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## HANFORD GRAFFITI ORDINANCE FACES COMMUNITY BACKLASH



### Hanford, CA residents challenge city's graffiti citation policy

At the July 1, 2025 Hanford City Council meeting, several residents voiced strong opposition to Ordinance 24-11, which allows the city's code enforcement department to issue citations to property owners whose buildings are defaced with graffiti. The measure, intended to reduce visual blight across Hanford, has come under scrutiny for penalizing victims of vandalism instead of targeting those committing the acts.

During [public comment](#), one speaker highlighted the unfairness of holding property owners responsible for a crime committed against them. "We're not the ones doing the graffiti," the resident said, expressing frustration with receiving a fine while also bearing the [cost of cleanup](#).

### Ordinance 24-11 enables fines without due notice, say critics

The ordinance allows code enforcement officers to cite private property owners for graffiti without requiring proof of prior notice or the opportunity to remedy the issue. This has led to accusations that the city is prioritizing revenue generation over equitable enforcement.



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Another resident, speaking on behalf of multiple [business](#) owners, stated that one property was cited despite immediate efforts to clean the affected wall. The speaker emphasized that most owners want to maintain clean properties but cannot always respond within the city's informal timelines.

Several residents called on the [City Council to repeal or amend the ordinance](#), asking that citations be issued only after the city notifies the owner and gives a reasonable timeframe to address the problem. Suggestions included providing cleanup assistance or establishing a public-private graffiti abatement program.

### Council hears concerns but takes no immediate action

While no councilmember publicly responded during the meeting, the volume of comments indicates growing dissatisfaction with the city's approach to graffiti enforcement. There was no formal agenda item on the ordinance, meaning no vote or official discussion occurred. However, the level of concern raised by residents may prompt future council review.

Some attendees compared [Hanford's enforcement policy to other Central Valley cities](#) that issue warnings before citations and offer volunteer or city-funded removal programs. The concern is not just financial but reputational, with fears that [Hanford](#) appears more interested in fining its own residents than supporting them.