

To: Economic and Development Services Committee

From: Anthony Ambra, P.Eng, Commissioner,  
Economic and Development Services Department

Report Number: ED-24-41

Date of Report: April 3, 2024

Date of Meeting: April 8, 2024

Subject: Graffiti and Vandalism Remediation Fund

Ward: Ward 4

File: 03-05

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## **1.0 Purpose**

The purpose of this report is to provide recommended terms for a Graffiti and Vandalism Remediation Fund in the total amount of \$100,000 as directed through the 2024 Mayor's budget.

Attachment 1 to this Report includes the full scope of the Graffiti and Vandalism Remediation Fund and the Physical Program Area.

Attachment 2 to this Report includes a Heat Map outlining Graffiti and Vandalism property complaints between 2022-2024.

## **2.0 Recommendation**

That the Economic and Development Services Committee recommend to City Council:

That pursuant to Report ED-24-41 dated April 3, 2024 concerning a Graffiti and Vandalism Remediation Fund, the Economic and Development Services Department be authorized to implement and deliver the Graffiti and Vandalism Remediation Fund in accordance with Attachment 1 to this Report.

## **3.0 Executive Summary**

Not applicable.

## **4.0 Input From Other Sources**

The following have been consulted in the preparation of this Report:

- Chief Administrative Officer
- Commissioner, Corporate and Finance Services
- Commissioner, Community and Operations Services
- Commissioner, Facilities and Safety Services

## **5.0 Analysis**

### **5.1 Program Overview**

Through the 2024 Mayor's Budget, a one-time fund of \$100,000 was established to support the business community in addressing the remediation of graffiti and vandalism acts to properties.

This fund will provide businesses with funds for eligible commercial or industrial property graffiti and vandalism repairs, or to implement eligible preventative measures.

The program's purpose is to encourage attraction, retention and growth of businesses and to help offset graffiti and vandalism expenditures incurred by businesses beginning in 2024 by providing financial support to eligible applicants.

The program scope, eligibility and implementation plan was developed with input from Operations Services, Finance Services and Municipal Law Enforcement Services. Through this consultation and review of complaints received or identified as it relates to property damage from graffiti or vandalism, it is recommended by staff that this program exist within the downtown area and Simcoe Street corridor. The graffiti and vandalism remediation boundary area shown in Figure 1, Attachment 1.

Attachment 2 includes a map that displays impacted properties between 2022-2024. This map forms the basis of the staff recommendation to focus on the area covered in the graffiti and vandalism remediation boundary and to ensure that the greatest amount of businesses can access the funding available in the limited, one-time fund of \$100,000.

The City of Oshawa's Business and Economic Development Services department will administer the launch, application intake, review, and rebate of the program following Committee and Council approval of the program and procedures.

### **5.2 Rebate Overview**

#### **5.2.1 Types of Rebates**

The grant program offers two (2) types of rebates. A property owner or business owner can apply to one or both programs. Each municipal address is only able to apply for each grant one time for the life of the grant program. There is both a proposed Reporative Rebate and Preventative Rebate.

### **5.2.2 Reparative Rebate Grant**

The Reparative Rebate is designed to provide immediate relief to offset eligible reparative costs in respect of damage to eligible commercial and industrial property due to graffiti or vandalism on or after January 1, 2024.

Grants under this program may be provided up to 50% of the reparative costs and insurance deductibles, to a maximum of a one-time \$2,000 per municipal street address, storefront or commercial/industrial unit.

Acceptable reparative projects to the front or side(s) of the property must be visible from the street/sidewalk. Rear property projects will not be considered.

Full eligibility criteria and intake process can be reviewed in Attachment 1.

### **5.2.3 Preventative Rebate Grant**

The Preventative Rebate Grant is designed to provide funding for eligible proactive/preventative measures to mitigate damage to commercial property due to potential graffiti or vandalism.

Grants under this program may be provided up to 50% of the preventative costs, to a maximum of a one-time \$5,000 per eligible municipal street address, storefront or commercial/industrial unit.

Acceptable preventative projects to the front or side(s) of the property must be visible from the street/sidewalk. Rear property projects will not be considered.

It should be noted that staff recognize this proposed amount is lower than the amount in the Community Improvement Plan (C.I.P.) Programs, which extends up to \$10,000 for safety and security enhancements, however the C.I.P.'s are a competitive application fund and can only accept applications two times per year (March and September). This will allow property owners to access support when needed or have the option to wait for the C.I.P. cycle to apply for a higher level of preventative funding. Applicants will not be eligible to receive funding under both programs.

