



**CITY COUNCIL MEETING
STAFF REPORT**

Meeting Date: March 2, 2026		Subject: Public Safety Council Goal Update – Draft Graffiti Programs	
		Staff Member: Amanda Guile-Hinman, City Attorney, Hannah Young, Law Clerk	
		Department: Legal	
Action Required		Advisory Board/Commission Recommendation	
<input type="checkbox"/> Motion <input type="checkbox"/> Public Hearing Date: <input type="checkbox"/> Ordinance 1 st Reading Date: <input type="checkbox"/> Ordinance 2 nd Reading Date: <input type="checkbox"/> Resolution <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information or Direction <input type="checkbox"/> Information Only <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Council Direction <input type="checkbox"/> Consent Agenda		<input type="checkbox"/> Approval <input type="checkbox"/> Denial <input type="checkbox"/> None Forwarded <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Not Applicable	
		Comments: N/A	
Staff Recommendation: N/A			
Recommended Language for Motion: N/A			
Project / Issue Relates To:			
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Council Goals/Priorities: 2025-27 Council Goal No. 2: Public Safety; Strategy 2.4		<input type="checkbox"/> Adopted Master Plan(s):	<input type="checkbox"/> Not Applicable

ISSUE BEFORE COUNCIL:

Consider proposed pilot program for both graffiti tip reward system and graffiti response programs (subsidies for private property owners, loaner kits, volunteer opportunities).

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:

As part of its 2025-27 Council Goals, the City Council adopted Goal 2: Public Safety. The first outcome identified in Goal 2 is to “streamline response to code enforcement challenges.” To achieve this outcome, Strategy 2.4 calls for the City to “investigate developing a graffiti enforcement/reward program.” **Attachments 1-4** attached hereto introduce: (1) a pilot program for a graffiti tips rewards system; (2) subsidies for private property owners; (3) graffiti removal kit; and (4) volunteer opportunities.

A graffiti rewards pilot program would grant City employees to offer a cash reward for individuals who provide information leading to apprehension and abatement of vandalism within the community. A process for offering subsidization of removal supplies or services for private property owners who experience vandalism would help bridge any gaps in removal times where graffiti occurs outside of public property. Finally, offering a graffiti removal loaner kit and creating volunteer opportunities assist in overall abatement response.

Wilsonville’s Public Works and Parks and Recreation Departments already have a system and standard operating procedure for vandalism of public property with an average turnaround time of 24-48 hours for clean up after the initial report.

The current gap exists in available abatement opportunities for private property. The subsidization and loaner kit programs seek to provide City assistance to private property owners, and to allow for prioritized volunteer efforts for qualified locations and content of graffiti.

The highlighted abatement strategies and rewards program would have the following benefits:

- Offer subsidized assistance to property owners whose private property is vandalized.
- Provide volunteer opportunities to address qualified locations or graffiti.
- Offer community members use of supplies for graffiti projects.
- Reward community members who report graffiti and vandalism and incentivize consistent enforcement of abatement strategies.

Below are highlights of the proposed programs (Attachments 1-4):

- Individuals who provide useful information in identifying and apprehending vandalizers will be eligible for a \$250 reward from the City to incentivize consistent reporting and ensure that response times from either Public Works, or relevant owners is prompt.
- Qualified locations where volunteer efforts will be prioritized or abatement will be handled by the City include: small businesses, non-profits, or any location that has been vandalized with hate speech.
- In-house supplies would be available for loan and pick up at the Parks Department building.

PROGRAM CONSIDERATIONS:

Staff has met with staff within Public Works, Code Compliance, and Parks and Recreation to discuss the proposed programs and have determined the following considerations for Council

when reviewing the attached programs.

Graffiti Subsidization Program:

This program (Attachment 2) is modeled most similarly after the City’s existing sidewalk repair reimbursement program. Currently, that program is managed by Code Compliance. Similarly, staff proposes Code Compliance manage the Graffiti Subsidization Program.

Currently, the Sidewalk Repair Program is allocated \$10,000 per fiscal year. Last year, \$4,565 was utilized and so far, this year \$2,700 has been utilized. For graffiti subsidization, staff anticipates the overall funding need will be smaller, however if Council chooses to implement more than one program—such as the graffiti tip rewards system—a larger fund may need to be considered.

