Executive Summary:

In the spring of 2013, a concerned number of Reno citizens, property and business owners approached the City Council to express concerns that graffiti in our community had reached a “tipping point.” This term was used to convey that portions of urban Reno, including downtown and surrounding business districts, had essentially become a canvas for graffiti vandals and taggers. The proliferation of graffiti was described as being rampant and indiscriminant as evidenced by graffiti blanketing entire building facades with repetitive scrawling and etching on street furniture and utility installations within the public right-of-way. The citizens provided additional concerns that the presence of graffiti could potentially have economic and social impacts by providing a feeling of uneasiness that would drive away business opportunities from our area. Furthermore, the mosaic of painted over graffiti presented a patchwork of bland color tones throughout the landscape, doing little to mask the community’s graffiti problem.

On June 13, 2013, the Reno City Council, in response to these concerns, created a citizen Anti-Graffiti Task Force to comprehensively examine the graffiti issues in the community. This Task Force was charged with “evaluating the City’s current graffiti problem and response, and to prepare recommendations on best practices and enhanced approaches to mitigate graffiti through enforcement, eradication and education.” The group met regularly between August and February, 2014, and this report encompasses the group’s recommendations to the City Council.
The Task Force’s primary recommendations can be summarized as:

- Initiate a formal relationship with a nonprofit for the establishment of an education campaign.
- Develop a comprehensive education campaign targeted at two primary audiences.
- Re-establish the Graffiti Enforcement Team within the Reno Police Department (RPD).
- Utilize the Office of Communications and Community Engagement (OCCE) to conduct media outreach to the citizens of Reno.
- Utilize a Bill Draft Request (BDR) to make changes to existing Nevada laws on graffiti.
- Identify programmatic changes to arts and culture efforts and increase legal offerings to young adults who might engage in graffiti activities.
- Strengthen and coordinate a robust “Adopt-A-Block” program city-wide.
- Conduct an annual graffiti count to establish yearly baseline conditions.
- Explore the feasibility of establishing a volunteer citizen over-watch team to assist in enforcement and eradication.
- Incorporate graffiti eradication provisions into City construction projects and franchise agreements.
- Obtain property clean-up waivers from property owners and do so as a regular course of business.
II. Background Information:

Roots of the Graffiti Movement:

Multiple forms of graffiti can be seen throughout our community. A historical perspective of graffiti often attributes the activity as youthful experimentation that is spontaneous and non-malicious in nature\(^1\). However, today’s motivation is much more than wayward youth spontaneity. According to the National Council to Prevent Delinquency, about 80% of graffiti is hip hop or “tagger” graffiti. Another 5% are “pieces.” Nationally, gang graffiti makes up about 10\(^2\). The following are some of the commonly used terms associated with graffiti culture:

- **A “tag”** is the graffiti vandal’s moniker applied quickly and repeatedly.
- **A “throw-up”** is a more elaborate tag, usually done in two or more colors. Vandals often use balloon letters, which are filled in or left as outlines.
- **“Pieces”** (short for “masterpieces”) are large, detailed drawings. They are colorful and can include cartoon-like characters.
- **Generic or conventional graffiti** includes random markings, initials, declarations of love, graduation events (“Class of 2000”), social commentary, profanity and other non-threatening messages. Generic graffiti has no particular style.
- **Gang graffiti** is used to mark gang territory, list members, offer drugs or contraband for sale or send warnings to rivals. It may include letters, symbols or numbers known only by gangs and law enforcement.
- **Hate or ideological graffiti** consists of any racial, religious or cultural slur.

In the Reno area, graffiti can essentially be broken down into two different major categories; gang graffiti and tagger graffiti. These are described as:

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\(^2\) City of Houston, Web Page as found at [http://www.houstontx.gov/graffiti/facts.html](http://www.houstontx.gov/graffiti/facts.html)
Gang Graffiti:

The primary motive for gang graffiti is tactical in nature. Gang graffiti serves as a public forum for communication between rival gangs and an ability to mark territory, communicate threats or recent triumphs. Gang graffiti is much less about name recognition and application of “art” than is tagger graffiti.

Tagger Graffiti:

Tagger graffiti often involves more intricate and elaborate expressions of “art” that are not generally seen in gang graffiti. The vandal takes great pride in the creation of these more complex applications and strives for maximum exposure and recognition. Most taggers seek some infamy and attach status to having their work seen by others. The tagger’s application can be characterized as a signature of the individual, and as such, is often replicated in multiple places. Because notoriety is important to the tagger, they will often use the same style and theme for all applications.

Characteristics of the Graffiti Offender:

Graffiti offenders are typically young males between the ages of 14 and 25. With the exception of gang related graffiti, there does not appear to be any restriction to socio-economic status, race or educational achievements. In one San Diego study, all taggers identified within a two-mile area were male, and 72% were under the age of 17.

Reno data shows that 99% of those documented and identified taggers are male, with an average age of 20 years old.

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**Offender Characteristics**

- Male: 99%
- Female: 1%

**Offender Age**

- 14-17 yrs: 23%
- 18-20 yrs: 34%
- 21-25 yrs: 35%
- 26-32 yrs: 8%
While most graffiti is applied by lone individuals, recent trends show the prevalence of “Tagger Crews” that work in concert with one another to apply similar tags in multiple areas. Tagger Crews such as “BSK” (Bomb Every Street Krew) and “DFSK” (Different From Society Krew) endeavor to increase notoriety for the group.

Because graffiti is applied within public view and is meant to be visible, most vandals work during times when the public is not out to witness their activity so the likelihood of apprehension is low. Graffiti vandals generally work quickly, during periods of low light and street activity. In Reno, most graffiti incidents occur between Thursday and Sunday, and between the hours of 6 p.m. and 4 a.m.

**Mediums and Tools:**

Graffiti offenders use aerosol based, canned spray paint available for purchase at most hardware and general merchandise outlets. While spray paint is the most prevalent medium used to apply graffiti, a large range of tools may be utilized. Those tools include large markers, shoe polish, rocks, razors, glass cutters and acid based glass etching materials. Currently, City ordinances regulate the sale and display of many of the items commonly utilized to apply graffiti. (See Current Efforts section of this report, Appendix B.)

Graffiti can be placed on a variety of surfaces depending on the tools utilized. In the Reno area, walls and fences are frequent targets. As mentioned, taggers strive for notoriety and recognition and they attach status to having their work seen. As such, taggers vandalize highly visible locations that allow for prolonged visibility and tend to place their graffiti in hard-to-reach places in furtherance of that goal. There is also pride and notoriety in “claiming” difficult to access locations such as overpasses or retaining walls.
Different surfaces place different constraints on eradication efforts. Unpainted masonry type surfaces constitute the most difficult type of surfaces to eradicate graffiti. These surfaces cannot be simply painted over to remove the tag placed there by a vandal, rather efforts to remove the paint with solvents are much more time consuming and delicate in nature. Painted surfaces are much easier for abatement technicians as they can simply re-paint the surface with a like color paint.

**Artist vs. Vandal:**

Street art is a term commonly applied to the more intricate graffiti applications. Typically, individuals who possess above average artistic talent apply their “art” upon the public and private property in the community. Very often these artistic talents are demonstrated in notebooks, termed “piece books”, where many iterations of a tag are practiced over and over again until the tagger is satisfied with its design.

In sharp contrast, gang graffiti is much less artistic in nature. Regardless of the artistic intent or artistic nature of the graffiti, a City representative recently explained “there are a lot of fine artists that go out and create work, and without permission, it is vandalism, no matter how good it is.”

**Economic Impact:**

The Task Force wanted to understand the economic impact of graffiti in Reno both in terms of removal costs to the public and private entities and the lost economic activity/investment associated with the blighting characteristics of graffiti. It soon became evident that these calculations were not easily come by.

While figures vary from city to city, the average cost of graffiti removal for each of the 138 million taxpayers in the United States is $3 to $5 annually. At a 2008 conference of graffiti experts, the annual costs associated with graffiti cleanup was estimated at $12 billion in the U.S. It is important to note that this estimate does not include the costs borne by the property owners that elect to remove the graffiti themselves.

In an effort to understand the costs assumed by property and business owners, the Task Force decided to utilize a few case studies as examples to illustrate some of the costs of graffiti to select Reno businesses and entities.

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1. One business located in the Midtown District calculated their costs associated with graffiti removal over a six-year period. The business reported spending just over $30,000 in costs associated with graffiti removal and repainting. This figure does not include the cost for glass replacement of windows that were tagged with acid based etching material.

2. A Midtown retailer recently received a quote for replacement of two 6’x10’ windows at a total cost of $900. This cost is associated with just one tagging incident.

3. NV Energy estimates it experiences, on average, 80 tagging incidents every year citywide. The utility reported spending in excess of $4,000 per year for the eradication of tags from transformer boxes. This estimate does not include the cost of materials or vehicles. In the estimate provided, NV Energy reports that approximately $12 per hour is passed on to the City’s ratepayers.

4. In 2013, Waste Management of Nevada incurred approximately $63,000 in costs to remove graffiti from its containers and buildings within the City of Reno. In many instances, a freshly painted container seemed to attract taggers, and within days the container was covered with graffiti again. Waste Management employs six full-time container technicians that work solely on maintenance and repair, including graffiti eradication. This issue extends beyond just businesses, as several neighborhoods are seeing their residential waste cans tagged regularly. In addition, Waste Management provides paint to the City of Reno’s Public Works & Parks Departments so they can eradicate graffiti from containers quickly. In 2014, Waste Management will be tracking the number of containers that are tagged and will continue to eradicate graffiti from its containers and buildings.
The City of Reno allocates substantial resources to the detection, enforcement and eradication of graffiti. The annual cost for Calendar Year (CY) 2013 was $253,901 in graffiti related expenditures. With a population estimate of 231,000, the cost per resident in Reno equals $1.10 per individual, ($253,901 / $231,000 = $1.099 per resident for CY 2013). Whereas national averages are calculated on a “per-taxpayer” rate, it should be noted that Reno averages are calculated on a per-resident rate. This includes every person counted in the last census analysis.

As explained previously, it was not easy to quantify the costs of graffiti impacts on a community’s economic activity. This Task Force believes the blight presented by the display of graffiti has the potential to drive prospective business opportunities away from our community. This fact is further evidenced by the California Realtor’s Association statement that indicates five main neighborhood impacts from graffiti, including; decreased home values, intimidation of residents and loss of business customers due to an impression that safety and security is diminished, discouraged tourism and an increase in the at-risk youth population from the display of antisocial and illegal activity.\(^5\)

**Blight and the Consequences:**

The consequences of graffiti stretch far beyond the economic impact to the City of Reno and its citizens. As the City strives to provide safe and livable neighborhoods, consideration should be given to the uneasy feeling the presence of graffiti creates in our community.

