



Graffiti Abatement Program Report 2017

The Graffiti Abatement Program works with concerned residents, neighborhood associations, business owners, youth and other stakeholders to locate, report and remove graffiti from public and private spaces to promote livability in the communities of Portland.

Graffiti Abatement Program Functions

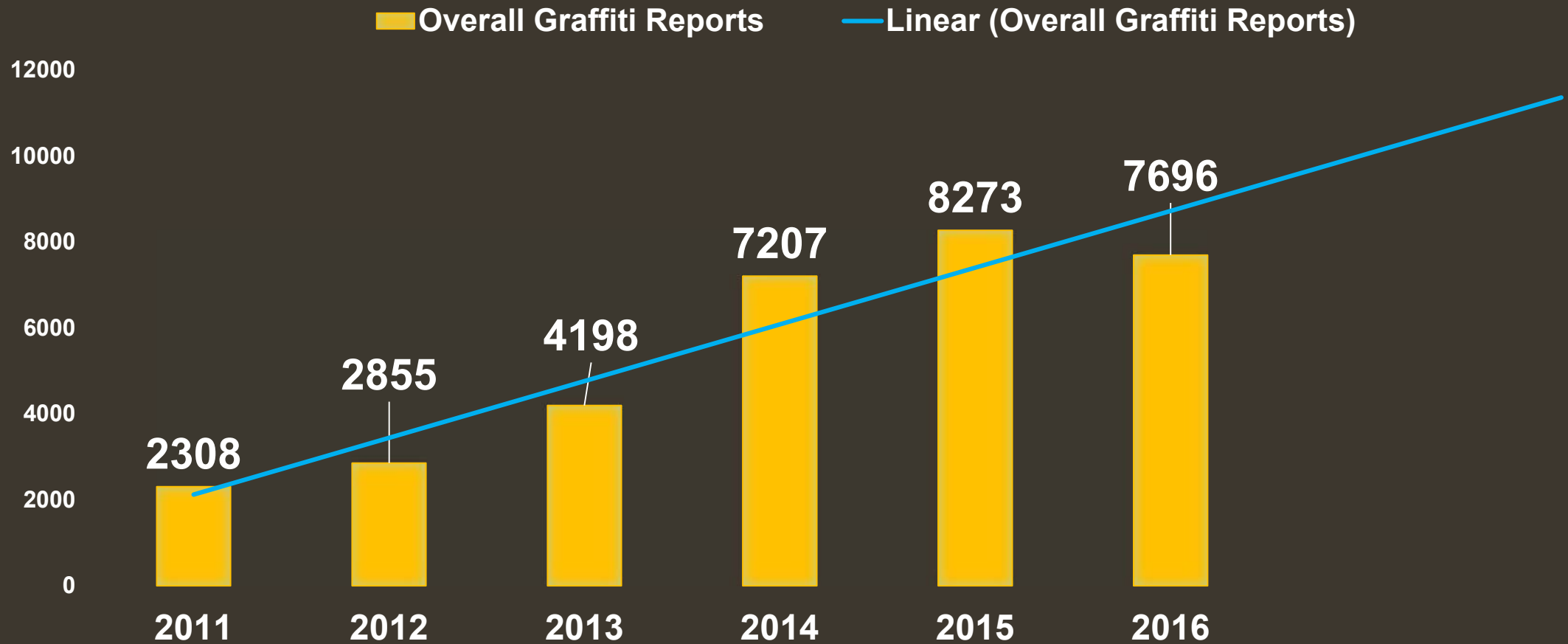
1.5 full time employees for:

- Graffiti report/complaint intake: 15-30 per day.
- Managing graffiti report database (TrackIt).
- Enforcement of Chapter 14B.80.020.
- Overseeing functions of two graffiti removal service agreements with private contractors.
- Coordinating graffiti cleanup volunteers.

