



THE CITY OF SAN DIEGO
REPORT TO THE CITY COUNCIL

DATE ISSUED: June 5, 2008 REPORT NO: 08-090
ATTENTION: Public Safety and Neighborhood Services Council Committee
SUBJECT: Informational Report on the City's Graffiti Control Program
REFERENCE: None

REQUESTED ACTION: Information Item Only

STAFF RECOMMENDATION: None

SUMMARY: This informational report is for the purpose of providing an annual overview of the City's graffiti control and abatement efforts during the current fiscal year.

Background:

The City of San Diego Graffiti Control Program [GCP] was created in 1992 and was originally administered by the General Services Department. In 1998, the program was transferred to the Neighborhood Code Compliance Division [NCCD] to consolidate graffiti control efforts under the umbrella of citywide code enforcement functions. The GCP is a centralized operation managing all aspects of graffiti which include: 1) Operate a Graffiti Hotline and process online complaints; 2) Identification, removal, referral and prevention of graffiti in private and public property; and 3) Paint-bank operations.

The GCP operating budget for FY-08 is \$1, 605,794. Program staff at NCCD includes the following 10 budgeted positions: 1 Code Compliance officer, 1 Field representative, 1 Utility Worker Supervisor and 7 Utility Workers. The Graffiti Control Program Manager position was eliminated from the City's budget in FY-2005. NCCD management staff assumed the Graffiti Control program management functions. NCCD also administers a \$480,000 citywide contract with the Urban Corps for graffiti abatement services and a \$29,120 Service Level Agreement with Metro Waste Water Division for utility marking removal from city property.

GCP Components and Functions

1) Operate a Graffiti Hotline and process online complaints

NCCD and the Urban Corps jointly resolve approximately 2,300 to 3,000 graffiti removal service requests per month on both private and public property.

2) Graffiti identification, referral to outside agencies, enforcement and removal of graffiti

NCCD staff identifies graffiti on both private and public property and refers it to the responsible party for clean up or abatement. The responsible party varies depending on the location of the graffiti. NCCD utility worker crew removes graffiti from city property including sidewalks, libraries, and some public facilities; Streets Division removes graffiti from bridges and from items placed on the public right of way such as street signs, medians, street surface, etc. Referrals are also made to Park and Recreation Department for removal of graffiti on city parks and recreational facilities. Referral also includes service requests to the Urban Corps. NCCD staff also regularly refers graffiti located on property of public agencies such as: US Postal Service, CALTRANS, MTS, utilities companies and corporate owners such as FedEx, UPS, billboard companies, etc.

GCP code compliance officer and field representative utilize administrative procedures and remedies to abate graffiti located on private property. Typically, a Notice of Abatement is issued requiring the responsible party to remove the graffiti within 10 days as specified in the abatement procedures for Time Frame One found in Division 6, Article 2 in Chapter 1 of the San Diego Municipal Code. GCP staff may also issue Administrative Citations to parties that refuse to remove graffiti from their property after a Notice of Abatement has already been issued.

3) Paint Bank Operations

The Paint Bank is located at the City's Chollas Operation Yard. During this fiscal year, approximately 800 gallons of paint have been distributed to the general public, typically victims of graffiti crimes and residential homeowners.

4) Outreach/Education

NCCD staff organizes community paint-outs with local volunteers and schools on a limited basis. GCP staff has worked with over 500 volunteers in FY-08 and over 200 volunteers in FY-07. Program staff worked with members of the Department of Education on the Gomper's Middle School Safe Passages program by providing a graffiti free environment to students.

5) Prevention

Interface with SDPD's Graffiti Strike Force, County Probation Department, the City's Gang Prevention and Intervention Commission and the City Attorney's Code Enforcement Unit [CEU]. GCP and CEU staff provided technical assistance to Montgomery Middle School students on the creation of a graffiti education and prevention video created by 4th graders. During FY-08, GCP and SDPD in partnership with the County Probations Department embarked on a pilot project to work with graffiti vandals conducting court ordered community service. A total of 460 community service hours have been served by convicted graffiti vandals in the Central, Mid-City, Southern and Western Division of the SDPD.

Conclusion:

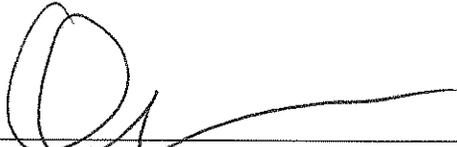
During the current fiscal year, NCCD and the Urban Corps have jointly resolved over 28,000 graffiti removal service requests. GCP program staff has conducted outreach and clean up activities with local neighborhood activists, small business associations, BIDs's and faith based organizations to jointly control graffiti in a coordinated effort.

FISCAL CONSIDERATIONS: None

PREVIOUS COUNCIL and/or COMMITTEE ACTION: None

COMMUNITY PARTICIPATION AND PUBLIC OUTREACH EFFORTS: The GCP worked with over 500 volunteers during FY-08 in graffiti community clean ups. Over 1,500 volunteer work hours are the result of these community participation and public outreach events.

KEY STAKEHOLDERS AND PROJECTED IMPACTS: None



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