***Media Relations Information for 02/11/2012***

*Public Relations Officer – Sgt. John Krueger*

*Office: 281-842-3161*

**La Porte Police team with Municipal Court in 2012 Texas Warrant Round-up**

The City of La Porte’s Municipal Court and the La Porte Police Department have joined forces with more than 300 jurisdictions across Texas to actively participate in the “2012 Texas Warrant Roundup”, scheduled to start on February 25th, 2012. Additional participating cities in the area include Baytown, Houston, Jacinto City, Galveston, League City, Pasadena, Pearland, Webster and many others. The roundup is designed to target thousands of defendants with traffic, parking, city ordinance, and criminal warrants.

For the past few years, the annual state-wide Warrant Round-up has proven to be one of the largest and most successful joint operations of its kind. The fundamental concept behind the program involves multiple cities across Texas joining together to actively serve outstanding arrest warrants. This is an important venture for municipalities, because while warrants are regularly served by each jurisdiction, such a large and combined effort provides much greater opportunities for warrant service.

Hundreds of thousands of notices will been mailed state-wide to individuals with outstanding warrants. Representatives from the City of La Porte will also begin making numerous phone calls to those with outstanding local warrants. This is being done to encourage citizens to take care of their outstanding warrants and avoid being arrested.

People with outstanding warrants should contact the City of La Porte during the two week period to dispose of their cases voluntarily to avoid the inconvenience and embarrassment of arrest at home or work. Defendants should also be aware that their outstanding warrants have been reported to DPS and, as such, they will not be allowed to renew a driver’s license until all warrants are cleared.

In addition to their regular hours of operation, the La Porte Municipal Court will be extending its operating hours on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 7:30 a.m. – 7: 00 p.m., in an effort to provide defendants with a larger window of opportunity to either pay fines or take care of any outstanding warrants. The existing time extension is expected to be a major asset for warrant holders once the Warrant Round-up operation begins. Payments may be made in the courthouse lobby, located at 3005 North 23rd Street, with cash, money order, cashier’s check, or with a Visa or Master Card Credit Card. No personal checks will be accepted. For convenience, defendants may also pay with a credit card over the phone by calling 1-877-224-6076 or pay any outstanding warrant fees on line by logging onto www.municipalonlinepayments.com/laportetx.