

2013 ANNUAL REPORT OF THE ANTI-GRAFFITI POLICY COMMITTEE contained in Common Council File Number 131660

Members of the Committee are:

ALD. ROBERT DONOVAN, CHAIR

Ald. Terry Witkowski, Vice-Chair

Ald. Jose Perez

Tommie Myles

Luci Reyes Agrón

Dave Rotter

Oscar Tovar

During each quarterly meeting of the Anti-Graffiti Policy Committee in 2013, the Department of Neighborhood Services (DNS), Milwaukee Police Department (MPD), Municipal Court, Department of Public Works (DPW), and District Attorney's Office submitted regular reports on the status of graffiti cases and the removal of graffiti efforts throughout the City.

The Department of Neighborhood Services' efforts to abate graffiti included a campaign to spread awareness that graffiti is not a victimless crime; it attended the Crime and Safety monthly meetings hosted by the Milwaukee Police Department and DNS staff became involved with the neighborhood cleanup program. The department also collaborates with the community warehouse as a home owner's resource to acquire the tools for graffiti removal.

The Milwaukee Police Department worked in conjunction with the Department of Neighborhood Services and residents to abate graffiti. In 2013 MPD referred 14 individuals for 69 state charges related to graffiti; 2 of these individuals were responsible for 54 of these charges. 25 individuals were referred with 31 graffiti-related City charges

The Municipal Court presented a summary of graffiti cases referred to Municipal Court. The report showed a little bit of a decline in what is coming to court. Court numbers show 10 fewer cases than last year; the ratio of adult cases to juvenile is 1 to 1. The municipal court handles ordinance-level charges of vandalism and graffiti when an individual is caught tagging, spray painting or using wide-tip markers. Underage possession, sale to an underage person by a company at retail, and failure to have the proper signage when selling graffiti related items are also cited. The number of cases filed from last year has not changed significantly and most of cases are vandalism-related.

The Department of Public Works dispatches all graffiti abatement crews from the public works yard; normally two painters are dispatched to abate graffiti by power washing, blasting (hot and cold), as necessary, and over painting. Chemical wipes are very handy. In some cases the DPW uses anti-graffiti coatings. Fifteen percent of work is done on City-owned buildings, 15% on light posts, 25% on signs, 20% boxes (light and traffic control), 20% bridges and the other 5% on pavement or sidewalks. DPW, as requested, provides logistical support for the DNS, MPD, and BIDs. These percentages can fluctuate depending on the weather that would contribute to the number of hot spots for graffiti incidents.

The District Attorney's Office has a community prosecutor located in Police District 6 that works in collaboration with the Operation Payback program. There are cases charged during 2013 that are still under investigation. The community prosecutor continues his efforts to find more evidence that can lead to other offenders.