Graffiti decreases a resident’s feeling of safety. Neighborhoods with graffiti often see a decrease in property values, loss of business growth and tourism. The presence of graffiti often sends a signal that nobody cares, attracting other forms of crime and street delinquency to the neighborhood.\(^6\)

A concept termed the “Broken windows theory” by James Wilson and George Kelling in 1982, states that social disorder, like that of the presence of graffiti, is a primary source of fear for residents and visitors. The theory states that “unchecked social and physical disorder manifests a breakdown of community controls, and thus become harbingers of more disorder and street crime, potentially including serious crime.”\(^6\)

\(^5\)California Association of Realtors, Legislative Report, June, 2008, Kevin Brown, Chairman.

The recommendations presented heretofore represent a culmination of Task Force ideas to avoid the potential negative economic impact graffiti blight presents.

**Reno Statistics and Hot Spot Areas:**

RPD divides the City into three geographical districts. The North District generally encompasses that geographical area north of Interstate 80 (I-80), the Central District generally encompasses the geographical area south of I-80 to California Avenue, and the South District generally encompasses the geographical area south of California Avenue. All districts generally stretch to the City limits on the east and west boundaries. The discussion below identifies graffiti hot spots in each district.
North District

A snapshot analysis of the North District, June through August 2013, highlights the areas around McQueen High School and the Wedekind Road area as graffiti activity hot spots.
Graffiti Hot Spots June-August

- Significant Level of Activity
- Highest Level of Activity
- Locations
Central District

An analysis of the Central District for the same period, June through August 2013, reveals the areas around Reno High School and areas along the U.S. Interstate 80 corridor as graffiti activity hot spots.
South District

June through August 2013, hot spots are the areas surrounding the Yori Avenue corridor, along South Wells Avenue, and the area bounded by South Virginia Street to the east and Marsh Avenue to the north, Plumb Lane to the south and Plumas Street to the west.
History of Reno Anti-Graffiti Efforts

In 2005, the City established the Graffiti Enforcement Team (GET) to take a no tolerance approach to graffiti related crimes in the community. A central goal of GET was graffiti removal within 48 hours of observation, extensive investigative follow-up and proactive enforcement operations. The team was comprised of:

- Two abatement maintenance workers operating two abatement vehicles.
- An RPD graffiti detective for follow-up investigations.
- An administrative support staff member.

As additional resources the team utilized a computerized tracking software system and an elaborate camera system strategically deployed in graffiti hot spot areas to deter vandals.

The GET utilized a variety of methods to reduce the prevalence of graffiti in the area. By identifying key stakeholders in the area, the team was able to tailor community outreach programs in an effort to reduce the amount of graffiti seen. Community outreach was comprised of: engagement with community groups including the City’s Neighborhood Advisory Boards, education/prevention presentations, distribution of clean-up kits, participation in neighborhood clean-up events and working with neighborhood groups on anti-graffiti strategies and target hardening.

Prior to April 2010, the GET program was a nationally recognized model that provided training and best practices information to law enforcement agencies across the nation. Beginning in April 2010, budget impacts in response to the Great Recession resulted in staffing reductions that significantly decreased the team’s effectiveness. The maintenance workers and support staff person were laid off. These functions were eventually backfilled with part time contract services. The full-time detective was reassigned to the patrol division with investigations reassigned to detectives within the division as extra responsibilities. The cuts resulted in an uptick of the visibility of graffiti in the community and a downward trend in arrests.
**Graffiti Enforcement Team Statistics**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>2009</th>
<th>2010</th>
<th>2011</th>
<th>2012</th>
<th>2013</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Markings Removed</td>
<td>12,250</td>
<td>7,459</td>
<td>2,253</td>
<td>2,688</td>
<td>3,529</td>
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<td>Arrests</td>
<td>74</td>
<td>79</td>
<td>54</td>
<td>18</td>
<td>25</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Citations</td>
<td>39</td>
<td>25</td>
<td>26</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Service Requests for Graffiti Removal to the City</td>
<td>2,203</td>
<td>2,642</td>
<td>1,985</td>
<td>1,584</td>
<td>2,291</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Proactive Graffiti Abatements (those not service request generated)</td>
<td>11,136</td>
<td>6,427</td>
<td>978</td>
<td>1,597</td>
<td>1,764</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Current Status of Reno Anti-Graffiti Efforts**

The City’s commitment to fight graffiti was renewed in 2013. In April of that year the City Council authorized funding for the maintenance abatement workers. While abatement and data collection will be restored to 2009 levels, investigative efforts will continue to be impacted until such time as the full-time detective position is restored.

Additionally, RPD leadership has made graffiti enforcement a top priority for all sworn personnel in the organization. Utilizing the assistance of the “Look, Listen, Let Someone Know” campaign, RPD enlisted the help of community members in reporting graffiti vandals at work. While not as effective as a dedicated graffiti detective, this approach complements the patrol division’s efforts to capture and prosecute graffiti offenders.
Anti-Graffiti Task Force Composition

The Anti-Graffiti Task Force was formed at the direction of the Reno City Council in August of 2013. Each Council Member was asked to suggest one or two individuals they felt would best represent the citizens of the City of Reno in making recommendations to combat the blight caused by graffiti. The Task Force met every three weeks from August, 2013 through February, 2014 in an effort to understand and develop recommendations to combat graffiti. The mission of the Task Force was identified as “Evaluating the City’s current graffiti problem and response, and to prepare recommendations on best practices and enhanced approaches to mitigate graffiti and its effects through education, eradication and enforcement.

Task Force Members include:

Tom Stewart – Committee Chair
Jack Hawkins – Member
Jamie Krahne – Member
Mark Sullivan – Member
Brian Egan – Member
John L’Angelle - Member

Tray Abney – Committee Vice-Chair
Jaime Souza – Member
Ron J. Bath – Member
Barry O’Sullivan – Member
Greg Peek – Member
Task Force Recommendations

A commonly used approach to anti-graffiti efforts is based on a model created by Keep America Beautiful, a national nonprofit advocacy and education organization. The approach simplifies into the three “E’s”: Education, Eradication (abatement or rapid removal) and Enforcement. A multi-faceted, programmatic response is necessary to address this complex, destructive social behavior. While not all recommendations neatly fit into one of the three “E” categories, and some overlap among categories, the Task Force decided to frame the recommendations within the three “E’s” model. This was decided because the three “E’s” is a generally accepted approach and one used by the Council establishing the Task Force purpose.

All of the below listed recommendations are provided with a collaborative model in mind. As the Council determines which recommendations to adopt, consideration should be given to an approach that works with other entities in the community to end graffiti behavior throughout the Reno area, not just within the city limits.

Additionally, this Task Force has considered the possibility of staying intact, even once the recommendations have been presented. The purpose of keeping this group together is to continue the trend analysis from a citizen’s perspective, and to provide additional recommendations as issues change or new issues arise.

Education:
Like any social problem, awareness of the negative impacts and consequences of a harmful activity is critical to change attitudes and behavior. For this reason, a public education campaign is a central component to the Task Force’s recommendations. Recognizing that community partnerships are important to address complex social issues, and that there are limitations to the functions performed by the City, the education campaign is outlined as one conducted by an entity outside of the City in concert with efforts conducted within the City. The City’s role is recommended as one that provides partial financial support to the entity in a contractor type relationship, coupled with the abilities of OCCE to disseminate the information properly.

The education related recommendations are targeted at two distinct populations. An anti-graffiti education approach broadly directed to the public should characterize graffiti as socially unacceptable and blighting on the built environment, in much the same way the anti-littering
campaign of the 1970’s changed public perception about this commonplace practice. A successful graffiti campaign should raise awareness that graffiti is a form of visual pollution and a property crime. The campaign should inspire responses to protect property from graffiti vulnerability, remove graffiti from one’s property and assist in enforcement activities when one has knowledge of graffiti offenses.

The second population is comprised of individuals who are or may be vulnerable to becoming graffiti offenders. This population also includes individuals who, while they may not engage in graffiti activity themselves, may either condone or have social or familial ties with offenders. Outreach to this population should utilize a variety of communication techniques. Some of these could be electronic (through websites or social media), or in person at school assemblies and other similar events. Other approaches may be with the assistance of individuals who may have relationships with graffiti offenders or at-risk populations.

This could involve forming partnerships with art teachers or educators of pre-graffiti aged youth in our area. Other examples might include the use of a former offender who can assist in spreading the word about the consequences of graffiti from an enforcement perspective, or individuals with a level of notoriety that this population can connect with and to whom they will listen.

A successful education campaign should be ongoing and based on trends and statistical analysis of the problem. An ever-evolving approach is necessary to keep the message fresh and top of mind. Exemplary education materials, such as those used by Southern Nevada, the City of Anaheim, CA, and the City of Phoenix, AZ, are provided in Appendix D.
Eradication:

As discussed above, the City’s anti-graffiti initiatives related to graffiti removal have historically been the most resource intensive component of the City’s activities.

In recognition that the City alone cannot successfully eradicate all graffiti, a few key recommendations are made. Beyond maintaining eradication resources at existing levels, recommendations include making eradication kits available to the public with instructions on how to remove graffiti from various types of surfaces. Further, recognizing that utility and infrastructure installations, such as those from Waste Management, NV Energy and AT&T, and public rights-of-way are often graffiti targets, approaches for improved responsiveness from entities that have permanent, or semi-permanent, placements in and around the City is also suggested. Finally, improved partnership and coordination between City and Washoe County governments, particularly the Sheriff’s Office that focuses on graffiti eradication with the use of community service work crews, is also recommended.

Enforcement:

Responsibility for graffiti enforcement within the City of Reno primarily rests with RPD. Other participants within the City’s criminal justice enforcement system include the Criminal Division of the City Attorney’s Office and Municipal Court. Entities with enforcement roles outside the City include the Washoe County District Attorney’s Office, Washoe County Justice and District Courts, the Nevada Legislature and nonprofit organizations like Secret Witness that encourages the public to report graffiti activities.

Nonetheless, the Task Force’s most important recommendation related to enforcement is the rededication of the graffiti detective to the GET Team. There was a sense from talking to a detective who formerly served in this assignment that the complexity of the criminal behavior, due to the stealth characteristics of the crime, and the fact that the behavior is one that is a “coming of age” for many wayward young men which has addictive qualities, justifies a well-trained and focused professional to perform investigative duties. Task Force members understand there are many law enforcement priorities across the community but that graffiti is a crime that is broadly spread among the population. It is the sense of the Task Force that whether victims are property owners, business tenants or a resident out for a leisurely walk who is assaulted by the visual blight of tagging, the impact to a large swath of Reno community members justifies the dedication of this resource from the detective ranks.
Members of this body have met with representatives outside RPD and have determined that we are extremely fortunate for their participation in this effort. This body would like to commend these agencies for their efforts to seek and impose maximum sentences for those convicted of graffiti related offenses and would encourage continued support in this realm.

