
Legislative Review: BOS File #231004 – Establishing Graffiti Advisory Board
Name: Chan
Date Introduced: 9/26/2023
Scheduled for BOS Committee: Rules Committee

Legislative Overview: This ordinance would create a Graffiti Advisory Board to address graffiti prevention and graffiti mitigation efforts. This legislation reinstates a previously existing Graffiti Advisory Board with some proposed changes to the Board structure. The previous Graffiti Advisory Board sunset in 2022.

Amendments to Current Law

The Advisory Board will have 15 voting members, eleven of whom must meet one of the following criteria:

- Be an officer or employee of an organization that provides services to youth involved in graffiti diversion programs;
- Be an officer or employee of an organization with experience in City beautification and/or neighborhood cleanup programs;
- Own real property located in San Francisco;
- Own a business located in San Francisco;
- Have previously served on the Graffiti Advisory Board.

The additional 4 seats will be for: a Mayor’s designee, the Director of Public Works/Director’s designee, the Chief of Police/Chief’s designee and the Director of Cultural Affairs/Director’s designee.

The Advisory Board will prepare an annual report and generally advise on the impacts of graffiti on neighborhoods and the downtown area of San Francisco, review and evaluate the services and programs in place to prevent graffiti and respond to graffiti, and make recommendations for strategies to consolidate public and private anti-graffiti efforts.

Legislative Intent:

Graffiti is a persistent problem across San Francisco. This Advisory Board can help coordinate efforts to mitigate and prevent graffiti.

Background, Issues, and Considerations

San Francisco has had a Graffiti Advisory Board since 2008. The last Advisory Board sunset in 2022. That former Graffiti Advisory Board had 25 voting members.

- Who benefits from or will be burdened by your proposal (geographically, ethnically, linguistically)? What are your strategies for advancing racial equity or mitigating unintended consequences?
 - The Advisory Group will have representation from all geographic parts of the City, as well as a variety of community stakeholders – property owners, small businesses, youth services, community arts/beautification organizations.
- What was the development process of this proposal? Whose input have you sought out? What feedback did you hear and did you incorporate it into this proposal? If not, why not?
 - This legislation reinstates a longstanding Advisory board. The proposed changes to the Advisory Board make it a smaller body which may improve the ability to have quorum for meetings.
- Is this proposal punitive or enforcement based? What are the other alternatives for proactive compliance?
 - The Advisory Board provides guidance on proactive beautification, diversion, and prevention programs.
- Given the diversity of San Francisco, how would this policy play out in different cultural settings? How does it accommodate cultural norms?
 - Graffiti is viewed differently across cultures and neighborhoods. The Advisory Board membership will likely have a wide arrange of perspectives regarding graffiti.