



CITY OF
PORTLAND, OREGON
OFFICE OF NEIGHBORHOOD INVOLVEMENT

Amanda Fritz, Commissioner-in-Charge
Amalia Alarcón de Morris, Bureau Director
Graffiti Abatement
1221 SW 4th Avenue, Room 110
Portland, Oregon 97204

Enhancing the quality of Portland's Neighborhoods through community participation

REPORT TO COUNCIL

December 14, 2011

To: Commissioner Amanda Fritz
From: Amalia Alarcón de Morris, Director
Subject: Accept the Graffiti Abatement Semi-Annual Progress Report

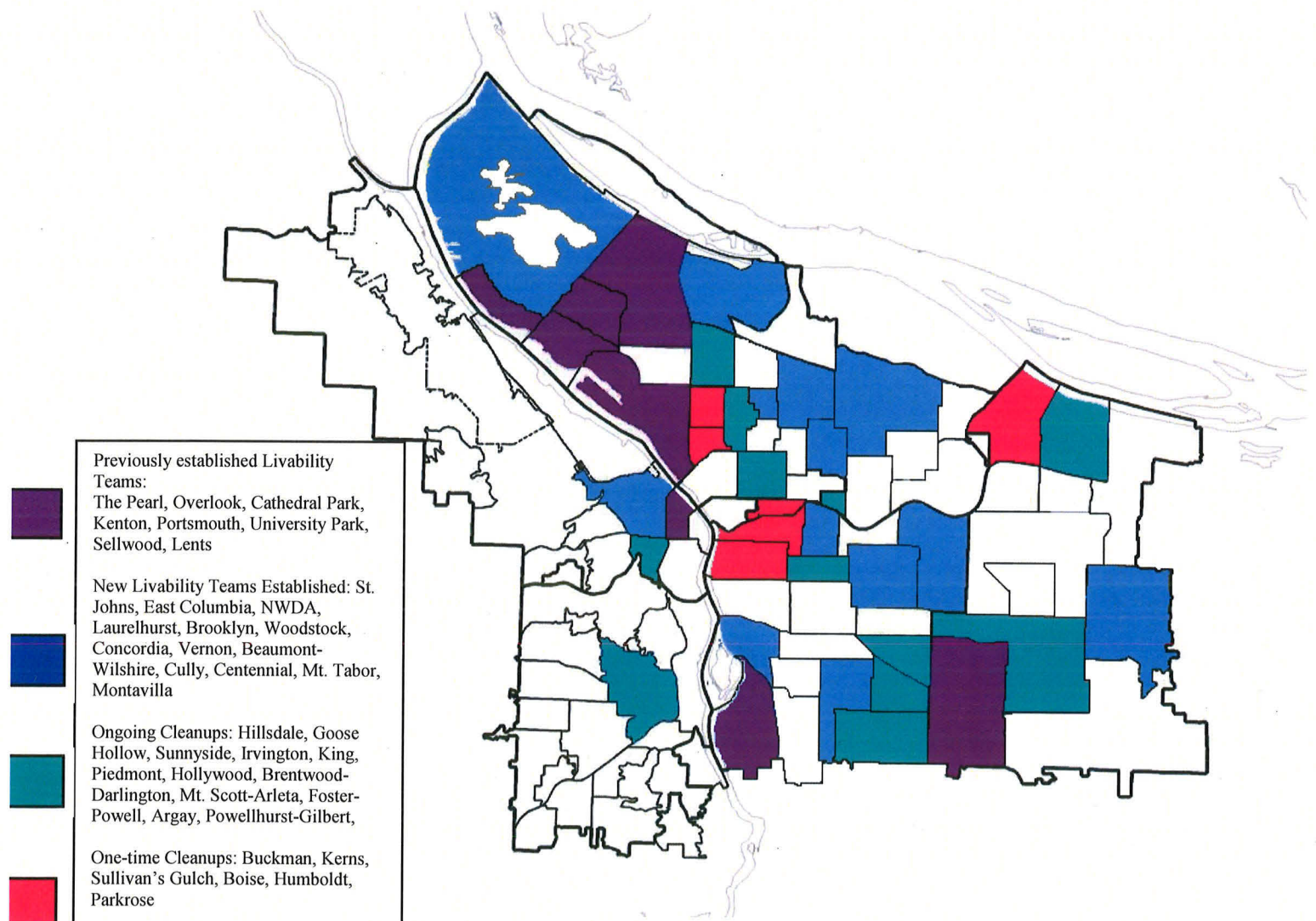
The City of Portland Office of Neighborhood Involvement (ONI) Graffiti Abatement Program mission is to improve neighborhood livability by decreasing graffiti in partnership with the Police Bureau, neighborhood and business associations, and other community partners. The graffiti abatement program has primarily focused on receiving reports of graffiti from the public and coordinating prompt removal through referral to other responsible agencies, providing free removal on qualifying private property, or enforcing the City's Graffiti Abatement Code (PCC 14B.80) requiring property owners to remove graffiti within 10 days. The program provides education and coordinates volunteer cleanups to engage the community in addressing graffiti proactively. ONI maintains a tracking database of graffiti reports and coordinates with the Portland Police Bureau (PPB) and the District Attorney when appropriate to support the arrest and prosecution of vandals. In Winter FY2010-11, Council allocated additional funding to ONI and PPB to expand our graffiti abatement and enforcement activities. This addition of funds has allowed a substantial increase in volunteer activities, innovative new partnerships and capture and prosecution of vandals.

