

CITY OF LOS ANGELES
INTER-DEPARTMENTAL CORRESPONDENCE

Council File No: 22-0600-S71

Date: December 22, 2022

To: Paul Krekorian, Chair, Budget and Finance Committee
Honorable Members of the Budget and Finance Committee

From: Dr. Fernando Campos, Executive Officer, Board of Public Works
Paul Racs, Director, Office of Community Beautification



**RE: **AUTHORITY TO TRANSFER FUNDS FROM THE UNAPPROPRIATED
BALANCE FOR GRAFFITI ABATEMENT STRIKE FORCE TEAMS****

During consideration of the Fiscal Year (FY) 2022-23 Proposed Budget, the Budget and Finance Committee requested a report back relative to the potential use of funding in the Unappropriated Balance (UB) Item 31 for Graffiti Abatement Strike Teams, including funding programming, service level metrics, and equitable service delivery to support the funding already included in the Board of Public Works budget. To-date, of the \$1.67 Million allocated in UB Account No. 580389, the City Council approved the use of \$129,000 to fund the anti-graffiti efforts on the Sixth Street Viaduct Bridge. The remaining amount of \$1,541,000 is requested to continue Graffiti Abatement Strike Force Team deployment.

RECOMMENDATION:

Authorize the transfer of \$1,541,000 from the Unappropriated Balance, Graffiti Abatement (Fund 100, Dept. 58, Account No. 580389 to the Board of Public Works (Fund 100/Dept. 74, Account No. 003040) to continue support of its Graffiti Abatement Strike Force Team services.

BACKGROUND:

The Office of Community Beautification contracts with several non-profit Community Based Organizations (CBOs) to provide graffiti removal services city-wide. Most contractors are assigned to particular geographic area, respond to service requests, and work proactively along major corridors. To supplement this work, one of these contractors provide graffiti abatement strike force teams that are not geographically based. Rather these strike force teams are deployed across the City to supplement and assist the regular graffiti removal teams based on high needs.

The strike force teams are assigned work areas by OCB on a weekly basis. Typical assignments may include working in a particular contractor's area, corridor, or in an area of an upcoming event. Although the Strike Force Teams (crews) are deployed in all parts of the City, they are more often assigned to high impact graffiti areas to supplement the work of the regular contractor. Strike Force Teams work in a number of unique ways as compared to regular graffiti removal crews as follows:

- **Deployment** - Strike Force team are deployed together in a general area to saturate the community with graffiti removal teams. In many cases, areas are overwhelmed with graffiti that the regularly assigned contractor in said area may not have resources to fully respond to abate the areas in a timely manner or fully deal with the request. When the

strike force teams are in the area they can focus on areas with a lot of graffiti removing - everything from graffiti on walls, sidewalks, street signs, etc.

- **High Rise Locations** - Strike Force teams have the capability of removing higher elevation graffiti from rooftops, large walls, etc. Without the Strike Force Teams (crews), any graffiti above 15 feet is not able to be removed.
- **Special Events** - Strike Force teams are deployed to areas in advance of special events to remove all graffiti. Recent examples include removing graffiti along the route of the LA Marathon for a week prior to the event; cleaning major corridors of graffiti prior to the recent Superbowl and Superbowl related events; and working to clean parade routes (Martin Luther King Jr., Chinese New Year, and various community Holiday parades).
- **Emergency/Urgency** - Strike Force teams is a useful resource to respond to emergency and/or urgent requests for services received from the Mayor’s Office, Council District Officers, and community at-large.

Current Outcomes/Metrics

Strike Force Teams (crews) support the work of regular graffiti removal contractors and are able to remove graffiti that cannot be addressed by these regular crews. They work in high elevation locations, high impact gang areas, and along major corridors and in advance of special events. The UB funding will pay for *five strike force crews*, including associated supplies, equipment, and vehicles. The Strike Force Teams continue work in FY 2022-23 utilizing funds for regular graffiti removal. The release of funds from the UB is required to ensure that the Strike Force Teams can continue their operations for the remainder of the FY, and address the fund shortage reported. Absent of the proposed funds, services would be discontinued or scaled backed significantly.

The following table provides graffiti removed by Strike Force Teams by FY, which most is from high elevation, highly visible difficult to remove, or in high impact or high profile locations.

<i>FISCAL YEAR</i>	<i>SQUARE FEET OF GRAFFITI REMOVED</i>	<i>LOCATIONS ABATED</i>
2021-22 (Actual)	836,889	4,923
2022-23 (Estimated based on 1 st four months)	1,309,689	7,089

The following table provides Strike Force Teams Deployment in FY 2021-22:

<i>City Planning Area</i>	<i>Number of Weeks Deployed in Fiscal Year 2021-22</i>
South LA	9 weeks
Central LA	9 weeks
East Valley	8 weeks
Northeast and East LA	7 weeks
West Valley	6 weeks
West LA	5 weeks
Harbor	3 weeks
Downtown	3 weeks

cc:

Matt Szabo, City Administrative Officer
 Paul Racs, Director, Office of Community Beautification
 David Hirano, Office of the City Administrative Officer

Aura Garcia, President, Board of Public Works
 Daisy Bonilla, Office of the City Administrative Officer