

# Mayor's Neighborhood Roundtable Meeting

September 8, 2025, 5:30 pm. – Third Floor Conference Room

## Mayor's Comments – Mayor Baird

- Thanks to the neighborhoods for supporting the city
- Thanks to the citizens for putting up with the summer's road projects.
  - Announced the year's completed projects & some of the projects that would be completed in the current construction season yet this year.
  - Multiple projects seemed to surround neighborhoods because of water main replacement projects in those areas already required street construction, so projects were combined.
- Planning Department & Building and Safety Department being combined into Planning and Development Services Department to attempt to streamline the community development process.
- New 3 yr contract with the Police Union. Police staffing at 97% of authorized capacity
- Proposed budget changes discussed at earlier RT meeting passed City Council
  - Additional funding for Police & emergency services
  - \$1.5M for City pool maintenance/improvements
  - Startran funding increased to offset decrease of funds from State of Nebraska
  - Debt payment coverage for storm water bonds passed last year.
- Responded to questions about the "6 Pillars for Emotional Wellbeing" program from the Lincoln-Lancaster Health Department for families and their children to improve mental health.

## Lincoln-Lancaster County Health Department – Graffiti Prevention Program

Presented by Mary Carol Bond, Education & Public Health Educator and William Carver, Graffiti Coordinator.

- Outlined Program Goals
- History
  - Graffiti ordinance passed 12/2006
  - Mayor's Stronger Safer Neighborhoods 1/2009 – Education
  - KLLCB Graffiti Prevention Program 6/2009 – Wm Carver hired as part-time coordinator
- Why is Graffiti a problem? Sends message that no one cares about the community; decrease in the public's perception of community safety and actual safety; decline in property values; feeling that graffiti is due to gangs
- Type of Graffiti
  - Hip Hop – Created to gain attention
  - Generic – Random markings in public areas
  - Hate – Racial, ethnic, religious, cultural slurs
  - Non-Graffiti – Owner permitted markings/decoration
  - Unknown – Graffiti that has been removed/covered prior to inspection by the Graffiti program
- Reporting
  - Your property – LPD non-emergency number 402 441-6000
  - Other property – via UPLNK or can email coordinator at [WCarver@Lincoln.ne.gov](mailto:WCarver@Lincoln.ne.gov)
  - Post reporting:

- Complaints documents
  - Complaints cataloged
  - Letter & photo sent to property owner with return post card (attachment)
  - On-site follow up in 7 days
  - Must be removed within 15 days
  - Goal is 10 days from reporting to conclusion
- 2025 Fiscal year (ended 8/31/25) – 260 cases reported with 247 closed & 13 in process. General historical trend has been reduction in occurrence
- Best Practices to combat
  - Ongoing upkeep of property
  - Prompt removal of graffiti – best within 24-48 hours
  - Change situation to discourage graffiti with security upgrades, lighting, landscaping, paint resistant coatings, authorized mural to take away the blank canvas
- Questions:
  - Supplied & help available to help cover graffiti for lower income community? Yes, by contacting coordinator office
  - If owner wants to create art mural, should coordinator be notified or some agency for approval? No answer, but coordinator keeps catalog of owner approved graffiti/murals.

**Idea's for next month agenda** – Presentation on combining Planning and Building & Safety departments

#### **Events:**

- Meadowlane – 9/13 movie night
- Irvingdale – 10/7 event at Irvingdale Rec Center
- East Campus – Upcoming East Campus Home Tour – details TBA
- Witherbee – Received Arbor Day Foundation grant for 10 street trees to be planted by neighborhood soon. Mentioned that the grant process is quite easy, so encouraged other neighborhoods to apply.
- Everett – 9/16 Cooper Park – Ice Cream Social

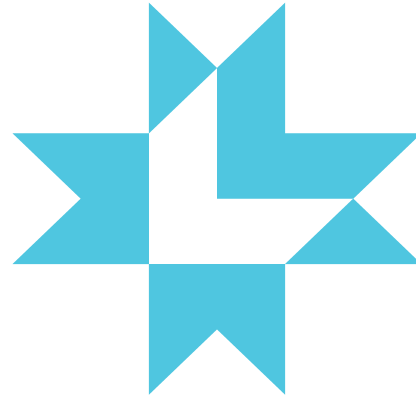
#### **Other discussion:**

- Comments about tree & branches clean up from recent storm. Discussion about Brush Coupons not being available in 2025 due to lack of funding. Discussion about Clinton trees impeding traffic & school buses.

