



## OFFICE OF MAYOR JERRY SANDERS

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

July 8, 2008

### FACT SHEET

## MAYOR HELPS PROMOTE “GRAFFITI ABATEMENT TEAM” TO HELP END GRAFFITI “BOMBING” IN NORTH PARK

### *North Park Community Groups Come Together to Fight Increasing Graffiti “Bombing” in Local Business and Residential Areas*

Mayor Jerry Sanders is joining local community leaders to promote a new graffiti abatement effort in the city’s North Park neighborhood. The new “North Park Graffiti Abatement Team” is a collaborative effort co-organized by North Park Main Street, the North Park Community Association, the Stonewall Citizen’s Patrol, and local neighborhood watch groups, with support from law enforcement and the City’s Code Compliance department and City Attorney’s Office to reduce and eliminate the recurrence of graffiti throughout North Park.

The North Park Graffiti Abatement Team is hoping their organized efforts will become a template for other neighborhoods fighting graffiti vandals.

Residents, business owners and police in the community say there is an increase in so-called graffiti “bombing” in the area. “Bombing” is graffiti that is sprayed randomly on walls and sidewalks, and even in bathrooms of local business establishments, usually by people who are passing through the area and do not live in the area and are not “tagging” the neighborhood as their own.

The Graffiti Abatement Team will divide North Park into sub-divisions and in each area leaders will take responsibility for graffiti abatement in that area of the neighborhood. The leaders are dedicated community members who will monitor their area, take reports of graffiti from neighbors and businesses, and coordinate response with the North Park Main Street organization.

#### **Elements of the Graffiti Abatement Team program include:**

Graffiti Paint-outs:

Saturday, August, 2, 2008 and Saturday August 9, 2008 – the Abatement Team is coordinating a graffiti paint-out on both dates and needs volunteers.

Contact: North Park Main Street Organization @ [www.northparkmainstreet.com](http://www.northparkmainstreet.com)

Spray and Pay Program:

Citizens will be rewarded up to \$500 for information leading to the arrest and conviction of graffiti vandals. The Stonewall Citizens Patrol is currently doubling the amount of this reward so citizens could receive up to \$1000. For information – contact City of San Diego Community Centers, San Diego Police Storefronts, or the Graffiti Control Program hotline at 619-525-8522

Members of the North Park Graffiti Abatement Team include:

North Park Main Street Association  
North Park Community Association  
North Park Neighborhood Watch  
Stonewall Citizens Patrol  
North Park business owners  
North Park residents

Partners with the North Park Graffiti Abatement Team include:

Mayor's Office  
San Diego Police Department  
San Diego City Attorney's Office  
District 3 - Toni Atkins' Office  
Urban Corps of San Diego

Graffiti Facts:

- When it comes to stopping graffiti, remember: Document, Report, Remove
- Graffiti vandals want to be recognized for their work; therefore, the most effective way to prevent graffiti is to remove it promptly (within 24-48 hours)
- In San Diego, vandals may be sentenced to up to six months in a correctional facility, be required to perform community service, pay as much as \$1,000 in fines, make restitution to the victimized property owner for the amount of the damage, perform volunteer work service and/or attend educational classes. In addition, juveniles may lose their drivers licenses or have their driving privileges deferred. Parents of taggers may also be ordered to pay fines and restitution and attend educational classes or participate in community service with their juvenile. (*see* [sandiego.gov/graffiti](http://sandiego.gov/graffiti)) Damage of over \$400 can lead to a felony conviction, which is why getting an estimate is so important.
- It is unlawful to maintain graffiti on private property. Failing to remove graffiti from private property in a timely manner may result in administrative penalties and/or misdemeanor prosecution. San Diego Municipal Code Sections 54.0401 through 54.0413 define graffiti and also outline the procedures used to combat graffiti.

### Reporting Graffiti:

Call the **Graffiti Hotline at (619) 525-8522**. Calls to the Graffiti Hotline are confidential. City crews remove graffiti from city property, usually within four days of receiving a report.

Call **Urban Corps of San Diego at (800) 829-6884**. The corps members operate 6-days a week from a 24-hour hotline.

Call the **Paint and Materials Exchange Bank at (619) 527-5419**. The Paint and Materials Exchange Bank provides assistance or answers questions pertaining to graffiti removal supplies and safety. Citizens can obtain free recycled paint in limited colors for graffiti removal.

Consent Forms granting the City authority to remove graffiti at no charge are available for property owners..

Cover murals with two to three coats of latex exterior, satin, clear polyurethane to make future removal easier.

### Prevent Future Graffiti:

Install good lighting on walls and fences that may be vulnerable to graffiti.

Plant shrubs or climbing vines to restrict access to graffiti prone areas.

Paint murals

Encourage your neighbors to watch for and report graffiti vandals.

### Websites/Contact Information

[www.sandiego.gov/graffiti](http://www.sandiego.gov/graffiti)

[www.northparksd.org/](http://www.northparksd.org/) - the graffiti link

[www.northparkmainstreet.com](http://www.northparkmainstreet.com)