



**CITY OF SAN ANTONIO
OFFICE OF THE CITY COUNCIL
COUNCIL CONSIDERATION REQUEST**

TO: Mayor & City Council

FROM: Councilman Cris Medina, District 7

COPIES TO: Sheryl Sculley, City Manager; Leticia Vacek, City Clerk; Edward Benavides, Chief of Staff; Chris Callanen, Assistant to the City Council; Michael Bernard, City Attorney; John Peterek, Interim Management Services Administrator

SUBJECT: Comprehensive City Wide Anti-Graffiti Ordinance

DATE: September 19, 2012

RECEIVED
CITY OF SAN ANTONIO
CITY CLERK
12 SEP 20 PM 4:18

Issue Proposed for Consideration

I ask for your support for the inclusion of the following item on the agenda of the earliest available meeting of the Governance Committee:

I respectfully request that City Staff take the appropriate steps in bringing forward a comprehensive anti-graffiti ordinance to combat the chronic problem of graffiti in our neighborhoods.

Brief Background

Graffiti continues to be a major problem in the City of San Antonio. In Fiscal Year 2012, The City of San Antonio spent \$1,007,000 and nearly 4 million square feet of graffiti was abated. In Fiscal Year 2011, the City of San Antonio spent \$1,007,825 and abated 3.2 million square feet of graffiti.

At the June 2008 NoGraf Network Conference of experts from the U.S. and around the world, the annual costs of graffiti was estimated to be \$25 Billion in the US. Graffiti causes a decrease in property values and makes residents feel unsafe in their neighborhoods. According to a survey of the California Realtors association, home prices decreased by as much as 20% in graffiti stricken areas.

The city currently has concentrated efforts on the removal of graffiti through its graffiti abatement team; however we would like to take a proactive stance to encourage a decrease in graffiti. This can be done through a number of measures emulating the best practices of cities throughout the world.

With coordination and input from Chief William McManus and SAPD, City Manager's Office, and Neighborhood Services- possible ordinance enhancements and actions may include;

- 1) Drafting a resolution to send to state lawmakers in Austin of the city's desire to see increased penalties and mandatory minimum sentences, fines and community service; decrease the value of property damage required for enhancing degrees of offenses; including language in the Texas Probate Code that makes graffiti on public owned property a Class A Misdemeanor.
- 2) Mandatory signs warning of the possible consequences for graffiti offenses in all retail establishments that sale aerosol paint cans and felt tip markers.

- 3) Dedicating at least 2 full time graffiti investigative officers within the San Antonio Police Department- SAFFE Division. These officers would also be involved with community education that should include outreach to city schools.
- 4) Establishing a photographic database of graffiti to assist in prosecution.
- 5) Equip all Public Works personnel in the field with the necessary tools to erase graffiti if it can be done within a reasonable amount of time.
- 6) Including stickers or other adhesive materials to the list of prohibited implements used to deface property.
- 7) Requiring city staff in field operations to report visible graffiti to the appropriate department.
- 8) Enhancing public education of the City's Graffiti App through outreach and publicity.
- 9) Directing staff to permanently locate the link for the "Graffiti App" on the front page of the city website.
- 10) Requesting that SAWS and CPS include an anti-graffiti notice in their monthly flyer that is sent with bills.
- 11) Fund monetary rewards for information leading to the arrest and conviction of graffiti offenders.
- 12) Enhancing coordination and cooperation among the utility companies, Public Works and Neighborhood Services to expedite the abatement of graffiti.

Submitted for Council consideration
by:



 Councilman Cris Medina, District 7

Supporting Councilmembers' Signatures (4 only)	District No.
1. <u> L. Elisa Adams </u>	<u> 9 </u>
2. <u> Judy R. Taylor </u>	<u> 2 </u>
3. <u> Ray Smith </u> For discussion	<u> 4 </u>
4. <u> David Medina </u>	<u> 5 </u>

RECEIVED
 CITY OF SAN ANTONIO
 CITY CLERK
 12 SEP 20 PM 4: 18