



# Chelsea Police Department

*"Stop Bragging about Tagging"*

**Tagging is against the law!**

**Any individuals convicted of tagging are  
subject to a substantial fine and/or  
license suspension  
for up to one (1) year.**

**Be a leader and not a follower!**

**Graffiti Hurts!**

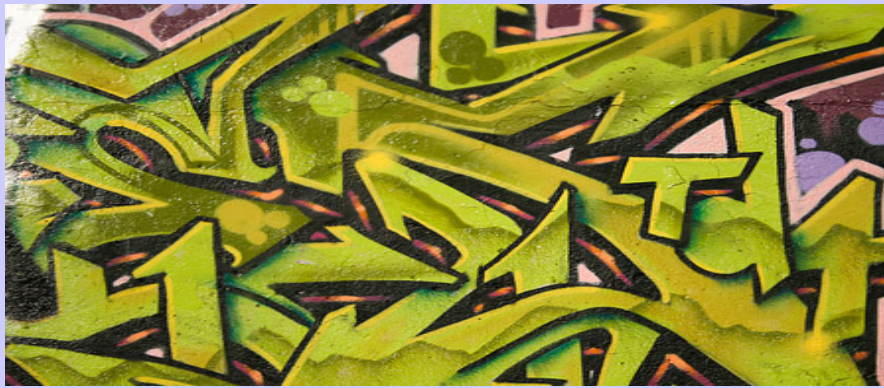
**Respect the property of others!**

**Don't harm the community!**



# Definitions and Differences between graffiti and tagging

- GRAFFITI**: Words or drawings scratched or scribbled on a wall. The word comes from the Greek term "*graphein*" (to write) and the word "graffiti" itself is plural of the Italian word "*graffito*." Graffiti is associated with urban art and has greater attention to detail.



- TAGGING**: To write your name or moniker quickly on a building or sign. Associated with marking ones territory or stating claim to a specific area. The city of Chelsea has seen a dramatic increase of tagging over the past three (3) years.





# Some Reasons why juveniles would engage in illegal “Tagging” and Graffiti

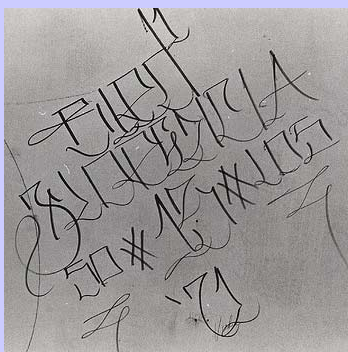
- Rebel against society



- Peer recognition



- To mark an area or specific place (Gang)



- To create something the artist believes is “special”





# Who Does Graffiti? (Chelsea Offender Profile)

- In Chelsea we have experienced an age demographic ranging primarily between **12 and 15** years of age
- For the most part they have been **young males** attending middle and high school.
- Majority of “taggers” in Chelsea are typically **first time law offenders** and are average to above average academically.



# Tagging “As a Sport”

The name of the game “**Getting Up**”

