

## Public Comments



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## {PCS} Please read out loud at next commission meeting

1 message

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**Angela Martinez**

Tue, Aug 2, 2022 at 9:34 PM

To: pcs@cityofwatsonville.org

Hello ,

I writing on behalf of Carrasco Concepts . It's come to my attention that her art work is being frowned upon all due to opinions that low riders are gang affiliated . I don't understand that how these opinions are even being tolerated . Low riders belong to many people. To say low riders are gang affiliated and gives the wrong image but is acceptable to have them in our towns parades just doesn't make any sense . I enjoy seeing these cars in our parades just as she does, it's the best part of the parade for me . Cars like that are apart of our town and are beautiful just like her art she wants to share . She has my vote for displaying this beautiful piece publicly that she worked hard on with passion . I don't see no harm coming from it , it beautiful and should be shared for others to see .

Thank you ,

Sent from my iPhone



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**{PCS} Fwd: Utility Box, art controversy**1 message

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Wed, Aug 3, 2022 at 7:18 AM

To: pcs@cityofwatsonville.org

From: **Victoria Bañales**

Date: Wed, Aug 3, 2022 at 12:18 AM

Subject: Utility Box, art controversy

To: &lt;psc@cityofwatsonville.org&gt;

Dear Araseli Campos, Paul De Worken, Abel Sanchez, Noe Ibarra, Frank Barba, and Jessica Carrasco:

As a resident of Watsonville (District 5), I am writing in strong support of Jessica Carrasco's artwork proposal to paint a utility box in our city. It is my understanding that a few commissioners opposed her proposal due to concerns that her artwork includes lowriders that could be seen as promoting "gangs." First of all, lowriders are not synonymous with gangs. Most lowriders are law-abiding citizens who have a passion for classic cars and car clubs. To say that lowriders are gang-affiliated is racist. I, myself, have family members who are part of the lowrider scene. They work full-time jobs, pay taxes, and live normal lives. They are not gangbangers. Second of all, lowriders are expressions of Chicano art and culture. Museums across the United States include paintings (and in some cases, actual cars) that feature lowriders. Let's face it: Lowriders are classy and cool. They are gorgeous classic cars on which owners invest a lot of time and money. Third of all, Jessica Carrasco's image, the same one that (some) commissioners deem offensive, was selected for inclusion in Journal X's upcoming 2022 edition (Journal X is the Watsonville Center's new literary/arts magazine). My Cabrillo students and I, as editors of the magazine, absolutely loved the image and saw it as a celebration of our Mexican/Chicano culture and representative of our Watsonville city. The editorial board selected it unanimously, and not one student associated the image with "gangs." That idea never even crossed our minds. Therefore, I urge you to do the right thing: Stop engaging in embarrassing racist stereotypes and approve Ms. Carrasco's art proposal, which is absolutely beautiful and has nothing to do with gangs. Thank you for reading my letter. Please contact me if you have any questions. Sincerely, Dr. Victoria Bañales

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**'Jaime Sanchez' via PCS** <pcs@cityofwatsonville.org>

Wed, Aug 3, 2022 at 11:11 PM

Reply-To: Jaime Sanchez

To: "pcs@cityofwatsonville.org" &lt;pcs@cityofwatsonville.org&gt;

Stop with the racism. Stop with the demonizing of our cultural forms of constructive expression. Lowrider building takes so much skill to achieve that it actually keeps people from engaging in gang activity. The only gang at play here is the racists gang- they are the ones who portray our culture in a monstrous light. It's the racists who would prefer we engage in drugs, eating junk food, and consuming all types of materials which degrade our minds- this is what they prefer. They don't want us to learn how to build a car from the first bolt, to the electrical wiring, to the mural paints, to the interior, and beyond. Why do you think that lowriders are harmful? Do you have a first hand experience with a bad interaction with someone with a lowrider? Or is it something you saw in a movie? Stop with the anti-mexican-culture-ignorance, which only serves the racists system and maintains the status quo. Don't be a server to the racists, serve the people. Thank you.

-Jaime Sanchez  
Freedom, CA



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## **{PCS} No Censorship of CARRASCO CONCEPTS illustration/art**

1 message

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'Ertll Randy' via PCS <pcs@cityofwatsonville.org>

Wed, Aug 3, 2022 at 1:01 PM

Reply-To: Ertll Randy

To: "pcs@cityofwatsonville.org" <pcs@cityofwatsonville.org>

Please accept Carrasco Concepts illustration/sticker. Low riders should not be equated to gang affiliation. Art should not be censored.

Our country differentiates itself by our U.S. Constitution - FREEDOM OF EXPRESSION.  
NO TO CENSORSHIP or CANCEL CULTURE.

Please check out my books on AMAZON



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## **{PCS} Lowriders are culture - not gangs**

1 message

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**Chris Meyer**

Thu, Aug 4, 2022 at 7:53 AM

To: pcs@cityofwatsonville.org

Hello. Wanted to voice my opinion re: the controversial lowrider utility box mural.

Lowriders are part of California culture and nothing about them is inherently gang related.

I enjoy watching the lowriders in Watsonville. I do not own or know anyone who owns a lowrider, but I support their presence.

I support the mural. In fact, I more than support it. I want to see that mural put up so we can enjoy it!

-Chris Meyer  
Watsonville resident

Sent from my iPhone



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1 message

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**Dana Kaiser-Davidson**  
To: pcs@cityofwatsonville.org

Thu, Aug 11, 2022 at 8:47 AM

Dear Parks and Recreation Commission members,

My name is Dana Kaiser-Davidson. I have lived in Santa Cruz County most of my life and in Watsonville for the past 3 years. I am also an educator and am writing in support of Carrasco Concepts mural for the installation of up to "10 murals that are representative of the natural world and environment or art for arts sake." I am a huge fan of the art piece. It would not be the same without the lowriders.

When I saw the low riders in the art piece, I thought of Watsonville Riders and their Farm Worker Relief Cruise in May 2020. The cruises that made me smile, seeing beautiful shiny cars cruising, creating community safely while social distancing during the heaviness of the pandemic. The low rider cruises and community events are definitely part of the Watsonville community and environment. Car Cruise Down Watsonville Main Street To Raise Money for Farm Workers

I hope the Parks and Recreation Commission decides to endorse Jessica Carrasco's mural for one of the utility box art installations. Carrasco's art is a beautiful representation of Watsonville community and natural environment. In my opinion, the vibrant colors of the sun and sky, the Saint Patrick's Church, Fox Theater, and lowriders as well as the trees and horse all encapsulate what was asked of the mural application and more.

Thank you for taking the time to read my thoughts and support for Jessica Carrasco's epic representation of Watsonville.

Sincerely,  
Dana Kaiser-Davidson



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**guillermo aranda**

Thu, Aug 11, 2022 at 9:07 AM

To: "pcs@cityofwatsonville.org" <pcs@cityofwatsonville.org>

Cc:

Censorship of Images, I find it hard to believe we are still at this level of consciousness, that whenever we draw or paint a car, it is automatically tagged as "Gang Related or Affiliated". Reminds me of the Watsonville High School Cafeteria Mural controversy, and how for decades this has been an issue. I saw the Carrasco Concepts design; it's a fantastic piece of art. And as a member of this community, I am in favor of the original design.

Sinceramente

Guillermo "Yermo" Aranda  
Artist/Muralist