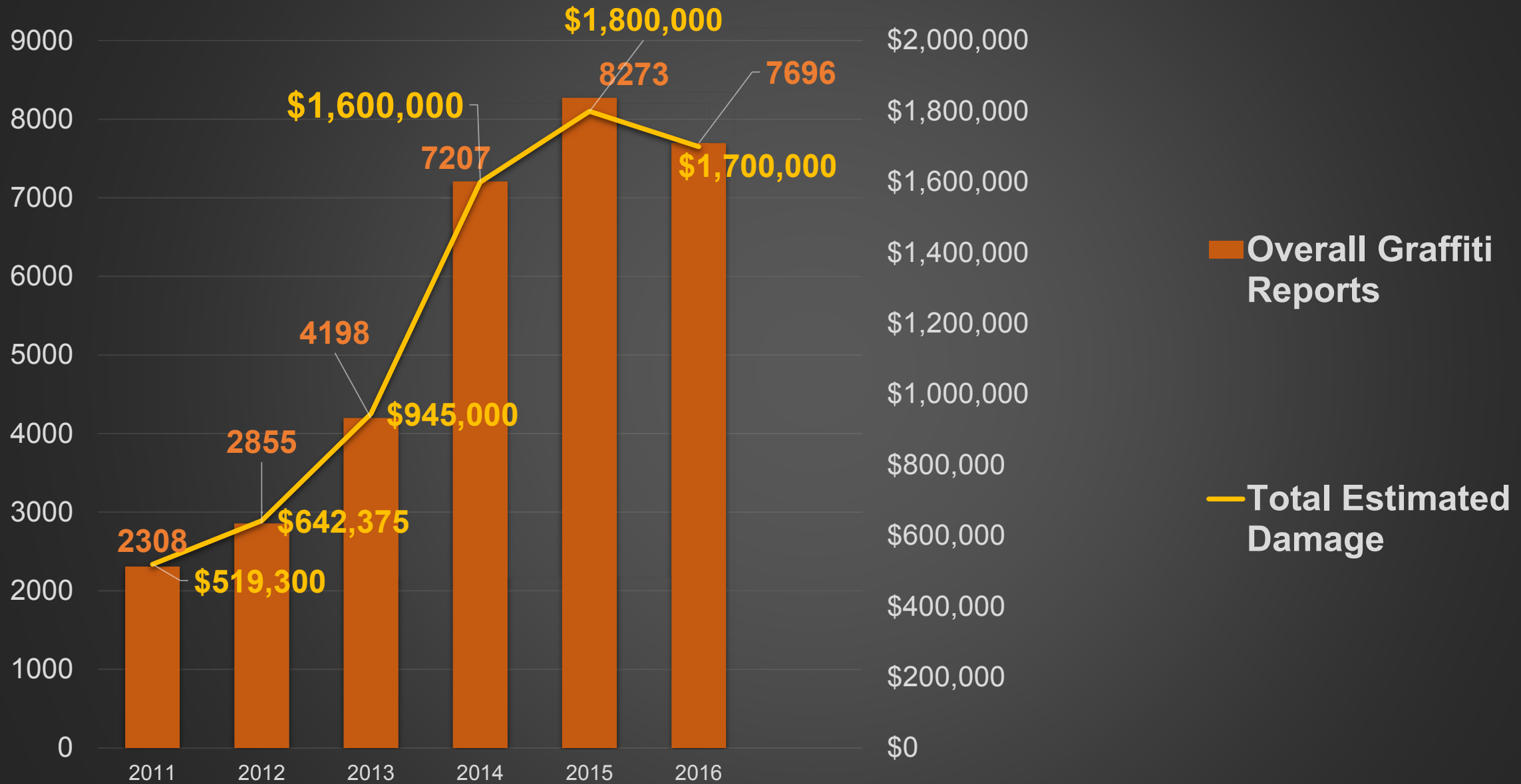
Program Capacity & Impacts of Proposed Elimination

- Graffiti reports to the program have increased significantly.
- Graffiti reported as hate or bias graffiti has also increased.
- The Fiscal Year 2017-2018 Budget proposal considers eliminating the Graffiti Abatement Program completely.
- The consequences of eliminating the graffiti abatement program would be far-reaching:
 - No removal assistance for victims
 - No immediate removal of hate graffiti or gang graffiti
 - No volunteer coordination or free supplies provided for volunteers
 - No tracking of graffiti cases in Portland
 - No enforcement of graffiti abatement code
 - Increased fear and decreased community livability

GRAFFITI REPORTS IN TRACKIT DATABASE



Increase in Graffiti Impacts in Portland since 2011



How to Slow Down Graffiti's Proliferation in Portland

- A more proactive abatement approach-- the faster graffiti is removed, the less likely it is to spread.
- The Graffiti Abatement Program is currently limited to removals on private property with requests for removal services. In order to slow down graffiti's proliferation, we must increase our capacity for removals.
- While our contractors are able to get most removals done within three days of receiving a referral, they are unable to remove graffiti on surrounding locations due to program's current structure.

