

MOTION

The Board of Public Works Office of Community Beautification is the City agency tasked with removing graffiti from the public right-of-way, municipal facilities, and private properties for participating property owners. While this service is integral to keeping our City clean and is an important aspect of public safety, funding for the Graffiti Abatement Program has not kept up with rising costs, impeding the City's ability to respond quickly to service requests to remove graffiti.

In recent reporting to this Council, the Office of Community Beautification has indicated that its ability to respond to service requests within 1 to 2 days has fallen compared to the previous two fiscal years. In Fiscal Years 2024-25 and 2023-24, the Office responded to graffiti removal service requests within 24 hours for 62 and 65 percent of service requests it received, respectively, but in the current fiscal year that 24-hour response has dropped to only 36 percent of all service requests.

While this is an invaluable service provided by the City that improves the quality of life and public safety for residents and visitors alike that should be fully funded, under the current year's budget constraints the City must assess the deployment of existing resources to ensure that they are located in areas with the highest need. Though graffiti is a Citywide issue, many areas of the City see a much higher level of vandalism that requires more resources to keep up with graffiti removal demands than other areas, which require much more infrequent servicing and may not need dedicated graffiti abatement resources on a daily basis.

Until the next budget deliberations when the Council can evaluate the full needs of the Graffiti Abatement Program, the City should assess its current resources and whether its deployment of graffiti abatement crews is based on ensuring that each region of the City has an adequate number of graffiti abatement teams despite disparate demands or if resources are deployed to address the actual volume of needs that communities are facing.

I THEREFORE MOVE that the Council INSTRUCT the Board of Public Works Office of Community Beautification to report on the current graffiti abatement resources, including the list of current graffiti abatement contractors; assessment of contractor performance; their geographic distribution and service coverage across the City; the crew size and staffing role; the number of service days provided per week; 311 request volume per Council District and repeatedly targeted locations; and the methodology used for prioritizing requests. The report should also provide recommendations to ensure resources are deployed based on demonstrated need and service demand, including the development of a prioritization matrix.

PRESENTED BY:



EUNISSES HERNANDEZ
Councilmember, 1st District

SECONDED BY:



majs

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