

# Graffiti Investigations

## Most Important:

When a tagger is apprehended, enforcement action must be taken. **Do not warn and release. Do not complete a field interview card and release.**

- Use caution. Graffiti vandals are gang members and many carry weapons: Good safety procedures and arrest techniques should be used.
- Look for evidence. Search the suspect incident to arrest and attempt to locate evidence. Check the suspect's fingers for signs of paint. All evidence should be recovered and impounded per policy. Do not forward evidence to another bureau or section.
- Interview the suspect. If the suspect waives their Miranda rights, the arresting officer should conduct an interview on the scene. Often the arrested vandal will have an "ok, you got me"... attitude when caught in the act. This should be taken advantage of and an interview and confession should be documented at the time of arrest.
- Check the area. If a tagger is arrested for tagging a specific tag name or moniker and the same moniker appears in the neighborhood, the tagger can be charged with those offenses as well.

# Graffiti Investigations (Continued)

- Get Photos. Graffiti is a visual crime and photos must be obtained. If photos are not taken at the time of arrest, the case will likely be denied by the District Attorney's office. Any type of photo is admissible. Use CSI if required. If photos are not obtainable, a detective should be advised so photos can be taken before the graffiti is removed.
- Complete a detailed ICR. Be sure to include the victims information and the moniker used. If the moniker is not described, additional cases cannot be added by a detective. If the victim is unknown, consider using the City or County. Local ordinance allows these jurisdictions to serve as the victim in many circumstances.
- Book the suspect. Use the appropriate facility or issue a field citation using current department procedures.

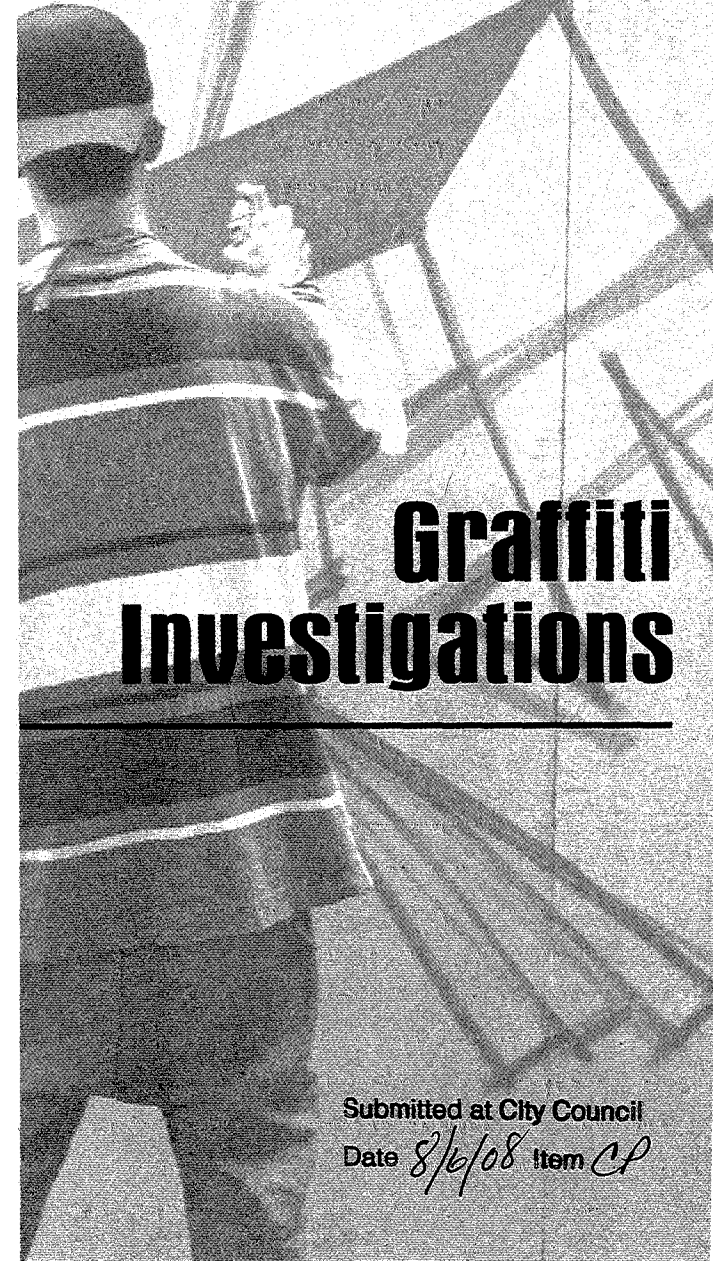
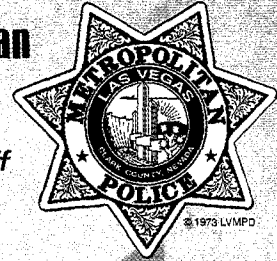
A good working knowledge of basic graffiti investigations and arrest procedures will enhance your ability to better serve the public and be effective in policing your assigned area of responsibility. The Gang Crimes Bureau may be contacted for assistance and additional information.

