

SPONSOR: The Administration

TITLE OF BILL: A GENERAL ORDINANCE AMENDING CHAPTER 72 OF THE CITY CODE ENTITLED “GRAFFITI” IN ORDER TO STRENGTHEN ENFORCEMENT, ESTABLISH PENALTIES, AND PROVIDE FOR RESTITUTION RELATED TO GRAFFITI VANDALISM

PURPOSE: The purpose of this resolution is to strengthen the City’s existing graffiti ordinance which is nearly 35 years old by updating the sale, storage, and possession regulations for spray paint and other graffiti implements; establishing clear responsibilities and penalties for retailers and restricting possession of graffiti tools by minors. It also increase the penalty for property owner failure to remove. These measures are intended to reduce incidents of graffiti vandalism, protect public and private property, promote neighborhood safety and aesthetics, and ensure that individuals responsible for graffiti are held financially accountable for removal and restoration costs.

SUMMARY OF SPECIFIC PROVISIONS: Amending Chapter 72 of the Code of the City of Yonkers: broadens application to “graffiti tools”, enhances retail liability, and make minor increase to property owner penalty for failure to remove.

JUSTIFICATION: The City of Yonkers recognizes that graffiti vandalism has increased in certain areas of the City and creates blight, reduces neighborhood quality of life, and imposes financial burdens on property owners and the City. Spray paint containers and/or any graffiti implement are frequently used to deface both public and private property. The City of Yonkers finds that stronger regulations regarding the sale, storage, and control of spray paint containers will assist in deterring graffiti vandalism. The City of Yonkers further finds that individuals responsible for violations should be held accountable for the costs associated with graffiti removal and property restoration. These measures are in an effort to reduce repeat vandalism because existing graffiti tends to attract more graffiti.

IMPACT OF REGULATION ON BUSINESS AND INDIVIDUALS: Liability and Penalties

CRIMINAL SANCTION IMPACT: Any violation of any provision of this chapter shall constitute a Class II offense.

LEGISLATIVE HISTORY: New Bill

FISCAL IMPLICATIONS: Neutral

EFFECTIVE DATE: This General Ordinance shall take effect upon compliance with §C4-6 (c) of the Charter of the City of Yonkers and the provisions of the Municipal Home Rule Law of the State of New York.

SUBJECT: A GENERAL ORDINANCE AMENDING CHAPTER 72 OF THE CITY CODE ENTITLED "GRAFFITI" IN ORDER TO STRENGTHEN ENFORCEMENT, ESTABLISH PENALTIES, AND PROVIDE FOR RESTITUTION RELATED TO GRAFFITI VANDALISM
X NO IMPACT

BUDGET IMPACT

(To be completed by operating department and reviewed by Finance Department)

A) General Fund Board of Education Special Revenue fund or District

B) EXPENSES AND REVENUES

Total Current Year Cost: _____

Total Current Year Revenue: _____

Source of Funds (Check one): Current Appropriations Additional Appropriations
 Transfer of Existing Appropriations Fee/Fine/Tax/Other (Explain)

Identify

Accounts: _____

Potential Related Operating Budget Expenses: Annual

Amount: \$ _____

Describe:

Potential Related Revenues: Annual

Amount: \$ _____

Current Year:

Next 5 years:

Anticipated Savings: Annual

Amount: \$ _____

Current Year:

Next 5 years:

C) FISCAL IMPACT

Potential for additional personnel: _____

Prepared By: Denise Egziaco

Title: Chief of Staff

Department: Mayor's Office

Signature: /S/ Denise Egziaco

Reviewed By: John Liszewski
FINANCE DEPARTMENT

Signature: /S/

Date: March 30, 2026