



## City of Port St. Lucie Communications Department Press Release

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### FIRST PSL CITIZEN ACADEMY STUDENTS FINISH SIX-WEEK COURSE

PORT ST. LUCIE – June 22, 2007 – Students of Port St. Lucie’s first citizen academy completed their final night of classroom work on Thursday, wrapping up six weeks of learning about the inner workings of city government.

The course was offered free to residents to help them develop an accurate idea of how tax dollars are spent and how decisions are made by the City Council, city management and city staff members.

During the six weeks, students met Council members, City Manager Don Cooper, Assistant City Manager Greg Oravec and several department heads and employees who explained what each department does, how revenues are raised, and how the city plans to accomplish long-term goals.

At Thursday’s class, Cooper held an hour long question and answer session about the city budget, and how proposed and recent changes in the state’s property tax laws will affect the city’s ability to provide services to the public.

At the end of each class, students filled out an evaluation form, typically giving high ratings and praise about the course. Many said they will recommend the course to others as a great way to get a better understanding of their home town.

Twenty-eight students completed the first session of PSL 101: Citizen Academy and will be awarded a certificate of completion at the July 9 City Council meeting.

Though no dates have been set, a waiting list has been established for the next PSL 101: Citizen Academy. Applications are accepted on a first come, first served basis. Space is limited, so interested citizens should apply early.

PSL 101: Citizen Academy is free and open to all citizens of the city. For more information contact Ed Cunningham, Public Information Coordinator at (772) 873-6329 or at [ecunningham@cityofpsl.com](mailto:ecunningham@cityofpsl.com). To get an application, [click here](#).



Students listen to City Manager Don Cooper discuss budget issues at the final session of the city’s first PSL 101: Citizen Academy Thursday evening in the Community Center.

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