



December 5, 2003

Re: **District2Neighborhood Roundtable Meeting (November 13, 2003)
Response to Issues and Comments**

Greetings:

I would like to thank you for your attendance at the District 2 Neighborhood Roundtable meeting held on November 13, 2003 at the Plano Sports Authority StarCenter. On behalf of City Council, we applaud your interest and involvement in our community. Much was learned from your comments and we look forward to working with you in maintaining a strong city and excellent quality of life. The following is a synopsis of the issues discussed as well as some additional information on each topic.

Traffic Mobility and Safety

As voiced at the meeting, some of the most important issues facing Plano today relate to traffic.

Traffic Congestion - Rapid population growth in Plano, although slowing, and surrounding communities has increased traffic congestion. Transportation improvements are being made to balance land development and mobility needs. Additionally, data received from the North Central Texas Council of Governments relative to the growth of boundary cities and their potential impact on Plano traffic volumes is factored into the City model. Traffic flow is being enhanced through new road construction, intersection improvements, and signalization throughout the City.

The City's Transportation Division oversees an ongoing program that retimes traffic signals in response to changing traffic volumes/patterns. Staff works with adjacent cities to foster uninterrupted traffic flow across City limit boundaries. Using state-of-the-art technology, 193 traffic signals are monitored throughout the City and timing plans are changed when needed to minimize vehicle stops and delay. Through use of traffic monitoring cameras and coordination with police patrols, quick and effective response to incidents involving disabled vehicles or traffic collisions is possible. By effectively responding to these variable traffic conditions, significant travel time savings and improved air quality are attained.

Neighborhood Traffic Safety – The State has established a minimum speed limit of 30 mph, which is the speed limit in Plano's residential areas. To address specific neighborhood traffic safety problems, such as speeding vehicles or school zone safety, the City has implemented the Safe Streets Program. This program is overseen by a Traffic Engineer who works with citizens and homeowner associations on specific neighborhood traffic problems impacting their neighborhoods. If you would like more information regarding the Neighborhood Traffic Safety program, please call the Engineering Department at (972) 941-7151.

Pat Evans
Mayor

Phil Dyer
Mayor Pro tem

Steve Stovall
Deputy Mayor Pro tem

Shep Stahl
Place 1

Scott Johnson
Place 2

Sally Magnuson
Place 4

Jim McGee
Place 7

Ken Lambert
Place 8

Thomas H. Muehlenbeck
City Manager

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Traffic Speeding/Red Light Running - The Police Department places the highest priority on traffic safety. The Police Department's traffic mission is to save lives. The best way to accomplish this mission is to reduce and prevent traffic crashes. The City of Plano uses a three-pronged approach to accomplish these objectives:

- Strict enforcement
- Education and awareness
- Community partnership

Deaths caused by traffic crashes in Plano were reduced from twelve in 2001 to ten in 2002. Plano's 2002 traffic fatality rate of .04 per 1000 residents is one of the lowest in the Dallas-Ft. Worth Metroplex. The Police Department issued 92,221 traffic citations in 2002, a 6% increase compared to 2001. An aggressive traffic enforcement strategy is an important factor in reducing injuries and deaths caused by traffic crashes. The Police Department believes their strict enforcement strategy contributed to the 20% reduction in traffic fatalities during 2002.

Education and awareness are critical to addressing traffic safety issues. The Police Department has implemented a traffic safety hotline (972-941-LITE) that you may call at any time to report flagrant traffic violations. Please provide the license plate number, vehicle make, and date/time of occurrence when you call. The Police Department will forward a letter to the registered owner of the vehicle informing them of the observed violation and requesting they comply with the law in the future. Also, red light citation information signs have been placed at ten high accident intersections and the major thoroughfares leading into our City. A traffic safety pledge program has been implemented to increase awareness of this problem.

The Police Department Traffic Unit is available to give traffic safety presentations to homeowner associations, PTO's and other community groups. Additionally, residents may use the Police Department's Special Enforcement Request (SER) procedure to address speeding and other traffic violations occurring in their neighborhood. Officers are assigned to address SERs as their call load permits. You may call the Police Department Traffic Unit at (972) 208-8055 to request a traffic safety presentation or to initiate an SER.

