

# The Ward

## Historic Jackson Ward Association Newsletter

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**FIGHTING GRAFFITI IN HISTORIC JACKSON WARD**

Graffiti is a property crime that we in HJW have a vested interest in fighting, because it adversely affects all of us in multiple ways. At best it is an eyesore that detracts from our beautiful historic homes; at worst it is a signal that we tolerate unlawful behavior (or do not even notice it), which in turn invites more unlawful be-



havior and ultimately compromises personal safety, invites resident turnover, erodes community, reduces incentives to responsible property ownership, and finally lowers property values. These characteristics—past a certain threshold that falls into the “you know it when you see it” category—conspire to create what we know as a “ghetto.” And excepting the derelict appearance of boarded-up, empty structures, graffiti is probably the most visually compelling feature of any given ghetto. It goes without saying that a ghetto is no place to live.

**Impediments to Timely Removal**

When it takes an undue amount of time for DPW to remove graffiti, it is likely because their personnel are tending to other priorities that fall under DPW's purview. The Department of Public Works is responsible for many infrastructure-related facets of the city, to include paving roads; managing traffic flow, street signs, and stoplights; picking up leaves

and trash; cleaning the streets; trimming and removing trees on public property; and maintaining sidewalks and landfills, so the task of spreading resources equitably poses a continuous challenge. It does not mean that they don't care or that they are ignoring you.

Additionally, timely removal of graffiti is occasionally hampered by the absence of a signed copy of the Release of Liability waiver, and the City does not have it as a policy to pursue signatures. In short, the City views this practice as something that has the potential to invite complaints from citizens who do not necessarily want unsolicited contact with City personnel, so as a policy they do not engage in it.

Lastly, there are individuals who choose to make it difficult for the City to remove graffiti on their properties for reasons that are unknown to anyone but those individuals.

*Continued on page 12*



## HJWA FALL CLEAN-UP DAY 2010



Another successful Clean-Up Day in Historic Jackson Ward! On October 16, 2010, we had 26 people who came out to clean up the sidewalks, streets and alleys in Historic Jackson Ward. Once again the weather was perfect, a little chilly in the beginning, but with coffee and all the physical activity, all soon warmed up nicely! The morning began with a breakfast of Bob's homemade biscuits, Steve's wonderful coffee, and a fresh fruit and yogurt tray. Then, we moved out into the neighborhood with bags and picker-uppers to rid our neighborhood of the unsightly trash. It was a group effort to be proud of; I've never seen folks work more diligently! We had several RPD officers along with Lt. Hamlet Hood who vehemently worked to rid Abner Clay Park of litter.

We have now had successful Clean-Up Days here in the Ward for over six years. Our first one was in March of 2004. We used to schedule them three times a year, but have now narrowed that down to twice a year since folks are really good about doing their own street clean ups with their own personal picker-uppers during the down times. And, DPW has taken a vested interest in our neighborhood, keeping the alleys much cleaner than they used to be.

If you missed this one, not to worry. We are letting you know way in advance when our next HJWA Clean-Up Day will be. So mark your calendars for Saturday, April 16, 2011. Also, we have come up with a schedule for Clean-Up Days that will make it easier on everyone when it comes to scheduling

their own time. From now on, we will have our Clean-Up Days every 3rd Saturday in April and every 3rd Saturday in October. With everyone's schedules being so busy, we thought this would make it possible for more people to come and join in the fun! We look forward to seeing each and every one of you in Abner Clay Park on Saturday, April 16th!

To find out more about other activities or to check the activity calendar for HJWA, be sure to visit our website at [www.hjwa.org](http://www.hjwa.org).

- Vicki Mollenauer

## The Historic Jackson Ward Association

P.O. Box 26137  
Richmond, VA 23260  
(804) 644-4305

[www.HJWA.org](http://www.HJWA.org)

Thank you to Capital One



for financial assistance.

**Association Meetings**  
Every 3rd Tuesday at 6pm  
Club 533  
3rd Street and Jackson Street  
Richmond VA

WWW.HJWA.ORG

## LOCAL BUSINESS REVIEW ETTAMAE'S CAFE

The next time you drive down 2 Street, don't blink your eyes. Keep them wide open or you will miss, tucked amid the scaffolding, construction materials and piles of dirt, a little jewel of an eatery called Ettamae's Café. This store-front structure may appear unassuming, as you whiz by going about your day or night. However once you enter this charming café, lovingly named after the owners' grandmother, you will soon realize that good things really do come in small packages. Its environment is one I would call transparent; you can watch everything that's going on as food and drinks are prepared.



