Graffiti Abatement Program
Overview

Presented to the Quality of Life Committee on Monday, October 24, 2005
by the Department of Code Compliance
Graffiti Abatement Program

- Phoenix budgets $1.2 Million for Graffiti Abatement
  - 55% General fund
  - 45% CDBG –
    - Special permission granted by HUD
    - Over 60% of graffiti cases are in CDBG funded areas
- Phoenix’s goal is to remove graffiti within 24-48 hours
- Phoenix matches paint so no ‘splotches’ are present after abatement
- FlashCam 530 are used in high incident areas
Graffiti Busters

- 8 Crews
  - One person crews
  - 8 Trucks includes sprayer, hoses, high pressure washer, 500 gallons of water, bins to hold paint and supplies
  - Trucks equipped with MDTs that includes database of release forms
  - Trucks stored inside warehouse for security
Graffiti Busters, cont.

- Warehouse includes:
  - Supervisor
  - Coordinator
  - Two call takers
  - Two paint matching equipment
  - Several hundred gallons of paint
    - $140,000 spent on paint this fiscal year
  - High pressure soda blaster
  - Spare FlashCams
  - Offices for Crew members
Graffiti Abatement Program
Supported by Local Businesses

- Businesses donate reward money for information leading to arrest of graffiti violators
- Over $140,000 in rewards given since 1996
- Reward posters placed at bus stops, schools, etc. soliciting information on particular graffiti cases
- New car dealers place Graffiti Hotline phone numbers in all vehicles sold in Phoenix area
  - Graffiti in progress calls are dispatched to police as ‘Priority One’ calls
- Pencils, coloring books and hotline numbers given at presentations
Law Enforcement Supports Program

- State and local law make it illegal to have aerosol paints in open
- Police department makes ‘graffiti in progress’ a priority 1 call
- ALL persons caught violating graffiti laws are prosecuted
- 4 full time police officers investigate and prosecute graffiti crimes
  - These officers give presentations to area schools
- 1 full time Assistant District Attorney prosecutes graffiti cases
How the Program Works

- Eight crews drive assigned areas at large
- When graffiti is spotted, crew query database for prior release form
- If release form in database, graffiti is abated immediately
- Most victims of graffiti willingly sign abatement forms
  - Release forms obtained during presentations to HOAs, by Code Compliance enforcing graffiti ordinance, or graffiti crew
  - Release forms are color coded indicating whether graffiti is present and needs to be abated
How Graffiti is Abated

- **Painting**
  - Crews carry computer assisted color analyzers
    - Color is matched that afternoon and graffiti is abated the following day
  - Crews carry standard colors

- Environmentally friendly chemicals

- High Pressure sprayers
FlashCam 530

- **FlashCam**
  - Battery operated
  - Uses 35mm film
  - Portable – rugged outer case protects from BBs, pellets, rocks, etc.
  - Installed in areas tagged frequently
  - Not in heavy traffic areas
  - Camera can record a message up to 14 seconds (Typically, a graffiti warning)
  - Camera have flash for photos after dark
  - NO cases have been prosecuted as a result of cameras
FlashCam 530

FlashCam warning is motion activated

Warning can be silenced or active

Graffiti virtually eliminated from areas where FlashCam deployed

Phoenix removes cameras and replaces with less expensive "dummy" cameras with similar results

Officials state that NO arrests have resulted from photos taken by FlashCam
FlashCam 770

- FlashCam 770 takes high resolution digital photos.
  - Photos can be enlarged for more details
- FlashCam 770 is solar-powered
  - Can run indefinitely
  - Phoenix reports battery cameras frequently inoperable due to short life of batteries
## Results of Program

- **Calls in 2004/2005**: 33,767
- **Sites cleaned/calls**: 23,749
- **Sites cleaned/proactive**: 20,211
- **Total**: 43,960
The City of Phoenix program was developed over a period of 15 years.

Program received a boost in 1995 when a tremendous interest from legislators, county and city officials occurred.

Program has grown each year since.

Program received ICMA Award for use of cameras.
City of Phoenix officials feel that graffiti program has had a dramatic effect on other types of crime in areas where cameras are deployed.

Officials spoke frequently of the ‘Broken Window’ theory. (No data was available to support this).
Dallas Graffiti Program

- **Give Graffiti the Brush**
  - A private property graffiti abatement program supported by Departments of Sanitation and Code Compliance designed to assist residents with maintaining clean and graffiti-free neighborhoods.
  - The program creates a network of concerned citizens working in partnership with the City to correct our graffiti problems through education, cleanups, and code compliance.
  - Participating groups receive coordination assistance, paint, paint rollers, brushes, and incentives for volunteers.
  - Power washers are available.
Active Groups in the Community

- Old East Dallas Coalition
- Swiss Avenue Neighborhood Association
- Elmwood Neighborhood Association
- Code Keepers
- Mill Creek-Munger Place VIP
- Little Forest Hills
- And others
Old East Dallas/Code Compliance
Paint-Out
August 13, 2005
A Partnership
(21 sites abated by 50 Volunteers)
The Volunteers
Before and After
Before and After
Before and After
Oak Cliff/Code Compliance
Paint-Out
September 10, 2005
A Partnership
(31 sites abated by 26 Volunteers)
Before and After
Before and After
Before and After
Questions and Comments?