



DTO Take Action Against Graffiti Program

Purpose

The *Downtown Orlando Community Redevelopment Area (CRA) Plan* (Plan) outlines the importance of education and social fabric to downtown Orlando. One of the listed strategies for strengthening the social fabric is to improve the perception and reality of public safety by supporting improved lighting and implementation of Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design (CPTED) and other safety standards throughout downtown. Additionally, the Plan notes the need to maintain the pedestrian environment at a high level to ensure a quality environment for downtown businesses, residents, and visitors.

Graffiti is a malicious form of vandalism that destroys public and private property. It is not accepted in the City of Orlando and is taken seriously when it occurs. It is important to combat graffiti from a multi-pronged approach that includes a strong prevention program, as well as quickly removing graffiti when it happens. Thus, the DTO Take Action Against Graffiti (TAAG) Program (Program) was designed to assist in the removal and abatement of graffiti in downtown Orlando. The Program provides financial assistance to business owners and private property owners to promptly remove unwanted graffiti from buildings within the downtown CRA and to encourage investment in mitigative measures aimed at preventing future graffiti.

Program Structure and Criteria

The CRA shall oversee the DTO TAAG Program. The Program shall reimburse property owners and business owners up to 80% of the cost of graffiti removal and/or the installation of mitigative measures that will abate occurrence of graffiti in the future, up to a maximum of \$4,000 per calendar year, per property. Funding is based on budget availability and will be considered on a “first come, first served basis.”

Funding may be awarded under the following conditions:

- Property must be located within the downtown CRA (see program map on page 3)
- Property must be a commercial, office, or multi-family residential (containing four (4) or more units) use that contributes to the CRA through the payment of ad valorem taxes
- For graffiti removal applications:
 - Graffiti must be visible from the right-of-way
 - Graffiti removal must restore the appearance of the structure to the previous condition (same paint color/design)
- Allowable graffiti mitigation and CPTED projects for graffiti mitigation applications include:
 - Addition of graffiti-resistant coating, where appropriate
 - Planting shrubs and thorny plants adjacent to building
 - Planting shrubs, thorny plants, and vines along free-standing walls and fences
 - Adding or improving lighting around the building
 - Adding permitted and approved murals
 - Other graffiti abatement projects approved by the Executive Director of the CRA

Graffiti removal applications must include a minimum of two (2) bids for such removal. The scope of work must state the proposed method of graffiti removal, which may include pressure washing, use of graffiti removal solvents, or repainting the structure. Graffiti removal must be completed within 14 days of application approval to be eligible for reimbursement.

Graffiti mitigation applications must include a minimum of two (2) bids for each type of proposed project. Installation of mitigation projects must be completed within 90 days of application approval. Proposed graffiti mitigation projects must meet the requirements of the Appearance Review Board (ARB) or, if a landmark property or located within a historic preservation district, the Historic Preservation Board (HPB), if applicable, as well as all other City Code requirements. The funding awarded will be based on the qualified bids submitted by the applicant. The property owner and/or business owner may elect to choose a contractor other than one of the qualified bids but shall be responsible for all costs exceeding the lowest qualified bid. In all cases, the selected contractor must be licensed and insured. The City and the CRA will not be responsible in any manner for the selection of a contractor. A property owner and/or tenant should pursue all activities necessary to determine contractor qualifications, quality of workmanship, and reputation. The property or business owner will bear full responsibility for the competence and abilities of prospective contractors and secure proof of their licensing and insurance coverage.

