

PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE REPORT relative to protecting the City's murals from graffiti vandalism.

Recommendation for Council action, as initiated by Motion (Krekorian – O'Farrell – Huizar – Fuentes):

REQUEST the City Attorney to:

- a. Report relative to increasing the City's penalties for graffiti violations, particularly over murals that have been recognized to be of historical and cultural significance to the City of Los Angeles by the Department of Cultural Affairs.
- b. Prepare and present an ordinance to increase the reward for the capture and conviction of graffiti vandals, when the property defaced is a mural, to \$2000.

Fiscal Impact Statement: None submitted. Neither the City Administrative Officer nor the Chief Legislative Analyst has completed a financial analysis of this report.

Community Impact Statement: None submitted.

## SUMMARY

On June 6, 2014, Council considered Motion (Krekorian – O'Farrell – Huizar – Fuentes) relative to protecting the City's murals from graffiti vandalism. Motion states Graffiti is a serious problem affecting all residents in the City of Los Angeles. The City spends millions of dollars each year responding to this vandalism. While the City has made some progress in its fight against graffiti, both public and private properties continue to be vandalized.

Motion goes on to state that murals are a favored target of many graffiti vandals. Over the last year, the City passed the Mural Ordinance and set aside \$1.75 million for a mural restoration program. Inasmuch as the City has invested in the restoration of and the creation of more murals, it is important to ensure that this art is not defaced or damaged. Motion recommends that Council request the City Attorney prepare an ordinance to increase the penalty for defacing a mural. Council referred Motion to the Public Safety Committee for consideration.

At its meeting held January 23, 2015, the Public Safety Committee recommended that Council approve Motion.

Respectfully Submitted,

PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE

MEMBER      VOTE  
ENGLANDER: YES

BUSCAINO: YES  
BONIN: ABSENT  
O'FARRELL: YES  
MARTINEZ: ABSENT

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**-NOT OFFICIAL UNTIL COUNCIL ACTS-**