



Graffiti

Public Works
with MPD & City Attorney

May 7, 2013

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GRAFFITI – Special Session

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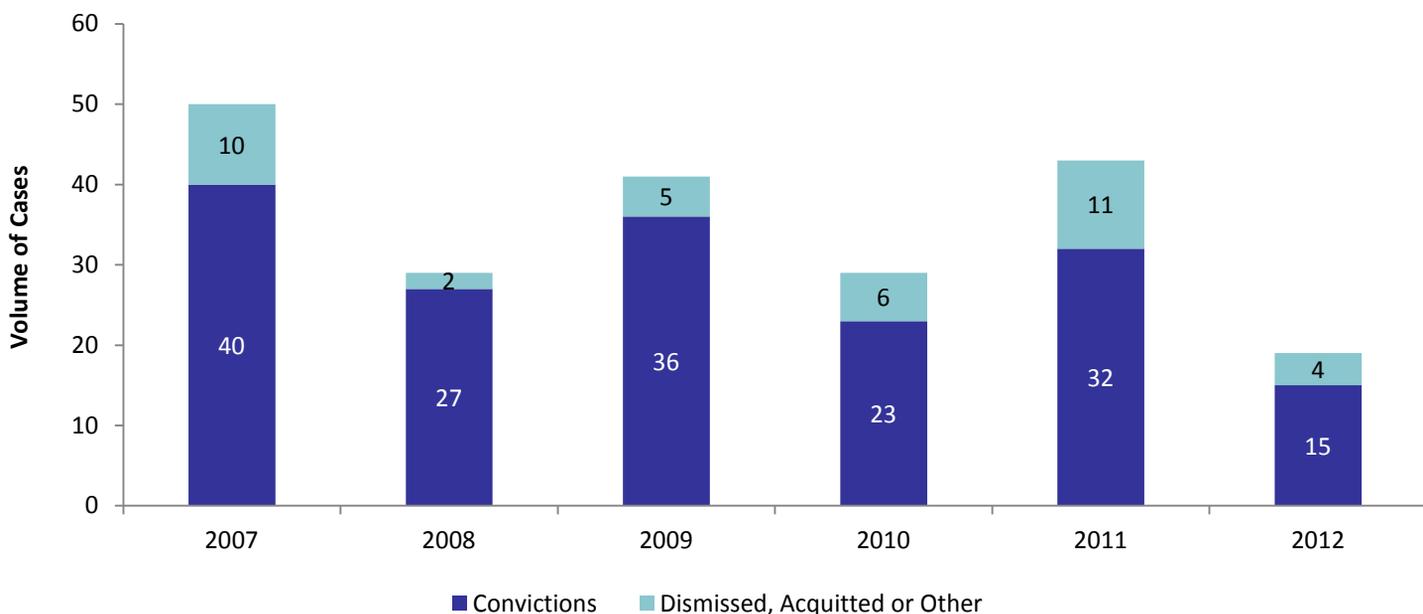
Reporting: Should we consider encouraging particular methods of intake for reporting graffiti?

The method or channel that the citizen uses to report an instance of graffiti, impacts the speed that the graffiti is abated.

Method of Intake	Volume of Reports	Accuracy of Report	Speed of Abatement
Report thru SW&R	2007 – 42% 2012 – 65%	Very accurate	Within 7 days
Report thru 311	2007 – 58% 2012 – 15%	Less accurate	Within 12 days
Report via self service (web & smart device)	2007 – 0% 2012 – 20% (2012 Web – 13% Smart device – 7%)	Least accurate (Smart device has potential of accuracy)	Within 11 days

- ‘Live answer’ graffiti reporting has been available through a Minneapolis 311 and Solid Waste and Recycling partnership since 2006.
- Released in 2009, the Self Service reporting tool allows reports to be entered by the public through the City of Minneapolis’ website.
- Open 311, a tool allowing smart phone and tablet users to submit reports of graffiti instantly with only a photograph and GPS location was released in mid-2012.
- Solid Waste and Recycling field staff are responsible for reporting all graffiti adjacent to an existing report.
- A valid report of graffiti, means that it contains no errors. Accurate and descriptive reports require fewer days to process and ultimately fewer days to abate the graffiti. While self-reporting is convenient, better education on how to follow-up on an existing report and the ramifications of incorrect locations is needed.

Graffiti Court Cases – Convictions versus Dismissed or Other



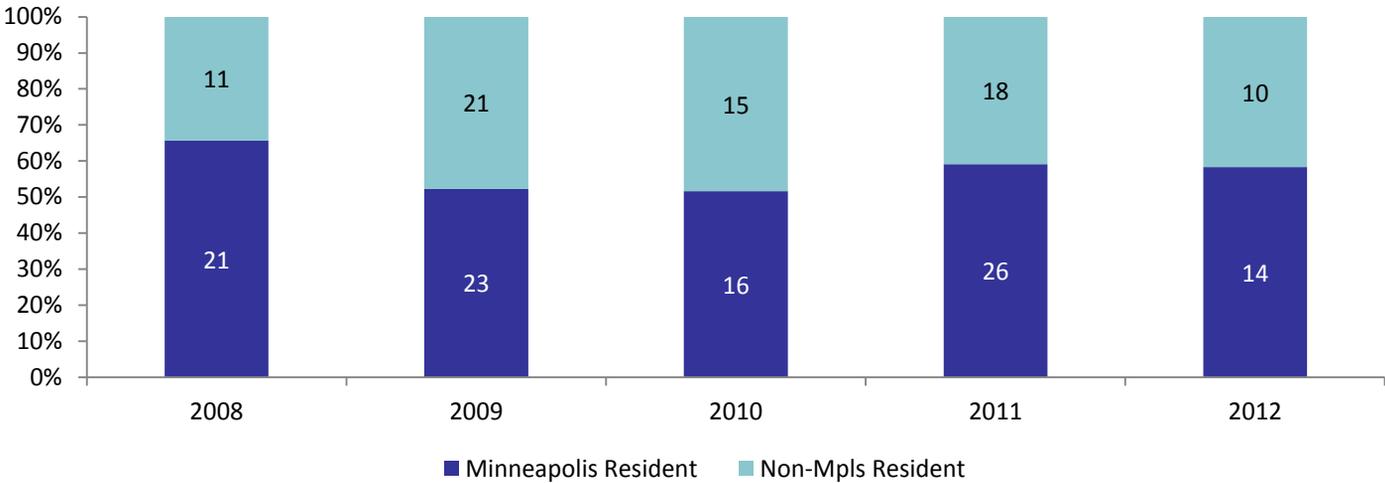
To prosecute a graffiti crime, the city attorney typically needs:

