center and West Middle School. Our team has also met with RCAS legal counsel Cris Palmer. Our team sent a follow up email again recently to the President of the RCAS and has not received a response.

In addition, it is our understanding that Mayor Allender has also reached out to each of these stakeholders individually to invite their participation.

Q: THE OCCUPANTS OF THESE THREE PARCELS STATE THAT THEY BELIEVE THEY ARE IN COMPLIANCE WITH THE RESTRICTIONS ON THE DEEDS?

A: We appreciate that that is their position. We have always known about the Monument letter. And for every document produced we have numerous other documents concluding the leasing of tracts to these corporations are not municipal or educational use, and clearly are not used to benefit “needy Indians.” After conducting this in depth historical and legal research, we disagree with the occupants’ position that their current occupation and uses are in compliance with the requirements of the 1948 statute and the restricted deeds. At a minimum, all parties can likely agree it is litigable. That

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is why the team has sought a diplomatic solution, to spare all involved with the cost and acrimony of litigation, and to work together to heal the open wounds. The Department of Interior issued a memo in 2017 stating that they also disagree with the three occupants, these three parcels are subject to reversion, and supporting a creative local solution to the issue.

In addition, if there are leases of these tracts, they will eventually expire. Addressing this through a commitment to finding alternatives to reversion is a better option for Rapid City, the Rapid City School District, the occupants of these tracts, and the community. An ongoing open unresolved issue on these tracts, will continue to resurface over and over, because it is an ongoing violation of the 1948 statute, until a solution is found. That is the purpose of the Resolution of the City Council, it is the intent of the citizens of this community who have volunteered their time, and it is a solution that can be a first step to bringing this community together to move forward in a unified commitment to a better community.

Q: WHAT ABOUT OPPOSITION?

A: The majority of the opposition heard we heard at City Council on Monday night, thus far appears to be along the lines of “I didn’t know” or “I wasn’t consulted” and “You don’t speak for me.” We agree. Any outreach is imperfect, and more outreach is always better.

That is why the resolution sets up a process for the City to conduct formal consultations to include all voices and stakeholders in designing the plan to submit to DOI. The process to be created by the resolution is designed to provide ample opportunity to address questions and misunderstandings. Some community members have not read the resolution, as their expressed objections are addressed in the resolution. There is no non-profit group seeking to speak for all community members. This Resolution commits to create to a process to ensure all community members impacted are heard.

However, on the other hand, this volunteer group has conducted nearly 100 presentations in person and online, posted numerous YouTube videos, set up three different websites, created a Facebook page and a twitter account, and worked to get dozens of coverage on radio, print and television. So much so, that we have equally been accused of seeking too much attention. The volunteers and community members who have worked on this project seek a process for moving forward to include more voices, not the exclusion of any community members.

There is no requirement that resolutions presented by a community group like ours speak for the entire city or for specific entities. In our case, several people have asked if our project “speaks for the Tribes or tribal members.” We do not. Many members of our group are enrolled tribal members, and any tribal elected officials have been involved in the project from day one, including the Chairman of the CRST Land Committee, the President of RST, and the OST Land Committee has formally already voted its support. If a plan is designed, it is then that it would be taken formally to the three tribes for support. If a group of non-Native people asked for a resolution recognizing the history of Vietnam veterans in Rapid City, for example, it is unlikely that anyone would expect them to have the unanimous support of the non-Native community, nor would anyone expect that every Vietnam veteran would agree with every detail of the resolution. A Native-focused resolution should not be held to a different standard or more strenuous standard. Any resolution on any topic will gain some opposition from the most extreme sides of the community and from those community members that regularly oppose most topics.

