Legislative Summary: Ordinance No. 1325-17

Ordinance No. 1325-17 amends Codified Ordinance Section 516.06, License Conditions, of the Decorative Street Painting Program to expand the eligible locations to include not only alleys, but residential street intersections and mid-block locations, crosswalks, and designated bicycle lanes. Many cities, including Seattle, San Francisco, Pittsburgh, Baltimore, Portland, Madison, St. Paul, Lincoln, Tampa, and Austin, permit street painting in these locations to promote community building, placemaking, and traffic calming.

The ordinance makes the following amendments to expand the eligible locations of the Decorative Street Painting Program:

     1) Changes the eligible location language in Section (a) from " may only be located on an alley, way or court, and shall not be located within 60 feet of an intersecting street" to allow designs at "the intersection of two residential streets or a mid-block location of a residential street, and/or a crosswalk marked with two white horizontal lines, and/or a designated bicycle lane";

     2) Removes "no symbols or overt messages" from the paint and design elements language in Section (b) in order to allow designs that could be interpreted as symbols or messages, such as rainbow painted crosswalks; and

     3) Removes Section (c) (4) that prohibited the design from including "any element that interferes with or hinders the visibility of an official traffic control device or marking already in place, such as stop lines, marked cross walks, edge lines, lane markers or bike lane markers" and removes "or would be confused with the same" from Section (c) (3). This language is still in the Decorative Street Painting License Guidelines, and may remain for consideration during the application review process.

Finally, this ordinance only amends one section of the Decorative Street Painting Program in Chapter 516, so the rest of the process remains the same, including the applicability of Division of Engineering and Construction Guidelines that will need to be partially revised to reflect the expanded locations.