

Graffiti is a city-wide issue that affects public, private, and institutional property owners. Both graffiti prevention and removal are time consuming and expensive and require continuous intervention.

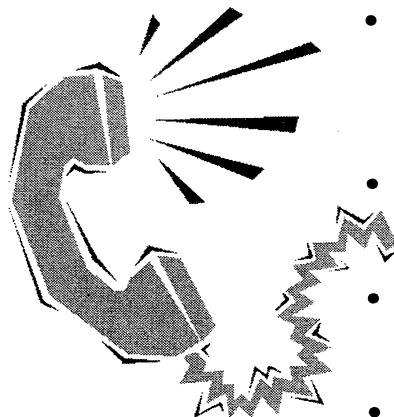
The City will play a central role in the eradication of graffiti in Cambridge by coordinating prevention and enforcement efforts, acting as a clearinghouse for graffiti identification and removal, and setting an example by providing good maintenance of its own property. Citizens, community groups, business and residential property owners, and other public agencies and institutions are strongly encouraged to work together with the City to effectively combat graffiti.

YOU CAN HELP

-  Use the Graffiti Hotline to report addresses of vandalized sites.
-  Organize community clean-up days.
-  Remove graffiti promptly from your property.
-  Educate your children about the costs and impact of graffiti.

349-INFO • HOW THE GRAFFITI HOTLINE WORKS

Call the Graffiti Hotline:



- To report locations where graffiti exists. The information will be forwarded to the appropriate agency or property owner for removal and to the Police Department for investigation.
- To provide information to help apprehend taggers. Your information will be kept confidential.
- For information on removal supplies and techniques if you have graffiti on your property.
- For resources to help organize community clean-up days.

OTHER GRAFFITI REMOVAL PHONE NUMBERS

You can also call these agencies directly to report graffiti on their property.

Witness tagging 9-1-1

Cambridge Housing Authority Property 868-3020

ComElectric 1-800-642-7070
(Electric Poles, Transformers)

Water Department 349-4781
(Fire Hydrants, Fresh Pond Area)

Harvard Real Estate Office 495-2234
(Harvard Property)

Postal Service 876-0620
(Mail Boxes)

MBTA Complaint Line 222-5215

MDC Bridges, Pools, Facilities 727-5114 x530

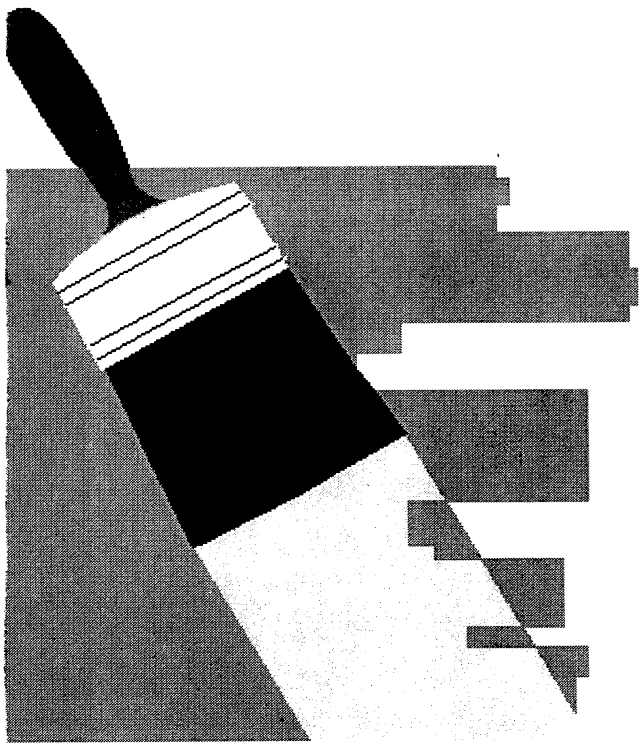
MIT Real Estate Office 253-1483
(MIT Property)

**Middlesex County Courthouse, Registry,
and Other Facilities 494-4100**

Electrical Department 349-4925
(Pay Phones, Fire Boxes)

School Department Property 349-6854

Traffic Department 349-4700
(Traffic Signs, Meters, Signals)



*Let's Work Together to Eliminate
Graffiti from Our Community.*

GRAFFITI HOTLINE
349-INFO
(349-4636)

LAWS & ORDINANCES

State Law: Massachusetts General Law Chapter 266, Sections 126, 126A and 126B pertain to the defacement of natural scenery, personal property and tagging. Section 126 prohibits the painting or in any manner affixing to public property or the property of another any words, device, trademark, ad or notice without the consent of the property owner. An offender may be punished by a fine of up to \$100.00 plus the cost of removing the defacement. Any defacement within the limits of the public way is declared to be a public nuisance that may be removed by any person.

