

NOMINATION

FOR

**THE THIRD ANNUAL
HERMAN GOLDSTEIN
EXCELLENCE IN PROBLEM-SOLVING AWARD**

NOMINATION FOR:
OFFICER STEVE DUNIVAN
OFFICER JOHN MARTINEZ
ARVADA, COLORADO
POLICE DEPARTMENT

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NOMINATION

In the Fall of 1993, Officers Steve Dunivan and John Martinez began, independent of each other, to recognize a growing graffiti problem in the City of Arvada, Colorado. Arvada is a suburban city located in the Northwest corner of Metropolitan Denver. With a population of approximately 95,000 people, Arvada is mainly an upper middle-class bedroom community. Like other suburban cities, Arvada began experiencing a growing graffiti problem that was defacing an otherwise attractive City.

Officer John Martinez had recently relocated from Los Angeles, California, and was all too familiar with the problems of graffiti. During his years with the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department, John observed the growth of the graffiti problem and the subsequent destruction of property. John vowed not to allow that to happen in Arvada.

Simultaneously, Officer Steve Dunivan, who has worked for the Arvada Police Department for more than 13 years, began to see a steady increase in graffiti throughout the City. This disturbed Steve as he did not want to see graffiti deface property in the City and lessen the quality of life for Arvada citizens. Neither Steve nor John knew at the time that the other was thinking about how to solve the graffiti problem.

Both officers recognized a growing number of complaints to the police department about the graffiti problem. Business owners were upset that graffiti was defacing their property. Homeowners began to complain that their streets, sidewalks, parks, green belts, and homes were becoming targets of graffiti vandals.

Officer Martinez began researching the City Code to find a statute applicable specifically to graffiti. Unable to locate one, John decided to approach the Police Department and the City

Attorney's office to secure their support in attempting to get an ordinance passed that would specifically target the graffiti problem. In approaching the Department, John discussed his thoughts with Lieutenant Steve Troop. Shortly after that, John began to construct his idea of the ordinance.

During this time, Officer Dunivan was interested in determining a way to clean up the graffiti. Steve decided to approach Lieutenant Troop to discuss his concerns. After listening to Steve's concerns, Lieutenant Troop told Steve of John's interest in working to solve the graffiti problem. Lieutenant Troop suggested that Steve and John work together to solve the problem.

John and Steve met several times and discussed their concerns. Both clearly had the same objectives: ¹to get the graffiti cleaned up; ²to take proactive steps to prevent further graffiti problems; ³and, to pass a City Ordinance that specifically dealt with the graffiti problem. With these objectives in mind, Steve and John began to brainstorm about how they could accomplish these objectives.

The officers reached the conclusion that they would need the support of the Department to work on the project; the support and commitment of the City Attorney's office to work on passing the ordinance; and, they would need the support and commitment of the community to help clean up the City. Also, they needed to work proactively to prevent the growth of the graffiti problem. Steve and John realized that obtaining the* support of the Department, City Attorney's Office, and community was the easy part. The difficulty was obtaining the commitment from the community and others to clean up the City.

John and Steve are active in the community and belong to several civic groups. Because of their involvement, John and Steve believed approaching civic organizations were the best place to contact others who would be interested in cleaning up the City. The two felt that if they could obtain the commitment from various civic groups, then other community members may follow. This, they

felt, would lead to community wide awareness of the graffiti problem and a commitment from others to clean it up. The Officers hoped this would lead to an eventual solution to the graffiti problem.

The Officers knew that in order for this to be successful, they would need to develop an easy plan to follow. The plan had to include the following elements:

- ✓ 1. Citizen involvement
- ✓ 2. Plan for transition from the Police Department to citizen ownership
- ✓ 3. Support through the donation of money and supplies
- ✓ 4. The volunteers must feel responsible and take ownership for the community

Steve and John realized that the City was simply too large, and there was too much graffiti for these volunteers to take responsibility and ownership for the City as a whole. As a result, the Officers broke the City down into seven geographic districts. These seven districts could be "owned" by a particular volunteer group who would be responsible for, and take ownership for "their" district.

Officer Dunivan, had observed signs along the State highways in Colorado that advertised "Adopt-A-Highway." The Adopt-A-Highway program is a State program for litter clean up along Colorado highways. Officer Dunnivan felt that this concept fit the graffiti clean up plan and thus, the modified title "Adopt-A-District" was born.