Police Bureau Partnership

- Prior to 2015, there were two graffiti investigators in the Police Bureau. There are currently no investigators assigned to graffiti or ongoing cases surrounding graffiti of any kind.
- ONI Graffiti Abatement staff continue to track graffiti in our database, and will continue to do so should the graffiti investigator role be re-introduced in the future.
- A proactive abatement approach combined with police investigations would allow us to remove and stop graffiti in a more equitable fashion.

Other Program Partnerships & Volunteer Cleanup Events

- In 2016, 26 cleanup events with more than 325 volunteers leveraged nearly \$50,000 in removal cost savings.
- Partnerships range from independent volunteers working in the community to sweeping cleanup events with neighborhood associations, business alliances and other community groups.
- Ongoing partnership with Central City Concern's Community Volunteer Corps (CVC) on nearly twenty cleanups per year.
- Coordinating trainings and service days with volunteers is an integral part of the graffiti program's success.





Before and After, Professional Graffiti Removal



Before & After, Volunteer Removal



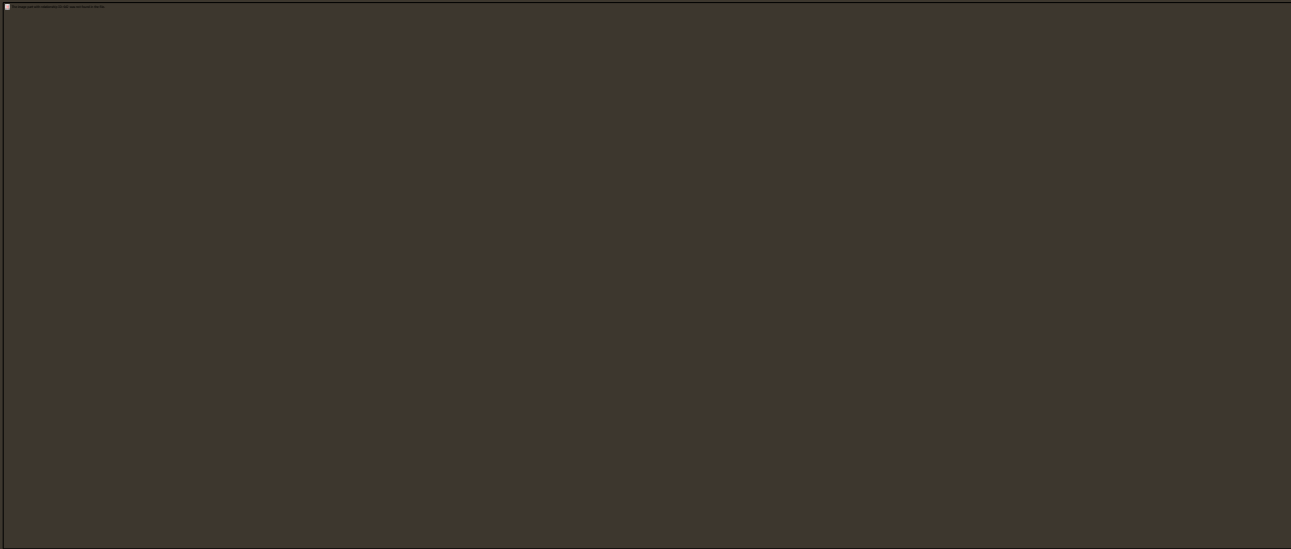
Recent Gang Graffiti



Recent Hate Graffiti



NE Weidler & NE MLK Before / After Mural



Conclusion

- The Graffiti Abatement Program is based on the principle of community partnership and engagement. Moving forward, we hope to increase these partnerships and expand our program.
- To respond to the present need of graffiti removal in Portland, we must increase our program capacity— expand staff for removal crews, volunteer coordination, community outreach, and report processing. Ultimately, this will be how we promote livability in the communities of Portland.
- We are grateful for the continued support from the community and Council and look forward to all of the work ahead.