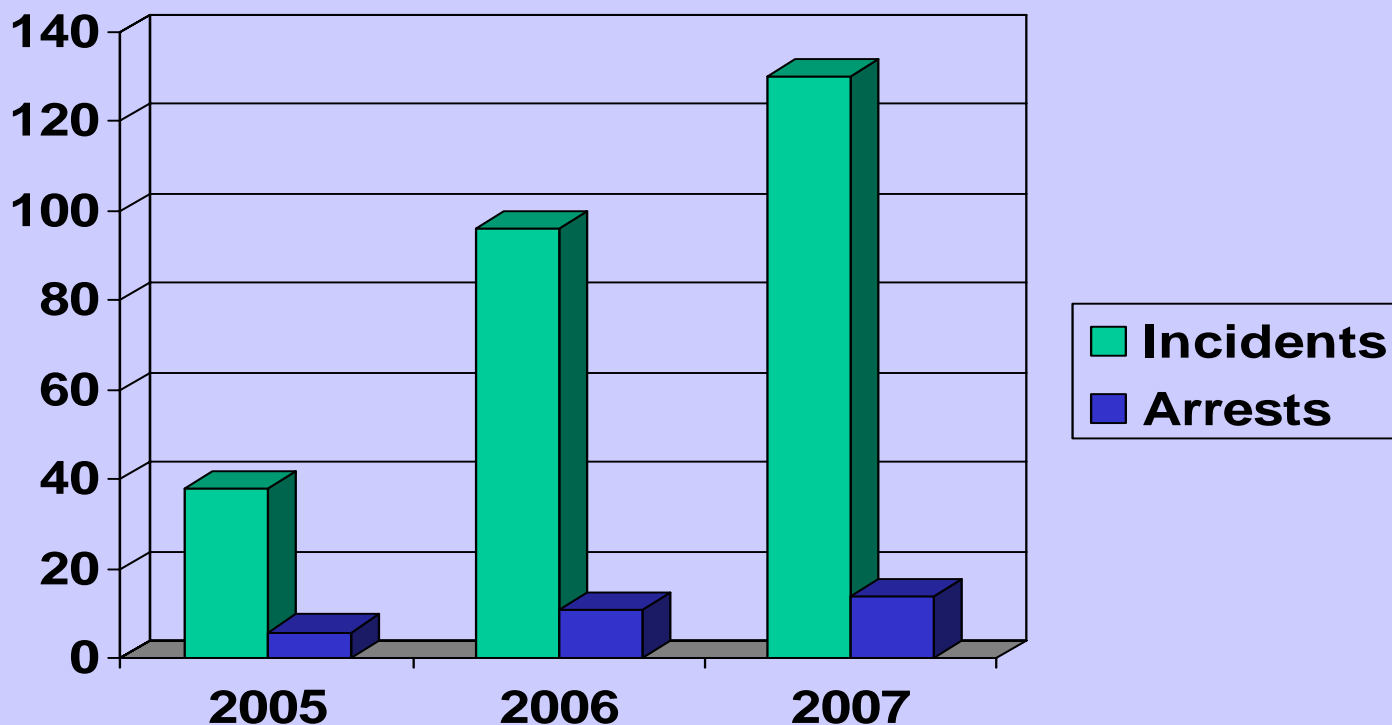
- The object is to **paint and destroy** as much property as you can in one night
- Investigations and interviews with Chelsea “taggers” have revealed that some young tagging groups go out on what they call a “**mischief night**”
- In one night multiple locations can be maliciously destroyed; in many of these cases the destruction can be **extreme**





# Statistics

The number of reported graffiti incidents have increased over the past three years.



- The number of reported INCIDENTS have increased from **38 in 2005** to **96 in 2006** and **130 in 2007**.
- The number of ARRESTS rose from **6 in 2005** to **11 in 2006** and **14 in 2007**



# “Tagging” City Ordinance

[Proposed]

- sprays or applies paint or
- places a sticker
- upon a building, wall, fence, sign, tablet, gravestone, monument or other object or thing;
- on a public way; or
- adjoined to it, or
- in public view, or
- on private property,
- such person known or commonly known as “taggers”; and
- such conduct or activity known or commonly known as “tagging”, or
- other words or phrases associated to such persons, conduct or activity; and
- either as an individual or
- in a group, joins together with said group,
- with the intent to deface, mar, damage, mark or destroy such property



# Penalty

- **PENALTY**: Any person who is found guilty of violating any of the provisions of this ordinance shall be liable to a criminal fine of **not less than one hundred dollars (\$100) or not more than three hundred dollars (\$300)**, and shall in all other respects be subject to the provisions of section 1-7. However, if a violator fails to follow the procedures and requirements of said Chapter 40, section 21D of the General Laws, the fines shall be recoverable by indictment or on complaint, pursuant to chapter 40, section 21 of the General Laws.
- **Right of Arrest**: A police officer **may arrest** any person for commission of the offenses prohibited by this section **without a warrant** if said police officer has **probable cause** to believe that said person has committed the offenses prohibited by this section.
- **Reward Program**: Fines recovered under this ordinance may be used at the **discretion of the City Manager** to fund a **Reward Program** which shall be used as an **incentive for citizens who provide timely and accurate information** leading to the arrest and suitable disposition of an individual charged with this tagging ordinance.



