



TO:	CHAIR AND MEMBERS PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE MEETING ON JANUARY 24, 2012
FROM:	MARTIN HAYWARD CITY TREASURER, CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER GEORGE KOTSIFAS DIRECTOR OF BUILDING CONTROLS, CHIEF BUILDING OFFICIAL
SUBJECT	DEVELOPMENT OF A PREVENTATIVE ANTI-GRAFFITI PILOT PROJECT IN THE DOWNTOWN

RECOMMENDATION

That, on the recommendation of the City Treasurer, Chief Financial Officer and Director of Building Controls, Chief Building Official, Civic Administration work with Downtown London **TO DEVELOP** a Preventative Anti-Graffiti Pilot Project in the downtown; and current by-law regulations which address graffiti **BE REVIEWED** with a focus on differentiating graffiti and "commissioned with permission" art murals.

PREVIOUS REPORTS PERTINENT TO THIS MATTER

Sale of Graffiti Implements By-law – March 26, 2006 – CPSC
 Graffiti Strategy – February 26, 2007, May 28, 2007 - CPSC
 Graffiti tracking initiative – April 12, 2011 - CNC

BACKGROUND

At the June 21, 2011 meeting of Council the following resolution was passed:

"That the matter of graffiti removal **BE REFERRED** to the Civic Administration to review, in liaison with the London Arts Council, measures that might be taken to put in place a consent process for, and the identification of, sanctioned art that might otherwise be identified and removed as nuisance graffiti."

Current City of London Graffiti Management Strategy

The City of London has a Graffiti Management Strategy, which includes specific strategies related to prevention, eradication and enforcement. While London Police Services have been very successful in laying Criminal Code charges against graffiti vandals and the City Municipal Law Enforcement Office has been addressing graffiti on private property, there is currently no formal City policy or by-law dealing with commissioned murals undertaken with the permission of private property owners.

Administration has presented to various committees on the benefits of commissioned murals in preventing graffiti on both public and private property. Using murals on walls that are chronically tagged with graffiti is a proven tool to prevent graffiti as graffiti taggers rarely deface murals. In order to protect and preserve the condition of an approved mural, it is necessary that the mural be coated with a product to allow for easy and prompt removal of any future unwanted graffiti. Further, a clear distinction must be made to differentiate between commissioned murals that have a pre-sanctioned artwork design and "graffiti free walls".




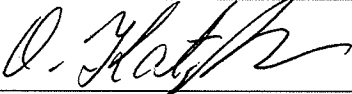
Several cities have experimented with providing free walls as a canvas for unlimited tagging and have observed an increase in graffiti in the neighbourhoods adjacent to the free graffiti walls. A clear policy direction is necessary to beautify our community via the use of murals.

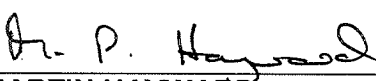
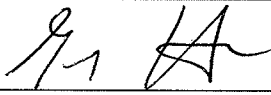
Proposed Preventative Anti-Graffiti Pilot Project

London Police Service and various departments within the City work very closely with Downtown London to make downtown a vibrant and safe destination for citizens of London and visitors of London. Civic Administration is recommending that it work with Downtown London to develop a Preventative Anti-graffiti Pilot Project in the downtown, which could include identifying existing murals and commissioning new murals that have pre-sanctioned artwork designs with the permission of property owners. Further, Administration will examine current by-laws which address graffiti and make any necessary amendments in an effort to provide a clear distinction between graffiti vandalism and commissioned with permission art murals.

Downtown London has expressed interest in partnering with Civic Administration to develop this Pilot Project and is already actively involved in maintaining the exterior surfaces of buildings in the core and facilitating street beautification programming. They are involved with the removal of graffiti and spend approximately \$37,000 a year on removal of unwanted "tags" on the face of buildings. Downtown London also has invested heavily in commissioning murals as a way of discouraging "tagging", improving property values, showcasing urban art through walking tours, and working with youth. Downtown London would like to work with its merchants and the City to ensure that the downtown streetscape remains free from tagging and defacement, while maintaining the integrity of existing murals.

There are many examples in how cities have developed anti-graffiti preventative programs including the use of pre-sanctioned art designs for commissioned murals (Ottawa, Edmonton, New Orleans and Philadelphia). Administration together with Downtown London, will review these and other municipal mural programs in developing a pilot program for Downtown London. We will also report back to this Committee about identifying potential partnerships and incentives for funding for this pilot, including identifying related costs of having the London Arts Council assist Downtown London with the pre-sanctioning of art murals. Because of the nature of graffiti, a coordinated, consistent and multi-faceted approach is required to address this issue. Council has just unveiled a new vision for Downtown and the exploration of these new strategies could play an important role in continuing to reduce graffiti.

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CC: Downtown London