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Many of the claims to have not ever heard of this project or our team feel disingenuous. Normally, we would be very reticent to directly discuss individuals who oppose this work because we respect everyone's right to their opinions. However, several Councilmembers asked us specifically about folks who spoke in opposition and why. Therefore, we would like to address this issue as best as we understand it. The first two speakers in opposition on Monday night's City Council meeting, Rick and Kathy Gerlack, attended at least one of our small group meetings in January 2017. A large percentage of the remaining opposition came from one group, a group that at least at one point was called the "Rapid City Concerned Indian Community Members." A group which includes Donna Gilbert, Theresa Spry, Charmaine White Face, Ernestine Chasing Hawk, Pat Lee, and Mark Lonehill among others. We have reached out to various members on several occasions. And many of these individuals have also commented on our Facebook page, for example, suggesting that they had at least seen our efforts to educate and engage the community via social media. When a meeting was requested of Ms. White Face and Ms. Spry, our team was told by them that they would "never meet with us" and proceeded to provide an incorrect phone number when asked if we could follow up. Ms. Chasing Hawk was asked if she would provide coverage of the project to assist with public dissemination of the information in her prior role with Native Sun News, and she chose to provide no coverage of the project. Communications were sent to Mr. Lonehill numerous times over many years with no response. Mr. Lonehill is not a resident of Rapid City, he lives in Custer, however his siblings are residents, and are members and supporters of the Rapid City Indian Boarding School Lands Project and spoke in favor of the project at the City Council meeting.

Several at-one-time members of this organization actually came to the Rapid City Council meeting and spoke in favor of the resolution including elders Marlyce Miner, Bev Running Bear, and Dr. Art Zimiga, and former City Council candidate Cante Heart.

We respect each individual's right to their opinions and points of view, and we mean no disrespect by discussing specific people and specific perspectives, we are doing our best to answer the questions asked of us. We are just clarifying that at least in many instances we have tried to reach out. We also believe some opposition comes may arise from misunderstandings and an erroneous conflation of this project with Sioux San/GPTCHB.

Q: WHO DOES THE RAPID CITY INDIAN BOARDING SCHOOL LANDS COMMITTEE REPRESENT/WORK FOR?

A: We are 100% volunteer, and we represent ourselves. We are members of the Rapid City Native American community and "needy Indians" under the statutory definition in the 1948 Act. We are a coalition which seeks to include the full range of community members, and our support is as broad as members of AIM to members of Elevate. We challenge the Council to find another resolution with such a broad coalition of support. On Monday night alone, just a small portion of our coalition was able to attend in person and speak, and that support included:

Elder Opening

- Bev Warne, Director, SDSU Native American Nursing Education Center

History

- Dr. Eric Zimmer, Senior Historian, Vantage Point History

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Legal Speakers

- Tatewin Means, Executive Director, Thunder Valley CDC, Former Attorney General Oglala Sioux Tribe
- Rebecca Kidder, Partner/Owner, Pebbles Kidder

Eva Nichols Family

- Chuck Nichols

Cecelia Montgomery Family/Sioux Addition Descendants

- Tad Montgomery
- Lessa Montgomery
- Merle Left Hand Bull
- Cheryl “Jeannie” Castillo

Osh Gosh Camp Descendants

- Mary Bowman
- Bre Jackson
- Cheryl Angel

Community Elders/ Longtime residents

- Bev Running Bear, BHSU, Lakota Language
- Dr. Art Zimiga, Former Director of South Dakota Office of Indian Education
- Marlys Miner, descendant RC Indian Boarding School

Traditional Speakers

- Gene Tyon, Office of the Vice President, Oglala Sioux Tribe
- Troy Fairbanks
- Darrell Red Cloud, Professor, Oglala Lakota College

Business Community

- Hani Shafai, Dream Designs
- Dan Tribby, Prairie Edge

Housing/Unhoused Coalition

- Lloyd Big Crow, Oyate Kin Can'te Wast'epi
- Onna LeBeau, Black Hills Community Loan Fund

COVID Meals for Relatives

- Natalie Stites Means, Former candidate for Rapid City Mayor
- Jean Roach

Community Relations

- Karen Mortimer, Executive Director, Mniluzahan Okolakiciyapi Ambassadors (MOA)

Churches

- Pastor Eric Thone, South Canyon Lutheran Church
- Fr. Cody Magnus
- Cindy Rains, St. Andrews Episcopal

Native Candidates

- Cante Heart, Former City Council Candidate
- Walt Swan, Former City Council Candidate

Youth

- Whitney Rencountre, Rural American Initiatives/Ateyapi

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- RC Youth City Council
- Business Community
- Tom Johnson, CEO, Elevate
 - Bill May, Chamber of Commerce, Former President
 - Bryan Brewer, President Lakota Nation Invitational, Former President Oglala Sioux Tribe
- Closing Speakers
- Professor Jace DeCory, Black Hills State University
 - Robin Zephier, Attorney, Zephier & LaFleur PC

We also represent a team that has spent nearly a decade researching the factual and legal aspects of these parcels, who feels a deep obligation to finish what the grandmothers started, and who are committed to finding justice for what we wholeheartedly believe are clear statutory violations, using whichever path that requires.

