

## **News from the City of Dearborn**

*Dearborn – Clean and Safe*

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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### **Graffiti brings serious repercussions to offenders**

**DEARBORN**, Mich. – With an increase of graffiti in Dearborn, the Police Department is cracking down on those who create it.

And the number of graffiti-related arrests is enough to make anyone think twice before defacing property, according to Sgt. David Robinson of the Police Department's Youth Bureau.

In a recent 45-day period, investigations and police patrols have brought forward 22 graffiti-related arrests. Of those arrests, 21 have resulted in misdemeanor charges and one brought a felony charge.

"We want kids and their parents to know that graffiti is being investigated and dealt with very seriously," Robinson said.

Actually the Police Department is working very closely with the Dearborn Department of Public Works, which is responsible for the costly graffiti cleanup, and the 19<sup>th</sup> District Court to find and prosecute offenders. Representatives from the Police Department have also been spreading the word to the Dearborn schools, in an effort to raise awareness of the problem.

Robinson said the punishment for defacing property with graffiti varies according to the offender, depending on the severity of the crime and the number of previous offenses. For example, a young person with no criminal history might

be required to perform extensive clean-up work, as ordered by the 19<sup>th</sup> District Court's Probation Division.

In some cases, restitution will also be sought for the damages created by the graffiti and the expensive cleanup. City officials are currently seeking a total of \$6,800 in restitution for graffiti clean up costs.

A repeat offender, or someone with a history of criminal problems, could face the juvenile court system, he said.

Robinson also reminds parents of the graffiti offenders that they could be held accountable under the City of Dearborn's parental responsibility ordinance.

While Dearborn, like most cities, has always dealt with a fair amount of graffiti locations, Robinson said there has been an increase of cases over the past few months. He said the increase in graffiti could be attributed to the new construction and buildings throughout the city of Dearborn.

"We're seeing an increase, especially since there are many new structures and buildings going up," he said.

However, Robinson does not believe the graffiti is gang-related; the defacing usually comes from juveniles who have made poor decisions by writing nicknames, symbols or other pictures on property.

He also said the cleanup can be very costly, depending on the surface that is defaced.

The Police Department seeks assistance from people who can help identify persons who are defacing both public and private properties with graffiti.

A \$1,000 reward will be given to those who provide information that directly leads to the arrest and conviction of those responsible for graffiti.

Contact the Dearborn Police Detective Bureau at (313) 943-3012 with any information regarding this issue. Individuals can leave contact information or remain anonymous.

Visit the City of Dearborn website at [www.cityofdearborn.org](http://www.cityofdearborn.org) for other news and information about the city.

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