



SAN FRANCISCO
**GRAFFITI
ADVISORY
BOARD**

London Breed, Mayor

City Hall
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www.sfdpw.org/gab

Larry Stringer, Chair
Jana Lord, Vice Chair

Graffiti Advisory Board
Thursday, February 14, 2019



Regular Meeting
3:30 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.
30 Van Ness Avenue, 5th Floor
Department of Engineering Main Conference Room
San Francisco, California

Minutes

1. Call to Order – 3:37 PM
2. Welcome and Introductions – Present: L. Stringer, M. Ferreira, T. Ostly, J. Wong, J. Barish, R. Bardell, J. Lord, P. Gleichenhaus, T. Berman, G. Breyley, D. Kling, M. Petricca, M. Cassillas, G. Dillon, J. Cassiol, A. Whitt, K. Jones, M. Lennon, J. Salamy, L. Alfaro.
3. Public Comment - The public may comment on any matter within the Advisory Board's jurisdiction at this time. Please comment on agenda items below when the item is called. Comments may be limited to two minutes at the discretion of the Chair - (discussion item)

Greg – Presenting graffiti stats graphs. Graffiti reports and occurrences are down. Under 70 thousand occurrences. First time in a while that graffiti reports are down. Graphs will be used as part of board annual report. Report shared with rest of Board. App usage helped make reports easier.

Jimmer – Positive response from USPS. They are getting set back up to 311 SRs. Open to do abatement, but are asking to do 30 day abatement window. Remind them what the standard is to get abatement time down from 30 days.

Todd - Ballot proposition on vacant properties creating a tax to discourage vacant properties and reduce vandalism. GAB could possibly make a statement on proposition. Abandoned or Vacant Building with multiple tags automatically go to blight if they have multiple tags and no sign of abatement.

Mike Lennon – Possibly invite DBI for more information what their fine structure is and what their rule structure is. What they have in place for vacant store fronts and abandoned buildings.

Grace – Incorporate Language with Supervisor Fewer in regards to graffiti on vacant store fronts. Look into what scope with can incorporate language from Department of Elections.

Grace – NOV concerns regarding language access. Need translation of NOV in other languages. Experience is that NOV language makes people feel like they are being scolded. Even to people that they are abating on time.

Alisha – NOV is posted and mailed to property owner. Message is communicated by phone and have multiple languages available. Proper measures are taken in order to notify property owners. Letters are in English, but phone number is located on bottom of letter that can give them more info about NOV and Abatement Update in various languages.

Peter – Adding language to NOV to acknowledge that graffiti is an ongoing problem and we need to work as a team to address it.

Jimmer – Eco Fair outreach in District 11 at Denman Middle School and Public Works Week in May. Flyers available for distribution.

4. **BSM Presentation**

Michael Lennon and Jessica Salamy. Presentation on BSM role on graffiti abatement and management during active construction with Public Works Permit on file. Presenting on stats. BSM is a nuanced issue, abatement falls to the property owner, but when there is a construction permit then BSM helps expedite abatement. Enforcement comes through the permit process. If complaint is received with permit on file, inspector is sent out same day and give contractor a correction notice within the 24-48 hour range. If they don't abate within time frame Correction notice will turn to NOV and will begin incurring fines up to \$1000 per day until the issues have been remedied. Last year, 1400 construction related complaints were identified. 235 of them were verified with permit and issued correction notice. 34 of these turned in to NOV, most complied within the 72 hours. NOV violations collected roughly \$180,000. Leverage comes from leaning on the contractor, if they don't comply they can withhold permits preventing future projects. Invitation to DBI to identify if they have more authority, enforcement, or more engagement in the abatement process. Fines that are collected go back into the general fund which can also fund educational programs such as "Where art lives" and SF Arts Commission.

