

SUNSET DRIVE TAKES ACTION

by Philip Lee

In early March, residents on the 3900 block of Sunset Drive acted together to stop "tagger" wannabes from going rampant on their street. Occurring over three days of the same week, nearly 50 juveniles from King Middle School rampaged from the campus and up the Sunset Drive Steps after school. Though the first two incidents were relatively calm, and the students dispersed quietly after one resident chased a handful of youths out of her yard, the third incident—which occurred on Friday, March 5th—became more serious. When a dozen of the juveniles began beating one young boy, and others began spray-painting graffiti and climbing over fences onto private property, residents of Sunset Drive not only called the police but also had the good sense to photograph all of the young men and women who were participating in the disturbances.

The Sunset Drive residents then took it upon themselves to contact the administration of King Middle School where nearly all of the young tagger wannabes were identified. LAPD and School Administrators promise that appropriate disciplinary measures will be meted out to the youths.

LAPD Detective Governo, who is handling the case, believes that these incidents are representative of a one-time-

only initiation ritual for youths acting as "tagger" wannabes. Thanks to the quick action of residents of the 3900 block of Sunset Drive, the problem seems to have abated. There has been no related activity since March 5th. However, the incident does point out the very real need for us all to remain active participants in our Neighborhood Watch Groups.



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