

## ELIMINATION OF GRAFFITI VANDALISM



Dear Parent / Guardian:

The City has declared the elimination of graffiti vandalism to be one of its highest priorities. This type of criminal activity has a negative effect on the entire community, and if it is going to be reduced significantly, it will take the support and assistance of everyone in the community working together to achieve this goal. To that end, the City Council has amended the Yucaipa Municipal Code to adopt new measures that will impose serious consequences on anyone convicted of engaging in graffiti vandalism, **including the parents of minors that are involved in this activity.**

Pursuant to Chapter 8.08 of the Municipal Code, any person that is convicted of placing graffiti on any public or private property will be prosecuted to the fullest extent possible under California Penal Code Section 594 and other state statutes. Please note that **each incident** (or separate “tag”) will be prosecuted as a separate violation, and **each violation** (or separate “tag”) will be subject to a **\$1,000 civil fine** in addition to any criminal fines and penalties that are assessed by the court, including full restitution of the clean up costs to the property owner whose property was vandalized.

Please be further advised that it is **unlawful** for a minor to have in his or her possession any graffiti implement, except for the minor’s use under the supervision of the minor’s parent, guardian, instructor or employer, and it is **unlawful** for any person to have in his or her possession any graffiti implement while upon any public or private property, except as may be authorized by the owner of the property. A “graffiti implement” means any implement capable of marking a surface to create graffiti, including, but not limited to, aerosol paint containers, indelible markers, etching devices, and gum labels.

The City of Yucaipa and the Yucaipa Police Department are taking a **zero tolerance** approach to graffiti vandalism, and it is our hope that your child will not participate in this type of criminal activity, because the consequences will be severe, and for minors, **the parents or guardians of that child will be held financially accountable for the fines and the cost of restitution.** If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact the City Code Enforcement Division at (909) 797-2489 x245, or visit the City’s web page at [www.yucaipa.org](http://www.yucaipa.org), where you can review the full text of the City’s graffiti abatement regulations in Chapter 8.08 of the Yucaipa Municipal Code.

Sincerely,

Dick Riddell, Mayor  
City of Yucaipa