



Snohomish County
Office of the Executive
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Executive Reardon proposes anti-graffiti ordinance

Executive Aaron Reardon today proposed to the County Council an ordinance to give law enforcement and code enforcement officers new tools to combat graffiti.

The ordinance would specifically criminalize graffiti vandalism, prohibit the possession of graffiti implements in and around areas often targeted for graffiti and provide a mechanism for code enforcement officers to deal with graffiti nuisance properties.

“Graffiti is a growing crime that is degrading our community,” said Executive Reardon. “It’s time to show vandals that graffiti won’t be tolerated in Snohomish County.”

The proposed ordinance is the latest in a series of actions initiated to track and eliminate graffiti in Snohomish County. Along with the tougher laws, Executive Reardon announced that he will be holding a graffiti summit later in the month with local community and law enforcement leaders to work together to stop graffiti in the County.

“Graffiti vandalism is a crime costing property owners, businesses and government across the state millions of dollars annually,” Reardon said. “By working together we can develop new tools to stop graffiti in its tracks.”

Last year the County prioritized eliminating graffiti on public property. Studies have shown that quickly eliminating graffiti dramatically reduces repeat incidents. Snohomish County has a goal of eliminating graffiti on public property within 24 hours of detection. To report graffiti on public property the public may use an online form or contact Snohomish County Code Enforcement officers.

Citizens who observe graffiti-in-progress should call 911 immediately. To report graffiti on public property (parks, bridges, roadways buildings and facilities), call Snohomish County Code Enforcement: 425.388.3311 **or use the Graffiti Report Form** on the County web site: www.co.snohomish.wa.us, search for “graffiti.”

If you are a victim of graffiti, contact your local police department to file a report. Photograph the graffiti to aid law enforcement investigation and remove the graffiti immediately.

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