

**The Ventriloquist and the City Council Members**

Several City council members from around the state traveled to the State Capital to attend a special economic summit sponsored by the Governor's office. On the last night of the summit six City Councils attending - and who had just met at the summit - decided to go out for a night on the town before returning to their homes the following day.

Walking down the street they entered a fancy nightclub not far from their hotel that had a sign announcing 'Live Entertainment'. Upon entering the nightclub they saw a ventriloquist on the stage and decided to stay. Since the club was fairly full the hostess seated the six of them at a table near the back of the room.

Within minutes the ventriloquist was informed that a group of City Council members had just entered the club so he quickly began spouting out a routine that involved every joke or humorous story he knew about local government and local public officials. After five minutes of nonstop local government jokes one of the City Council members could not take it anymore. He stood up from the table and shouted as loud as he could *"I've heard just about enough out of you and your dumb government jokes. What makes you think you can stereotype all public officials that way? We work hard for our constituents and we try our best to make the right decisions for the communities we serve. People like you who make jokes about government perpetuate the myth that local public officials are out of touch with reality and don't know what they are doing in their elected offices. In fact, comments like yours make it impossible for us to gain any respect and they discourage good people from stepping up the plate and running for local public office."*

The entire room went silent - you could have heard a pin drop. The ventriloquist was obviously embarrassed by the City Council members comments, stood up and faced the City Council member. He began to offer a sincere, heartfelt apology but the City Council stood back up and cut him off. "Sir, sit back down I wasn't talking to you I was talking to that little wise cracker sitting on your lap".

This humorous story was courtesy of Gabe Gabrielsen at Local Government Resources. Have any questions or comments send Gabe an email at [gabe@betterpublicofficials.com](mailto:gabe@betterpublicofficials.com).

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Here is my annual Sturgis update. Penny and I have gone to Sturgis each year for the past 20 years or so and there are trends. More Road Kings and Heritage Soft Tails and fewer Baggers. Big increase in Ape Hanger Bars (I have no reason why). More female riders. More Honda Gold Wings.

Average age probably 35 to 65.

Speed limit on I-90: 75mph. Last year and this year it was good to see some groups of bikers in the right lane at 60 and 65 mph. This means that they did not feel they had to risk death at 80 mph just to look macho.

Got lucky (who doesn't?). We arrived in Spearfish on Saturday afternoon. In unloading the Heritage Soft Tail from the trailer we realized that the front tire got tore up by the metal rails I have on the trailer. All Harley repair shops were closed. Finally rode into the local Metric dealer in Spearfish at 4:15 P.M. on a Saturday afternoon.

Service Department very cooperative. By 5:00 P.M. I rode out with a brand new tire. Luckily, they had ordered a supply of Harley tires and received it the day before I arrived. Therefore, was able to ride

Saturday night, Sunday, and Monday without having to wait until Monday to put the bike in a shop somewhere. Thanks to the Metric dealer at Exit 14 on I-94 in Spearfish and their Service Department. I had my picture taken twice by the online photographer in Spearfish Canyon. Not hard to do, since I did Spearfish Canyon twice a day for about nine days; in addition to our other "rides".

City of Sturgis claims they issued more vendor permits this year; but we saw fewer vendors and a few "regulars" that were no longer in the Rally Center.

I have decided to install a chock on my cycle trailer in addition to the two metal rails in order to make it easier to load and less likely to tear up a tire.

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