- A solid identification. This usually requires:
 - catching the offender in the act, or
 - finding an eye-witness who can identify the offender;
- A damage estimate. This identifies the severity of the offense. Damage under \$500 is a misdemeanor, while damage between \$500 and \$1,000 is a gross misdemeanor, and damage of \$1,000 or more is a felony. Felony data is not included in this graph. Misdemeanor and gross misdemeanor offenses are prosecuted by the Minneapolis City Attorney’s Office. Felony offenses are prosecuted by the Hennepin County Attorney’s Office.

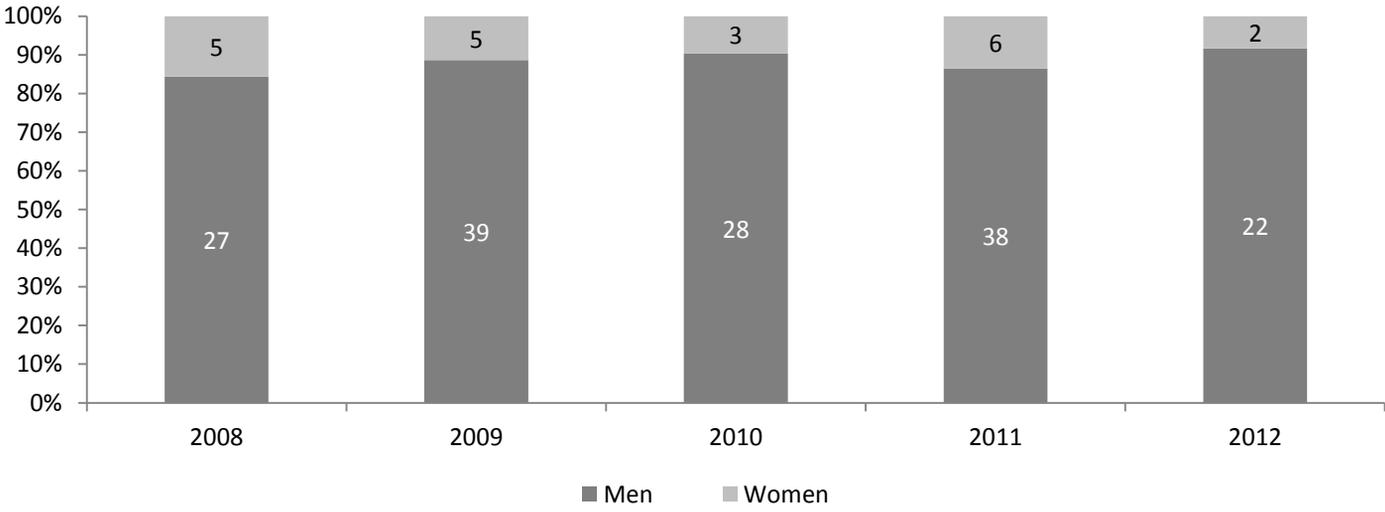
Graffiti damage is especially hard to charge and prosecute for a number of reasons:

- Identity: Unless the offender is caught in the act, it is often very difficult to identify the offender.
- Visibility: Graffiti tags are visible to everyone, including “copy cat” graffiti artists. Police often have evidence that associates a suspect with a specific style of mark, but prosecutors typically cannot prove that this suspect, and not a copy cat artist, made any one particular mark. For this reason, even when prosecutors can link an individual mark to a suspect, they usually cannot prosecute the suspect for the same mark made at other locations.
- Lack of Uniformity: Graffiti marks are not “handwritten”, and are not the type of mark that can be conclusively linked to an individual by a handwriting analyst.

