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NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Prosper investigating possibility of Citizens Police Academy *Academy paves way for Citizens On Patrol and Volunteers in Police Service*

PROSPER (February 23, 2011) The Prosper Police Department is looking into the possibility of establishing a Citizens Police Academy, according to Prosper Chief of Police Kirk McFarlin.

A Citizens Police Academy is the first step in developing any sort of force-multiplying volunteer supplement to the police department, and before an Academy can be instituted, there must be enough interest on the part of prospective participants to move forward with the proposal.

“We want to see if there is a critical mass of serious interest on the part of potential eligible participants before we go about the work of developing an Academy. An Academy sets the stage for Citizens On Patrol (COP) and Volunteers in Police Service (VIPS) programs,” said the Chief.

Should the class make, it would start sometime in April of this year, an exact start date to be determined by a number of factors, including the number of people interested. Optimum size of a class is between 12 and 20 students. Should there be an overwhelming interest, the Town will address the possibility of another class later in the year.

Preliminary plans call for class meetings to be held on Thursday evenings from 7 p.m. to 10 p.m.

“Participants must attend all the classes for graduation. If a class is missed, there will be an opportunity to make up the training. There is so much material shared in each class that in order for students to be fully prepared, they must be exposed to the entire curriculum,” he said.

Participants will cover information and training specifically related to the Prosper Police Department as well as the overall law enforcement profession as a whole.

Citizens Police Academy graduates become part of the alumni association and are encouraged to undergo further training, preparing them to be part of establishing a COP and VIPS program in Prosper.

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Members chosen for the initial class will undergo the training at no charge. Applicants must be at least 18 years of age and will be subjected to a background check before being accepted for the Academy. Candidates must be free of felony convictions and must not currently be under indictment for any felony offense. Their record must be clean of DWI convictions for the last five years and they cannot currently be under parole or probation for any criminal offense.

In order to participate in the driving portion of the Academy, applicants must have a valid driver's license.

Interested individuals should personally contact Chief McFarlin or Assistant Chief Gary McHone by calling the Prosper non-emergency police line (972) 347-9002.

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ABOUT THE TOWN OF PROSPER – The Town of Prosper is a fast-growing suburb with small town charm, located 30 miles north of Dallas at the crossroads of U.S. 380, Preston Road and the Dallas North Tollway in Collin and Denton Counties. Prosper sits on 27 square miles and is home to more than 9,000 people. A home-rule municipality, governed by a council-manager form of government, the town has full-time fire and police departments, including its own dispatch service. As the Town grows to its projected build-out population of 90,000 residents, Prosper's vision is to remain a "Place Where Everyone Matters."