

## GRAFFITI VANDALISM IS A CRIME!

Graffiti is a public nuisance and destructive of the rights and values of property owners as well as the entire community. Unless action is taken to remove graffiti from public and private property, the graffiti remains. Other properties then become the target of graffiti, and entire neighborhoods are affected and become less desirable places in which to be, all to the detriment of the neighborhood.

The City of Providence, as an amendment of Chapter 16, "Offenses and Miscellaneous Provisions," Articles I and IV of the Code of Ordinances Regarding Graffiti and Rewards, is enacting this program to prevent graffiti and its spread from public and private property, and to reward those whose public-spirited actions result in the apprehension of violators and offenders. And by doing so, provide enforcement tools to protect properties from acts of graffiti vandalism and defacement.



## GRAFFITI REWARD PROGRAM (SEC 16-5)

Members of the public are eligible for up to a five hundred dollar (\$500.00) award for any information leading to the detection, apprehension, and conviction of any offender, or offenders who maliciously destroy or deface public or private property. Information can be provided regarding graffiti vandalism to the Graffiti Task Force at 1-800-TAGGERS. Rewards will be paid after a certificate of final conviction has been received by the city controller from the justice or clerk of the court before which the offender(s) were tried.

## Combating Graffiti



City of Providence  
Graffiti Prevention Information

P

PROVIDENCE THE CREATIVE CAPITAL

Angel Taveras, Mayor

Visit us on the web at:

[www.providenceri.com/graffiti](http://www.providenceri.com/graffiti)

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## WHAT IS GRAFFITI?

(a) "Graffiti" means any unauthorized inscription, word, figure, painting or other defacement that is written, marked, etched, scratched, sprayed, drawn, painted, or engraved on or otherwise affixed to any surface of public or private property by any graffiti implement, to the extent that the graffiti was not authorized in advance by the owner or occupant of the property, or, despite advance authorization, is otherwise deemed a public nuisance.

(b) "Graffiti Implement" means an aerosol paint container, a broad-tipped marker, gum label, paint stick or graffiti stick, etching equipment, brush or any other device capable of scarring or leaving a visible mark on any natural or manmade surface.

We abate graffiti vandalism in the following ways:

- (1) Paint over surfaces that are paint-friendly.
- (2) Usage of chemicals and power washes on surfaces like stone or recycled plastic.
- (3) Sandblast over very hard surfaces.



## CODES OF ORDINANCES REGARDING GRAFFITI

(Sec 16-142) **PROHIBITED ACTS: DEFACEMENT.** It shall be unlawful for any person to apply graffiti to any natural or man-made surface on any city-owned property or on any non city-owned property.

(Sec 16-143) **VIOLATION: PENALTY.** Graffiti vandalism is a crime punishable in the following manner:

- a) FINES
- b) RESTITUTION
- c) COMMUNITY SERVICE

(Sec 16-144) **SALE OF GRAFFITI TO MINORS.** It shall be unlawful for any person, other than a parent or legal guardian, to sell, exchange, give, loan, otherwise furnish, cause or permit to be exchanged, given, loaned, or otherwise furnished, any aerosol paint container, broad-tipped marker, etching equipment, paint stick or graffiti stick to any person under the age of eighteen years without the written consent of the parents or guardian of the person. Any person who owns, manages, or operates a place of business where graffiti implements are sold shall be prohibited from displaying these items. Only the use of facsimiles, or locked and secured display cases containing graffiti implements shall be permitted.



RESIDENTS CAN LOG ON  
TO [WWW.PROVIDENCERI.COM/GRAFFITI](http://WWW.PROVIDENCERI.COM/GRAFFITI) TO FILL  
OUT A GRAFFITI  
REMOVAL REQUEST FORM  
OR CALL THE GRAFFITI  
TASK FORCE HOTLINE AT  
**1-800-824-4377.**