

**A RESOLUTION ESTABLISHING PER SECTION 18-1116,
BILLINGS MONTANA CITY CODE (BMCC) A GRAFFITI
REWARD FUND TO ENCOURAGE THE REPORTING OF
GRAFFITI VANDALISM AND LEAD TO THE
IDENTIFICATION, APPREHENSION AND CONVICTION
OF GRAFFITI VANDALS**

WHEREAS, Section 18-1116 Billings, Montana City Code (BMCC) provides that the City shall create an anti-graffiti fund to include payment of rewards for information leading to the identification, apprehension, and conviction of a person found guilty of graffiti vandalism, and

WHEREAS the prevention of graffiti vandalism is important to the City and establishing a reward will encourage reporting; and

WHEREAS increased reporting of graffiti vandalism is a mechanism to deter such behavior; and

WHEREAS, the City Council has duly considered the matter and is establishing an anti-graffiti fund in BMCC Section 18-1116.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF BILLINGS, MONTANA:

1. **REWARD AMOUNT:** The amount of \$500.00 for information leading to the conviction of a person found guilty of graffiti vandalism.
2. **CLAIMS FOR REWARDS:** Each claim shall be filed in writing to the City Clerk and shall specifically identify the date, location, and kind of property damaged or destroyed; identify by name the person who was convicted; and identify the court and the date upon which the conviction occurred.
3. **REVIEW OF CLAIMS:** The City Administrator shall review each claim for reward submitted and either accept, accept in part, or deny the claim. No claim for reward shall be accepted by the City Council unless the City investigates and verifies the accuracy of the claim and determines the requirements have been satisfied.
4. **INELIGIBLE CLAIMANTS:** No law enforcement officer, municipal officer, employee of the City, or person(s) apprehended shall be eligible for a reward.
5. **NOTICE OF HEARING:** On Monday, April 8, 2024, at 5:30 p.m., or as soon thereafter as the matter could be considered on the agenda in the Council Chambers of the City Hall, Billings, Montana, the City Council heard objections to

the adoption of this resolution. The City Clerk published notice twice, at least five (5) days prior to the hearing, in the Yellowstone County News, as provided in Section 7-1-4127, MCA.

6. EFFECTIVE DATE. This resolution shall be effective upon adoption.

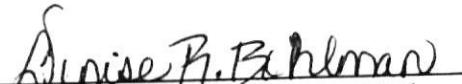
ADOPTED AND APPROVED by the City Council of the City of Billings, Montana, on the 8th day of April, 2024.

CITY OF BILLINGS



ATTEST:

By:


Denise R. Bohlman, City Clerk

By: William A. Cole
William A. Cole, Mayor

City Council Regular

Date: 04/08/2024
Title: Resolution Establishing Graffiti Reward Fund Per BMCC Section 18-1116
Presented by: Tina Hoeger
Department: Planning & Community Services
Presentation: Yes
Legal Review: Yes
Project Number: N/A

RECOMMENDATION

Code Enforcement staff and City Legal staff recommend the City Council approve a Resolution establishing a Graffiti Reward Fund Per BMCC Section 18-1116 and direct staff to make an initial budget allocation to the fund.

BACKGROUND (Consistency with Adopted Plans and Policies, if applicable)

In addition to the proposed amendments to the Nuisance, Graffiti, and Boarded Up Structures ordinances considered by City Council, a resolution has been drafted to establish an anti-graffiti fund per BMCC Section 18-1116, and setting a reward amount for information leading to the conviction of a graffiti vandal. The resolution is attached to this memo and City Council is scheduled to take action on the resolution at this meeting.

STAKEHOLDERS

The residents of Billings will ultimately benefit from the City incentivizing the reporting of graffiti vandalism and getting convictions of graffiti vandals. Tools like this to discourage graffiti across the City will lead to safe neighborhoods, improved quality of life, and less damage to private and public property.

ALTERNATIVES

City Council may:

- Approve the Resolution establishing a Graffiti Reward Fund Per BMCC Section 18-1116 and direct staff to make an initial budget allocation to the fund; or
- Not Approve the Resolution establishing a Graffiti Reward Fund Per BMCC Section 18-1116 and not direct staff to make an initial budget allocation to the fund. Not approving the Resolution will mean one less tool in the City's tool box to discourage and prevent graffiti vandalism in the community and would be out of the alignment with the Council's strategic goals to improve public safety.

FISCAL EFFECTS

The establishment of the anti-graffiti reward fund would require an initial budget allocation amount to start the fund. However, Municipal Court fines would be deposited in this fund going forward to help supplement the budget to support rewards for information leading to convictions.

Attachments

Graffiti Fund Resolution

