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NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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August 4, 2010

Police department warns of suspicious neighborhood activity

PROSPER (August 4, 2010) Town residents have seen an unusual rise in the number and frequency of unexplained and suspicious activity in and around homes and vehicles, according to Town of Prosper Chief of Police Kirk McFarlin.

“Since the beginning of May, a higher than normal number of suspicious activities have been reported to us that we are still investigating,” he said. Among the calls have been six reports of an unknown person or persons ringing door bells in the late evening and running away; and four reports of an unknown person or persons knocking on windows or back doors in the early morning hours.

“Even though officers responded promptly, we have not been able to identify a suspect or suspects in these cases. Fortunately, there were no reports of injury or damage to property,” he said.

In addition to these residential calls, the department has received reports of dogs barking for no apparent reason; reports of suspicious people in the neighborhoods trying car door handles; and one report of an attempt to enter a locked gate in the rear of a residence.

While some of these incidences could be attributed to juvenile pranks, others are of obvious concern to the affected residents and their neighbors.

Also, during this timeframe, two vehicles were reported stolen. The vehicles were similar in appearance and were taken from the same general area. One was recovered in Dallas, missing the license plates. The other vehicle is still missing.

“As in all cases, we realize that there have been other incidents that were not reported and those are also of concern. The Prosper Police Department needs all citizens to be aware of what is happening in their neighborhoods and report what they see and hear,” he emphasized.

The Police Department urges all residents to be aware of activities in their immediate surroundings and report anything suspicious. Doing so allows that information to be shared within the community, thereby increasing vigilance. Knowing what is occurring in other neighborhoods will keep everyone aware of the need for keeping their eyes and ears open for similar suspicious activity in their area.

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Professional thieves can strike anywhere at any time. Being aware and sharing information will give residents the upper hand in crime prevention. Here are some safety tips from the Prosper Police Department:

1. Always lock your vehicle and set the alarm.
2. Remove items that are easily stolen and sold, such as, radar detectors and navigation devices.
3. Park your vehicle in the garage and lock it.
4. Place locks on all exterior gates.
5. Install motion-activated lighting.
6. Report suspicious activity immediately.
7. Keep a watch out for your neighbors as well as for your own home.
8. Keep doors and windows locked at all times.
9. Set your alarm and keep emergency numbers readily accessible at all times.

“Above all, residents should remain aware and vigilant for suspicious or out-of-the-ordinary activity. It doesn't just happen to someone else, it can happen to you,” he concluded.

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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.”