121 W. Broadway St. Prosper, TX 75078

## NEWS RELEASE

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Media Contact: Celso Martinez, 972-623-8836

## Prohibition of fireworks within Town limits emphasized Concern for public safety at root of longstanding ordinance

PROSPER (June 15, 2015) Every year throughout the country the careless, indiscriminate, and often illegal, use of retail fireworks results in tragic and irreversible consequences for both the user and, sadly, the innocent homeowner, says Prosper Fire Marshal Bryan Ausenbaugh.

"Nationwide, the tragedies mount as we get closer to the Independence Day celebrations," he said. "While merchants are free to set up retail fireworks sales stands where allowed by law, it is still not legal to have those items in your possession within Prosper."

Ordinance #00-13 makes it a misdemeanor offense to possess or discharge fireworks inside the Town limits and within the extra-territorial jurisdiction. The only fireworks allowed in Prosper are those set off by professionals with a valid permit, an inspection and proof of a bond.

"If a person or persons are found in violation of this ordinance, they may be issued a citation," added Ausenbaugh, the Town's Fire Marshal. "They will then be required to appear in Municipal Court, and if found guilty, could face fines of up to \$2,000 for each offense."

A free fireworks display is scheduled for Frontier Park on the evening of July 3, concluding the second annual Pride in the Sky event. The event, sponsored by various local and area businesses including the Town of Prosper, is presented by Prosper Magazine.

The Prosper Fire Department wants everyone to have a safe and happy July 4th holiday without retail fireworks. Contact the Fire Department at 972-346-9469 or visit <u>www.prosperfire.com</u> to view the fireworks ordinance.

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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 15,000 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 70,000 residents, Prosper's vision is to remain a "Place Where Everyone Matters."

