



# NEWS RELEASE

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## **App allows graffiti reporting from phones**

Starting in September, there will be a new way to report graffiti in your community – with your smartphone.

With the help of App-Order.com, anyone can upload a new free app called “myThurston” to their iPhone or Android-based phone. This was provided to the county at no charge. Simply go to the iPhone App Store or Android Market and search for the keyword “myThurston.”

To report, snap up to four photos of the graffiti and send it to the local jurisdiction. This will expedite cleanup and help law enforcement connect graffiti activity throughout Thurston County. The law enforcement bureaus of Lacey, Olympia, Thurston County and Yelm are participating in the program. Crime analysts from each agency will be able to log in to the site and view the uploaded photos. They usually are able to identify the graffiti based on submitted pictures.

Graffiti can hurt your neighborhood in many ways. According to the National Association of Realtors, graffiti can cause a loss of 15% in a home’s value. Graffiti left unremoved can invite more serious crimes to the area. But reporting the graffiti to law enforcement, and removing it, can reduce the progression to more dangerous activity.

The new graffiti reporting app is being brought to the community by TOGETHER!, a local community-based nonprofit organization. TOGETHER! works to mobilize our community to prevent youth substance abuse and violence through awareness, advocacy and action. If you need more information on the graffiti reporting app, contact TOGETHER! at 360-493-2230 or [info@thurstonttogether.org](mailto:info@thurstonttogether.org).