Meeting adjourned 6:40



<u>Name</u>	<u>Neighborhood</u>
Gloria Eddins	Clinton
Tracy Carr	40th & A - College View
Nick Hernandez	Havelock & Bethany
Andy Gueck	Indian Village
Randy Smith	Woods Park
Kay Wenzel	Meadow Lane
Mary Unger	Prescott Area Neighbord Assoc.
Paul Johnson	East Campus
Kathy Lensenmeyer	Everett
Midge Pace	Everett
Roy Helm	Irvingdale
Okie Floodman	WITHERBEE
Mary Schwab	WITHERBEE
Brook Harisch	The Lincoln-Lincoln County Health Dept.
William Carver	LCCHD / EPH / Gr. H. H.
Mary Carol Bond	LCCHD EPH
Renee Nier	LCCHD EPH
Bennie Shobe	LWR City Council
Jon Carlsson	
Mayor	



Lincoln-Lancaster County  
Health Department

Mayor's Roundtable Presentation  
September 8, 2025

# Graffiti Prevention Program

a program of Keep Lincoln-Lancaster County Beautiful (KLLCB)



Lincoln-Lancaster County  
Health Department

# Program Goals

1. Educate residents about the importance of graffiti prevention and abatement.
2. Assist with tools and resources to respond to graffiti vandalism.
3. Foster partnerships to encourage involvement from all members of the community in addressing graffiti vandalism.
4. Help Lincoln establish an anti-graffiti program that gets results, creating a healthier, safer, and more livable community.





# Program History

## **Graffiti Abatement Act – Chapter 8.52 (Dec 2006)**

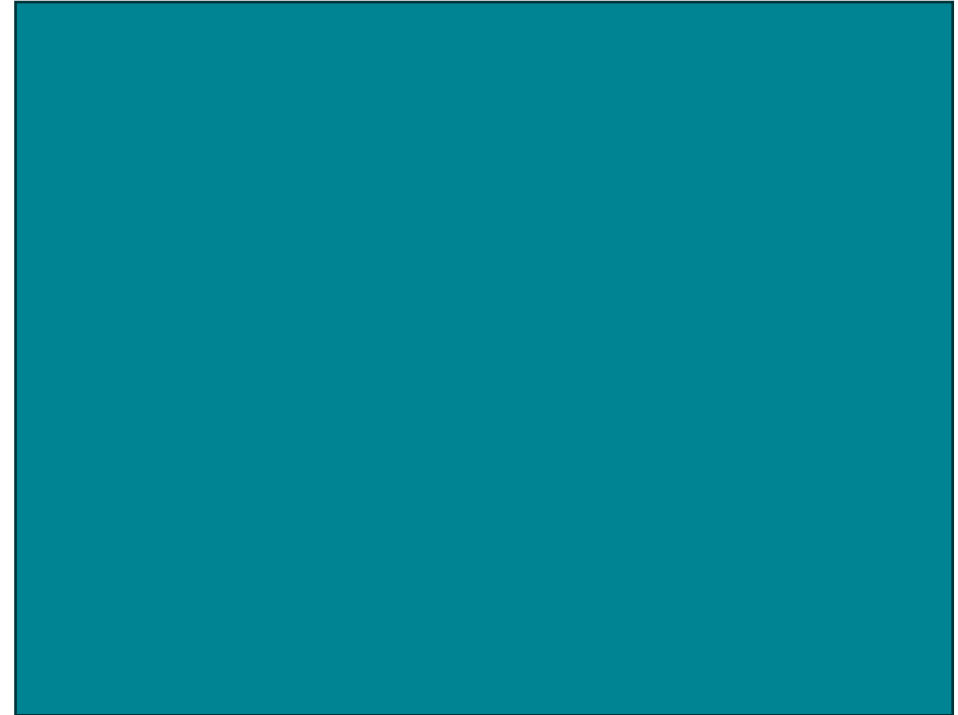
- City Council declares graffiti to be a public nuisance
- Property owner responsible to remove graffiti within 15 days of notification
- No funding for abatement
- Limited staff for complaint and property owner follow-up

