



CITY OF VANCOUVER

ADMINISTRATIVE REPORT

Date: April 8, 2005
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TO: City Council
FROM: General Manager of Engineering Services
SUBJECT: Review of Graffiti Management Program

RECOMMENDATIONS

- A. THAT Council approve changes to the Graffiti Management Program as noted in this report for a reduction of \$187,000 in 2005 (\$182,400 ongoing).
- B. THAT Council approve the following changes to staff resources in the Graffiti Management program:
 - i. The elimination of an Engineering Technician (TFT) and a Clerk-Typist II (TFT) position; and,
 - ii. The conversion of two Clerk III positions and a Property Use Inspector position to Regular Full-Time.

COUNCIL POLICY

In July, 2003, Council approved the Graffiti Management Program as an ongoing program with a further report back on resource levels and program strategies.

PURPOSE

This report reviews the Graffiti Management Program resource and staffing levels in light of experience with the program over the past two years.

BACKGROUND

The Graffiti Management Program was expanded in 2002 and has been highly successful in reducing overall graffiti levels in the City. The expanded program provided additional resources to assist private property owners with removal efforts, to ensure graffiti is removed effectively from City property, to enforce removal of graffiti on private property, to develop a mural program and to develop community outreach programs. Council has asked for a report back on ongoing resource levels and program strategies for this program.

DISCUSSION

Since the current program began in September, 2002, graffiti levels in business areas of the City have reduced by over 75% as shown in Figure 1 below.

Ongoing resources for the program have been reviewed in light of staff experience with the program. A number of reductions to the program can be made without significantly impacting its effectiveness. These include eliminating two temporary staff positions (Engineering Technician and Property Use Clerk-Typist II). The graffiti level and contractor compliance monitoring done by the Technician can be absorbed by the remaining staff, albeit at a reduced frequency. The clerical workload in the private property graffiti enforcement effort can be carried out by the other Property Use Clerk funded by the graffiti program.

Based on experience, reductions can also be made in the free paint program, and in removal assistance provided to owners of heritage buildings. Education expenses can be reduced through the development of educational material that can be used by schools in place of in-class training.

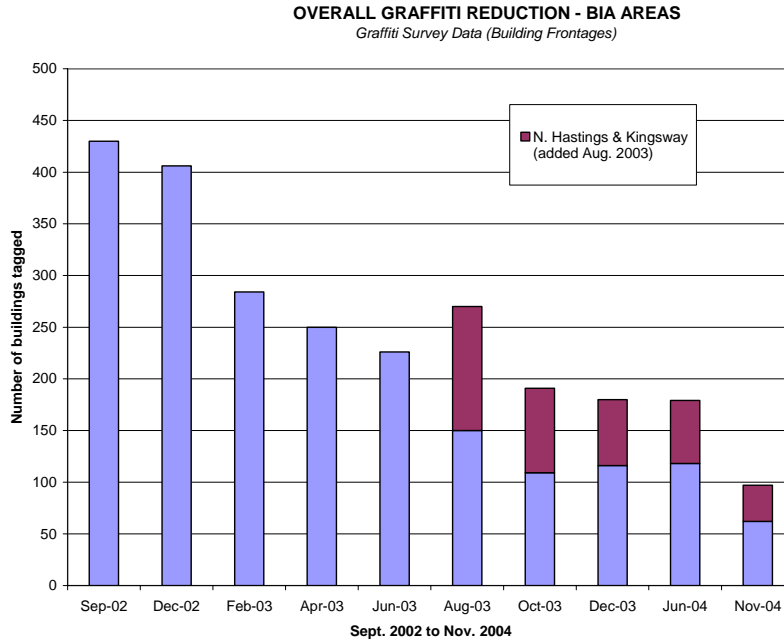


Figure 1 - Graffiti Level Reductions

The mural program has been another successful part of the Graffiti Management Program. It is recommended that the budget for murals be increased to reflect the number of murals being installed under the program and to provide further creative outlets for youth such as graffiti art competitions. Staff also recommend that the remaining temporary staff positions in the program be made regular full-time (2 Clerk IIIs and Property Use Inspector). These resources will ensure that the program receives ongoing attention to the graffiti issue in the City. A significant reduction in graffiti levels has been achieved to date, but without a continued effort, these levels will almost certainly climb back to what they were prior to expansion of the program.

There is a risk that these budget reductions will result in some reduced effectiveness of the City's efforts in reducing graffiti. Staff will continue to monitor graffiti levels periodically and report back to Council if graffiti levels increase significantly.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

The changes recommended in this report would result in a net reduction to the Graffiti Management Program budget of \$187,000 in 2005 (\$182,400 ongoing) as identified in Appendix A. This is further to a reduction of \$65,000 in the City's graffiti removal contract approved by Council in September, 2004 which was made possible through a renegotiation of the contract. These changes would reduce the overall cost of the Graffiti Management Program budget in Engineering Services from about \$900,000 to about \$650,000.

PERSONNEL IMPLICATIONS

The proposed reduction in the Graffiti Management Program would result in the following temporary positions being eliminated:

- Engineering Technician (TFT)
- Clerk-Typist II (TFT)

The following positions would be converted to Regular Full-time:

- 2 (two) Clerk IIIs
- Property Use Inspector

No layoffs will result as the two positions proposed to be eliminated are currently vacant.

CUPE15 have been informed of the proposed changes and a copy of this report has been provided to them.

CONCLUSION

Based on experience with the Graffiti Management Program over the past two years, resource levels in this program can be reduced and stabilized while still maintaining an effective program.

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Budget Reductions - Graffiti Management Program

A. Budget Reductions			
		2005 Budget Impact (8months)	Ongoing Budget Impact
	Engineering Technician (Eng.)	\$ 49,900	\$ 49,900
	Clerk-Typist II (Comm. Svcs.)	\$ 36,100	\$ 36,100
	Clerk III (TFT) (Eng.)	\$28,300	\$42,400
	Clerk III (TFT) (Comm. Svcs.)	\$28,300	\$42,400
	Property Use Inspector	\$37,600	\$56,400
	Free Paint	\$ 60,000	\$ 60,000
	Removal From Heritage Buildings	\$ 30,000	\$ 30,000
	Education/Outreach	\$ 40,000	\$ 40,000
	Total Reductions	\$ 310,200	\$ 357,200
B. Budget Increases			
	Clerk III (RFT) (Eng.)	\$31,000	\$46,500
	Clerk III (RFT) (Comm. Svcs.)	\$31,000	\$46,500
	Property Use Inspector	\$41,200	\$61,800
	Mural Program (Funding increase)	\$20,000	\$20,000
	Total Increase	\$ 123,200	\$ 174,800
	Net Budget Reduction	\$ 187,000	\$ 182,400