# Graffiti Strategy

- The Chelsea Department shall adopt a comprehensive and systematic **three-tier approach** to combating the graffiti problem in our community titled “*Stop Bragging about Tagging*” that involves:
  - (1) **Prevention**, including continuous education and community involvement as well as Crime Prevention through Environmental Design;
  - (2) **Enforcement and Prosecution** including a Proposed Reward Program; and
  - (3) **Removal** (less than 48 hours pursuant to local ordinance).



# Prevention

- Public educational anti-graffiti programs such as the [Graffiti Hurts Curriculum](http://www.graffitihurts.org) ([www.graffitihurts.org](http://www.graffitihurts.org)), are designed to **heighten awareness and sensitivity** to graffiti. This includes educating Chelsea elementary school children (K-3rd grade and 4th - 6th grade) which can be one of the most effective ways of wiping out graffiti tagging by **future adolescents**.
- **Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design** (CPTED) is a method used by architects, city planners, landscape and interior designers, and law enforcement to create a safer community through making adjustments to the physical environment.



# Prevention cont...

## “CPTED” four strategies:

1.) **Territoriality** - Using fences, pavement treatments, art, signs, good maintenance, and landscaping to **express ownership**.

2.) **Natural Surveillance** - Placing physical features, activities, and people in ways that **maximize the ability to see what's going on**.

[e.g., Benches in front of property]

3.) **Activity support** - Encouraging legitimate activity in public spaces to discourage crime.

4.) **Access control** - Using properly located entrances, exits, fencing, landscaping, and **lighting** to discourage crime. **Special landscaping** such as shrubs near potential target areas is an effective measure in deterring tagging.

- Encouraging the design and construction of graffiti resistant structures.
- Encouraging public/private partnerships to respond to graffiti vandalism.



# Enforcement

The Chelsea Police Department is committed to the elimination of graffiti or tagging vandalism.

- “*Zero Tolerance*” policy by Chelsea Police Officers and Detectives for any graffiti vandalism
- Working with the community groups to offer cash rewards of up to three hundred dollars (\$300) for information that leads to the arrest and suitable disposition (including alternative sentencing via sentencing “circles”) of graffiti vandals.
- Funds for this proposed Reward Program shall be generated by charging offenders with a non-criminal disposition via a newly enacted city ordinance. All fines received for violation of this particular ordinance shall be used to fund the Reward Program.



# Removal

The faster the graffiti is removed, the faster the tagging problem diminishes

- The Chelsea Police Department strives to have any graffiti removed **within 48 hours** of it being discovered. CPD shall coordinate with ISD & DPW to facilitate this purpose.
- If the graffiti is on public property: The City will have it removed as soon as possible, normally by the next regular business day.
- If the graffiti is on private property: Representatives from the Chelsea Police Department or the City will contact the property owner and request their assistance in removing or covering the graffiti as soon as possible.
- In extreme cases, the City Ordinance has provisions for the City to remove the graffiti and recover the associated cost from the property owners.



# Potential Budgetary Impact (proposed)

- Initial funding for the Reward Program shall be one thousand five hundred dollars (\$1,500). Additional funding for this program shall be funded from the fines that are generated in the Chelsea District Court from charging violators with the proposed City Ordinance (as opposed to the state statute) whereby the fine shall be levied at three hundred (\$300) per violation

# Recent Graffiti “Intelligence”

- Over the past few months investigators have been working with confidential and reliable informants who have provided valuable “*inside*” information involving the identity of **twenty two (22) local juveniles** who have since admitted to tagging **over 50 structures** in and around the City of Chelsea in recent months. Criminal complaints are currently pending in the District Court against many of these offenders. We expect more complaints to follow.

