

Media Advisory – Sept. 22, 2008

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Second annual Graffiti Paint Out deemed a success

About 100 volunteers took a stand against graffiti this weekend by participating in the second annual Graffiti Paint Out.

Volunteers from neighborhood groups, Boy Scout troops and more worked Saturday, Sept. 20, to clean up a section of BNSF Railway that leads to Everett Station. More than 12,000 passengers ride through this gateway to the city each month on Amtrak and Sounder trains.

“For two consecutive years, we’ve stamped out graffiti in very centralized, very public areas,” said Snohomish County Executive Aaron Reardon, whose office created the annual Graffiti Paint Out event. “We’re sending a message that graffiti is an eyesore and a crime, and we, as a community, won’t stand for it.”

Reardon has worked beside Snohomish County Sheriff John Lovick and County Councilman Brian Sullivan to increase code enforcement awareness and abatement. Both joined Reardon on Saturday.

Graffiti, which can signal gang territory, is one part of the county’s code enforcement division. As a result, areas often are retagged. County code-enforcement crews are working with the city of Everett and BNSF Railway to be sure this section remains clean.

Last year, Reardon and others removed graffiti from a well-known section of the Snohomish County Interurban Trail south of Everett. Tenacity by county crews has kept this area clean for more than a year.

Reardon has used the Graffiti Paint Out to raise awareness of the county’s fight against graffiti. Volunteers were encouraged to take home paint-out kits and to report graffiti on public and private property immediately for cleanup.

Sponsors for Saturday’s annual paint-out event include the city of Everett, Lowe’s Home Improvement Store, the Snohomish County-Camano Association of REALTORS, BNSF Railway, QFC, Starbucks and Sound Transit. Sponsors provided food, beverages, supplies and technical assistance.

For more information, go to www.snoco.org and type “graffiti.”

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