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Dallas team takes first place in Graffiti Prevention competition

Dallas Graffiti Wipeout 2006 honored for largest graffiti removal in city's history

DALLAS, Nov. 21, 2006 – The Dallas Graffiti Wipeout 2006 Team has won first place for cities over 300,000, in the Keep America Beautiful (KAB) Graffiti Hurts competition.

The team of city employees, Keep Dallas Beautiful members, Leadership Dallas Class of 2006 alumni, and community volunteers were honored for successfully launching the largest and most extensive graffiti removal effort in the city to date. The Graffiti Wipeout Event on May 20 involved 680 volunteers, who removed more than 37,000 square feet of graffiti across the city.

“Graffiti is a problem that undermines efforts in three of our city’s five priorities; Public Safety, Economic Development, and Neighborhood Quality of Life,” said Ray Irvine, Interim Division Manager, Code Compliance. “And the appearance of graffiti is often perceived as a sign that a downward spiral has begun, even though this may not be true.”

Corporate sponsors donated money, paint, vehicles and lunch for all the volunteers. Leadership Dallas and Atmos Energy also donated trucks now being used by the city’s Code Compliance employees for graffiti abatement. “Studies show that removal of graffiti in 24 to 48 hours results in a nearly zero rate of reoccurrence,” Irvine said, “so these trucks will continue to support the program and enhance our ability to quickly remove graffiti.”

The team will receive a cash prize of \$1,000 and a FlashCAM-770 graffiti deterrent system to help stop graffiti in chronically hit areas. The camera senses motion up to 100 feet away, automatically takes pictures of the perpetrators, and plays a loud message, warning the intruder to leave.

“I’d like to thank City Council Member Angela Hunt for her support, and Leadership Dallas, the Meadows Foundation, Sherwin Williams Paint, Carraba’s Restaurants, Coca Cola, and Keep Dallas Beautiful for their donations, time and effort,” Irvine said.

Office of Environmental Quality employees Dionne Driscoll, Josh Hathaway and Lori Frauli, as well as Dallas Police Department employee Cheryl Cornish, City Attorney’s office employee Jennifer Richie, Code Compliance employee Kathleen Davis and her staff, also dedicated themselves to the project, attending weekly meetings for three straight months.

Keep Dallas Beautiful Executive Advisor Cecile Carson will accept the award for the team on Dec. 6 at the KAB national conference in Orlando, FL.

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