Steve and John began to contact civic groups. They arranged dates and times with these groups so that John and Steve could present their plan. The officers spent a great deal of off-duty time giving these presentations. Almost immediately, their idea was met with great enthusiasm. The civic groups were interested in cleaning up the City, and told John and Steve that they had their commitment to the project. Steve and John conducted more than fifty presentations in two months.

The civic organizations committed to contributing money, supplies, and volunteers. As the presentations progressed, other civic groups began to contact the Officers letting them know they were interested and committed as well.

Soon, the officers became inundated with calls giving commitment to the project, money and supplies. The officers knew the program could work, but they were not sure at this point how to begin the project. Officers Dunivan and Martinez were giving their last presentation to the Arvada Chamber of Commerce. The various civic groups they had previously contacted arranged for many volunteers to be present at this meeting. During this meeting, the Chamber of Commerce said they would donate \$100 for food for the first clean up effort, and suggested the clean up program commence immediately. The Officers arranged for the first clean up effort to be held on March 23, 1994. On that date, Officers Dunivan, Martinez, and Lieutenant Tun Keating met the volunteers at a local school. The officers announced the days plan for accomplishing the clean up, and explained where the clean up needed to be done. Armed with their graffiti clean up supplies, Officers Dunivan, Martinez, and Lieutenant Keating transported the volunteers to the known graffiti sites and the clean up began.

This first clean up project was a great success. The volunteers were excited about doing the work, proved their commitment to their community, and took pride and ownership in their districts. John and Steve knew, however, that their work had just begun.

The officers realized that the Department was not specifically tracking graffiti through the reporting process. Though the Police Department has a computerized record keeping system, obtaining information about reported graffiti was difficult. Steve and John decided that they would need to more accurately track graffiti if they were to get the information out to the volunteers to clean

it up. As a result, the two developed a police graffiti reporting system. This reporting system requires police officers to complete a specific report on graffiti that the officer was either dispatched to, or found on his or her own. The officer then takes a Polaroid photograph of the graffiti and attaches it to the report. The information is then placed into the computerized record keeping system for tracking.

Steve and John established a graffiti hotline phone number at the Police Department so citizens and officers can call and report the location and description of graffiti. They then give this information to the volunteers so they can clean it up, and to the district gang officer for possible identification and prosecution of the offender. With the inception of the phone number and publicity of the number in the newspaper, reports of graffiti locations initially increased due to the community's heightened sense of awareness of the graffiti problem. Today, calls continue to come in, but are much more infrequent than they used to be due to the reduction in graffiti throughout the City.

Because volunteers enter private property to clean up the graffiti, the officers needed to devise a waiver form. The officers met with a member of the City Attorney's office to create a waiver form that would secure permission from the property owner for the volunteers to enter their property and clean up the graffiti without being held liable for their work. Once permission is secured, the volunteers enter the property and clean up the graffiti.

The officers had yet to create a new City Ordinance that would deal specifically with graffiti. With this being one of their goals, the Officers contacted the City Attorney's office for assistance. Initially, the City Attorney's Office rejected their idea for a new ordinance. Knowing that an ordinance specific to graffiti would help the officers in the prosecution of offenders, John and Steve set up a meeting with the Municipal Judge and explained their dilemma. The Officers asked for the

Judge's support and assistance in developing the ordinance. After obtaining the support of the Municipal Judge, the Officers went back to the City Attorney's office, this time meeting with an attorney sympathetic to their cause. Between the Officers' persistence, the City Attorney, and the Judge's support, the City Council eventually passed a graffiti ordinance. The Ordinance included, as punishment for the offender, assignment to clean up graffiti, and/or pay a fine. The Judge puts part of this fine toward the Adopt-A-District program to help defray the costs of cleaning up graffiti.

Steve and John knew that being proactive was another approach to stopping graffiti. The two studied the graffiti patterns according to the new graffiti reports coming in. Based on these reports, personal observation, and observations of other officers, Steve and John determined the most likely locations for the graffiti offenders to strike. Using the volunteer Arvada Police Explorer Scouts, they established surveillance at these locations. Over the course of the surveillance the officers and scouts apprehended and prosecuted several graffiti offenders for their crime. The community also was encouraged to call the Police Department and report acts of graffiti in progress in hopes that police officers could apprehend the offenders.

