

Tattooing and piercing again

The owner and primary artist at Bad Ass Tattoo can once again ply his trade.

And whether you or I fully understand or support the products or services of that business, it has been and remains legal in the City of Cheyenne.

His problems began when his girlfriend found videos on his computer that he had made (and thought he had hidden) for his self-protection. The girlfriend did not say anything or make any kind of police report about her findings then - not until she became suspicious that he was not faithful to her and she searched for proof on his office computer.

She had also sought stalking charges against the guy and that allegation was eventually dropped but she still knew about the videos which disgusted her so little that she must have forwarded them to herself with an e-mail attachment.

As was detailed here in the last issue, the police department and DA's office went on a fishing expedition, trying to find incriminating and/or illegal behavior on the guy's part. The vast majority of the search warrants requested were squashed by the Court. And, in the rarest of all moves, the judge issued a directed verdict of not guilty of voyeurism **BEFORE THE DEFENSE PUT ON ITS CASE!**

During the time of this episode, the City had enacted what they thought would be a revenue generating ordinance, now requiring all of those who apply tattoos or do piercings in such businesses to buy a permit to perform their work. The owner of each establishment had previously just had to buy a business license for his shop.

This owner's business license was never affected. He continued to have a business license to operate Bad Ass Tattoo. But, he did not have the required "permit" that would allow him to apply tattoos and do body piercings. Because of the investigations being conducted against him relative to both the stalking charge (which was dismissed) and the voyeurism charges, an acting police chief (call him interim if you prefer but he was not seriously considered for the full-time position later) denied the issuance of the permit. He did not have the authority to do that and he later "recommended against" the issuance of the necessary permit.

Mayor Maybe took that denial, then recommendation against issuance, as an order and he refused to issue the permit. His city attorney, a dainty sort who was likely teased and tormented as a youngster and grew up to be a prude, was probably as responsible for the denial as the over-his-head acting police chief.

An appeal of the permit denial was made to the full city council, with an inexperienced, unqualified and incompetent outside attorney (the city has a knack for finding these guys to cost taxpayers needless money) conducting the hearing. That outside attorney was likely a crony of the city attorney or mayor and would rule in whatever way he was ordered. He did. He misapplied a tie vote in support of the denial as an affirmative vote for it and the guy's permit was not issued.

Then, the Bad Ass owner was acquitted in Laramie County District Court. Without presenting a defense, he was acquitted. That don't happen much, folks. That's rarer than Peter Arnold being affirmed by the Wyoming Supreme Court.

With that cloud removed from over his head, surely the mayor would admit his denial had been improper (not to mention illegal) and he would now approve the application, wouldn't he? Nope!

Mayor Maybe and his "Beats Hell Out of Me" city attorney wrung their hands and in act of open defiance of due process and the rule of law, continued to refuse to approve the guy's first application for the permit introduced as a revenue generating move by a city breaking piggybanks to stay afloat. Not to mention doubling children license fees to sell pop and candy bars along the CFD parade route.

The owner was told he had to apply again and start the process anew. So he did. And he waited. Mayor Maybe just had so much on his plate what with the trees and ... well, what with the trees, that he couldn't decide what to do. And his librarian-like spinsterish male city attorney must have been giving him counsel to continue to deny this guy the right to perform a legal service on knowing and approving customers. Immodest gals enter a tattoo shop, sign a consent form and pay for the service, yet Dainty Dan "would not allow another woman to be subjected to such behavior." The permit was issued.

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