

*MEDIA RELEASE / COMMUNITY ALERT
CITY OF SAN MATEO - DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS
SENT BY SAN MATEO POLICE DEPARTMENT
www.cityofsanmateo.org*

CITY CONDUCTS EXTENSIVE GRAFFITI ABATEMENT AND ENFORCEMENT EFFORT

Over the past month, there has been a significant increase in graffiti in San Mateo particularly along the Highway 101 corridor. This is very concerning to us in City government just as it is for our community members. The Public Works Department is responding aggressively using City staff and contractors to remove graffiti on City right-of-ways (such as utility boxes, sound walls, and stop signs) and working with Caltrans to remove graffiti along Highway 101, which is in the Caltrans right-of-way. Graffiti has been removed from many locations in the past week such as the Third Avenue interchange with remaining graffiti along Highway 101 to be removed in the coming days. We will continue to work with Caltrans to expedite the response to future graffiti along Highway 101.

In addition to our abatement efforts, the Police Department is increasing its enforcement effort which is an important component of a long-term solution. Recent examples include:

- Targeted enforcement action including more than 15 Probation Searches and proactive field contacts of known graffiti vandals over the past month
- Seven arrests and seizure of a cache of graffiti materials (paints, markers, stickers, etc.) from those arrested.
- Ongoing saturation patrols, surveillance, and enforcement of high-frequency graffiti targets

We ask for the public's continued help to spot graffiti in our city. Any time you see graffiti in our community, please call the Public Works call center at 522-7300, 24 hours a day seven days a week even if you think it may have been reported already. The sooner we get these locations identified, the sooner we can get this graffiti removed. Working together, we can reduce the occurrence of graffiti in our city.

Be our "eyes and ears" – Contact SMPD right away if you see Graffiti Activity occurring in your area:

Emergencies or Crimes in Progress: 911

Non-Emergency: 650-522-7700

Secret Witness Line: 650-522-7676

Text a Tip Anonymously: 650-262-3473