

Kernersville Police Department



T.A.G
Town Against Graffiti

Graffiti is not an Art

It is a Crime



What, Why & By Whom?

■ What

- Graffiti is the most common type of Vandalism in the US according to the DOJ
- Nationally over 12 billion in damages last year.

■ Why

- Fame
- Rebellion
- Self-Expression
- Power

■ Who

- Neighbors
- Students
- Of Various Social and Economical Background

- Taggers are Commonly Males between the Ages of 12 – 21.

What is Graffiti?

- Words, colors, and shapes drawn or scratched on buildings, overpasses, train cars, desks, and other surfaces.



What is Graffiti?

- It's done without permission and it's against the law.
- The term graffiti comes from the Greek word graphein, which means, "to write."
- Graffiti today ranges from simple, one-color monikers (like a nickname), called "tags", repeated on many surfaces to complex compositions of several colors.

Types of Graffiti Found in Kernersville

- According to the National Council to Prevent Delinquency (NCPD), about 80% of graffiti is hip hop, or "tagger" graffiti. There is also gang graffiti, generic (conventional) graffiti, and ideological or hate graffiti.
- **Hip-hop Graffiti** consists of "tags," "throw-ups," and "pieces":
 - **"Tag"** is a graffiti vandals moniker applied quickly and repetitively

Use of the Internet

- Websites are utilized as a form of self-expression
- Use websites in the same fashion as they use walls
- Communicate with each other through websites
- Keep up with media and events regarding graffiti
 - [NC graf. - Page 205 - THE WRITERS FORUM - THE GRAFFITI DESTINATION](#)
 - **Re: NC graf.** - 05-14-2008, 03:12 AM Got a laugh out of the mayor's article (Preventing Graffiti Together)

T.A.G. Program

- Created to aid with enforcement of graffiti laws by providing educational / prevention information to the community.
- Purpose is to explain what graffiti is, how graffiti is linked to quality of life as well as gangs, and ways graffiti can be prevented.
- **T.A.G.** is also a part of the School Resource Officer (SRO) program. SRO's teach students about the dangers of graffiti, resisting peer pressure, and graffiti prevention.
- [Graffiti Hurts](#) – Website focused on educating the public on graffiti

Tagging is Against the Law!

Town Ordinances to Combat Graffiti:

CO 11-16– Ordinance Prohibiting Graffiti and Certain Possession of Graffiti Materials

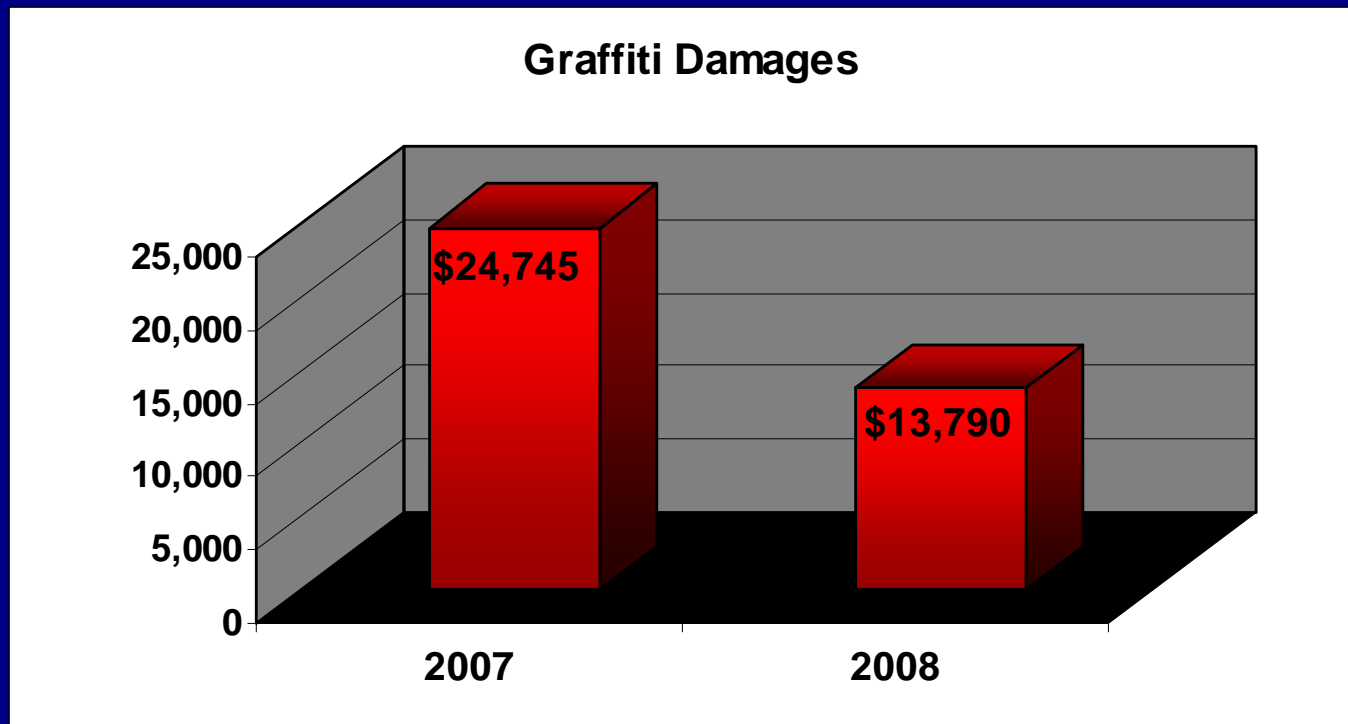
Graffiti Prohibited: It shall be unlawful for any person to write, paint, inscribe, scratch, scrawl, spray, place or draw graffiti of any type on any public or private building, structure or any other real or personal property.

