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7/22/09  
Handout

# Graffiti Abatement Program 2009

Keeping Our  
Neighborhoods Safe and  
Clean



# Graffiti Task Force

- Started by Mayor Katz in 1994
- Still meets 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday every month
- Expanded to include regional partners (including other law enforcement): Hillsboro PD; Tualatin PD; Washington Co Sheriff; Troutdale; Fairview; Vancouver PD and Clark Co Sheriff; Salem PD.
- Network of graffiti abatement partners shares information for mutual benefit: Photos, arrests, strategies, contacts.
- Community members/volunteers also participate

# The front line...

## Partners in Graffiti Abatement

- **City Bureaus**
  - **PDOT**
    - **Structures** ... Ric Scofield, Ernestine Stone
    - **Street Signs**... Kirstin Byer, Tracy Rush
    - **Traffic Lights and Poles**...Keith Orr
    - **Parks**... Louis Guerrero, Alex Salazar, Peggy Glascock, Betsy Redfearn, & others
  - **Water Bureau**... Mark Edwards, Jennifer Roschewski
    - **Water tanks**
    - **Hydrants**
  - **BES**...Jenny Martinez, Dallas Fowler, Francisco Perez
  - **ONI – Crime Prevention**

## Partners, Cont'd

- **Port of Portland** – *Lt. Bob Baxter*
- **Portland Business Alliance**
  - *Clean & Safe*
- **ODOT**
  - *Structures (sound wall, bridges)*
    - Mark Buffington, Joe Sanders
  - *Highway Signs...David Smith*
- **Multnomah County**
  - *Bridges...Tony Lester, Lionel Sandoval, Curt*
  - *Structures...Michael Crank, Craig Flowers*
  - *Libraries... John Cabrera*

## More partners...

- **Metro**

- *Pioneer Cemeteries...* Monty
- *Parks, other Metro Properties...* Janelle Geddes

- **Power Companies**

- *PGE ...* Sam Benitez
- *PacifiCorp...* Gene Morris II
- *NW Natural...* Kim Tyler

- **Communications Companies**

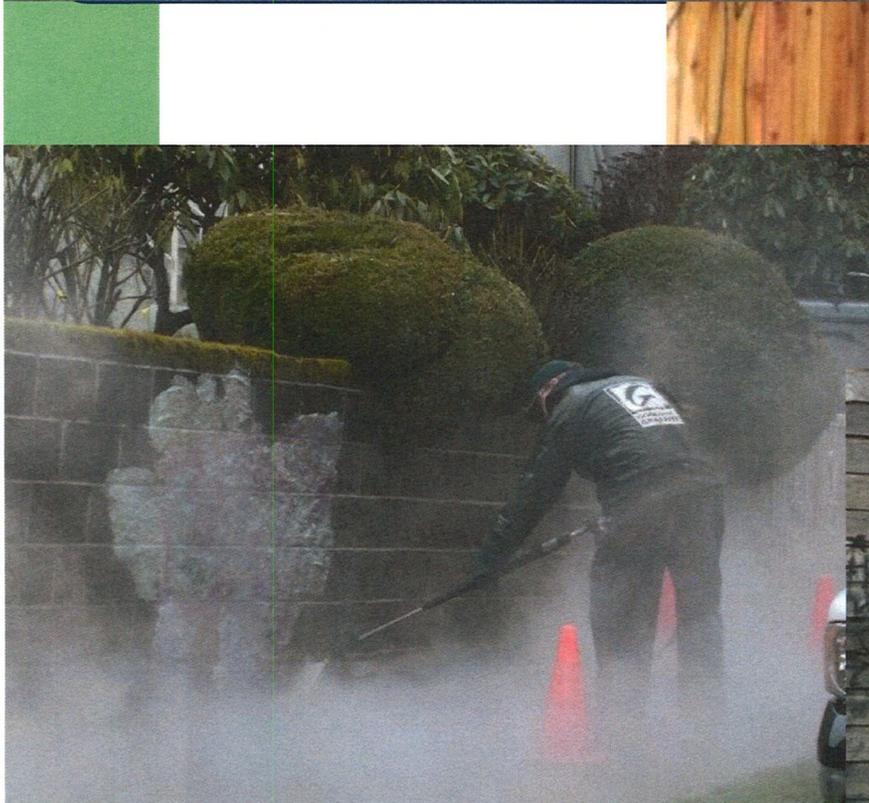
- *Qwest ...* Mike Morris, Stan Cowles
- *FSH (pay phones)...* Sheila Laherty
- *Clear Channel Billboards...*  
Elaine Brown & Dave Spivey

