



To: Members of the Common Council

From: Chief Tim Styka 

Date: July 19, 2016

RE: Graffiti Complaint

Last night in the Council Meeting there was a concern raised about graffiti in the Doty Island area of the City. The information provided to you was inaccurate and did not reflect the efforts of the Code Enforcement Unit or City Garage.

The Code Enforcement Unit was advised of the signs with graffiti on July 8, 2016, which was a Friday. That situation was fixed by the City Garage the following week. I did check this morning and there is no new vandalism to those signs. Therefore, the allegation that the City has done nothing on this situation is incorrect.

In addition, the Code Enforcement Unit was advised of the graffiti to the rear of the building at 204 Madison (faces Garfield Street) on the same date. There was then additional graffiti reported on the same building July 13, 2016. The building owner in this case is out of Texas. They have been put on notice to clean up the property or they may be held in violation of City Code. Their compliance date is July 22, 2016. Again, this issue was identified and we have been working on and will continue to work on a solution.

Finally, the innuendo that this graffiti is gang related and indicative of a gang problem is without merit. This graffiti has been reviewed by Officer Zemlock who has years of experience and training in dealing with gangs. He was able to determine this was the work of a tagger. The location and style of the graffiti is not the manner in which a gang would mark their territory. Furthermore, there are no indications of crime or incidents which would typically be associated with an organized gang in that area. In fact, animal complaint and ordinance violations have been the two top types of incidents since June 1st.