

"TAG-A-TAGGER" PROGRAM

Through the cooperative efforts of the City of San Bernardino, the More Attractive Community Foundation, Inc., the San Bernardino Downtown Business Association, the Chamber of Commerce and the Carousel Mall, the "Tag-A-Tagger" program has been initiated to promote greater community involvement.

The program offers a \$50.00 reward for information leading to the arrest and/or conviction of a graffiti vandal.

If you witness a graffiti crime, call the San Bernardino Police Department at (909) 383-5311. If you have information regarding the identity of a tagger, call (909) 384-5079. Your information will be investigated. Once an arrest is made, you will be eligible for the reward.



EMERGENCY NUMBERS

Emergency.....911

RESOURCE NUMBERS

"Tag-A-Tagger".....(909) 384-5079

San Bernardino Police

- Non-Emergency Police Dispatch..... (909) 383-5311
- Complaint Desk.....(909) 384-5742
- Graffiti Task Force.....(909) 384-5658
- Los Padrinos.....(909) 885-7066

San Bernardino County District Attorney's Office.....(909) 387-8309

We Tip Hotline.....1 (800) 782-7463
or
(909) 987-5005



REMEMBER!

The San Bernardino Police Department is committed to providing:

Progressive quality police service;

A safe environment to improve the quality of life;

A reduction in crime through problem recognition and problem solving.



GRAFFITI TASK FORCE

This guide is provided to assist victims and the general public in obtaining help and resources relating to graffiti



Provided by the

San Bernardino Police Department

MICHAEL A. BILLDT

Chief of Police

GRAFFITI TASK FORCE

HISTORY

In 1999, as part of the Mayor's initiative against blight, the City of San Bernardino and the San Bernardino Police Department established the Graffiti Task Force (GTF). The program originally started as a 30-day trial effort to combat graffiti within the city. After several extensions, the Task Force became a permanent part of the police department in May 2000.

Since 1999, the GTF has identified over 800 graffiti vandals and made in excess of 500 graffiti related arrests. The GTF has successfully investigated and prosecuted "taggers", significantly reducing graffiti in the City. Our efforts are not limited to San Bernardino. The GTF has also pursued taggers into other cities as the result of graffiti damage they were responsible for in San Bernardino.

Why does San Bernardino place such emphasis on combating graffiti?

Graffiti negatively impacts the City in several ways. It creates the impression that San Bernardino is not a safe city in which to live, raise a family, or establish a business. This false perception negatively affects the tax base, businesses, and ultimately the quality of the city.

Graffiti also reduces the quality of life, causing people to live in fear based upon the perception that all graffiti is "gang" graffiti. Eighty-five percent of the highly visible graffiti is not gang related. It is the result of individuals, known as taggers, trying to make a name for themselves.

The Graffiti Task Force makes every effort to identify and prosecute all graffiti vandals. San Bernardino also strives to have graffiti removed within 24 hrs, after it has been reported. It has been shown that immediate graffiti removal deters other acts of graffiti vandalism. As such, the City has formed a partnership with Los Padrinos to remove graffiti.

WHAT DOES THE GRAFFITI TASK FORCE DO ABOUT GRAFFITI VANDALISM?

The GTF is assigned to monitor, identify, track and prosecute graffiti vandals. The task force constantly identifies new taggers. Past efforts have shown that after that initial contact the majority of the taggers discontinue their involvement in graffiti.

Graffiti vandalism is not just a fad. Taggers are frequently exposed to other types of criminals. This may lead to participation in more serious crimes.

CONSEQUENCES OF GRAFFITI VANDALISM

The GTF's expertise in graffiti has allowed them to make "tagger graffiti" arrests when there are no witnesses to the crime. Once a case is successfully prosecuted, restitution is sought for the victims. As part of sentencing, the Graffiti Task Force seeks to have "graffiti terms" added as part of the taggers' probation. This allows the task force to closely monitor the taggers' activity and curb future acts of vandalism.

First time convicted graffiti vandals can receive various punishments, including probation, community service, restitution, fines, and loss of their driver's license. Future convictions can result in incarceration. Additionally, the parents of juvenile graffiti vandals can be held civilly liable for graffiti damage.



HOW CAN YOU HELP REDUCE GRAFFITI AND IMPROVE SAN BERNARDINO?

If you see a graffiti crime occurring, call the Police Department at **383-5311**.

If you have graffiti on your house or business, or if you have questions about graffiti, call the Graffiti Task Force at **384-5658**.

To have graffiti removed you can call Los Padrinos at **885-7066**.

LOS PADRINOS

Los Padrinos is contracted by the City to provide graffiti removal within the City. The Graffiti Task Force also encourages you to remove graffiti as soon as possible. If you can not do it yourself, Los Padrinos will respond and remove the graffiti, at no cost.

Los Padrinos crews carry nine different colors of paint. They can color match 85-90 percent of all paint colors! They can also water/sandblast graffiti from sidewalks. **WATER AND SANDBLASTING ARE DONE ON CERTAIN DAYS OF THE WEEK BY SPECIFIC REQUEST.** If you are a business owner, water/sandblasting can be done prior to you opening your business, to avoid interfering with your customers.

SIGNS TO LOOK FOR IF YOU THINK YOUR SON OR DAUGHTER MAY BE INVOLVED WITH GRAFFITI:

- Graffiti style writing in their books or in their room.
- The same graffiti writing in your neighborhood.
- Interest in Internet graffiti websites.
- Possession of permanent markers such as "Magnum 44" markers.
- Possession of other graffiti tools such as drill bits, spray paint tips, acrylic paint, slap tags, and glass etching acid.