



Thursday, June 30, 2016  
Media Advisory 2016-6-30

City of Port St. Lucie  
121 S.W. Port St. Lucie Blvd.  
Port St. Lucie, FL 34984  
[www.cityofpsl.com](http://www.cityofpsl.com)

For more information, contact:  
Kristina Ciuperger, Communications Director  
(772) 380-5184 / [media@cityofpsl.com](mailto:media@cityofpsl.com)

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

### **Declaration of Emergency Issued for St. Lucie and Martin Counties**

The City of Port St. Lucie stands united with our adjacent jurisdictions, as this affects all of our local economy. We are working with St. Lucie County on providing updates as they become available.

“The recent algal blooms are just the latest symptom of a much greater sickness,” said Mayor Oravec. “This is not the first declaration of emergency for our Rivers, and it won't be the last unless all levels of government are prepared to administer the cure--storing more storm water and reducing the pollutants in our storm water, including the nutrients (a/k/a fertilizer) that feed the algae.”

According to Mayor Oravec, “the City has been fighting for our Rivers at the local level for the last twenty years through one of the largest septic tank conversions in the country, building hundreds of acres of storm water treatment areas, and carrying out several other programs, and we are ready to do even more. In fact, a significant portion of the City's 5,000 acre McCarty Ranch Property could be utilized to store and treat millions of gallons of polluted storm water from the C-23 Canal, keeping it out of the St. Lucie River and Indian River Lagoon, and I hope that our state and federal partners will help us make this project a reality. We can't afford to wait any longer. We need to take as many actions as we can, stat!”

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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.*

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