



C. RAY NAGIN
MAYOR

CITY OF NEW ORLEANS
DEPARTMENT OF POLICE



EDWIN P. COMPASS
SUPERINTENDENT

"to protect and to serve"

May 20, 2005

Captain Anthony W. Cannatella, Sr.
Commander, Sixth District

To whom it may concern:

Over the past thirty-seven years in law enforcement, I have seen a direct correlation between HIGH CRIME and areas plagued with graffiti and gang markings. Individuals and gangs who traditionally "mark" their territory for the purpose of trafficking illegal narcotics and other criminal activities create an environment of fear and intimidation for the law abiding citizens residing in the area.

Citizens who live in fear are reluctant to report crime. Additionally, they will not come forward with information after witnessing violent crimes. This practice empowers the criminals to continue their illegal activities and impedes law enforcement from combating the problem.

With that in mind, graffiti and gang markings must be removed constantly to maintain the quality of life in our neighborhoods. The criminal element is removed and the citizens live normal, productive lives. A clean, "graffiti-free" neighborhood, creates a solid relationship between its citizens and law enforcement that is invaluable for eradicating crime.

Since assuming command of the Sixth District three years ago, I have had the privilege of working with Fred Radtke and "Operation Clean Sweep Education and Development". Fred and his organization have been a vital part in the Sixth District's crime reduction. Not only has the crime rate dropped in areas plagued with graffiti, but the quality of life has infinitely improved. So much so that our citizens have become a direct pipeline of crime information to our Investigative Unit and Task Force.

If graffiti or gang markings appear, "Operation Clean Sweep" has it removed within a day, sometimes within hours. In closing, I would like to extend my overwhelming support to Fred Radtke and his organization "Operation Clean Sweep Education and Development". It is truly a GREAT program.

Sincerely,

Captain Anthony W. Cannatella, Sr.
Commander, Sixth District