



City Council

Approval of Graffiti Ordinance

Agenda Date: 10/2/2012
Agenda Item Number: 4.L
File Number: 12-0559

Type: ordinance **Version:** 1 **Status:** Passed

Agenda Item:

Approval of Graffiti Ordinance

Issue:

Approval of an amendment to the current Olympia Municipal Code and creation of a separate ordinance to address illegal graffiti tagging.

Committee Recommendation:

Not referred to a committee.

City Manager's Recommendation:

Move to approve on first reading and forward to second reading.

Staff Contact:

Paul Wohl, City of Olympia Prosecutor 360.753.8449

Amy Stull, Community Programs, Police Department 360.753.8049

Presenter(s):

Paul Wohl, City of Olympia Prosecutor

Amy Stull, Community Programs, Police Department

Background and Analysis:

Graffiti tagging is a significant issue in Olympia. For the past two years, community members and City staff have been working on a strategic plan to address the problem. Along with tracking, education, cleaning and enforcement, an element of the plan is to create a separate ordinance for graffiti.

This will accomplish several goals identified by the group:

- Allow better tracking of graffiti crimes in the records management system, creating more efficient analysis of occurrences and penalties.
- Show visible support from City leaders for the efforts to battle illegal graffiti tagging.
- Create future opportunities to develop recommended punishment and restorative justice for illegal taggers.

The proposed new ordinance (OMC 9.40.095) and amendment to the existing ordinance (OMC 9.40.090) will

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distinguish graffiti from other property damage as well as maintain and clarify the existing law.

Neighborhood/Community Interests (if known):

The proposed ordinance has been reviewed by the Coalition of Neighborhood Associations. Amendments according to their feedback have been made.

Options:

1. Approve the amendment to the Olympia Municipal Code and enact a separate ordinance addressing illegal graffiti.
2. Do not approve the amendment; rather continue including illegal graffiti as part of the general property damage ordinance.

Financial Impact:

None.