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**TASK FORCE TO PRESENT COUNTY-WIDE ANTI-GRAFFITI
INITIATIVE**

Plan includes 22 proposals including suggested legislative changes, public outreach ideas and educational strategies to fight graffiti

On June 21, 2008, after 6 months of hard work, members of the Anti-Graffiti Community Task Force will present the 2008 Anti-Graffiti Final Report. The report is the blueprint for a new initiative and contains more than 20 concrete proposals that can be implemented to reduce the incidence of graffiti in our neighborhoods, among them:

- Developing a first offender program for juveniles who commit graffiti.
- Making it a crime to place “stickers with drawings or monikers” on both private and public property.
- Adopt ordinances to require business to lock up or place spray paint behind a counter.
- Implementation of a Graffiti Public Information Campaign.
- Promote “Campus Crime Stoppers” at all local schools.

El Paso County Attorney José R. Rodríguez decided to reconvene the Anti-Graffiti Task Force earlier this year after reports of increased tagging activity all around the El Paso County.

“Graffiti reduces retail sales and produces declines in property value because it generates the perception of blight and heightens fear of gang activity. It also affects residents’ quality of life and scares away investors who otherwise might be willing to bring new business and industries to our communities,” Rodriguez concluded.

The 2008 Anti-Graffiti Final Report will be unveiled at a public meeting to be held on Saturday June 21 from 9:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. at the El Paso Police Department’s Northeast Regional Command (9600 Dyer). Local and state elected officials, representatives from all the school districts, law enforcement agencies, business organizations, concerned citizens and volunteer organizations are expected to be present. The public is encouraged to attend.

WHO: Anti-Graffiti Community Task Force

WHAT: Presentation of the County-wide Anti-Graffiti Initiative

WHEN: Saturday June 21 from 9:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m.

**WHERE: EPPD Northeast Regional Command
9600 Dyer (Northeast El Paso)**

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About the Anti-Graffiti Community Task Force: The El Paso County Attorney, José R. Rodriguez, the City of El Paso’s Street Department and the Adult Probation Department reconvened the Anti-Graffiti Community Task Force in January 12, 2008 to address the problem of graffiti vandalism in the community. The Task Force includes elected officials from the city, county, and school districts, members of the business community and concerned citizens.