



**City of Milwaukee
Budget and Management
Intra-Office Memo**

To: Finance and Personnel Committee Members
Mark Nicolini, Budget and Management Director

From: Eric Pearson, Budget and Policy Manager

Date: October 19, 2009

Subject: Graffiti Abatement Expenditures

The following provides information requested by the Finance and Personnel Committee at the October 13, 2009 budget hearing on the Department of Neighborhood Services 2010 proposed budget. The Committee requested information on the amount of graffiti abatement expenditures in prior years.

The 2010 proposed budget includes \$460,000 in graffiti abatement funding, from the following sources:

- Graffiti Abatement Special Purpose Account: \$170,000
- CDBG funding for DNS: \$200,000
- CDBG funding for CBOs: \$90,000

The primary reason for the increased abatement funding is increased CDBG grant funding. The ARRA program is providing \$150,000 and \$50,000 in CDBG reprogramming is proposed. The ARRA funding is one-time funding that covers 2010 and 2011.

The trend in graffiti has been decreasing funding and expenditures while complaints have significantly increased. Expenditures and complaints are shown in the table below.

<u>Year</u>	<u>Expenditures</u>	<u>Complaints</u>
2002	\$497,955	3,311
2003	\$474,630	3,682
2004	\$472,516	4,063
2005	\$301,147	4,025
2006	\$190,733	5,184
2007	\$181,022	4,981
2008	\$169,380	4,869

During this time period, expenditures decreased 66% while complaints increased 47%. Complaints increased 6.6% annually. The level of complaints in 2009 is exceeding this trend. Through September 2009, complaints are 34% higher than in 2008. If this increase holds, there will be 6,500 or more total complaints in 2009, or nearly double the 2002 level.

In order to address the substantial on-going increase in graffiti complaints, the Mayor has proposed increased funding for graffiti abatement in 2010.

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