Possession of Graffiti Implements Prohibited: by Minors (under 18) at or near School Facilities or in Designated Public Areas



Have You been a Victim?

- 27 Businesses in Kernersville have been Affected by Graffiti more than Once
- Over \$38,535 of damages have been reported since January of 2007.



Victims & Prosecution

- **Documentation:**

The Police photograph and document each reported or known case of Graffiti

- **Victim Impact Statement:**

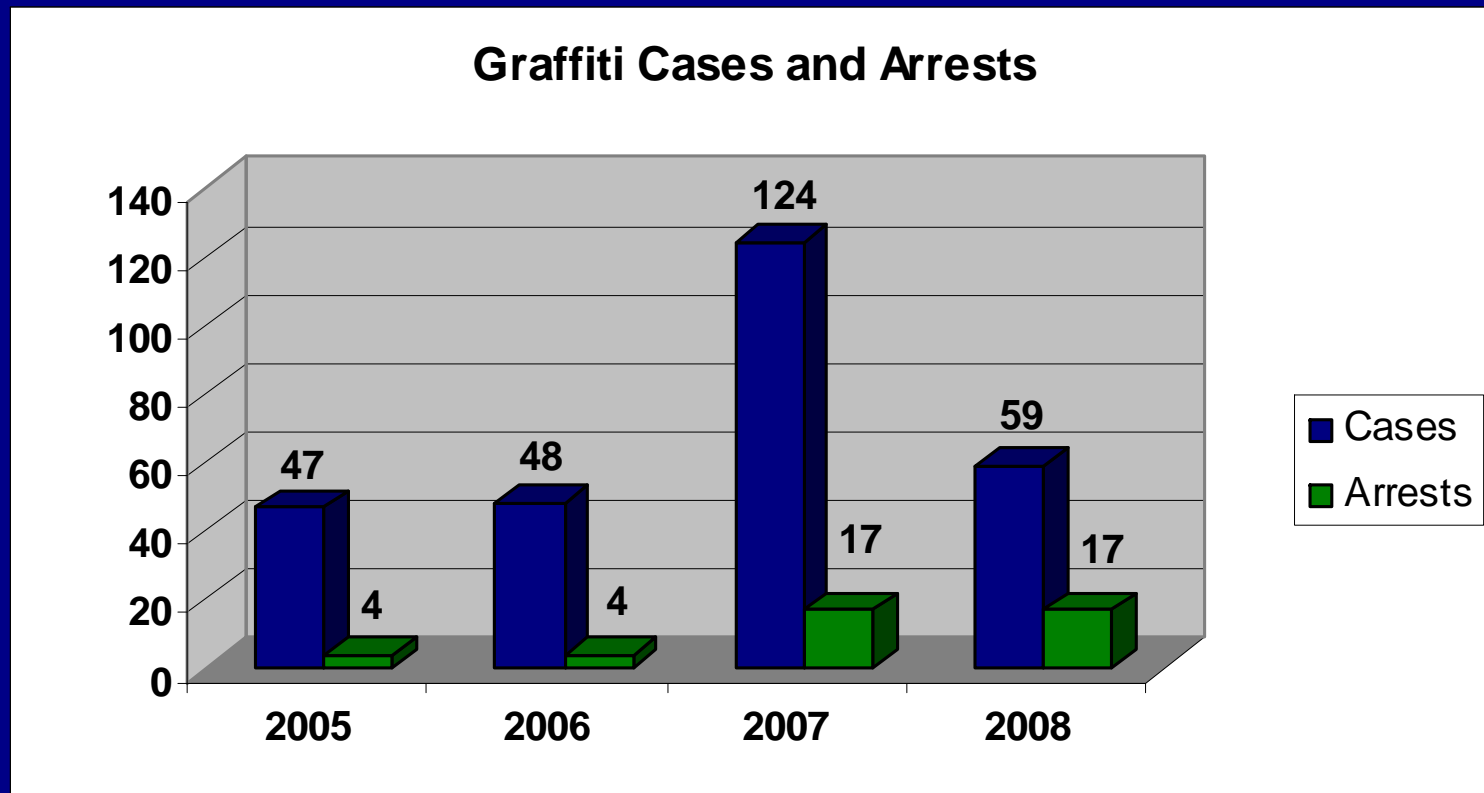
Information shall be collected from each victim regarding the impact of graffiti to include damages, number of times vandalized and if the graffiti created a loss of revenue to the victim