Expanding volunteer training and coordination for graffiti abatement

The ONI Graffiti Abatement Program faced a reduction in funding that reduced capacity for free graffiti removal from private property and also transitioned the program to one-time funding. In managing these changes, ONI refocused efforts on enhancements to the program to better leverage funds and to increase the community impact. As with other crime prevention activities, organizing around graffiti removal provides opportunities for community building while working towards improved livability and safety in the community. ONI initiated the increased focus on volunteer coordination

with existing staff, Marcia Dennis, resulting in more frequent volunteer cleanups, neighborhood groups organizing for ongoing graffiti abatement, and cleanup at sites that have been chronic problems but otherwise would not qualify for free removal.

The funds for expansion allowed the addition of a Graffiti Abatement Volunteer Coordinator in April 2011: Dennis LoGiudice. This new position has allowed existing program staff to focus on enforcement activities and graffiti task force, and provided new staff to continue to increase the number of cleanups, volunteers, and ongoing livability teams dedicated to graffiti clean-up in their neighborhoods. Since April 2011, the volunteer coordinator conducted and/or facilitated 90 cleanups, added an additional 500+ volunteers through outreach, and formed partnerships with several organizations and educational institutions that have provided diverse volunteers for cleanup events, such as Bridgetown Ministries, Immigrant and Refugee Community Organization, Catlin Gabel School, Concordia University, Heald College, Warner Pacific College, and Portland State University. ONI estimates that in FY2010-11 volunteer activities leveraged approximately 30,766 volunteer hours valued at over \$588,000 in support of graffiti abatement in Portland. Another important benefit from utilizing volunteers in graffiti abatement is the education component: Volunteers removing graffiti from right-of-way properties become more aware of the existence of graffiti as a blight on neighborhood livability.



Other Program Enhancements at ONI – Youth Component and Community Grants

Historically, ONI had granted funds to a non-profit to provide ongoing graffiti removal crews that also provided job development opportunities for at-risk youth. With the reduction in funds allocated for removal, ONI shifted the approach to contracting out directly for graffiti removal and separately granting funds for job development opportunities for at-risk youth. This separation of the contracts allowed for improved



tracking and accountability and greater community impact. ONI conducted a competitive grant cycle awarding \$50,000 to the Immigrant and Refugee Community Organization (IRCO) for at-risk youth walking crews beginning in July 2011. Work is expanded beyond summer walking crews as has been funded in prior years but will continue with youth cleanup crews through June 2012. From July through October 2011, the program involved 22 youth and has removed over 5,500 graffiti tags throughout the City of Portland. The program was also enhanced to coordinate with the Mayor's Summer Youth Connect