Owners of Ettamae's Cafe

I'm pretty sure Ms. Ettamae is heavenly proud of her grandchildren; Matt Morand, Laura Morand-Bailey and Jenny Morand. Their business savvy, vision and creativity are merely the side dishes of the main course which is their grandmother's recipes. When describing their menu, Laura calls it "Modern Granny." Everything, and I mean everything, is homemade. When's the last time you had a submarine sandwich on a homemade roll?

I sipped on an ice cold glass of delicious homemade peach tea as Laura gave me the grand tour of the Wi-Fi accessible venue and shared a brief bio of the proprietors. Downstairs, where all of the magic happens, there is a small side bar facing the promising view of the Hippodrome scheduled to open in the Spring of 2011. Then, there is the main bar; professionally managed by Jenny. She shares that space with her brother, Matt, a for-real, professional chef who honed his craft in New York. This family has been around the business of restaurants most of their adult lives. Along with Matt's New York history, Laura managed the Butlery and the Byrd House Market.

Upstairs you walk into what seems like a scene out of Casablanca; white table clothes covering tables nestled together in a tastefully decorated room. Then, there is the terrace with wrought-iron tables and chairs overlooking a view of parts of downtown Richmond and all of the action of 2 Street. Ettamae's has the best of all the ambiances you look for in a place to share a meal, a drink or a quick cup of coffee with a friend; a cozy bar, elegant upstairs dining and the whole "al fresco" experience at the top of the stairs.



There's no way to give justice to the vast menu choices or the special offers provided by this "Jewel of Jackson Ward" so I suggest you visit their web site at [www.ettamaes.com](http://www.ettamaes.com) at a time when you can get on 2 Street with your eyes wide open.

- Review By Demmie Murray

PROVIDING A FOREVER FAMILY FOR  
CHILDREN IN FOSTER CARE



**RESOURCE GROUP**

(804) 329-2500  
www.nwresourcegroup.org  
2712 Chamberlayne Avenue  
Richmond, Virginia 23222  
NonProfit, 501(c)3

Your Historic  
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Homebuyer Education  
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Every day in Virginia, in Richmond and in Jackson Ward there are children who live in the limbo state of foster care. These are children that you might drive past at the bus stop on your way to work, may see at the 2nd Street Festival, may see playing at Abner Clay Park or eating at a local restaurant. You wouldn't know because they are living with foster families who are providing them with a home until they can either return to their birth families or can be placed with an adoptive family. Foster care is supposed to be temporary. It is not permanent. The child is in the custody of a local department of social service who doesn't want to be nor should they be a child's parents. Thank goodness for good foster parents who are there for children as their parents work to remedy the things that brought the child into care. But if a child can't return home or live with birth relatives, they need a permanent family who can make the commitment of being there for them forever through a legal tie to that family. This occurs through adoption. Sometimes the foster family will adopt the child, but if not then agencies recruit adoptive families.

**HERE ARE SOME QUESTIONS PEOPLE OFTEN ASK?**

*WHO ARE THE CHILDREN THAT ARE CONSIDERED WAITING?* Older children and teens are higher in number than younger children. The average age of a child waiting for adoption is about nine years old. These are children who are often called children with 'special needs'; however, for adoption this means children who are over age 6, children with brothers and sisters that need to be placed together, children of a minority heritage and /or children with a physical, mental or emotional need. The children have lived through a lot and they bring their fears into their new family. They need to be loved and to have a family who can help them overcome the trauma they have experienced.

*WHAT IS THE COST TO ADOPT?* If you adopt a child in Virginia who is in the custody of the Local Department of Social Services, there is no fee. The home study can be completed by the local department of social services or some private agencies.

*DO I HAVE TO OWN MY HOME?* No, you can rent or own.

*DO I HAVE TO BE PERFECT TO ADOPT?* No, there are no perfect families or perfect children. You will have a home study completed, where you and the agency meet to learn about each other and the children who are waiting. There is paper work but the social worker will help you with it. The agency wants to find a family who can love a child, work with others to help the child, and be able to provide a nurturing, safe and positive environment for the child to grow up into adulthood.

