

**RELEASE**

**WHEREAS** the undersigned, being of lawful age, does hereby verify that (he/she) is the (owner/occupant) of or has a legitimate interest in property located at \_\_\_\_\_, in Wichita, Sedgwick County, Kansas, and

**WHEREAS** the undersigned further verifies that (he/she) has requested that the City of Wichita, Kansas, remove graffiti and

**WHEREAS** the undersigned agrees to hold the said City and any other participating employees or volunteers harmless and indemnified against any and all lawful claims which may be made against it or them arising out of the same.

**EXECUTED** this \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 2\_\_\_\_\_.

\_\_\_\_\_  
(Landowner - Signature)

\_\_\_\_\_  
(Landowner - Print)

STATE OF KANSAS )

)

SEDGWICK COUNTY )

**BE IT REMEMBERED**, that on this \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 2\_\_\_\_\_,

came \_\_\_\_\_, to me personally known to be the same person who executed the within instrument, and duly acknowledged the execution of the same.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Attested

\_\_\_\_\_  
Attestant's Name (Print)

**Return To:**

**OFFICE OF CENTRAL INSPECTION  
455 N. MAIN, 7TH FLOOR  
WICHITA, KS 67202  
ATTENTION: NEIGHBORHOOD INSPECTIONS**

**Per ordinance # 5.37**

If you are unable to remove the graffiti yourself from your property or business — the City of Wichita offers to remove it for you **AT NO COST TO YOU**. You will need to sign the waiver on this brochure and send to the address included.



**Reducing  
Graffiti in our  
Community**

*Office of Central Inspection*  
**316-268-4481**



**WHO is responsible for  
GRAFFITI REMOVAL?**

**Graffiti on private property**

The property owner is responsible to remove **Immediately**

**Graffiti on utilities**

City Staff removes graffiti on public utilities

**Graffiti on public property**

City Staff removes graffiti on public property (buildings, signs, power poles, mailboxes, etc.)

# What is Graffiti?

## GRAFFITI IS AN ACT OF VANDALISM

“Graffiti” means any unauthorized writing, inscription, word, figure or design which is marked, etched, scratched, drawn or painted on any structural component of any building, structure or other facility, regardless of the nature of the material used in its application or upon which it is applied.



## GRAFFITI IMPACT

**Graffiti is a serious crime that impacts all members of the community.**

The victims of graffiti include:

- Property and business owners who may incur defaced and devalued property
- Business owners who incur a loss of customers from the negative image that graffiti generates
- Neighborhoods who incur negative messaging
- Taxpayers whose dollars are spent removing graffiti on public buildings, park structures, fences and anywhere there is a canvas for “graffiti”

## TYPES OF GRAFFITI

**Vandals seek visibility. Prompt removal denies them visibility, which will cause fewer future attacks.**

**GANG GRAFFITI** is the written language of gangs. It can be used to communicate, challenge, make statements or even serve as a role call. Gang graffiti is usually territorial.

**TAGGER GRAFFITI** is when a tagger adopts a nickname (or "tag") and then writes it on public and private property. Tagger writing usually resembles handwriting and is sometimes so stylized that it is difficult to read. Letters are commonly intertwined and cartoon-type drawings often accompany a tag. Tagger graffiti is not territorial since the taggers are determined to place as many tags as possible throughout an area to seek recognition among their peers.

**GRAFFITI VANDALS (markers)** sometimes tag as part of a group, or a "crew." Most crew graffiti shows the tag name and the tag crew. A tag crew can be identified by the initials scrawled somewhere in the tag.

**THRILL SEEKING** is another motivating factor for some graffiti vandals. Taggers often damage property quite simply for the thrill of overcoming the fear of getting caught and in some cases, the fear of high places. Although this sounds odd to most adults, it can be a very strong motivator for taggers - many of whom are under 18 years old.

## COMMUNITY RESPONSIBILITY

Graffiti hurts everyone and can destroy a nice neighborhood. The community members have a responsibility to maintain their neighborhoods, and keep them graffiti-free. When an area is hit again and again by graffiti, citizens feel the area is not safe and it serves as a welcome mat to more serious crime. In order to defeat the graffiti vandals, and keep our neighborhoods safe, we all have to continually be on top of the problem! Paint over graffiti on your property as soon as it appears! Not only is it easier to clean fresh graffiti, but it discourages future tags.

## PREVENT GRAFFITI

WHO CAN PREVENT GRAFFITI? **YOU!**

**Maintain your property:** Keep your property clean and neat, mow, pick up trash, remove old furniture junk & debris!

**Promptly Remove Graffiti:** Property owners are responsible for removal of graffiti. Removal within 24 to 48 hours significantly reduces chances of reoccurrence because you refuse to be a victim.

## REPORT GRAFFITI

**Wherever you see graffiti—on your property, on others' private property, on public property.**

## INFORMATION NEEDED TO MAKE IT EASIER TO RESPOND TO YOUR REPORT

- **Give the exact address** - If there is no building address, get the two neighboring addresses.
- **Location of graffiti** - north facing wall, southeast corner, mailbox, etc.
- **Type of property affected** - street sign, bus shelter, fence, retaining wall, etc.
- **Surface / Size** - Painted or unpainted wood, brick, concrete, glass, etc. and the dimensions

## WHO DO YOU REPORT IT TO!

Notify the authorities — Reporting graffiti to the police aids tracking and prosecution of vandals.

- Call 911 to report graffiti in progress, because this is a crime.
- Call the **Office of Central Inspection at 268-4481** to report graffiti on your property or others.
- **Call Crime Stoppers 267-2111 to report suspected vandals.**

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