

Graffiti Deterrent Tips

- ✓ Report any new incidents of graffiti to 311 as soon as they occur. Your Precinct uses this information to track graffiti and build cases against local vandals, which leads to more solid arrests and convictions.
- ✓ Post "No Trespassing" signs in alleyways or driveways. Police can arrest potential vandals/thieves for trespassing if they are caught in locations where these signs are posted.
- ✓ Place the address on garages located behind your homes. This enables Police Officers to give a more accurate location if they need assistance.
- ✓ If you have your property professionally cleaned/painted, ask the contractor for the left-over paint. It can be used to paint over any new graffiti in the future.

Show Zero Tolerance



Volunteers power wash graffiti from a residential building in Astoria.

How Can **You** Send a Zero Tolerance Message to Graffiti Vandals?

- ✓ Register to "adopt" one location in your neighborhood. Clean it up by yourself or with a group of people. Commit to maintaining its cleaned up status - no matter what.
- ✓ Send before and after pictures to www.114thciv-op.org to share with other volunteers like you in the community, and for the 114th Precinct's Anti-Graffiti Coordinator to view, track and add to their data base.
- ✓ Fill out a "Permission to Arrest" form so the Police can arrest a vandal immediately upon witnessing him/her committing a crime on your property. This form also enables Police to build a case and increase charges against vandals. (For more info on this form, contact 114th Civ-OP, Inc. at 718-728-8763, or the 114th Precinct's Anti-Graffiti Coordinator at 718-626-9311.)

You are **not alone** in this community's fight against graffiti. Together – united we can live graffiti-free!



Living Graffiti-Free

from
114th Civ-OP, Inc.



Join the winning team in
the fight against graffiti!

Phone: 718-728-8763
Website: www.114thciv-op.org

What 114th Civ-OP Does

Graffiti Clean-up & Maintenance Team -

114th Civ-OP, Inc. actively works to clean up graffiti and maintain its cleaned-up status. This is achieved through volunteers' hard work in first restoring a site by painting or power washing over graffiti and then monitoring the sites after. If new graffiti is found on any site cleaned, volunteers participating in maintenance patrols revisit the site to re-clean it. **Clean-up and maintenance** is the key to winning the war against graffiti vandals. If tags are not visible, vandals don't gain the fame they desire, and they will seek more favorable (less monitored) areas to vandalize. The team currently maintains the cleaned up status of over 300 adopted sites within the 114th Precinct area.

Neighborhood Graffiti Clean-Ups – participants work side by side with police and residents of the community at large graffiti clean-up events run by 114th Civ-OP, Inc. Supplies for these activities are obtained through funding from grants. During these events, the community learns more about improving the neighborhood's quality of life and maintaining it. Some participants volunteer to adopt the new site themselves and continue to keep it clean. Others offer to call 114th Civ-OP when new graffiti occurs so it can be re-cleaned by the team. This results in a cleaner neighborhood as the criminal element will look to vandalize areas that appear less monitored.



114th Civ-OP Volunteers paint over graffiti on a commercial gate at one of their adopted sites in Astoria.

What the NYPD Does

Local Precinct Anti-Graffiti Coordinators have increased their contact with the Mayor's Community Assistance Unit regarding local cleanups. Additionally, the Coordinators will report weekly at GRAFFITI-STAT regarding their handling of graffiti crimes and assess the progress they are making in preventing graffiti. They also receive information from the Citywide Vandals Task Force regarding 311 complaints made by the local community.

The New York Police Department has created a centralized intelligence graffiti database to identify known graffiti vandals with their tags. This database can readily be accessed by all local commands.

Finally, the NYPD is endeavoring to promote public awareness regarding graffiti and to enlist the public's help and cooperation to combat this problem. In this regard, the Department has taken the following steps:

The NYPD has reinvigorated its reward program funded by the Police Foundation. Rewards of up to \$500 will be given out to anyone providing information leading to the arrest and conviction of graffiti vandals. Calls can be made to 911 for acts of graffiti vandalism that are in progress, or 311 in all other instances.

A "Combat Graffiti" Brochure highlighting the Anti-graffiti Initiative has been prepared for city-wide distribution.

The NYPD Community Affairs Unit has developed an anti-graffiti curriculum for use by local Community Affairs Officers for community group meetings. A "Graffiti Hurts" tape has been distributed with the curriculum.

Youth Officers have been trained in an anti-graffiti curriculum. They will utilize this curriculum to educate student bodies at schools and young people at youth forums.

[Taken from NYPD website on anti-graffiti initiatives.]

What YOU Can Do

Join the Winning Team!

- *Pick a spot in your neighborhood that you can clean up, and commit to maintaining its cleaned up status. It can be your own property, a local merchant's gate, or a neighbor's house.*
- *Visit 114th Civ-OP, Inc.'s website at www.114thciv-op.org to download the permission form and register what you will be doing and when.*
- *Notify 114th Civ-OP if the property owner would like to fill out a form giving permission for the Police to immediately arrest anyone they witness doing graffiti on the property.*
- *Provide before & after shots of your clean-up for viewing by other volunteers doing the same thing.*
- *Don't give up! If the spot gets tagged again, re-clean it right away. You will notice that fewer incidents of vandalism will occur over time.*
- *Make sure to document any clean-ups and maintenance you do by sending new photos to the 114th Civ-OP, Inc. website. Your photos are important, and will also be used by the 114th Precinct's Graffiti Coordinator!*

If you are against graffiti in your neighborhood, talking about it isn't enough. You have to show zero tolerance by doing something about it.

Don't be afraid to try!