

**For Immediate Release:**

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**Contact:**

David Vossbrink, (408) 277-3515  
Communications Director

**Graffiti in San Jose Cut by 95% Since 1999**  
*Mayor Gonzales releases results of  
fifth annual San José graffiti survey*

**San Jose, CA ----** Graffiti in San Jose has dramatically fallen by 95 percent over the last four years since the city aggressively stepped up community efforts to eradicate it, according the findings of the fifth annual citywide graffiti survey conducted by the San José Anti-Graffiti Program.

Only 3,827 tags were found in the comprehensive survey of streets, neighborhoods and parks completed in January. This compares to the 71,541 graffiti tags found marring walls, buildings and parks in the city's first survey in 1999.

"This is outstanding news we all can be proud of," said Mayor Gonzales. "Our success in eradicating graffiti in San Jose is the result of our entire community working together to protect our neighborhoods."

Gonzales pointed to several factors that have contributed to San Jose's combined efforts to achieve a remarkably graffiti-free city. These include:

- A strong commitment by San Jose Police Department to arrest and convict graffiti vandals, install surveillance cameras at strategic locations, and target repeat offenders in cooperation with law enforcement agencies throughout Santa Clara County.
- Through the "Tag You Lose" program, graffiti vandals can lose their drivers licenses for a year, be fined, and be required to spend community service time cleaning up graffiti tags.

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- An extensive network of nearly 2700 neighborhood volunteers who have been recruited, trained, and equipped by city staff to help keep parks and communities clear of graffiti.
- Strong partnerships with other agencies, including VTA, Caltrans, Santa Clara County, Santa Clara Valley Water District, and the District Attorney’s Office, that are all committed to working with San Jose to prevent and remove graffiti.
- An energetic anti-graffiti program with innovative staff members who have earned national recognition for their creative and effective methods for wiping out graffiti to keep San Jose clean and safe.

Gonzales made the eradication of graffiti a top priority when he became mayor in 1999 as part of his focus on strengthening San Jose’s neighborhoods. Noting the relationship between crime rates and a sense of community pride, he led the city to set high standards, including goals to remove graffiti in parks within 24 hours of notification and all other graffiti within 48 hours.

“Graffiti damages the quality of life for the residents in our neighborhoods,” he said. “A community that takes pride in its appearance becomes stronger, and it encourages our residents to work together to make it safer for everyone.”

For additional information about the City’s anti-graffiti efforts, call (408) 277-3208.

### Annual San Jose Citywide Graffiti Survey Results

<u>Year</u>	<u>Tags Found</u>	<u>Percent reduction from prior year</u>	<u>Percent reduction from base year</u>
1999	71,541	--	--
2000	35,744	- 50 %	- 50 %
2001	10,498	- 71 %	- 85 %
2002	5,612	- 47 %	- 92 %
<b>2003</b>	<b>3,827</b>	<b>- 32 %</b>	<b>- 95 %</b>