**Prepared by  
Detective Scott Black**

**LVMPD Gang Crimes Bureau**

**Las Vegas Metropolitan  
Police Department**

*Douglas C. Gillespie, Sheriff*



# Graffiti Investigations

Submitted at City Council

Date *8/6/08* Item *CP*

# What is Graffiti

## ■ **The Crime of Graffiti**

Graffiti is defined as the defacement of public or personal property by means of painting, marking, etching or altering by other means without permission.

## ■ **Our Most Costly Property Crime**

Graffiti is the #1 property crime in Southern Nevada. More than 30 million dollars in public and private funds are spent annually in Southern Nevada fighting graffiti.

## ■ **Graffiti Vandalism Affects Property Values**

It is estimated that up to \$25,000 can be reduced from the appraised value of a home when there is visible graffiti in the area.

## ■ **Graffiti can Bring Down a Neighborhood**

Graffiti attracts other types of crime and accelerates neighborhood decay.

## ■ **Graffiti Vandals are Criminals**

Graffiti vandalism is a serious crime. Graffiti is not a minor crime or quality of life issue. It is not just a juvenile problem. Most graffiti vandals are involved in other types of crimes. When a graffiti vandal is arrested other types of crimes are likely being prevented.

## ■ **Graffiti is a Crime that can be Controlled**

The key elements of controlling and managing graffiti are education, enforcement and eradication. With effective investigation and enforcement, officers can help to fight graffiti in Southern Nevada.

# Graffiti Vandals

## ■ **Where Graffiti Comes From**

While traditional gangs are active in placing graffiti, more than 80% of graffiti is placed by graffiti vandals called "taggers." Most taggers belong to gangs called "tag crews," or "tag crews."

## ■ **Why they Tag**

The taggers motivation is property damage and personal recognition, or "fame." They gain this fame by placing mass amounts of graffiti and tagging difficult or dangerous locations. Many taggers claim to be addicted to graffiti and tell investigators that they cannot stop tagging.

## ■ **Taggers are Gang Members**

Tag crews are defined legally as criminal gangs. When arrests are made of taggers who belong to tag crews they can be charged with gang enhanced crimes. Taggers are routinely prosecuted as criminal gang members with gang enhanced offenses.

## ■ **Graffiti: a Gateway Crime**

Taggers are attracted to graffiti because they have little respect for themselves and the property of others. The individuals who are drawn to graffiti involvement are impulsive and have little regard for the law. Taggers will often become involved in other types of crime, including crimes of violence. Graffiti vandals are regularly arrested for auto theft, narcotic offenses, armed robberies, assaults and batteries with deadly weapons and homicides.

# Identifying a Graffiti Vandal

## ■ **The Profile**

Most active graffiti vandals are males age 13 to 30. They are from all socioeconomic backgrounds, however most are from middle to upper middle class families. Many are heavily involved in Hip-Hop or skateboarder cultures which encourage graffiti activity.