Traffic Violations – I would like re-emphasize City Council's initiatives aimed at reducing red light and speeding violations in our City. Your City Council is dedicated to resolving these important safety concerns by supporting the Police Department with their three prong approach as discussed previously in this letter.

Red Light Cameras - The City Council and staff support the use of red light enforcement cameras as tools to combat flagrant intersection violations. The Texas Attorney General has issued an opinion that permits cities to use cameras to identify red light violators. At first glance, this may seem like a success, but it is not. Red light violations are criminal offenses that require identification of the actual driver. We would need the violator's Texas driver's license photo to compare against the photo taken by the red light enforcement camera to make the required identification. Currently, the Texas Department of Public Safety may only release driver's license photos to other law enforcement agencies for felony offenses.

The Attorney General's Opinion also states that home rule cities such as Plano may not adopt a City Ordinance that makes red light violations a civil offense without enabling legislation from the Texas Legislature. If red light violations could be handled as civil offenses, the Police Department could send a citation to the registered owner after taking a photo of the vehicle's license plate. Attempts have failed in the last two legislative sessions to allow cities to adopt red light violations as civil

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offenses. Absent this enabling legislation or access to driver's license photos for traffic offenses, it would not be feasible for us to move forward with red light enforcement cameras.

Public Safety

Several issues were raised during the meeting concerning vandalism and theft in District 4 neighborhoods. The Police Department actively investigates all reported offenses and has identified a possible suspect in several of the area thefts. The cases remain under investigation. It is our hope to bring these matters a quick resolution.

Neighborhood solicitation was another issue identified at the meeting. Solicitation and handbill distribution on private property is governed by Plano City Ordinance 11-141. By ordinance, (a) "It shall be unlawful for any person to conduct commercial solicitation upon residential property within the city, without first obtaining a written permit as prescribed.." Further, Ordinance Section (d) states "It shall be unlawful for any person to distribute or cause to be distributed...any handbill upon any residential property if requested by anyone thereon not to do so, or if there is placed on such premises in a conspicuous place upon or near the main entrance to the residence, a weatherproof card, not less than three inches (3") by 4 inches (4") in size bearing the words "no trespassing", "no peddlers", "no advertisement", "no solicitation", "no handbills", or any similar notice indicating in any manner that the occupants of such premises do not desire to have any such handbills left upon their premise. The letters on such cards shall not be less than two-thirds (2/3) of an inch in height."

The Police Department will respond to solicitation violations. It is incumbent on the resident to get a good description of the solicitor for identification purpose. If the solicitor is found in the area, he/she may be cited for not having the required permit, or if identified by the resident for violation of the solicitation ordinance. You will find 'Common Questions and Answers on Solicitation' pamphlet attached for your use.

Neighborhood Police Officers (NPO) – The purpose of the NPO Unit is to provide designated neighborhoods with the services of police officers that concentrate their efforts in accordance with the general philosophy of community oriented and problem oriented policing. The specific selection of a neighborhood for assignment of a NPO is based on a variety of factors such as crime trends, calls for service data, visual blight, and renovation/revitalization needs. Neighborhood Police Officers are assigned to a neighborhood on a semi-permanent basis and strive to become familiar with the community and its residents. They provide residents with a central source of assistance for both law enforcement and non-law enforcement type problems.

Although the NPO Unit has had a positive impact on specific neighborhoods, the Police Department does not have the resources, nor was the program designed, for citywide deployment. The NPO Unit is composed of ten police officers and is supervised by a Sergeant. Seven police officers are assigned to specific neighborhoods (primarily east of US 75), one is assigned to the Downtown Business District and the remaining two are assigned to perform directed problem solving projects throughout the City such as illegal alcohol sales to minors and drag racing. The Police Department periodically realigns patrol assets, when warranted, to ensure the most effective delivery of police service. Neighborhoods added to the NPO Program will have been identified as having persistent problems with crime, disorder, and code violations.