## **Mayor's Stronger Safer Neighborhoods (Jan 2009)**

- Decision made to take educational approach to fight graffiti
- Mayor's Office budgets \$25,000 from General Fund

## **Move to KLLCB Graffiti Prevention Program (June 2009)**

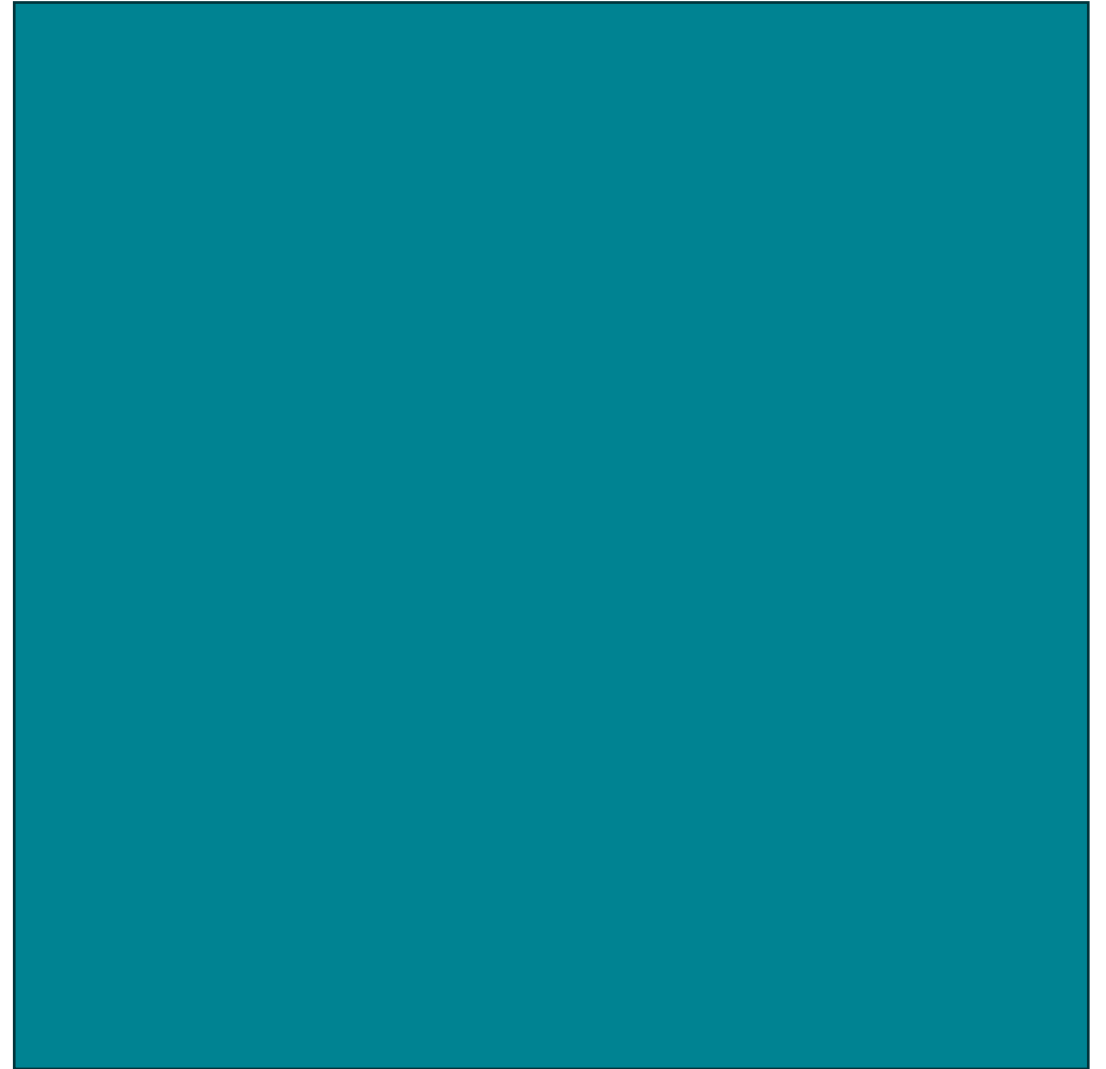
- Hired Part-Time Graffiti Prevention Coordinator
- William Carver joins the Health Department



