



# Agenda Bill

City Council Regular Business Meeting - 05 Oct 2020

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**Department**

City Manager

**Staff Contact**

Brian Wilson, City Manager

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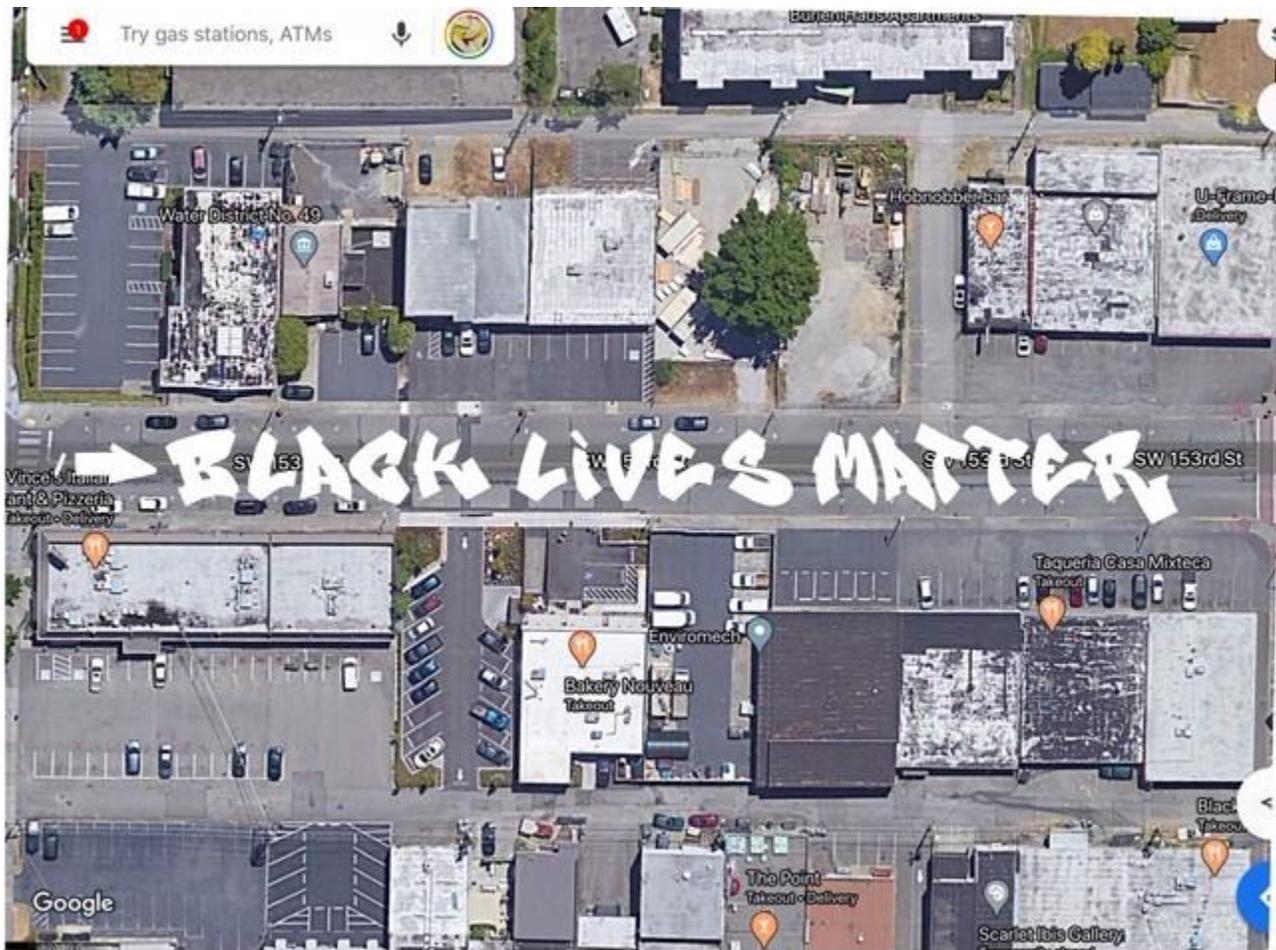
**Agenda Bill Title**

Discussion of Potential Black Lives Matter (BLM) Artwork Installation

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**Summary**

Deputy Mayor Marx requested a Council discussion regarding the installation of Black Lives Matter (BLM) Artwork to be included in the roadway on 153rd street in Burien. This “Art Installation” would be similar to what has been completed in the Capitol Hill area of Seattle.



The following is offered for consideration and discussion:

- **Federal Road Standards:** Painted artwork in the public right-of-way (traveled portion of the roadway) would not be in compliance with federal road standards. The performance of the roadway surface, potential driver distraction, and the removal of roadway markings (lane and center lane demarcations) will change the roadway characteristics. In the event of an accident or injury in this area, the first review will be an assessment to determine if the roadway is in compliance with federal road standards. In spite of the fact that several cities have allowed this type of artwork in the roadway, the liability to the City of Burien would be enhanced and would not be recommended by staff. The closure of a section of roadway (pedestrian only) would address these federal road standards concerns.
- **153rd Street Project:** Work is in progress by the City, Burien Economic Development Partnership (BEDP), Discover Burien, and others regarding street improvements to 153rd. We have retained a consultant in this regard and plans approved by Council are currently being implemented. A proposal for artwork in the roadway of 153rd has not been contemplated or a part of the process to date. Consideration by Council in this regard may postpone or delay the current 153rd street improvement plans that are underway.
- **Arts Commission Involvement:** Art installation proposals are generally reviewed by staff and the Arts Commission with recommendations forwarded to Council for review and approval. An option to consider is to have the Arts Commission, with community input, recommend BLM artwork installation within the City of Burien.

Staff has identified the below website of communities around the world that have recognized the BLM movement in different ways. Included are ideas for murals on the ground and on buildings, art installations in parks, art installations on public and private property, and other options for consideration.

The link is as follows: [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Black\\_Lives\\_Matter\\_Plaza](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Black_Lives_Matter_Plaza)

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## Options

Identify other locations in the City (other than roadways) where this recognition and support of the Black Lives Matter (BLM) movement could be incorporated; assuming Council support for this initiative.

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## Suggested Motion

I move to direct the City Manager to work with the Arts Commission, with input from the community, on options to include Black Lives Matter (BLM) Artwork in Burien and to submit those options to the City Council for review and approval.

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## Fiscal Impact

Unknown at this time.

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