



NSP Makes Graffiti Free Phoenix “Wipe It Out” a Tremendous Success

Councilman Daniel Valenzuela, chairman of the City of Phoenix Neighborhoods, Planning and Development, Housing and Homeless Subcommittees announced today, Graffiti Free Phoenix “Wipe It Out” was a tremendous success with over 3,000 volunteers wiping out 108 miles of graffiti.

With this event being instrumental in the effort to further revitalize communities, participation from the city of Phoenix Neighborhood Stabilization Program (NSP) was eminent. The Neighborhood Stabilization Program is revitalizing neighborhoods hit hardest with foreclosures by renovating vacant and abandoned properties in need of repairs, putting them back into productive use, and offering these homes to homebuyers through incentives and down payment assistance.

Through the leadership of NSP developers and partners, over 109 volunteers participated in the Graffiti Free Phoenix “Wipe It Out” event. Together, they removed over 272 graffiti sites using 60 gallons of paint, with volunteers contributing over 260 hours of their time in NSP neighborhoods. In addition, they picked-up trash from alley ways and area washes in neighborhoods with clusters of NSP Move-in Ready (MIR) homes.

“We are pleased to report that we are making great strides in our effort to wipe out graffiti, and I will continue to lead this effort for many years to come,” said City Manager, David Cavazos. “I want to applaud all of the volunteers and community leaders that worked so hard to address this problem, and ask that each one remain diligent to this cause.”

“Graffiti makes our neighborhoods look dumpier and as if we are not bothered by it,” said Claudia Schulz, who lives in south Phoenix and is a sales manager for Mandalay Homes, a NSP developer partner. “But, we do care immensely. It also makes me want to cry when I see such disorder and chaos in my own neighborhood. However, no matter how difficult it was to address, I know our volunteer group made a difference, and I want to see our group gather together four times a year to help expand our efforts in these surrounding areas.”

Wiping out graffiti is by no means an easy task, with dogs barking behind walls and debris knee-high – making it difficult for volunteers to reach tagged sites. Yet, the volunteers managed to have fun especially



when they talked to homeowners, altogether defining their efforts. “The event was a huge success in the areas we cleaned-up. Not only did we paint over 100 graffiti tags, we also picked up multiple bags full of garbage in our area. We were approached by members of the community on their morning walks, thanking us for our hard work, which made our efforts even more rewarding,” said Jaime Moen, Housing Program Coordinator for the Foundation for Senior Living.

“We intend to remain strong and focused in our efforts to preserve and revitalize Phoenix neighborhoods,” said Chris Hallett, Director of the city of Phoenix Neighborhood Services Department. “Our mission is to improve the physical, social and economic health of our city, so people want to live in these areas and businesses want to invest in these areas.”

Graffiti Free Phoenix “Wipe It Out” is one of many programs that NSP contributes to, exemplifying how the program is committed to engaging the community while improving neighborhoods and the quality of life for residents. With one neighborhood at a time, the Neighborhood Stabilization Program is addressing safety, crime and blight making a citywide impact in restoring abandoned and foreclosed homes, resulting in the development of desirable communities where people want to live, work and play.