



MIAMIBEACH

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PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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TAG, You're It! Report Graffiti *-- Together Against Graffiti to Keep the City Clean --*

Miami Beach, FL -- Graffiti in all its forms is a crime. But the true damage caused by graffiti is often much worse. Called the "broken window theory," graffiti is one of the property maintenance issues that – when not quickly handled – tends to grow and create a sense of abandonment in an area; that often leads to more graffiti, illegal dumping and, sometimes, crime. The quicker the graffiti comes off, the better for everyone.

Keeping Miami Beach graffiti-free is a high priority. City officials want the city's residential and business areas to look great. Removing graffiti from public areas, such as public buildings, street signs, trash cans, street poles, sidewalks, etc. costs taxpayers. Private property owners, whether residential or commercial, also have to spend their own money to clean it up from their properties.

The City of Miami Beach has increased its vigilance on this crime that plagues the city's urban and residential areas. Those caught painting, spraying and/or marking properties are subject to arrest and, additionally, civil penalties. An improved process to route graffiti reports between the City's Police Department, Code Compliance Division and Public Works Department means that we will get to the public property graffiti faster.

Now, the City is making it easier for you to join their team, Together Against Graffiti team (T.A.G.), to help them erase this problem. There are several ways to report graffiti: By phone, call 305.604.CITY and select Code Compliance. A Code Compliance officer will be dispatched and handle the complaint; via E-mail, by sending an email directly to graffiti@miamibeachfl.gov and telling us where you saw the graffiti. Staff will be sent right away; and through the Internet, by going to www.miamibeachfl.gov and clicking on "Today, I want to . . ." Report > Graffiti.

“The faster graffiti is reported, the faster we can address it,” said Assistant City Manager Hilda Fernandez. “While we are out there looking for graffiti, we ask our residents to help us keep our city clean. If you see graffiti, no matter where you see it, report it to us immediately. ”

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