Although we are not able to assign an NPO to every neighborhood in the City, every neighborhood does have a regularly assigned beat officer for each of the three regular patrol shifts. Residents can call the Police Department's non-emergency number at (972) 424-5678 and request a beat officer respond to discuss problems in their neighborhood at any time. Additionally, beat officers can attend homeowner or neighborhood association meetings, if scheduled in advance, to address residents'

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concerns. To schedule an officer to attend a meeting, call the police non-emergency number and request Patrol Administration during business hours or the Watch Commander during non-business hours.

Crime Watch – Another crime prevention tool available to you is participation in your neighborhood Crime Watch. The Crime Prevention Unit of the Police Department is very active with these groups. If you would like to join your neighborhood's program or would like to begin a Crime Watch program in your area, please contact the Crime Prevention Unit at (972) 941-2431. A Crime Prevention officer will be happy to assist you with any questions you may have.

Further information related to the Police Department can be found on our website: www.PlanoPolice.org.

School Crossing Guards – Plano Independent School District offers special programs during the summer, however the City of Plano does not participate in these programs. The City and PISD have agreed to provide crossing guards for the regular school calendar and school hours. Special summer programs are not included in our agreement.

For regular programs, any resident can request a guard or school zone. To do this, they must go through the school principal. Those requests are then reviewed by a joint City/PISD Safety Committee for consideration. If approved, the City would then add the zone or a new guard.

Zoning and Development Activity

Please be assured the City of Plano is committed to protecting the rights of neighborhoods, as well as developers, to pursue their interests within the established legal framework of procedures and standards. Historically, the City of Plano has been development-friendly. Non-residential development helps fund City streets, water and sewer facilities, parks, police and fire stations, schools and other public improvements that citizens value as important to a good quality of life. However, development-friendly does not equal lower standards or the waiving of requirements. City Council and the Planning and Zoning Commission have adopted very stringent development policies. All projects are subject to the same high standards.

The City strives to inform neighborhoods of proposed development and provide the opportunity for neighborhoods to express their desires and concerns to public decision-making bodies. The City of Plano continues to encourage developers and neighborhoods to openly communicate and seek ways to ensure beneficial and compatible development.

Although not required by state law, applicants for zoning cases in Plano must place a zoning sign on the property notifying the public of the pending zoning action. The City gives a small sign to the applicant for specific use permit requests. For larger tracts of land, the applicant must contract with a sign company to have a large wooden sign erected on the property. All of the signs give the Planning Department's phone number, (972) 941-7151, so that citizens may call to get more information about the proposed zoning action.

In addition, information on new zoning and development requests is placed on the City's Internet home page at www.planotx.org, Plano cable channels A-30 and B-58, and is available in the public libraries. The City also sends written notices 20 days in advance of the public hearing for a zoning case, although state law only requires 10 days advance notice. The City elected to extend this time so that homeowner groups would have more time to learn the details of the case and meet with the property owners to discuss their concerns. The notices are sent to property owners within 200 feet of the affected property, as required by current state law. Notices are also sent to the presidents of

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homeowner associations that are within 1500 feet of any request for rezoning. The president of the Plano Homeowners Council receives notice of all zoning cases that have been requested.

The following properties have land studies, preliminary site plans, and/or final site plans approved in the District 4 area. Projects that have been approved generally mean development is imminent.

- **Coit Crossing** – West side of Coit Road, north of Mapleshade – Hibernia Bank.
- **Coit Center** – Northwest corner of Coit Road and SH 190. Day surgery hospital and medical offices (east of Central Marketplace).
- **Huffman Addition** – South side of Tradition Trail, east of Ohio – office/showroom/ warehouse development.
- **Preston/Ohio Addition** – Southwest corner of Plano Parkway and Ohio Drive - office/retail development.
- **North Texas Tollway Authority** – Southwest corner of Ohio Drive and Tradition Trail – office building and service yard.
- **Messiah Lutheran Church Addition** – church sanctuary and classrooms.

In addition to the above, there are several expansions/additions to PISD schools in your district.