# Why is graffiti a problem?

- Creates fear
- Decreases our feelings of safety
- Sends the message that nobody cares
- Attracts other forms of crime
- Contributes to vacant units and lost revenues
- Leads to decline in property values

- From Keep America Beautiful program "Graffiti Hurts"





# Gang Graffiti

- Gang graffiti can be letters, symbols, and numbers, or combinations
- Mark territory
- Message board for members
- Send warnings to rivals
- Random



# Types of Graffiti



Hip-Hop



Gang



Generic



Hate



Non-Graffiti



Unknown



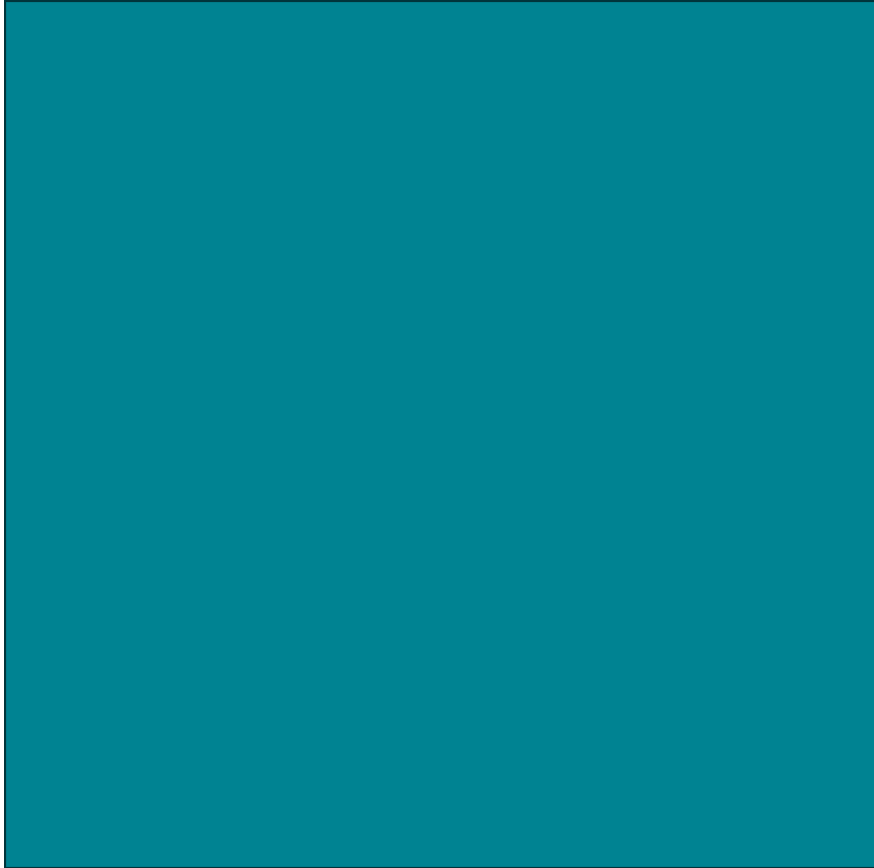
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# Hip-Hop Styles