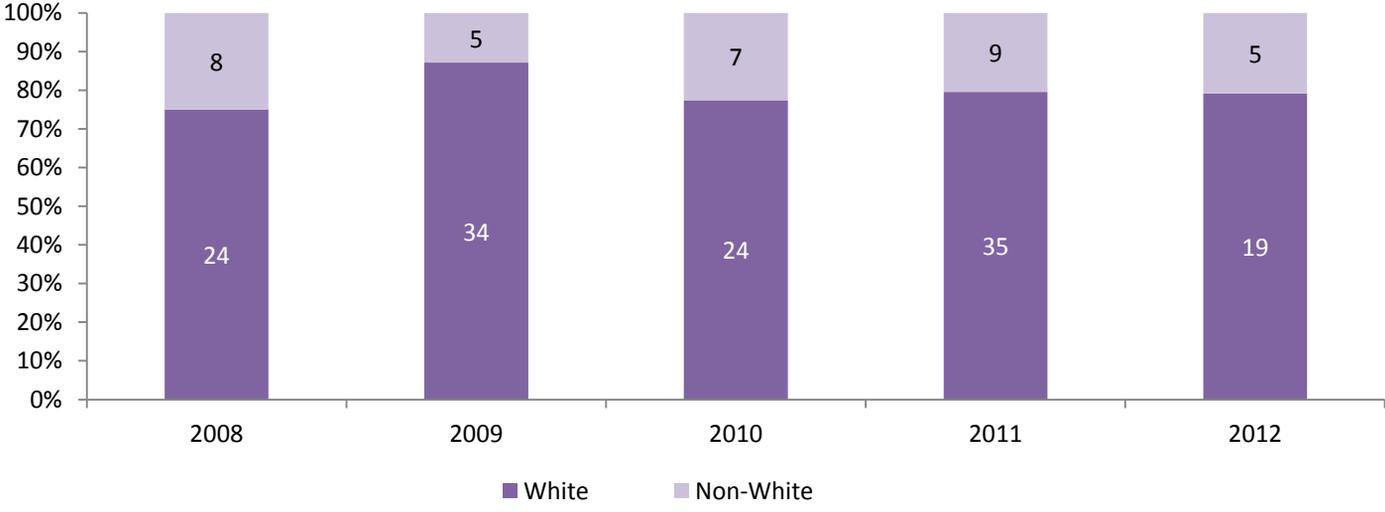
Graffiti Court Cases - Resident Summary



Graffiti Court Cases - Gender Summary

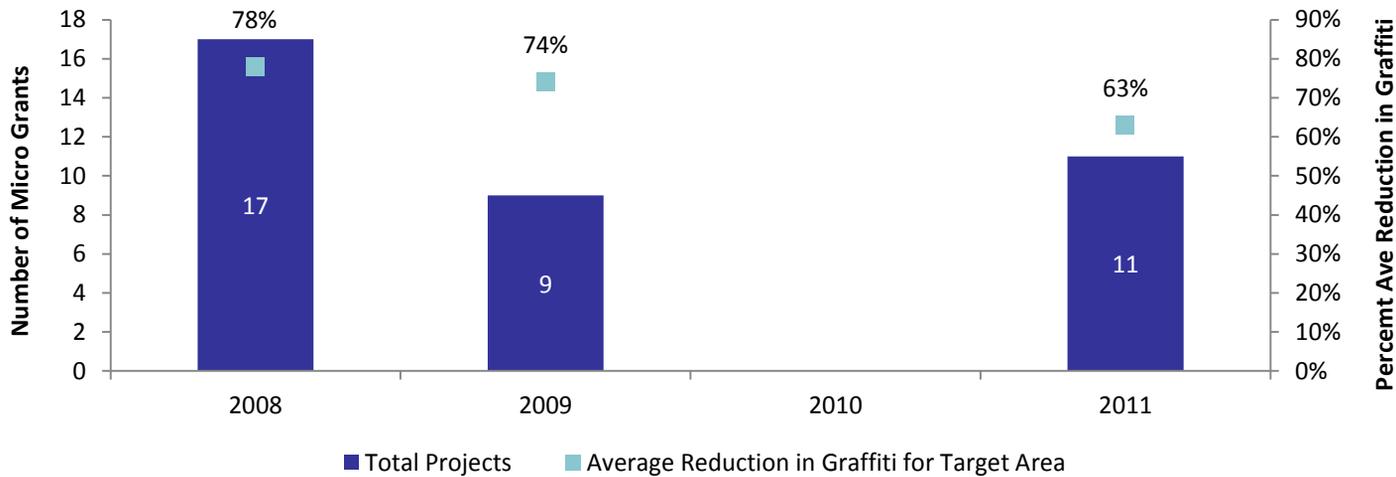


Graffiti Court Cases - Race Summary



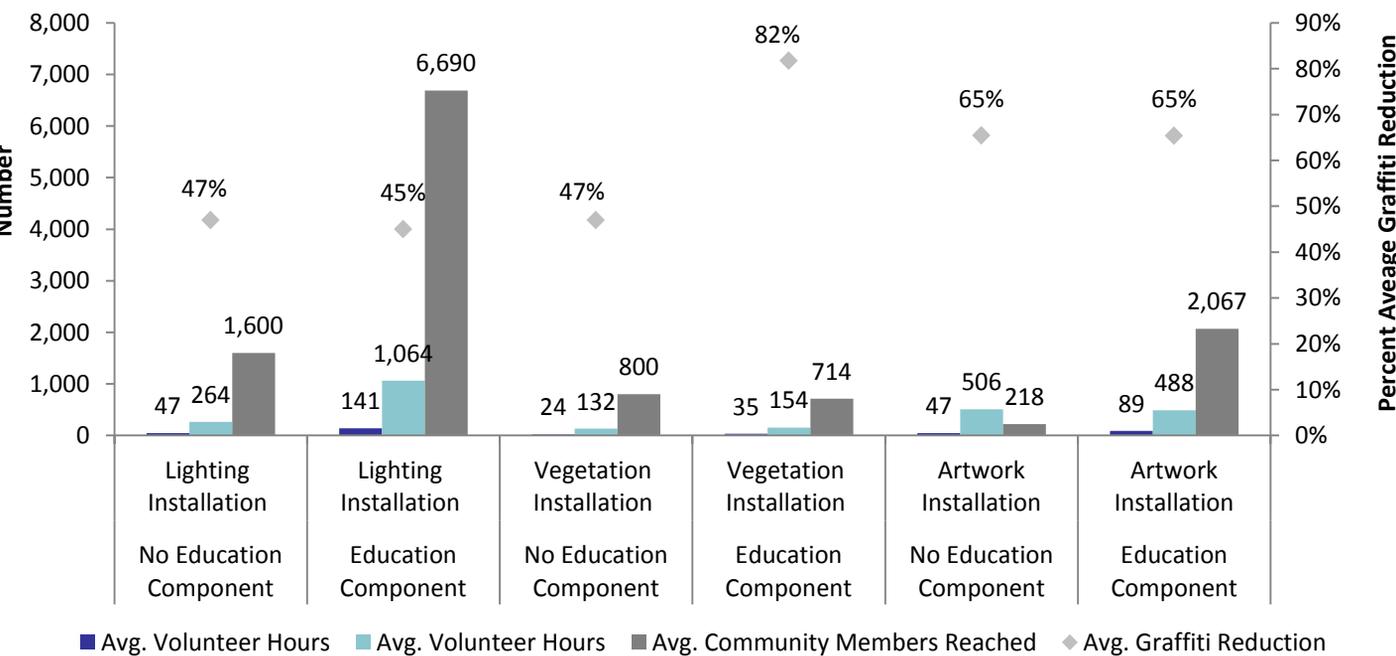
Prevention: Are graffiti Micro-grants effective?