Q: IS THE PROJECT A 501C3 AND WOULD IT BE RECEIVING THE FUNDS?

A: No and no. Very purposefully this team has stayed volunteer and has not created a 501c3. Our strong belief is that no such entity should be formed until more complete participation of the Native community after the passage of the resolution. We see our role as pursuing justice and helping provide the framework, to then open it up to all Native community members to implement, to shape what an organization might look like, how voting would work, who would be on the board etc.

We work with many pre-existing Native organizations in Rapid City to build a broad coalition, and many of our volunteers also work at other Native organizations. But the Rapid City Indian Boarding School Lands Project is not incorporated, on purpose. We are 100% volunteer, and no individual has ever been compensated for their time nor do they anticipate being compensated in the future.

We have received a handful of small donations over the ten years with our largest expenditures going towards the annual Children's Memorial Walk and renting spaces and providing snacks for our public presentations. The Black Hills Area Community Foundation has graciously served as our fiscal sponsor so that we do not have to have the expense of any paid staff and so that there is external oversight of any expenditures.

Q: WHO WOULD OWN THE LAND?

A: The language in the 1948 Statute is clear that the Department of Interior that has the authority to approve an exchange of land and that land would be used for "needy Indians." The land exchanged would therefore be federal land, owned in the name of the Department of Interior-Bureau of Indian Affairs, and not owned by any for-profit or non-profit entity, nor by any tribe. The DOI would enter into a long-term lease restricting use of the parcels to serve "needy Indians."

Under the Resolution of City Council, the goal is to develop the process to determine what entities to be created, or existing entities the Rapid City Native American community decides to work through to manage activities on the exchanged lands for the benefit of the Rapid City Native community. This is part of the work to be done after the City commits to create the consultation process by passing the Resolution. This group of volunteers has intentionally NOT proposed any structure for that process

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or for management of exchanged lands to ensure full community participation is part of the process that follows passage of the City Council resolution.

Q: HOW DOES THE CITY ASSURE THAT THE “RIGHT” PARTIES ARE AT THE TABLE?

A: As stated several times, this will be a proposal from Rapid City to the Department of Interior. However, in its role as trustee, the DOI clearly cares deeply what the Rapid City Native American Community and surrounding tribal nations think. Statutorily, the only allowable beneficiaries of land exchanged are “needy Indians.” The Rapid City Indian Boarding School Lands Project has spent three years collecting input from “needy Indians,” Rapid City native organizations and community members.

The Department of Interior 2017 Letter to Rapid City supports this process of finding creative alternatives to reversion by working with the Rapid City Native American community. The Rapid City Council Resolution is the first step in resolving this outstanding problem, by committing to resolution of the problem, and committing to work with the Native American community to develop a proposal for DOI approval of the solution.

Q: IS THE PROJECT GOING TO SUE THE CITY?

A: It is our most sincere desire that this issue not move to litigation. We understand that, win or lose, the process would be financially costly to stakeholders on all sides. Perhaps more importantly, we understand that litigation will almost certainly do further damage to the already challenging state of race relations in Rapid City. That is the opposite of our overall long-term goals.

