

GRAFFITI ABATEMENT PROGRAMIF YOU WISH TO SPEAK TO CITY COUNCIL, **PRINT** YOUR NAME, ADDRESS, AND EMAIL.

NAME (PRINT)

ADDRESS AND ZIP CODE (Optional)

Email (Optional)

✓ Maria Dennis	2850 SE 6th St	
✓ MARY SIPE		
✓ Lightning Spr Watchdog PDK		
✓ Paul Watts		
✓ Mary German		
✓ Jonah Majure		
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March 8, 2017

TO: Portland City Council

For a number of years, Friendly Streets sponsored the annual National Graffiti Summit in collaboration with ONI and the Police Bureau. Unfortunately, due to the city's overall reduction in resources in matters relating to graffiti, this acclaimed event no longer takes place. This is symptomatic of the problem Portland now faces.

Graffiti abatement and graffiti investigation are essential ingredients in maintaining Portland's quality of life and keeping neighborhoods safe and livable. The failure to properly enforce our graffiti laws encourages an influx of taggers from all over the country and leads to other insidious activities. I lived in NYC in the nearly bankrupt 70's and know for a fact how graffiti, if unchecked, can quickly be a significant factor in causing a city's decline in livability and reputation. It is obvious that graffiti has dramatically increased all over our city with hate tags now an added problem. The ever increasing deterioration of Portland in this regard is unacceptable. Portland in the past was a progressive national leader in graffiti enforcement along with other quality of life matters (I'll save noise issues for another time). The failure to allocate appropriate resources to livability issues is akin to deferring street maintenance for which we face the consequences today.

Any reduction of the Graffiti Abatement Program will further the proliferation of graffiti in Portland if free and reduced-cost graffiti removal services are eliminated. Cutting the program in its entirety will virtually halt any abatement efforts or enforcement by the city on private property, allowing for this problem to get even worse than it already is.

We strongly urge City Council to adequately support the Graffiti Abatement Program at ONI and to restore the now defunct Graffiti Investigation Unit at the Police Bureau, and to maintain this vital service as the priority it had been in the past. Failure to do so will send a very poor message to all Portlanders.

Thank you,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Stan".

Stanley Penkin
Secretary

Jan Valentine
President

Marcia Dennis
Vice President

Kay Dannen
Treasurer

Stanley Penkin
Secretary

Bill Bagnall

Judy Bradley

Paul Watts

Bill Allen
President Emeritus