



City of Bellevue

Graffiti Removal

Study Session

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Information

Council's consideration and feedback on possible code amendments for graffiti removal

AGENDA



Background



Bellevue's current approach



Regional regulations and programs



Potential Nuisance code amendments



Enforcement and implementation

Background

- Council retreat in June 2022: Request to bring potential graffiti regulation for consideration
- FY 2023-24 budget in Nov 2022: Potential graffiti regulations aligns with Safe, Clean and Vibrant City initiative
- Staff completed internal coordination and analysis



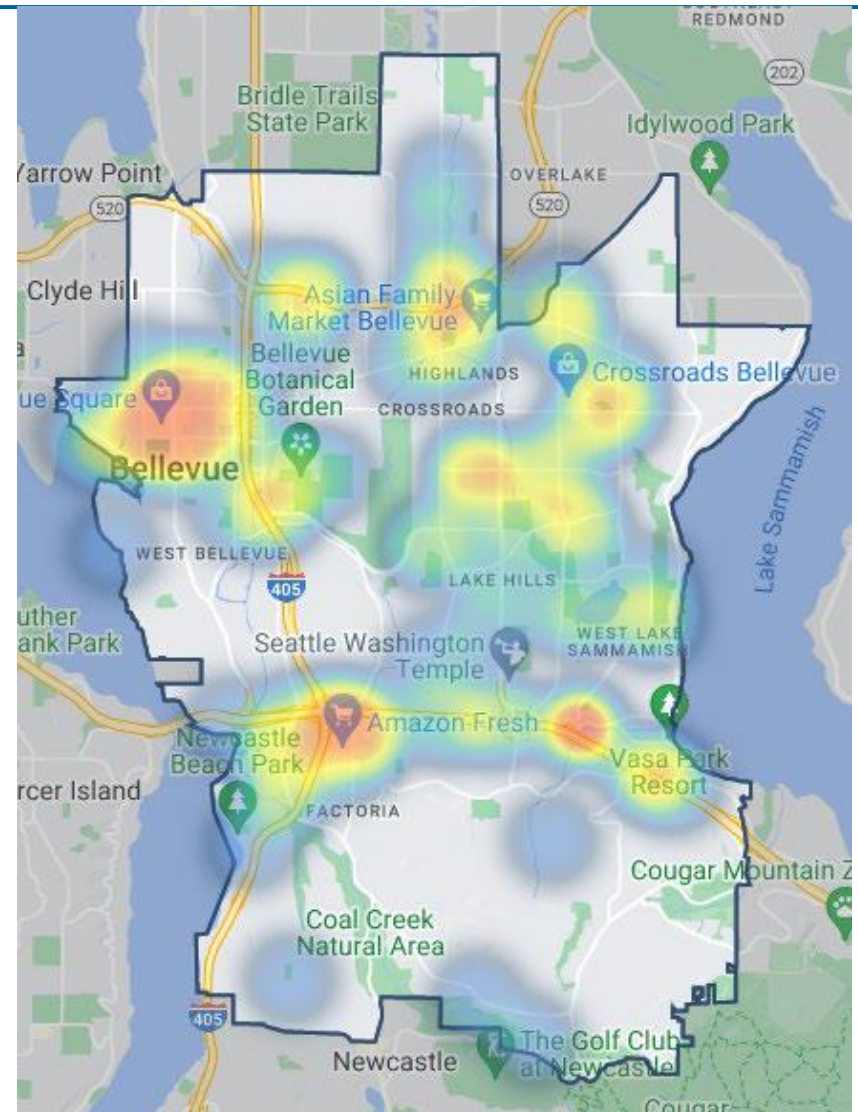
Definition of Graffiti

- Markings (write, paint, draw, inscribe, etc.)
- On real or personal property
- Without permission of owner



Bellevue's Current Approach

- MyBellevue App tracks graffiti complaints (2022 heat map)
- Graffiti removal service from City property
- BPD and City Prosecutors enforce gross misdemeanor graffiti crime with restitution
- BPD requests businesses to voluntarily remove graffiti
- No civil enforcement



Predominant Regional Approach

Civil enforcement: graffiti as a public nuisance

- Public nuisance
 - an act that impacts or unlawfully interferes with the comfort, health, and safety of others or their property
 - State law gives cities power to eradicate and abate nuisances
- Graffiti nuisance codes
 - require removal by property owner and impose penalties
 - Penalty level and timeframes vary by jurisdiction

Other Regional Approaches

- Criminal
 - purchase or possession of graffiti tools by minors
 - sale of graffiti tools to minors
 - possession with intent
- City programs
 - organized volunteers
 - removal supplies or services
 - rewards for information
- Civil variations
 - Penalty limits
 - Voluntary compliance timeframe limits

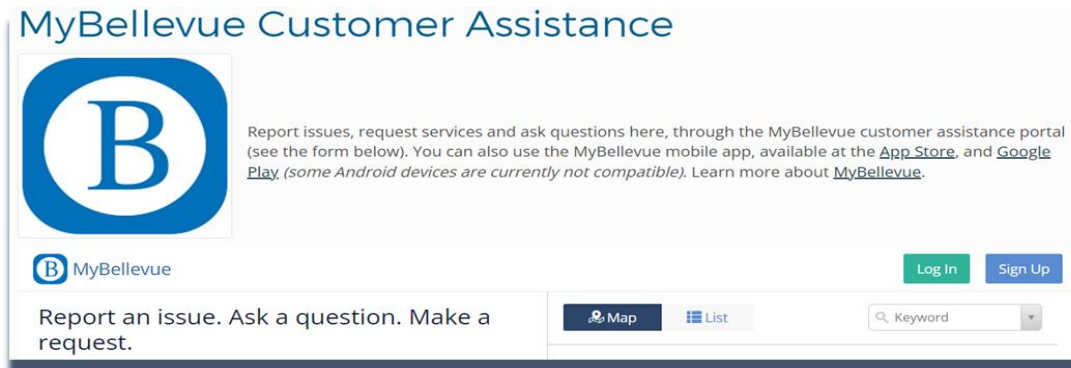
Potential Nuisance Code Amendments

- BCC 9.10.010 – add definition of graffiti to apply to unauthorized markings visible to the public
- BCC 9.10.030 – amend to include graffiti as nuisance to be enforced through Chapter 1.18 BCC
- 30-day effective date



Enforcement Process

- Nuisance enforced by Code Compliance
- Complaint based
- Attempt to gain voluntary compliance first
- Penalties may be imposed
- Hearing Examiner to affirm civil violation
- Superior Court order to enter property and abate



Implementation Approach

- Public education regarding code change and resources
- Code Compliance determines whether graffiti is authorized
- Works with responsible parties to obtain voluntary compliance
- Referrals to social service agencies for individuals with disabilities or needing financial assistance





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