Innovative Graffiti Prevention Micro Grant Projects by Year



Measurement of observed graffiti in a two block radius of a micro-grant target area was done prior to any project treatment and then at three, six and twelve weeks after the project treatment to obtain the average reduction in graffiti for the target area.

**Innovative Micro Grant Program Results by Method
Program Years 2008, 2009 and 2011**



Innovative Graffiti Prevention Micro Grant Projects results have shown that:

- Vegetation installations such as growing vines, green walls, or trellis systems return the highest graffiti reduction rate when partnered with anti-graffiti education.
- Artwork installations such as murals, mosaics, and yarn art are the second highest prevention results with or without the educational component.
- Increased lighting has consistently been the least effective.

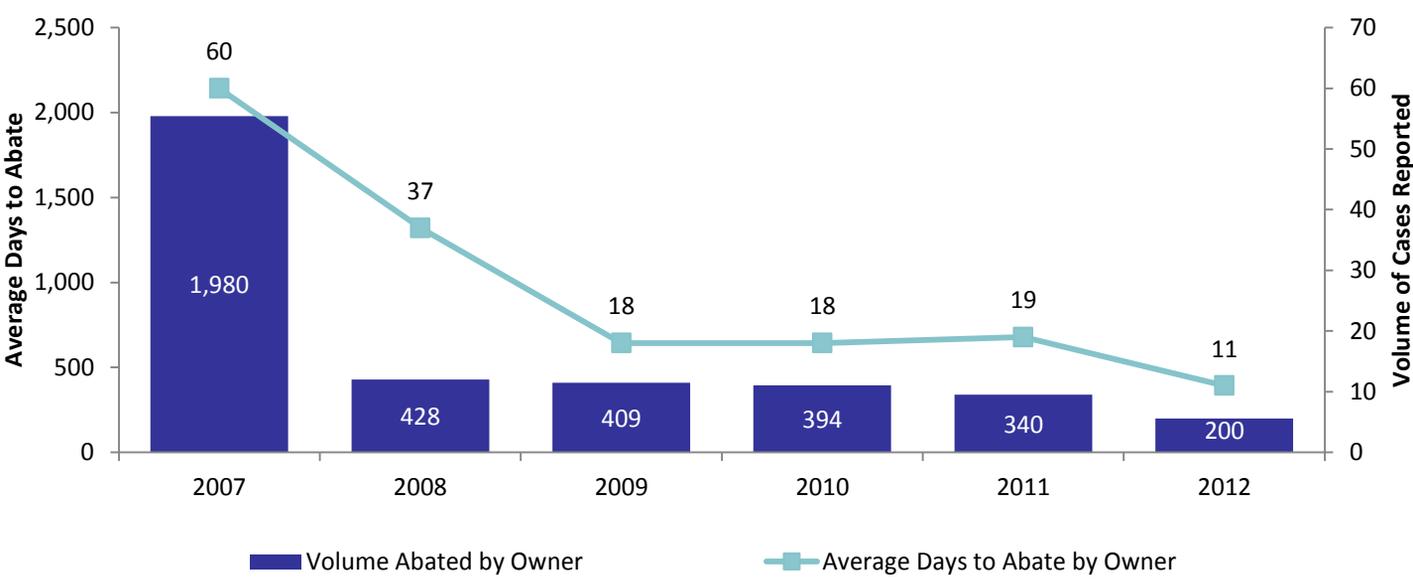
Minneapolis Police Comments on Reasons for Reduction in Gang Graffiti

The Minneapolis Police Department attributes the reduction of graffiti to a number of variables:

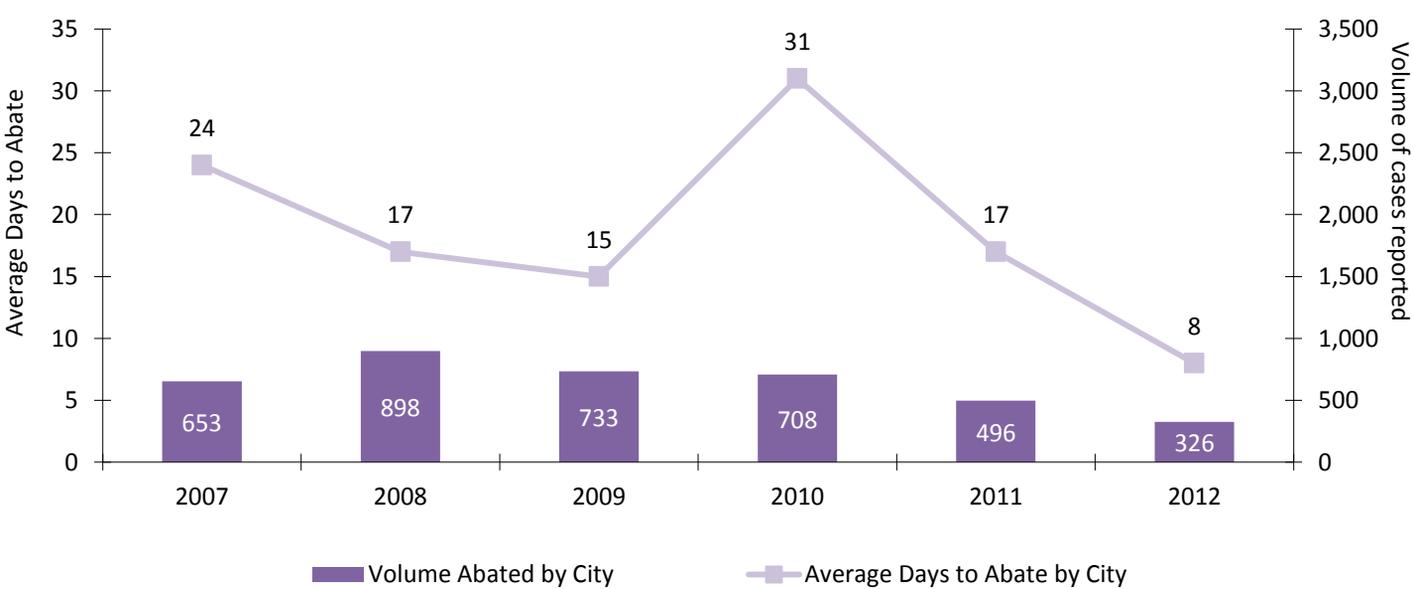
- First and foremost would be aggressive and targeted enforcement of the most active and violent criminal street gangs in the City of Minneapolis. Investigations by the Minneapolis Police Department's Gang Enforcement Team, Safe Streets Task Force and Community Response Teams have led to the arrest and prosecutions of some of the most violent gang members that operate in our city.
 - Another reason attributed to the reduction in graffiti is the growing popularity of social media. There is much less risk in 'tagging' a virtual wall than spray painting an actual brick and mortar wall. This 'graffiti' can be changed on a continual basis and for a target audience – your social media followers.
 - The commitment of residents and businesses to fight graffiti vandalism cannot go unnoticed or unappreciated. Increases in government and privately owned cameras placed in high profile areas certainly act as a deterrent to criminal behavior in our neighborhoods.
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Next Steps: Should we change our graffiti abatement strategy, to focus on geographical areas based on crime, versus gang graffiti?

Gang Graffiti Reports and Average Days to Abate by Owner



Gang Graffiti Reports and Average Days to Abate by City

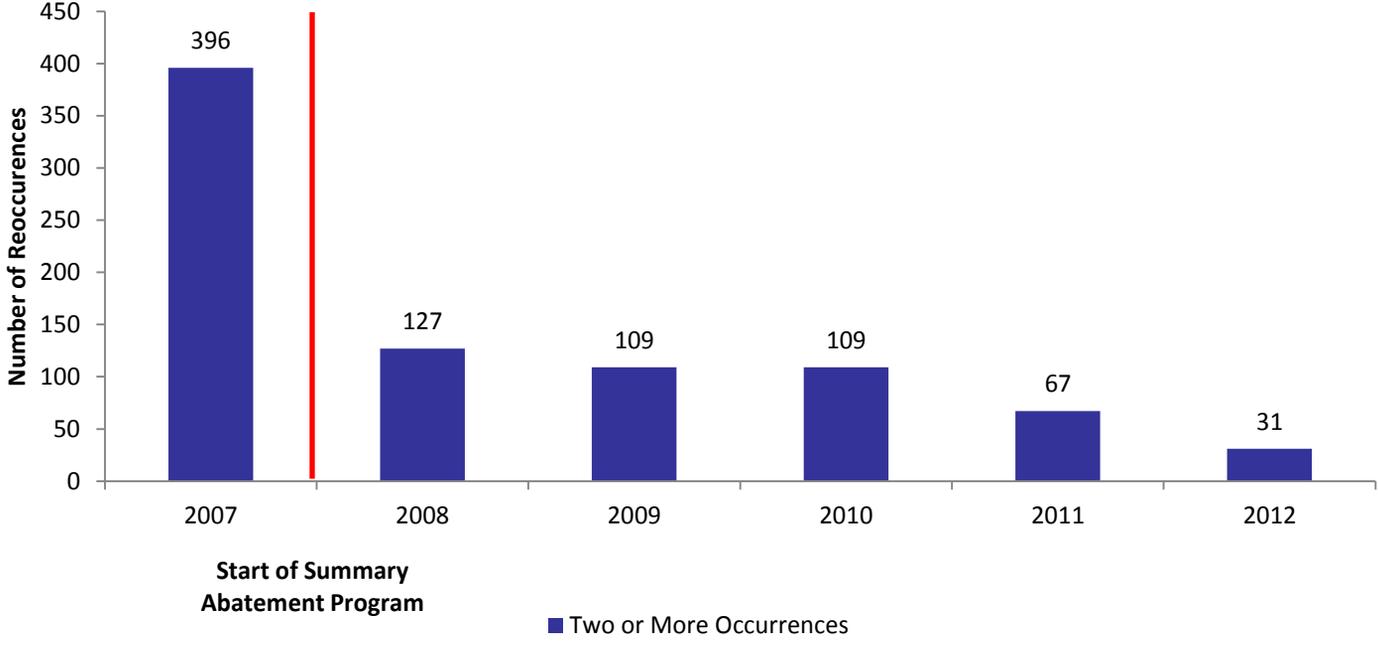


What are the next steps?

