



*Mark Jeffreys*

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Councilmember

## Motion: Clean Walls, Safe Streets Initiative

June 8, 2026

WE MOVE that the administration:

- Establish a Graffiti Victim Amnesty Program within the Department of Buildings & Inspections, similar to the illegal dumping/litter amnesty program, for property owners who have had their building tagged with graffiti, and in parallel report back within 60 days on alternative solutions that do not penalize the victim.
- Create a new "Taggers Restore It" ordinance similar to Philadelphia, Chicago and a lot of other cities that requires community service – specifically graffiti removal – as a part of any sentencing penalty for someone doing graffiti.
- Explore piloting anti-graffiti enforcement options to apprehend individuals doing graffiti on these properties leveraging mobile cameras, drones or other tactics.

### STATEMENT

Graffiti vandalism imposes significant financial and quality-of-life costs on Cincinnati, our neighborhoods, taxpayers, and private property owners. The City of Cincinnati, business owners, and residents spend significant resources annually on graffiti removal and remediation. Research and municipal experience have shown that rapid graffiti removal, offender accountability, and community restoration programs can reduce repeat vandalism, improve neighborhood appearance, and strengthen public safety. At the same time, the current ordinance that penalizes property owners for being victims of vandalism unfairly shifts the burden of the crime onto residents and small businesses rather than those responsible for the damage. That ordinance is causing significant hardship for multiple building owners. Many of whom are fined clean it up only to be tagged again and fined again. It's just not fair, which is why this requests the enforcement of fines be paused while alternative solutions are explored.

Many cities, including Philadelphia and Chicago, have adopted anti-graffiti strategies that emphasize restitution, mandatory community service, coordinated cleanup efforts, and enhanced enforcement tools to deter repeat offenses and restore neighborhoods.

This motion seeks to pursue a balanced approach that pauses penalties against victimized property owners, requires offenders to participate in graffiti removal as part of sentencing, and asks for an enforcement pilot that implements technology and other public safety tools to identify and apprehend individuals engaged in vandalism of public and private property. It also asks for the administration to report back on alternative solutions to penalizing graffiti victims so we can create a fairer mechanism to combat graffiti in Cincinnati.



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## Appendix

Some of the buildings that are getting repeatedly graffitied over and fined.