John and Steve knew these proactive measures were not enough. The two worked with the gang unit in an attempt to identify the graffiti offenders. They did this by using the photographs taken of the graffiti, information from officer contacts of suspected graffiti offenders, and intelligence information gathered on the offenders. The intelligence information consisted of graffiti styles, tagger names associated with the graffiti offender, and other identifying characteristics. Armed with this knowledge, the officers identified many offenders by knowing their particular graffiti styles and tagger names, then matched those styles and tagger names with the photographs taken of the graffiti. Using this approach, Arvada Police officers have been successful in the prosecution of several graffiti

offenders.

Because of Steve and John's efforts, the Department's Command Staff formalized the Arvada Police Department's Adopt-A-District program. The program has five goals:

- ✓1. Immediate response to clean graffiti
- ✓2. Direct involvement of court sentenced community service
- ✓3. Community organization involvement
- ✓4. Minimization of impact on the Police department
- ✓5. Improve the image of young adults in Arvada

Each district has two volunteer civic organizations. The organizations alternate in responding to cleaning up the graffiti. The officers have created a list of the districts, the volunteers, contact persons, and phone numbers. The Officers have an established list of persons and businesses that are willing to donate money and materials to the effort. They supply this information to the volunteers. Each district has a liaison officer who is also a member of the Police Departments gang unit.

Since the inception of the program, the City of Arvada's Human Resource Department has taken over the financial responsibilities. They track and account for all the money and materials donated to ensure proper accountability. The City Manager's office became involved by offering financial and organizational support. The Manager created a separate line account in the budget specifically for the Adopt-A-District program.

The Arvada Street Department became involved in cleaning graffiti from the City streets, buildings, and right-of-ways. Cleaning up graffiti from the parks property and equipment have involved the North Jeffco Parks Department. Arvada Code Enforcement ensures those private property owners that do not allow the volunteers to clean up the property clean up the graffiti

themselves. If they do not, Code Enforcement takes enforcement action.

Recently, Public Service Company of Colorado, and U.S. West Telephone Company gave permission for the volunteers to clean up their equipment in the City. The companies even donated their specific color of paint for the clean up.

The Cities of Thornton and Northglenn, Colorado, heard about the success of the Adopt-A-District program. Both wanted to implement the program in their city. Officers Dunivan and Martinez helped those cities develop, organize, and customize the program for their specific community. Presently, both cities are working on their implementation plans.

Today, graffiti is hardly evident in Arvada. The district volunteers regularly contact their district liaison officer to find out where graffiti needs to be removed. Several of the district volunteers organize themselves and initiate graffiti removal on their own without the Police Department's involvement.

John and Steve have ensured that the program's five goals as stated on page 7 are being met. There is an immediate response to clean up graffiti; the court sentences offenders to help with the clean up effort; there is wide spread community involvement; and, as time goes by, there will be a reduction in the impact this program has on the Police Department as citizens continue to take a more active role in the prevention and clean up of graffiti. Arvada youth also are active in the graffiti removal effort. With a relatively graffiti free City, the youth of Arvada enjoy an improved image with other members of the community.

While graffiti may not seem like a big problem to many, the problem is widespread, destructive, and leads to other crime problems in cities that experience a large graffiti problem. Fortunately, Arvada Police Officers and citizens do not want their City to deteriorate as John saw

in Los Angeles. The citizens and officers of the City of Arvada are fighting back and are winning the war on graffiti thanks to the effort, dedication, and commitment of Officers Steve Dunivan and John Martinez. This program, if adopted by other agencies, could have a nationwide impact on the graffiti problem. People should not observe this program as a local program; conversely, the program is the seed for a nationwide community effort at winning the war against graffiti. The citizens of Arvada now enjoy a clean and relatively graffiti free City.

Based upon the information and supporting documents supplied here, the Arvada Police Department is pleased to nominate Officers Steve Dunivan and John Martinez for the Third Annual Herman Goldstein Excellence in Problem-Solving Award.

Appendix 1

ARVADA POLICE DEPARTMENT

ADOPT-A-DISTRICT PROGRAM

WELCOME TO ARVADA'S

ADOPT A DISTRICT

PROGRAM

OSE: To seek community involvement in the clean up of graffiti

DIRECTORY

Welcome to Arvada's Adopt-A-District program.

We have 5 goals that we strive for in this program.