*IS FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE AVAILABLE?* Adoption Assistance, also called Subsidized Adoption, is a means of providing payment or services to a family on behalf of a child with special needs. There is a reimbursement of \$2,000.00 for non-recurring expenses, if you needed to pay for an attorney, which is usually not required when adopting from the foster care system. There are also tax incentives for adopting children who are waiting.

There are many myths and questions families have about adopting. If you have questions or would like to provide a permanent family, contact the Virginia Department of Social Services at [www.dss.virginia.gov](http://www.dss.virginia.gov), your local department of social services or a private adoption agency.

- Sharon D. Richardson

LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT

Friends and Neighbors,

The Historic Jackson Ward Association has come a long way in the past four to five years working to become a vibrant civic association that has contributed much to our neighborhood. We have been able to secure significant amounts of grant money to assist us with our work from Capital One and Altria (Philip Morris, USA). It has been some time since we last published a newsletter so now we are attempting to get back on track to publish one quarterly.

I continue to be concerned that we are not reaching our potential as an organization. In January 2008 we adopted a five-year strategic plan with specific objectives for the revitalization of our neighborhood. We have been asking you to submit ideas for projects that will help us meet our objectives with little success. Some have volunteered to carry out certain activities that will help us meet those objectives and some have not followed-through. We do not have paid staff. We are a fully volunteer organization. As with most volunteer organizations, 10 percent of the members do 90 percent of the work. However, if it were not for the generosity of Capital One, we would not have been able to do much of what we do or have done.



Gateway Sign on 3rd and Jackson

A number of our neighbors have stepped-up to play a significant role in the accomplishment of some of those objectives and others have pitched in to help with our activities. But we need more help. Most activities are publicized through the use of our extensive e-mail tree but much of the information is also transmitted at our monthly neighborhood meetings. Attendance at those meetings could be stronger and, often, the activities require a vote of the association. Often only a handful of dues-paying members are present to vote. Please try to come out and show your support for the association. Can we count on you?

In an effort to determine how we can attract more participating members and to stimulate your interest in being an active participant in the association, we have posted an online survey to gauge your interest and garner suggestions for improvement. You should have received an e-mail announcing the survey. Please respond as quickly as you can.

To close with exciting news, by the time you receive this newsletter, after at least four years of work our new gateway signs announcing entrances to our neighborhood should be up in four locations: Belvidere and Marshall Streets; Belvidere and Leigh Streets; Chamberlayne Parkway and Duvall Street; and Third and Jackson Streets (in front of Club 533). These signs also announce that the neighborhood is a designated historic landmark. These signs were made possible through the generosity of a sizable grant from Altria. They have been very patient with us throughout the entire (and lengthy) process of developing and erecting the signs.

- Charles Finley, President of the Historic Jackson Ward Association

**HJWA Board Members**

Charles Finley  
President

Leighton Powell  
Vice President

Demmie Murray  
Secretary

Vicki Mollenauer  
Treasurer

Lynne Lancaster  
Board Member

Donna Alleyne  
Board Member

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Board Member

Julius Richardson  
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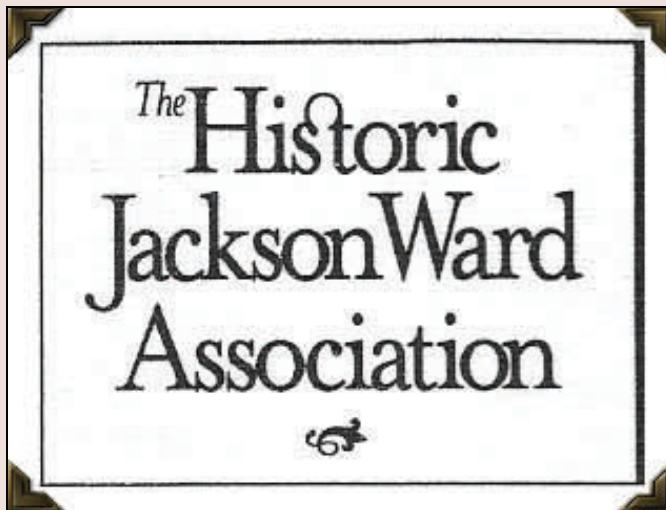
Sharon Richardson  
Board Member

