



Wednesday, August 2, 2017

City of Port St. Lucie
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**2017 Forum on Race Relations & Inclusion:
Public invited to participate in workshop on bridging the gap between the
community and police**

PORT ST. LUCIE – The City of Port St. Lucie’s award-winning Forum on Race Relations & Inclusion will continue this year with two public workshops focusing on bridging the gap between the community and law enforcement.

GAAP: “Gaining appreciation by adjusting perspectives” will be the theme for the two sessions focusing on residents’ relationship with law enforcement. The first one on Thursday, Sept. 7, 2017 from 6 p.m. to 9 p.m. will be for the City’s teens, between 14 and 17 years old. The second workshop on Thursday, Sept. 21, 2017 from 6 p.m. to 9 p.m. will be for residents 18 and older.

Both sessions will take place at the Port St. Lucie Civic Center, 9221 SE Civic Center Place. Those who wish to attend must preregister at www.cityofpsl.com/frri by Thursday, Aug. 31, 2017. The event is free, and refreshments will be served.

There will be room for about 30 residents to participate at each session, so register early as seating is limited. However, there will be space available for parents and others who wish to observe but not participate in the roundtable discussion. The discussions will be moderated by Wydee’a Wilson, the first black female Chief of Probation for the Florida Department of Juvenile Justice in Circuit 19. Teresa Bishop, executive director of the Roundtable of St. Lucie County, will also help moderate the youth panel.

The Port St. Lucie Council agreed to move forward with this event last year in response to acts of violence in the United States stemming from racial tension, terrorism, hate and a lack of understanding. The

Forum's Mission is to bring the people of Port St. Lucie together to listen, share concerns, learn, plan, act and report on our progress in maintaining and enhancing our promise of being a City for ALL people. In November 2016, a daylong event was held at the Civic Center with a variety of breakout sessions on topics including, race and ethnicity, fair and impartial policing and LGBTQ+. The session on bridging the gap between the community and police was one of the best attended, and residents expressed interest in continuing this discussion.

The City of Port St. Lucie and Mayor Gregory Oravec recently received an Outstanding Achievement Large City 2017 Livability Award at the U.S. Conference of Mayor's 85th Annual Meeting in support of the Forum on Race Relations & Inclusion. The Forum also has been recognized with an Honorable Mention in the 2017 Hermes Creative Awards and an award of commendation from the Public Relations Society of America, Sunshine District.

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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 185,000 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