5. Approval of draft **November and January Draft** minutes - (discussion and action item)

a. **Larry - Motion to approve minutes and seconded – Minutes approved.**

6. Report by Chair - (discussion and possible action items)

Graffiti Stats:

- **Public Works Stat report numbers:** For the period of January 2019 the number of calls for graffiti on public property reported by the public and internal sources was 1,591. This number is down from the same time last year with 1,834 reports of graffiti vandalism on public property. There were 267 non-reported graffiti tags abated on public property by Public Works staff in January 2019.
- **Private Property Stats:**
- In January 2019 Public Works staff issued 411 new private property graffiti NOVs (compared to 513 in January 2018), of which 63.3% have been owner abated.
- Of the new NOV cases in January 2019, districts 9 (Mission, Bernal Heights, Portola), 6 (Tenderloin, SOMA, Civic Center), and 11 (Excelsior, Ingleside, Outer Mission) received the most new NOV's with 105 in D9, 56 in D6, and 52 in D11.
- DPW reports show that 221 cases of private graffiti NOV's have gone to blight in December 2018. This number is up from the same time last year with 150 NOV to blight cases.
- **Membership update:**
 - **Welcome Margeaux Casillas – Seat #17**
 - Vacant/inactive seats: Mayor's Appointee, #10, #12 (Serving Youth), and #14 SF Chamber of Commerce.
 - Some of the seats are expired and I would like to ask you to please reapply for your seat if you have not done so already.
 - If you know of anyone interested in applying for the vacant seats, please have them contact Jimmer Cassiol or Leo Alfaro for information on the application process.
- **19th Year Community Clean Team Update:**



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- The next community Clean Team event will take place Saturday, February 16th in District 8. The kickoff will be at Mission High School, located at 3750 – 18th Street (flyers are available).
- Also on February 16th, in partnership with San Francisco Public Works, Recology, and Asian Pacific American Community Center, we will be hosting two Gigantic 3 (G3) events in districts 8 and 9:

District 8: James Lick Middle School, 1220 Noe St.
(Between 25th and Clipper St)

District 9: John O'Connell High School, 2355 Folsom St.

- **Arbor Day – Eco Fair on Saturday, March 16, 2019 at James Denman Middle School (241 Oneida Avenue) 117 Trees will be planted, biggest CCT event all year. Supervisor Safai made a commitment to plant more trees in D11.**
- **The next GAB tentatively scheduled for Thursday, March 14, 2019.**

7. 2018 Huddle: Zero Graffiti – *Smart Solutions!* Debrief

- a. Review of Finances – Review of Final Statement of Activities - \$80 Balance remaining
- b. Board votes to return \$80 Balance to Lower Polk CBD.
 - i. Jana Lord Motions to return \$80 to LPCBD and seconded. Motion passed.

8. Old Business – (discussion and possible action item)

- a. Review letter to Judges re: prosecution of graffiti vandals
 - i. Judge Woods has been transferred and will not hear graffiti cases anymore
 - ii. 3 new judges that are in Department 9, 11, 12. Tom has not had a graffiti case yet, but has appeared for said Judges and they appear to be great. Positive response is expected. New Judge in Dept. 22 Tom has had cases with Judge Bang and case reduced by a prior judge, but Judge Bang ruled that defendant must do P walk graffiti abatement.
 - iii. Letter to be updated with 2019 date.
- b. SF Chronicle: letter to the editor regarding “Graffiti Camp For Girls” article
 - i. <https://datebook.sfchronicle.com/art-exhibits/graffiti-camp-for-girls-teaches-young-artists-how-to-break-into-the-all-boys-club-of-street-art>
 - ii. Camp Cancelled Due to Wildfire Smoke.
 - iii. Invited to speak at meeting, but declined.
 - iv. Next Graffiti Camp is on March 25-29, 2019 12:00 PM to 3:00 PM
Jana to visit camp. Letter never sent to Chronicle on this story. Greg worried about the censorship aspect. We would like the Chronicle to show the other perspective on graffiti. Not intending to censor art, but would like to distinguish the difference between an art form

and vandalism as these lines get blurred at times. Bob noted that the point of some of the camp is creating and improving their graffiti tag.

9. New Business – (discussion and possible action item)

- a. Review proposed dates for Graffiti Advisory Board 2019 Regular meetings.
 - i. Review Non Meeting Months
 1. Jana moves to take August and December off, Greg seconds.
 2. Board votes to take the months of August and December off
- b. Side Walk Graffiti – Budget for abatement
 - i. Pilot program to purchase new steamer for sidewalk graffiti abatement.
 - ii. Larry to review numbers but will only use current steamer at the moment.
 - iii. Review sidewalk section of Public Works code to find sections on painting sidewalk.
- c. Annual GAB Report
 - i. 18 month report – to cover from July 2017 – December 2018
 - ii. Report by April 2019
 - iii. Greg's PowerPoint to be used for part of the annual report.
 - iv. Reports historically have been combining all of the reports for the year into one.

10. Adjournment – 4:55 PM