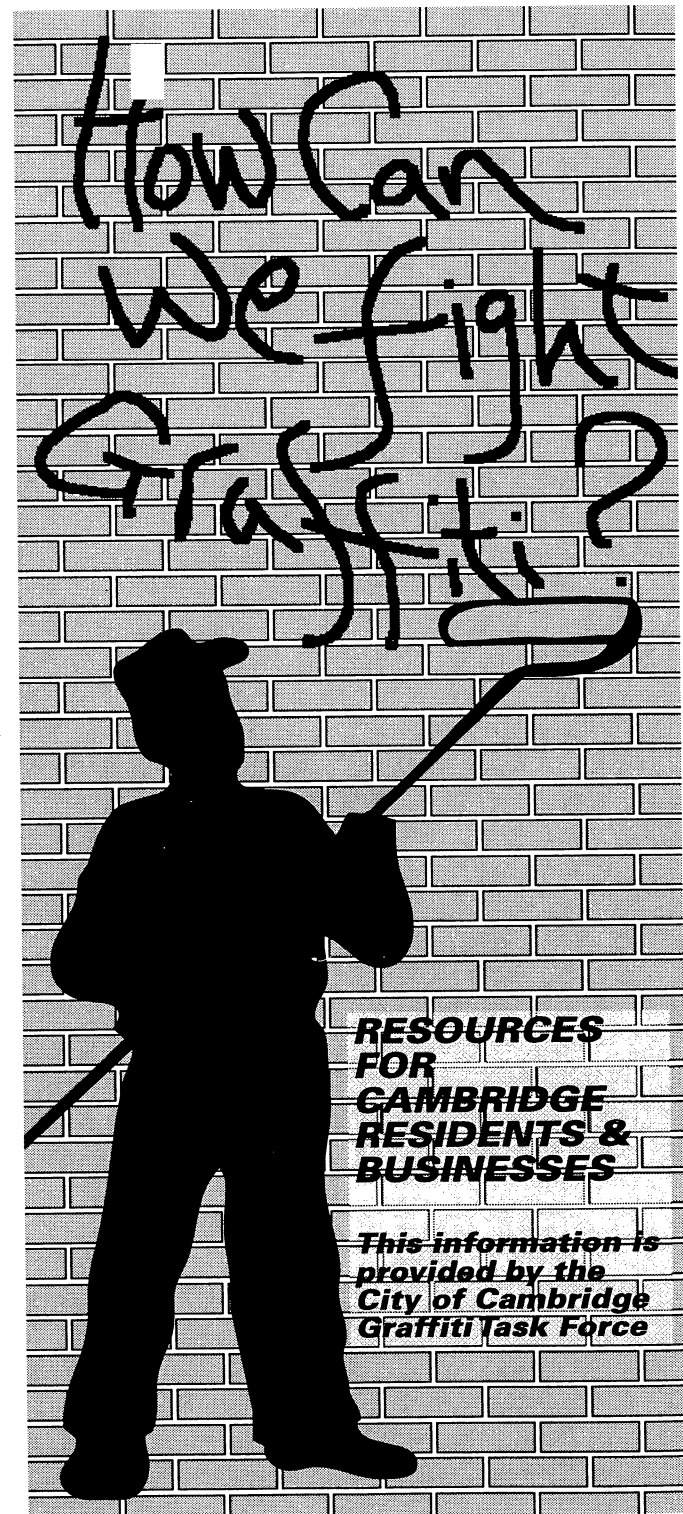
For malicious painting, marking, scratching, etching, or other wise marking, injuring, marring, defacing, or destroying the real or personal property of another, including but not limited to a wall, fence, building, sign, rock, monument, gravestone, or tablet, Section 126A provides for a penalty of up to three years in state prison, a fine of \$1,500.00 or triple the value of the property marked, the cost of removal, and one year suspension of the perpetrator's driver's license.