# Top Taggers Identified

- **“Virus”**, 14 years old, eight grade student at the Williams School – Virus is responsible for the tagging at the new park located on Crescent Ave., Garage doors on Essex St. and Congress Ave, side wall of the market on the corner of Essex and Shawmut, numerous residential doors on Essex Street and numerous city street signs throughout the city as well as underneath the overpass on Fifth Street. He admitted to tagging almost everyday, to include the day of his interview.
- **“Mec 1”**, 17 years old – Mec is the first cousin to Virus. He has admitted to tagging the Family Dollar Store, dumpsters all around the city, residential doors, garage doors, Katz’s Bagels, and numerous street signs. He admits to going out “tagging” with his cousin on numerous occasions and has admitted to tagging with other taggers names like “Germ” to mislead investigators.

# Top Taggers Identified

- **“Havoc”**, 14 years old, eighth grader at the Williams School – He is responsible for numerous tags on city property to include under the overpass on Fifth Street (directly across the street from the Williams School) and numerous homes on Congress Ave. Virus admits to tagging with Havoc on Numerous Occasions and as recently as Christmas Eve night when he and an entire “crew” went out to see how much they could tag in a single night.
- **“Germ”**, 14 years old – He is already being prosecuted for numerous tags around the city as well as East Boston. Sgt. Nelson just recently arrested “Germ” for multiple tags on city and private property. While conducting an interview Saturday night it was discovered that Germ was with Virus on the 24th of this month tagging the new park on Crescent Ave. The tags that were observed at this location were “Virus”, “Maze1” and “Germ.”

# Identification Pending

- **“SOB”** unknown white male with an unknown address. We know he is a sixth grader at the Williams School. We have a very good physical description and should be able to identify him early this week at the Williams School with the assistance of our SRO and School Security. He and three of his closest friends are responsible for the damage to 20 garages doors at 310-312 Washington Ave recently. While interviewing “Virus”, he and the other taggers who were interviewed Saturday night stated that the art work on the garage doors was done by young kids and was of very poor quality. They all identified “SOB” as a sixth grader at the Williams School who tags with the moniker “SOB” and that his friends, other sixth graders at the Williams School are “CEK” and “Peace”. These are the three tags that are across the garage door in the rear of 310-312 Washington Ave.

# **Other Local 13-14 Year Old “Taggers” by Street**

- **Stilts” - Orange St. Chelsea**
- 
- **“Haze” a.k.a. “Dreamer” - Shurtleff St. Chelsea**
- 
- **“Spn” - Webster Ct. Chelsea**
- 
- **“Tek One”- Pearl St. Chelsea**
- 
- **“Esta” - Maverick St. Chelsea**
- 
- **“Ero” - Walnut Street Chelsea**
- 
- **“Mar” - Congress Ave. Chelsea**
- 
- **“Raze” - Normandy Rd. Chelsea**
- 
- **“Nova 4” - Webster Ct. Chelsea**
- 
- **“Snipper” Suffolk Street Chelsea**

# Some older CHS Students Identified

- “**Aer One**” - Fourth St. Chelsea
- 
- “**Meo**”, Chelsea High School
- 
- “**Mer**”, Chelsea High School
- 
- “**Acid**”, Chelsea High School
- 
- “**4not**”, Chelsea High School
- 
- “**Mouses**”, Chelsea High School
- 
- “**RJD**”, Chelsea High School



