

My name is Tony Gregory, 614 Roberts Lane, Key West.

I am asking this letter be read in my absence concerning a proposed ordinance directed toward body painting. I am a Key West City licensed body painter. And I have been painting bodies in Key West before there was a Fantasy Fest.

I do believe from things I have heard involving complete nudity and behavior witnessed in public places that there needs to be better monitoring and enforcement of our existing laws against such activities. But I do not think that this ordinance's issues of covering nipples with pasties before painting them is relevant to the health, safety and welfare of the people of Key West. I have never personally been injured or had health issues or ever heard of anyone who has had a real safety problem with seeing painted breasts.

As I understand this proposal a woman's fully painted torso with opaque paint without pasties would be illegal, but a woman with just pasties on her breasts is legal. When obviously the breasts with just a small pasty is much more revealing than the fully painted ones.

In addition to that thought - do you want your law officers closely examining to see if there is a pasty under the opaque paint on a nipple or do you want your officers spending valuable time protecting real health, safety and welfare issues of the citizens and guests of Key West? We need to act and enforce with common sense.

This kind of thinking goes back over 500 years when whichever "Pope of thought" was in fashion. Artists got on scaffolds and added articles of clothing or took them off of Michelangelo's figures in the Sistine Chapel.

Seriously, we all agree there needs to be some cleaning up of Fantasy Fest behavior, including the exposure of lower body nudity -- but more importantly policing lewd and lascivious behavior. Body painting should not be the focus here.

Thank you,

Tony Gregory