

From: The Factory Salon [<mailto:thefactory@rap.midco.net>]
Sent: Wednesday, January 06, 2016 1:51 PM
To: Jegeris Karl
Cc: Roberts John; pepper@thedahl.org
Subject: Art Alley

January 6, 2016

Chief Jegeris -

Attached find a photo of some recent graffiti in Art Alley. In the top photo you will note that someone is being accused of being a "snitch." In the lower one you will note that the same person has taken a similarly aggressive stance against a property owner who no longer wishes to participate in the chaos it has become. This showed up the morning of January 2, 2016 and on that date I advised the downtown patrol officer of this concern.

This is not an "art" problem, it's a crime problem. The insistence that the Rapid City Arts Council is taking care of "Art Alley" is folly at best, and at worse malfeasance. To grant some kind of formal authority over Art Alley to the RCAC - as was strongly suggested to me acquiescing to at our last meeting - is irresponsible. As a career law enforcement officer you are well aware of what is intended when someone is called a "snitch" in the criminal world. I implore you, please take this serious.

The past few years have shown that - despite its claims - the RCAC does not take care of "Art Alley" in the manner that ameliorates this kind of problem and doesn't intend to. It has been well over six months since the RCAC promised it would create a permit system for us and we don't have one. It's not going to happen and the RCAC is all out of "benefits of the doubt" where Art Alley is concerned. Worse the RCAC compounds the situation because it is and has been the driving force behind the "Art Alley is Graffiti Alley" agenda that largely caused the problems in the first place. As I have said many times, until the graffiti "art" is gone - and the sole control of what happens to the property vests back solely with the legal property owners - these problems will continue and will only get worse. Graffiti "art" is too intertwined into a criminal lifestyle to believe otherwise. It can not and should not be compartmentalized by responsible parties. If the RCAC desires graffiti, the Dahl is available. But, of course, that's unthinkable, isn't it?

It is time to stop this. Art Alley's time came and went. If property owners wish art of whatever variety on their property that's their decision to make and no one else. It's time the police step in, not to continue the veiled pressure on property owners to acquiesce to this kind of thing, but rather to be proactive to what is a clear street crime problem now in existence.

Thanks

Dennis

