



IMPROVING PERFORMANCE AT THE NEXUS OF THE COMMERCIAL AND SOCIAL SECTORS

ABSTRACT

REMOVING GRAFFITI (APRIL 2013)

Graffiti has a proven negative effect on the economy and local communities. It distresses citizens' feeling of safety and neighborhoods with graffiti usually see a decrease in property values, loss of business growth and tourism, and reduced ridership on transit systems. Due to the significant cost graffiti incurs on local communities, governments take the burden of the negative externality through removal. The Graffiti-Free NYC Program, initiated by the New York City Economic Development Corporation, provides no-cost graffiti removal services to clean affected commercial, residential and industrial properties. Local communities also play an important role in fighting against graffiti. Graffiti Hurts - Care for Your Community, a grassroots community education program through the Keep America Beautiful organization, is raising awareness about the harmful effects of graffiti vandalism on communities.

