

# You tell 'em, Kim!

The Bethlehem Gadfly Southside April 17, 2021

 *The latest in a series of posts on the Southside* 

*“It was recently brought to my attention, by a wise and insightful individual (who also happens to be a Southside resident, and one deeply involved in its community), that it is not uncommon for people to speak about the Southside, even subconsciously, as if it needs ‘saving’.”*

***Kiera Wilhelm, Gadfly Forum #5***

You may not know this.

Gadfly does.

There is gang activity on the Southside.

I call them the Southside Warriors.

The membership includes Olga Negron, Stephen Antalics, and Kim Carrell-Smith.

When it comes to slurs on the Southside, Kim showed at the April 8 Planning Committee meeting that she can be deliciously and politely feisty.

Finished with her professional comments on the proposed project at 404 E. 3rd., Kim put on her warrior hat:

**Audio Player not available in this archive**

- the developer said something that got my hackles up
- long-time resident, love the Southside
- prefer not to hear developers say such things as “neighborhoods of no consequence”
- because we live in those neighborhoods
- and we value them
- and we find them very safe

- and secure
- and our crime rate is lower than the north side
- you are feeding an unfortunate perception
- your perceptions are perceptions not reality
- I hope you will not be feeding students (tenants at 404 E. 3rd) that same perception
- I hope that you will give them a sense that they are in a great location
- with a lot to do
- and that those neighborhoods are not antagonistic toward them

It was a great moment, I tell you — Gadfly was hooting, hollering, and drumming on his wastebasket on his side of the Zoom!

Makin' an utter fool of himself, he was.

*In this vein and in this mood, Gadfly recommends that you re-read **Kiera's fine mini-essay** on the Southside in Forum #5.*