

Levesque, Jennifer

From: Jonathan Barnes [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, September 06, 2021 2:46 PM
To: cityclerk
Subject: City Council Meeting: Item K.6.21-711

Dear City Council,

It has been exciting to see the recent artwork for the utility box beautification project. However, it appears that the city and art council may need to refine the artwork requirements and selection process. For example, the Kobe Bryant mural on Main & M Street is a great piece, and although the artist deserves to have his work credited with a signature or social media handle reference, this location has three fairly large Instagram handles that cover the artwork. I'm curious if the artist was limited to the amount of square footage that his handle could cover the artwork, or if this was part of the original submission at all. I suggest limiting the artist to a specified size of signing their work. One utility box that was an overall disappointment is on MLK & 16th Street. Maybe I'm mistaken, but a talented local artist with creative potential was paid \$750 to simply paint a utility box the color pink. It seems like a poor selection when local artists who put in many hours painting detailed work in over 100 degree heat were given the same payment.

Again, I do think incorporating more art into the community is a worthwhile investment. As opportunities are expanded, I would love to see connections made with the local high schools, community college, and UC Merced art departments in order to provide student artists exciting opportunities.

Sincerely,

Jonathan Barnes

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