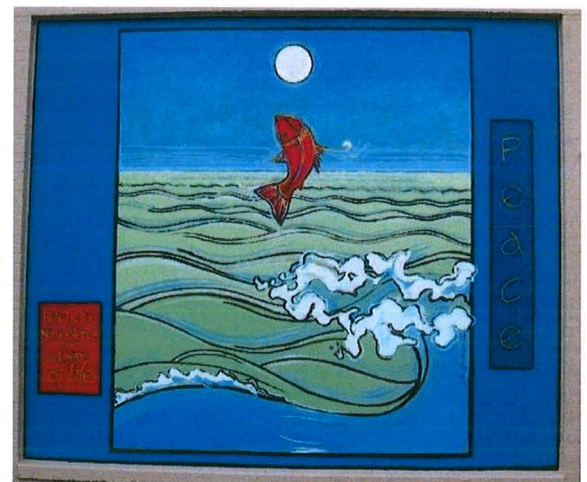
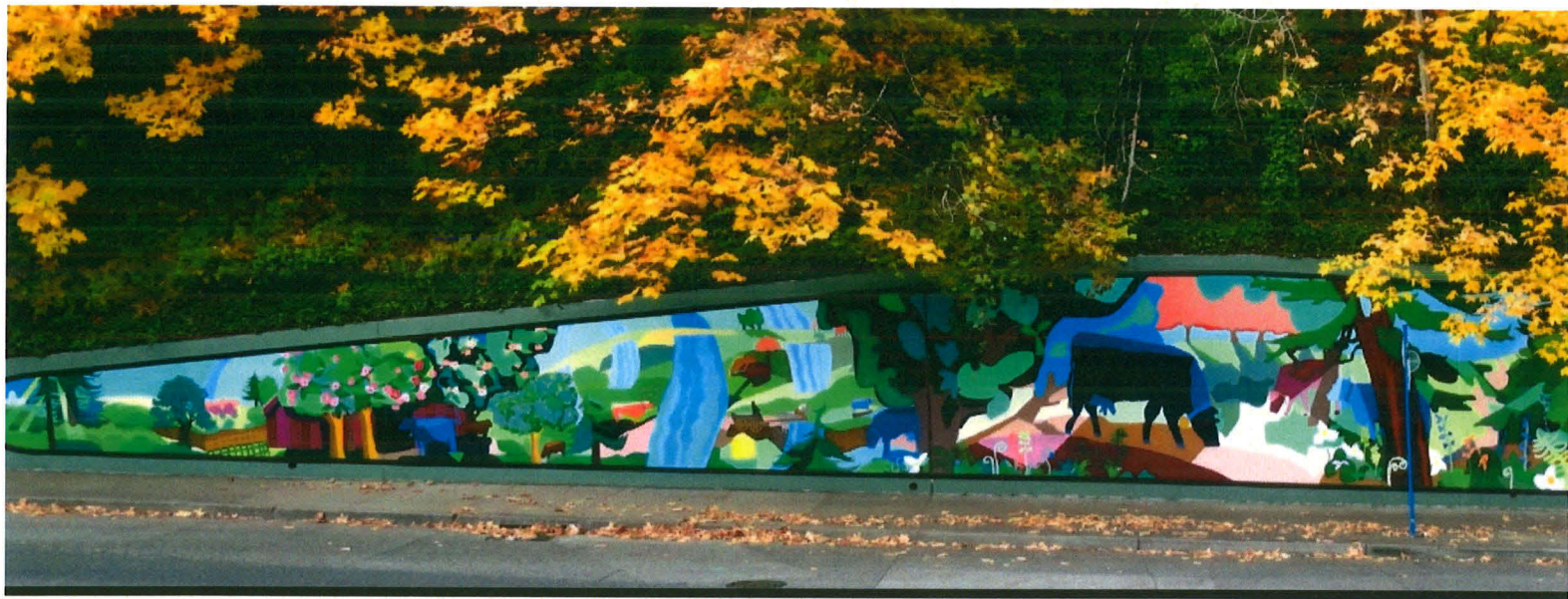
program and include eligibility for the Future Connect scholarships.

Beginning in 2010, ONI allocated funds for a new Graffiti Abatement Community Grants program to provide funds to support community-driven projects and community building opportunities in the area of graffiti abatement and attempting to repair the harm of graffiti on the community. Although the first round of grants are still in process of closing, there have been some great successes and new partnerships formed as a result of these funds and Council has continued this program with the expanded program funds in FY2011-12.

Many of the grants are being used as seed funds for community murals at locations that have been chronically tagged with graffiti.



NECN Mural



Top: SWNI – Hillsdale

Above L: CNN

Above R: SEUL – Belmont

Lower R: SEUL-Brooklyn





2 members of Overlook
Livability Team



Cully Neighborhood Cleanup



NWDA/Goose Hollow
(volunteers from Bridgetown
Ministries)

Expanded Police Bureau Graffiti Investigations Unit (GIU)

The PPB has historically had one police officer dedicated to graffiti investigations: Officer Matt Miller. As part of the Central Precinct NRT, that one officer is also regularly assigned to other higher priority work. With Council's increased funding for vandal investigation and prosecution, PPB was able to dedicate Officer Anthony Zanetti as a second officer to work on graffiti investigations. With this team of officers, PPB substantially increased the effectiveness of graffiti investigations.

