

Revenue Department Comments on a Recent Report Concerning Parking Meter Vandalism

A recent report implied that vandalism is on the rise. It is not. Vandalism has actually declined.

During the summer of 2009, the parking meter concessionaire reported only 47 incidents of vandalism including attempts to willfully damage parking meters. In the months of May and June, one vandalized meter was reported by the concessionaire per day. In July and August, the concessionaire reported a 50% reduction: only one vandalized meter every *two* days.

The concessionaire reports that more than 99% of the meter system is operational on average.

Graffiti has remained fairly stable throughout the summer of 2009. Graffiti usually is limited to "tagging" or the act of writing a name or nickname on a meter, and typically has no impact on the operation of the meter. The concessionaire documented about 4.4 incidents per day in May/June and about 5.5 incidents per day in July/August.

Vandalism or graffiti are nothing new. The City's meter mechanics regularly dealt with intentionally broken and tagged meters. And Chicago is not alone in this regard. It takes just a quick Google search to find cities from coast to coast that have dealt (and will continue to deal) with vandalism.

Vandalism and graffiti of any kind are not tolerated by businesses and residents. If you park at a parking meter that is inoperable or would like to report graffiti on a parking meter, please call the concessionaire's 24 hour customer support line at 877.242.7901. Inoperable or "tagged" parking meters are addressed in just a few hours, a significant improvement over past years. All repairs are made at the concessionaire's expense.