



**Request for City Council Committee Action
From the Department of Public Works
Solid Waste and Recycling Services**

Date: December 11th, 2007

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

Subject: **Gang Graffiti victim relief and abatement timeline improvement**

Recommendation: Receive and File

Previous Directives:

- June 29th, 2007 (PS&RS) Title 11, Chapter 226 of the Minneapolis Code of Ordinances relating to *Health and Sanitation*: Graffiti Nuisance Property, reducing the required time for graffiti abatement from 10 days to 7 days.
- 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., Interim City Engineer, Director of Public Works

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

Permanent Review Committee (PRC) Approval _____ Not applicable X

Policy review Group (PRG) Approval _____ Not applicable X

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 comparison of the graffiti reports received between September of 2006 and September of 2007 showed that 55% of all graffiti reports are related to "structure". Of those structures, 39% have suffered some form of Gang Graffiti. Under the current process only 5% of graffiti'd structures are summarily abated. Under the new approach, we would increase summary abatement to include all structures marked by gang graffiti, as allowed under City Ordinance.

The new approach can be summarized as follows:

- a. This change will reduce the number of days to abate graffiti from gang tagged property from 26 days to 5 days by fully exercising the summary abatement guidelines set by City Ordinance 226.40, (e), paragraphs 1-2 and applying those guidelines to all gang tagged structures and objects.
- b. The Division of Solid Waste and Recycling Services will apply the summary abatement guidelines uniformly across all gang tagged objects and structures regardless of surface type.
- c. The Division of Solid Waste and Recycling Services will fund these additional anti-graffiti efforts from the SW & R Enterprise Fund Cash Balance.

Implementing this redirection of resources will focus City efforts on quick removal of graffiti, rather than on the documentation and notification needed to enforce removal by property owners. Operating under the new approach will reduce the number of field visits and photographs taken by 66% per incident and the administrative time spent processing each related graffiti report will be reduced by 50%. Staff time saved will be reallocated to other Clean City duties which include, but are not limited to Anti-Graffiti Education, Graffiti Sweeps, Clean City Adopt programs, anti-Illegal Dumping efforts and Keep Minneapolis Beautiful activities.