

November 1, 2010

Dear Judge Hale,

The Clintonville Area Commission has worked for years with Clintonville Area residents and business owners to clean up graffiti throughout our neighborhood. Hundreds, if not thousands of volunteer hours have been spent painting and scrubbing to remove "tags" and/or other graffiti related vandalism from people's homes, businesses and city property. In addition, thousands of dollars are spent every year to remove graffiti from brick and more difficult to clean surfaces. With all of this effort, the problem continues to worsen citywide.

While there are multiple excuses for why one does this type of crime, there is only one outcome. Homeowners, church-goers and business patrons feel less safe and secure in their own community.

It is with an understanding of this issue that the CAC ask that you do everything within your power to send a clear message that this type of criminal will be held accountable for their actions.

We request specifically that standardized sentencing be applied for graffiti offenders to include for first time offenses that similar "tags" be introduced at sentencing and that the vandals prosecuted for graffiti be responsible for all related "tags". It is our hope that successful graffiti offenders are made to clean every building that has their "tag" on it on first conviction. Other states have specific laws requiring convicted graffiti vandals to be required to keep the buildings that they have defaced clean for an entire year. This also seems to be a suitable punishment considering that when they graffiti a building, they are in effect inviting others to do the same.

Mr. King aka SEED has a long history of vandalizing both private and public property Clintonville and other neighborhoods throughout the City of Columbus. It is my hope that you will take into consideration the full extend of damage that he has caused and sentence him accordingly.

Thank you for your continued dedication to the City of Columbus and for your support of the CAC as it works to make Clintonville the best neighborhood in the city of Columbus.

Respectfully,

John DeFourny, President
Clintonville Commission