If a violation of these statutes is motivated by bigotry or bias, it may constitute a "hate crime" as defined by General Laws Chapter 22C, Section 32.

Local Law: Cambridge City Code Section 9.04.010 prohibits the malicious and intentional marring or defacing of public and private property. For a first offense, restitution to the party injured is required.

Section 9.04.020 prohibits defacing public or private property and provides for a fine of \$300.00 for so doing.

Section 9.04.060 prohibits the sale of aerosol spray paint cans or non-water soluble markers with brushes or applicators in excess of one-half inch to anyone under the age of 18 years. A sign saying that sales to underage people is prohibited must be posted at the point of display or sale. Violators are subject to a \$300.00 fine.



**RESOURCES
FOR
CAMBRIDGE
RESIDENTS &
BUSINESSES**

*This information is
provided by the
City of Cambridge
Graffiti Task Force*

TO: Robert W. Healy, City Manager

FROM: Graffiti Task Force
Ralph Dunphy, Chair

We are pleased to submit to you a status report on the Task Force's activities.

Overview:

The Graffiti Hot line (349-INFO) became operational on July 1st of this year, and since that time there have been over 100 phone calls made to this number. The Department of Public Works (DPW) staffs the phone, refers all calls reporting new incidents to the Police Department for investigation, and contacts property owners to facilitate removal (see attached sample letter). The DPW provides information to property owners on removal techniques, and coordinates the removal on city-owned property. Of the calls made to the graffiti hotline, 30 were regarding graffiti on private property (both business and residential), 25 on utilities, 12 on traffic signs and poles, 6 on bridges, and 24 on city-owned buildings and parks.

In addition, the following action items have been completed or are in progress:

Education:

- The Graffiti Brochure has been completed (attached). The goal of the brochure is first and foremost to promote the graffiti hotline number and encourage participation in the City's graffiti eradication efforts. These brochures will be distributed widely throughout the residential and business community, and will be available at sites frequented by the public. The information from this brochure, as well as additional information on the City's graffiti program, will soon be available on the City's Homepage on the Internet.
- Materials on removal techniques have also been developed; this material is sent to property owners who request assistance in their removal efforts.
- Letters to business owners that sell spray paint and indelible markers, reminding them of the City ordinance prohibiting the sale of these items to minors, is being developed.

- The Task Force continues to work with the schools and the Police to coordinate anti-vandalism curriculum with DARE curriculum; to introduce "Captain Graffiti" program; and develop a method to review the City's graffiti policy (and the State and Local laws) in each school.

Enforcement:

- The Task Force has been meeting with personnel from the Juvenile and Adult Courts, to impress upon them the city's commitment to the eradication of graffiti, and to discuss appropriate sanctions for graffiti perpetrators. On November 19th, members of the Task Force met with a number of personnel at the courthouse to discuss the possibility of instituting a City-run community service program to which graffiti perpetrators could be assigned. Through earlier correspondence, Judge Sherman expressed interest in such a proposal. Court personnel at the meeting included: Clerk-Magistrate of the Cambridge District Court Robert Moscow, Clerk Magistrate of the Cambridge Juvenile Court Paul Harnett, Assistant District Attorney Anne Edwards, Chief Probation Officer of the Cambridge District Court Al Ferrari, Assist Chief Probation Officer of the Cambridge Juvenile Court Gil Sakakeeny, and First Assistant Clerk Magistrate of the Cambridge Juvenile Court Ted Carter.

In this proposal, perpetrators (particularly first-time offenders) would be assigned to the Cambridge Department of Public Works for 20-50 hours to remove graffiti. Court personnel are very interested in pursuing this option. Logistics are currently being worked out; the Task Force will send its recommendation to the City Manager within the next few months.

- The Police Dept. has identified a main contact for investigating the crime of graffiti: Sergeant Leonard DiPietro

Removal:

- The City continues to develop pro-active ways of identifying and removing graffiti from its property. The City Manager informed all department heads with personnel out in the field about the need to report incidents of graffiti. The Department of Public Works (DPW) has instituted an "*Eyes on the City*" campaign, encouraging all DPW personnel out on the streets to report, among other things, incidents of graffiti. On a daily basis, Parking Control Officers report graffiti located on traffic and parking signs, signal poles and parking meters. Signal maintainers at the Electric Department also routinely report locations of electric poles, utility and fire boxes marred by graffiti. In addition, the Park Ranger and grounds crew at the Fresh Pond Reservation routinely identify and report incidents of graffiti. (Note: reported incidents from the Traffic, Electrical and Water Departments

go directly to the division responsible for removal, and are not included in the Graffiti Hotline numbers.)

