

File Number

07-2083

Last Changed Date

06/27/2007

Title

GRAFFITI SUPPRESSION AND REMOVAL ACTIVITIES

Initiated by

Huizar Mover 2007 / Weiss / Garcetti

Subject

Motion - Graffiti defaces public spaces, mars the landscape, and violates our shared responsibility to protect community property. Whether it appears on buildings or bridges, on underpasses or in alleys, graffiti undermines quality of life.

Graffiti is also often used to send gang messages. As the Los Angeles Police Department notes on its website.

"Graffiti identifies territorial boundaries, lists members, and communicates with rival gangs. The gang says 'This place belongs to us.'" As part and parcel of our efforts to make our City safe, Los Angeles must redouble its efforts to make-our City graffiti free.

Efforts to prevent, remove, and suppress graffiti Citywide are implemented by multiple agencies, including the: Los Angeles Police Department; Board of Public Works - Office of Community Beautification; County of Los Angeles; and community based organizations. Each makes important contributions to the overall effort. However, increased coordination would better enable the community to act strategically and maximize scarce resources.

In addition, the City could benefit from innovative new strategies in graffiti prevention and suppression. In Pico Rivera, the aggressive new "Graffiti Tracker" program has reportedly targeted an 11-square-mile area with a high-tech system that analyzes and categorizes graffiti scrawls. This information is then analyzed by the police, who use it to collect evidence and build legal cases against the culprits. According to recent media reports, this approach has led to a 40% decline in monthly tagging incidents since September 2006.

THEREFORE MOVE that the City Council request the Los Angeles Police Department, Board of Public Works, and Department of Recreation and Parks to report to the Audits and Governmental Efficiency Committee on the efforts, status and effectiveness of existing graffiti prevention, suppression, and removal activities in the City of Los Angeles.

FURTHER MOVE that the above reports include clear recommendations on how these initiatives could be: (a) increased in scope and effectiveness; and (b) better coordinated to maximize scarce resources.

FURTHER MOVE that the LAPD be requested to report on the methodology employed by the Graffiti Tracker Program in Pico Rivera and on whether this approach could be adopted in communities in the City of Los Angeles.

FURTHER MOVE that the CLA be directed to report to the Audits and Governmental Efficiency Committee on the nature and status of the Multi-Agency Graffiti Intervention Committee (MAGIC), which was previously comprised of the following members: The Los Angeles Police Department; Office of Community Beautification - Operation Clean Sweep; Metropolitan Transportation Authority; Caltrans; LA County; and the County of L.A. Sheriffs Department, which historically coordinated graffiti prevention and suppression efforts at a regional level.

Date Received

06/26/2007

File History

6-26-07 - This day's Council session

6-26-07 - Ref to Public Works Committee

6-26-07 - File to Public Works Committee Clerk