



For Immediate Release

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Rezoning Referendum Petition Update

Sioux Falls, South Dakota: A Petition was received by the City Clerk's Office on August 30, 2013 seeking to refer Sioux Falls City Ordinance No. 49-13, which had been adopted on August 6, 2013 and had granted an application by a property owner to rezone their property at the Southwest corner of East 85th Street and South Minnesota Avenue. A referendum petition must contain valid signature lines of at least five percent of the registered number of voters within the City of Sioux Falls. On the date this petition was presented, there were 101,783 registered voters within the City. Therefore, the petition must contain at least 5,089 valid signature lines.

Pursuant to state law, the City Clerk's Office identified a random sampling of the petition signatures submitted. According to Lorie Hogstad, City Clerk, the thorough review verified 86.77 percent of the signatures in the sample. State law required the City Clerk to then multiply the total number of signatures received by the percentage of successfully verified signatures from the random sample. The resulting sum of 5,642 valid signature lines exceeds the minimum number required. By comparison, the

percentage of verified signatures of other recent petition efforts filed with the City Clerk's Office has ranged between 77 and 88 percent.

On September 9, 2013, an Affidavit of Deficient Signatures was filed with the City Clerk's Office by the property owner. By law, the City Clerk's Office must review each of the over two thousand alleged deficiencies and render a written declaration of the results. "Due to the significant number of signatures identified in the Affidavit, I do not expect to finalize the review process for another three to four weeks," said Clerk Hogstad.

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