

**From:** Marcia Dennis  
**Sent:** Wednesday July 27, 2005 – 3:00 p.m.  
**Subject:** **Graffiti Abatement Procedures - Update**

July 27, 2005

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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### **Graffiti Abatement Program Special Information & Request**

The City of Portland's Office of Neighborhood Involvement Graffiti Abatement Program works with two contractors to provide graffiti removal services to private property owners who need assistance. The program also encourages volunteers in the community to help address the increasing problem of graffiti in the public right-of-way – on newspaper boxes, dumpsters, wooden and metal utility poles, the BACKS of street signs, etc. Volunteers are asked to fill out a volunteer application and agreement form, either by going online to [www.portlandonline.com/oni](http://www.portlandonline.com/oni) or by contacting one of the nine fire stations participating in the graffiti removal kits program.

**Two areas of concern** regarding volunteer graffiti removal activities continue to be those anonymous volunteers who attempt to remove graffiti from the front of street signs, and those volunteers who create more problems by inappropriately painting out graffiti on traffic control boxes.

**The fronts of street signs** are problematic because they are covered with a reflective coating. When an unauthorized person attempts to remove the graffiti or sticker, using the wrong solvent the reflective surface is damaged – often to such a degree that the sign is destroyed. In that case, the only option is to replace the sign which places additional strain on the limited staffing and resources in the city maintenance department. When the sign surface is compromised, traffic and/or pedestrian safety may become a serious issue in the neighborhood.

**The traffic control boxes**, (those cabinets at intersections that are either bare aluminum or painted a cream-color) are cleaned and maintained by an outside vendor through a contract with the maintenance bureau. **They are not to be painted or cleaned by anyone other than the contractor.** If unpainted aluminum, they are not to be painted at all. The cabinets contain electrical equipment that is temperature-sensitive. Covering them with any other paint, especially a dark color can cause them to overheat and malfunction.

**If you or anyone you know is engaged in the inappropriate graffiti removal activities described in the previous two paragraphs, please cease this behavior immediately!**

All persons who see graffiti in the form of markings or stickers on ANY city property are asked to report this information to the Graffiti Hotline, 503-823-4824 or by using the

online reporting system at the website shown below.

For more information about how to get involved in this and ongoing graffiti removal efforts, visit the City webpage at [www.portlandonline.com/oni](http://www.portlandonline.com/oni) , call the Graffiti Abatement Program, 503.823.5860, or email: [mdennis@ci.portland.or.us](mailto:mdennis@ci.portland.or.us)

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