- **Prosecution:**

Evidentiary Use in Courts – Perspective of the Owner regarding their victimization by this crime; as well as, another tool to aid the officer in court

Statistics

- Since 2005, about 278 cases of Graffiti have been reported.
- Since 2005, 42 Cases have been Closed/Cleared by Arrest



Recidivism

- Elmer Ramos – 23 Charges
- Matthew Roland Luna – 23 Charges
- Adam Waddell – 8 Charges
- Robert Hendley – 3 Charges
- Christopher Barlow – 2 Charges
- Nick Tice – 2 Charges
- Michael Nelson – 8 Charges
- Chad Dameron – 1 Charge
- Justin Shumate – 7 Charges
- Juveniles – Ages 8, 9, 13, 14, & 15 – 31 Charges

Enforcement

- Hydra Grant
 - Provides a means to offset the cost to taxpayers in graffiti prevention
- Proactive Enforcement Techniques
- Practice A Zero Tolerance Policy on Graffiti

Penalties

Ages 16 and up

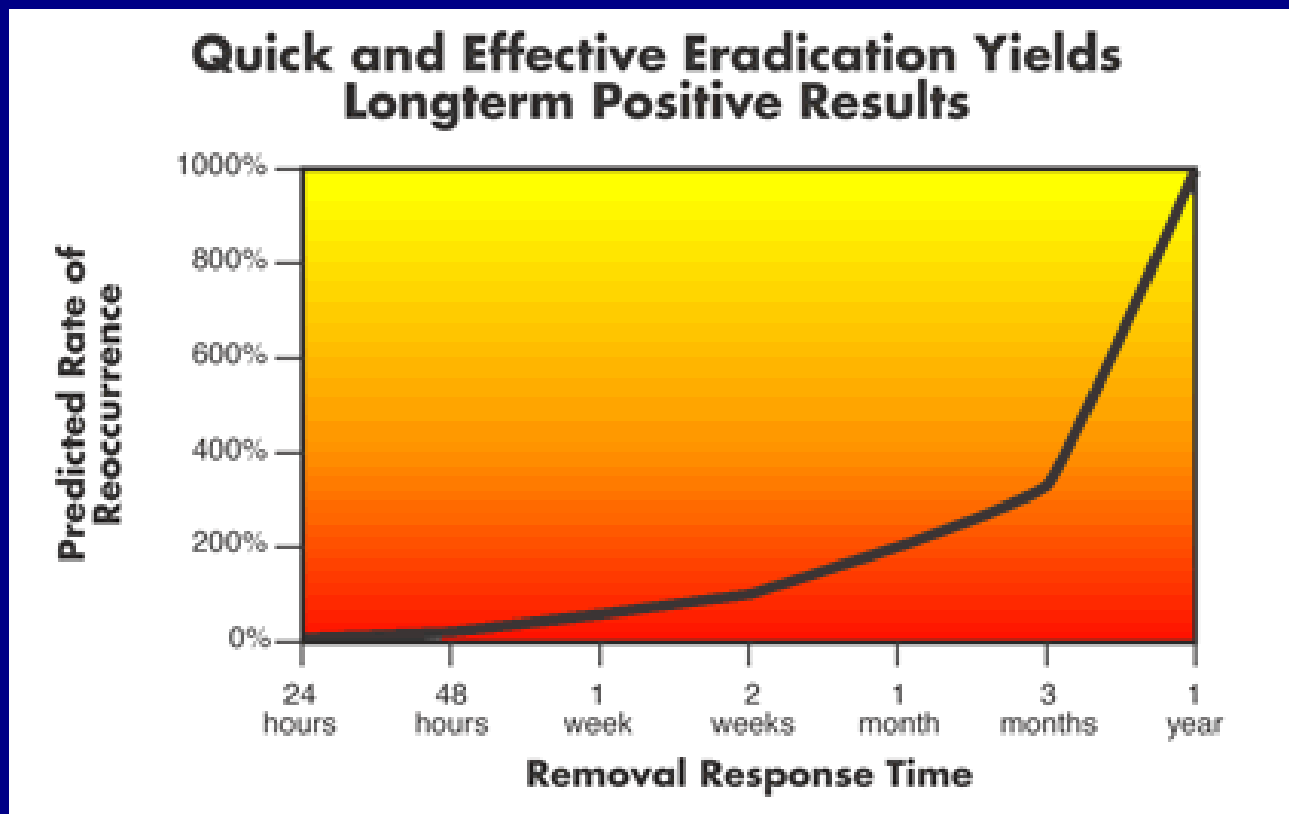
Charges	Damages/Punishments
GS 14-160 Willful & Wanton Injury to Personal Property	Less than \$200 Damage Class 2 Misdemeanor More than \$200 – Class 1 Misdemeanor
GS 14-127 Willful & Wanton Injury to Real Property	Class 1 Misdemeanor

What Happens to Juvenile Offenders?

- Brought to PD where Parents are Contacted
- Released to Parents
- Juvenile Petition is Filed
- Juvenile Court Counselors Review petition and Determine if the case is going through the Courts
- Case goes to Juvenile Court and is heard by a Judge
 - Not all Juvenile Cases are heard by a judge; however all Graffiti Cases are heard to determine if the Graffiti is Gang-Related.
