

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE



Date: January 10, 2011

From: Gang Alternatives Program (GAP)

309 W. Opp Street

Wilmington, CA 90744

Contact: (310) 519-7233 or sueannabena@gangfree.org

**City of Los Angeles Recommendation to Reduce All Graffiti Abatement
Services and It's Impact to the Community**

Wilmington, CA - On Wednesday, January 12, 2011, The City of Los Angeles will consider a recommendation from its City Administrative Officer (CAO) to reduce citywide graffiti removal funds by 50%. If approved, this reduction will heavily affect graffiti abatement services in the city of Los Angeles.

Since 1986 GAP has served the community by providing community clean up and graffiti abatement services in the City of Los Angeles, including Council Districts 14 and 15. Over the years, GAP has maintained an outstanding partnership with the City of Los Angeles, Office of Community Beautification to provide effective and efficient graffiti abatement services to its constituents while keeping costs low.

With possible reductions of 50% to our graffiti abatement services, this will have severe consequences to everyone in the community. Half of our local community clean up workers will lose their jobs, impacting our graffiti removal services, which will no longer operate seven days a week. Graffiti that we used to remove quickly will stay up longer, producing an increase in blight that will heavily impact homeowners and business owners and their safety.

Our commitment as a community based non-profit 501 (c) 3 agency is to maintain and provide quality programs and services at a low cost. We urge you to please contact your council district regarding this urgent matter to make sure that we will not see over a million square feet of raw graffiti in your community by the end of the year.

City of Los Angeles, Councilmember Janice Hahn
Council District 15
Tel: (213) 473-7015

City of Los Angeles, Councilmember Jose Huizar
Council District 14
Tel: (213) 473-7014

City of Los Angeles, City Mayor's Office
Tel: (213) 978-0600

For more information and a copy of our letter from the Executive Director, please contact any of the GAP Public and Governmental Affairs Representatives, SueAnn B. Abena, Victor Medina or Shanelle Jordan at (310) 519-7233 or by email at sueannabena@gangfree.org.