

CITY COUNCIL
ATLANTA, GEORGIA



AN ORDINANCE

03-0-0678

**BY: COUNCILMEMBER H. LAMAR WILLIS
AS SUBSTITUTED BY COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT/HUMAN RESOURCES
COMMITTEE OF THE ATLANTA CITY COUNCIL**

**AN ORDINANCE PROHIBITING GRAFFITI AND PROVIDING FOR
ERADICATION, ENFORCEMENT AND PENALTIES; REPEALING
PRIOR ORDINANCES IN CONFLICT AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.**

WHEREAS, The City of Atlanta and its neighborhoods are plagued by illegal graffiti;

WHEREAS, graffiti is a public nuisance and destructive of the rights and values of property owners as well as Atlanta's neighborhoods;

WHEREAS, graffiti promotes blight in the neighborhoods in which it occurs and encourages further acts of vandalism;

WHEREAS, this practice is illegal and the City needs a mechanism to discourage the act of illegal placement of graffiti and direct the removal of the graffiti from public and private property; and

WHEREAS, City departments and all related agencies need to coordinate efforts to identify graffiti, enforce its removal, and apprehend those responsible for its placement.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF ATLANTA, as follows:

Section 1: Definition. "Graffiti" is defined according to O.C.G.A. 42-17-15A (2) as "any inscriptions, words, figures, paintings, or other defacements that are written, marked, etched, scratched, sprayed, drawn, painted, or engraved on or otherwise affixed to any surface of real property or improvements thereon without prior authorization of the owner or occupant of the property by means of any aerosol paint container, broad-tipped marker, gum label, paint stick, graffiti stick, etching equipment, brush, or other device capable of scarring or leaving a visible mark on any surface."

Section 2: Prohibited Acts.
(a) It shall be unlawful for any person(s) to deface, alter, modify, change, draw, damage or destroy by spraying or use of paint, or marking of ink, dye or any other similar substance on public and/or private buildings, structures and places, an inscription, slogan, drawing or modification, or otherwise damage private or public property in contradiction of other City Ordinances, by or through the application of "graffiti" as defined herein.