Full eligibility criteria and intake process can be reviewed in Attachment 1.

## **6.0 Financial Implications**

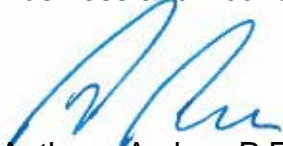
The \$100,000 for the creation of this fund was directed through the 2024 Mayor's budget. There are no anticipated costs to operationalize the fund as the scope of the project implementation can occur within the current staff capacity within the Business and Economic Development Services.

## **7.0 Relationship to the Oshawa Strategic Plan**

The Recommendation in this Report advances the Economic Prosperity and Financial Stewardship goals of the Oshawa Strategic Plan.



Hailey Wright, BA Hons, Director,  
Business and Economic Development Services



Anthony Ambra, P.Eng, Commissioner,  
Economic and Development Services Department

## **Graffiti and Vandalism Remediation Fund**

### **Background**

Recognizing the increased costs to businesses due to property graffiti and vandalism in Oshawa, the City of Oshawa has launched its one-time \$100,000 Graffiti and Vandalism Grant, which will provide businesses with funds for eligible commercial or industrial property graffiti and vandalism repairs, or to implement eligible preventative measures.

This new grant program's purpose is to encourage attraction, retention and growth of businesses and to help offset graffiti and vandalism expenditures incurred by businesses beginning in 2024 by providing financial support to eligible applicants.

The City of Oshawa's Business and Economic Development Services department will administer the launch, application intake, review, and rebate of the program.

### **Types of Rebates**

The grant program offers two (2) types of rebates. A property owner or business owner can apply to one or both programs. Each municipal address is only able to apply for each grant one time for the life of the grant program.

### **Reparative Rebate Grant**

Provides immediate relief to offset eligible reparative costs in respect of damage to eligible commercial and industrial property due to vandalism on or after January 1, 2024.

Grants under this program may be provided up to 50% of the reparative costs and insurance deductibles, to a maximum of a one-time \$2,000 per municipal street address, storefront or commercial/industrial unit.

Acceptable reparative projects to the front or side(s) of the property must be visible from the street/sidewalk. Rear property projects will not be considered.

### **Eligible Reparative Rebate Costs:**

- Examples of accepted reparative work include:
  - Costs of repairing or replacing vandalized property not covered by insurance, including windows and doors, locks, graffiti removal, associated installation fees, and other exterior damage to the property;
  - Insurance deductibles to cover the cost of vandalized property, including windows and doors, locks, graffiti removal and other damage to the property; and,
  - Any additional graffiti and/or vandalism-related costs to the property as may be approved by the Application Review Team.

- Examples associated with theft of, or damaged inventory, supplies, equipment, and personal belongings are out of scope and do not qualify as eligible reparative expenses.
- Note: All [Designated Heritage Properties](#) are required to abide by the City's [Property Standards By-Law](#) that establishes minimum standards for maintenance and repair, and any alterations made to the property.

### **Preventative Rebate**

Provides funding for eligible proactive/preventative measures to mitigate damage to commercial property due to potential graffiti or vandalism.

Grants under this program may be provided up to 50% of the preventative costs, to a maximum of a one-time \$5,000 per eligible municipal street address, storefront or commercial/industrial unit.

Acceptable preventative projects to the front or side(s) of the property must be visible from the street/sidewalk. Rear property projects will not be considered.

### **Eligible Preventative Rebate Costs:**

- Examples of accepted preventative work include:
  - anti-graffiti film, paints, and or coatings;
  - shatterproof glass or protective films;
  - lock enhancements;
  - impact protection attachment systems for windows;
  - exterior lighting enhancement;
  - cameras and recording/monitoring equipment;
  - alarm and monitoring systems;
  - installation fees associated with approved preventative updates;
  - physical security audit of the exterior of the building; and,
  - other.
- Examples of unaccepted preventative work include:
  - cosmetic property enhancements;
  - in-store equipment/furniture;
  - items for non-business locations such as residential apartment, patio, garage, shed, etc.;
  - internal labour costs; and,
  - alterations to [Designated Heritage Properties](#) that are not approved by City Council via the City's [Property Standards By-law](#).

## **Program Timeline**

- Reparative and Preventative Rebate applications are retroactive to January 1, 2024, accepted year-round, and will be reviewed on a first come first serve basis until the grant is fully exhausted.
- Applications, if successful, will be screened, reviewed, approved and paid by cheque in 30 business days, provided there is limited follow up required with the applicant during the screening and review process.