- Stay the course?
- Summary Abatement by Crime Hotspots?
- Summary Abatement on all types of Graffiti, by Graffiti Hotspot?
- Other?

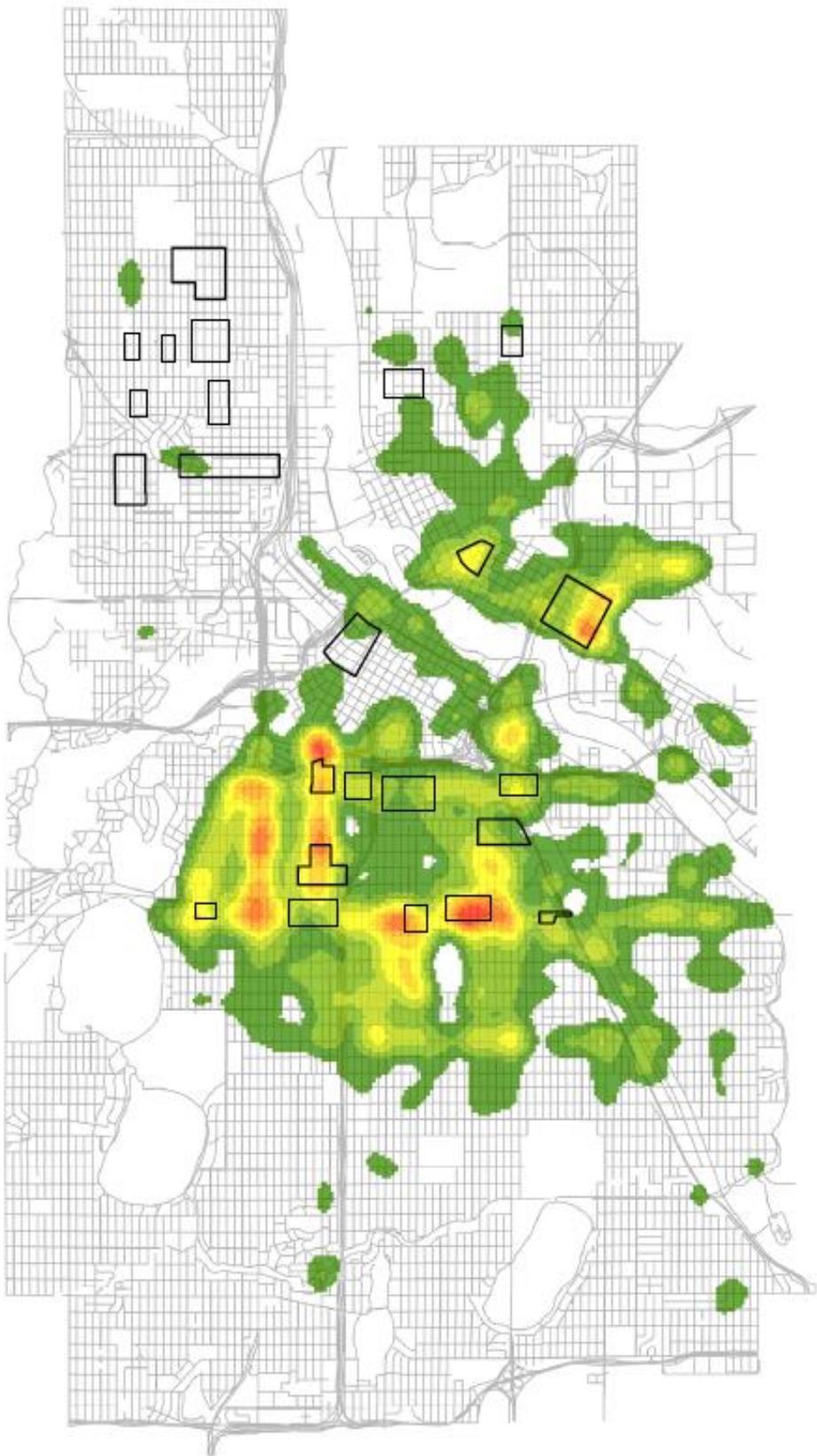
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Gang Related Graffiti Reoccurrence Rate by Property Count