Further, it is recommended that City management, including RPD Patrol, RFD, Public Works and Parks, Recreation and Community Services Directors place an emphasis on the need for City employees, to report observed graffiti directly to Reno Direct. In doing so, this body believes that eradication and enforcement efforts can be bolstered as we endeavor to stop this destructive behavior.

Additionally, the Task Force recommends the utilization of a BDR to make subtle changes to the Nevada Revised Statutes (NRS) that will assist in future enforcement efforts.

The intent of this bill is to: (1) prohibit graffiti on estray or livestock and provide penalties relating thereto; (2) broaden the definition of “graffiti implements” to capture other methods utilized to place graffiti on property; (3) permit court ordered restitution prior to incurring costs for graffiti clean-up; (4) expand uses of graffiti abatement funds to allow rewards for information obtained prior to conviction and costs related to abatement of graffiti by government; (5) to allow the government to bring a legal civil suit for damages to its property as may a private person; and (6) to add new sections to NRS Chapter 268 applicable to cities incorporated under general or special laws, which are comparable to existing laws applicable to counties under NRS Chapter 244. (See Appendix C for bill draft language.)
Recommendations for Implementation and Sustainability

The following recommendations, as outlined in Appendix A, provide specific actions, in order of priority. Timelines for completion, possible resources to be utilized and parties responsible for overseeing each are also identified. While this is a comprehensive list, it should not be considered an exhaustive one. Should further ideas arise out of the implementation of any of these items, those ideas should likewise be considered.

1. Initiate a formal, collaborative relationship between the City of Reno and a nonprofit organization for the establishment, and continuing oversight, of an education campaign as described above. This body feels this effort should be among the highest priority and commence during the 2014-2015 Fiscal Year (FY). This body understands the resources necessary for this recommendation are limited, but has determined that an annual budgetary allocation for this effort is necessary. By using the existing Request For Proposal (RFP) process, the City can ensure that the recommendation is carried out with fiscal responsibility.

2. Once an established relationship is developed, as outlined in Recommendation #1, a comprehensive and coordinated anti-graffiti education campaign can be created that targets at-risk populations and the general public. The focus of such a campaign should include components of the risks of this type of behavior, why graffiti is harmful to the community and what resources are available to those who are impacted by graffiti. Second in priority to the development of a relationship with a nonprofit, this recommendation is also of the highest priority. Like the first recommendation, it should be targeted to commence during FY 2014-2015. The responsibility for an identified campaign should rest on that entity selected during the RFP process.

3. Establish graffiti as an enforcement priority within RPD so detective resources are allocated and eradication efforts are sustained at the optimum level. The RPD’s program was once looked at as a national model with incredible effectiveness, this level of effectiveness should be restored. Understanding that education is vital to any effort, the enforcement and eradication is equally vital and should be funded by the City Council as they set the RPD budget for FY 2014-2015 and beyond. The responsibility for bringing the Graffiti Enforcement Team back to its peak of success shall lie on the City Manager and Chief of Police.
4. The City should endeavor to establish a media outreach initiative comprised of a media blitz, media kits and public service announcements from the City of Reno that highlight the problems associated with graffiti. This effort should be borne by OCCE at the direction of the City Manager. Further, the media initiative should be in place, and run commensurate, with the campaign established in Recommendation #2.

5. Utilize a City BDR to request changes, identified in Appendix C, to existing NRS pertaining to graffiti. The lion’s share of this work is already completed by the City Attorney’s Office and would require minimal edits for introduction during the 2015 Legislative Session.

6. Using the resources of the City of Reno Parks, Recreation and Community Services Department, in conjunction with their art partners; we recommend an examination of the Arts and Culture programming to identify opportunities to increase offerings to young adults in recognition that the arts and culture needs of this population may be underserved. This examination should start in FY 2014-2015 and run for that time deemed necessary to reach the desired population.

7. Strengthen and coordinate an “Adopt-A-Block” type program that targets regular neighborhood clean-up activities. Many of these activities already occur in isolated pockets around the region and coordination efforts will pay dividends by strengthening this approach. Further, establishing community forums in neighborhoods identified as “hot spots”, through statistical analysis, will bring attention to the need for neighborhood clean-up events. At the direction of the City Manager and designated City staff, this program will likely result in little to no expenditures that cannot be borne by program sponsors. (See District of Columbia example in Appendix D)

8. Conduct an annual graffiti count to establish baseline conditions. In order to determine the efficacy of any programmatic changes, there must be an understanding of baseline and ongoing conditions. Utilizing social scientific methods, the City of Reno should establish a relationship with the Keep Truckee Meadows Beautiful organization and University of Nevada Reno, Criminal Justice departments to conduct the annual count. By using these entities, budgetary issues can all but be eliminated.

9. Explore, with RPD, the feasibility of establishing a volunteer citizen’s over-watch initiative that will patrol the City to look for graffiti activity and supplement enforcement initiatives. This program can be run at the direction of RPD and should not incur any costs. Understanding the
liability of such an effort, this body recommends this be fully studied and implemented only if appropriate.

10. Incorporate into City construction contracts and franchise agreements stipulations of penalties for graffiti on signage, equipment and infrastructure placed in rights-of-way. As identified above, the removal of graffiti in a timely manner augments the efforts to reduce the attraction of such activities. Utilizing stipulations that require graffiti removal from entities seeking construction permits and those seeking franchise agreements with the City will leverage the ability to eradicate graffiti in a timely manner. This recommendation is placed lower in priority order as it is understood that the implementation will take some time. Once established, this recommendation will become a regular course of business in the City. Resources to carry out this recommendation can come from the City of Reno Public Works and Finance Departments’ staff.

11. Lastly, the Task Force recommends that City staff attempt to obtain property clean-up waivers, in advance of any graffiti vandalism, from property owners. During its research, the Task Force has determined that eradication efforts are often hampered by delays in getting waivers signed by absentee owners or owners of vacant buildings. By building in a process that allows for advanced signatures on waivers, the City’s abatement staff will be pre-authorized to remove graffiti from private property. Seeking the assistance from a variety of groups like The Chamber, Realtor Associations and Homeowner Associations, the RPD’s graffiti team can oversee the collection of waivers. (See City of Phoenix Example in Appendix D)
Conclusion

The Anti-Graffiti Task Force thanks the City Council for prioritizing the beautification of our City and recommending us for positions in this group. While much was learned during this effort, it is more important to know that there is still a lot to learn about graffiti vandalism. The recommendations provided within this report are a compellation of input from all members and City staff experts. Graffiti is a complex anti-social behavior that requires a long term and vigilant commitment to combat. The 2010 budget cuts to anti-graffiti efforts and predictable proliferation of graffiti blight demonstrated that graffiti does not go away on its own. We hope the recommendations herein will provide a useful platform for the City to maintain a sustained and enduring effort against this destructive vandalism.
## Appendix A

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Action</th>
<th>Priority</th>
<th>Time line to Commence the Action</th>
<th>Resources</th>
<th>Responsible Party</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. Initiate a formal, collaborative relationship between the City of Reno and a non-profit organization to assist in graffiti education efforts.</td>
<td>Highest</td>
<td>FY2014-2015</td>
<td>Annual budget allocation by City Council</td>
<td>City of Reno to issue request for proposal (RFP)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2. Develop a comprehensive anti-graffiti education campaign geared toward at-risk populations. Develop a coordinated public education campaign, geared toward the public, about why graffiti is harmful to a community and make resources available for the public to combat and remove graffiti.</td>
<td>Highest</td>
<td>FY2014-2015</td>
<td>See Above</td>
<td>Successful Respondent to Above</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3. Establish graffiti as an enforcement priority within the Reno Police Department so detective resources are allocated and eradication efforts sustained at current levels.</td>
<td>Highest</td>
<td>FY2014-2015</td>
<td>Reno Police Department budget as set by the City Council</td>
<td>Reno City Manager</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4. Media outreach initiative comprising of a media blitz, media kits and public service announcements and letters to the editor. See APPENDIX D</td>
<td>Highest</td>
<td>FY 2014 and beyond</td>
<td>OCCE</td>
<td>Reno City Manager</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5. Examine City of Reno and other regional art and culture programming and sponsored special events to identify opportunities to increase offerings to young adults in recognition that the art and culture needs of this population is underserved.</td>
<td>Secondary</td>
<td>FY 2014 and beyond</td>
<td>City of Reno Parks and Recreation and Cultural Programs budget as set by Reno City Council and other resources of arts organizations.</td>
<td>Reno City Manager</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6. Strengthen and coordinate “Adopt-a-Block” type programs among sponsoring entities. Hold community forums in neighborhoods identified as “hot spots” to bring attention to the need for neighborhood clean-up events.</td>
<td>Secondary</td>
<td>FY2015</td>
<td>City of Reno Parks and Recreation and Cultural Programs staff and other City staff as necessary.</td>
<td>Reno City Manager</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7. Conduct an annual graffiti count to establish baseline conditions.</td>
<td>Secondary</td>
<td>FY2015</td>
<td>K.T.M.B. and Univ. of Nevada</td>
<td>K.T.M.B.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
### Appendix A

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<table>
<thead>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>8. Explore the feasibility of establishing a citizen’s over-watch initiative that will look out for graffiti activity and assist in order to supplement enforcement initiatives.</td>
<td>Lower</td>
<td>FY2015</td>
<td>City of Reno Police Department staff resources</td>
<td>Reno City Manager</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9. Incorporate into City construction contracts and franchise agreements, stipulations of penalties for graffiti on signage, equipment, and infrastructure placed in rights-of-way.</td>
<td>Lower</td>
<td>FY 2015</td>
<td>City of Reno Public Works and Finance Department Staff resources</td>
<td>Reno City manager</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10. Raise private funds, for graffiti removal, from individuals and foundations</td>
<td>Lower</td>
<td>FY2015</td>
<td>Members of the City of Reno Ad Hoc Anti-Graffiti Taskforce</td>
<td>Taskforce Members</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11. Obtain property clean-up waivers in advance from property owners.</td>
<td>Lower</td>
<td>FY2015</td>
<td>Reno Police Department Graffiti Abatement staff, The Chamber, Business Groups, H.O.A.’s</td>
<td>Reno City Manager</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Appendix B

Existing Reno Municipal Code

Applicable provisions related to Graffiti

Sec. 8.22.010. Title.

This chapter shall be known as the "Nuisance Ordinance of the City of Reno," may be cited as such, and will be referred to hereafter as "Ordinance."

(Ord. No. 5863, § 1, 8-23-06)

Sec. 8.22.020. Purpose and scope.