- 1) Immediate response to clean graffiti**
- 2) Direct involvement of court sentenced community service**
- 3) Community organization involvement**
- 4) Minimization of impact on police department**
- 5) Improve the image of young adults of Arvada**

We wish to thank you for your participation in this program, by volunteering your time, materials and equipment or monetary contribution.

This directory has been compiled as of April 1, 1994 listing all of the participants according to their contribution.

Also listed is a contact person for each of the participants. This contact person should be used for all Adopt-A-District communication.

If any questions arise, you may contact Officer Steve Dunivan or Officer John Martinez at 431-3056.

VOLUNTEERS

<u>District</u>	<u>Organization</u>	<u>Contact Person</u>	<u>Phone #</u>
Districts 1 & 4	Kiwanis Key Club	Bob Whitfield Sr.	467-9143
District 2	Boy Scout Troop 305 Cub Scout Troop 231	Mike Bauman Sr. American Legion Debbie Richter	421-4807 424-0927
District 4	Boy Scout Troop 583 Grace Church of Arvada	Debbie Sagraves Dave Chittenden	422-1388 or 420-9839 469-3805
Districts 2 & 6	Girl Scouts	Pat Finscher	425-5839
District 3	Arvada Jaycees St. Anne's Arvada Police Dept. Explorers	Karen Olsen-Knowles Jil Svoboda Eric Piester	H-422-9136 W-421-8590 H-431-7745 W-420-1280 H-465-5604 P-280-7252
District 5	Boy Scouts Troop 167	Leonard Carney	422-3847
Districts 5 & 7	Girl Scouts	Barb Dachtler	425-4498
District 7	Faith Bible Chapel	Tim Lovell	424-2121
District 7	Boy Scout Pack 999	Bonnie Wagner	424-6834

MATERIALS AND EQUIPMENT

<u>BUSINESS NAME</u>	<u>CONTACT PERSON</u>	<u>ADDRESS & PHONE</u>	<u>DONATION</u>
Ace Hardware	Clarence Lederhos	9447 W. 57 Ave. 424-4202	Paint & materials
Arvada Rent-Alls	Luke Heesacker	10675 Ralston Rd. 422-1212	Use of jet washer
Bio Chem System c/o Supplies to Industry	Vicky Swanson Chuck/289-5591 (Contact Ofc. Dunivan for additional Graffiti Buster)	11452 W. 44 Ave. 277-9700	Spray on graffiti cleaner
Home Base	Dan Stevenson	7350 W. 52 Ave. 467-0111	Materials
KMart	Jim Garnhart	9881 W. 58 Ave. 421-8394	Equipment & materials
Old Western Paint Co.	John Delmonico	2001 W. Barberrry Pl. 825-5147	Paint
um's Club	Ed Cooper	7270 W. 52 Ave. 420-8401	Materials & equipment
Sherwin Williams	Penny Howard or Jay Wilezek	7731 Wadsworth Blvd. 423-9691	Paint
Target	John Gonzales or Chris Blair	7899 Wadsworth 425-0124	Materials and equipment
True Value Hardware	Brad Parkhill	5017 W. 64 Ave. 426-1035	Equipment and material

FINANCIAL

Optimist Club of America

Cub Foods

Side Pocket (Pool Tournament) Bo Montania

J.R. George

American Legion

ARVADA P.D. GANG UNIT LIAISON OFFICERS

District 1	Officer Frank Oschmann
District 2	Officer Duane Eaton
District 3	Officer Jim Cantin
District 4	Officer Jim Glasmann
District 5	Officer Matt Archuleta
District 6	Officer Eric Strasheim
District 7	Officer John Martinez

These officers can be contacted at 431-3955. Please leave a message for the officer to include your name, organization, phone number and brief description of your needs.

ADOPT-A-DISTRICT

Responsibilities of Volunteer Organizations

1. Receive locations of affected area.
2. Contact property owner.
 - (a) Receive permission to clean up graffiti.
 - (b) Ask property owner if paint is available.
If not, get basic color and call paint suppliers for materials.
 - (c) Have property owner sign waiver.
3. Check property to determine how much material and how many volunteers will be needed.
4. Conduct cleanup.
5. Recontact organization and provide completion date.
6. Store cleanup materials (paint to be stored by individual property owners for future use).

If you find any property owner who has questions you can't answer, please refer them to the gang unit liaison officer listed for your district.

