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Phone: (720) 874-4165

**MEDIA RELEASE**  
**Sheriff's Office**  
**Initiates Graffiti Clean-up Program**

The presence of graffiti in any neighborhood can lower property values, may encourage additional criminal activity and detracts from the overall quality of life of the community. From the perspective of the 'Broken Windows' concept, when "minor crimes" such as vandalism are ignored, the quality of life aspects of a community may be negatively impacted as the result of additional unacceptable behavior. In addition to the negative impacts upon the quality of life of the community, the costs associated with properly removing graffiti can create a significant drain on valuable tax dollars and the limited resources of local government.

The Arapahoe County Sheriff's Office, committed to effective community partnerships and problem solving, has instituted an innovative graffiti removal program. The Sheriff's Office graffiti clean-up program will utilize minimum-security inmates, always working under the direct supervision of a Sheriff's Office employee, as a consistent labor pool. Detentions inmate Crew Leaders, full time employees of the Arapahoe County Sheriff's Office, are responsible for the supervision of all inmate labor crews performing maintenance responsibilities. Minimum-security inmates, sentenced to the county jail for minor offenses, are provided the opportunity to perform a variety of responsibilities involving facilities maintenance, lawn care and snow removal, in exchange for earned sentence reduction "good time" and other privileges. Inmates assigned to the graffiti clean-up project will receive special training regarding the responsibility of graffiti removal.

Selected Sheriff's Office Crew Leaders have been provided enhanced training regarding the very specialized responsibility of graffiti removal. The graffiti clean-up labor crews will use industrial quality sandblasters, air compressors, high-pressure washers and paint sprayers, as well as good old-fashioned elbow grease, to eradicate these community eyesores in the most effective and efficient manner possible. The specialized graffiti removal equipment is contained in a large step-van to allow for response to sites in the service area. The specialized equipment required for the graffiti clean-up project has been purchased, without using Arapahoe County tax

(more)

dollars, with funds obtained through the legal process of asset forfeiture. As the graffiti removal equipment has been purchased with funds forfeited as the result of criminal behavior (drugs), a certain criminal element that has victimized the community has become involved in “involuntary partnership” with the community to solve the problem of graffiti.

Initially, the graffiti clean-up program will be limited to graffiti removal from public property or property within the public right of way in the areas patrolled by the Arapahoe County Sheriff’s Office. “Once the Sheriff’s Office has determined our capacity and the demand for the service, the graffiti clean-up project may be offered to other communities in Arapahoe County”, said Sheriff Grayson Robinson.

The Arapahoe County Sheriff’s Office has established a goal to have graffiti removed within one week of being reported. Citizens are encouraged to report graffiti on public property by contacting the Sheriff’s Office at 303-795-4711.

Anyone with information regarding individuals that may be responsible for the crime of vandalism involving graffiti are requested to contact the Arapahoe County Sheriff’s Office at 303-795-4711. Individuals providing information that results in the arrest and conviction of those responsible for graffiti vandalism in Arapahoe County may be eligible for monetary awards.

For additional information contact Sheriff Grayson Robinson at 720-874-4165.

**END**