(a) It is determined and declared as follows:

(1) The city has a substantial and legitimate interest in seeing that its community, including property, buildings and premises within its limits, is kept in a safe and aesthetically pleasing condition;

(2) The keeping or maintaining of property, buildings and premises at variance with the level of maintenance of surrounding properties will result in blighting and/or unsafe conditions and substantial diminution in the employment, use, aesthetic and property values of such surrounding properties;

(3) It is desirous to promote the maintenance of property, buildings and premises in order to enhance the livability, community appearance, and the safe, social and economic conditions of the community;

(4) The increase of graffiti on both public and private buildings, structures and places is creating a condition of blight within the city which results in the deterioration of property and business values for adjacent and surrounding properties, all to the detriment of the city;

(5) A significant portion of the graffiti now appearing is related to the activities of youth gangs and that the prompt elimination of such graffiti from public view would contribute to the city's efforts to control and minimize the presence of youth gangs within the community; and

(6) The graffiti is obnoxious constituting a nuisance which must be abated so as to avoid the detrimental impact of such graffiti upon the city and to prevent the further spread thereof.

(b) The purpose of this chapter is to protect the health, safety and welfare of the citizens of Reno and to promote the maintenance of property, buildings and premises in order to enhance the livability, community appearance, and the safe, social and economic conditions of the community.
(c) This chapter shall apply to all property, buildings and premises within the city without regard to the use, the date of construction or alteration.

(Ord. No. 5091, § 1, 11-9-99)

Sec. 8.22.030. Definitions. The following definitions will be used in this ordinance unless the context otherwise requires:

**Abandoned structure.** Any structure:

(1) That has been vacant or substantially vacant for a period of 12 months or more; or

(2) That has been vacant for any period of time creating an attractive nuisance, a health hazard, an imminent hazard or an incipient hazard.

**Aerosol paint container.** Any aerosol container, regardless of the material from which it is made, which is adopted or made for the purpose of spraying paint or other substance capable of defacing property.

**Attractive nuisance.** Property, buildings or premises which are in such an unsecured state so as to potentially constitute an attraction to children, a harbor for vagrants, criminals, or other unauthorized persons, or so as to enable persons to resort thereto for the purpose of committing a nuisance or unlawful act.

**Blight.** Any condition which substantially impairs the livability or community appearance, or the safe, social or economic conditions of the community.

**Criminal activity.** Any activity punishable as a misdemeanor under the Reno Municipal Code or as a misdemeanor, gross misdemeanor or felony under NRS Title 15, or which is in violation of any federal law.

**Debris.** Substance of little or no apparent economic value, which may be present in a state of apparent unpremeditated disarray.

**Graffiti.** Unauthorized markings, such as initials, slogans, inscriptions, figures, marks or drawings commonly known and referred to as graffiti, written, spray-painted, etched or sketched on a sidewalk, wall, building, fence, sign, or any other public or private surface or property, including vehicles. [Reference NRS 268.4075]

**Graffiti materials.** Materials used to facilitate the placement of graffiti, as defined above, including but not limited to, aerosol paint containers, aerosol paint container tips, broad-tipped markers with a width greater than one-quarter-inch, paint sticks, graffiti sticks, engraving devices, and etching tools, or any other implement capable of marking on and/or scarring glass, metal, concrete or wood.
Sec. 8.22.070. Graffiti.

(a) No person shall cause graffiti to be applied to any public or private property, building or premises.

(b) Possession of graffiti materials.

(1) By juveniles.

It shall be unlawful for any person under the age of 18 years to possess any graffiti materials while on any school property, grounds, facilities, buildings, or structures or within 500 feet of those specific locations except where necessary for proper school related purposes, or upon public property or upon private property without the prior written consent of the owner or occupant of such private property.

(2) In designated public places.

It shall be unlawful for any person to possess any graffiti materials with the intent to place graffiti on any public property while in or upon any public facility, school, park, playground, swimming pool, recreational facility, or other public building or structure owned or operated by the city or while in or within 50 feet of any underpass, bridge abutment, storm drain, or similar types of infrastructure unless otherwise authorized by the city. Possession of more than three items defined as graffiti materials by any person while in or upon any location specified in this subsection shall create a rebuttable presumption that such person did intend to place graffiti on property.

(c) Juvenile offenders are under the jurisdiction of the juvenile court and will be sanctioned in accordance with applicable Nevada Revised Statutes, including NRS Chapter 62.

(d) Notwithstanding the abatement provisions set forth in Chapter 1.05 of the Code and this chapter, if the enforcement official determines that the graffiti is so located on a public or privately owned property, building, structure or premises within the city so as to be capable of being viewed by a person using any public right-of-way in the city, he or his authorized designee may provide for the removal of the graffiti at city expense without reimbursement from the owner of record and/or responsible party upon whose property, building, structure or premises the graffiti has been applied if:

(1) The painting or repair is confined to removing or obliterating the graffiti only;

(2) The property, building, structure or premises is owned by a public entity other than the city, and removal of the graffiti is authorized with the consent of the public entity having jurisdiction over the property, building, structure or premises; or

(3) The property, building, structure or premises is privately owned, the removal by the city may be authorized only after securing consent and waiver of liability.
from the owner. If the owner cannot be determined or refuses to abate the graffiti, the City may pursue abatement procedures as set forth in Chapter 1.05 of the Code.

(Ord. No. 5863, § 1, 8-23-06)

**Sec. 8.22.075. Accessibility to graffiti materials.**

(a) For purposes of this section only, graffiti materials shall be defined as aerosol paint containers, broad-tipped markers with a surface area greater than one-quarter-inch width, and paint sticks.

(b) Sale of graffiti materials.

It shall be unlawful for any person, other than a parent, legal guardian or school teacher, to sell, exchange, give, loan, or otherwise furnish or cause or permit to be exchanged, given, loaned, or otherwise furnished, any graffiti materials to any juvenile without the prior written consent of the parent or guardian of the juvenile.

(c) Display and storage.

(1) Every person who owns, conducts, operates, or manages a retail commercial establishment selling graffiti materials shall store the graffiti materials in an area continuously observable, through direct visual observation or surveillance equipment by employees of the retail establishment during the regular course of business.

(2) In the event that a commercial retail establishment is unable to store the graffiti materials as provided above, the establishment shall store the graffiti materials in an area not accessible to the public in the regular course of business without employee assistance.

(Ord. No. 5863, § 1, 8-23-06)
NRS 206.005 “Graffiti” defined. As used in this chapter, “graffiti” means any unauthorized inscription, word, figure or design that is marked, etched, scratched, drawn, painted on or affixed to the public or private property, real or personal, of another, which defaces the property.

(Added to NRS by 1995, 736)

NRS 206.330 Placing graffiti on or otherwise defacing property: Fines and penalties; restitution; parent or guardian responsible for fines and penalties if person violating section is under age of 18 years; suspension of driver’s license.

1. Unless a greater criminal penalty is provided by a specific statute, a person who places graffiti on or otherwise defaces the public or private property, real or personal, of another, without the permission of the owner:
   (a) Where the value of the loss is less than $250, is guilty of a misdemeanor.
   (b) Where the value of the loss is $250 or more but less than $5,000, is guilty of a gross misdemeanor.
   (c) Where the value of the loss is $5,000 or more or where the damage results in the impairment of public communication, transportation or police and fire protection, is guilty of a category E felony and shall be punished as provided in NRS 193.130. If the court grants probation to such a person, the court shall require as a condition of probation that the person serve at least 10 days in the county jail.
   (d) Where the offense is committed on any protected site in this State, is guilty of a category C felony and shall be punished as provided in NRS 193.130. If the court grants probation to such a person, the court shall require as a condition of probation that the person serve at least 10 days in the county jail.

2. If a person commits more than one offense pursuant to a scheme or continuing course of conduct, the value of all property damaged or destroyed by that person in the commission of those offenses must be aggregated for the purpose of determining the penalty prescribed in subsection 1, but only if the value of the loss when aggregated is $500 or more.

3. A person who violates subsection 1 shall, in addition to any other fine or penalty imposed:
   (a) For the first offense, pay a fine of not less than $400 but not more than $1,000 and perform 100 hours of community service.
   (b) For the second offense, pay a fine of not less than $750 but not more than $1,000 and perform 200 hours of community service.
   (c) For the third and each subsequent offense:
      (1) Pay a fine of $1,000; and
      (2) Perform up to 300 hours of community service for up to 1 year, as determined by the court. The court may order the person to repair, replace, clean up or keep free of graffiti the property damaged or destroyed by the person or, if it is not practicable for the person to repair, replace, clean up or keep free of graffiti that specific property, the court may order the person to repair, replace, clean up or keep free of graffiti another specified property. The community service assigned pursuant to this subsection must, if possible, be related to the abatement of graffiti.

4. The court may, in addition to any other fine or penalty imposed, order a person who violates subsection 1 to pay restitution.
5. The parent or legal guardian of a person under 18 years of age who violates this section is liable for all fines and penalties imposed against the person. If the parent or legal guardian is unable to pay the fine and penalties resulting from a violation of this section because of financial hardship, the court may require the parent or legal guardian to perform community service.

6. If a person who is 18 years of age or older is found guilty of violating this section, the court shall, in addition to any other penalty imposed, issue an order suspending the driver’s license of the person for not less than 6 months but not more than 2 years. The court shall require the person to surrender all driver’s licenses then held by the person. If the person does not possess a driver’s license, the court shall issue an order prohibiting the person from applying for a driver’s license for not less than 6 months but not more than 2 years. The court shall, within 5 days after issuing the order, forward to the Department of Motor Vehicles any licenses together with a copy of the order.

7. The Department of Motor Vehicles:
   (a) Shall not treat a violation of this section in the manner statutorily required for a moving traffic violation.
   (b) Shall report the suspension of a driver’s license pursuant to this section to an insurance company or its agent inquiring about the person’s driving record. An insurance company shall not use any information obtained pursuant to this paragraph for purposes related to establishing premium rates or determining whether to underwrite the insurance.

8. A criminal penalty imposed pursuant to this section is in addition to any civil penalty or other remedy available pursuant to this section or another statute for the same conduct.

9. As used in this section:
   (a) “Impairment” means the disruption of ordinary and incidental services, the temporary loss of use or the removal of the property from service for repair of damage.
   (b) “Protected site” means:
      (1) A site, landmark, monument, building or structure of historical significance pertaining to the history of the settlement of Nevada;
      (2) Any Indian campgrounds, shelters, petroglyphs, pictographs and burials; or
      (3) Any archeological or paleontological site, ruin, deposit, fossilized footprints and other impressions, petroglyphs and pictographs, habitation caves, rock shelters, natural caves, burial ground or sites of religious or cultural importance to an Indian tribe.
   (c) “Value of the loss” means the cost of repairing, restoring or replacing the property, including, without limitation, the cost of any materials and labor necessary to repair, restore or replace the item.


NRS 206.335 Carrying graffiti implement at certain locations with intent to vandalize, place graffiti on or deface property.

