

CITY OF BOSTON
IN CITY COUNCIL



ORDER OF CITY COUNCILLOR JOHN M. TOBIN, JR.

WHEREAS: More than 12 million people visit Boston each year; and

WHEREAS: Many of those visitors travel to Boston to learn more about the city's role in our nation's history and to experience its museums, landmarks and cultural institutions; and

WHEREAS: Boston, one of the country's oldest cities, is home to more than 7,000 properties that are designated as landmarks or are located within seven historic districts, overseen by the Boston Landmarks Commission in conjunction with Boston's Historic District Commissions; and

WHEREAS: Boston's Historic Districts are home to some of the city's most treasured and architecturally significant buildings; and

WHEREAS: Boston's historic structures include buildings designed by some of the most renowned and celebrated architects of the past 300 years; and

WHEREAS: Graffiti is a blight on the city's neighborhoods and can lead to further vandalism and destruction of property; and

WHEREAS: Graffiti can be difficult to remove, especially from brick, brownstone, limestone and marble, building materials that were commonly used during the construction of the city's historic landmarks; and

WHEREAS: According to the National Park Service, graffiti that is hastily removed from historic landmarks with abrasive or harsh chemicals can cause permanent damage; and

WHEREAS: Cleaning graffiti from historic properties can require more testing to find the right technique and products to complete the job, which can make the removal more expensive; and

WHEREAS: In 2005 the Boston City Council tightened its graffiti laws and voted unanimously in favor of an ordinance that would impose fines on property owners who do not remove graffiti from their properties or structures within 60 days; and

WHEREAS: Raising the fines for defacing a historic property or landmark would further discourage graffiti; **Therefore Be It**

ORDERED: That the appropriate Committee of the Boston City Council conduct a public hearing to explore the possibility of increasing the penalty for offenders who deface historic landmarks, monuments, and structures.

Filed in City Council: October 20, 2009