



Southern Nevada Graffiti Coalition

The Quarterly Publication of Southern Nevada's
Only Official Public Graffiti Fighting Alliance

Winter 2012

Southern Nevada United Against Graffiti Vandalism

The 5th Annual RTC/DARE Anti-Graffiti Art Contest: *A Great Success*

With the continued support of the Regional Transportation Commission, DARE, Vector Media, Crime Stoppers of Nevada, Outdoor Promotions, the City of Las Vegas, Clark County and other partners another successful Anti-Graffiti Art Contest has wrapped up. The winning artist as selected by public online voting was Carlos Gonzalez of Ruby Thomas Elementary School. The first runner up was Ashtyn Fink of The Meadows School. Both artist's submissions carried a strong anti-graffiti message and showed great creativity. Their art now adorns an RTC public transportation bus which runs various express routes throughout Clark County. The bus will be seen from Summerlin to Boulder City, and from North Las Vegas to Southern Highlands. **Congratulations Carlos and Ashtyn!**





Winner Carlos Gonzalez



1st Runner-Up Ashtyn Fink

GRAFFITI GUIDE

To Report a Graffiti Vandal in Progress:

Call 911. Do not approach the vandal.

Be a good witness for responding officers.

Assist the officers with information if/when requested once the vandal is in custody.

To Request Graffiti Removal on Public Property:

Call the *Southern Nevada Graffiti Hotline* at 455-4509.

For Graffiti Removal on Non-Public Property:

For graffiti on utility boxes you can contact the company which owns the box.

For your safety do not attempt to remove graffiti from these boxes yourself.

Graffiti removal on private property is the responsibility of the property owner.

If an arrest is made the owner may receive full restitution as ordered by the court.

If the graffiti is on property managed by a home owner's association the HOA is responsible for removal of the graffiti. The HOA must also make the police report.

To Receive Free Graffiti Removal Supplies for your Neighborhood:

Contact the county or city where you reside. Often these supplies can be provided if you and your neighbors are able and willing to remove graffiti in your neighborhood.

To Have a Police Report made:

Stop by your nearest police station.

You must own the property to complete a police report.

When a report is made a detective will be assigned the case for investigation.

To Report a Known Graffiti Vandal:

Contact your local police department.

To remain anonymous you can call or submit a tip online to CRIME STOPPERS at (702) 385-5555 or www.crimestoppersofnv.com.

Tips leading to a felony arrest or an indictment processed through Crime Stoppers may result in a cash award.





Our sincerest appreciation goes to all of the partners who make this great program possible year after year.



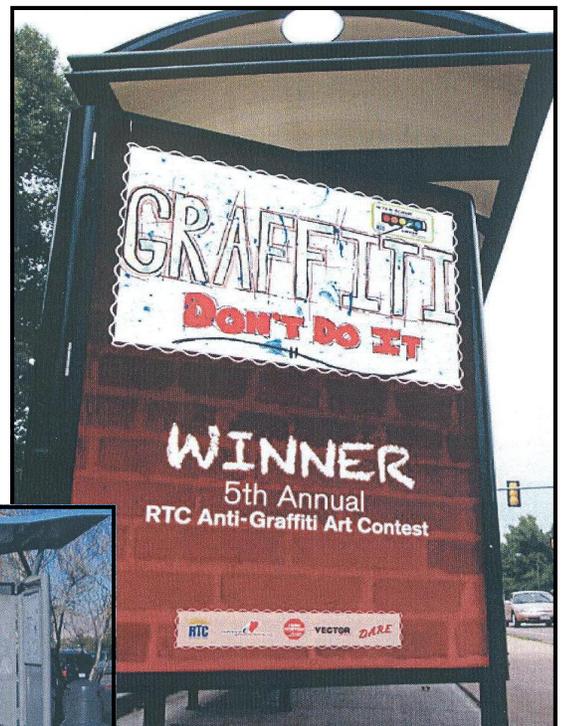
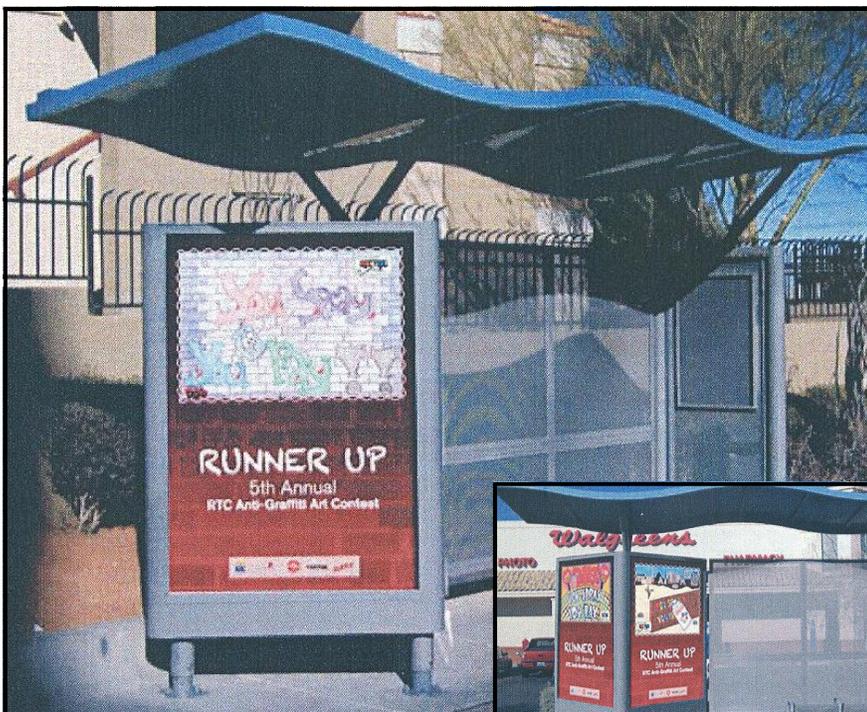
Congratulations LVMPD DARE Officer Janet Beck