## **Eligibility Criteria**

To be considered eligible for either rebate, a business or property owner must:

- Be located in the area defined in Figure 1 of Attachment 1 of this report;
- Have an exterior entrance (accessible directly from an outside area such as sidewalk, street or parking area), which serves as the primary access point for customers and clients;
- Submit proof of one or more of the following: property ownership, commercial tenancy, or property tax bill;
- Be in good standing with the City of Oshawa;
- Not have received an alternative, local Community Improvement Plan grant or insurance claim to cover the same expense;
- Submit all relevant photos of the incident and completed work (Reparative Rebate only);
- Submit receipts of the completed work;
- The subject property does not have any outstanding Property Maintenance Orders issued by City of Oshawa Municipal Law Enforcement Services;
- The reparative work is not being completed in association with work that has been ordered by City of Oshawa Municipal Law Enforcement Services; and,
- Attest if they have/have not filed a police report, insurance claim, and/or by-law incident report.

## **Evaluation**

- City staff will conduct a title search of the property and review property tax records; Properties with property taxes in arrears are not eligible to receive any grant.
- All grant applications are subject to review and approval by the Application Review Team and the availability of funding;
- No grant will be issued unless eligible works are deemed complete by the Application Review Team;

- Grants will be applied retroactively to works completed prior to application submission; and,
- The City of Oshawa reserves the right to deny or refuse any application. No application is guaranteed to be approved.

### **Pre-Application Consultation**

Prior to the submission of this application, applicants are strongly encouraged to consult with Business and Economic Development Services staff. Early consultation can result in the identification of matters that will significantly assist in the processing of the application.

For questions or support regarding the Graffiti and Vandalism Grant eligibility, digital application portal, application or general inquiries, please contact [business@oshawa.ca](mailto:business@oshawa.ca).

### **Grant Application Form**

Graffiti and Vandalism Grant application requirements to include:

- Property Owner/Business Owner Information (name, mailing address, contact details);
  - Business owners will be required to receive property owner approval prior to completing an application (i.e. digital acknowledgement) and the City of Oshawa reserves the right to contact business owners directly to ensure this criteria has been met.
- Property Information (location and description details);
- Graffiti and Vandalism Grant (reparative, preventative, both);
- Project Description (work details, including photos);
- Grant Requirements (proof of ownership/tenancy, all project receipts);
- Information to be Answered Yes/No (police report, insurance claim, by-law report, hate crime, how did you hear about program); and,
- Covenant and Authorizations (digital acknowledgement and signature).

### **Definitions**

- **Graffiti** – writing and/or drawings scribbled, scratched, or sprayed illicitly on a wall or other surface of a building or property, usually without permission and within public view.
- **Vandalism** – action involving deliberate destruction of or damage to private property. Examples include breaking a window or sign, and defacing or negatively altering another’s property.
- **Heritage** – “Heritage Property” means a Property that has been designated under Section 29 or Section 34.5 of the Ontario Heritage Act or Property that is located within



an area that has been designated under Section 41 of the Ontario Heritage Act as a heritage conservation district.

- **Owner** – “Owner” includes: (a) the Person for the time being managing or receiving the rent of the Property, whether on the Person’s own account or as agent of the trustee of any other Person, or who would so receive the rent if the Property were let; and (b) a lessee or Occupant of the Property who, under the terms of a lease, is required to Repair and maintain the Property in accordance with the Standards; (c) the registered Owner of the Property; or (d) a mortgagee in possession of the Property.

### **Internal Review Process**

Using the digital application portal, all submissions will automatically trigger the following actions:

- Automated email to applicant to acknowledge receipt of submission.
- Application submission email to [business@oshawa.ca](mailto:business@oshawa.ca) for review.

Upon receipt of each new application, the Partnerships and Business Services Officer will be responsible to complete the following review process:

- Examine application and determine whether all necessary information is provided and all eligibility requirements are met.
  - If not, contact applicant or related parties directly to collect all necessary information.
- Once application is deemed complete and eligible, email application and recommendation to Application Review Team for approval;
  - Proposed Application Review Team to consist of representatives from Economic Development, Municipal Law Enforcement, Corporate Security and Operations Services; and,
  - Share municipal street address details with Taxation Services to verify tax status in good standing.
- If approved:
  - Provide commitment letter for applicant;
  - Prepare Requisition Form for Finance; and,
  - Update master program budget and files.
- If denied:
  - Inform applicant with status and rationale.

