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(S.D.)-Deadwood Flag Size Rule Upsets Businessman

By: Roxie Graham-Marski Posted at: 09/03/2013 09:37 AM

DEADWOOD, S.D. (ASSOCIATED PRESS) - A Deadwood business owner is upset about a city rule that considers American flags signs and requires special permission for flags larger than 24 square feet.

Hotel and casino owner Mike Gustafson in July applied for a permit to hang a 375-square-foot flag on his building during the annual motorcycle rally in nearby Sturgis. The City Commission approved the request but set a deadline for the large flag to be removed.

Gustafson needed a sign permit to display the flag for a longer period, and city officials denied that request. Officials cited a part of the ordinance that says flags shouldn't be used to call attention to a building.

Gustafson says referring to large flags as "signs" is "outdated and unpatriotic."