April 1, 2020

**For Immediate Release**

On March 30, 2020, the South Dakota Department of Health indicated that a business located in the City of Deadwood had two employees test positive for COVID-19. This press release was issued over a week after that business had already voluntarily closed its doors in an effort to comply with the CDC guidelines regarding social distancing. This business, like most businesses in Deadwood, voluntarily closed its doors without being required to do so by the City of Deadwood or the State of South Dakota. While there have been documented cases of community spread throughout the State of South Dakota, the only business and the only City to date mentioned by the State of South Dakota Department of Health has been this particular business.

To clear up any confusion resulting from the Department of Health’s press release or any resulting misconceptions that have arisen, the City of Deadwood believes it is necessary to make clear two items.  First, prior to issuance of the City’s resolution on March 23, 2020, a majority of the casinos had already voluntarily closed their doors in the desire to be good citizens and comply with CDC and Department of Health requirements.  Since the City’s resolution, the few remaining businesses have been voluntarily complying with the CDC and Department of Health requirements.  To date no casinos, bars or restaurants have indicated any plan to reopen their doors prior to being advised it is appropriate to do so.

The City of Deadwood and its business owners remain committed to doing their part in the effort to combat COVID-19 through the measures outlined by the CDC and Department of Health.

Sincerely,

Quentin L. Riggins

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