



J

oin me in UNTAG, Uniting Neighborhoods To Abolish Graffiti. In one year, we have cut graffiti by 62% in CD13. Let's keep up the great work!

Thank you for your interest in UNTAG. Now let me explain what it's all about.

The Elements of **untag**

- BLOCK CAPTAINS
- STINGS
- CAMERAS
- TARGETED POLICE ENFORCEMENT
- PRIORITY PAINT-OUTS
- AGGRESSIVE PROSECUTION

BLOCK CAPTAINS

Responsibilities

- **Adopt-a-Hotspot.** This can be one wall that is frequently tagged, or a whole neighborhood that gets tagged in various locations. The Block Captain makes the call.
- **Report Tagging to the City.** Call in a tag at 3-1-1. Block Captains' requests get top priority from our paint-out crews.
- **Permission to Paint Out.** Get signed permission slips from all property owners in the hotspot so crews can paint out graffiti without having to get permission each time.
- **Report Negligent Property Owners to Your Councilmember.**
- **Report Taggings in Progress to Police** by calling 1-877-ASK-LAPD.

Optional Responsibilities

- **Participate in Paint-Out Training.** You will learn to paint out graffiti like the professionals, and you will be certified to do so whenever necessary, and to receive free paint from the city.
- **Organize a "Sting" in Your Neighborhood** (if your hot spot meets the police department's criteria for a "stingable" location).
- **Recruit UNTAG volunteers** for your hotspot and for others nearby.

Privileges of Block Captains

- **CD 13-issued UNTAG flashlight and T-shirt**
- **UNTAG Tool Kit.** Learn everything you ever wanted to know about graffiti, from legal issues to making your neighborhood crime-resistant.
- **Your Hotspot may be designated a priority** by the LAPD, who will have patrol cars monitor the hotspot.
- **Your Hotspot will be designated High Priority** by the city's paint-out crews.
- **Free Paint** issued to Block Captains who complete the paint-out training.
- **A Great Feeling** from helping your neighborhood

STINGS

How does a sting work?

Stings are organized by Block Captains and CD13 Field Deputies in coordination with our paint-out crews and police officers.

As a "stinger," you, a few other neighborhood leaders, and several police officers will stake out a hot spot after it has been painted out. When you see a tagger, you use your walkie-talkie to alert the police patrolling nearby, providing a detailed description. If the tagger tries to get away, you will alert the police to his or her location.

- You *will* need to commit to several hours and you may be out as late as 2am
- You *will not* be visible to the tagger
- You *will not* have to testify in court



unTAG

UNITING NEIGHBORHOODS
TO ABOLISH GRAFFITI

ericGARCETTI
los angeles city council

CAMERAS

Surveillance Cameras will be installed in certain hot-spot locations. These cameras will be monitored by police officers from the police stations. Cameras will only view people in public places, and signs will indicate that they are being watched.

HOW TO JOIN

It's easy! Choose your hotspot and call your Councilmember to sign up as a Block Captain.



**what about the
TAGGERS?**

UNTAG punishments will discourage taggers.

The city aggressively prosecutes those who deface the community. One effective deterrent is to, as part of sentencing, be required to perform community service involving graffiti removal...if possible in the offender's own neighborhood. Research indicates that this is the most successful way to accomplish these goals:

- *Prevent continued tagging in that location.* Taggers don't like tagging a location they know will be painted out shortly thereafter. They want their graffiti to be seen by others.
- *Prevent taggers from tagging again.* Painting out graffiti, under the supervision of an experienced paint-out organization, gives taggers a good understanding of how damaging their vandalism is.
- *Get taggers to make better choices.* Community service can be more effective than jail time. Many taggers are headed towards greater criminality, but aren't there yet. Community-based punishment can keep them from getting more and more involved with the criminal justice system.

measuring SUCCESS

I want to keep decreasing graffiti in Council District 13 and throughout the city. We measure our progress by counting all the tagged locations on the same day each year. When the City of San Jose used this method they were able to show a decrease of **96% over five years.**

Let's go **unTAG** *our neighborhood!*

Councilmember Eric Garcetti
5500 Hollywood Boulevard, Floor 4
(323) 957-4500

Online at:
<http://www.cd13.com>
councilmember.garcetti@lacity.org