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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Port St. Lucie City Council Hires Russ Blackburn as New City Manager

PORT ST. LUCIE (Nov. 15, 2016) – The Port St. Lucie City Council has hired Russ Blackburn, who has more than 40 years of local government leadership experience, as its new City Manager.

The Council at its meeting Monday night unanimously approved an employment agreement with Mr. Blackburn. He will begin work on November 21 in Port St. Lucie’s top administrative position.

"I am honored to be selected as City Manager, through the tireless efforts of thousands of people who have come before me, Port St. Lucie has developed as one of the premier Cities in Florida," Blackburn said. "My goal is to partner with the City Council, staff and the community to fulfill the vision that Port St. Lucie is the best to place to live, work and play in Florida."

Mr. Blackburn has worked for the past decade as City Manager in the City of Gainesville, home to the University of Florida. Prior to that, he served for eight years as Martin County Administrator. While naming him as their top pick for the Port St. Lucie City Manager position, several Councilmembers cited Mr. Blackburn’s strong Treasure Coast knowledge, local ties and his ability to “hit the ground running.”

Council members also described Mr. Blackburn as a “strategist” and believed he would be able to expertly execute Port St. Lucie’s strategic plan.

Mr. Blackburn will begin the same day that three newly elected City Councilmembers will be sworn into office.

"I think we should all be very excited about the future and appreciate how fortunate we are to have this team coming together at a time when the economic winds are at our back," Port St. Lucie Mayor Greg

Oravec said. "Working with our community, this team will have a special window of opportunity to move our City forward. Our future is very, very bright."

To read more about Mr. Blackburn's background of government experience and his application to the City, please visit: <http://www.cityofpsl.com/city-manager/pdf/applicants/russell-blackburn.pdf>.

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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