## ■ **The Equipment**

Many taggers will wear loose fitting clothing which allows them to conceal their graffiti implements. Some will use a backpack which they call a "tag bag." The items they will use include multiple cans of spray paint, large markers, pre-tagged stickers called "slappers," special spray paint can tip kits and practice books they call "piecebooks."

## ■ **The Methods**

Taggers will most often tag walls and areas which are highly visible to the public and other taggers. This is how they achieve their mission and gain fame. More daring taggers will use repelling gear, drop ladders, ropes, roll ladders or other means to tag bridges, overpasses and freeway signs. The more difficult the location, the more fame a tagger will gain. Occasionally taggers will vandalize police vehicles and buildings. Taggers call this "killing a cop" and it is a sure way to gain fast credibility in the graffiti world.

## ■ **The Attitude**

Taggers want nothing to do with legal methods of placing art. In order for their work to be "real graffiti," it must be illegal.

CITY COUNCIL MEETING – SEPTEMBER 17, 2003

You have a lot going for you here in Las Vegas, so many beautiful parks, playgrounds, picnic areas, facilities for Seniors - - - and the list goes on, so much available for families and people of all ages.

The negative happens to be the grafitti, the litter, the vandalism. How much is spent each year to patch up grafitti? How much on cleanup?

Small pockets of neighborhood cleanups are organized throughout the city. I am here to ask you Mayor and Council Members to consider a City-wide Cleanup and Beautification in preparation for this city's Centennial Celebration 2005. This is a positive program of people helping people, to come together, communicate, take pride in their accomplishments. Schools, churches, scouts, seniors, those of all ages working together, people helping people - - - and what timing this very positive program would be, to coincide with this City's Centennial Celebration.

NOTE: Now after 5 years not only are graffiti, litter, vandalism a greater problem but now there are drive by shootings, guns and knives in schools, more fighting among youth, students, families, more young prostitutes, many more problems than 5 years ago. Something has to be done NOW.

Submitted at City Council  
Date 8/16/08 Item CP

Those to participate: all residents, schools, churches, scouts, seniors, etc.

Goals: to cleanup and beautify our city, our parks and playfields, homes streets, entrances, etc. To also help the disabled.

With the working together, people helping people, much can be accomplished. This should bring about a closer relationship between the city and its people.

How to accomplish: Advertise – send out information in with utility bills (save money by doing this) notify television stations, newspapers, contacts with school board, businesses, organizations if possible but all will be notified in with utility bills.

(you will find that schools and churches will choose their own property to clean up and beautify, also sponsored scouts perhaps a nearby park or the elderly.)

large maps of the city would be helpful for city staff to keep track of what is going on. If elderly call in for help scout leaders can be called or scout leaders call in to be placed in touch with a elderly or disabled person.

The hiring of litter control officers could be considered.

Signs posted at entrances to the city as well as other strategic areas to try to discourage the graffiti and littering of our city.

**GRAFFITI IS NOT ART  
IT'S A CRIME**

**\$2,000.<sup>00</sup> FINE**

**AND POSSIBLE  
JAIL TIME**



**Do Not Litter**

**\$500 Fine**

**And Possible Jail Time**



## ANNUAL SPRING NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH BLOCK CAPTAIN MEETING

*Thru*  
**WHEN:** Monday, May 12, 2008  
7:00 PM

**WHERE:** Northwest Area Command  
9850 W. Cheyenne Avenue

All Northwest Area Command Neighborhood Watch Block Captains and Co-Captains are invited to this annual gathering.

Featured invited guest this year is Sheriff Doug Gillespie. As many of you know Sheriff Gillespie is a big supporter of Neighborhood Watch and will make every effort to be at this meeting and share some insights.

Other meeting highlights include an update on efforts, the new Neighborhood Watch Toolkit, and more.

Please <sup>*call*</sup> call 828-4305 to reserve your spot. Or email your reserve request to [k2482p@lvmpd.com](mailto:k2482p@lvmpd.com). Seating is limited.

