

MEDIA RELEASE

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OMAHA PROGRAM REDUCES GRAFFITI VANDALISM BY 92%; CATCHES INTERNATIONAL ATTENTION

Now in its 4th year since a major programmatic overhaul, the Public Works Department sponsored Graffiti Action Partnership (GAP), announces that its annual survey of residual graffiti vandalism has demonstrated a 92% decrease since its baseline survey conducted in November, 2012.

Residual graffiti is that vandalism left behind as unreported or unabated at the time of the November year-over-year survey. Strategic changes were put in place upon the recommendations made by the Graffiti Consultants, an anti graffiti consulting firm procured through grant funding by the Deer Park Neighborhood Association. “We, at the City, have focused on abatement for many years, and have worked very closely with our consultant to implement the 26 recommendations in our Blueprint. The strength of our program and the year-over-year success we’ve achieved would not have been possible without the commitment of the City program staff and the help of our community partners in the GAP,” says Kayleen Young, City Graffiti Abatement Coordinator. “The City has gone from being the epicenter for graffiti to the Control Center of graffiti; I’m so proud of the Partnership’s efforts,” stated Omaha City Councilmember Garry Gernandt.

In fact, it was the strength of Omaha’s program that attracted Zero Graffiti International, an international non-profit focused on fighting urban blight, to select Omaha as a host location for its 2016 Zero Graffiti International Road Show. This four-city “tour” of one to two-day regional conferences features training centered on a community-based approach to fighting graffiti crime through abatement, intervention, prevention, and enforcement. “All of the board of ZGI have been impressed and appreciative of Omaha’s program; we are very excited that Omaha is going to be one of the host cities for the 2016 ZGI Road Show” stated Drew Lindner, Chairman, Zero Graffiti International “Our graffiti abatement program is a model for other communities affected by this crime” said Mayor Jean Stothert. “I am proud that Omaha will host the ZGI conference so we can share our best practices and learn new strategies to fight destructive graffiti.”

The Zero Graffiti International Road Show will be reaching Omaha on May 26-27, 2016.

For more information on the City of Omaha’s Graffiti Action Partnership, please visit www.cityofomaha.org/pw/graffiti. More information on Zero Graffiti International and its 2016 Road Show can be found at www.zerograffiti.org.