



Office of Mayor Frank C. Guinta

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Mayor Frank Guinta Announces Enhanced Graffiti Action Plan for City of Manchester

MANCHESTER (*March 10, 2008*) – Mayor Frank Guinta announced on Monday that he has developed a graffiti action plan that builds upon previous efforts undertaken by the city. The first meeting of the plan’s task force will be held in early- to mid-April.

“Through these action items, we will be stepping up our efforts at will begin the process of curtailing and eliminating graffiti in our city,” Guinta said. “Graffiti is obviously not something new in our city. It has been a problem for years and has proven to be very difficult to prevent. However, with a proactive approach, we can divert this problem, which we know could encourage more serious crimes.”

The following are the areas of focus this action plan will address:

Graffiti Task Force: The task force will consist of city staff, business leaders, property owners, community activists and elected officials.

Communications/Marketing: The Graffiti Task Force and the Economic Development Office will work with the Police Department, Weed & Seed, the Planning Department, the Office of Youth Services and the Highway Department to better promote existing graffiti services.

Awareness: Some residents don’t recognize that graffiti is a property crime that defaces and depreciates both public and private property. The Graffiti Task Force will to work with Manchester Crime Line to raise awareness that graffiti is a crime that must be taken seriously.

Outreach: The Task Force will work with local and regional businesses to make it harder to obtain the supplies of the graffiti trade.

Murals: Recent studies have shown that the creation of murals in specific graffiti hot zones reduces graffiti vandalism due to respect for a fellow artist. The Task Force will work with Weed and Seed and the area schools to establish a series of appropriate wall murals.

Members of the task force include:

Malcolm Beaulieu – Manchester Property Owners Association

Marty Boldin – Manchester Office of Youth Services

Diane Bourque – Manchester resident

Tracy Degges – Manchester Health Department

Meena Gyawali – Manchester Planning Department

Sgt. Kevin Kincaid – Manchester Police Department

Jessica Kinsey – New Hampshire Institute of Art

Diane Lavigne – Manchester resident

Stephanie Lewry – Intown Manchester

John Paolini – Piccola Italia Ristorante

Nicole Rodler – Weed and Seed/Manchester Health Department

Those interested in participating in the task force are encouraged to contact **James Morris** at the Mayor's Office: **(603) 624-6500** or via e-mail at **jamesmorris@manchesternh.gov**.