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**LAS VEGAS METROPOLITAN POLICE DEPARTMENT  
NORTHWEST AREA COMMAND  
NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH BLOCK CAPTAIN BULLETIN**  
*Summer 2008*



**1. THE NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH BLOCK CAPTAIN BULLETIN** has returned! Some explanation is necessary and here it is. This Bulletin is designed to maintain regular contact with our Neighborhood Watch groups. We try to provide information that is relevant to Neighborhood Watch and Northwest Area Command. This information varies in type and can always be shared with your participants. Our hope is to encourage regular communication and interaction so that Neighborhood Watch efforts will be beneficial to all. Our hope was to make this Bulletin available electronically, but for now these mailings will continue. Those of you who have participated in Neighborhood Watch for a while are familiar with these Bulletins. For others who are new in the last year or so, this may be the first Bulletin you have received. Either way, we appreciate you taking the time to read your Block Captain Bulletin and we appreciate any input you may have. (See the last page...)

**2. WELCOME TO THE NEIGHBORHOOD!** Here is a brief look at the new Northwest Neighborhood Watch groups that have formed or updated since our last Bulletin. This spot is reserved for new groups, or renewing groups, as they participate in their watch efforts.

*11000 Block of Newbury Hills Avenue  
300 Block of Dartmouth Hills Street  
11000 Block of Sheffield Abbot Court  
11000 Block of Bedford Hills Avenue  
300 Block of Carlisle Crossing Street  
300 Block of Newcastle Bridge  
11700 Block of Cashmere Mist Avenue  
400 Block of Eternity Street  
400 Block of Dazzling Gold  
11000 Block of Rancho Villa Verde Place*

*11000 Block of Puerto Banos Ave.  
500 Block of Las Ocas Court  
11700 Block of Costa Blanca  
500 Block of Las Ocas Court  
500 Block of Cala Morlanda  
900 Block of Purdy Lodge St.  
11700 Block of Golden Moments  
2400 Block of Ginger Lily Lane  
800 Block of Glacier Peak Lane  
400 Block of Blush Creek*

10000 Block of Amber Hue Lane  
300 Block of Red Canvas  
1400 Block of Colony Pine Street  
1500 Block of Pine Leaf Drive  
11000 Block of Summer Storm Court  
11000 Block of Shadow Nook Court  
10000 Block of Prime View Court  
11000 Block of Dells Cliffs Court  
100 Block of Dawn Isle Drive  
700 Block of Wheat Ridge Lane  
7900 Block of Foxwood Place  
7200 Block of Single Pine Avenue  
9000 Block of Sparklewood Court  
4100 Block of Lady Button  
7000 Block of Plantinum Peak  
4200 Block of Hickman Court  
9000 Block of Green Frost Drive  
10000 Block of Mystic Seaport Avenue  
10600 Block of Yarmouth Key Court  
3000 Block of N. Campbell Road  
7400 Block of Ute Meadows Circle  
4600 Block of Antelope Wells Drive  
3700 Block of Vogel Court  
6400 Block of Ouida Way  
6400 Block of Mimosa Valley Street  
4800 Block of Sunbelt Court  
5500 Block of Oakwood Ridge  
6300 Block of Italia Avenue  
5000 Block of Running Rapids Avenue  
5400 Block of Rusty Anchor Court  
5700 Block of Emerald View Street  
5400 Block of Blue Tropic Avenue  
7800 Block of Marksville Street  
9500 Block of Quitman Avenue  
9500 Block of Quiet Valley  
9500 Block of Range Crest Avenue  
7800 Block of Ithaca Falls Street  
8400 Block of Stardance Avenue  
9200 Block of Empire Rock Street  
8900 Block of Happy Stream Avenue  
8800 Block of Willow Cabin Street  
5000 Block of Strankman Avenue  
500 Block of Painted Cloud  
10100 Block of Velvet Dusk  
11000 Block of Arbor Pine Avenue  
11000 Block of Pine Greens Court  
11000 Block of Pine Knolls Court  
1100 Block of Bower Basin  
11000 Block of Sandy Grove Avenue  
300 Block of Gulfport Court  
7800 Block of Foxwood Place  
700 Block of Hunters Creek  
1600 Block of Sun Canyon Court  
1600 Block of Plata Pico Drive  
7200 Block of Perfect Drift Street  
4200 Block of Glorious Linda Crt.  
7200 Block of Early Pioneer  
4300 Block of Gasparville Street  
10000 Block of Suffolk Hills Avenue  
4400 Block of Rehoboth Bay Street  
7500 Block of Tahoe Basin Drive  
7500 Block of Adobe Cliffs Circle  
7500 Block of Dry Pines Circle  
3700 Block of Austell Street  
3800 Block of Twig Lane  
5400 Block of Lucky Clover Street  
6400 Block of Gazania Street  
4800 Block of Minturn Avenue  
5500 Block Sentinel Bridte Street  
5200 Block of Mantua Court  
5600 Block of Island Breeze Court  
5600 Block of Tropic Mist  
5700 Block of Parrot Pointe Court  
7600 Block of Lookout Hills Street  
7800 Block of Spartanburg  
7800 Block of Gibbon Avenue  
9400 Block of Wisdom Valley  
7200 Block of Fern Meadow  
9100 Block of Sandstone Ravine  
8500 Block of Starstruck Avenue  
8000 Block of Gallagher Island Dr.  
8200 Block of Old Cistern Court  
8800 Block of Sparkling Creek St.  
8600 Block of Apiary Wind Street

