

JUNEAU POLICE DEPARTMENT

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INFORMATION RELEASE

Subject: Graffiti Vandalism

Date: 4/11/08

From: Sgt Tom Bates

Case or Incident: N/A

Summary:

Recently the Juneau Police Department has seen an increase in Graffiti type vandalism in many areas of town. It started showing up more frequently in the downtown area but has since spread citywide.

Graffiti affects everyone in the community; contributes to lost revenue, reduced retail sales, and declines in property value. It is a blight on the community that brings fear of gang activity to neighborhoods, and gives residents and visitors alike the feeling that a neighborhood, business district or even the entire town is in decline.

Studies across the country have shown when Graffiti is tolerated other crimes such as thefts, assaults, and even more serious crimes increase.

Catching Graffiti vandals in the act is difficult at best, and there are no city ordinances currently in place that address the prompt removal of Graffiti from vandalized property. For these reasons the Juneau Police Department needs to partner with our citizens and have a zero tolerance policy when it comes to Graffiti vandalism. If you see Graffiti, immediately report it to the police at 586-0600. If your property is vandalized, remove the Graffiti as soon as possible so as not to invite more.

Together, citizens and police can work to end this blight on the community.

Any charges reported in this press release are merely accusations and the defendants are presumed innocent unless and until proven guilty.

*** END OF STATEMENT ***

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