

## **2016-2017 BUDGET QUESTION**

### ***Response to Request for Information***

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**DEPARTMENTS:** Health and Human Services, Municipal Court, and Parks and Recreation

**REQUEST NO.:** 34

**REQUESTED BY:** Pool

**DATE REQUESTED:** 5/24/16

**DATE POSTED:** 6/1/16

**REQUEST:** Please provide a comprehensive overview of the different graffiti programs run by the city and different departments, including (but not limited to): the Health and Human Services Department, contractors, and any departments that handle graffiti on their property. Please describe what types of requests each of these programs responds to, such as private property abatement, public property, parks, etc.

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#### **RESPONSE:**

The ensuing paragraphs detail the graffiti abatement programs and services provided by City of Austin departments. First is the Municipal Court, followed by the Parks and Recreation Department, and concluding with the Health and Human Services Department.

##### Municipal Court:

The Graffiti Abatement program at the Downtown Austin Community Court is a program that uses Community Service workers who have been court ordered to our Community Service Restitution (CSR) program. Under the close supervision of our CSR Crew Leaders, the community service workers will assist with the removal and/or cover-up of graffiti throughout the City of Austin. The requests for assistance that are received by this court come in the form of a phone call or email from stakeholders and various City departments, as well as 3-1-1. Some examples of sites that have been serviced by our program are businesses properties (owners must sign a release), bridges (Waller Creek), waterways, park buildings, electrical/utility poles and traffic signs.

##### Parks and Recreation:

The Parks and Recreation Department (PARD) uses several methods to address graffiti on parkland. Graffiti film, a thin layer of film that makes graffiti removal more manageable, has become standard on signage throughout our park system. For smaller jobs, PARD staff use solutions that are similar to Arrow Magnolia RLP 9000 (a cleaning solvent) for graffiti removal. For more extensive graffiti issues that are beyond the capacity of PARD staff, work requests are sent to the Building Services Department and the costs are back charged to the Parks and Recreation Department.

##### Health and Human Services:

Lastly, the Health and Human Services Department (HHSD) also provides graffiti abatement services. The Austin Youth Development (AYD) program employs young adults ages 17-22 to come to your property and remove graffiti at no charge, under the supervision of City employees. The program provides an opportunity to youth to learn primary work habits, work

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ethics and job readiness skills by employing them to assist with removing graffiti throughout the city. In addition, the program employs young adults who have dropped out of school, are enrolled in a high school vocational education program, or are involved in the judicial system.

HHSD Graffiti abatement requests are reported in the following areas:

- Parks are routed to the Parks and Recreation Department.
- Interstate highways are routed to the Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT)
- Street signs are routed to the Public Works Department's signage

The HHSD Graffiti Abatement program removes graffiti from private and public property anywhere in the City of Austin. Graffiti is markings, such as initials, slogans or drawings that are written, spray painted or etched in any manner on property such as a sidewalk or wall of a building without consent of the owner. Citizens can call 3-1-1 or use the 3-1-1 mobile app to report graffiti on any building in the City of Austin. If citizens do not own the property, AYD staff will contact the property owner to make arrangements for clean-up.