# Examples



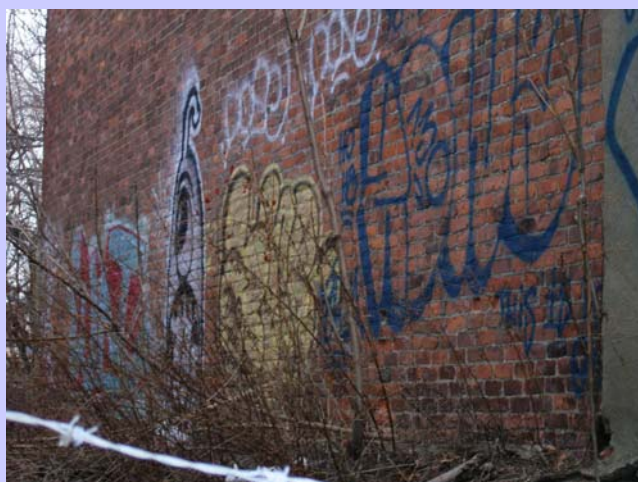
Corner of Congress Ave.  
& Shawmut St.



Rear of 42  
Washington Ave.



Ash Street



Jewish Temple.



# Examples cont...



Building on Arlington St..



Crescent Ave.



Under Tobin Bridge



Under the Bridge near  
The Williams School



# Examples cont...



Garages next to Highland Park Field



The Rear of Luther Place



Sixth Street - Siedman Brothers.

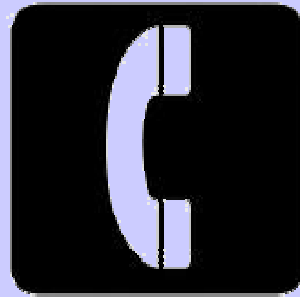


Williams School at Arlington St



# Chelsea Police Department

*"Crime Stoppers Tip line"*



"Crime Stoppers"

Tip line

[Available in Spanish & English]

**617-466-4880**

Jay Ash  
City Manager

Brian A. Kyes  
Chief of Police



# Chelsea Police Department

*"Stop Bragging about Tagging"*

# Community Collaboration

Presented by:  
Councilor Marilyn Vega

Jay Ash  
City Manager

Stanley Troisi, President  
Chelsea City Council

Brian A. Kyes  
Chief of Police

# **5 Steps to Community Collaboration**

- 1. Support Chelsea Police Department**
- 2. Support the City Council in implementing the proposed city ordinance against graffiti**
- 3. Community Collaboration**
- 4. School Collaboration**
- 5. City Collaboration**

# Community Collaboration

- We need to **enforce** new city ordinance.
- We need to **communicate** in new ways to landlords and residents about the new city ordinance and what is being done to prevent this graffiti problem and what they need to do if they are a victim or if they know someone that is a tagger. (i.e. Multi-lingual letter to residents). Many landlords and residents don't know where they need to go to report an incident or get help.
- We need to advocate to residents for help in clean-up and **take pride** in their city. Landlords need to take **immediate action** in cleaning up their property once it has been reported to the proper authorities.
- Work with **local organizations** who want to work with the community in resolving and cleaning up the graffiti. We need to support organizations like **CND, ACE , ROCA and Thomas Jefferson Program** whom have already shown an interest in being involved in resolving this problem and have projects planned in the upcoming months.

# School Collaboration

- Education is Key to prevention in the future.
- Implement **Graffiti Hurts Curriculum** in schools to make students aware of this problem.
- Hold an assembly in the middle school and high school and discuss the issues the city faces with graffiti and what the consequences are if a youth is caught tagging.
- Work with “*Circles*” (ROCA) to help youth that have been caught tagging.
- Work with youth that have been caught in tagging and get them involved in community service.

# City Collaboration

- **Work with ISD, DPW and Community Planning & Development to develop new strategies with respect to:**
- **Working with landlords or victims of graffiti/tagging.**
- **Installing new signage throughout the city (high tagging areas or public areas) re: tagging and applicable fines.**
- **Continuing to provide better lighting, tree trimming and clean-up of public areas (i.e. parks) to prevent taggers in these areas.**