**The Inkatha Youth Foundation  
for the Arts  
3675 S. Rainbow Blvd.  
Suite #107-307  
Las Vegas, NV. 89103  
702.593-0390 (OFFICE)  
702.568-1009 (FAX)**



**Website:  
WWW.IAMYouthProgram.com**

**E-MAIL:  
IAM2000@AOL.COM**

**AUGUST 6, 2008**

**TO THE BOARD MEMBERS OF THE LAS VEGAS CITY COUNCIL;**

My name is Laurence T. Inkatha and I am the Founder & CEO of The Inkatha Youth Foundation for the Arts and the creator of The I-AM Youth Program. I am coming to you on behalf of the youth and concerned adults of the Las Vegas Valley. I am also the one who is responsible for the Street Teams of youth, in the bright gold shirts, that have been soliciting donations on our local street corners.

I am here seeking a City wide Solicitation Permit. It has been brought to our attention, by members of the police departments (who were very polite, understanding and professional), that we may not have the proper permit to allow us to solicit donations, in all nine (9) of the business programs that we have designed for local youth. I have provided a list with a short description of each program.

The solution I am seeking is to be fully permitted to apply the total list of Business Programs and Cultural Arts services, which will provide local youth with a new positive lifestyle; and a positive alternative to gangs and violence. After 20 years of studying to find the solution to youth gangs, drugs and violence in the Las Vegas Valley, I have come to the conclusion that the only remedy to the problem of our youth is one that will provide them with a total positive change of their day to day activity. This is what I mean when I say a New Lifestyle and we have invented a practical way to provide this through the I-AM Youth Program.

Not only will the nine business programs provide a New Positive Lifestyle for local youth, they also provide avenues for the average local adult citizen to get directly and effectively involved in a real, effective solution to the problem of youth gangs, drugs and violence. Presently we have over 200 youth members who are working hard at seeking a way out of the negative lifestyle that they face daily in our communities.

We are not here seeking money, although any budget help you can provide will not be turned down and greatly appreciated. We are seeking the proper permits to allow us to approach the public for help in this fight for the lives of our children. Since February of 2008, we have taken our program to the people of Las Vegas and they have shown that they will support our youth, even without a full understanding of why the children are out there. We know that once the public is made aware of our program and the positive change it brings for all local youth; they will join us in this fight for the salvation of Las Vegas children.

The bottom line is...the I-AM Youth Program works and since no present program has reached our children by the thousands, you should let us apply this solution as soon as possible. If you choose to let us work and work with us, we will guarantee you the following results, in just 24 months;

1. In twenty-four months, you will see a measurable decrease in youth gang membership.
2. You will see hundreds of youth who are productive, positive community minded citizens, who respect and treasure their cities.
3. You will see a measurable decrease in youth violence on our streets and in our schools.
4. You will see the bonding of a community relationship, between our youth and adults, that will be the envy of every city in America.

