



Request for City Council Committee Action From the Department of Public Works

Date: July 15th, 2008

To: Honorable Sandra Colvin Roy, Chair Transportation & Public Works Committee

Referral: Honorable Paul Ostrow, Chair, Ways and Means Committee

Subject: **Authorize Increase for Graffiti Abatement Contract (#C-23676)**

Recommendation:

Authorize increase to contract with Sani-Masters, Inc. for graffiti abatement by \$200,000 for a new not-to-exceed amount of \$500,000. No increase in appropriation is necessary.

Previous Directives:

- December 21st, 2007: Gang Graffiti Victim Relief and Abatement Timeline Improvement Approved. Allowing for no notice and no charge abatements on properties with gang graffiti, that met all summary abatement guidelines set by City ordinance.
- August 18th, 2006: Graffiti Removal: Negotiate and enter into contracts with Final Touch and Sani-Masters Inc. for Graffiti Removal.
- May 12th, 2006: Title 11, Chapter 226 Graffiti Nuisance Property: responsibility was transferred to the Department of Public Works expanding summary abatement to include the entire structure if any part is situated within five feet of the right-of-way; simplifying non-summary abatement by eliminating the consent form; including non-summary abatement of sensitive surfaces by entering into contracts with service providers and engaging in cost recovery for non-summary abatement by using the utility billing and assessment process; establishing and operating a budget to be allocated from rollover funds, to be replenished from costs recovered; utilizing the civil, administrative adjudication process to engage in cost recovery and levy fines against property owners who do not cooperate with the City's abatement efforts and engaging in a pilot project to test the efficacy of the statute allowing for civil suits to recover costs directly from graffiti vandals.

Prepared by: Susan Young, Director, Solid Waste and Recycling Services 612-673-2433

Approved by: _____
Steven A. Kotke, P.E., City Engineer, Director of Public Works

Presenters: Susan Young, Director, Solid Waste and Recycling Services

Reviews

Permanent Review Committee (PRC):	Approval	NA	Date
Civil Rights Affirmative Action Plan	Approval	NA	Date
Policy Review Group (PRG):	Approval	NA	Date

Financial Impact (Check those that apply)

- No financial impact - or - Action is within current department budget (If checked, go directly to Background/Supporting Information)
- Action requires an appropriation increase to the Capital Budget
- Action requires an appropriation increase to the Operating Budget
- Action provides increased revenue for appropriation increase
- Action requires use of contingency or reserves
- Business Plan: Action is within the plan. Action requires a change to plan.
- Other financial impact (Explain):

- Request provided to department's Finance Dept. contact when provided to the Committee Coordinator

Community Impact

- Neighborhood Notification: Not Applicable
- City Goals: A SAFE PLACE TO CALL HOME: Guns, Gangs, Graffiti gone. Gang graffiti that is quickly abated sets a standard that the graffiti and the gang members that have applied it will not be tolerated. By promptly removing this blight the perception of safety is restored.
- Comprehensive Plan: Not Applicable
- Zoning Code: Not Applicable

Background/Supporting Information

A breakdown of all graffiti reports received from September of 2006 through May of 2008 showed that the Solid Waste and Recycling Contractor, SaniMasters, Inc. visited 1,301 graffiti sites for abatement purposes. Of those, 7% were non-billable abatements. The remaining 93% were billable abatements. The average cost of a single abatement was \$168.00, with graffiti abatement charges varying from \$0.00, for sites where the graffiti was found to have been already removed, to \$20,000 for very high and complicated abatements.

The average monthly cost of contracted graffiti abatement is approximately \$ 14,000. The current Graffiti Abatement Contract allows for \$300,000 over a 36 month period. At the current abatement rate, or the increase rate that is anticipated with fall events, the contract will reach its maximum allowed by November 2008, twenty-three months into the 36 month contract. The contract must be increased if continued graffiti abatement on sensitive and/or high surfaces is to continue.