If you find a property where the property owner can't be identified, located or contacted, please contact the gang unit liaison officer listed for your district. If they are not available, try any other gang unit officer listed.

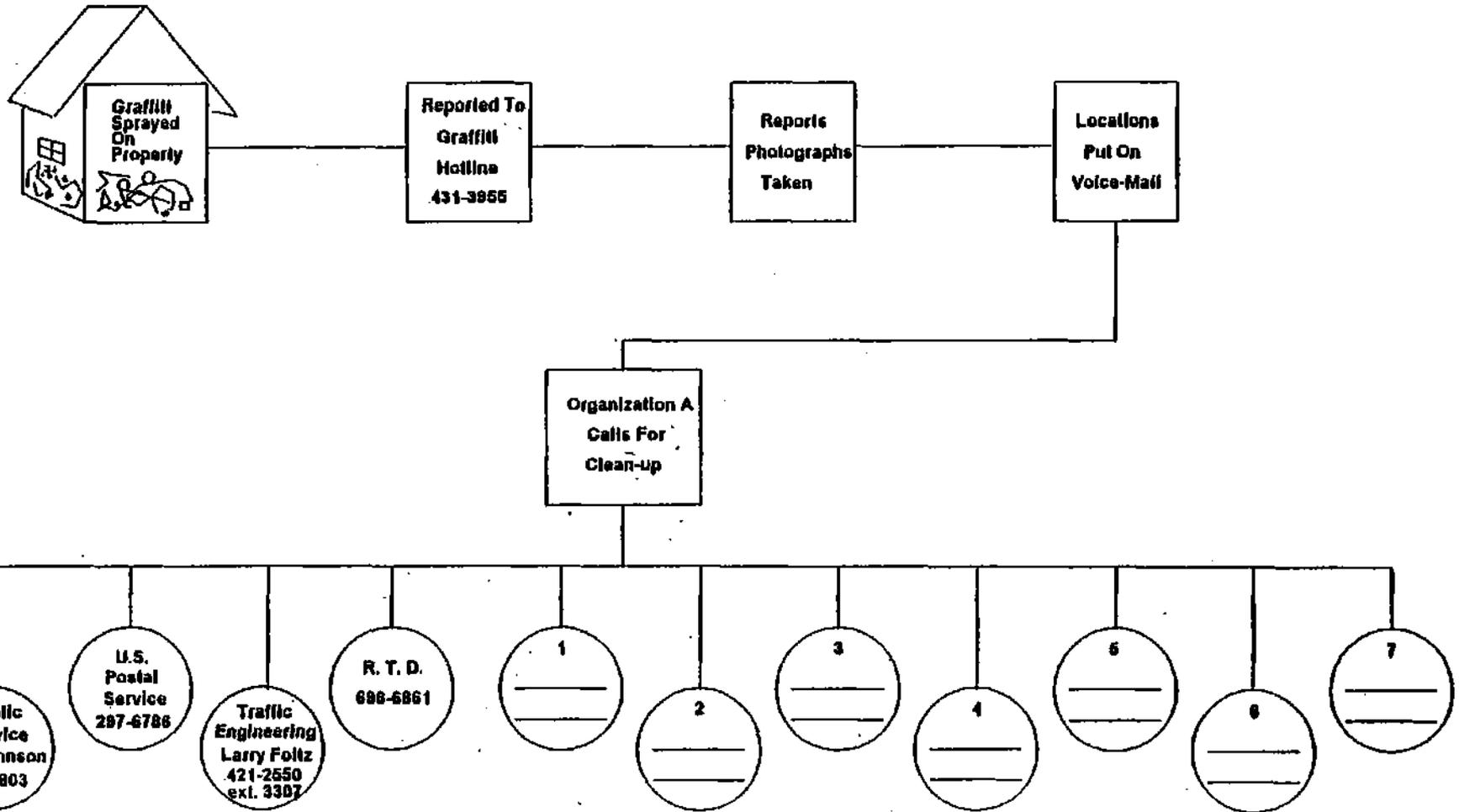
If reimbursement is necessary, either to the volunteer organization or property owner, for materials used in cleanup, present receipt for materials to Cher Roemer, Arvada Human Services, Inc., 8001 Ralston Rd.

