

Dear Neighbor

My name is Stephen Tamang, and I live in your neighborhood (Ward 1). I'm running for City Council to represent our community. I moved here over 11 years ago when I started my first 'real job' at Regional Health (now Monument Health), and over time, I've come to deeply care about this city. After years of working in public health, I've decided to step up and serve in a new way.

Running for office has been an interesting experience so far. This is my first campaign, and even collecting 50 signatures to get on the ballot felt daunting—I'm not someone who naturally enjoys knocking on doors or asking for favors. But my neighbors were gracious and encouraging, which reassured me that this was the right decision. Now that I'm officially on the ballot, I wanted to reach out personally. I know the "political playbook" calls for yard signs and mailers (and yes, my more seasoned friends tell me I need those too), but I figured I'd start with something more direct—just a letter from me to you.

Why I'm Running

I believe our City Council is made up of thoughtful, responsible citizens who care about Rapid City. What I hope to bring is a perspective shaped by my career in healthcare—particularly in public health and community well-being.

I started as a primary care physician at the Flormann Clinic (behind Safeway on Mt. Rushmore Road), where I served patients for nearly a decade. Later, I worked as a hospitalist, caring for some of the sickest members of our community at our main hospital. Through that experience, I saw firsthand how addiction devastates individuals, families, and neighborhoods. So, I pursued additional training and became board-certified in addiction medicine alongside my board certification in family medicine.

Along the way, I got involved in administrative work—something my younger self would have been shocked by. I realized that complex problems are best addressed not only by working on the ground level but also by having a seat at the table with decision-makers. With that in mind, I earned my MBA in Healthcare Management in 2024 from Western Governors University.

My career and personal experiences have opened my eyes to some of the biggest challenges we face as a city. I joined the board of Cornerstone Rescue Mission and became involved in caring for the unhoused. Several community and city leaders asked me to chair Journey On!, a nonprofit focused on community outreach and crisis

response. I think it's fair to say I've reached the age (or maybe the maturity) where serving others has become far more rewarding than personal ambition.

Through my professional and personal experiences, I've seen what's working and where we have room to improve. I believe in practical, community-driven solutions and responsible decision-making. If elected, I'll bring my experience in public health, my commitment to service, and my belief that we solve problems best when we work together.

The election is on **June 3rd**, and I'd be honored to earn your vote. If you'd like to talk—whether about issues that matter to you or just to introduce yourself—you can reach me at **605-858-2944 (personal cell)**. If you want to learn more, check out my website at **www.stephentamang.com**.

Thanks for your time, and I hope to meet you along the way.

Best,

Stephen Tamang

Candidate for City Council

P.S. Even though my wife and I are producing this letter at our kitchen table and personally stuffing each envelope, I am obligated to tell you that this communication is paid for by Stephen Tamang. 😊