



City of Milwaukee

200 E. Wells Street
Milwaukee, Wisconsin
53202

Meeting Minutes ANTI-GRAFFITI POLICY COMMITTEE

ALD. TONY ZIELINSKI, CHAIR
Ald. Robert Donovan, Vice-Chair
Ald. Terry Witkowski, Michael Miller, Reggie Moore, and Dave Rotter
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Legislative Liaison, Mary Turk, 286-8680,
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Monday, July 26, 2010

10:30 AM

Room 301-B, City Hall

Meeting convened at 10:36 a.m.

Present 6 - Miller, VACANCY, Rotter, Witkowski, Donovan and Zielinski

Excused 1 - Moore

1. Review and approval of the minutes of the May 5th Meeting.

Ald. Donovan moved approval of the May 5th minutes. There were no objections.

Present 4 - Miller, VACANCY, Rotter and Donovan

Excused 1 - Moore

2. Department of Neighborhood Services Update

Individuals present:

Melissa O'Neil - Dept. of Neighborhood Services

Sharon Blando - Dept. of Neighborhood Services

Tom Mishefski - Dept. of Neighborhood Services

Ms. O'Neil reviewed the charts presented to the committee of graffiti complaints (Exhibit 1), which have decreased from last year. She believes this is due to increased abatement activity by the department using volunteers in the harder hit areas of the south side. Graffiti does continue to reappear on the south side despite the frequent clean ups. The east side continues to have the City garbage carts cleaned by volunteers and these volunteers are going to start reporting graffiti found in buildings and other areas to the hotline as well.

Ald. Donovan asked who are the volunteers that are cleaning up the garbage carts on the east side?

Ms. Blando responded that the volunteers are from the Community Justice Resource Center, also operated out of the Benedict Center. Last year they cleaned up over 3000 carts, this year they cleaned up over 2000 carts. However, they are questioning if they are responsible for the cleaning of, for example street light poles they've found with graffiti or should they be reported to the hotline? Because they

have limited resources, the City is asking them to clean up garbage and recycling carts and report the other graffiti they find to the hotline and those will be cleaned by the Dept of Public Works.

Ald. Donovan asked that Ms. Blando have those volunteers also work in the area of Cesar Chavez Dr through 39th Street - Pierce - Lincoln Ave.

Ald. Donovan also questioned the inspection fee of \$50.

Ms. O'Neil explained that this fee was reviewed once graffiti became part of the nuisance control section. \$50 was determined to be at the lower end of the available range.

Mr. Mishefski stated that this administrative fee is charged when there is non-compliance with a clean up order. Property owners do get a time frame where they can clean up the graffiti, but if they don't comply within the time frame allowed, ultimately the Department of Neighborhood Services (DNS) has to clean up the graffiti, using a contractor.

Mr. Miller asked how much time do property owner have to clean up the graffiti?

Ms. Blando responded that the time varies depending upon the season of the year. They encourage people to remove the graffiti within 24 hours or less. However, the letter DNS sends allows for three days on the initial friendly letter, which states that someone has reported graffiti to the hotline. To these letters DNS gets 85% compliance. Leaving 15% of the calls DNS receives that have to have an order issued and on these orders, DNS receives another 80% compliance. So the people in Milwaukee are very aware and dedicated to removing graffiti.

Ald. Donovan wanted to know if, in the City's experience, when murals are put up, does there seem to be an increase in graffiti vandalism surrounding those murals?

Mr. Mishefski stated that last week DNS had an incident with the most recent mural, there was an increase of 56-58 new tags that appeared within one week in a 4-5 block area immediately near the murals.

3. Police Department Update

Individuals present:

Captain Donald Gaglione, District #2

Officer Mike Kuykendall, District #2

Mr. Miller stated based on Mr. Mishefke statement that there were 58 taggings, Mr. Miller asked if there were any apprehensions or visual observations.

Captain Gaglione stated that based on Officer Kuykendall observations, there have been arrests associated with 10-15 tags, after that mural was put up. Pictures and names of those suspects are under investigation.

Ald. Zienliski asked if those arrests were tag or gang related.

Captain Gaglione responded that it was all tags.

Officer Kuykendall confirms that those arrests were tags. There is a distinct difference between the tags and gang, from his knowledge he has not seen any gang

affiliation tags in the area in question.

Ald. Zielinski asked if there is a general difference between the two.

Officer Kuykendall responded that tags are names or some artistic design.

Also, Officer Kuykendall stated that there have been 468 properties since May 5 that have been cleaned up by Operation Payback under the supervision of Officer Kuykendall at district #2. There have been 48 incidents pulled, 2 Q-Start cameras installed in district 2 that record graffiti when it taken place. There have been 9 arrests in the City since May 1 and 29 arrests since January 1, 2010. Also working in partnership with other jurisdiction to do clean up, every Tuesday including garbage cans, people's home and bridges.

Ald. Donavan thanks all the departments involve for the graffiti removal, requested to try to match up the paint color once graffiti has been removed.

Captain Gaglione stated that there are seven Q -Start cameras deployed City wide.

Ald. Zielinski asked how long have those cameras been in operation?

Officer Kuykendall responded that the ones in Dist. 2 have been in operation since June 1. Cameras are set off by motion.

Captain Gaglione said that the cameras have been in operation since January 2010.

Mr. Miller asked how many repeat offenders are part of the 29 arrests?

Officer Kuykendall responded that although he does not have the numbers with him, he can attest that some of those arrests are repeat offenders.

Ald. Zielinski asked if officers attend the hearing for these arrests?

Officer Kuykendall stated that he has never attended a hearing for these arrests.

