

Statement from Police Chief regarding protest/demonstration on August 15, 2020.

On Saturday, August 15th, 2020 at approximately 4 pm, a local group of demonstrators from Rapid City met for a demonstration of the Sturgis Rally. Sturgis Police Department learned of this planned demonstration through citizens seeing the event on social media and contacting the department. From the information the Department gathered, the demonstration was in protest of the Sturgis Motorcycle Rally, Days of 76 Rodeo, and Pennington County Central States Fair.

There were approximately 7 members, who as far as we know, were just local citizens from Rapid City and NOT affiliated with ANTIFA. The group was wishing to express their 1st Amendment right and we explained guidelines that we would allow as long as they remained peaceful and they did not violate any state laws or city ordinances. The demonstrators were allowed to conduct their demonstration in the middle of the 1st Block of Main Street where there were no motorcycles parked. After approximately 45 minutes, one demonstrator, Drew Wishon, 23 years old, from Rapid City, kicked a motorcyclist as he was passing by. Officers placed Wishon under arrest for Disorderly Conduct and he was removed from the scene. Due to the safety of everyone involved, it was decided that the demonstrators would be escorted from the area and no longer allowed to demonstrate. Officers escorted the demonstrators from the area, and they left town.