- If Convicted, Sentence could be Similar to Adults:
 - Unsupervised or Supervised Probation
 - Community Service
 - Fines
 - Maintain a certain GPA.
- If Caught with Others they are not Supposed to Associate with:
 - Unsupervised or Supervised Probation
 - Community Service
 - Fines
 - Maintain a certain GPA
- If Caught with Others they are **Ordered** not to Associate with:
 - May go back through courts.

Eradication Results

- Immediate removal - within 24-48 hours - is the Key to Successful Graffiti Prevention (From GraffitiHurts.org)



Major Types of Graffiti Removal

- **Painting over Graffiti**
- **Chemical Removal**
- **Pressure Washing**
- **Replacing Vandalized Items**

Graffiti Prevention Tips

- Keep up the Neighborhood.
 - Keep the appearance of a neighborhood clean and neat.
 - Remove litter and trash, fix broken fences, trim landscape
 - Ensure all lighting works properly.
- Remove Graffiti Promptly
 - Rapid removal of graffiti is an effective prevention tool.
 - Data shows that removal within 24 to 48 hours results in a nearly zero rate of recurrence.
- Encourage Citizen Reporting.
 - Educate the public about the impact of graffiti vandalism
 - Provide a way to report graffiti.
- Enforce Anti-Graffiti Laws
 - Enforce existing anti-graffiti laws.
 - Law enforcement dedicated to tracking and apprehending graffiti vandals is a strong deterrent.

For more information about tools and resources for combating graffiti, go to www.graffitihurts.org.