

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE – AUGUST 9, 2016

**Becky Pattillo, Acting City Secretary
Public Information Officer**

The City of Commerce, with the assistance of Texas A&M University – Commerce, continues to trap mosquitoes and send them to the Department of State Health Services to test for the West Nile Virus. Another sample has been returned with a positive result.

City Staff will again spray for mosquitoes in the area the positive sample was found and will continue for three days, beginning tonight, August 9, 2016. The spraying is more effective if it takes place during peak mosquito biting hours so City crews will begin around 7:30 p.m.

The chemical used in the spray is of low toxicity to humans and pets, but it is a pesticide and direct contact should be avoided. Citizens should go indoors and stay back from the truck during spraying operations. The chemical will not be sprayed if the driver sees people outdoors. This product is extremely toxic to fish and fishponds should be covered.

Although the chemicals will greatly reduce the number of mosquitoes, the spray will not eliminate all chances of getting bit. Emergency Management Officials urge residents to take the following precautionary measures:

Stay indoors, if possible, during peak mosquito biting times – dusk and dawn.

Wear long-sleeved shirts and long pants that are light colors. Mosquitoes are attracted to dark colors.

Apply an insect repellent that contains DEET.

Limit the number of places that mosquitoes can breed by eliminating the standing water sources around your home. Drill holes in tire swings so that the water drains out and always empty children's wading pools and store them on their side after using them.

Try to pick a breezy location when enjoying the outdoors. Mosquitoes have a hard time flying even in a light wind.

Emergency Management Officials will continue to test for infected mosquitoes in all areas of Commerce as long as the threat continues. For additional information on West Nile visit www.dshs.state.tx.us/idcu/disease/arboviral/westnile/information OR www.cdc.gov/westnile.