



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

March 19, 2010

CHAMBER ENDORSED SCAM ALERT

Rapid City, S.D. (March 19, 2010) - Chamber of Commerce's across the state of South Dakota are experiencing advertising sales scams.

A group called "Premier Map" was in Mobridge, SD several weeks ago claiming to be the official sales team for the Yellowstone Trail Guide. This same company is currently calling businesses in Aberdeen trying to sell ads for the official city guide, Aberdeen and Brown County map. Since they have moved through two committees it is believed that they may continue through the state.

Within the last month, the Yankton Area Chamber of Commerce has encountered several "scams" that have had their Chamber's name attached to them. Several calls came into the Yankton's office concerning a Chamber sponsored sweepstakes where the phone solicitors told residents that they had won a large sweepstake and that it would require \$499 to release the official sweepstakes check. The callers stated that the sweepstakes was endorsed by the local chamber and were given an 800 number to call and verify. When the chamber called this number and informed them that it was in fact the chamber calling, they promptly hung up. These scams are generally routed to overseas operations posing as legitimate businesses.

In another incident, a sales representative from Texas stopped by the Yankton Chamber offices and picked up brochures at the Visitor Information Center. He stated that he was selling refrigerator magnet advertising. He was informed that they would not purchase an ad and that they did not endorse the program. He proceeded to sell space on the magnets under the guise that the Chamber had endorsed it. At a later date, the Yankton Chamber received a magnet in the mail that had chamber information on the piece.

The Rapid City Area Chamber of Commerce advises the Rapid City business community to be aware of this scam and to remember that if someone states a program is being endorsed by the local chamber, we would have let you know through our monthly Investment Report, our website and through the local media. The Rapid City Chamber encourages you to call their office at (605) 343-1744 if you suspect or experience any situations that are questionable.

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