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Mayor Reed Urges Residents to Get Involved to Stop Graffiti

SAN JOSE, CALIF. – With the latest data out on San José’s graffiti problems, Mayor Chuck Reed is encouraging residents to get involved and help combat graffiti in their neighborhoods.

“San José has made great progress in the fight against graffiti over the past decade,” Mayor Reed said. “We are very concerned and working hard to address the recent uptick in tagging and the trend of larger tags, and we need our residents to help out.”

Residents can assist in two ways:

1. Report tagging in your neighborhood to the City of San José’s Anti-Graffiti Hotline at (408) 277-2758.
2. Volunteer to help clean up graffiti. Free Anti-Graffiti Tool Kits are available from the City and residents can participate in community clean up events. The next citywide quarterly graffiti clean up will take place the week of May 4. For information call (408) 277-3208 or e-mail antigrffiti@sanjoseca.gov.

The Mayor’s Gang Prevention Task Force will discuss strategies for fighting graffiti on Wednesday, April 22 at 7 p.m.

“The Mayor’s Gang Prevention Task Force has had recent success in our partnership with the County to hold taggers accountable. Last year, we re-established a program that requires young people who are caught tagging to clean up graffiti in our community,” said Mayor Reed. “Nearly 300 young people spent 4,800 hours of community service, removed more than 7,000 tags totaling 88,000 square feet of graffiti.”

The San Jose Police Department Graffiti Unit also has created a database of known taggers that is shared by most regional agencies enabling individual incidents of tagging to be linked across the region.

The annual citywide survey of graffiti tags, conducted the third week in February, identified 19,240 tags compared with 13,902 in 2008. In 1999, the initial baseline count was 71,541 tags.

During the first six months of fiscal year 2008-’09, anti-graffiti staff abated 41,181 tags (a 5% decrease over the same period in 2007-’08) and 429,095 square feet of graffiti (a 57% increase).

“By working together, we can all help eradicate graffiti in our community,” Mayor Reed said.

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