



City of Austin

Recommendation for Action

File #: 25-1767, **Agenda Item #:** 11.

9/11/2025

Posting Language

Approve an ordinance amending City Code Section 9-4-43 (Prohibited Activities) to amend the definition of graffiti, add a new definition for transportation infrastructure, prohibit graffiti, and include defenses; creating new Sections 9-4-44 and 9-4-45 to establish a notice procedure and a graffiti removal process; and creating offenses. Funding: This item has no fiscal impact.

Lead Department

Development Services Department.

Fiscal Note

This item has no fiscal impact.

Prior Council Action:

August 4, 2016 - Council passed Resolution 20160804-056 directing the City Manager to review the city's current graffiti abatement strategies and organization, study best practices nationwide for addressing and preventing graffiti vandalism, encourage positive expressions of art, and recommend changes to abatement strategies.

For More Information:

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Council Committee, Boards and Commission Action:

April 17, 2024 - Downtown Commission recommended centralizing the City's graffiti programs on a 6-0 vote.

Additional Backup Information:

Staff proposes to amend Section 9-4-43 (Graffiti Prohibited) of Chapter 9-4 (Prohibited Activities) of City Code, Title 9 (Prohibited Activities), to update the definition of "graffiti"; add a new definition for "transportation infrastructure"; create offenses to prohibit graffiti; and establish defenses. Staff further proposes to create new Sections 9-4-44 and 9-4-45. New Section 9-4-44 establishes a notice procedure related to providing notice to property owners to remove graffiti. New Section 9-4-45 establishes a graffiti removal process.

The proposed amendments are designed to align the City's graffiti abatement process with state law requirements. In addition, by creating two new sections, the proposed amendments are intended to assist with readability so that all information related to graffiti abatement does not fall within a single section.

For FY26, DSD is creating a pilot program to improve the response time to private property complaints received through the 3-1-1 reporting system. As part of this pilot program, DSD will also be hiring temporary staff to respond to complaints and implement a graffiti abatement process. The graffiti abatement process will utilize a third-party contractor, approved by the procurement process, to assist with removing graffiti. Data will be collected during the pilot program to determine the sustainability and justification of a full-time program.