Procedures

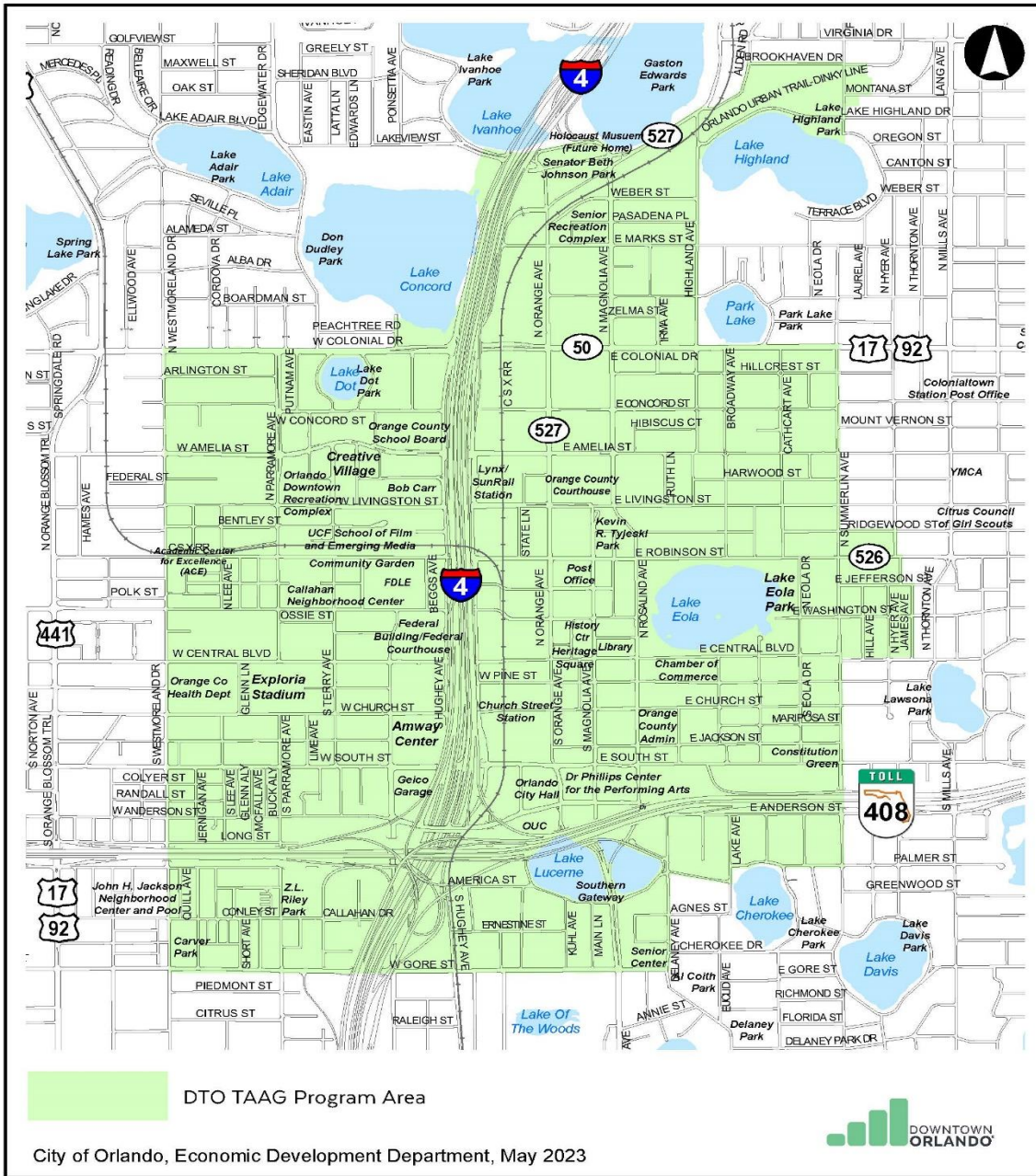
1. Call the Orlando Police Department non-emergency line at 321.235.5300 to report the crime.
2. Report the graffiti online at <https://www.orlando.gov/Report-a-Problem/Report-a-Parks-and-Beautification-Problem/Report-Graffiti>, by email to keeporlandobeautiful@orlando.gov, or by calling the graffiti hotline at 407.254.4723.
3. Obtain bids for graffiti removal and/or for each type of proposed graffiti mitigation project.
4. Submit the completed DTO TAAG Program application with bids to the Program Coordinator. To ensure swift removal of graffiti, either the property owner or business owner may apply. However, if the property owner receives a code violation, the property owner must apply within 30 days of the notice of violation, unless otherwise approved by the Executive Director.
5. Graffiti removal must be completed within 14 days of application approval. Installation of mitigation projects must be completed within 90 days of approval.

Disbursements

Funds will be disbursed to the awardee (1) upon completion of the work and (2) upon verification by the Program Manager that the work was completed in a satisfactory and professional manner. Before funds will be disbursed, grantees must provide verification, satisfactory to the CRA, of all project costs, including contractor invoicing and evidence of payment of all expenses. All funds shall be issued to the awardee on a reimbursement basis only.

Disclosures

The CRA expressly reserves the right to reject any and all applications or to request additional information from any and all applicants and awardees. The CRA retains the right to deviate from the program guidelines or amend the program guidelines and application procedures. The CRA also retains the right to display and advertise properties that receive funds under this program.



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