



CITY OF ANN ARBOR, MICHIGAN

301 E. Huron St., P.O. Box 8647 • Ann Arbor, Michigan 48107-8647

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PRESS RELEASE

For Immediate Release

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CITY OF ANN ARBOR DEDICATES COMMUNITY STANDARDS STAFF TO GRAFFITI ORDINANCE ENFORCEMENT

ANN ARBOR, Mich., October 24, 2011 — In 2009, City Council passed an ordinance to strengthen the language in the city's Graffiti Ordinance for removing graffiti on private property. In recent months, Ann Arbor has seen an increase in the number of graffiti incidences, which detracts from the aesthetic appeal of our community, can decrease property values and has a negative impact on the sense of safety and security for residents and visitors. As a result, beginning on November 1, 2011, the City of Ann Arbor Community Standards Unit will dedicate staff to graffiti enforcement.

Because of dedicated enforcement efforts, property owners who have graffiti on their premises may receive notice from the city requiring removal. Per the Graffiti Ordinance, property owners are required to remove graffiti within seven calendar days after notice from the city. If the owner does not remove the graffiti, then the city may remove the graffiti and bill the property owner for the work.

Reporting Graffiti

There are several options for reporting incidences of graffiti: Citizens can call the Community Standards Unit of the Ann Arbor Police Department at (734) 794-6942; e-mail complaints to communitystandards@a2gov.org; or submit a complaint online via the Citizen Request System at <http://www2.a2gov.org/A2CSR/CSRRequest.aspx>.

Chapter 106 Nuisances, Section 9.6 Graffiti language:

No person who owns or otherwise controls or manages any property shall permit or allow any Graffiti to be or remain on any surface or structure on the property beyond the time indicated in a notice, which is to be no less than (7) calendar days after the notice is posted on the property or delivered to the property owner and no less than (9) calendar days if the notice is mailed. If removal of the graffiti by the date set in the notice is not possible due to weather or other reasonable cause, then on or before the date set in the notice the person to whom the notice is issued or his or her agent shall contact the City as indicated in the notice to request an extension.

Removal of the graffiti may be by means of actual physical removal or covering the graffiti over with paint or similar substance applied to the structure.



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If any graffiti remains on the property beyond the time indicated in a notice, then the City may remove the graffiti or have it removed in any reasonable manner. The costs to the City for removal and administration shall be charged to the owner and, if not paid, assessed against the property in accordance with section 1:292 of Chapter 13 of this Code.

A violation of this sub section is not a civil infraction or misdemeanor.

Ann Arbor has 114,000 residents, spans 27.7 square miles, and is frequently recognized as a foremost place to live, learn, work, thrive and visit (www.a2gov.org/news). To keep up with City of Ann Arbor information, subscribe for e-mail updates (www.a2gov.org/subscribe), follow us on Twitter (<http://twitter.com/a2gov>) or become a city fan on Facebook (www.facebook.com/thecityofannarbor). The city's mission statement reads: The city of Ann Arbor is committed to providing excellent municipal services that enhance the quality of life for all through the intelligent use of resources while valuing an open environment that fosters fair, sensitive and respectful treatment of all employees and the community we serve.

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