

## **Report from Graffiti Removal Committee – Ray Pollok, Chair**

**Motion:** That the GHNNC move the \$10,000 allocated for Graffiti Removal in the budget for fiscal year July 1, 2008-June 30, 2009 to General Community Projects category of the GHNNC Budget. Further, for the fiscal year starting July 1, 2009 the GHNNC budgets \$3,500 in the Graffiti Removal category.

**Rationale:** West Valley Alliance, the company that has the contract with the City of Los Angeles to remove graffiti in the SFV (north to the county line, east to the 405, west to the county line, south to Mulholland Drive) has indicated that they will not need the \$10,000 for graffiti removal that the GHNNC has budgeted for our current fiscal year. To maintain the budget required for Community Improvements category at 20%, the committee felt that we could move the \$10,000 budgeted for graffiti removal to General Community Projects and still be in compliance. For our next fiscal year beginning July 1, 2009 the committee recommends allocating \$3,500 toward graffiti removal in acknowledgment of its importance to the community and will retain the option of adjusting the dollar amount as required.

The West Valley Alliance is a 501c3 organization and receives the bulk of its funding from the \$555,000 annual budget it receives from the City of Los Angeles. They also provide weed abatement and clean up services on city land based on calls and what they see on their own. The Alliance provides the equipment and supervision and the court system provides the free labor from the people it assigns to community service. The community service people also aid in graffiti removal. The President Daniel Ruiz provided us with his financials for the period of June 8th, 2007 to Jan 29th, 2009. His numbers show only 4 NCs in his entire area of operations contributed during that period for a total of \$26,000. \$15,000 of that total was contributed by GHNNC. Daniel confirmed as previously witnessed over the last few years that all requests for graffiti removal in all his areas are treated the same and half the removal work is done in each of his seven areas without even receiving a call.

We suggested at the meeting with Daniel that he request funds from the other approximate 20 NC districts that he is servicing. He said at this time he does not need or want any additional funds. He said he is very satisfied with the contributions from the GHNNC and will not be asking us for contributions for the foreseeable future. He said we have given more than our fair share.