

GETTING A GRIP ON

GRAFFITI!

IN COOS BAY

## Report Graffiti

## Get a \$50 Reward!!

Coos Bay is **GETTING A GRIP ON GRAFFITI**, and is rewarding \$50 to anyone providing information to Coos Bay Police which leads to the arrest and conviction of graffiti vandals. Everyone wins when graffiti is reported! The more graffiti vandalism is reported - the less there is to report. Those reporting graffiti may be entitled to a \$50 reward and the city gets to maintain an environment where its citizens can feel proud and safe.

### To report graffiti:

Call the Coos Bay Police non-emergency line - (541) 269-8911 or Coos Stop Crime - (541) 267-6666

You can also e-mail your incident information to [stopgraffiti@police.coosbay.org](mailto:stopgraffiti@police.coosbay.org)

### To be eligible for the \$50 reward:

The person reporting the incident must be willing to leave their full name, address, and home & cell phone numbers for contact. The report must be related to a specific incident of graffiti. The caller must be able to articulate when & where the crime occurred. The location of the graffiti incident must have occurred within the Coos Bay city limits.

### **When graffiti appears on your property or someone else's**

If you see that graffiti has been put up anywhere in the neighborhood, report it to Coos Bay Police as soon as possible by calling the police non-emergency line - (541) 269-8911, the Coos Stop Crime line - (541) 267-6666, or by e-mailing the incident information to [stopgraffiti@police.coosbay.org](mailto:stopgraffiti@police.coosbay.org) and providing a detailed report, including the information requested above.

Your report will be assigned to police officers for investigation.

### **When graffiti is "occurring now"**

If you are a witness to graffiti vandalism as it is happening, call the police non-emergency line - (541) 269-8911, or the Coos Stop Crime line - (541) 267-6666. Give as much information as you can about the suspects and the location.

### **Whether it's on your property or someone else's - the sooner the graffiti is removed, the better!**

Research shows that removal within 24-48 hours is effective in discouraging repeat vandalism. If you choose to remove the graffiti before contacting law enforcement, take a photo (*if possible*) that can be given to the officer. If the graffiti appears on someone else's property and you believe they may be unaware, consider contacting them directly. You will be acting as a "good neighbor" by letting them know and also by making sure they understand the importance of quick removal.

### **Who is responsible to clean-up and remove graffiti?**

Graffiti removal is the responsibility of the property owner. Any graffiti which the owner allows to remain on his or her property or which the owner fails to promptly remove may be declared a nuisance, and subject to abatement proceedings as provided in the Coos Bay Municipal Codes; see Chapter 9.35 for graffiti, Chapter 8.10 for public nuisances.

### **Oregon's definition of graffiti**

Under Oregon law, graffiti means "any inscriptions, words, figures or designs that are marked, etched, scratched, drawn, painted, pasted or otherwise affixed to the surface of the property." We see graffiti applied to everything from signs, fences, buildings to school desks and notebooks. A distinction can be made between "gang-related graffiti" - used by gang members to mark their territory, list members, or send warnings to rival gangs - and "generic graffiti" - which includes random markings, initials, and various social commentary.

### **Q: What should I do about graffiti in my neighborhood?**

#### **A: Report it & remove it.**

Graffiti, whether "gang-related" or "generic," has a negative effect on a resident's feeling of safety in their neighborhood. It creates a perception (whether factual or not) that crime is on the rise and gangs are moving into the area. When graffiti appears and is left up indefinitely, it sends a signal that people just don't care, which in turn attracts other forms of crime and delinquency to the neighborhood.

