



Graffiti Removal Program Update

City of Tacoma | Neighborhood and Community Services

Community Safety and Vitality Committee
June 10, 2021



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OVERVIEW



- Staff will present an informational briefing to update the committee on the City's efforts to decrease graffiti concerns by:
 - Increasing the number of service providers
 - Targeting high impact areas throughout Tacoma

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BACKGROUND



- In 2018, the City released a Request for Proposals (RFP) to identify a graffiti removal contractor.
- In 2021, services were expanded and made available to businesses and residential properties who meet the contractor's minimum requirements
 - i.e., graffiti accumulating to 25 sq. ft. or more on non-painted surfaces or 140 sq. ft. or more on painted surfaces per property.

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BACKGROUND (cont.)



- There is an increased need for graffiti removal services in Tacoma.
- Due to COVID-19, Code Compliance is not issuing civil penalties for graffiti violations.

RFP released and
contract signed with
current graffiti provider

First Quarter of [year]	Number of Graffiti Code Cases
2016	172
2017	99
2018	60
2019	57
2020	58
2021	104

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HEALTH, EQUITY & SUSTAINABILITY ANALYSIS



- According to the Arizona State University's Center for Problem-Oriented Policing:
 - Graffiti contributes to lost revenue, generates the perception of blight and heightens fear of gang activity (even though graffiti offenders are by no means limited to gangs)
 - Graffiti is not an isolated concern as it is often related to other crime and disorder problems and has a cumulative effect, as its initial appearance in a location tends to attract more graffiti.
- There are a disproportionate number of code cases for graffiti in areas of the City that have low scores for livability and overall opportunity given the Tacoma Equity Index Data.
 - In the first quarter of 2021, over 70% of code cases for graffiti were in Council Districts 4 and 5.

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STRATEGY



- NCS will increase funding for their current graffiti contractor by \$84K
 - Continued alignment with 2021-2022 contract
 - Directed the contractor to proactively visit Council Districts 4 and 5 and have instructed the contractor to use the Public Code Response Map as a resource to help direct where proactive outreach is needed.
- NCS will continue to increase cross-departmental partnerships to address graffiti in the community.
- Contracting with an Office of Minority and Women's Business Enterprises (OMWBE) provider.
 - Expanded eligibility for graffiti services available to property owners.

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