

AGENDA SUMMARY PAGE
CITY COUNCIL MEETING OF: APRIL 2, 2008

DEPARTMENT: OFFICE OF COMMUNICATIONS
DIRECTOR: DAVID RIGGLEMAN

SUBJECT:
RECOGNITION OF GRAFFITI AWARENESS MONTH

BACKUP DOCUMENTATION:

Submitted at meeting Copy of Proclamation for Las Vegas Graffiti Awareness Month

Minutes:

No motion required. A presentation was made.

COUNCILMAN REESE announced that combating graffiti is very important, because it is occurring throughout the Valley. He called forward STEPHEN HARSIN, Director of Neighborhood Services, SCOTT BLACK, Detective with the Las Vegas Metropolitan Police Department (Metro) and KEVIN CHILDS, Greater Las Vegas Association of Realtors, who are members of the Southern Nevada Graffiti Coalition.

COUNCILMAN REESE said graffiti creates blight in neighborhoods, and it is the most costly property crime in Southern Nevada, costing approximately \$70 million annually to address graffiti vandalism. To combat this problem, the City partnered with Metro and the Southern Nevada Graffiti Coalition, which led to more than 200 arrests in 2007. He presented a Proclamation recognizing April 2008 as Las Vegas Graffiti Awareness Month and asked everyone to join in the fight against graffiti.

MR. HARSIN commented that it costs the City alone over \$400,000 annually to abate graffiti. His staff works closely with Metro and the Coalition. He recognized the Rapid Response Team in the audience for all its fine work in this effort.

DETECTIVE BLACK thanked DEPUTY CITY ATTORNEY BEN LITTLE, DEVIN SMITH, Manager, and LISA CAMPBELL, of Neighborhood Response, for all their assistance. DETECTIVE BLACK pointed out that Metro is the first police department to implement anti-graffiti training. MR. CHILDS said that graffiti decreases property values.

COUNCILMAN REESE asked the City Attorney to pursue the most severe sentences for graffiti offenders. MAYOR GOODMAN said that any member of the Council would be happy to serve as victim advocates, because graffiti abatement is very expensive and that money could be put to better use, especially during this economic downturn.