Graffiti Loaner Kits:

This program (Attachment 3) would require minimal management and funding, beyond the initial purchase and provision of supplies, as well as maintaining the check-out system and tracking projects. For example, Full graffiti removal kits (depending on surface) range from \$160 - \$175, the cost of which could be spread out over long term use, being repurchased as need arises.

Staffing considerations would require selecting the designated pick-up and return location for community members, and usage could be tracked via the City’s existing Cartegraph system.

Volunteer Opportunities & Qualified Removal:

The proposed utilization of volunteers in this program (Attachment 4) would allow the City to partner with Wilsonville community to remove graffiti at qualified locations. The program’s goal would be to supplement private property removal at small businesses, non-profits, and any location where graffiti involves hate or obscene speech. This program is modeled after Portland’s approach for City removal of graffiti. Apartment complexes and larger commercial buildings will not be considered qualified locations for the purpose of this program.

In evaluating this program, staff has noted several operational and risk-management factors, which cause staff to not recommend a volunteer program at this time. First, staffing coordination between Public Works, Parks and Recreation and Code Enforcement would be necessary to administer and supervise volunteer efforts. Second, improper removal techniques can cause damage or increase long-term maintenance costs, putting the City at risk for potential liability from property damage. Third, this program depends on a consistent pipeline of qualifying graffiti, if incidents decline or occur only on occasion, the efforts required to organize volunteers may be ineffective. Although this can be addressed by offering City removal of qualified vandalism, this may create staffing constraints as Public Works and Parks and Recreation workers are already addressing all public locations within a 24–48-hour turnaround. Effective administration, management and supervision of volunteers and outcome tracking will require dedicated staff time to ensure the program remains structured and successful.

EXPECTED RESULTS:

A graffiti tip rewards program will target the identification and disincentivizing of responsible parties who vandalize public and private property, along with providing a reward for citizens who come forward and assist the City and law enforcement in abatement.

The subsidization and other alternative programs provide a proactive and community-based approach to the removal of graffiti and seek to achieve abatement outcomes consistent with public property abatement and align with existing programs offered by the City. Staff identified these alternatives to implement further proactive efforts to successfully maintain quick response times and incentivize volunteer and community groups to assist in protecting the City of Wilsonville.

TIMELINE:

Following Council discussion of the draft programs, staff can prepare a resolution for the program(s) Council desires to consider further. Currently, Council Goal No. 2 is planned to be completed in Fall 2026 for all strategies.

CURRENT YEAR BUDGET IMPACTS:

Staff anticipates upfront costs to be absorbed by general budget to provide graffiti removal loaner supplies, along with administrative costs associated with administering each program and providing the reward fund for the graffiti tips program.

Within the larger public safety goal and associated projects governing code enforcement, staff encourages further discussion on creating a general code enforcement fund.

Additionally, staffing capacity in the three impacted departments—Parks & Recreation, Public Works and Code Enforcement—are unable to dedicate full time equivalent (FTE) staff efforts to maintaining some of these programs, i.e. the Volunteer or City Removal of Qualified Locations. Additionally, Code Compliance does not have capacity to manage the subsidy program and any additional enforcement of Vehicle Code provisions and a possible RV Permit Program when considering current workload.

COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT PROCESS:

Staff has presented at multiple Council work sessions regarding graffiti abatement to present information and draft proposals for Council and public review.

POTENTIAL IMPACTS OR BENEFIT TO THE COMMUNITY:

Council’s Public Safety Goal aims to ensure that City staff and community members have the tools necessary to address different public safety and livability concerns. Mechanisms to assist private property owners is graffiti removal similarly do not currently exist. These additional tools can help protect the safety and livability of the community.

ALTERNATIVES:

Council may, after consideration of the proposed programs, elect not to adopt any, and maintain

current response strategies to graffiti and vandalism. Alternatively, Council may also choose to adopt certain programs, or delegate to staff to provide more research on any other potential strategy.

CITY MANAGER COMMENT:

N/A

ATTACHMENTS:

1. Graffiti Tip Rewards Program – DRAFT
2. Graffiti Subsidization Program - DRAFT
3. Graffiti Removal Loaner Kit Program - DRAFT
4. Graffiti Removal Volunteer Opportunities for Qualified Locations – DRAFT