- DPW has solvents, brushes and other graffiti removal equipment on hand for use by residents, business owners and community groups:
- The Electrical Department is working with ComElectric on piloting a coating product for electric light poles and transformer covers that resists graffiti and/or aids in its removal. Certain poles in Harvard Square have already been coated.
- The use of graffiti resistant materials has been added to the City's design guidelines for the construction of parks, playgrounds and open spaces

Community Involvement:

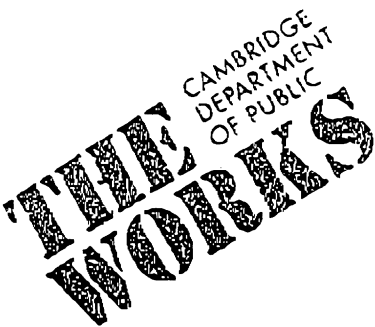
- On October 26, 1996 for the City Year Day Serve-a-thon, two neighborhood groups engaged in graffiti clean up efforts. The North Cambridge Crime Task Force worked with community volunteers including personnel from W.R. Grace and DPW to clean a section of Linear Park. The Area 4 Crime Task Force, also working with community residents including members of the Area 4 Coalition, removed graffiti from locations throughout the neighborhood. Both of these removal efforts were supported by DPW and funded by Community Oriented Policing Community Grants.

The Task Force will continue its efforts to eradicate graffiti, and will keep you apprised of its efforts and suggestions.

Graffiti Task Force:

Vicky Boulrice, Community Oriented Policing, Police Department
Marcia Brathwaite, Management Intern, City Manager's Office
Leonard DiPietro, Police Department Sergeant
Ralph Dunphy, Public Works Commissioner
Arthur Goldberg, Legal Counsel
Venita Mathias, Community Development Neighborhood Planner
David O'Connor, Emergency Management Director
Lisa Peterson, Assistant to the City Manager
Charles Sullivan, Historical Commission

Attachments



Ralph E. Dunphy
Commissioner

August 1, 1996

147 Hampshire Street
Cambridge, MA 02139
617-349-4800
TDD 617-349-4805

Mr. [redacted]
Somerville, MA 02143

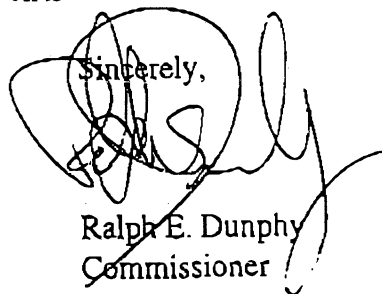
Dear Mr. [redacted]:

On August 1, 1996 the City of Cambridge Graffiti Hotline received a report of graffiti on the property located at [redacted] Street. A review of our records indicate you are the owner of this property.

Incidents of graffiti in this City have increased significantly over the past few years, and complaints have risen proportionately. Efforts are being made to step up investigations, prosecute "taggers" and remove all graffiti in a timely and practical manner.

As a property owner, you are responsible for the removal of graffiti from your property. If you desire some direction regarding its removal, Public Works will be happy to speak with you to provide their expertise and technical knowledge. Please refer your questions and/or concerns to Deputy Commissioner Steven L. White at 349-4810.

Sincerely,



Ralph E. Dunphy
Commissioner

RED/a





CITY OF CAMBRIDGE
CAMBRIDGE, MASSACHUSETTS 02139

TEL. 349-4300
FAX. 349-4307



17.

EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT
ROBERT W. HEALY
City Manager

RICHARD C. ROSSI
Deputy City Manager

December 16, 1996

To the Honorable, the City Council:

In response to Awaiting Report # 9 requesting a progress report from the Graffiti Task Force, please find attached a report from the committee on their activities.

Very truly yours,

Robert W. Healy
City Manager

Attachment

Consent Agenda #17

5-617

Regarding a progress report from the
Graffiti Task Force.

In City Council December 16, 1996

Referred to Public
Service Committee
on motion of
Councillor Sullivan
Copies sent
12-17-96 me