



**City of Milwaukee
Department of Neighborhood Services**

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Barrett, City Officials Kick-off 2007 Anti-Graffiti Campaign

MILWAUKEE – Mayor Tom Barrett will join other City officials and students from Bruce Guadalupe Community School to unveil the 2007 anti-graffiti campaign, “Graffiti is Un’bear’able!” at a news conference tomorrow, June 1 at 11:30 at City Hall.

Milwaukee continues to lead the way in graffiti eradication by devoting the area’s only full-time anti-graffiti program. Since January 2007, Milwaukee police have made 49 arrests for graffiti, a considerable increase over the 10 made in 2006.

Milwaukee was also one of the first communities to ban sales of spray paint and magic markers to minors. Under city ordinance, retailers are required to lock-up or monitor the sales area for these items. Keeping these items secure helps eliminate their theft and illegal use by teens.

“Citizens need to be vigilant by watching for graffiti taggers in their alleys and secluded areas,” said Mayor Tom Barrett. “Graffiti is a criminal act of vandalism that contributes to blight in our neighborhoods and will not be tolerated in the City of Milwaukee. No matter what, graffiti is not art, it is a crime.”

Mayor Barrett will be joined by students from the Bruce Guadalupe Community School who, under the direction of art teacher Jacobo Lovo, will unveil colorful creations featuring anti-graffiti messages. Among the items are “un’bear’ables” – statues designed to raise awareness about the negative impact of graffiti on the community. The statues will be put on display throughout Milwaukee after the event to raise awareness of the anti-graffiti efforts.

Officials attending the news conference include Mayor Tom Barrett, representatives from the Milwaukee Police Department, Milwaukee Aldermen Michael Murphy, Terry Witkowski, and Tony Zeilinski, Assistant City Attorney’s office Nuisance Abatement Task Force member Eloisa DeLeon and DNS Commissioner Martin Collins.

They will discuss this year’s anti-graffiti program efforts including newly approved funding for “trip wire” cameras to catch taggers more quickly. The officials will remind the community that everyone has a role in the fight against graffiti.

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Dept. of Neighborhood Services operates a Graffiti Complaint Hotline at 286-8715. Citizens should call to report graffiti damage. DNS inspectors will notify owners to clean-up their graffitied property and offer technical assistance on removal methods.