

**Office of the City Manager**

City of Richland Hills, Texas

## Memorandum

**To:** Honorable Mayor Bill Agan and members of the Richland Hills City Council  
**From:** Curtis E. Hawk, City Manager  
**Date:** June 28, 2013  
**Subject:** Mosquito Abatement Program

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### **City Council Action Requested:**

Consider any action necessary to implement additional steps in the City's Mosquito Abatement Program including possible ground spraying.

### **Background Information:**

Monday, June 24, 2013, the City received notification from Tarrant County Public Health (TCPH) that its ongoing review of the West Nile Surveillance information indicated elevated numbers of mosquitoes in traps from locations in Richland Hills. TCPH emphasized that while they did not have any positive mosquito tests in Richland Hills for West Nile, we were informed that due to the high number of mosquitoes collected in Richland Hills, "enhanced Integrated Mosquito Management steps should be taken up to and including consideration of adulticide spraying."

On Tuesday, June 25<sup>th</sup> we began to receive calls from residents that a resident of Richland Hills had been tested positive for West Nile at a local hospital. We contacted the TCPH Environmental Health Manager for verification, and were told that there had been no cases of positive West Nile Virus reported by the area hospitals of a case of West Nile in Richland Hills.

Although there have been no positive tests for WNV in mosquito samples in Richland Hills and no reported human cases of WNV at any area hospitals involving a resident of Richland Hills, there is elevated concern due to the large numbers of mosquitoes

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collected in the Richland Hills test samples, the news that Tarrant County has initiated spraying in unincorporated areas of the county, and the confirmation by TCPH of positive West Nile in a mosquito sample reported in Grapevine.

Currently City staff monitors all standing water locations either known (e.g., drainage channels throughout the City and the sump/levee areas) or reported to Public Works. Mosquito traps are set weekly, and the trapped mosquitoes are sent to Tarrant County Public Health for testing. Reports of stagnant/standing water are investigated immediately and treated if the concern is on City property. If the concern is not on City property, the report is sent to the Code Compliance staff. Standing water is treated with a larvacide that will suppress the larval development up to 30 days or more. The City is currently using mosquito BTi dunks (donuts) which suppress the larval development up to 30 days or more. This application is repeated after a rain event because the dunks float, otherwise at approximately 30 day intervals.

At the July 2<sup>nd</sup> meeting staff will provide an overview of steps currently being followed in our mosquito management program, and report to Council on the steps to be taken and cost involved in proceeding with a ground spraying program as recommended by Tarrant County.

**Board/Citizen Input:**

N/A

**Financial Impact:**

To be reported at the meeting.

**Staff Contacts:**

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