



Deputy Mayor

# Mike Colle

City Councillor | Eglinton-Lawrence  
City of Toronto

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May 1, 2024

To: Infrastructure and Environment Committee

**Re: 1000 Mural Graffiti Removal Blitz**

**Summary:**

Over the last year, there has been a marked increase in graffiti tagging throughout the City including hateful messages, on both City property and private property, in part resulting from the global conflicts such as in the Middle East.

Combating graffiti is an ongoing challenge that requires a combination of public awareness and graffiti removal by the City and private property owners. One cost-effective and attractive City building method of addressing graffiti is encouraging murals on private buildings and on City property as murals are seldom tagged with graffiti.

Whether it is litter, garbage, or property in disrepair, there is a need to remind residents that if care is taken through daily upkeep and regular cleanup, it encourages pride of place and a greater appreciation of keeping the City safe and clean as espoused in the "broken windows theory" which proposes that a safer and more beautiful City results when we collectively take care of the daily surroundings in our communities.

**Motion:**

1. City Council request the General Manager, Transportation Services in consultation with the General Manager of Economic Development & Culture, to report to City Council through the Infrastructure and Environment Committee as soon as possible on:
  - i. the feasibility of expanding the City's StreetARToronto program to create 1000 new murals throughout the City in partnership with BIAs, private property owners, the arts community, and corporate partners including support and recognition for permitted graffiti and street art and prevention of graffiti vandalism.
  - ii. An update on exploring the feasibility of City-wide graffiti blitzes with the participation of appropriate divisions.

Best regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Mike Colle".

Deputy Mayor Mike Colle  
City Councillor, Eglinton-Lawrence