

Council Member Motion For the Committee of the Whole Meeting of September 5, 2019

To:	Committee of the Whole	Date:	August 30, 2019
From:	Councillors Charlayne Thornton-Joe and Marianne Alto		
Subject:	Removal of Graffiti		

BACKGROUND

Graffiti and in particular tags are increasing, especially in the downtown, and on heritage buildings. It is important to remove the tags as quickly as possible, to minimize damage to heritage materials, which is made more difficult if the tag is in a precarious location or needing special treatment due to being on a heritage surface. Delay in removing the tag immediately often leads to more tags being added, making the task even more complex and expensive. The City removes tags on public property and the DVBA works with business owners to remove tags on private property in the downtown. In downtown Victoria the DVBA Clean Team removed 10,450 tags in 2018. For this year (up to June 2019) the Clean Team has removed 8,000 tags. If this pace continues, they are on track to remove 14,000 tags by the end of this year. It's estimated that graffiti cleanup costs downtown business and property owners over \$1 million a year.

The City could assist the DVBA with quicker removal by providing them with a grant of \$20,000 which they would use to rent equipment, like the bucket lifts sometime needed to reach the rooftops and facades of some of the buildings, and the DVBA could also provide a grant to assist Heritage building owners to remove graffiti and to construct barriers to prevent individuals from getting up to rooftops.

The "broken windows" theory---the concept that each problem that goes unattended in a given environment affects people's attitude toward that environment and leads to more problems---- is very well known and the quick removal of unwanted graffiti is an important step.

RECOMMENDATION

That Council direct staff to provide to the DVBA \$20,000.00 from contingency to assist with the removal of graffiti, with a focus on heritage buildings and private property.

Respectfully submitted,

Charlague Thouston - Joe

Councillor Thornton-Joe

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Councillor Alto

List of Attachments:

Schedule A: Photographs