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# News Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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## Police create voluntary Video Crime Watch Program

*Residents and businesses encouraged to register their cameras*

LITTLE ELM (March 8, 2017) In the age of constant and ubiquitous video surveillance, using that kind of “virtual eyewitness” technology has become another tool in combatting crime and solving criminal cases.

Little Elm Police Department’s new Video Crime Watch Program asks for cooperation from residents, property management companies, and business owners who may have a surveillance system on their property. The program creates and maintains a Town-wide database of cameras whose owners register the devices, according to Police Sergeant Marcus Maxie.

Individuals or businesses who register for Video Crime Watch are placed in the database sorted by location. When an incident occurs near the address on record, a request is issued by the police for the camera operators to review their footage. Should the homeowner or business owner determine that their footage may be of assistance, they will alert investigators, who will then ask to review it or make a copy.

“It’s a proven fact that acting quickly after a crime is committed increases the chances of solving it,” said Sgt. Maxie. “Obviously, the use of video footage can add another level of reliability to that process. In addition, video evidence aids immeasurably in making and closing cases.”

An application to participate in the program is necessary, and there is no charge to participants. “There are more and more video surveillance systems in place throughout Town, and the evidence they might contain can be critical when investigating a crime,” he said.

More information on the program can be obtained by contacting the Little Elm Police Department at (214) 975-0460 during regular business hours. An online registration for the program is available at <http://www.littleelm.org/FormCenter/Police-4/Video-Crime-Watch-Program-37>.

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**ABOUT LITTLE ELM** – Little Elm is one of the state’s fastest growing communities. Nestled on the shores of Lake Lewisville, the Town was incorporated in 1966, adopting the Council/Manager form of government. The population increased dramatically over the last several years, growing from under 4,000 in 2000 to over 30,000 today. Little Elm’s population exceeds the state average in education and income, and is increasingly trending younger and technologically proficient. The Town’s footprint is just over 21 square miles and boasts some 66 linear miles of shoreline within its boundaries.