Pieces --  
large,  
colorful,  
detailed



# Generic Graffiti



Random markings

Initials

Declarations of love

Social commentary

Profanity

Graduation events



# Hate Graffiti

Racial, Ethnic, Religious, Cultural Slurs



# Non-Graffiti

Markings on property with owner permission



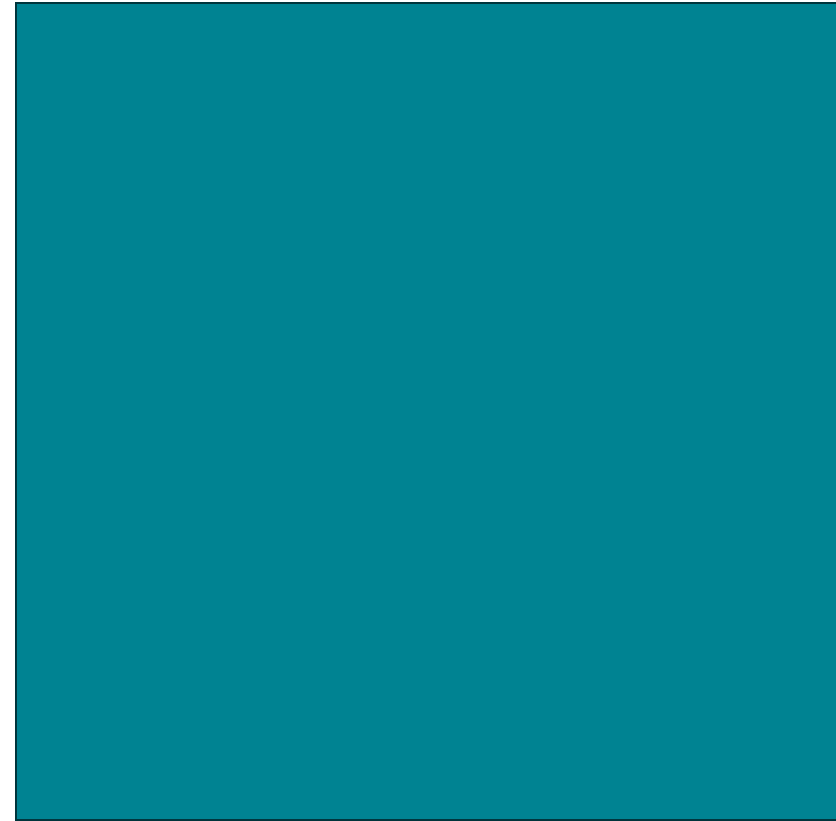


# Unknown Graffiti

Graffiti which has been removed prior to inspection

Often occurs because of educational efforts promoting rapid removal as key to successful prevention

Sometimes the evidence of effective partnerships



# Reporting

To report graffiti on your property:

