



CITY COUNCIL AGENDA REPORT

MEETING DATE: March 4, 2014

ITEM NUMBER:

SUBJECT: AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF COSTA MESA, CALIFORNIA, ADDING SECTION 11-15 TO CHAPTER 1 (GENERAL) OF TITLE 11 (OFFENSES-MISCELLANEOUS) OF THE COSTA MESA MUNICIPAL CODE, RELATING TO REWARDS FOR INFORMATION LEADING TO THE ARREST AND CONVICTION OF PERSONS VANDALIZING CITY PROPERTY

DATE: FEBRUARY 24, 2014

FROM: OFFICE OF THE CITY CLERK

PRESENTATION BY: THOMAS R. HATCH, CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: BRENDA GREEN, CITY CLERK, AT (714) 754-5221

RECOMMENDATION:

City Council consider for second reading Ordinance No. 14-02, to be read by title only and waive further reading, relating to rewards for information leading to the arrest and conviction of persons vandalizing City property.

BACKGROUND:

At the February 18, 2014 City Council Meeting, City Council considered and approved Ordinance No. 14-02 for first reading.

Section 11-147 of the Costa Mesa Municipal Code provides for a reward of up to \$2,000 for information provided to the Police Department leading to the arrest and conviction of individuals for graffiti offenses. Public property, however, is vandalized in other ways, and such vandalism causes thousands of dollars in damage to the City each year. The cost of repairing and restoring public property following vandalism cannot be recouped if the perpetrator is not arrested and convicted. In order to facilitate the apprehension of individuals who vandalize public property, staff recommends instituting a reward to encourage citizens to assist the Police Department to apprehend individuals responsible for vandalism.

ANALYSIS:

The proposed ordinance adds Section 11-15 to Title 11, and provides for rewards of up to \$2,000 for information leading to the arrest and conviction of any person or persons who vandalizes public property. The ordinance also provides that the person convicted is liable to the city for the amounts disbursed pursuant to the ordinance; in the event the person is a minor, the minor's parents or guardians are liable.

ALTERNATIVES CONSIDERED:

The City Council can choose not to adopt the proposed ordinance.

FISCAL REVIEW:

No fiscal impact.

LEGAL REVIEW:

The City Attorney has reviewed this report and has prepared a draft ordinance for further consideration based on Council direction.

CONCLUSION:

Adoption of this ordinance would create an incentive for citizens to assist the city in apprehending individuals who vandalize public property and thus cost the city thousands of dollars in damages every year.

Brenda Green, City Clerk

Attachments: [Ordinance 14-02](#)