



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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## **City of Denton Issues Statement on HB 40 and Upcoming Fracking Operations**

**DENTON, TX, May 22, 2015** – Contrary to reports that have recently been disseminated publicly, the hydraulic fracturing ban has, in our opinion, been rendered unenforceable by the State of Texas in HB 40 such that we no longer have the authority to enforce the ban. The City of Denton, however, will continue to regulate other surface activities related to drilling operations per our existing oil and gas well drilling ordinance (an ordinance separate from the hydraulic fracturing ban ordinance), including the regulation of setbacks, fire safety, noise, traffic, hours of operation, etc., as allowed by HB 40. “The City recognizes the limitations to enforcing the fracking ban imposed by HB 40 and will comply with this new legislation,” stated George Campbell, City Manager.

This is of particular importance as Vantage Energy has notified the City that they will begin hydraulic fracturing operations on June 1. These operations have been identified as compliant with the existing city Code of Ordinances. Gas Well Inspectors will monitor the activities to ensure they remain compliant with municipal regulations, as allowed by HB 40.

The City has also been notified that, in response to the scheduled Vantage operations, there may be an organized protest at the drill site. Mr. Campbell said “we recognize and respect the right of citizens to peacefully assemble and will work diligently with any protest organizers to ensure the safety and protection of those gathering and of any gas well operations personnel. Throughout the past year or more, as gas well issues have been addressed in Denton, our citizens have demonstrated the utmost respect for the rule of law and we have no doubt that positive attitudes will continue to prevail.”

For more information related to the current oil and gas well drilling ordinance and existing regulations, please visit [www.cityofdenton.com/gaswellinspections](http://www.cityofdenton.com/gaswellinspections).

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