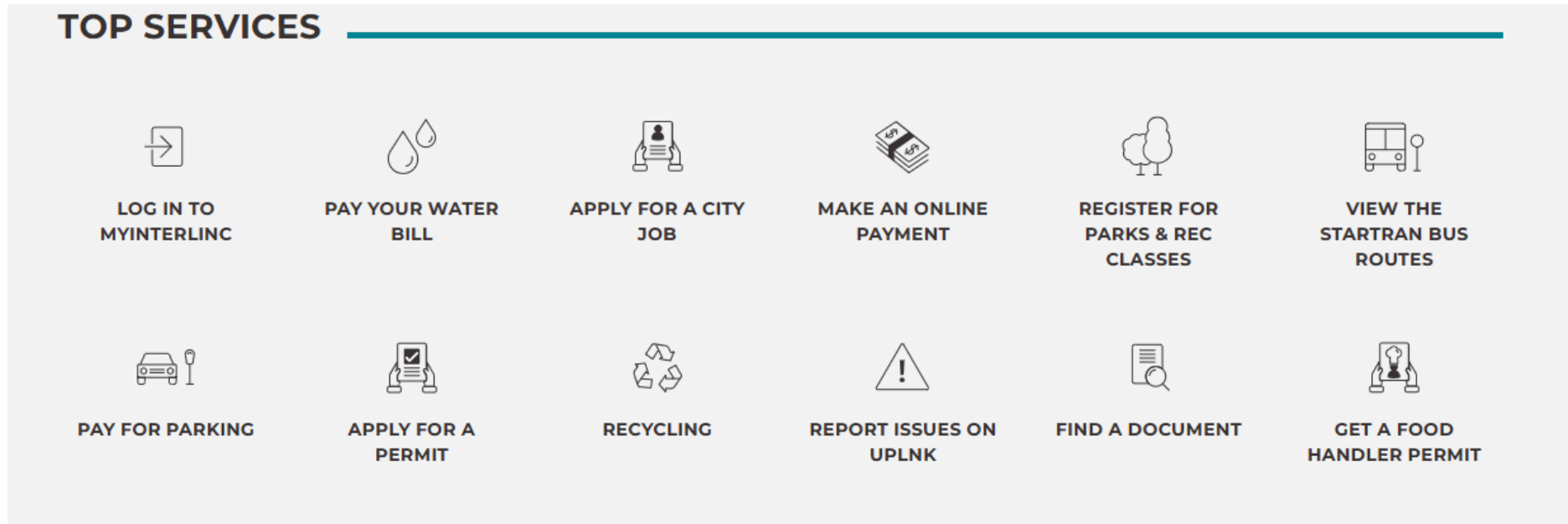
Call 402-441-6000

the Lincoln Police Department

non-emergency number

# Reporting

to report graffiti on other property or public property



Go to [www.lincoln.ne.gov](http://www.lincoln.ne.gov) and click UPLNK, then follow prompts  
or Download the UPLNK app for iOS phone at the Apple Store  
or for Android phone at Google Play



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Health Department

# Reporting

- E-mail  
[wcarver@lincoln.ne.gov](mailto:wcarver@lincoln.ne.gov)
- Call 402-441-4690
- Your message should contain a date, time, location, and brief description of the graffiti.
- Leave your contact information if you want a call back



# What Happens Next?

- Complaints are documented with photos
- Incident is cataloged by Tag Characteristics
- Letter and Photo are sent to Property Owner
- On-site follow-up in 7 days
- Final Inspection after 15 days
- Complaint closed or other intervention options pursued





August 27, 2025

**Graffiti Nuisance Complaint on the Property Located at:**

Dear Property Owner,

The Keep Lincoln and Lancaster County Beautiful – Graffiti Prevention Program has received a report that your property has been the target of graffiti vandalism. We sympathize with your situation. Graffiti is more than vandalism – it decreases our feelings of safety, sends the message that nobody cares and attracts other forms of crime that hurt our neighborhoods and the quality of life that we all want in our community.

The purpose of this letter is to make you aware of your responsibility as a property owner to remove the reported graffiti. Lincoln Municipal Code, Chapter 8.52, requires property owners to remove graffiti within 15 days from receipt of notification. Timely removal of graffiti within 24 to 48 hours is the key to successful graffiti prevention.

Please complete and return the enclosed postage paid response card when the graffiti has been removed. If you have any questions, please email [wcarver@lincoln-ne.gov](mailto:wcarver@lincoln-ne.gov) or call 402.441.4690 and leave a message.

Thank you for your cooperation in the fight against graffiti.

