FORM GEN. 160

CITY OF LOS ANGELES
INTER-DEPARTMENTAL CORRESPONDENCE

Memo No. 125

Date: May 6, 2026

To: Budget and Finance Committee

From: Matthew W. Szabo, City Administrative Officer

Subject: **BOARD OF PUBLIC WORKS – OFFICE OF COMMUNITY BEAUTIFICATION AND GRAFFITI ABATEMENT SERVICE REQUEST COVERAGE**

APPLICABLE BUDGET THEMES:

[ ] Fulfills legal obligations
[ ] Improves accessibility requirements
[ ] Supports public safety
[ ] Relates to proposed position or expense account eliminations
[X] Above themes do not apply

RECOMMENDATION

This Office recommends to note and file this report.

DISCUSSION

During its consideration of the 2026-27 Proposed Budget, the Budget and Finance Committee requested the Board of Public Works (Board) to report on the Office of Community Beautification's (OCB) graffiti abatement services, including a breakdown of geographic coverage square miles and the number of service requests assigned to contractors for the term starting in 2023-24 to date (C.F. 26-0146). The Board's response is attached.

The Board has provided a breakdown of OCB's reductions from 2025-26 to 2026-27, the number of square miles that its 13 community beautification contractors have serviced, and the number of service requests that have been submitted starting from July 2023 through April 2026.

FISCAL IMPACT STATEMENT

The recommendation to note and file this Memorandum will have no fiscal impact.

FINANCIAL POLICY COMPLIANCE

The recommendation in this report complies with the City's Financial Policies.

MWS:MAG:06260098

Question No. 786

Attachment

FORM GEN. 160 (Rev. 6-80)

CITY OF LOS ANGELES
INTER-DEPARTMENTAL CORRESPONDENCE

DATE: May 1, 2026

TO: Honorable Members of the Budget and Finance Committee
Matthew W. Szabo, City Administrative Officer

FROM: Steve Kang, President, Board of Public Works

SUBJECT: FISCAL YEAR 2026-27 BUDGET MEMOS – QUESTION NO. 786 – INSTRUCT THE BOARD OF PUBLIC WORKS TO REPORT ON THE OFFICE OF COMMUNITY BEAUTIFICATION, GRAFFITI ABATEMENT, INCLUDING A BREAKDOWN OF GEOGRAPHIC COVERAGE SQUARE MILES AND AMOUNT OF SERVICE REQUESTS ASSIGNED TO CONTRACTORS FOR THE TERM STARTING IN 2023-24 TO DATE (C.F. 26-0146).

During consideration of the Board of Public Works (Board) 2026-27 Proposed Budget, the Budget and Finance Committee (Committee) requested a report back on the Graffiti Abatement, including a breakdown of geographic coverage square miles and amount of service requests assigned to contractors for the term starting in 2023-24 to date.

Recommendations

The restoration of $2.5 million for Fiscal Year 2026–27 to reinstate prior service levels, 95 crews, ensuring timely, citywide graffiti removal in accordance with established standards and a 48-hour response time.

Background

The FY 2026–27 Proposed Budget for Graffiti Abatement is $11.81 million, representing a total reduction of approximately $2.26 million compared to the FY 2023–24 Adopted Budget.

Graffiti Abatement Budget	Budget	Cumulative Reduction
FY 2023-24 Adopted Budget	14,068,534	-
FY 2024-25 Adopted Budget	13,060,974	(1,007,560)
FY 2025-26 Adopted Budget	12,409,255	(1,659,279)
FY 2026-27 Proposed Budget	11,808,224	(2,260,310)

Despite an approximately 16% nominal budget reduction since FY 2023–24, the program is simultaneously facing rising labor and operating costs—including $1.48 million in increased prevailing wages and approximately 6–6.5% cumulative inflation in non-labor costs.

Prevailing Wage Increase (95 Crews Estimate)	(1,482,000)

Budget Reduction Impacts

As Los Angeles prepares to host global events, maintaining clean and graffiti-free public spaces is essential to presenting a city that is safe, welcoming, and operationally ready on an international stage. The restoration of the Graffiti Abatement budget is critical to maintaining baseline service delivery, ensuring timely and consistent removal citywide, and demonstrating a tangible commitment to neighborhood livability, safety, and investment. Without restoration, the City will experience reduced operational capacity and widening gaps in response times across communities.

These reductions have amplified the financial impact of absorbing prevailing wage adjustments, inflationary pressures, and rising operational costs that continue to erode field capacity. As a result, service capacity has been reduced from 95 crews to 75 crews citywide—a loss of 20 crews compared to prior fiscal levels. Fewer crews directly translate into longer response times and a reduced ability to meet the City's standard of rapid removal within 24 to 48 hours, increasing long-term remediation costs and contributing to repeat vandalism and visible neighborhood decline. The program also plays an important workforce role, providing employment opportunities—particularly for individuals from low-income and disadvantaged communities—through community-based partnerships.

Funding

The Board's 2026–27 Proposed Budget includes a reduction in Contractual Services of approximately $1.08 million, all of which is associated with programs within the Office of Beautification. Please see the breakdown below:

OCB Programs	**FY 2025-26**	**FY 2026-27**	**Changes**
Graffiti Abatement Services	11,696,815	11,239,564	(457,251)
Graffiti Abatement Strike Teams	712,440	568,660	(143,780)
Clean and Green	645,541	240,082	(405,459)
Clean LA	1,202,596	126,688	(75,908)
Total Decrease	**14,257,392**	**13,174,994**	**(1,082,398)**

Given that approximately 48% of the Board's budget is allocated to salaries and 50% to OCB contractual services, there are no remaining areas within the Board's operating budget from which additional reductions can be made to offset the Graffiti Abatement budget restoration.

Office of Beautification and Graffiti Removal

The Office of Community Beautification contracts with eleven non-profit community-based organizations for graffiti removal services. Approximately 40% of the overall work performed is the result of a request for service, while the remained is due to proactive work on the part of the contractor. Listed below are the agencies contracted for graffiti removal, the areas they service, square miles serviced, and the number of requests received.

Contractor	Square Miles of Service Area*	Requests July 2025 to April 2026	Requests FY 2024-25	Requests FY 2023-24
CCAC	14	92,336**	18,402	17,543
CRCD	20	8,182	8,166	8,955
GAP	37	5,810	11,087	14,103
GAP-BH	22	10,862	10,756	11,548
HBT	30	8,192	12,277	16,585
KYCC	15	14,574	16,286	20,182
LACC	17	7,586	9,534	12,585
NDFY	47	8,542	7,548	12,894
NEGB-ELA	50	6,040	8,819	13,172
NEGB-SFV	45	6,434	12,788	11,348
SGB	15	241	326	294
WCC	52	6,120	8,945	10,901
WVA	55	17,466	19,318	27,521

* Square miles estimated by AI based on the map of the service areas.

**OCB is aware that an individual continually submits service requests for graffiti removal in the Pico-Union/Westlake/MacArthur Park area. These requests are typically repetitive and not related to actual graffiti. Sometimes this individual submits 75-100 requests daily. These requests adversely skew the numbers as reflected in CD 1 service requests.