1. Any person who carries on his or her person a graffiti implement with the intent to vandalize, place graffiti on or otherwise deface public or private property, real or personal, of another:
   (a) While on or under any overpass or bridge or in any flood channel;
   (b) At any public facility, community center, park, playground, swimming pool, transportation facility, beach or recreational area whereon a sign is posted in a location reasonably expected to be viewed by the public which states that it is a misdemeanor to possess a graffiti implement at that public location without valid authorization; or
(c) In a public transportation vehicle wherein a sign is posted that is easily viewed by passengers which states that it is a misdemeanor to possess a graffiti implement in the vehicle without valid authorization, is guilty of a misdemeanor unless the person has first received valid authorization from the governmental entity which has jurisdiction over the public area or other person who is designated to provide such authorization.

2. As used in this section:
   (a) “Broad-tipped indelible marker” means any felt-tipped marker or similar implement which contains a fluid that is not soluble in water and which has a flat or angled writing surface of a width of one-half inch or greater.
   (b) “Graffiti implement” means any broad-tipped indelible marker or aerosol paint container or other item that may be used to propel or apply fluid that is not soluble in water.
   (c) “Public transportation vehicle” means a bus, train or other vehicle or instrumentality used to transport persons from a transportation facility to another location.
   (d) “Transportation facility” means an airport, marina, bus terminal, train station, bus stop or other facility where a person may go to obtain transportation.

(Added to NRS by 2007, 2296)

NRS 206.340 Graffiti Reward Account created; administrative assessment to be imposed for certain violations; use of money in Account.

1. The Graffiti Reward Account is hereby created in the State General Fund.
2. When a defendant pleads or is found guilty of violating NRS 206.125, 206.330 or 206.335, the court shall include an administrative assessment of $250 for each violation in addition to any other fine or penalty. The money collected must be paid by the clerk of the court to the State Controller on or before the fifth day of each month for the preceding month for credit to the Graffiti Reward Account.
3. All money received pursuant to subsection 2 must be deposited with the State Controller for credit to the Graffiti Reward Account. The money in the Account must be used:
   (a) To pay a reward to a person who, in response to the offer of a reward, provides information which results in the identification, apprehension and conviction of a person who violates NRS 206.125, 206.330 or 206.335; or
   (b) For any other purpose authorized by the Legislature.
4. If sufficient money is available in the Graffiti Reward Account, a state law enforcement agency may offer a reward, not to exceed $1,000, for information leading to the identification, apprehension and conviction of a person who violates NRS 206.125, 206.330 or 206.335. The reward must be paid out of the Graffiti Reward Account upon approval by the State Board of Examiners.

(Added to NRS by 1995, 737; A 2001, 2923; 2007, 2298; 2010, 26th Special Session, 5; 2011, 441)

NRS 206.345 Counseling; person or entity to be paid if restitution is ordered for violation of NRS 206.125 or 206.330; civil action.

1. A court may, in addition to any other fine or penalty imposed, order a person who places graffiti on or otherwise defaces public or private property in violation of NRS 206.125 or 206.330 to participate in counseling, and if the person is less than 18 years of age, order the parent or legal guardian of the person to attend or participate in counseling pursuant to NRS 62E.290.
2. If a court orders a person who violates the provisions of NRS 206.125 or 206.330 to pay restitution, the person shall pay the restitution to:
   (a) The owner of the property which was affected by the violation; or
   (b) If the violation involved the placing of graffiti on any public property, the governmental entity that incurred expenses for removing, covering or cleaning up the graffiti.

3. The owner of public or private property that has been damaged by graffiti may bring a civil action against the person who placed the graffiti on such property. The court may award to the property owner damages in an amount up to three times the amount of any loss in value to the property and up to three times the cost of restoring the property plus attorney’s fees and costs, which may be recovered from the offender or, if the offender is less than 18 years of age, from the parent or legal guardian of the offender.
   (Added to NRS by 2007, 2296; A 2011, 1599)
Appendix C

DRAFT
BILL DRAFT REQUEST FROM (add source)

REQUEST LIMITED TO
ONE SUBJECT ONLY

FOR LCB USE ONLY

BDR#

FROM:

TO:

DATE:

Intent of Proposed Bill: (Brief Summary of Intended Effect)

The intent of this bill is to: (1) prohibit graffiti on estray or livestock and to provide penalties relating thereto; (2) broaden the definition of “graffiti implements” to capture other methods utilized to place graffiti on property; (3) permit court ordered restitution prior to incurring costs for graffiti clean-up; (4) expand uses of graffiti abatement funds to allow rewards for information obtained prior to conviction and for costs for abatement of graffiti by government; (5) to allow the government to bring a civil suit for damages to its property as may a private person; and (6) to add new sections to NRS Chapter 268 applicable to cities incorporated under general or special laws, which are comparable to existing laws applicable to counties under NRS Chapter 244.

I. Justification or Purpose:

The City of Reno established an Anti-Graffiti Task Force in 2013 comprised of citizens and business owners to review and make recommendations for improvements to combat graffiti which has become prevalent throughout the municipality. As part of its mission, the Task Force coordinated with the Reno Police Department, Reno City Attorney’s Office, Municipal Court, as well as, collaborated with other local agencies, for purposes of determining suggested improvements to existing graffiti laws.

Graffiti is not an isolated problem and amendments to the current NRS provisions would increase effectiveness of combating the problem at the local level. The League of California Cities in its August 2013 Western City Publication indicates that graffiti has resulted in an annual cost of more than $12 billion nationally just for clean-up and cites as a solution to establish comprehensive city [or other local] ordinances based upon state law. The California Realtors Association has identified five main neighborhood impacts from graffiti as: (1) homeowner costs with decreased home values of up to 20%; (2) societal costs with decreased perception of safety, lower community pride and a message of urban decay; (3) neighborhood dynamics and business impacts – intimidated residents and loss of business customers due to impression that safety and security is diminished; (4) discourages tourism, invites street gangs and other vandalism including attracting crime in general; and (5) impact on youth increasing the
at-risk youth population and display of antisocial and illegal activity.

Additional victims of graffiti include homeowners, apartment and property managers, business owners, schools, governments, utilities, public works, public transit agencies, and animals. Cities, and the destruction to their economic viability and ability to attract and maintain business caused by graffiti, should not be overlooked as a victim to this complicated crime.

In the City of Reno, graffiti locations have unfortunately expanded to include placement of graffiti on horses, which are livestock and estray. Separately, offenders are using other application methods or implements which vary from those set forth in current law. These methods include shoe polish, rocks, razors, glass cutters and glass etching fluid. Glass etching fluids include acids originally developed for hobby use in decorating glass. The proposed amendments intend to prohibit graffiti on livestock and estray and to capture the changing methods for application or placement of graffiti.

Common locations for graffiti include public property, such as traffic signs, statues, monuments, utility poles, utility boxes, trees, sidewalks, parking garages, and other public areas. This bill proposes to expand NRS Chapter 206 to allow restitution to the governments prior to incurring costs for graffiti clean-up and to allow the government the ability to bring a civil suit for damage to its property, which is already available to private property owners.

The graffiti abatement fund established in NRS Chapter 268 requires a conviction before funds may be used or released to reward persons providing information on graffiti crimes. In combating graffiti, rapid and early detection of perpetrators serves to reduce persistent graffiti offenders. Informants are reluctant to provide information on perpetrators if they are required to wait through a conviction, which may take months for completion.

Graffiti abatement should be a comprehensive and coordinated approach, which includes rewards, but also should provide for use of this fund by public agencies for prompt graffiti removal or abatement. Most public agencies have graffiti removal programs from both private and public property. Allowing graffiti abatement funds to be utilized by jurisdictions for costs relating to abatement of graffiti sanctions a restorative justice approach to combat recidivism. Prompt and early removal serves to reduce proliferation of graffiti at lame location or hot spots.

Counts have laws in NRS Chapter 244 which allow removal of graffiti from certain areas located on residential and nonresidential properties, which should be provided to cities. These laws provide for notice and due process requirements. Importantly, the laws allow graffiti removal when the owner is not available or is nonresponsive. Cities are experiencing increased graffiti on foreclosed and vacant properties which may take many months to effectuate abatement, especially in blighted areas. Offenders often target locations with little over-site or absentee owners because the graffiti is displayed for extended time periods.

II. **NRS Title, Chapter and Section affected:** NRS Chapter 206, Malicious Mischief, Sections 206.005, 206.150, 206.330, 206.335, and 206.345; NRS Chapter 268, Powers and Duties of Cities, Sections 268.4075, 268.408, 268.4085 and addition of new sections.
NOTES: The BDR reflects change to portions of NRS Chapter 206 and NRS Chapter 268. The presenter may want to expand bill language to State and County Graffiti Reward Accounts (NRS 206.340 and 244.3695).

III. Effective Date:

IV. Suggested Language:

[NEXT LANGUAGE IS IN BOLD ITALICS AND DELETED LANGUAGE IS IN BRACKETS WITH STRIKE THROUGH.]

NRS 206.005 “Graffiti” defined. As used in this chapter, “graffiti” means any unauthorized inscription, word, figure or design that is marked, etched, scratched, drawn, painted on or affixed to the public or private property, real or personal, of another, including estray or livestock, which defaces the property.

NRS 206.150 Killing, maiming, disfiguring, placing graffiti upon or poisoning animal of another person; killing estray or livestock.

1. Except as otherwise provided in subsections 2 and 3, any person who willfully and maliciously kills, maims, places graffiti upon or disfigures any animal belonging to another, or exposes any poison or noxious substance with intent that it should be taken by the animal is guilty of a category D felony and shall be punished as provided in NRS 193.130, and may be further punished by a fine of not more than $10,000.

2. Except as otherwise provided in NRS 205.220, a person who willfully and maliciously kills an estray or one or more head of livestock, without the authority to do so, is guilty of a category C felony and shall be punished as provided in NRS 193.130.

3. The provisions of subsection 1 do not apply to any person who kills a dog pursuant to NRS 575.020.

4. As used in this section:
(a) “Estray” means any livestock running at large upon public or private lands in this state, whose owner is unknown in the section where the animal is found.
(b) “Livestock” has the meaning ascribed to it in NRS 205.219.

NRS 206.330 Placing graffiti on or otherwise defacing property: Fines and penalties; restitution; parent or guardian responsible for fines and penalties if person violating section is under age of 18 years; suspension of driver’s license.

1. Unless a greater criminal penalty is provided by a specific statute, a person who places graffiti on or otherwise defaces the public or private property, real or personal, of another, including estray or livestock, without the permission of the owner:
(a) Where the value of the loss is less than $250, is guilty of a misdemeanor.
(b) Where the value of the loss is $250 or more but less than $5,000, is guilty of a gross misdemeanor.
(c) Where the value of the loss is $5,000 or more or where the damage results in the impairment of public communication, transportation or police and fire protection, is guilty of a category E felony and shall be punished as provided in NRS 193.130. If the court grants probation to such a person, the court shall require as a condition of probation that the person
serve at least 10 days in the county jail.