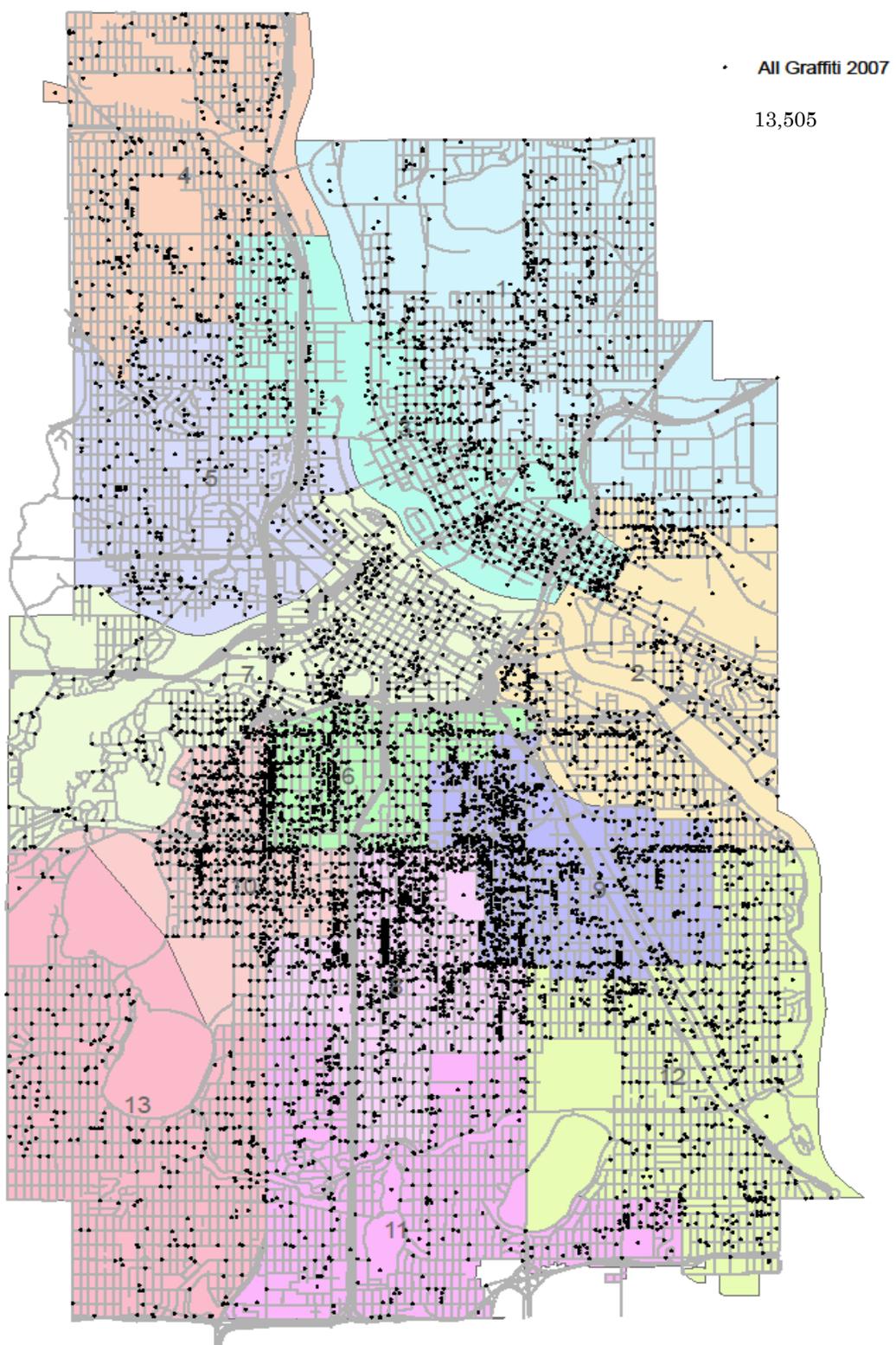
Benefits of Summary Abatement	Requirements
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Allows City crews to immediately abate graffiti without prior notice or charge to the property’s owner. • Reduces the reoccurrence rate for the property through rapid abatement • Reduces the overall number of incidents over time through quick removal. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Graffiti must be gang related, vulgar or obscene • Vandalized object must be within 5 feet of a public right of way • Vandalized object cannot be a primary residence.