The future growth, development, and redevelopment of Plano are guided by the Comprehensive Plan. It focuses on the physical form of the city and how it impacts the quality of life for those who live and work in the community. Planning is an evolving process and periodic review and updating are required. The Planning and Zoning Commission is currently working on possible revisions to the Land Use and Transportation Elements of the Comprehensive Plan. The Commission expects to submit its proposed updates in early 2004. If interested in this process, please contact the Planning and Information Division at 972-941-7152.

One of the topics that will be covered in this update is the removal of overpass designations for several major intersections in Plano. Based on the results of a traffic study done in 2002, the City Council determined that the overpasses were not required, recommended their removal from the Thoroughfare Plan, and determined that the additional rights-of-way at those intersections would be retained by the City to accommodate future at-grade improvements. The Commission will recommend appropriate text and map changes to the Transportation Element to address this matter.

The Comprehensive Plan forms the basis for preparing other critical documents such as the Zoning Ordinance, Subdivision Ordinance, and the Capital Improvements Program. These documents, in turn, contribute to the implementation of the Comprehensive Plan. The Zoning Ordinance defines the land uses that are appropriate for various locations in the Plano and the development standards that apply to them. The Subdivision Ordinance defines standards for utilities, drainage, streets, and alleys that are necessary to prepare a tract of land for development. The Capital Improvements Program establishes a schedule for providing the required public facilities and infrastructure to serve the community's needs and expectations.

Vacant Retail - The City of Plano recently joined with the cities of Carrollton and Richardson to prepare a report entitled, "Retail Study of Underperforming and Vacant Retail Areas." It recommends ways to improve the productivity of undeveloped or partially developed retail tracts of land and vacant

or underused retail buildings. Achieving this goal will require a cooperative effort between the public and the private communities.

Each of the three cities is now responsible for adapting the recommendations of the report to the specific needs and capabilities of their respective communities. The Planning and Zoning Commission held its first work session on this topic in August and intends to submit an implementation plan to the City Council in late fall. That plan will define the City's role in encouraging property owners to reinvest in these underperforming sites.

Affordable Housing - In general, it is very difficult to build affordable housing in Plano because undeveloped residential land is scarce, and land costs are high. A residential lot costs \$40,000 at minimum. Constructing a 1000 square foot house will cost a minimum of \$80,000 to \$90,000, with the result than even a very small house will sell for at least \$120,000.

Affordable housing has been a concern of the City for many years. As long ago as 1986, we amended some of our zoning requirements to reduce the cost of housing. In 1996, we did a full review of our ordinances to determine if there were rules which were inadvertently pushing up housing costs. And in 2000, we created a Neighborhood Empowerment Zone for the oldest part of town, in which nearly all fees are waived to make construction on vacant lots more affordable. The City also has provided grant funding to non-profit builders, such as Habitat for Humanity, to encourage affordable housing.

Older Neighborhoods, Quality of Life - City recognizes the need to maintain our older neighborhoods. In order to prevent deterioration in our neighborhoods, we schedule infrastructure repair and replacement each year so that streets and utilities are kept in good condition. We also have a pro-active code enforcement program through our Property Standards Division. Property Standards works with property owners to keep their homes free of trash and debris, junk vehicles, high grass and weeds, and other property code violations. They do issue fines for non-compliance. We believe that code enforcement is very important to maintain our older areas, and we try to address problems in their incipient stage, rather than letting them grow into the large areas of deterioration which exist in many other cities.

In 2000, we began our Neighborhood Planning program, in which a City Planner works with the residents of an older neighborhood to address whatever concerns they may have regarding their neighborhood. A plan of action to address their issues is prepared and approved by the Planning and Zoning Commission and the City Council, and necessary funds are appropriated to address the concerns.

Public Information

Below is a list of various media and access information you may find useful in contacting staff and keeping abreast of activities in our City.

➤ **Internet**

As stated previously, the City of Plano's web site address is www.planotx.org. To reach a particular staff member by phone, you may go directly to www.planotx.org/topic.asp. For City staff email addresses, go directly to www.planotx.org/ctystaff.html. The City's web site provides valuable information about the services of each department. Functions of the City's site include viewing City Council and Planning and Zoning Commission agendas, submitting code enforcement concerns and making online water bill payments.