## WHAT IN THE WORLD IS GOING ON

What in the world is going on? Marvin Gaye asked the same question on his 1971 album "What's Going On?" At that time he talked about war and "...fish full of mercury." So, here we are now, some 40 years later and nothing much has changed. We are still dealing with war and pollution; only this time our fish and every living creature along the Gulf is full of and drenched in BP oil. Yet, we don't respond like we did 40 years ago. We don't picket, strike, boycott or march. Most of us are older now and our knees, backs and other parts of our "different looking" bodies have gone on strike. These parts have taken on the occupation of predicting the weather; sometimes more accurately than Doppler radar. Things change, some stay the same. Gratefully, most of us have embraced it and have learned how to roll with it and have not become so cynical that we are not able to stop and marvel at a beautiful rainbow.

Recently, here in Jackson Ward, we have experienced some changes. Thankfully, our changes are not as devastating and in no way compares to what our brothers and sisters are going through in the Gulf. However, we have had cause to ask the question, "What's going on?"

Croaker Spot is gone people... gone from Jackson Ward! The same Croaker Spot featured on the Food Network. The same Croaker Spot to which the five-star Jefferson Hotel's shuttle brought hundreds of its out-of-town guests hoping to experience the whole Jackson Ward thing. The same Croaker Spot that belonged to Jackson Ward as an integral part of her history and economy. Now, "our" Croaker Spot is packing them in on Hull Street.



The community's responses to this tragedy have ranged from surprise, anger and hurt. Some have taken it as a personal assault saying they are downright embarrassed because it didn't have to happen like that. So, what in the dickens is going on?

A few blocks up and over, a huge green tarp covers what used to be one of the slickest spots in Jackson Ward, the Marshall Street Cafe. A good meal and a little jazz on Friday nights hit the spot. Its ambience was elegant and classy. In addition, its second story was someone's home. Then, on a clear day in June a family-sized van, like a guided missile, destroyed that sophisticated Jackson Ward restaurant and someone's home. What in the "you know what" is going on?"

Then we look around and there is "Mama J's restaurant; a soulful contemporary place steeped in a history of great cooks serving "state-of-the-art" fried catfish and Sunday go-to-meetin; potato salad. The beautiful church-like pew on the outside invites you to sit for a bit and chat. Further up Broad Street, a Jackson Ward husband and wife team opened the Belvidere. Its efforts to please all palates from vegans to die-hard carnivores have paid off deliciously. The mashed potatoes and raspberry glazed steak are to die for.

Mama J's and the Belvidere, after the kidnapping of the Croaker Spot and the weapon of mass destruction leveling the Marshall Street Café, with those crisp white table cloths, have come out of the clouds like a rainbow. They have given us "beauty for ashes."

- Editorial By Demmie Murray

## Feral Cat Control

Many of you have seen an increase in the number of cats in Jackson Ward. Many are feral cats, cats that are wild and are not anyone's pets. The Jackson Ward Association has purchased two cat traps that can be used to trap the cats so they can be taken to the SPCA to be neutered and then returned to where they were captured. Many don't want the cats returned, but that is how the program works. Once the cats are



neutered they cannot reproduce so in the long run it will cut down the number of feral cats in our area. If you have feral cats in your yard and would like them trapped you can borrow the traps or call Sharon Richardson at 356-3836. Sharon Richardson is an HJWA member who will assist you in trapping or will trap the cats for you and take them to the SPCA, as time permits.

## Meet Tolanda!

The first thing you will notice is his big, beautiful smile. He is a handsome, warm and friendly African American teen who loves the challenges of board games and building with legos and magnetics. Tolanda's favorite games are "Sorry" and Chess. He likes building things and says that someday he will build a miniature city with legos.

Tolanda has suffered several important losses in his life and he works hard at trying to resolve them. He can be very impulsive and sometimes finds it difficult to determine play time from serious time, especially in school.

Tolanda will need a family to support him in his efforts to overcome his grief and losses and provide him with a structured environment with set routines to manage his impulsivity. Tolanda would benefit from being an only child in the home in order to receive a lot of one-on-one attention but he says "I just want a family that will love me and take good care of me"!

Regardless of the significant losses in his life, Tolanda looks forward to becoming a part of a family again. With the unconditional commitment of a nurturing and patient family, Tolanda will be a wonderful addition and will learn to build a better future for himself.

To learn more about Tolanda call Lillian Trahan at coordinators2inc, 804 354-1881.



