

09-0837

BUDGET & FINANCE

MOTION

Numerous efforts are currently underway to eradicate graffiti in Los Angeles. These range from the UNTAG program in CD13 (which relies on neighborhood volunteers to patrol their communities for tagging and then reporting it), CD2's installation of cameras to catch taggers in the act, and CD3's "P.O.S.S.E." (People Organizing Safe Secure Environments), in which volunteers perform graffiti "sting" surveillance operations along with LAPD.

There are also multiple strategies being explored to increase funding for graffiti cleanup and prevention efforts. These include placing a measure on the June 2010 ballot to assess a fee on the sale of aerosol cans and felt tipped markers, pursuing penalties in civil court for the cost of cleaning up graffiti, and developing techniques to identify active taggers.


With so much activity around launching pilots to fight graffiti and proposals to increase funding to support these efforts, there is an urgent need to catalogue all of the various ideas to expand existing pilots citywide and institute new technologies for capturing taggers in the act or through computer analysis so that we can prioritize which approach to do first.

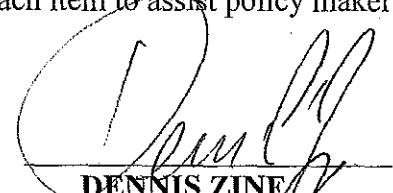
Recent proposals to seek higher redress from incidents of tagging by having the City sue as a damaged party stand to greatly increase the amount of money that is recovered for removing tagging from public properties. The practice of returning this money to the General Fund should be reexamined in light of the need to increase anti-graffiti funding.

The City Administrative Officer should create a new account to better track the revenues that come in to the City from graffiti removal restitution efforts and the proposed new fee on the sale of aerosol cans and felt tipped markers. Ideally, the City should increase the \$7.6 million it budgets each year to fight graffiti to allow for trying out new approaches.

I THEREFORE MOVE that the CAO be instructed to create a Graffiti Abatement and Community Beautification Trust Fund to segregate all revenues collected as a result of increased penalties paid for graffiti vandalism and any potential future revenue derived from a proposed surcharge on the sale of aerosol cans and felt-tipped markers.

I FURTHER MOVE that the Chief Legislative Analyst be instructed to create a list of all proposals for new and expanded current pilot programs, plus capital expenditures, around the issues of graffiti removal and mural restoration/conservation that could be funded through the Trust Fund and begin to quantify the cost of each item to assist policy makers.

PRESENTED BY: 
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ORIGINAL