**Submitted at City Council**

**Date** 8/6/08 **Item** CP

5. In twenty-four months, Las Vegas will be the National Model for success, in dealing with youth gangs and violence.

The I-AM Youth Program has been a 30 year research and development project, funded by concerned citizens of the Las Vegas Valley, who wanted to see a better life for our youth. It is fully developed now and it is working. I hope you will allow us to be of service to this city first, because your citizens have paid the cost, over many years for this result. Yet, I am already in contact with the officials of other Cities, who are considering the expansion of this program to their Cities.

Over the last 20 years I have watched many programs come and go, like Jim Browns Amer-i-can Program that was funded with \$57,000 and produced no results. When at that time, I showed the School Board, through the Street-Wise Alive Program, over 6000 students who were signed, sealed, delivered and ready to work, to make our school system better. Yet, you turned me down.

I have watched millions of dollars poured into the Boys and Girls Club, the YMCA, Boy Scouts & Girl Scouts, Sports and many other programs. Yet, every year the statistics of youth-violence, gang-membership & school-violence has increased & increased. None of them have been successful in capturing our youth by the thousands and turning those statistics around. As I am sure you know, the formula for insanity is to keep doing the same things over and over again and expecting different results. I stand here today and humbly beg you, for the sake of our children to try something different. Give this I-Am Youth Program a real chance and I guarantee you some real, positive results.

Therefore, I am asking that you assign someone from your business office to work with me, so we can iron out the details that will allow us to be fully permitted to apply this much needed remedy to our youth gang and violence problem. I would also like to be placed on the next agenda, so you can cast your vote to save our children.

Sincerely;  
Laurence T. Inkatha  
Founder and C.E.O  
The Inkatha Youth Foundation for the Arts

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for the Arts**  
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## **“I-AM YOUTH BUSINESS PROGRAM LIST”**

### **1. STREET TEAM PROGRAM:**

This Program involves 34 Adults and 100 Youth Members, working in teams of three or four youth members, supervised by one adult, who solicit donations from the street corners, while traffic is at the stop lights. The adult team leader watches the team members and blows a whistle, to alert the team members to get out of the street, before the traffic moves.

### **2. STOREFRONT PROGRAM:**

Convenience stores will allow us to place our donation boxes at their stores. We will be able to employ four teens per store, to work the boxes on a weekly basis.

### **3. SPONSORSHIP PROGRAM:**

Adults will sponsor local youth, or the program for a minimum of \$20.00 per month. The person that signs up the sponsor will receive \$5.00 from every \$20.00 donation. The donor will have the opportunity to chose a gift from the I-AM Catalog, for every \$20.00 minimum donation.

### **4. DOOR TO DOOR DONATION PROGRAM:**

One adult team leader will lead a group of 5-7 youth into a community to go door to door seeking donations and sponsors.

### **5. BUSINESS TO BUSINESS DONATION PROGRAM**

One adult team leader will lead a group of 5-7 youth into a community to go Business to Business seeking donations and sponsors.

### **6. WATER DONATION PROGRAM:**

Youth will be allowed to offer Ice Cold water to the public, from the street corners, for a \$1.00 donation.

### **7. RAFFLE TICKET PROGRAM:**

Every 30 days the foundation will host a Community Party. Youth and Adult members will be allowed to sale Raffle tickets for \$1.00, to the event. The seller will keep 50% from each ticket sold.

### **8. PHONE TELE-MARKETING PROGRAM:**

Adults & Youth will be allowed to place cold calls from their home phones and solicit people to become sponsors of our program for a minimum of \$20.00 per month. Those who signup sponsors will receive \$5.00 from every \$20.00 donation or 1/4th of the donation made.

### **9. CAR WASH PROGRAM:**

Teams of youth will participate in a Car wash. Washing cars for \$5.00 per car.