## RESTAURANT REVIEW THE BELVIDERE

Living in Jackson Ward is exciting for many reasons and one is the great restaurants. In each newsletter we would like to introduce you to places we enjoy here in the neighborhood.

The Belvidere at Broad serves an eclectic menu of dishes that focus on natural and organic ingredients. They offer a great wine and beer selection. There are a variety of dishes and having eaten there at least five times I have never had anything but an excellent meal. The atmosphere is friendly and there is new artwork featured each month. The owners live right here in Jackson Ward.



How did you decide to open a restaurant? Why in Jackson Ward? Dave and I love living in Jackson Ward. We are passionate about the downtown revitalization and wanted to be a part of growing the Broad Street corridor. While we both had an interest in opening a restaurant, we were fortunate to have renovated the building at a time when Dave's brother, Chris Hassen, had moved here from California. Chris graduated from California Culinary Academy, which is affiliated with the Cordon Bleu, and played a big part in our menu development. Dave and I felt there was a need for more restaurants in Jackson Ward and were interested in one with a casual Fan atmosphere, combining both old and new.

How did you decide on the type of food to serve? We focused on what we like, including homemade dishes prepared with high quality, fresh ingredients, served in a casual atmosphere. It is important to me to be accommodating to all tastes, including vegetarians and those with gluten allergies.

What is your favorite dish? While the best selling dishes are the hamburgers served on ciabatta with smoked gouda and the tenderloin with a ruby red demi glace, my personal favorites are the ahi fish tacos and the tequila grilled shrimp.

If you haven't eaten at the Belvidere, be sure you do soon.

- Sharon D. Richardson



### Historic Jackson Ward Association

Invites you to celebrate the holiday season  
FREE Entertainment, hors d'oeuvres,  
deserts and more.

Come join us!

December 16<sup>th</sup>, 2010

Club 533 3<sup>rd</sup> and Jackson Street

6pm to 9pm





## RESTAURANT REVIEW MAMA J'S

The Jackson Ward community has proven to be a great place for promoting the entrepreneurial spirit. Savvy business people understand that this is an opportune time to enter the market and claim their place. One such family who understands what it takes and has taken that leap is the Johnson family. When I went to Mama J's restaurant to do my research, I was not very optimistic that I would quickly find someone willing to accommodate me as I walked into Mama J's and asked for the owner. I was redirected back outside and shown a lady, Mrs. Velma Roland Johnson, and her son, Lester, sitting in front greeting patrons as they entered. After a short introduction, Mrs. Velma Roland Johnson, smiled and gladly began telling me about the business. Velma, Lester and his best friend, Jonathan Mayo combined their finances, brains and expertise and have taken the leap into the sometimes scary role of restaurateurs. It wasn't hard to see why Mama J's is so successful; it's her hands-on management. Mama J's, a place that boasts a cozy, down-home atmosphere, is located at 415 N 1st street. Their flier states that their goal is "to combine great southern food with outstanding service and a relaxing atmosphere", and that she does accomplish. Mama J's opened it's doors on October 27th, 2009. Ms Johnson describes business as good and growing steadily. The restaurant, she explains, is the brainchild of Lester and his college roommate and best friend, Jonathan . She plays an integral role as manager, and she oversees many aspects of the business. A visit to Mama J's is likened to "going to grandma's house for dinner." The cuisine is mainly southern which is very much in demand, but not readily available. Contributing to their success is the fact that they also do catering.



Velma explains that her clientele consists mainly of Jackson Ward residents and some downtown workers. The Jackson Ward community has been supportive and has been consistent patrons of the restaurant. Mama J's affordable prices make it an attractive place for grabbing lunch or even dinner. Velma hopes that her restaurant will be around for a long time. She has a very simple recipe for success. Provide good food and good service to people and they'll keep them coming back for more! Let us support our businesses and continue to build our neighborhood. Visit them at 415 N.1st street, [mamajskitchen.com](http://mamajskitchen.com) or call 804-225-7449.

- By Kendra Riddick

**Historic  
Jackson Ward**  
RICHMOND VIRGINIA

### Historic Jackson Ward T-Shirts

Sizes are S, M, L, XL, XXL  
Available in long (\$15.00)  
and short (\$12.00) sleeve

**Contact**  
[historicjacksonwardassociation@gmail.com](mailto:historicjacksonwardassociation@gmail.com)

## W O R K P L A C E B U L L Y I N G

Heads up all of you CEO's, Human Resource Managers and other employees responsible for the supervision of staff!