Mr. Rotter asked if the Police Department is sharing information with DNS?

Officer Kuykendall responded that the only information they share with DNS are the addresses of homes that have been cleaned up because Ms. Blando does provide supplies for the Police Dept. and also, Ms. Blando has requested addresses for MPD to look at.

Mr. Rotter asked because of the discrepancies of incidents surrounding that mural.

Mr. Mishefske explained that the discrepancy in the number of incidents is because the DNS incident number includes referrals from multiple sources including the police.

4. Municipal Court Update

Individual present:

Ms. Kristine Hinrichs, Chief Court Administrator

Ms. Hinrichs stated that based on the report she provided the committee, there had been 13 cases filed for either sale or possession of the tools of graffiti through June

30.

5. Department of Public Works Update

Individuals present:

Mr. Richard Lacy, Dept. of Public Works (DPW) Infrastructure Services Street Operations

Ms. Blando

Mr. Lacy sent out a graffiti abatement crew ever day, generally assigned two bridge and iron bridge painters to graffiti abatement assignments. They use a power blaster or pressure blaster for the majority of graffiti complaints. DPW routes the location called in into the graffiti hotline; in addition bridge personnel help with camera placement with the police department. The city of Milwaukee Bridge Painters Division recently had two painters retired, and two people out injured, therefore the department is only sending one person to complete these assignments.

They have addressed just the city of milwaukee, but found out that it has been mostly taggers; they are tagging everything city-owned, for example, fire hydrants, stop signs and garbage cans. Deptment of public Works have record what was removed, but DPW are going to move to a photographic record of these areas prior and post removal to keep record of the work done.

Mr. Lacy submitted a list of the work that has been completed in the last week (Exhibit 3).

Mr. Lacy also stated that the Dept has two vacancy approvals as well as two temps on crew.

Ald. Zielinski asked Mr. Lacy if tripwire cameras are being used?

Ms. Blando stated that all tripwire cameras had been brought back to the Tower Building for housing. The expert who uses these cameras is in a leave of absence. For the other cameras there is a training going on to train Milwaukee Police Department staff to learn how to use these. Also, classes are going to be open to the public.

Ald. Zielinski asked Ms. Blando about the argument of moving graffiti vandalism to other areas?

Ms. Blando responded that many times the offender that is caught on camera will be afraid and consequently, move to a different side of the city. Luckily for the City of Milwaukee, these offenders often move to a different city to continue their offenses.

Ald. Donovan asked if there is an effort to reach Milwaukee Public Schools (MPS)?

Ms. Blando responded that MPS will be copied on an email for the training class for the camera and also including others nearby police departments, the county and all the BIDS and associations.

Ald. Donovan asked Mr. Lacy if they can use the employees that are in a light duty work status.

Mr. Lacy responded that he will discuss this matter with Jason Blasiola, Safety Director.

6. District Attorney's Office Update on the status of graffiti cases

Individual present:

*Kelly Hedge, District Attorney's Office
Sharon Blando, Dept of Neighborhood Services*

Ms. Hedge stated that the sentencing for the two Illinois taggers has been put off for a year. The defendants are to complete one hundred hours of community service. Given the defendants are from Illinois, makes it difficult to put individuals on parole under a different jurisdiction and be monitor from Wisconsin and therefore, if they are successful in completing the community service, they will serve 30 days in jail. If they are unsuccessful, than they will be put in jail for 60 days. The focus is on repairing harm to the community. The Department does this through Operation Impact.

Ald. Zielinski asked Ms. Hatch what crimes were committed by this individual?

Ms. Hedge stated that she is only to report on the sentencing of this individual.

Ms. Blando responded that there were 8 counts, charged with 5 counts of graffiti. Three will probably be read-in charges.

Ald. Zielinski asked what were the estimated damage cost in these 5 counts of graffiti?

Ms. Blando stated that she is not sure which ones specifically were graffiti-related, however all counts were over \$300.00 dollars, the one for the City was \$1,500.00.

Ald. Zielinski asked if there was any previous history?

Ms. Blando stated that there has no previous history of any type of charges.

Ald. Zielinski asked Ms. Hedge who is responsible for monitoring the completion of those 100 hours?

Ms. Hedge stated that she does not know who is responsible for the monitoring of these hours. She explained that the district is responsible for monitoring these hours. Generally, probation parole agents and law enforcement officers, Officer Gloria, Officer Kuykendall (Dist. 2) and Officer Felix (Dist. 6) and his partner would go out in their respective district and monitor the completion of these hours by the offenders.

Roll call taken at 11:13 a.m.

Present 5 - Miller, VACANCY, Rotter, Witkowski and Zielinski

Excused 2 - Moore and Donovan

7. Milwaukee Christian Center Update

*Individual present:
Michael Denolstein*

Presented their six-month data to the committee. (Exhibit 4)

8. Update from business improvement districts related to their graffiti levels and graffiti removal efforts

Individual present

Caroline Phoenix from the King Drive Business Improvement District

Ms. Phoenix and her maintenance supervisor, Cleveland Roud, found graffiti areas that appeared to be done with foreign substances that they had no experienced before. Unable to remove the substance, they contacted Mr. Rotter at National ACE Hardware, who determined it was aluminum based paint and with his assistance they were able to remove the graffiti right away. Ms. Phoenix wanted to thank Mr. Rotter publicly.

9. Update from private entities receiving city funds for anti-graffiti efforts

There was no one present to report on this item.

10. Set next meeting date and agenda

Monday September 20th, 2010 at 10:30 a.m.

Meeting adjourned at 11:20 a.m.

Joanna Polanco

Staff Assistant