➤ **Publications**

Municipal information can be found on a daily basis at www.planocitynews.com. This is the city's new initiative to provide more timely information in an electronic format.

➤ **Cable TV**

Information regarding upcoming City activities and events is broadcasted on Plano's cable channels - A30 and B58.

➤ **Public Library**

Information on upcoming City Council Meetings as well as Planning and Zoning cases is available at all Plano public libraries.

➤ **Water Bill Inserts**

Another method the City uses to inform citizens of community events, activities and resources is through water bill inserts. The City's web site was advertised via water bill inserts in November 2001 and January 2002.

➤ **Current Studies**

It was suggested during our Roundtable that the City provide information concerning the current studies in which we are involved on our web site. This excellent suggestion has been implemented. You may find the link entitled *Current On-Going Studies* on the front page of our web site.

➤ **Auto Email Newsletter (Future)**

The City of Plano is currently testing a monthly/quarterly auto newsletter to which interested citizens can subscribe via email. This pilot program is expected to be fine-tuned and in effect in the near future.

Code Compliance

Specialists proactively inspect their assigned areas, as well as respond to citizen concerns relating to Zoning Ordinance and City Code. These inspections are performed for owner and tenant occupied properties. Most of Property Standards' informational brochures distributed are printed in both English and Spanish to ensure City regulations reach the vast majority of our citizens. Protecting the health, safety and welfare of citizens through adherence to City codes and ordinances, and maintaining property values to prevent neighborhood decline are the primary goals of the Property Standards Department. During the current season (from April through September), the most common violation notices address high grass/weeds, trash/debris, tree limbs/branches, and fence maintenance violations. Code and Ordinance related issues that Property Standards respond to include, but are not limited to:

- Parking on unimproved surfaces,
- Junked motor vehicles on private property,
- Low tree limbs and branches,
- Trash and debris,
- Numerous residents/overcrowding,
- High grass and weeds,
- Open storage of goods or materials,
- Home occupation regulations,
- Non-permitted garage sales,
- Substandard structures, and
- Fence maintenance.

As the city matures, concerns regarding maintenance of all properties, including vacant and rental properties, becomes paramount. Focus on regular and thorough inspections of aging apartment complexes and vacant retail developments has increased to effectively address safety concerns and general upkeep of these areas.

When a concern is received by the Property Standards Department, the call is assigned to the appropriate specialist who then inspects the property within 2 business days. After the initial inspection is completed, the complainant will receive a follow-up status report from the specialist if a contact number is provided. Callers may remain anonymous if they wish.

When most violations are observed, the property owner and/or occupant are notified by mail. A notice of violation letter is issued, noting the violation and the timeframe in which the property owner should come into compliance. For high grass/weeds and trash/debris, only one annual notice is required. In these instances, the property owner may not receive additional notifications prior to immediate abatement of subsequent violations. If a property owner chooses not to comply with the request, the City may contract to have the work completed at the owner's expense and/or a notice to appear before municipal court may be issued.

To provide increased service levels, Property Standards Specialists are assigned to work one Saturday per month. Doing so provides the opportunity to witness activity that may not occur during regular business hours, such as non-permitted garage sales, parking on unimproved surfaces and violation of the City's home occupation regulations. As necessary, staff will also rearrange work schedules to monitor activity occurring outside regular business hours.

Property Standards also works jointly with other City departments including Police, Solid Waste, Planning and Building Inspections to address property maintenance. A database is being created to regularly monitor closed service stations, shopping strip centers and other vacant properties. As a result of the City's Budget Contingency Plan, funding for the Rental Licensing and Inspection Program was cut; however, routine exterior inspections of rental units throughout the City will continue. Interior inspections will also be performed on a complaint basis.

Code Compliance concerns can be reported by contacting the Property Standards Department at (972) 941-7124 or submitting it via the Internet at www.buildinginspections.org/property.html.

Several times each year, the Drainage Division goes through all the gabion lined channels and sprays the vegetation growing in and through the gabion baskets and along the bottoms of these channels with a herbicide to control growth. The City will assist the homeowner with fallen trees in any channel to prevent the blockage or flooding caused by the fallen tree. The City does not maintain trees in natural drainage channels. Any concerns or questions regarding drainage maintenance can be directed to the Public Works Department at 972-769-4140.

