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NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Cops sacrifice chin and upper lip for national charity

Police compete in goatee-growing contest to raise funds

PROSPER (December 26, 2011) Prosper's police officers are replicating the highly successful goatee-growing contest that last year raised over \$600 for the National Leukemia and Lymphoma Society, according to Police Chief Kirk McFarlin.

"The Prosper Police Dept. is blessed to have so many officers who are community-minded and who take pride in being part of the team. Those two elements play a major role in their willingness to participate in the contest," he said.

Officers who agree to participate in the charity fund-raising contest pay a \$25 entry fee and grow a goatee, facial hair that includes a moustache and the chin. They then contact friends, family, neighbors and anyone else who will agree to sponsor their hair-growing effort with monetary pledges.

The contest ends on Jan. 27, 2012 when the communication officers of the Prosper Dispatch Office declare the winners in the various categories. The overall winner, named as having the best all-around goatee, will have his name attached to the check submitted to the charity. All money raised, including the entry fees, will be donated to the Leukemia and Lymphoma Society.

"The 'growing season' began on Dec. 17 and some officers already have a noticeable amount of facial hair. We want to make sure that Prosper residents understand why we're doing this, and that the beards are temporary. While I was fortunate enough to have won last year, I will not be eligible to win again," said McFarlin. The Chief will, however, grow his goatee in support of the effort.

The end of the contest coincides with The Big D Climb, a competitive fund-raising event that involves climbing the stairway of a downtown Dallas skyscraper. Several Prosper police officers and firefighters participate in the climb as a team. The Leukemia and Lymphoma Society also benefits from the climb's proceeds.

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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 10,000 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."