(d) Where the offense is committed on any protected site in this State, is guilty of a category D felony and shall be punished as provided in NRS 193.130. If the court grants probation to such a person, the court shall require as a condition of probation that the person serve at least 10 days in the county jail.

2. If a person commits more than one offense pursuant to a scheme or continuing course of conduct, the value of all property damaged or destroyed by that person in the commission of those offenses must be aggregated for the purpose of determining the penalty prescribed in subsection 1, but only if the value of the loss when aggregated is $500 or more.

3. A person who violates subsection 1 shall, in addition to any other fine or penalty imposed:

   (a) For the first offense, pay a fine of not less than $400 but not more than $1,000 and perform 100 hours of community service.

   (b) For the second offense, pay a fine of not less than $750 but not more than $1,000 and perform 200 hours of community service.

   (c) For the third and each subsequent offense:

       (1) Pay a fine of $1,000; and

       (2) Perform up to 300 hours of community service for up to 1 year, as determined by the court. The court may order the person to repair, replace, clean up or keep free of graffiti the property damaged or destroyed by the person or, if it is not practicable for the person to repair, replace, clean up or keep free of graffiti that specific property, the court may order the person to repair, replace, clean up or keep free of graffiti another specified property.

   □ The community service assigned pursuant to this subsection must, if possible, be related to the abatement of graffiti.

4. The court may, in addition to any other fine or penalty imposed, order a person who violates subsection 1 to pay restitution.

5. The parent or legal guardian of a person under 18 years of age who violates this section is liable for all fines and penalties imposed against the person. If the parent or legal guardian is unable to pay the fine and penalties resulting from a violation of this section because of financial hardship, the court may require the parent or legal guardian to perform community service.

6. If a person who is 18 years of age or older is found guilty of violating this section, the court shall, in addition to any other penalty imposed, issue an order suspending the driver’s license of the person for not less than 6 months but not more than 2 years. The court shall require the person to surrender all driver’s licenses then held by the person. If the person does not possess a driver’s license, the court shall issue an order prohibiting the person from applying for a driver’s license for not less than 6 months but not more than 2 years. The court shall, within 5 days after issuing the order, forward to the Department of Motor Vehicles any licenses together with a copy of the order.

7. The Department of Motor Vehicles:

   (a) Shall not treat a violation of this section in the manner statutorily required for a moving traffic violation.

   (b) Shall report the suspension of a driver’s license pursuant to this section to an insurance company or its agent inquiring about the person’s driving record. An insurance company shall not use any information obtained pursuant to this paragraph for purposes related to establishing premium rates or determining whether to underwrite the insurance.

8. A criminal penalty imposed pursuant to this section is in addition to any civil penalty or
other remedy available pursuant to this section or another statute for the same conduct.

9. As used in this section:
   (a) “Impairment” means the disruption of ordinary and incidental services, the temporary loss of use or the removal of the property from service for repair of damage.
   (b) “Protected site” means:
       (1) Any site, landmark, monument, building or structure of historical significance pertaining to the history of the settlement of Nevada;
       (2) Any site, building, structure, object or district listed in the register of historic resources of a community which is recognized as a Certified Local Government pursuant to the Certified Local Government Program jointly administered by the National Park Service and the Office of Historic Preservation of the State Department of Conservation and Natural Resources;
       (3) Any site, building, structure, object or district listed in the State Register of Historic Places pursuant to NRS 383.085 or the National Register of Historic Places;
       (4) Any site, building, structure, object or district that is more than 50 years old and is located in a municipal or state park;
       (5) Any Indian campgrounds, shelters, petroglyphs, pictographs and burials; or
       (6) Any archeological or paleontological site, ruin, deposit, fossilized footprints and other impressions, petroglyphs and pictographs, habitation caves, rock shelters, natural caves, burial ground or sites of religious or cultural importance to an Indian tribe.
   (c) “Value of the loss” means the cost of repairing, restoring or replacing the property, including, without limitation, the cost of any materials and labor necessary to repair, restore or replace the item.

NRS 206.335 Carrying graffiti implement at certain locations with intent to vandalize, place graffiti on or deface property.

1. Any person who carries on his or her person a graffiti implement with the intent to vandalize, place graffiti on or otherwise deface public or private property, real or personal, of another:
   (a) While on or under any overpass or bridge or in any flood channel;
   (b) At any public facility, community center, park, playground, swimming pool, transportation facility, beach or recreational area whereon a sign is posted in a location reasonably expected to be viewed by the public which states that it is a misdemeanor to possess a graffiti implement at that public location without valid authorization; or
   (c) In a public transportation vehicle wherein a sign is posted that is easily viewed by passengers which states that it is a misdemeanor to possess a graffiti implement in the vehicle without valid authorization, is guilty of a misdemeanor unless the person has first received valid authorization from the governmental entity which has jurisdiction over the public area or other person who is designated to provide such authorization.

2. As used in this section:
   (a) “Broad-tipped indelible marker” means any felt-tipped marker or similar implement which contains a fluid that is not soluble in water and which has a flat or angled writing surface of a width of one-half inch or greater.
   (b) “Graffiti implement” means any broad-tipped indelible marker or aerosol paint container or other item that may be used to propel or apply fluid that is not soluble in water[.]
   (c) “Public transportation vehicle” means a bus, train or other vehicle or instrumentality used
to transport persons from a transportation facility to another location.

(d) “Transportation facility” means an airport, marina, bus terminal, train station, bus stop or other facility where a person may go to obtain transportation.

(Added to NRS by 2007, 2296)

NRS 206.345 Counseling; person or entity to be paid if restitution is ordered for violation of NRS 206.125 or 206.330; civil action.

1. A court may, in addition to any other fine or penalty imposed, order a person who places graffiti on or otherwise defaces public or private property in violation of NRS 206.125 or 206.330 to participate in counseling, and if the person is less than 18 years of age, order the parent or legal guardian of the person to attend or participate in counseling pursuant to NRS 62E.290.

2. If a court orders a person who violates the provisions of NRS 206.125 or 206.330 to pay restitution, the person shall pay the restitution to:
   (a) The owner of the property which was affected by the violation; or
   (b) If the violation involved the placing of graffiti on any public property, the governmental entity that has incurred or will incur expenses for removing, covering or cleaning up the graffiti.

3. The governmental entity or owner of public or private property that has been damaged by graffiti may bring a civil action against the person who placed the graffiti on such property. The court may award to the property owner damages in an amount up to three times the amount of any loss in value to the property and up to three times the cost of restoring the property plus attorney’s fees and costs, which may be recovered from the offender or, if the offender is less than 18 years of age, from the parent or legal guardian of the offender.

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(Added to NRS by 2007, 2296)
that prohibits graffiti or other defacement of property.

2. When a defendant pleads or is found guilty or guilty but mentally ill of violating a city ordinance that prohibits graffiti or other defacement of property, the court shall include an administrative assessment of $250 for each violation in addition to any other fine or penalty. The money collected must be paid by the clerk of the court to the city treasurer on or before the fifth day of each month for credit to the graffiti reward and abatement fund.

3. If sufficient money is available in the graffiti reward and abatement fund, a law enforcement agency for the city may offer a reward, not to exceed $1,000, for information leading to the identification, apprehension [and] or conviction of a person who is alleged to have violated or who violates a city ordinance that prohibits graffiti or other defacement of property. The reward must be paid out of the graffiti reward and abatement fund upon approval of the [governing body of the city.] City Manager or authorized designee.
THE FOLLOWING ARE NEW SECTIONS TO NRS CHAPTER 268, which are comparable to NRS 244.36935 and NRS 244.3694 governing counties:

“Residential property” defined. “Residential property” means a parcel of land, including all structures thereon, that is zoned for single-family residential use.

Removal or covering of graffiti on perimeter of residential property by city.

1. The governing body of a city may adopt by ordinance procedures pursuant to which officers, employees or other designees of the city may cover or remove graffiti that is:
   (a) Placed on the exterior of a fence or wall located on the perimeter of residential property; and
   (b) Visible from a public right-of-way.
2. An ordinance adopted pursuant to subsection 1 must provide that:
   (a) Officers, employees or other designees of the city shall not cover or remove the graffiti unless:
       (1) The owner of the residential property consents to the covering or removal of the graffiti; or
       (2) If the governing body of the city or its designee is unable to contact the owner of the residential property to obtain the owner’s consent, the city first provides the owner of the property with written notice that is:
           (I) Sent by certified mail, return receipt requested; and
           (II) Posted on the residential property on which the graffiti will be covered or from which the graffiti will be removed, at least 5 days before the officers, employees or other designees of the city cover or remove the graffiti.
   (b) The city shall pay the cost of covering or removing the graffiti.

Removal or covering of graffiti on nonresidential property by owner or city.

1. The governing body of a city may adopt by ordinance procedures pursuant to which the governing body or its designee may order an owner of nonresidential property within the city to cover or remove graffiti that is:
   (a) Placed on that nonresidential property; and
   (b) Visible from a public right-of-way,
   to protect the public health, safety and welfare of the residents of the county and to prevent blight upon the community.
2. An ordinance adopted pursuant to subsection 1 must:
   (a) Contain procedures pursuant to which the owner of the property is:
       (I) Sent notice, by certified mail, return receipt requested, of the existence on the owner’s property of graffiti and the date by which the owner must cover or remove the graffiti; and
       (2) Afforded an opportunity for a hearing and an appeal before the governing body or its designee.
   (b) Provide that the date specified in the notice by which the owner must cover or remove the graffiti is tolled for the period during which the owner requests a hearing and receives a decision.
(c) Provide the manner in which the city will recover money expended for labor and
materials used to cover or remove the graffiti if the owner fails to cover or remove the graffiti.
3. The governing body of the city or its designee may direct the city to cover or remove
the graffiti and may recover the amount expended by the city for labor and materials used to
cover or remove the graffiti if:
   (a) The owner has not requested a hearing within the time prescribed in the ordinance
       adopted pursuant to subsection 1 and has failed to cover or remove the graffiti within the
       period specified in the notice;
   (b) After a hearing in which the owner did not prevail, the owner has not filed an appeal
       within the time prescribed in the ordinance adopted pursuant to subsection 1 and has failed to
       cover or remove the graffiti within the period specified in the order; or
   (c) The city has denied the appeal of the owner and the owner has failed to cover or
       remove the graffiti within the period specified in the order.
4. In addition to any other reasonable means of recovering money expended by the city to
cover or remove the graffiti, the governing body of the city or designee may:
   (a) Provide that the cost of covering or removing the graffiti is a lien upon the
       nonresidential property on which the graffiti was covered or from which the graffiti was
       removed; or
   (b) Make the cost of covering or removing the graffiti a special assessment against the
       nonresidential property on which the graffiti was covered or from which the graffiti was
       removed.
5. A lien authorized pursuant to paragraph (a) of subsection 4 must be perfected by:
   (a) Mailing by certified mail a notice of the lien, separately prepared for each lot affected,
       addressed to the last known owner of the property at his or her last known address, as
determined by the real property assessment roll in the county in which the nonresidential
       property is located; and
   (b) Filing with the county recorder of the county in which the nonresidential property is
       located, a statement of the amount due and unpaid and describing the property subject to the
       lien.
6. A special assessment authorized pursuant to paragraph (b) of subsection 4 may be
collected at the same time and in the same manner as ordinary county taxes are collected, and
is subject to the same penalties and the same procedure and sale in case of delinquency as
provided for ordinary county taxes. All laws applicable to the levy, collection and enforcement
of county taxes are applicable to such a special assessment.
7. As used in this section, “nonresidential property” means all real property other than
residential property. The term does not include real property owned by a governmental entity.

