

**Rodriguez, Charlotte**

**From:** Elmer, Linda  
**Sent:** Wednesday, January 14, 2009 11:37 AM  
**To:** Rodriguez, Charlotte  
**Subject:** FW: Mural Ordinance Opposition comments  
**Attachments:** 88.9 comments.doc

For 081236

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**From:** Sarah Dollhausen [mailto:sarah@trueskool.org]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, January 14, 2009 11:34 AM  
**To:** Elmer, Linda  
**Subject:** Mural Ordinance Opposition comments

Please find the comments from an online discussion opposing this ordinance stemming from an on air discussion on Radio Milwaukee 88.9.

Thank you,

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## 11 Responses to “Graffiti : ART or Crime?”

<http://blog.radiomilwaukee.org/2009/01/09/graffiti-art-or-crime/#comments>

1. **smashalina jolie**, on [January 9th, 2009 at 10:07 am](#) Said:

Permission/comission walls are a great way to showcase the art. I know there are many people who believe part of the essence of the art is lost with a permission space, though. Before they discontinued the event, Paint Louis was one of the most awesome (in skill and size) permission walls I’ve ever seen or heard about. As an art form, there are jaw-dropping effects someone can create with a couple of spray cans. I think there needs to be more of a distinction in the discourse between random tags as graffiti and graffiti-style pieces and murals.

2. **Nikisees**, on [January 9th, 2009 at 10:38 am](#) Said:

Definitely art. But I think it’s just as much a ‘performance art’ as it is a visual art. The illegality and spontaneity is just as important to graffiti as the visual images themselves. To make graffiti artists fill out a permit and pay a fee completely takes away from the spirit of graffiti art.

By the way, Alderman Zilinski, throwing a tantrum like a 5-year old and storming out of hearing? Really? I’m sure that’s going to help your cause.

3. **Links to stories and places of interest at Crossman Gallery**, on [January 9th, 2009 at 4:08 pm](#) Said:

[...] Art or Crime By Mary Louise Schumacher of the Journal Sentinel Jan. 9, 2009 12:05 p.m. A great dialogue is brewing over at RadioMilwaukee.org about grafitti and whether it’s an illegal disregard for [...]

4. **Graffiti gentrification and the broken window theory. » Daniel Caleb Thompson**, on [January 10th, 2009 at 12:15 am](#) Said:

[...] Journal / Sentinal arts blogger Mary Louise Schumacher shared a discussion about this irrate small-time politician initially not getting his way because of “free speech [...]

5. **Daniel Caleb Thompson**, on [January 10th, 2009 at 12:43 am](#) Said:

I started writing a comment about this, but it turned into a very long piece. You can read it at the URL above, but in a nutshell I tried once again to look at this from the perspective of the artist while trying to maintain an “objective” view of the history surrounding graffiti.

The only thing I still wonder, is why is it illegal? I mean those whole trains in

Milan and Hamburg are just so beautiful - real artworks. Entire industries are built off of this "illegal" activity, and I think it is all so funny. Twelve cameras aren't going to stop graffiti artists any more than state regulators are going to keep fund-managers from dipping into their customers' money or failed corporations from becoming innovative. Of course, the regulation is very important, otherwise there would be no sport in it at all...

So fix those windows (but not because of the sprayers, but because of the coming gas crisis!)

Read my entire response here:

<http://ionary.org/graffiti-gentrification-and-the-broken-window-theory/>

6. **jeff ircink**, on January 10th, 2009 at 10:00 pm Said:

the pictures you've posted on this site and with this article - that's art. and as long as it's been OK'd by the city or whomever owns the property, there's nothing wrong with it.

i'm a Wisconsin native but live in Los Angeles. i'm an actor, playwright, blogger and amateur photog. i'm all for the "arts". but the graffiti on private party (with no permission) and the graffiti of gang symbols and random words that i see in LA (perhaps you have this issue in Milwaukee) is a nuisance - and illegal.

i say if you catch the criminals dead-to-rights, cut off a hand. it works for theft in Asia and the Middle East. too radical??? i know - the hardcore liberals read this and yell, "barbaric!". fine, then you'll always have graffiti problems. and the home owners and shop owners and your city can continue to pay for its clean up.

either do something about it that's effective or don't whine about it.

7. **sirmarksalot**, on January 12th, 2009 at 10:20 am Said:

What you people should be talking about is how "you" are going to deal with it because its never ever ever going to stop. You can threaten to cut off my hand, put me in jail or fine me a lot, me and others like me won't stop. Look at New York or Los Angeles, they have not gotten writers to stop. So i suggest you GET USE TO IT!!!

8. **2fresh**, on January 12th, 2009 at 1:44 pm Said:

I dont understand why their trying to charge you to do a mural on your own property thats just goin to fuel the fire writers to do it without consent. Most of the kids who do graffiti arent trust fund kids with money to blow on a mural. Give writers a place to do it legally and maybe there wont be as many illegal peices. I dont i just feel like theres no alternative for writers its either do it illegally and express your self or dont express your self at all and just dont do it

9. Daniel Caleb Thompson, on January 12th, 2009 at 7:12 pm Said:

@jeff

man, you just don't understand. the city government is the one who is trying to have a say over images in public space - like art was advertising and not only thereby something to control, but also something to make money from. that is what this is about.

and cutting off people's jihands? you know what that does? that brings a community together and makes it stronger. piss on a tree and watch it grow. piss on a sprayer and you better be able to run real fast.

10. TRUESKOOL, on January 13th, 2009 at 10:56 am Said:

This proposed Mural Ordinance is not only against our First Amendment right to Freedom of Speech but is completely unnecessary! In a city like Milwaukee, with all the negative statistics and stereotypes, do we really need another ordinance that has no real purpose other than to regulate images?? We already have ordinances in place to deal with nuisance buildings, blight, and signage permits. This is, as Milwaukee Public School Board Member Jennifer Morales stated, "A tax on art"!

Alderman Zilenski, Common Council and Mayor Barrett...let's address the real issues in Milwaukee...pick your battles wisely. This is ridiculous and just another attempt to submit hard working Milwaukeeans to another ridiculous fee/tax. In these tough economic times, we need to create job opportunities and heal and baetify our communities, not punish certain careers (artists/muralists).

You may not like the "art" you see in public spaces, but deal with it. It is 100% LEGAL and this ordinance will not pass. We will make sure of that.