News Release

City of Mansfield, Ohio | Donald R. Culliver, Mayor

For Immediate Release

Date: April 30, 2011

Contact: Office of the Mayor
Office: 419.755.9626

Subject: City Targets Graffiti

Mansfield, OH-- Collaboration among various agencies will assist the City of Mansfield in removing Graffiti.

Today Mansfield Mayor Donald Culliver announced that a collaboration with Mansfield Municipal Court Judges Jerry Ault and Frank Ardis, the Community Development Department and the Mansfield Police Department will begin work to eradicate Graffiti, or "Visual Litter" from various city locations.

"Our Municipal Court Judges will make available defendants who have been ordered to perform community service to work with a part-time project coordinator who will be paid by a Federal Grant", according to Mayor Culliver.

Funding to acquire a portable heated pressure washer system was obtained through a grant written by Mansfield Police Chief Dino Sgambellone. The system, constructed on a trailer includes a water tank, pressure washer, water heating system and reels for extra hose. The grant is part of a more comprehensive plan to reduce crime involving youth. Director Messer noted that Graffiti which in most cases is considered vandalism is often confused with markings commonly associated with gang development in larger communities. Our goal in the past was to remove graffiti as soon as possible not only due to its unsightly appearance, but to also prevent "tagging" which can occur when graffiti is left unchecked. Tagging is also a form of graffiti where individuals add markings, words or drawing to existing graffiti.

In the past graffiti was addressed with Police Athletic League volunteers using crude "homemade" equipment and chemicals. This project, with the help of Wilcox Sales and Service, a local business who supplied the equipment and a non-toxic method of removing graffiti at a substantial reduction in cost is scheduled to begin in late May. Messer stated Wilcox, who often volunteer to help clean community memorials has been a great source of advice and support for this project.

Although graffiti will be removed from public property first, the Mayor said he is hopeful to be able to assist private property owners in the very near future.

Mayor Culliver has ask residents to report graffiti by using an "on-line" report, soon to appear on the cities web site or by calling the police department non-emergency number at 419.522.1234. The locations are then forwarded to the project manager who schedules the cleaning.

We must all work together to help make Mansfield a great place to live, work or visit. These are very challenging times and collaboratives such as this demonstrate what can be accomplished when we work together.

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