## And more...

- *TriMet* ...Pat Oxley, Angie Corbin
- 
- ***Private Properties (residential, small commercial)...***
    - **YEI (Youth Employment Institute)**
      - Carey Gibbar, Bert Wilkins, & youth crew members
      - Brandon Moye & walking crews
    - **Goodbye Graffiti**
      - Theresa Bartlett, Patrick Koenigsfeld, Ben Bettis
    - ***Volunteers*** -Jean Thompson, Peter Williams, Louis Berry, Jere Hudson, Ted Okrasinski, Bob Fredrikson, Peter Fournier, Pete Colt, Chuck Lawrence, Donna Dionne, Tom Barnes, Jim Wicks, Trevor ...Fritz Hirsch, Kevin Kriske (Troutdale)...Community Volunteer Corps (CCC)



Volunteers and contractors removing graffiti from private properties



# Community Volunteer Corps Cleanups...1 day each week



## Organize, Train, and Supply Volunteers

- Saturday Morning Collaborative Cleanups
  - *8 per year – City Contractors and minimum 10 adult volunteers from neighborhood*
- Cleanups in response to group requests –
  - School projects
    - Graffiti in Tahiti
    - Class presentations
  - Extra neighborhood group cleanups
- Special events
  - GREAT program cleanup in the park

## Portland City Codes:

***14B.80 – Graffiti Nuisance Property-***  
*requires property owners to remove graffiti within 10 days*

- ***Work with owners to facilitate cleanup***
- ***Provide free assistance to:***
  - ***Owner-occupied residential properties***
  - ***Some small businesses***
  - ***Most non-profits***
- ***Mail abatement notices (avg. 10/week)***
- ***Obtain administrative warrant for cleanup (6 since 1998)***

## Portland City Codes:

- ***14B.85 – Graffiti Materials Sales... Requires sellers of listed graffiti materials (spray paint, paint pens (w/agitators), acid etch, special tips) to lock up or otherwise restrict access to products without sales staff assistance.***
- ***Requires merchant to obtain photo identification and maintain log books with purchase information for two years – and make logs available upon request to law enforcement, Graffiti Abatement Manager and/or Crime Prevention Coordinators.***

# Assist Police and District Attorney

- Document incidents of graffiti
- Provide photos and information from database for cases
- Testify to Grand Jury and Court

## What motivates Portland taggers

- Fame, notoriety and adrenalin rush
- Commonality between taggers
  - Juveniles and gang graffiti
  - Adults and tagger graffiti
- False Perceptions
  - Low risk of arrest
  - Minimal penalties if caught
  - No consequences

## Cooperative Approach to Battle Graffiti

- PPB employs 1 full-time graffiti investigator
- Communication is KEY
- Close partnerships non-law enforcement agencies
  - Identify tags/taggers
  - Research internet
  - Gather intelligence
  - Share information with PPB
  - Photo documentation

**Even with limited resources you can find a solution to the graffiti problem – don't be afraid to reach outside law enforcement community for help!!!**

## Strategies for Managing Graffiti/what works?

- **Broken window theory**
- **Abatement**
- **Arrests and convictions**
- **Intervention**
- **Schools**
  - **Provide opportunities for learning**
  - **Provide opportunities for cleanup**

## Building a Case: The Necessary Elements

1. Report documenting a crime
2. Identifiable suspect
3. Cooperating victim
4. Contact information
5. Documentation of damages
6. Damage estimates
7. Incident date within the statute of limitations

“Portland Unite” tag

## Ryan Birkland



- Pled guilty to one count Criminal Mischief in the First Degree
  - 24 months formal probation
  - 2 days jail
  - 240 hours community service
  - Restitution
    - \$2154 to PGE
    - \$7500 to the City of Portland

**“HYRAX” Tag****Jonathan & Christopher Forney**

- Both pled guilty to one count Criminal Mischief in the First Degree
  - 18 months formal probation
  - 2 days jail
    - Jonathan was also sentenced to 160 hours community service, and restitution of \$19,000 to the City of Portland
    - Christopher was sentenced to restitution of \$3000

**“FEVER” Tag**

## **Ethan Moreschi**



- Pled guilty to two counts of Criminal Mischief in the First Degree, and one count Criminal Mischief in the Second Degree
  - 18 months formal probation
  - 240 hours community service
  - 10 days jail
  - Restitution
    - \$8030 to the City of Portland
    - \$616 to Tri-Met

“SOIL” Tag

## Terrence Melson



- Pled guilty to two counts Criminal Mischief in the First Degree, two counts Criminal Mischief in the Second Degree
  - 24 months formal probation
  - 80 hours community service
  - 5 days jail
  - \$3000 restitution to the City of Portland

“IGLO” & “GROC”

## Tyler Trowbridge



- Pled guilty to two counts Criminal Mischief in the First Degree, four counts Criminal Mischief in the Second Degree
  - 36 months formal probation
  - 160 hours community service
  - 120 suspended jail days
  - Restitution
    - \$11670 to the City of Portland
    - \$600 to PGE
    - \$2875 to QWEST Communications



“GOAM” Tag

## Daniel Zatarien



- Pled guilty to three counts Criminal Mischief in the First Degree
  - 36 months formal probation
  - 15 days jail
  - 96 hours community service
  - Restitution
    - \$3800 to the City of Portland
    - \$100 to PGE