There may be a monster in your workplace that will prove to be a liability to every aspect of your organization. That monster is "Workplace Bullying."

It's best not to give this warning the "talk-to-the-hand" dismissal. Bullying is no longer relegated to the playground and cyberspace. According to recent press, the workplace bully has been snatched out of the closet through exposure and employees speaking up about how they are treated in the workplace. Workplace bullying is a sneaky and cowardly way to rattle employees' self-worth, confidence and purpose in the workplace.

For the victim of workplace bullying; it's hard to put a finger on just what is going on to cause the anxiety, fear and in many cases physical ailments. All they know is they are not comfortable about their relationship with management based on spending more time in the "principal's office than at their workspace doing the job they were hired to do. Instead they are constantly put on the hot seat behind issues that have nothing to do with their job performance.

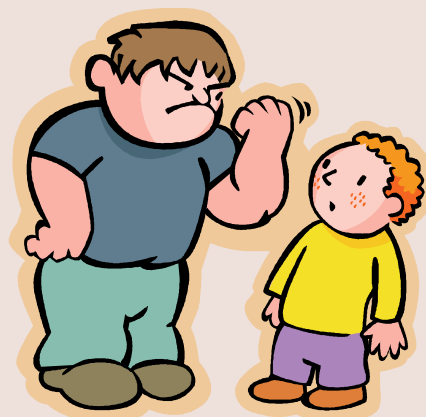
To the contrary, it's been determined the workplace bully is intimidated by their victim. It further reveals the workplace bully to have various issues related to their own self worth, limited knowledge, poor social skills and under-developed life skills. The bully's victim has something the bully covets he or she will never have. So, they set out to destroy their victims; in most cases with termination from employment.

According to the Workplace Bullying Institute (WBI), in the workplace, slightly more than half of all bullies (58 percent) are women. Half of all bullying is woman-to-woman. Women comprise 80 percent of targets. The vast majority of bullies (71 percent) are bosses.

According to an April 2008 article published by the Department of Labor and Industry, Workplace bullying refers to repeated, unreasonable actions of individuals (or a group) directed towards an employee (or a group of employees), which is intended to intimidate and creates a risk to the health and safety of the employee(s).

Workplace bullying often involves an abuse or misuse of power. Bullying includes behavior that intimidates, degrades, offends, or humiliates a worker, often in front of

others. Bullying behavior creates feelings of defenselessness in the target and undermines an individual's right to dignity at work. All too often CEO's and HR directors shrug this behavior off as an individual's



"management style." That kind of thinking could prove to be detrimental to your organizations productivity, reputation and its actual existence to name only a few of the repercussions a workplace could suffer if workplace bullying is ignored.

Unfortunately, when victims of bullying go to Human Resources with their concerns, the HR representative usually sides with the bully who may also fear going up against their colleagues and/or the administrators. This can cause severe frustration for the victim who often exhibits acting out behavior caused by the feelings of oppression, fear of losing their jobs and paranoia. This acting out behavior can range from irritability, cursing, suicide and homicide. How often do we watch the news covering yet another employee who comes in and shoots up his workplace aiming for the person that caused the stress, the person who turned a deaf ear to their plight and sadly enough, innocent bystanders?

Organizations such as the Healthy Workplace and the Workplace Bullying Institute (WBI) [www.workplacebullying.org](http://www.workplacebullying.org) are advocates of enacting a law against workplace bullying. The following states have enacted legislation to make workplace bullying illegal: California, Connecticut, Hawaii, Illinois, Kansas, Massachusetts, Missouri, Montana, New Jersey, New York, Oklahoma, Oregon, Utah, Vermont, Washington and Wisconsin.

If you are a smart, proactive CEO and/or HR Manager you will get busy with your board now to develop policies that address workplace bullying in your organization.

- Editorial By Demmie Murray

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LOCAL BUSINESS REVIEW  
 TURNSTYLE



Turnstyle owners Jesse & Joanna Oremland are also known as the DJ Duo and have lived in Historic Jackson Ward since 2000. The pair decided there was a need for an electronic music / streetwear lifestyle boutique in Richmond, and thus opened the Turnstyle Boutique in June of 2003.

