



**Snohomish County**  
**Office of the Executive**  
**Aaron Reardon**  
*County Executive*

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### **Reardon hosts graffiti summit**

Today, County Executive Aaron Reardon hosted a summit with leaders from across Snohomish County to begin tackling graffiti in Snohomish County.

“Graffiti makes people feel that their neighborhoods are being lost to crime- and if allowed to remain, it sends a message that the community does not care,” said Executive Reardon. “Snohomish County is a growing and vibrant community – and we want to keep it that way. By cracking down on graffiti, we send a message that we will not tolerate crime in our community.”

The event brought together elected officials, city and county staff, law enforcement, code enforcement, parks and schools, courts and community organizations. Jurisdictions from all across Snohomish County were represented, including Everett, Edmonds, Lynnwood, Mountlake Terrace, Marysville, Monroe, Gold Bar, and Mill Creek.

“Taking on graffiti will require countywide coordination,” said Mountlake Terrace Councilmember John Zambrano. “I appreciate Executive Reardon’s leadership in bringing us together to partner on this important issue.”

“Coordination on fighting graffiti is key,” Marysville City Administrator Mary Swenson said. “If we do not work together, we will just push the problem from one jurisdiction to another.”

The summit featured presentations from Jon Schmidt on county efforts including an online graffiti reporting system, 24-hour graffiti eradication goal recent paint out activity. Sergeant Steve Haley of the Sheriff’s Office spoke about types of graffiti in Snohomish County and how to recognize gang-related graffiti. Marysville City Administrator Mary Swenson gave a city perspective, while Snohomish County Executive Director Deanna Dawson gave a presentation on the new ordinance that Executive Reardon presented to the County Council last month.

At the summit, leaders from throughout the county committed to partnering together to combat graffiti. They committed to naming a single point of contact within their jurisdiction to enable better coordination across agencies and identify graffiti trouble spots. The participants also agreed to reach out to other partners within their communities, including service clubs, Chambers of Commerce and local businesses, churches and faith based organizations, youth groups and homeowners associations.

Reardon also announced that the County is organizing a Paint Out Day to be held later in the year. Helen Martin and Laine Ross of Paint Out Seattle were on hand to lend their expertise in organizing a community-based Paint Out event.

“The Paint Out will give citizens the tools and training they need to help in eliminating graffiti in our community,” explained Reardon. “We can stop graffiti in Snohomish County, but it will take the efforts of all of us working together.”

For more information, contact Deanna Dawson, Snohomish County Executive Director, 425.388.3297.