



Staff Report – Meeting Item

Removal of Markings and Graffiti

Presenter: Steve Wall, Public Works Director and Shawn MacPherson, City Attorney

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INTRODUCTION/PURPOSE/SUMMARY: As requested by Council, this Agenda item is being presented to assist Council in discussing legally available options regarding the City's practice of removing markings and graffiti from the City's structures and public places, consistent with related laws which require enforcement in a content neutral matter. Typically, once a building, wall or structure is marked and it is brought to the city's attention, a work order is generated, and Public Works Parks Division staff will remove the markings as time allows. This occurs regardless of the nature or intent of the markings.

Section 12.32.020.B (Protection of property—Destruction of buildings, monuments and other properties.) of the Camas Municipal Code states: *No person shall in any of the City parks...Cut, break, or mark any building, bridge, wall, fountain, hedge, or other structure.* Staff is not recommending that CMC 12.32.050.B be amended. Council may wish to explore options associated with artistic expression in public spaces within the City. That could be in the form of developing a program that allows art to be displayed within City Parks or within public right-of-way which could potentially allow concrete walls or walks to be used as art mediums on a temporary basis. Under this type of program, the City would need to permit and approve art in accordance with State Statutes and Constitutional limitations. A WCIA advisory note related to Public Invitations to Display Art has been provided.

As requested, staff and the City Attorney will introduce the topic and be available to answer any questions. When considering potential alternatives, Council should evaluate the city's ability to apply any policies in practice, as well as current staffing levels and resources to be able to manage and implement new programs.