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Friday, May 20, 2016

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CITY UPDATES 2016 GRAFFITI PROGRAM

Welland, ON – On Tuesday, May 17, City of Welland Council approved a staff recommendation to fund 100% of graffiti removal for 2016. The new policy modifies the City's existing graffiti program by paying property owners 100% of the cost of graffiti removal, with a maximum payment of \$500. The new policy is available for 2016 only and expires December 31, 2016.

The City is taking a pro-active approach to reduce, prevent, and remove graffiti for a cleaner and safer Welland. The Graffiti Assistance Program requires participation from property and business owners, in order to grow a better healthier community that benefits everyone. In the spirit of keeping Welland communities vibrant and clean, the City supports all efforts to eradicate graffiti.

Council and staff are committed to eradicating graffiti and encourage the public to come forward to take advantage of the Graffiti Assistance Program that is currently funding 100% of removal fees with a \$500 yearly maximum per property for 2016. Ali Khan, Supervisor, Traffic, Parking & By-Laws says graffiti is a form of vandalism, which is unlawful by the vandal and also unlawful if not removed according the City's By-laws.

The City's Supervisor of By-laws assures the public that the By-law Division wants to cooperate with the community, and hopes to see property owners benefit from the program. "We want to work with the public on this issue. This problem needs to be addressed by the community and staff," said Khan. "The best approach to tackling graffiti is quick removal."

The Graffiti Assistance Program assists private property owners who are victimized with graffiti. For more information on the program contact the By-law Enforcement Division at 905 735-1700 ext. 2113 or 2259. To report graffiti please call Crime Stoppers at 1-800-222-8477.

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