

SUMMARY and FISCAL NOTE

Department:	Dept. Contact:	CBO Contact:
Mayor's Office	Paul Jackson	Alex Rouse

1. BILL SUMMARY

Legislation Title: AN ORDINANCE relating to graffiti nuisance enforcement; transferring authority to enforce the City's graffiti nuisance code from the Director of Seattle Public Utilities to the Superintendent of the Department of Parks and Recreation; and amending Section 10.07.010 of the Seattle Municipal Code.

Summary and Background of the Legislation:

This bill provides Seattle Parks and Recreation (SPR) with the authority to enforce the City's graffiti nuisance code and removes Seattle Public Utilities' (SPU) authority to enforce the graffiti nuisance code. Along with the 2026 Proposed Budget proposal to transfer all labor and non-labor budget associated with graffiti nuisance enforcement from SPU to SPR, this piece of legislation effectively completes the transfer of graffiti abatement efforts and enforcement programming from SPU to SPR.

In October 2022, Mayor Harrell announced his One Seattle Graffiti Plan to address a surge in graffiti through six major pillars, one of which was to improve the cost efficiency of the City's response by combining resources available city-wide for graffiti abatement and related enforcement efforts.

In the 2025 Adopted Budget, SPU's Graffiti Abatement program (including supplies and vehicles) and the Graffiti Rangers, a dedicated team responsible for inspection, assessments, and graffiti abatement across various city assets, was transferred to SPR. Through the transfer of graffiti abatement from SPU to SPR, the City anticipates achieving approximately \$850,000 in annual ongoing General Fund savings related to SPU's overhead rate. Transferring graffiti enforcement authority, including intake, dispatch and compliance efforts, from SPU to SPR completes the transfer of resources for Citywide graffiti abatement and enforcement efforts to SPR.

2. CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM

Does this legislation create, fund, or amend a CIP Project? ☐ Yes ☒ No

3. SUMMARY OF FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

Does this legislation have financial impacts to the City? ☐ Yes ☒ No

3.d. Other Impacts

Does the legislation have other financial impacts to The City of Seattle, including direct or indirect, one-time or ongoing costs, that are not included in Sections 3.a through 3.c? If so, please describe these financial impacts.

No.

If the legislation has costs, but they can be absorbed within existing operations, please describe how those costs can be absorbed. The description should clearly describe if the absorbed costs are achievable because the department had excess resources within their existing budget or if by absorbing these costs the department is deprioritizing other work that would have used these resources.

N/A

Please describe any financial costs or other impacts of *not* implementing the legislation.

As indicated, this proposed legislation has no financial costs but is expected to improve the cost-efficiency of the City's graffiti abatement response. By combining resources in one department for city-wide graffiti abatement and related enforcement staff, there is likely to be team continuity and a seamless and less fragmented timeline responding to concerns. Not implementing this legislation will not complete the consolidation and will maintain a fragmented response and approach.

Please describe how this legislation may affect any City departments other than the originating department.

This legislation will remove SPU's enforcement responsibility of the City's graffiti nuisance code, an authority the department has had since 1996. This legislation provides SPR with the ability to enforce the City's graffiti nuisance code. The 2026 Proposed Budget transfers a knowledgeable, experienced position from SPU to SPR to allow for minimal disruption to service and to either department.

4. OTHER IMPLICATIONS

a. Is a public hearing required for this legislation?

No

b. Is publication of notice with The Daily Journal of Commerce and/or The Seattle Times required for this legislation?

No

c. Does this legislation affect a piece of property?

No

d. Please describe any perceived implication for the principles of the Race and Social Justice Initiative.

- i. **How does this legislation impact vulnerable or historically disadvantaged communities? How did you arrive at this conclusion? In your response please consider impacts within City government (employees, internal programs) as well as in the broader community.**

This legislation does not impact vulnerable or historically disadvantaged communities.

- ii. **Please attach any Racial Equity Toolkits or other racial equity analyses in the development and/or assessment of the legislation.**

N/A

- iii. **What is the Language Access Plan for any communications to the public?**

SPU and SPR communication teams will immediately update their internal and external department websites to include departmental responsibilities, contact information and guidance. In addition to these steps, the Mayor's Office website and One Seattle Graffiti Plan webpage will be updated to provide contact information, guidance and resources reflecting the update.

e. Climate Change Implications

- i. **Emissions: How is this legislation likely to increase or decrease carbon emissions in a material way? Please attach any studies or other materials that were used to inform this response.**

This legislation is unlikely to affect carbon emissions in a material way.

- ii. **Resiliency: Will the action(s) proposed by this legislation increase or decrease Seattle's resiliency (or ability to adapt) to climate change in a material way? If so, explain. If it is likely to decrease resiliency in a material way, describe what will or could be done to mitigate the effects.**

This action will not affect Seattle's resiliency to climate change in a material way.

- f. **If this legislation includes a new initiative or a major programmatic expansion: What are the specific long-term and measurable goal(s) of the program? How will this legislation help achieve the program's desired goal(s)? What mechanisms will be used to measure progress towards meeting those goals?**

This legislation only moves graffiti enforcement authority from one department to another; there is no expansion.

- g. **Does this legislation create a non-utility CIP project that involves a shared financial commitment with a non-City partner agency or organization?**

No.

5. ATTACHMENTS

Summary Attachments: None.