Previously, we have been aware from dialogue among vandals online that Portland was perceived as an "easy target" for graffiti, where a person could tag with little or no consequence. In the past 6 months conducting research, serving search warrants, patrolling locations frequented by known vandals, and actively



following up on graffiti reports, vandals have become increasingly aware that PPB and the City do not tolerate graffiti. The increased enforcement and visibility of the "Graffiti Investigations Unit" has put out the word in the tagger community that "Officers Miller and Zanetti are watching" and has created a shift in perception that it's not worth the time and effort to write graffiti in Portland because there ARE consequences.

June-Nov 2010: 46 arrested for graffiti
June-Nov 2011: 54 arrested for graffiti
Prosecutions: 12 beginning in June 2011 or later
Total Restitution for those 12: \$13,343.11
Total Probation: 252 months (=) 21 years

While we do not have comparative data prior to 5/26/11 when Officer Zanetti came on board, this is a compilation of *his* activities (up until Occupy Portland when the GIU was out of service for 5 weeks):

Arrests

23

Officer Related Case Follow-up

70 cases

DDA Related Case Follow-up

10 cases

Residential Search Warrant

1

Article Search Warrant

2

MSOCC

3

Graffiti Missions

6

FCR Contact Cards

7

Self-Initiated Reports Written

48

Subject Interviews - excludes arrest interviews

23

GTS Entry

20 hours

Citizen Contacts

32

Business Contacts

59

Other/ Misc - includes meetings, media interviews, court, custody lists, training, stake outs, calls to service, etc

63

Days Detailed to Non Graffiti Related Tasks for 1/2 Shift or Longer

22

Summary

We appreciate this City Council's commitment to the Graffiti Abatement Program and additional funding that have allowed for much needed program expansions at ONI and PPB. We are confident that our increased volunteer development is having a positive impact on neighborhoods that can be sustained to build an increasing level of intolerance for graffiti in Portland. We are also confident that increased PPB investigations and the resulting prosecutions will continue to strengthen the perception among graffiti vandals that tagging in Portland is not worth the effort and risks. Both components of the program will continue to utilize the funds effectively to further leverage the dollars to have the greatest impact on the community.

We recommend that City Council accept the report.

Amalia Alarcón de Morris, Bureau Director

TO THE COUNCIL

As Commissioner-in-Charge of the Office of Neighborhood Involvement, I concur with the information in this report and

RECOMMENDS:

That the Council accept the report.

Respectfully submitted,

Amanda Fritz

Commissioner In Charge of the Office of Neighborhood Involvement

Agenda No.
REPORT NO.
 Title

Accept the Graffiti Abatement Semi-Annual Progress Report (Report)

INTRODUCED BY Commissioner/Auditor: Amanda Fritz	CLERK USE: DATE FILED <u>DEC 09 2011</u>
COMMISSIONER APPROVAL Mayor—Finance and Administration - Adams Position 1/Utilities - Fritz <i>Amanda Fritz</i> Position 2/Works - Fish Position 3/Affairs - Saltzman Position 4/Safety - Leonard	LaVonne Griffin-Valade Auditor of the City of Portland By: <i>[Signature]</i> Deputy
BUREAU APPROVAL Bureau: Office of Neighborhood Involvement Bureau Head: Amalia Alarcón de Morris	ACTION TAKEN: DEC 14 2011 <i>RESCHEDULE TO JAN 11 2012 9:30 A.M.</i> <i>Time Certain</i>
Prepared by: Dennis LoGiudice Date Prepared: November 30, 2011	JAN 11 2012 ACCEPTED
Financial Impact & Public Involvement Statement Completed <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Amends Budget <input type="checkbox"/>	
Council Meeting Date December 14, 2011	
City Attorney Approval: required for contract, code, easement, franchise, charter, Comp Plan	

AGENDA TIME CERTAIN <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Start time: <u>9:30 am, Item 1 of 2</u> Total amount of time needed: 30 min total for both items (for presentation, testimony and discussion)
CONSENT <input type="checkbox"/>
REGULAR <input type="checkbox"/> Total amount of time needed: _____ (for presentation, testimony and discussion)

FOUR-FIFTHS AGENDA	COMMISSIONERS VOTED AS FOLLOWS:		
		YEAS	NAYS
1. Fritz	1. Fritz	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
2. Fish	2. Fish	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
3. Saltzman	3. Saltzman	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
4. Leonard	4. Leonard	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
Adams	Adams	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	