Turnstyle hosts "Frequency" (7-9pm), and "The Guest DJ Spotlight (9 - 11pm) every Saturday night on WRIR 97.3FM Richmond since 2005. The boutique is active in the community and participates in the First Friday's Artwalk every month providing "music as a form of art" featuring live, local, regional, national, and internationally known dance music dj's and producers. Turnstyle has collaborated for special events with other diverse local businesses such as Quirk Gallery, Godfrey's, Europa, Gallery 5, Rumors, and non profits - Curated Culture (First Friday's Artwalk), and WRIR 97.3FM (Richmond Independent Radio) just to name a few.

Turnstyle has been noted for their passion for the underground music culture by publications like: Richmond Magazine, The Richmond Times Dispatch, Brick Weekly, Style Weekly, Richmond.com, Bassline magazine (ohio), and Rva mag. The boutique has been open for seven years on the Historic Broad Street Corridor and continues to prosper.

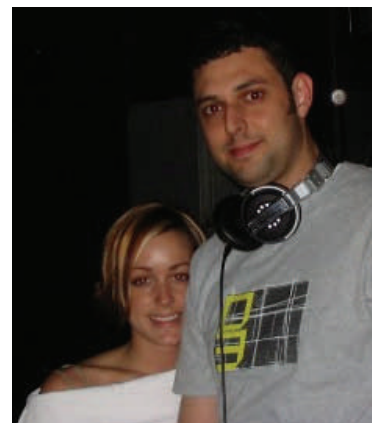
102 West Broad Street

Richmond, VA 23220

804.643.8876

Tuesday - Friday (noon - 7pm), Saturday (Noon - 6pm),

Sunday & Monday - by appointment



## T H E R E M O V A L P R O C E S S

Owing to the many reasons why graffiti is a problem for people who want to enjoy a nice quality of life in their neighborhoods, the City of Richmond has a mechanism for citizens to report graffiti for removal by the Department of Public Works, as seen in the table below. Note that the process is not time-consuming despite the amount of information in the table.

For my part, I sometimes log graffiti without notifying the police in cases where the graffiti lacks identifying feature(s) that could later be associated with a specific individual. If it comes down to skimming on the reporting versus not addressing it at all, it may be better to skimp.

| What                                                                                                                                                                                  | Comments                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      | Where / How                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Step 1: Call the police for a photo op.                                                                                                                                               | Report graffiti to the police so that they can take a picture for evidence in the eventual prosecution of those offenders using an identifiable tag in one or more instances.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 | 646-5100, ext. 1 (you may be redirected from there)                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |
| Step 2: Get permission for removal <b>OR</b> skip this step if you are not comfortable asking people and go straight to "Step 3" below. (Many signatures are already on file anyway.) | If it is your property, sign the "Graffiti Release of Liability" form; if it is someone else's property, try contacting them for a signature. <i>The form only has to be signed <b>one time per property/property owner, but it must be signed</b> for DPW to remove the graffiti.</i>                                                                                                                                                                        | At <a href="http://www.Richmondgov.com">www.Richmondgov.com</a> , wave your mouse over the "Residents" link and then click the "Forms for the City" link in the lower-left corner of the offerings. From there, scroll down to "Police" and click on the "Graffiti Removal Form" link. Print and fill out the form and mail it to the address in the lower-left corner of the form. |
| Step 3: Log the graffiti for removal                                                                                                                                                  | This is the point in the process where you make the instance of graffiti "visible" to the Department of Public Works' ground maintenance crew. If you have submitted a waiver form for the property, it is a good idea to state this in the "Comments" section online, to identify for the grounds crew that permission has been secured. If you call 311, you can ask the customer service representative to make a note of it when he or she logs the call. | Log graffiti online by going to <a href="http://www.Richmondgov.com">www.Richmondgov.com</a> and clicking the "Citizens' Request" link <b>OR</b> by calling 311, pressing "1" for English, and pressing "0" to speak to a customer service representative.                                                                                                                          |

### CONCLUSION

We all work too hard to sit passively by while persons unknown to us presume to negatively impact our safety, our community, our property values, and our right to look out our front doors without seeing evidence of a property crime every so many feet.

The City of Richmond provides a mechanism for fighting graffiti, both administratively and from a law-enforcement perspective, so we can reverse the effects of it if we choose to. Having to request that graffiti be removed should not be an underlying assumption of living in any neighborhood, but as long as it is, let's get it done

- Editorial By Liza Steele