



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

Date: April 6, 2010

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

Referral: Honorable Betsy Hodges, Chair Ways & Means / Budget Committee

Subject: **Contract for Graffiti Abatement Services**

Recommendation:

That the appropriate City Officers be authorized to negotiate and enter into a contract for services for the abatement of graffiti that cannot be successfully abated by Solid Waste and Recycling staff with two separate companies: Mobile Washers and Sani-Masters.

Previous Directives:

- January 19, 2010 Solid Waste and Recycling was authorized to issue a Request for Proposals for the abatement of graffiti that cannot be successfully abated by the Division of Solid Waste and Recycling staff.
- September 1, 2009 authorize an increase to the graffiti abatement services contract with Sani-Masters, Inc. in the amount of \$200,000, for a revised not-to-exceed amount of \$700,000.
- July 29, 2008 City Council authorized an increase to the contract with Sani-Masters Inc for graffiti abatement services by \$200,000, not to exceed \$500,000.
- December 21, 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 18, 2006 City Council approved a three (3) year contract with Sani-Masters, Inc.
- May 12, 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.

- April, 2006: Various changes to the graffiti ordinance, chapter 226, directing Solid Waste and Recycling to assume certain duties previously performed by Regulatory Services, including enforcement and abatement of graffiti from sensitive surfaces.

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

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

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

Reviews

Permanent Review Committee (PRC)
Civil Rights
Policy review Group (PRG)

Financial Impact

Action is within current department budget

Community Impact

Neighborhood Notification: Not Applicable
City Goals:
Comprehensive Plan: Not Applicable
Zoning Code: Not Applicable

Background/Supporting Information:

The Division of Solid Waste and Recycling Services is tasked with the tracking and abatement of graffiti in the City of Minneapolis. Graffiti reported to SW & R through 311 or alternate means is categorized as to type (gang, tagger, snipe, etc.), surface (sensitive such as unpainted wood, brick or stucco or non-sensitive such as painted wood, metal or painted concrete), and owner (commercial, residential, Railroad, MnDOT, etc). The owners of buildings on which non-gang graffiti is placed are notified of the need to remove the graffiti. If they do not, the City removes, or arranges for the removal of that graffiti. If gang graffiti is on a primary residence the owner of the property is notified to remove the graffiti; if the owner does not the City removes the graffiti or arranges for the graffiti to be removed. Gang graffiti that is on or within five (5) feet of the Public Right of Way and which is not on a primary residence is removed, or removal is arranged by the City at no cost to the property owner. Graffiti that is on railroad, Hennepin County, MnDOT, or USPS property is the sole responsibility of those entities for abatement.

City crews do not have equipment or training to remove graffiti that is high (for instance on grain elevators, bill boards or towers). Access to enhanced protective coatings, options for multiple occasion removals for buildings that frequently have graffiti vandalism, specialized removal and deterrent techniques and environmentally sensitive removal and deterrent products are also topics that the City needs additional expertise to implement.

The City received six responses to its Request for Proposals. Of those, two were deemed to be non-responsive, one failed a graffiti removal test, one was eliminated due to cost and process concerns and two have been chosen for contracts with the City. Each of these companies has special areas of expertise, and will be assigned work by the Graffiti Coordinator based on their expertise, workload and expected response times. It is anticipated that the combined contract total for both firms will be less than \$250,000 per year, in line with previous contract amounts.