



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Julie Chapman
City of Lake Dallas
Community Relations
940.497.2226 ext. 132 office
940.497.4485fax
jchapman@lakedallas.com

Lake Dallas Citizen Safety Trumps Toll Bridge Speeders

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: Lake Dallas, Texas – In 2009, Lake Dallas welcomed the opening of the North Texas Tollway Authority’s bridge over Lewisville Lake, connecting the Lake Cities to Little Elm and parts east but recently received criticism on a NBC-DFW March 9, 2011 television newscast. The report erroneously stated that the City of Lake Dallas has no jurisdiction on the bridge. In fact, the jurisdiction of Lake Dallas includes approximately ½ mile of the western portion of the bridge. The complaint by a Frisco resident ticketed for speeding prompted the report.

On January 29, 2011, Bart Rudy, not Ruby as reported, entered the Lake Dallas community at a high rate of speed and received a citation by a Lake Dallas Police Officer. Rudy alleges that Lake Dallas is running a speed trap on the bridge, leading viewers to believe that Lake Dallas indiscriminately and unscrupulously tickets anyone who drives immediately over the posted speed limit. The report failed to mention that Mr. Rudy was driving more than twenty (20) miles per hour over the limit, a violation that would in all probability be ticketed on any street or highway in any city or state if observed by a police officer. Furthermore, Rudy reports a speeding fine of \$310 but fails to mention that the amount included additional, required fees he chose to pay for deferred disposition to avoid the reporting of the speeding violation to the State of Texas.

“The North Texas Tollway Authority reports that over five (5) million trips have occurred across the bridge since it opened in August of 2009 and the police department has issued citations for 1,500 violations over the posted speed limit – that’s less than 3/10ths of 1% of the total trips cited for violating the posted speed,” said Lake Dallas Chief of Police Nick Ristagno, a 19-year veteran of the police department. “Furthermore, the average speed ticketed was 14 miles per hour over the posted speed limit, a more than fair enforcement tolerance by any standard.”

As part of their newscast, reporters drove the bridge over Lewisville Lake at the posted speed and admittedly experienced first-hand drivers exceeding the speed limit. “We accepted the bridge into our community as a gateway to the east but, not at the expense of the safety to the citizens of Lake Dallas,” stated Ristagno. “In 2010, over 30% of the citations issued by the department were only warnings that carried no fines or penalties – our goal is safety, not money; otherwise, the department would issue no warnings,” said Ristagno. “We ask only that motorists and visitors please obey all of our laws when entering, visiting, or leaving Lake Dallas. Our mission is to protect everyone through the enforcement of laws and we owe that to our citizens.”

The Lake Dallas Police Department is located at 212 Main Street in Lake Dallas, Texas and can be reached at 940-497-2228. Lake Dallas' vision is to be a proud community with unique charm, built on strong family and community values, with exciting lakeside, recreational and tourism assets supported by a diverse and profitable business base. Visit our website at www.lakedallas.com.

###