For the 5th consecutive year one of LVMPD Youth Education Section Officer Janet Beck's DARE students has won the RTC/DARE Anti-Graffiti Art Contest. Officer Beck's dedication to serving the community and her efforts in going above and beyond for her DARE students has served as an inspiration. With plans already in the works for the 6th Annual RTC/DARE Anti-Graffiti Art Contest the question arises: *will it be 6 in a row in 2012?*



DARE Student's Art Used in Local Bus Shelters

As part of the 5th Annual RTC/DARE Anti-Graffiti Art Contest Crime Stoppers of Nevada and Outdoor Promotions also partnered to create a great new advertisement program which promotes our anti-graffiti message. The top ten finalists artwork have been placed on local bus shelter ads. Crime Stoppers of Nevada Director Off. Jennifer Vershall, the board members of Crime Stoppers and Outdoor Promotions General Manager Angela Nelson have our sincerest appreciation for this major contribution in getting the word out that graffiti is a serious crime.



Controlling Access to Graffiti Implements: *An Important Element in Controlling Graffiti*

Approximately half of all graffiti related offenses in Southern Nevada are committed by juvenile offenders younger than 18 years of age.

In an effort to control access to graffiti implements such as spray paint by juveniles Clark County and the City of Las Vegas restrict sales of these items to adults only. Identification showing the buyer to be 18 years of age or older is required when purchasing these items in Las Vegas or Clark County. It is also mandated that these items be kept secured in a locked container until purchased by an adult. Retail establishments who fail to keep these items secured are subject to a misdemeanor citation and fine.

Implementation of these ordinances have been effective in reducing access to graffiti implements such as spray paint to juvenile graffiti vandals. While the vast majority of retail stores in our community willingly comply with this ordinance, a few have resisted it citing that it's inconvenient to their customers. In these cases the LVMPD, the City of Las Vegas or Clark County can contact the management of the store to request compliance prior to enforcement action being taken.



If you observe a local retail store with unsecured spray paint or other graffiti implements you can request that the items be secured. Non-compliant businesses can be reported and are subject to citation and fines until compliance is met.

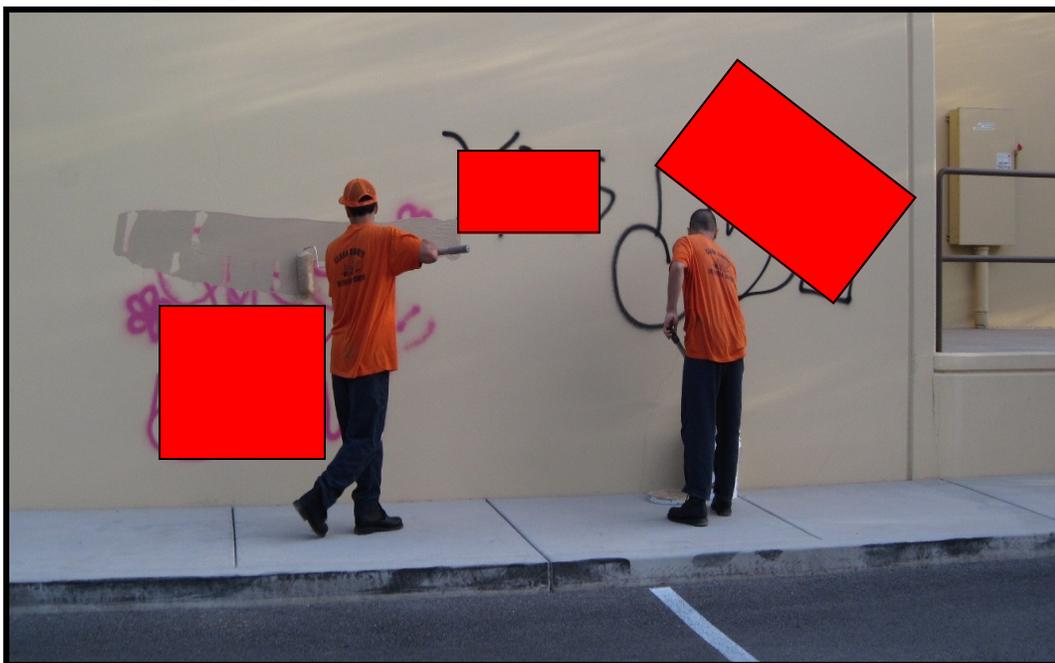
The LVMPD Graffiti Abatement & Investigation Program: *Update*