ADOPT-A-DISTRICT

Responsibilities of Location Coordinator

1. Call Voice Mail and retrieve locations to be cleaned.
2. Make entry on to ADOPT-A-DISTRICT log form.
3. Check district map to determine what district the location is in.
4. Contact appropriate volunteer organization contact person and provide location,
(a) . Alternate through organizations within the district so that none is overburdened.
5. Accept calls back from organizations when cleanup is complete and make appropriate log entry.

Arvada Adopt-A-District Program



Organizations Contact And Coordinate With Property Owners For Clean-up.

GRAFFITI REPORT **Sec. 21-86** **CR#** _____

Connect CR# _____ **Photo's** **Yes** ___ **No** ___

Location _____

Reported Date _____ **Time** _____

Location Type:

- | | | | | |
|-------------------------------------|--|---|---|---------------------------------------|
| 1 <input type="checkbox"/> Bus Stop | 6 <input type="checkbox"/> Const. Site | 11 <input type="checkbox"/> Gov/Pub Bldg | 19 <input type="checkbox"/> Storage | 24 <input type="checkbox"/> Specialty |
| 2 <input type="checkbox"/> Bank | 7 <input type="checkbox"/> Conv. Store | 12 <input type="checkbox"/> Grocery Store | 20 <input type="checkbox"/> Residence | 25 <input type="checkbox"/> Other |
| 3 <input type="checkbox"/> Bar | 8 <input type="checkbox"/> Dept. Store | 13 <input type="checkbox"/> St/Alley | 21 <input type="checkbox"/> Eat Estab. | |
| 4 <input type="checkbox"/> Church | 9 <input type="checkbox"/> Drug S/Dr Off | 17 <input type="checkbox"/> Liq. Store | 22 <input type="checkbox"/> School | |
| 5 <input type="checkbox"/> Office | 10 <input type="checkbox"/> Park | 18 <input type="checkbox"/> Parking Lot | 23 <input type="checkbox"/> Gas Station | |

Location Detail:

- | | | | |
|--|--|---|---|
| AD <input type="checkbox"/> Adjacent to Park | CO <input type="checkbox"/> Corner Lot | GA <input type="checkbox"/> Garage (SF) | MI <input type="checkbox"/> Mid-Block |
| AP <input type="checkbox"/> Apartment | CT <input type="checkbox"/> Condo/TH | IN <input type="checkbox"/> Industrial | SF <input type="checkbox"/> Single Family |
| CA <input type="checkbox"/> Common Area | DY <input type="checkbox"/> Driveway | IS <input type="checkbox"/> Isolated | |

VICTIM: _____ **DOB** _____ **Phone** _____

RP: _____ **Phone** _____

RP Address _____

Type: Gang ___ Tagger ___ Unknown ___
Method: Ink ___ Paint ___ Marker ___ Etch ___ Other ___
Property Type: A Auto Part/Veh ST Structure/Door/Window Y Miscel

Comments: _____

RO _____ **ID** _____ **Supv** _____

COUNCIL BILL NO. _____
ORDINANCE NO. _____

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING CHAPTER 21, OFFENSES-MISCELLANEOUS,
OF THE ARVADA CITY CODE BY ADDING ARTICLE VI, GRAFFITI

BE IT ORDAINED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF ARVADA, COLORADO:

Section 1. Chapter 21, Offenses-Miscellaneous, of the Arvada City Code is hereby amended by adding a new Article VI to read as follows:

ARTICLE VI. GRAFFITI

Sec. 21-85 Graffiti Defined.

"Graffiti," "Tag," or "Tagging" means the defacing of public or private property by means of painting, drawing, writing, etching, carving with knives, carving with scribes, or any similar method without the written permission of the property owner.

Sec. 21-86 Graffiti Prohibited.

- a. It shall be a violation of this ordinance for any person to tag or place graffiti upon any public or private property.
- b. It shall be a violation of this ordinance for any person to aid, abet, or advise another in the commission of tagging or placing graffiti upon any public or private property.
- c. Graffiti shall be punishable by a fine not to exceed the limits established in section 1-5 of this Code.

Section 2. This ordinance shall take effect five days after publication following final passage.

INTRODUCED, READ, AND ORDERED PUBLISHED this ____ day of _____, 1994.

PASSED, ADOPTED, AND APPROVED this ____ day of _____, 1994.

Robert G. Frie, Mayor

ATTEST:

City Clerk

APPROVED AS TO FORM:

City Attorney

Publication Dates: _____
