



# News Release

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For Immediate Release

Friday, Jan. 12, 2007

## Juvenile Graffiti Program Restarting

### Cleanups and Parent Orientations Scheduled

**\* Media Asked Not to Show Youth Faces, Identify Participating Minors \***

Clark County is restarting its Juvenile Graffiti Abatement Program on Saturday, making a successful pilot program from 2006 a permanent addition to the county's anti-graffiti efforts.

Youth assigned to paint over graffiti as part of their court-ordered community service will work in neighborhoods on selected Saturdays beginning this **Saturday, Jan. 13**. Subsequent cleanups will generally be held two or three Saturdays each month.

In addition to the cleanups, the new program will include mandatory hour-long parent/youth informational sessions for those ordered to participate in the abatement program. Also, as the parents and youth will be told, if a juvenile commits another graffiti offense after entering the program the parent(s) will be required to complete at least eight hours of community service with their child.

The pilot program, which ran from May through November, involved 106 juveniles in 10 cleanups that used more than 375 gallons of paint to cover up graffiti. Only one juvenile who went through the pilot program has committed another graffiti offense.

"Our pilot program went so well it was obviously worth continuing," Juvenile Justice Services Director Cheryl Townsend said. "More than 100 youths have spent their community service hours painting over graffiti, which taught them a valuable lesson about the damage graffiti does to our community."

County Commission Chairman Rory Reid said the abatement program is a valuable piece of the county's anti-graffiti efforts.

"Graffiti is one of those quality of life issues that can really affect the image and feel of a neighborhood," Reid said. "Graffiti hurts property values, attracts more crime and costs the public and private sector approximately \$30 million a year to clean up. Graffiti is a problem our citizens deserve to live without. Hopefully this program will put these graffiti vandals on a positive path."

The cleanups scheduled for this Saturday will all take place in Commission District E, which is represented by Commissioner Chris Giunchigliani.

"Graffiti is a big problem in District E," Giunchigliani said. "This program holds the graffiti vandals accountable and gives parents added incentive to help us keep our neighborhoods safe and clean."

**-more-**

*News release also available on the Internet at [www.accessclarkcounty.com](http://www.accessclarkcounty.com)*

Clark County Board of Commissioners

Rory Reid, Chairman ■ Chip Maxfield, Vice-Chair ■ Susan Brager ■ Tom Collins ■ Yvonne Atkinson Gates ■ Chris Giunchigliani ■ Bruce L. Woodbury / Virginia Valentine, County Manager

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The county is fighting graffiti in four key ways: increased enforcement, tougher penalties, expanded community service and stepped up public outreach. Residents are urged to call the Southern Nevada Graffiti Hotline, 455-4509, to report graffiti, request paint for cleanups or volunteer for cleanup efforts.

County officials have also joined with law enforcement and private sector partners to publicize the CrimeStoppers of Nevada reward program, which offers up to \$500 for information that leads to the arrest of a graffiti vandal. CrimeStoppers can be reached at 385-5555.

More information about the county's anti-graffiti campaign is available online at [www.accessclarkcounty.com](http://www.accessclarkcounty.com).

<b>Who:</b>	Clark County Juvenile Justice Services
<b>What:</b>	Juvenile Graffiti Abatement Program Cleanups <i>* Limited Photo Opportunity of Clean-Up Effort – Media Asked Not to Show Youth Faces, Reveal Identities of Youth Participating in Program*</i>
<b>Where:</b>	Crews will visit several locations on Saturday. Call the Public Communications contact listed above to coordinate shoots and interviews.
<b>When:</b>	Cleanup: Saturday, Jan. 13, 9 a.m. to 11 a.m. Matt Westcott with the County Public Response Office should be contacted to coordinate video/photo opportunities on Saturday. He can be reached at 218-9763.

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