### **Relevant Municipal Graffiti Programs**

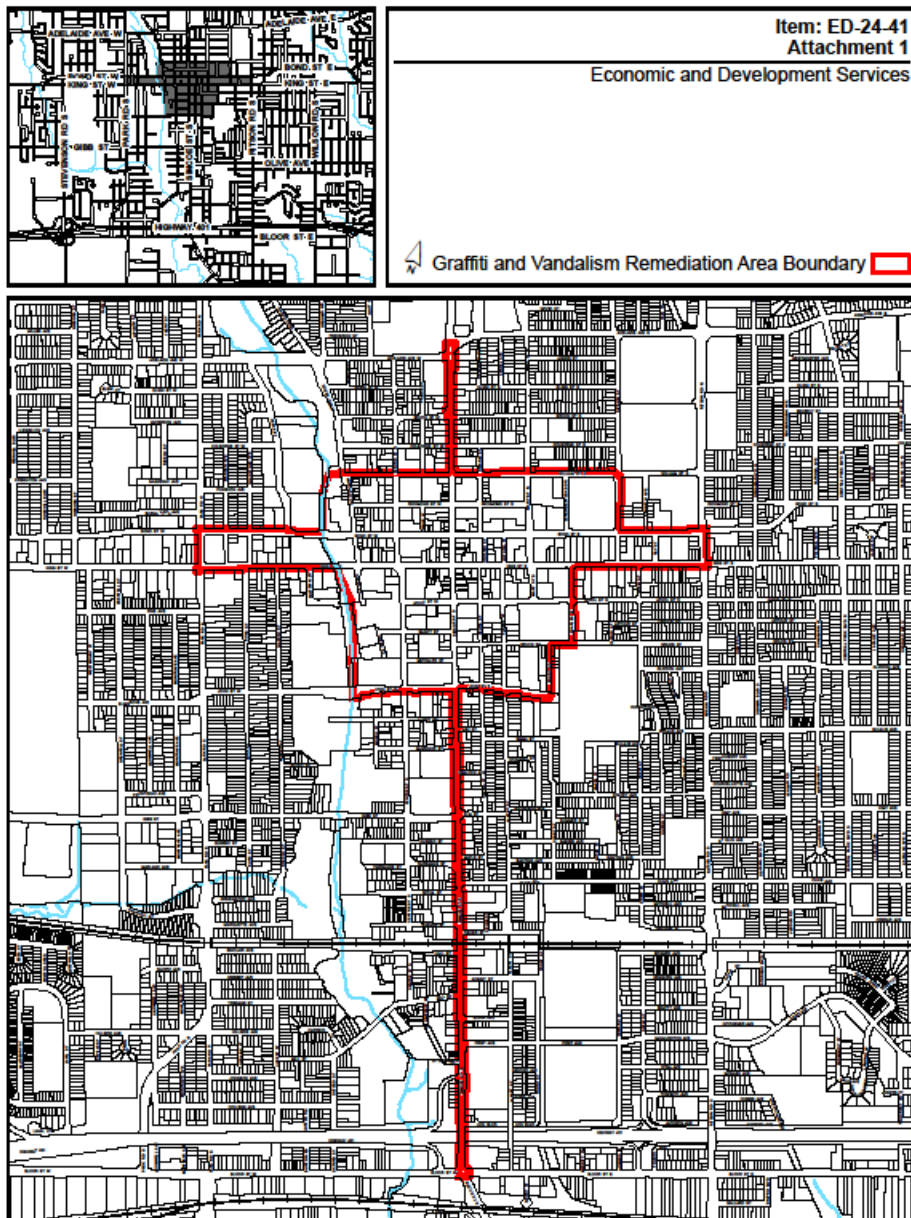
1. City of Hamilton = Commercial District Revitalization Grant Program
2. British Columbia Chamber of Commerce = Securing Small Business Rebate

### 3. City of Kamloops = Vandalism Cleanup Support Grant

#### Next Steps

- Implement marketing strategy to support launch of new program to all community stakeholders;
- Develop frequently asked questions to accompany program launch and public information; and,
- Conduct annual program review.

Figure 1: Graffiti and Vandalism Remediation and Prevention Project Area





**Item: ED-24-41  
Attachment 2**

Title: Impacted Properties Between 2022-2024  
Subject: Graffiti and Vandalism Remediation Fund  
Ward: Ward 4  
File: 03-05