VI. FISCAL NOTE:

Effect on the State or Industrial Insurance:

Yes ___ No X___ Contains Appropriation

Executive Budget _________________
Effect on Local Government

Yes ___ X ___ No _____

VII. Name of person to be consulted if more information is needed:

NEEDS TO BE ADDED.
APPENDIX D

The following are examples of Anti-Graffiti campaign materials provided by various municipalities and organizations.
The 5th Annual RTC/DARE Anti-Graffiti Art Contest: A Great Success

With the continued support of the Regional Transportation Commission, DARE, Vector Media, Crime Stoppers of Nevada, Outdoor Promotions, the City of Las Vegas, Clark County and other partners another successful Anti-Graffiti Art Contest has wrapped up. The winning artist as selected by public online voting was Carlos Gonzalez of Ruby Thomas Elementary School. The first runner up was Ashtyn Fink of The Meadows School. Both artist's submissions carried a strong anti-graffiti message and showed great creativity. Their art now adorns an RTC public transportation bus which runs various express routes throughout Clark County. The bus will been seen from Summerlin to Boulder City, and from North Las Vegas to Southern Highlands. Congratulations Carlos and Ashtyn!
Winner Carlos Gonzalez

1st Runner-Up Ashtyn Fink
GRAFFITI GUIDE

To Report a Graffiti Vandal in Progress:

Call 911. Do not approach the vandal.

Be a good witness for responding officers.

Assist the officers with information if/when requested once the vandal is in custody.

To Request Graffiti Removal on Public Property:

Call the Southern Nevada Graffiti Hotline at 455-4509.

For Graffiti Removal on Non-Public Property:

For graffiti on utility boxes you can contact the company which owns the box. For your safety do not attempt to remove graffiti from these boxes yourself.

Graffiti removal on private property is the responsibility of the property owner. If an arrest is made the owner may receive full restitution as ordered by the court.

If the graffiti is on property managed by a home owner's association the HOA is responsible for removal of the graffiti. The HOA must also make the police report.

To Receive Free Graffiti Removal Supplies for your Neighborhood:

Contact the county or city where you reside. Often these supplies can be provided if you and your neighbors are able and willing to remove graffiti in your neighborhood.

To Have a Police Report made:

Stop by your nearest police station.

You must own the property to complete a police report.

When a report is made a detective will be assigned the case for investigation.

To Report a Known Graffiti Vandal:

Contact your local police department.

To remain anonymous you can call or submit a tip online to CRIME STOPPERS at (702) 385-5555 or www.crimestoppersofnv.com.

Tips leading to a felony arrest or an indictment processed through Crime Stoppers may result in a cash award.
Our sincerest appreciation goes to all of the partners who make this great program possible year after year.
Congratulations LVMPD DARE Officer Janet Beck

For the 5th consecutive year one of LVMPD Youth Education Section Officer Janet Beck’s DARE students has won the RTC/DARE Anti-Graffiti Art Contest. Officer Beck’s dedication to serving the community and her efforts in going above and beyond for her DARE students has served as an inspiration. With plans already in the works for the 6th Annual RTC/DARE Anti-Graffiti Art Contest the question arises: will it be 6 in a row in 2012?

DARE Student’s Art Used in Local Bus Shelters

As part of the 5th Annual RTC/DARE Anti-Graffiti Art Contest Crime Stoppers of Nevada and Outdoor Promotions also partnered to create a great new advertisement program which promotes our anti-graffiti message. The top ten finalists artwork have been placed on local bus shelter ads. Crime Stoppers of Nevada Director Off. Jennifer Vershall, the board members of Crime Stoppers and Outdoor Promotions General Manager Angela Nelson have our sincerest appreciation for this major contribution in getting the word out that graffiti is a serious crime.
Controlling Access to Graffiti Implements:

*An Important Element in Controlling Graffiti*

Approximately half of all graffiti related offenses in Southern Nevada are committed by juvenile offenders younger than 18 years of age.

In an effort to control access to graffiti implements such as spray paint by juveniles Clark County and the City of Las Vegas restrict sales of these items to adults only. Identification showing the buyer to be 18 years of age or older is required when purchasing these items in Las Vegas or Clark County. It is also mandated that these items be kept secured in a locked container until purchased by an adult. Retail establishments who fail to keep these items secured are subject to a misdemeanor citation and fine.

Implementation of these ordinances have been effective in reducing access to graffiti implements such as spray paint to juvenile graffiti vandals. While the vast majority of retail stores in our community willingly comply with this ordinance, a few have resisted it citing that it’s inconvenient to their customers. In these cases the LVMPD, the City of Las Vegas or Clark County can contact the management of the store to request compliance prior to enforcement action being taken.

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If you observe a local retail store with unsecured spray paint or other graffiti implements you can request that the items be secured. Non-compliant businesses can be reported and are subject to citation and fines until compliance is met.
The LVMPD Graffiti Abatement & Investigation Program: Update

With continual cutbacks in public services as a result of national economic issues the LVMPD has continued to creatively utilize available resources to combat our most costly property crime: graffiti vandalism.

A key element in controlling graffiti vandalism proliferation is abatement. Graffiti vandalism must be removed immediately or it will result in additional graffiti and graffiti related crime. While it is critical to arrest graffiti vandals it is also important to remove graffiti quickly. This is because the detrimental effects of the crime continue until the damage is repaired.

As part of the LVMPD’s comprehensive plan of action in combating graffiti convicted inmates housed at the Clark County Detention Center are removing graffiti in the community under the close supervision of LVMPD Corrections Officers. Prior to the graffiti being removed it is documented and photographed for use by LVMPD graffiti detectives for investigation and intelligence building. The photos are then housed for future use in criminally prosecuting graffiti vandals under Nevada Revised Statute 206.330, our state’s graffiti law. When a detective demonstrates that an arrested graffiti vandal has committee multiple prior offenses as a continued course of conduct the detective can criminally charge the vandal for all of the documented damage, regardless of how old the damage is. The charges are combined and the vandal is charged with a single greater gross misdemeanor or felony crime. This results in serious penalties for the vandal, including prison time.

To date thousands of graffiti vandalized locations in our community have been repaired as a result of this program. Under the supervision of LVMPD Sgt. Fred Meyer the program has become a key element in fighting graffiti in Southern Nevada.
GRAFFITI FACT

Graffiti placed on Protected Sites is a Felony Crime in Nevada

In December 2010 a local graffiti vandal placed a large amount of graffiti on federally protected Native American pictographs and petroglyphs at Red Rock Canyon just west of Las Vegas. This incident was noted as the worst case of graffiti vandalism in American history. The vandal was identified, arrested, and prosecuted successfully. As a result of this incident there were several changes to Nevada’s graffiti law that went in effect recently. The most notable is that any graffiti vandalism or other defacement of a protected site is now a felony crime in Nevada, regardless of how minor the damage is.

A “protected site” is generally described a location of historical significance to Native Americans or to the foundation of the State of Nevada. In the Las Vegas Valley there are numerous locations which fit this definition. It is important that we protect our state’s history. This new change to the graffiti law will aid in doing just that.

The Southern Nevada Graffiti Coalition is on:

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Southern Nevada Graffiti Coalition
Det. Scott Black (LVMPD), Director
From the desk of
Anaheim Police Chief John Welter

Dear Anaheim Resident,

It is encouraging to see an increase in community support as we continue our quest to eradicate graffiti in our city. Your involvement in the Anaheim Community Anti-Graffiti Effort (ACAGE) is paramount to achieving success in this endeavor.

ACAGE has reached significant milestones in its brief three-year existence, but we cannot continue to achieve our goals without your involvement. The City as a whole, especially the Anaheim Police Department and Code Enforcement Division are here to assist you with getting involved. Your participation can be as simple as arranging a neighborhood BBQ where you encourage your neighbors to meet one another, perhaps some for the first time, or as in depth as organizing a neighborhood watch group or weekend paint out. The level of involvement is up to you, and we are here to help you along the way.

Please visit the many resources we have made available online for you to join the City in solving this problem. Don’t hesitate to contact us for assistance or guidance as you join with us in the Anaheim Community Anti-Graffiti Effort.

John Welter
Anaheim Police Chief

Prevention

Quick removal is the key to deterring future graffiti vandalism. By robbing them of recognition they seek, you are decreasing the chances that graffiti will return.

- Lighting is also an important deterrent. Well lit areas with timed lights or those with motion sensors can illuminate the area so vandals can be seen and potential vandals are less likely to graffiti.
- Planting shrubs, vines or trees in front of graffiti-prone walls is a long-term solution to graffiti. Not only is the graffiti-prone surface covered, but the greenery provides a more attractive surface than a bare block wall.
- Fencing can block or eliminate access to areas which are prone to graffiti. Limiting those walking by or through property can reduce the likelihood of graffiti.

Further prevention tips are available at:
www.anaheim.net/police
and
www.popcenter.org/problems/graffiti
*Earn $500 through the ACAGE Reward Program*

It's true! Your call about a graffiti incident can lead to a $500 reward! If you see graffiti in progress and call 911 with information that leads to the arrest and conviction of a graffiti vandal, you can receive $500. You will be notified when the case has been resolved in court.

Remember, your safety comes first! When witnessing graffiti taking place, call 911; please do not attempt to intervene.

**Going Beyond Local Justice**

The victims of crimes have options which go beyond those provided through the Police Department and those charged with the prosecution of offenders. Victims of graffiti and other crimes can seek remedies through the civil process which is not related to the arrest and prosecution of offenders. Instead it allows the victim to seek restitution and other victim-specific solutions through the civil court system.

Unfortunately, many graffiti offenders are juveniles. Laws pertaining to the release of information in reports, etc. limit the ability of the Police Department and other government agencies to aid victims through the civil process. Below you will find a list of civil resources to help you seek solutions through the civil court system.

