

## Westminster Police Department

# PRESS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

## Graffiti Awareness

Graffiti vandalism soils buildings, public places, vehicles, and highways. Graffiti also destroys property and costs the City and citizens a large amount of money in clean-up costs each year. Graffiti also has a negative impact on neighborhoods and invites further vandalism. The Westminster Police Department takes a bold stance against graffiti and encourages the citizens of Westminster to join in that fight. As a community, we can work together to address this quality of life issue.

The City of Westminster uses different avenues to dissuade these vandals from disrespecting our City, neighborhoods, and community. The Westminster Police Department takes a zero tolerance approach with anyone identified or caught writing graffiti. Every person caught is arrested and brought to the police department for processing. A case is filed with the District Attorney's office and we support prosecution to the fullest extent of the law. The City of Westminster also employs a graffiti removal person whose sole job is to patrol the entire city and remove all graffiti found on public right of way. Every effort is made to apply matching paint to the damaged surface.

The City of Westminster also has a graffiti reward program. The City may issue up to a \$500.00 reward to anyone who reports material information to the Westminster Police Department that leads to the apprehension and conviction of anyone who has defaced public or private property with graffiti.

Westminster residents have three options in reporting graffiti. For any crime in progress, including graffiti, please call 9-1-1. We ask that residents do not attempt to take matters into their own hands and please call the police for assistance. Residents can also call Westminster Police dispatch at 714-548-3212 to report graffiti that has already occurred and there were no suspects seen; or call the Graffiti Hotline at 714-548-3253 if graffiti is located in the public right of way. Callers can remain anonymous and leave crime tips at Orange County Crime Stoppers by calling 1-855-TIP-OCCS or online at [www.occrimestoppers.org](http://www.occrimestoppers.org).