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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**"A Home for a Hero" – City of Port St. Lucie Donates a Home to a Veteran
Coast Guardsman's Family to Receive Keys to New Home at Jan. 26 Ceremony**

PORT ST. LUCIE (January 18, 2017) – The family of the U.S. Coast Guard Petty Officer who was selected to receive a mortgage-free home through the City of Port St. Lucie's Home for A Hero Program will get their new keys during a Jan. 26 ceremony.

The Key Turning Ceremony will begin at 11 a.m. Jan. 26 at the home on Walters Terrace. The media is invited to attend as the family takes possession of their new home. U.S. Coast Guard Petty Officer Raymond Concepcion and his wife, Cassie, were selected via a lottery on Veterans Day to become the new homeowners. The family now lives in Key West, and Raymond Concepcion is deployed on a Coast Guard Cutter patrolling the Florida Straits.

"The City Council, staff and I find it incredibly uplifting to be a part of helping the American Dream come true for our newest military family, the Concepcions. PSL is a Hometown for Heroes," said Port St. Lucie Mayor Greg Oravec. "We are a community where the American Dream can still be had by all people. Those values are reflected and reinforced by this key tuning ceremony, and our community is incredibly proud to welcome the Concepcion family 'home'."

Cassie Concepcion said the family had been stationed in the Port St. Lucie area in the past, and is excited to return to a permanent home.

"We always held Port St. Lucie dear to our hearts. So this program certainly appealed to us," Cassie Concepcion said. "Thanks, Port St. Lucie, for having such a great program. We appreciate it."

The City purchased the home by using a federal grant from the Neighborhood Stabilization Program. In June 2016, the Port St. Lucie City Council directed staff to create a veterans housing program that would dedicate the final five properties the City has acquired through the NSP grants. That inventory includes this fully rehabilitated home, along with four vacant lots that are earmarked for development in 2017 as affordable housing for veterans.

The City worked with GENESYS Community Development Corp., a non-profit affordable housing organization, to identify qualified veterans and active duty military personnel, who were entered into the Veterans Day lottery for the house.

Those who plan to attend the Key Turning Ceremony at the house at 680 SE Walters Terrace are asked to please RSVP to veterans@cityofpsl.com.

For more information on this program, please visit: <http://www.cityofpsl.com/veterans.html> . Watch a quick video about the upcoming ceremony here: https://youtu.be/rW1zTm_hyQ .

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The City of Port St. Lucie is proud to be a hometown where people live, learn, work and play, and celebrate all of life's opportunities. With over 179,000 residents, Port St. Lucie is Florida's eighth largest city by population (South Florida's 3rd largest city). The City occupies an area of 120 square miles in St. Lucie County on Florida's east coast, about 50 miles north of West Palm Beach, half way between Miami and Orlando. The City provides most traditional municipal services including law enforcement, water and sewer, and public works. For more information, please visit: www.cityofpsl.com