Infrastructure Construction, Repair and Maintenance

The City has an aggressive road construction/rehabilitation/maintenance program to keep roads and drainage systems operating at their optimum. Staff makes great effort to coordinate these projects (City crews, utilities, and private contractors) to prevent undue delay and congestion to motorists. Many projects are performed during non-commute traffic periods or during the night to minimize their impact on traffic. Problems involving street/alley construction may be reported to the Public Works Department at 972-769-4140 (after hours call 972-727-1623).

- Residential Street & Alley Reconstruction – Two (2) street and alley projects within District 4 are scheduled in the geographical area bordered by Spring Creek Pkwy on the north, Park on the south, Custer on the east, and Independence on the west.
- Sidewalk Replacement – Replacement of hazardous sidewalks are scheduled in the area bordered by 1) Park on the north, Custer on the east, Independence on the west and 15th

Street on the south and 2) Coit on the east, Park on the north, 15th/Plano Parkway on the south and Preston on the west.

- **Barrier-Free Ramp Installation** –The installation of ramps at all street and alley intersections is being done to meet with the Americans with Disability Act (ADA). Construction has been completed in the area bordered by 1) Plano Pkwy on the south, Park on the north, Independence on the east and Coit on the west and 2) Spring Creek Pkwy to the north, Parker to the south, Coit to the east and Preston to the west.

For additional information on the City of Plano's Capital Improvement Program, a new web page has been dedicated and features a status interactive map. This web page offers citizens information on street closures, status of CIP projects, and City contacts for each project. You can find this information directly at www.planogis.org.

Parks

The Plano parks system has over 3,600 acres of park land. Several large sites such as Oak Point Park and Nature Preserve and the Tennyson/Archgate athletic site have yet to be developed. Once these sites are fully developed, the community will have more usable open space.

The Park Master Plan identifies several additional sites that have not yet been acquired. One site is along White Rock Creek and another, slated as a community park, is located near Alma and Park Boulevard. There are also several linear sites along creeks and under power lines that will be acquired to expand the recreational trail system.

Below are other topics of interest relating to the Parks Department:

- **Preston Meadow Park** – Plans for Preston Meadow Park are complete. The plans include three (3) unlighted baseball/soccer fields, parking, restrooms, a large pavilion, playgrounds, basketball court, trail, sidewalks, trees, landscaping and irrigation. Construction of the improvements will begin when the budget permits.
- **Evans Park** – Funding is included in next year's budget for a sprinkler system at Evans Park next to Weatherford Elementary School. Work will be coordinated around school use of the park.
- **Liberty Park** – Funding is included in next year's budget for a new picnic shelter at Liberty Park. The existing shelter was constructed in 1976 and is in need of replacement.
- **Volunteer Opportunities** – Adopt-a-Park and Adopt-a-Creek are programs that individuals or groups may participate in to help keep our park properties clean. There is also a major event, usually held in early April, called the Great American Clean Up, which is sponsored by the Keep Plano Beautiful Committee. For information on any of these programs citizens may call the Parks Department at (972) 941-7263.

Environmental Health

Animal Control – The Animal Services Division implemented the following services in October 2002:

- Animal Control Officers specifically patrolled parks in District 4 and particularly on weekends to establish a presence and observe stray animals, off-leash violations, and pooper scooper violations,

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- A letter was forwarded to Homeowners Associations offering educational seminars on various aspects and responsibilities of pet ownership, and
- The Division requested time at area PISD schools to inform children of animal safety.

In addition, the Animal Control Division hired three additional officers who, after training, assisted in patrol coverage of the District 4 area.

West Nile Virus – The Environmental Health Department assumed a proactive approach to their West Nile Virus Prevention Program for 2003. Prevention is the key word here and the best form of prevention is education. An educational campaign began in April with educational flyers about WNV placed in all Plano libraries, recreation centers, utility billing area at Municipal Center, utility operations and other facilities open to the public. Additionally, Public Service Announcements (PSAs) were obtained from the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) to run on the Plano Television Network (PTN), a series of articles written by Deborah Stone appeared in PlanoNews.com, educational materials and information were placed on the Health Department website and the West Nile Hotline activated in 2002 was updated for the 2003 season.