City of Minneapolis 2007-2012 Graffiti Heat Map

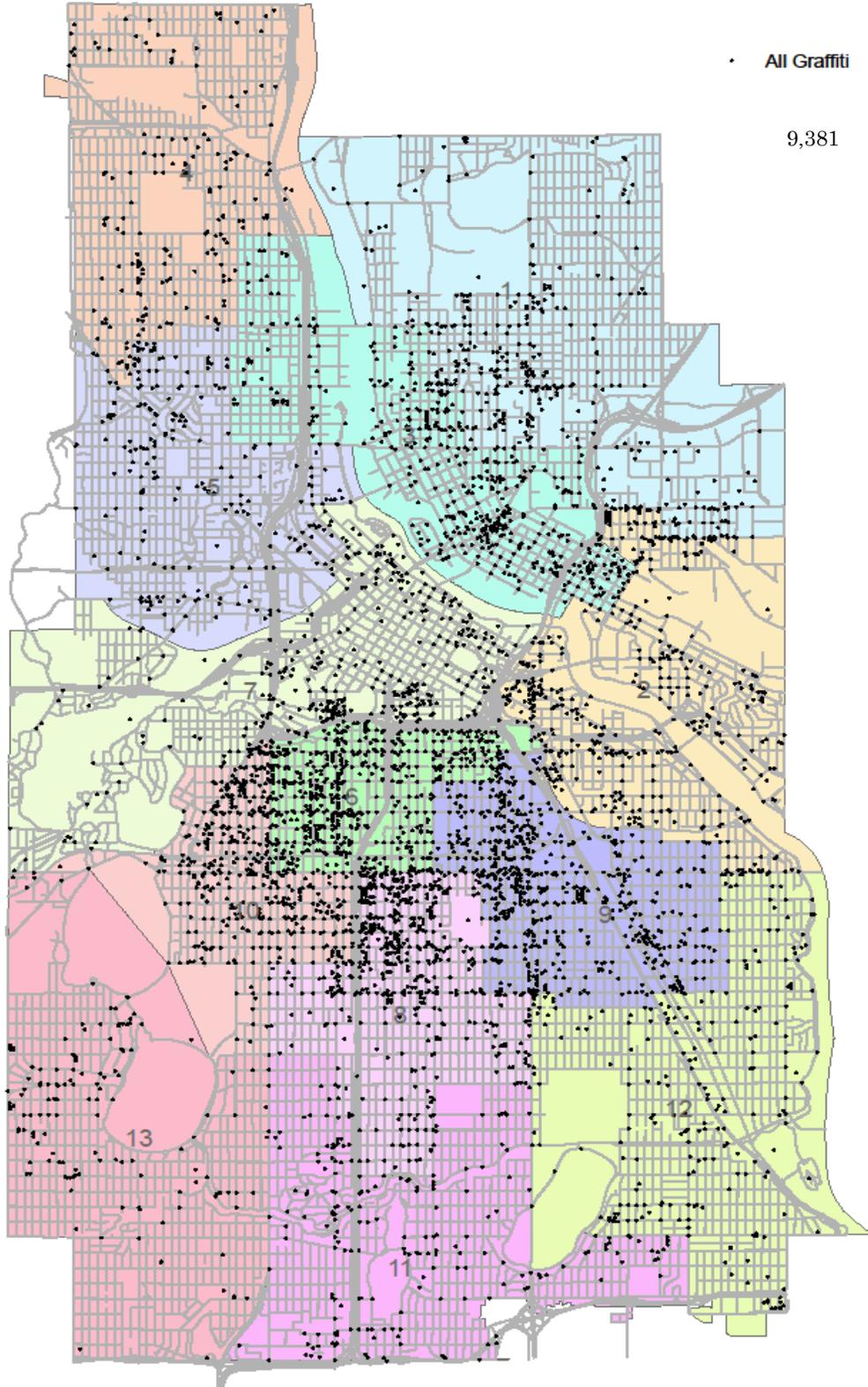


Appendix

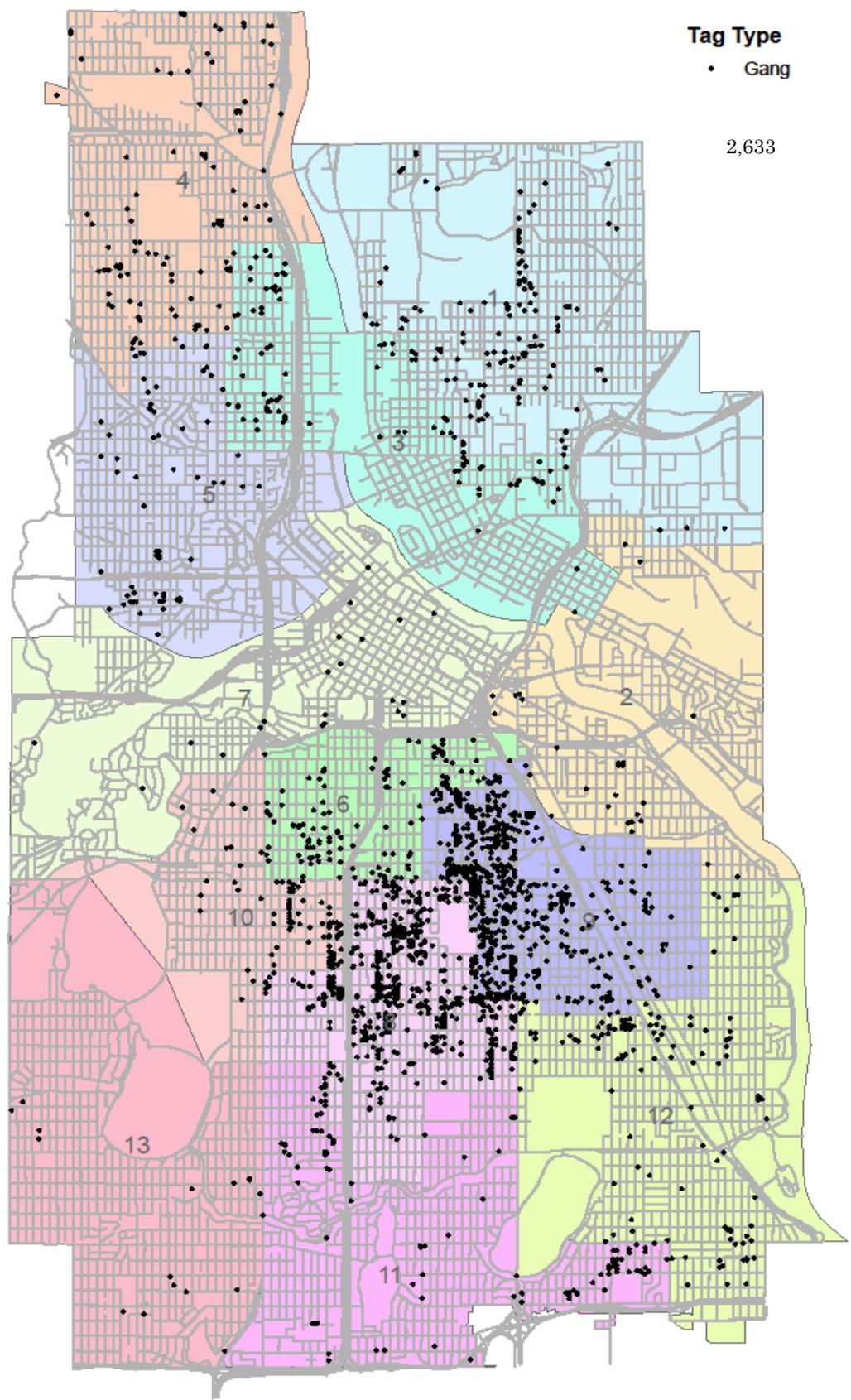
City of Minneapolis 2007 Graffiti Service Requests



City of Minneapolis 2012 Graffiti Service Requests



City of Minneapolis 2007 Gang Graffiti Service Requests



City of Minneapolis 2012 Gang Graffiti Service Requests