With continual cutbacks in public services as a result of national economic issues the LVMPD has continued to creatively utilize available resources to combat our most costly property crime: graffiti vandalism.

A key element in controlling graffiti vandalism proliferation is abatement. Graffiti vandalism must be removed immediately or it will result in additional graffiti and graffiti related crime. While it is critical to arrest graffiti vandals it is also important to remove graffiti quickly. This is because the detrimental effects of the crime continue until the damage is repaired.

As part of the LVMPD's comprehensive plan of action in combating graffiti convicted inmates housed at the Clark County Detention Center are removing graffiti in the community under the close supervision of LVMPD Corrections Officers. Prior to the graffiti being removed it is documented and photographed for use by LVMPD graffiti detectives for investigation and intelligence building. The photos are then housed for future use in criminally prosecuting graffiti vandals under Nevada Revised Statute 206.330, our state's graffiti law. When a detective demonstrates that an arrested graffiti vandal has committed multiple prior offenses as a continued course of conduct the detective can criminally charge the vandal for all of the documented damage, regardless of how old the damage is. The charges are combined and the vandal is charged with a single greater gross misdemeanor or felony crime. This results in serious penalties for the vandal, including prison time.

To date thousands of graffiti vandalized locations in our community have been repaired as a result of this program. Under the supervision of LVMPD Sgt. Fred Meyer the program has become a key element in fighting graffiti in Southern Nevada.



Here inmates remove graffiti from a local church. The graffiti consisted of anti-religious slurs and profanity. Metro responded and the graffiti was removed immediately once it was photographed for investigation.

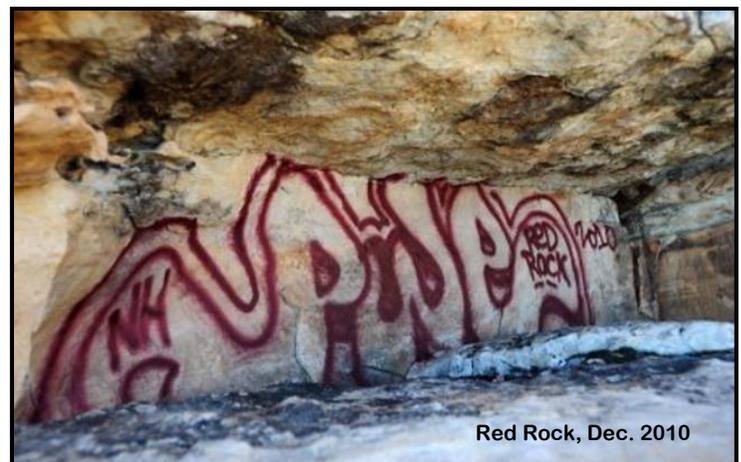
REUSE 
REDUCE
RECYCLE

GRAFFITI FACT

Graffiti placed on Protected Sites is a Felony Crime in Nevada

In December 2010 a local graffiti vandal placed a large amount of graffiti on federally protected Native American pictographs and petroglyphs at Red Rock Canyon just west of Las Vegas. This incident was noted as the worst case of graffiti vandalism in American history. The vandal was identified, arrested, and prosecuted successfully. As a result of this incident there were several changes to Nevada's graffiti law that went in effect recently. The most notable is that any graffiti vandalism or other defacement of a protected site is now a felony crime in Nevada, regardless of how minor the damage is.

A "protected site" is generally described a location of historical significance to Native Americans or to the foundation of the State of Nevada. In the Las Vegas Valley there are numerous locations which fit this definition. It is important that we protect our state's history. This new change to the graffiti law will aid in doing just that.



The Southern Nevada Graffiti Coalition is on:



Southern Nevada Graffiti Coalition
Det. Scott Black (LVMPD), Director

