

# 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 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	<u>20,211</u>
■ Total	43,960

# Special Notes

- 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.

# Special Notes, con't.

- 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)

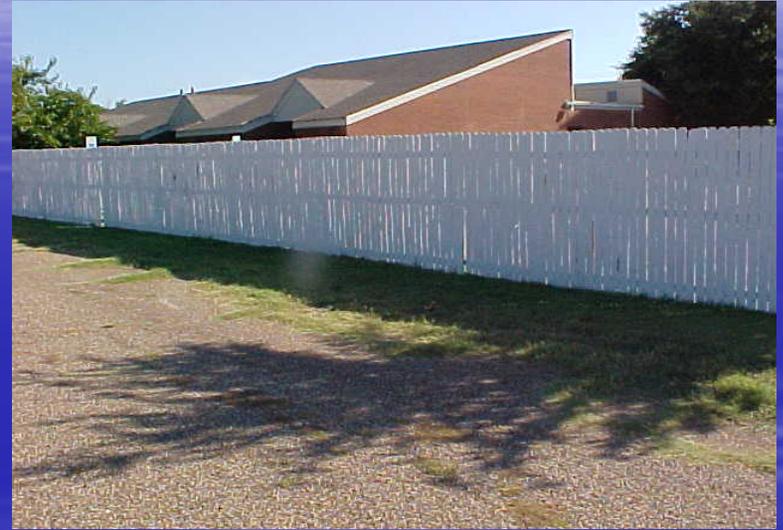
# Before and After



# Before and After



# Before and After



Questions and Comments?