**Additional Resources:**

California Courts Self-Help Center
www.courtsinfo.ca.gov/selfhelp

Office of the Orange County District Attorney
(714) 834-3600

North Justice Center—Civil Information
(714) 773-4664

Community Service Programs, Inc Victim Assistance
(949) 975-0244
www.cspinc.org/victimassist.html

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**How to Report Graffiti:**

**Dial 3-1-1**

**My Anaheim App**
(iPhone and Android systems)

**Twitter**
@Anaheim311

**Online**

**Dial 9-1-1**
Graffiti in-progress only

**For More Information**

Visit the ACAGE web page at:
www.anaheim.net/acage

Sign up for the newsletter via E-Info at:
www.anaheim.net

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**Resident Resource Guide**

Rev. March 2011

Anaheim Police Department
Crime Triangle
Graffiti Initiative

The City of Anaheim recently embarked on an important mission: to form partnerships and collaborate with members of our community to curb the graffiti problem within the City.

The City of Anaheim, through the police department and the code enforcement division, is currently engaged in a comprehensive analysis of the graffiti problem. Utilizing the strategies of Problem Oriented Policing, we are seeking the help and input of our business community to combat this growing problem.

With your help and compliance with existing laws and collaboration with our many partners, we can eradicate graffiti from our neighborhoods and businesses. Reaching this goal will help Anaheim continue to serve its residents, businesses and visitors as a world-class destination.

Anaheim Municipal Code

7.44.060 AMC—STORAGE OR DISPLAY OF AEROSOL CONTAINERS AND MARKING PENS
Every person who owns, conducts, operates or manages a retail commercial establishment selling aerosol containers, or felt-tip marker or marking pens, shall store or cause such containers or pens to be stored in an area viewable by, but not accessible to, the public in the regular course of business without employee assistance, pending legal sale or disposition of such containers or pens. It is the intent of this section to permit, but not to require, viewability of aerosol containers and felt-tip marker or marking pens while they are stored or displayed pending retail sale. (Ord. 5358 § 6; March 9, 1993.)

7.44.015 DEFINITIONS (abridged)
As used in this chapter, the following terms shall have the meanings set forth herein:

"Aerosol paint container" means any container, regardless of the material from which it is made, which is adapted or made for the purpose of spraying paint or other similar substances capable of defacing property.

"Felt-tip marker" or "marking pen" means any indelible marker or similar implement with a tip which, at its broadest width, is greater than one-eighth inch, containing an ink.

"Spray actuator" (also known as a "spray tip," "nozzle" or "button") means an object which is capable of being attached to an aerosol paint container for the purpose of spraying the substance contained therein. (Ord. 5358 § 2; March 9, 1993; Ord. 5519 § 1; September 19, 1995.)

The City of Anaheim is committed to maintaining and improving the quality of our community by preventing and removing graffiti. The City formed the Anaheim Community Anti-Graffiti Effort (ACAGE) in partnership with Anaheim residents, community leaders and local businesses to develop a comprehensive strategy to deter graffiti.

ACAGE focuses on a variety of fronts, including education, protection of property, prompt removal, applicable justice efforts and collaborating with local programs serving Anaheim youth to reinforce the negative consequences of graffiti. ACAGE has several ongoing programs and activities, including:

- Incorporating an Adopt-A-Neighborhood graffiti removal program into the neighborhood/business watch program.
- Meeting with businesses most impacted by graffiti to discuss prevention strategies and engaging in business community partnerships.

To learn more, sign up for E-Info on www.anaheim.net.
City of Anaheim
Courtesy Advisement

The purpose of this courtesy advisement is to
raise awareness of, and encourage compliance
with, Anaheim Municipal Code Section
7.44.060. The City of Anaheim, through its
police department and code enforcement
division, ask that you join in partnering with
the community to help solve our graffiti
problem.

Company

Name/Title

Location

Phone

E-mail

Date / Time

Thank you!

How to Report Graffiti:

Dial 3-1-1

My Anaheim App
(iPhone and Android systems)

Twitter
@Anaheim311

Online

Dial 9-1-1
Graffiti in-progress only

For More Information

Visit the ACAGE web page at:
www.anaheim.net/acage

Sign up for the newsletter via E-Info at:
www.anaheim.net

Rev. March 2011

Anaheim Police Department
Crime Triangle

Business Resource Guide
Letter of Intent

This letter will serve as a commitment of ______________________ (Group), to adopt a minimum of 2 blocks of District of Columbia streets or blocks, for litter removal on

________________________________________ (street name) from ______ block to the ______ block, on

________________________________________ (street name) from ______ block to the ______ block, on

________________________________________ (street name) from ______ block to the ______ block, on

________________________________________ (street name) from ______ block to the ______ block, and all alleys inside this area in Washington, DC.

Please label the street names and blocks below. Please print clearly.

The Group commits to:

- Conduct weekly gutter sweeping on all streets in the area.
- Perform community clean-ups in strict accordance with Adopt-A-Block safety guidelines at least four times a year for a two year period.
- Designate a leader who will represent the Group and who will register and brief the participants prior to each event, including safety practices. This leader will be designated the block Captain.
- Select volunteers who are at least 12 years of age. Adult supervision must be provided for youth, ages 12—18. Volunteers under the age of 12 must have strict adult supervision.

The OCC will:

- Install Adopt-A-Block signs within the adopted blocks, which identify the Group.
- Provide an annual safety meeting.
Group/Organization Name to be Printed on the Sign

Please write one character on each line. To indicate a space between letters, leave the line blank.

CHOICE #1
Line 1: __________________________
Line 2: __________________________

CHOICE #2
Line 1: __________________________
Line 2: __________________________

Requested Sign Location
Locate four poles in the adopted area where you would like to have a sign installed. Write down the nearest street address to the pole noting the type of pole (i.e., wooden utility, metal street sign, or steel streetlight).

Location of Sign 1: __________________________ ☐ Wood ☐ Metal ☐ Streetlight
Location of Sign 2: __________________________ ☐ Wood ☐ Metal ☐ Streetlight
Location of Sign 3: __________________________ ☐ Wood ☐ Metal ☐ Streetlight
Location of Sign 4: __________________________ ☐ Wood ☐ Metal ☐ Streetlight

Requested Sign Installation Date: __________________________ (This date must be more than 30 days from the date of the application.)

It is understood that the members of the Group participating in the clean-up are providing volunteer services to the Group and not to the OCC or the Government of the District of Columbia. Either party may terminate this commitment for any reason upon receipt of a 30-day written notice.

This Letter of Intent is non-transferable and non-assignable. This Letter is not intended to create any legally enforceable rights against the Group, its members, the Office of the Clean City, or the Government of the District of Columbia, nor any legally enforceable rights in favor of any person not a party to this Letter of Intent.

I certify that I have read the information contained in this document and that I possess the authority to execute this document on behalf of my Group.

VOLUNTEER (Group Representative)

Signature __________________________

Print Name __________________________

Title __________________________

Phone __________________________

Group Name __________________________

Date __________________________

Email Address __________________________
Application Form

The Office of the Clean City works with the Group to determine the section of the street or block to adopt. Streets and alleys with insufficient right-of-way will not be considered.

Please complete this form in its entirety; type or print using black ink.

Date: __________________

Name of Group/Organization: ____________________________________________

Mailing Address: _________________________________________________________

City, State, and Zip Code: ____________________________

**Contact Person #1: [President/Chairperson]**

Phone [day] __________ [evening] __________ [cell] __________

Email Address: ____________________________

**Contact Person #2:**

Phone [day] __________ [evening] __________ [cell] __________

Email Address: ____________________________

**Contact Person #3:**

Phone [day] __________ [evening] __________ [cell] __________

Email Address: ____________________________

Anticipated number of members participating in the Adopt-A-Block program: ______

Street block(s) you are interested in adopting (Example: 1300 block of E Street, NW):

Street #1: __________________________________________

Street #2: __________________________________________

Street #3: __________________________________________

Street #4: __________________________________________

Street #5: __________________________________________

List the dates the Group plans to conduct their four community clean-ups each year:

Clean-up Event #1: ____________________________ Clean-up Event #2: ____________________________

Clean-up Event #3: ____________________________ Clean-up Event #4: ____________________________

**Mail to:** Office of the Clean City — Executive Office of the Mayor
1350 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW, Suite 316-C
Washington, DC 20004
(202) 724-8967 (main) (202) 727-5445 (fax)
Volunteer Registration Form

This form must be completed by each volunteer participating in quarterly clean-ups hosted by the Group. The Group is responsible for keeping the completed forms on file.

Please complete this form in its entirety; type or print using black ink unless otherwise indicated.

Name of Group: ____________________________________________
Name of Group Leader/Organizer: _____________________________
Volunteer’s Name: __________________________________________

Address (City, State, Zip Code): ______________________________
Phone (h): ____________________ (c): _______________________
Email Address: ________________________________

By signing below, I acknowledge that I have read and understood the rights, responsibilities and privileges provided in the foregoing Letter of Intent and Application Form.

I agree:

♦ I am participating and am under direction of my Group and not the Office of the Clean City or the Government of the District of Columbia. I will abide by the terms and conditions of my Group’s Letter of Intent with the Office of the Clean City and the Government of the District of Columbia.

♦ I understand that my Group and its members are acting as private volunteers and not as officers or employees of the Office of the Clean City or of the Government of the District of Columbia.

♦ I am participating as a volunteer in the following Community Clean-ups held by my Group:

  - ☐ Clean-up Event #1 on ________________________ (date/time)
  - ☐ Clean-up Event #2 on ________________________ (date/time)
  - ☐ Clean-up Event #3 on ________________________ (date/time)
  - ☐ Clean-up Event #4 on ________________________ (date/time)

_________________________       _______________________
Signature of Volunteer            Date

_________________________       _______________________
Signature of Group Leader/Organizer Date
The City of Phoenix Graffiti Program, along with neighborhood groups and many other organizations, are attempting to remove graffiti within 24 to 48 hours. By signing this permission slip and returning it promptly, you are helping to keep our community and the city graffiti free.

PROPERTY OWNER: The city of Phoenix has a program designed to remove graffiti from various surfaces. By signing this petition, you will be granting permission to the City of Phoenix Paint Team to remove graffiti from your property. This service is FREE to you, but you must own the property or have legal authority to grant permission. This permission is valid until revoked in writing.

PLEASE PRINT
Name: ____________________________________________
Property Address: __________________________________
Signature: _________________________________________
Date: ___________________________ Phone #: (_________) __________________
Graffiti currently present  □ yes  □ no
Comments: _______________________________________

Please fax completed card to 602-495-0645 or detach at the perforation and drop in the mail:
Neighborhood Services Department
3325 W. Flower St., Ste 100
Phoenix, Arizona 85017-9946

If you need to report sites with graffiti, call our graffiti hotline at 602-495-7014/ TTY 602-495-0685 or email us at graffiti.busters.nsd@phoenix.gov

187-17.1D Rev. 4/10