

May 24, 2008

Alicia M. Zamarripa
2178 S. 14th St.
Milwaukee, WI 53215

Sharon Blando
Dept of Neighborhood Services
Code Enforcement-Residential
4001 S. 6th St.
Milwaukee, WI 53221

RE: Graffiti

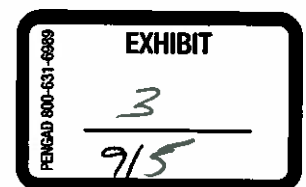
Dear Sharon Blando:

I am in receipt of your letter dated May 23, 2008 regarding graffiti at 2178 S. 14th Street. This is my home and currently there is no graffiti on it, although I was targeted once some time ago. I do not have a garage, but do have a small shed in the rear and there is no graffiti on it, at this time. Someone threw an egg once on one side of the wall and I had to clean it up.

My 92 year old neighbor, north of me, has also been a target of these culprits in the past, and currently has graffiti on his garage door. I suggested he call Community Partners or Southside Organizing Committee SOC, but he said he preferred to remove it himself. The last time, he paid another elderly neighbor to remove it.

Do you think someone from your organization could come and remove it for this elderly gentleman? I would do it, but I am disabled, and limited on what I can do.

At a community meeting recently, Captain Negron and Chief Flynn told us that the thugs and gangsters had moved to our area, they are all around us. We can tell they are in this area because there is graffiti all over and tennis shoes hanging from electrical lines. Our alderman had them removed once, but now there are more shoes hanging. (This is supposed to indicate that this is their territory.) There is graffiti also on another neighbor's garage door across the street from me on W. Grant and to the East, at the first driveway. There is also graffiti on a door at S. 14th and Becher (an apartment house). I'm not sure if they have removed it. The last time I looked a couple of days ago, it was still there—the same gangster sign! In short, it is all over in this area! I would propose just having your crew drive up and down all the streets in our area to identify all the places that have graffiti and have it removed immediately. **Believe me, there are those of us in our community who agree that graffiti is an eyesore.**



I communicate with SOC and have at times sent them addresses where I have seen graffiti. Community Partners are the ones who, I believe, have removed it.

I think the next time someone is to be sentenced for graffiti vandalism you should testify to have these perpetrators sent to jail or prison, rather than to simply have them work to remove the graffiti. That to me is not a sufficient penalty for this serious crime. Let the criminals go to prison to think about their crime. I can tell you that it is an awful feeling when you become the target of this kind of a crime. For months, I felt like someone was always watching me, although the officer at the Gang Crimes Unit assured me that this was not the case, it is hard to escape that feeling. In my opinion judges are too lenient and the perpetrators simply graduate to bigger crimes.

Sincerely,


Alicia M. Zamarripa