

**Rodriguez, Charlotte**

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**From:** Elmer, Linda  
**Sent:** Monday, January 12, 2009 4:29 PM  
**To:** Rodriguez, Charlotte  
**Subject:** FW: Mural Ordinance

For file 081236

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**From:** Horn, Sarah  
**Sent:** Monday, January 12, 2009 4:29 PM  
**To:** Elmer, Linda  
**Subject:** FW: Mural Ordinance

Another one for the file...

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**From:** hannah medrow [mailto:hannahmedrow@hotmail.com]  
**Sent:** Monday, January 12, 2009 4:02 PM  
**To:** Kovac, Nik  
**Cc:** Horn, Sarah  
**Subject:** Mural Ordinance

Hi, Nik.

I left a voicemail with Sarah, who suggested that an e-mail might also be a good idea. I am opposed to an ordinance that would essentially outlaw a homeowner's/business owner's right to paint and decorate their property.

I participated in the Art in the Alleys program this past summer, as did 16 other households in my neighborhood. Interested homeowners outweighed available artists, even with some artists doing multiple murals. There was much positive feedback during ArtWalk this year, and later co-workers who heard about the project or who had seen pictures of the murals approached me to find out more about it.

The reactions were all positive, which is why I was really surprised to find out about the proposed ordinance. I think it's ridiculous to try and squash attempts to beautify property and share art. I realize that not all people will love all public art, but in our case each homeowner reviewed and approved the designs, and the artists worked with homeowners to create designs that were personally meaningful to the property owner and to the neighborhood.

I also noticed that after the murals were in place, my neighbor behind me made an attempt to clean up his yard and to keep his section of the alley picked-up--something he hasn't always made the time to do. He commented favorably on the murals and he seemed to feel proud of how spruced-up everything looked. Isn't that kind of public pride a plus?

Besides, if it's my garage door and if I want to have a mural on it, I should be able to have one without city approval. What would be next...submitting color chips before I paint my porch, to have the Hue Patrol give their stamp of approval? And what constitutes an illegal mural; who decides what is acceptable?

Also, I don't have documentation to support this, but I have heard that murals and other forms of

public art tend to discourage graffiti in those areas. We've seen that with the Art in the Alleys.

Thanks.

Hannah Medrow  
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