

## PRESS RELEASE: FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Ron Sasso has announced that he submitted his petitions and will seek to return to the dais as City Alderman for Ward 5 in the June 6<sup>th</sup> elections.

Rapid City's complexities have often lead council members to state that it takes two years to learn the job. Sasso provides both experience and an impressive track record.

"Rapid City continues to fall behind in addressing our infrastructure needs," Sasso stated. "Candidates always talk about infrastructure, I already improved our infrastructure when given the chance and I will do more if elected."

"Public safety also continues to be a concern. Our police officers do a fine job---but the police department is understaffed for the important work they need to do."

"Homelessness continues to be a daunting task to address. As a licensed professional counselor I have worked with people who are homeless and I understand complex mental health issues that perpetuate the problem." Sasso stated.

"Regarding the budget, I firmly believe it is possible to save money without cutting our community investments or the arts." Sasso noted, "If you look at how much money the City has spent on out of state consultants over the last few years there is a lot of money that can be saved by simply tapping into our local resources."

Sasso further explained, "Increased economic development is possible by cutting more red tape at City Hall. For example, parking requirements for businesses are onerous and stifle small business growth. Small businesses generate sales tax revenue."

Sasso served on the City Council from 2011-2013. During his term in office, Sasso brought forward changes to improve the quality of every road that is built in Rapid City. He worked to keep taxes and fees lower. He is a strong advocate for open government.

Sasso works is a Realtor and works for Coldwell Banker Lewis-Kirkeby-Hall. He has nonprofit business leadership experience and has worked for a Fortune 500 Company. Sasso received his Master's Degree in Counseling at South Dakota State University and is also a Licensed Professional Counselor.

During his campaign, Sasso hopes to raise awareness for scleroderma---a rare autoimmune disease that affects approximately 300,000 people in the United States. Sasso was diagnosed with the very rare systemic form of the disease to start 2016. He is founding the Black Hills Scleroderma Support Group with the help of the Scleroderma Foundation.

Sasso, 52, lives in Hall subdivision with his wife of 24 years, Sue (who is an artist), and three children, Soren , age 20, Seger, age 17 and Story, age 14. For more information about Sasso, please visit [www.ronsasso.com](http://www.ronsasso.com).

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