

Rodriguez, Charlotte

From: Elmer, Linda
Sent: Monday, January 12, 2009 2:39 PM
To: Rodriguez, Charlotte
Subject: FW: Art Murals in alleys

For file 081236

-----Original Message-----

From: Horn, Sarah
Sent: Monday, January 12, 2009 2:11 PM
To: Elmer, Linda
Cc: Kovac, Nik
Subject: FW: Art Murals in alleys

Another one for the file...

-----Original Message-----

From: Sura Faraj / SuraForChange.com [mailto:sura@suraforchange.com]
Sent: Monday, January 12, 2009 1:42 PM
To: Coggs, Milele; Bauman, Robert; Dudzik, Joseph; Wade, Willie; Donovan, Robert; Puente, Robert
Cc: Dantzler, Akuwa; Mayor Tom Barrett; Kovac, Nik; Horn, Sarah
Subject: Art Murals in alleys

Dear Alderwoman Coggs, ZND Alders and Mayor Barrett,

I'm writing regarding the proposed ordinance which will penalize murals in alleys.

In the fall, I and several other community members organized the Art in the Alleys project, matching up homeowners with artists in order to beautify our alleys.

Julie Ferris of the City of Milwaukee's "Insight Milwaukee" program even came out and did an interview with some of us. You can see that here:

<http://www.suraforchange.com/2008/12/14/new-art-in-the-alleys-post/>

This was a positive, proactive way that concerned, conscientious people came together to make our neighborhoods safer and more beautiful. We believe these spaces are much less likely to see graffiti, since they are no longer blank canvasses.

This whole project was an act of community pride.

Homeowners and artists fixed, scraped and primed garage doors. We organized an alley clean up. And we have less drug dealing and more people walking through and checking out our alleys. I heard that even the MPD 6th District Captain came out to take a look.

Something else to note, Our target area was 3 alleys. We had far more homeowners interested than we had artists.

We even had homeowners in other parts of the neighborhood asking for someone to paint their garages.

On behalf of my 17 neighbors who were fortunate enough to have their doors/walls/fences painted, I ask you to vote against this ordinance and instead replace it with an ordinance that would *allow* and encourage murals to beautify our alleys.

We need more art in this city, more free art, and more relationship building between artists and residents, not stifling free speech expression.

Sincerely,
Sura Faraj

Sura Faraj
www.SuraforChange.com
sura@suraforchange.com
414.263.1513