Simply filing a lawsuit does not offer the same opportunity for the City and other players to acknowledge their roles, and for all parties involved to work together to form a positive solution that heals rather than harms our community. Our mission statement reads:

- To uncover and reveal the history of the Indigenous Community in Rapid City – particularly regarding the lands which comprised the Rapid City Indian Boarding School/Sioux Sanatorium. Lands which were dispersed to non-Native entities through the “Act of 1948.”
- To discuss the resulting dispossession, dislocation, and segregation of Indigenous people in Rapid City.
- To honor the vision of the grandmothers before us – by helping find a resolution to the “Act of 1948” land violations.
- To honor the lives, memories and spirits of the children and relatives who passed away at the Indian Boarding School and the Sioux Sanatorium TB Clinic.
- To preserve this history for generations to come.
- To use these truths to promote dialogue and healing about the challenging history of racism, the systematic marginalization of Indigenous people, in Rapid City – so that together we may move forward in a positive way.

Our first choice has always been to try the diplomatic healing route, despite the diplomatic route being much more labor intensive and challenging. It is up to the City Council to decide the route it chooses to take. If the City Council decides not to commit to a solution of the issue, it invites litigation by

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affected individuals to litigate. No volunteer working on the Project would have spent the hours and hours of time to educate, to research, and to do the hard work of uncovering the inconvenient truth if our first choice wasn't the diplomatic route.

Q: DO YOU WORK FOR NDN COLLECTIVE, ARE YOU GOING TO PROTEST?

A: We do not work for NDN Collective and to the best of our knowledge only one of our 100 volunteers happens to be employed by NDN Collective. With that said, the historical heaviness of these continued lines of questioning from City Council members must be pointed out.

The city government, as well as the state and federal governments, have successfully violated Native rights repeated in the past by turning us against ourselves. By separating us into “good Indians” and “bad Indians.” and we will no longer participate in this division. Our team supports the entire Native American community in Rapid City, even our detractors, and we welcome participation and support from every Native and every Native organization.

In addition, this “labeling” deepens division, and invites that division that destroy community. City Council members are elected to represent all Rapid City residents. These are our family members and community members that are being labeled just by asking the question. Some of us volunteer to help our homeless relatives, volunteer to cook for and feed those battling COVID-19, and work with all members of our community on these efforts to make Rapid City a better place. We support the good works done by all members of our Rapid City community members through volunteerism, employment, using our voices, and the daily acts of kindness we all do for our entire community.

Our team has chosen a diplomatic route, and we can only speak for ourselves. But it is not a stretch to understand why others would have no faith in a city government and a process that has systematically and purposefully ignored and buried their attempts to raise awareness of these inconvenient truths for over 70 years. The United States Constitution contains the First Amendment to ensure that when a government does not follow its own laws, and systematically excludes a people, that there is protected right to speech and protest.

Just three days ago, there were community members protesting in Bakken Park on both sides of the presidential election. Yet we do not see this language questioning the right to speak and to protest by those community members, nor was there any police response to those protests.

We hope the City Council embraces its role and the solution, and ends 70 years of denying the truth, and refusing to commit to resolving the issues.

Q: ARE YOU WORKING FOR GREAT PLAINS TRIBAL CHAIRMAN'S HEALTH BOARD?

A: No. Sioux San (IHS)/Oyate Health is currently operated by GPTCHB at the request of two of the stakeholder tribes, and the Sioux San facility is located on the original Rapid City Indian Boarding School Lands. So, the facility itself is part of this shared history. But other than that shared history, the Rapid City Indian Boarding School Land Project and the three parcels in the resolution are wholly unrelated to the GPTCHB, IHS, or Sioux San. But please see our answer above, we support and welcome all Native organizations and their roles.

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Q: HOW IS THIS CONNECTED TO THE TREATIES?

A: All of Rapid City is within the original boundaries of the Great Sioux Reservation, which was reserved for the Oceti Sakowin in the Fort Laramie Treaties of 1851 and 1868. Every land transaction in Rapid City is conducted within original treaty land. We recognize that the issues surrounding these treaties remain unresolved and in no way suggest that resolving any part of the land within the treaty boundaries supersedes or solves the broader treaty concerns. Our work with regard to land resolution is focused solely on the property and transactions outlined specifically in the 1948 Act and the resolution only addresses these three parcels. It has no bearing on, or effect on outstanding treaty land claims, and any DOI approval of a local solution would explicitly reiterate this. This City Council Resolution resolves no other land issues, no treaty claims, and no other parcels under the 1948 Act (including it does not resolve the West Middle School/Sioux Addition issues).