Sincerely,

William Carver  
Graffiti Prevention Coordinator  
Keep Lincoln and Lancaster County Beautiful  
Lincoln-Lancaster County Health Department

File Case Number **NEX – HC25024050**  
Enclosures: Postcard

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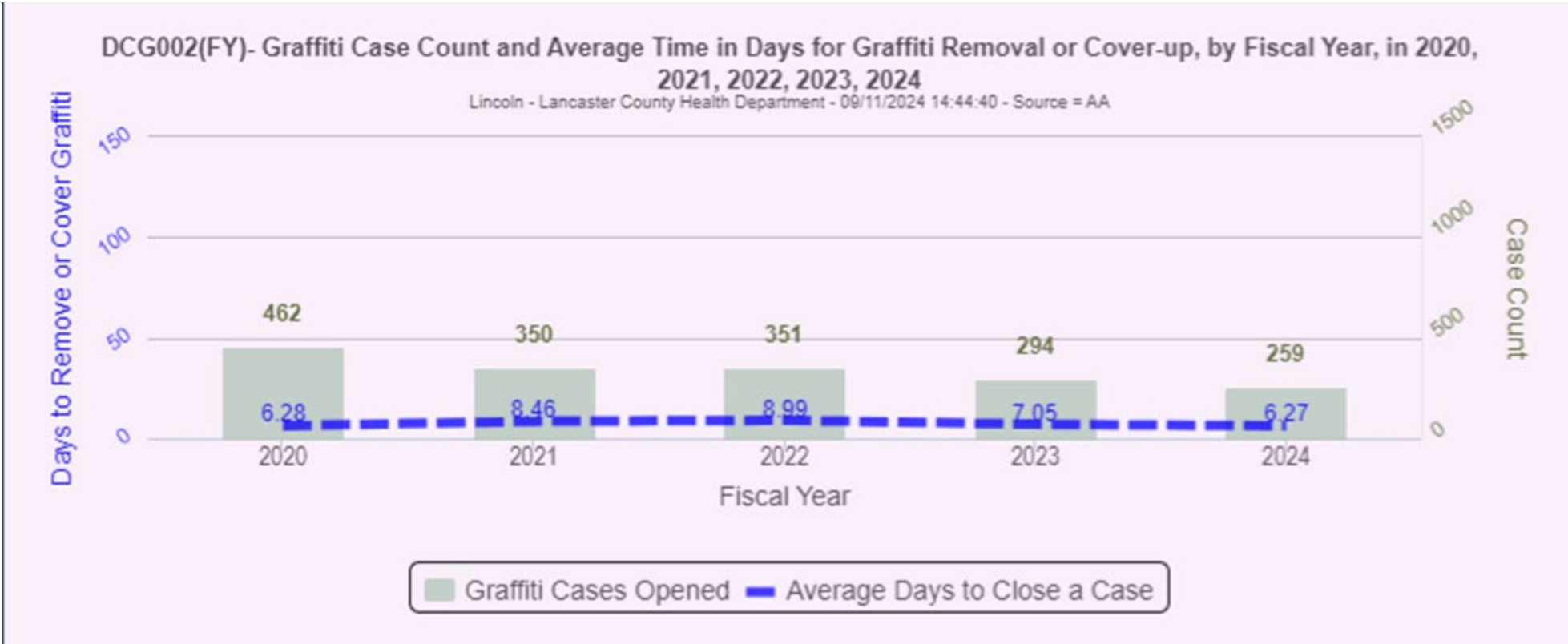


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# Fiscal Year 2025

260 cases reported with 247 closed and 13 being worked currently. LLCHD stives to meet the Mayor’s expectation that incidents be resolved within 10 days. Currently cases are closed within 6-7 days.



# Numbers



# Best Practices

## Ongoing upkeep.

Trim overgrowth, mend fences, pick up litter.

Neatness matters.

## Removal and Prevention are linked!

Prompt removal discourages further incidents.

24-48 hours is ideal.

## Attracting multiple incidents?

Consider cameras, plantings, lighting, or commercial products that make the surface easier to clean or resistant to paint.

Consider coordinating with an arts organization to place a mural.



# Questions?

## Contact

William Carver

Graffiti Prevention Coordinator

402-441-4690

[wcarver@lincoln.ne.gov](mailto:wcarver@lincoln.ne.gov)

Renae Rief

Environmental Health Education Supervisor

402-441-4602

[rrief@lincoln.ne.gov](mailto:rrief@lincoln.ne.gov)



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