The above activities coincided with the Health Department's aggressive larviciding program which begins early spring. Mosquito trapping for lab identification and testing for the West Nile Virus and the adulticiding (spraying) campaign is ongoing and based on citizen request and complaints. To date, no mosquitoes trapped and tested have been positive for WNV. Spraying activities take place weekly on Tuesday mornings between 2 a.m. and 5 a.m. Areas sprayed are updated weekly on a map that can be found on the Health Department web site. Also, each Wednesday the web site is updated to include areas to be sprayed the following Tuesday.

The Health Department also responds to citizen's complaints by conducting surveys of the area to identify conditions conducive to attracting and/or harboring mosquitoes. Examples include stagnant swimming pools, low areas that trap and hold water for long periods of time, and high grass and weeds. If these conditions are observed by the health specialist, action is initiated to abate such conditions by making contact with the responsible party.

You may contact the Health Department with concerns or complaints about mosquito activity in your neighborhood by calling 972-941-7143. You may also log on to the Texas Department of Health (www.tdh.texas.gov) web site or CDC (www.cdc.gov) web site for additional information about West Nile Virus.

Air Quality - Plano Television Network ran information about the 'Try Parking It' challenge during the month of August. Deborah Stone with Public Information wrote several articles for the www.planocitynews.com and also placed the articles on Infoline.

A presentation by the Environmental Health Department will be given for elementary science teachers in PISD on September 15. The teachers will also receive a set of posters and a video to help teach the material in their classes.

A poster contest will be sponsored by the Environmental Health Department in October for students in grades 1-5. Prizes will be awarded in two divisions and the Mayor will recognize winners at a City Council meeting.

Ozone alerts are sent out to all city email users when necessary.

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The Environmental Health Department will apply for a TXU grant at the end of this year. If awarded the grant, funds will be used to provide additional programs and educational materials relative to air quality.

Please contact Environmental Health at 972-941-7143 if you have questions or comments about air quality.

In addition to Environmental Health initiatives, the City of Plano has taken a very proactive approach to air quality by using alternative fuels in city vehicles. Here are some of the things that we are already doing to help promote cleaner air:

- The City has 63 vehicles operating on Liquid Petroleum Gas (LPG), or propane, which is an alternative fuel.
- The City has approximately 35 pieces of small engine equipment operating on propane, which allows operation on ozone action days. This equipment produces substantially less pollution than those operating on gasoline.
- The City owns six hybrid-electric vehicles operating in its fleet. These are Super Ultra-Low Emissions vehicles that obtain greater gas mileage while emitting extremely low tailpipe emissions.
- In order to defer use of petroleum products, the City began propane vehicle conversions in 1994. Initially, over 30 light-duty vehicles were converted, with more added during subsequent years.
- In 1996, the City began exploring propane use in heavy-duty and light-duty applications. The use of propane fuel in these types of vehicles and equipment greatly lessened the pollution generated by their use. For example, the City currently operates two dump trucks on propane. The City also has numerous lawn and garden equipment that operate on propane which greatly reduces emissions when compared to gasoline counterparts.
- In the mid-1990's, the City adopted an ozone action policy whereby City vehicles and equipment were fueled prior to 10:00 a.m., so as not to contribute to the formation of ozone through refueling.
- The City's Equipment Services Division also participates in Earth Day, July 4th, Clean Cities, and other public relations activities. They bring alternative fuel vehicles to these events to educate the public about its practicality and emissions reducing capabilities.
- The City has been an active member of the DFW Area Clean Cities Coalition whose goal is to promote the use of alternative fuels in order to lessen America's dependence on foreign sources.
- In 1996, when original equipment manufacturers (OEM's) began to produce alternative fuel vehicles direct from the factory, the City began writing specifications requiring vehicles to be at least Low Emission (Certified) Vehicles (LEVs).
- In 1995 and 2001, the Equipment Services Division received the SuperStar award from the Railroad Commission of Texas given to outstanding propane fleets.
- In 1999, the Dallas-Fort Worth Clean Cities Coordinator nominated the City of Plano's Equipment Service's Division for the National Highway Administration's 1999 Environmental Excellence Award, in recognition for efforts to improve air quality in the Dallas-Fort Worth Metroplex. This

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nomination highlighted the Division's ongoing strides for having an alternative fuel program that is among the most aggressive in the Metroplex.

