

**CITY OF BURIEN
AGENDA BILL**

Agenda Subject: Discussion of abatement program		Meeting Date: April 25, 2011
Department: Legal	Attachments: N/A	Fund Source: N/A Activity Cost: N/A Amount Budgeted: N/A Unencumbered Budget Authority: N/A
Contact: Craig Knutson, City Attorney		
Telephone: (206) 248-5535		
Adopted Initiative: Yes No	Initiative Description: N/A	
PURPOSE/REQUIRED ACTION: The purpose of this agenda item is to discuss the City's abatement program.		
BACKGROUND (Include prior Council action & discussion): A few months ago, Councilmember Block asked City staff for information regarding the City of Kent's abatement program, which he understood appropriates funds for the City to tear down houses and do other kinds of expensive abatement. Several years ago, the way the Kent program worked was that the City put \$50,000 in a revolving fund for the purpose of abatement. If the City couldn't get the property owner to do the abatement, the City could do the abatement work and then lien the property for the cost of the work. The City would recover the money when the property was sold. However, due to budgetary and efficiency factors the revolving fund is no longer in effect. Apparently, in recent years Kent has only done one abatement at its own expense. Instead, the City's code enforcement officers are now spending more time working with property owners and helping them figure out how to do the abatements themselves. The City of Burien does not have an "abatement program" with a revolving fund for expensive abatements. However, the City does have a code enforcement program for investigating, enforcing and abating violations of the City Code. This includes nuisance properties with issues such as dilapidated buildings, trash covered premises, junk vehicles, etc. Similar to the City of Kent's current approach to code enforcement and abatement, the City of Burien tries to work with property owners to correct violations and to require property owners to do the necessary abatement themselves. Other than graffiti removal, the City generally does not do abatement itself unless necessitated by significant public health or safety concerns. In the unusual situations where the City does do abatement at its own expense, liens are filed against the property. Although liens should eventually result in the City getting reimbursed when the property sells, the only way to the City can assure reimbursement in a timely manner would be to file a foreclosure lawsuit.		
OPTIONS (including fiscal impacts): 1. Continue the City's current approach to code enforcement and abatement. 2. Amend the budget to allocate additional funds for abatement.		
Administrative Recommendation: Hold discussion and provide direction to staff.		
Committee Recommendation: N/A		
Advisory Board Recommendation: N/A		
Suggested Motion: None required.		
Submitted by: Craig Knutson Administration		Mike Martin City Manager
Today's Date: April 20, 2011		File Code: \\File01\records\CC\Agenda Bill 2011\042511s-Abatement Program.docx

