

**GRAFFITI VANDALISM
IS A CRIME!**



REWARD UP TO \$500
FOR INFORMATION LEADING TO THE ARREST
AND CONVICTION OF A GRAFFITI VANDAL

1-800-824-4377
1-800-TAGGERS

Mayor Cicilline's 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



City of Providence
www.providenceri.com/graffiti



David N. Cicilline
Mayor
www.providenceri.com



Colonel Dean Esserman
Chief of Police
www.providencepolice.com

1-800-TAGGERS
1-800-824-4377

Introduction

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 Vandalism is a Crime!

(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:** A fine not to exceed one thousand dollars (\$1,000) for any offense. In the case of a violation by a minor, the parents or legal guardian shall be jointly and severally liable with the minor for the payment of the fine. Failure to make payment will result in the filing of a lien on the parent's or legal guardian's property.

(b) **RESTITUTION:** A court will order any violator to make restitution to the victim for damages or loss caused directly or indirectly by the violator's offense. In the case of a minor, the parents or legal guardian shall be ordered jointly and severally liable with the minor to make the restitution.

(c) **COMMUNITY SERVICE:** A minor or adult shall be required to perform community service as described by the court based on the following minimum requirements: Up to 100 hours for a first offense; Up to 200 hours for a second or subsequent offense (The entire period of public community restitution work shall be performed under the supervision of a community service provider approved by the chief of police or the probation department of the court). In the case of a minor, at least one parent or guardian shall be in attendance a minimum of 50% of the period of assigned 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.

GRAFFITI REMOVAL

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.

Residents can log on to www.providenceri.com/graffiti to fill out a Graffiti Removal Request Form or call the Graffiti Task Force Hotline at **1-800-TAGGERS (1-800-824-4377)**

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.