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## FEDERAL WAY GETS A “GRIP” ON GRAFFITI

The City of Federal Way is announcing a new program to address the issue of graffiti removal. “GRIP”, an acronym for Graffiti Removal Incentive Program, stresses community involvement by offering graffiti cleanup/removal kits and graffiti prevention tips.

Graffiti removal is the responsibility of the property owner. Federal Way City Code Sections 22-1600(7) and 5-166(2) list graffiti as an illegal sign and public nuisance. Enforcement action can be taken if graffiti is not removed in a timely manner. The City will issue a notice to property owners if graffiti is reported on private property.

The GRIP program seeks to confront the dramatic increase in graffiti over the past year. In 2004, there were very few reports of graffiti, but in 2005, the City has already received more than 22 reports of such instances. Recently, graffiti has spread into residential areas, whereas before 2005, it was mainly found in the business districts. Experts state that the presence of graffiti on fences, walls, or other buildings and structures attracts more graffiti and may invite additional vandalism. It is the City’s goal to take a proactive role in the removal of graffiti to deter future incidents.

Federal Way is working with New Lumber and Hardware and has purchased graffiti removal kits that will be given to property owners free of charge. If you receive a graffiti removal notice, bring it to City Hall to have it endorsed within 7 days of receiving it, and then take it to New Lumber and Hardware, 30854 Pacific Highway S., to get your kit.

To report graffiti, call the Graffiti Hotline at 253-835-2617 and leave a message, or fill out a Citizen Action Request form online at [www.cityoffederalway.com](http://www.cityoffederalway.com), drop it off at City Hall, or fax it to 253-835-2609. Be sure to include the specific location of the graffiti, as well as your contact information (in case there are questions or the need for clarification). Together, we can get a “GRIP” on graffiti!

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