OTHER TOPICS OF INTEREST

The following concerns/suggestions were submitted on comment cards after the meeting.

What are the chances of the city buying the Jewish Community Center (formerly the YMCA), moving Vines Recreation Center there and opening during the day? It is too early in negotiations to give any details; however, Council has given city staff the authority to begin negotiating for this property.

Would like to have a U-turn lane constructed in the eastside median of Spring Creek and Coit intersection to help traffic flow going into Wal-Mart located on the southeast corner.

This U-turn lane will be constructed as a part of the proposed intersection improvements planned at the intersection of Spring Creek Parkway and Coit Road. This project is currently planned to begin in about two (2) years.

Is there a code reason why we do not have church bells or carillon in Plano?

Although there is no specific restriction against church bells or a carillon, a person who finds the noise offensive can file a complaint through the court system.

Don't grant lengthy and costly tax abatements to invite/bate new business during budget shortfalls.

Tax abatements are one of the few financial tools Plano has available to attract corporate enterprises. If abatements were not granted, Plano would not be in the economic development business because area competitors can provide not only tax abatements, but can also provide inducements through their one-cent (1¢) sales tax for economic development. Plano's maximum abatement is 50% of the value of real and personal property. Plano has benefited through abatements by attracting such corporate citizens as EDS, Frito-Lay, J.C. Penney, Ericsson, AT&T wireless, Dr. Pepper-Seven Up, Pepsico and Crossmark and this is just a partial listing.

During recession, encourage the county to help more indigents with health care. The City depends upon the Collin County Health Department to provide indigent health care. Applicants are accepted based upon Federal government guidelines. Services include examinations by physicians, specialist referrals and prescriptions. The annual amount of care per individual is limited to \$30,000. Marina Reyes with the Collin County Health Department is the contact for more information and can be reached at (972) 548-5501.

Continued Community Outreach - City Council is continually seeking and implementing new ways to better connect with citizens. Through working with homeowners associations, Council receives valuable input concerning issues specific to each development. The Neighborhood Roundtable meetings also serve as a means to focus on a portion of the City at a time, allowing residents and business owners in a targeted area to share their specific interests and concerns. The Neighborhood Roundtable meetings are advertised on the City's web site, in area newspapers, on cable TV, by letter to HOAs and Crime Watch areas, and by individual post card notices sent to each residence in the

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targeted area. While the meetings are designed to focus on issues involving the targeted district, everyone is welcome to attend and participate.

In addition, a Multi-Cultural Outreach Roundtable has been formed which seeks input and makes recommendations to the City Council on methods, practices, programs and other means by which the City of Plano can effectively serve the entire community and meet the objectives of local government. The mission of the roundtable is to partner with City Council and the citizens of Plano encouraging understanding and participation in the government process and the needs and desires of its diverse citizens.

Maintenance of Service to Citizens – I want to assure you that it is our goal to continue to provide you with the highest level of service that you have come to expect. Based on a Five Year Financial Forecast that the Budget Department presented to us on March 24th, the national recession coupled by the loss of market share surrounding communities for precious sales tax dollars continues to impact City resources. Sales tax, the General Fund's second largest revenue source, was projected to decline 7% or \$3.2 million FY 2002-03 from the original budget. You too can help by shopping Plano first. When shopping is done anywhere but in Plano, our revenue suffers.

On behalf of City Council, I would like to again thank you for taking part in the Neighborhood Roundtable session on August 15th. It is only through feedback such as yours that we can continue to be the All-America City that attracted so many of us here.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Pat Evans". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned to the left of the typed name and title.

Pat Evans
Mayor