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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

City of Port St. Lucie Receives JAG Grant for Tactical Robot to Increase Safety

PORT ST. LUCIE (Oct. 10, 2016) – The City of Port St. Lucie has been awarded a federal grant for the purchase of a new tactical robot that will enhance safety for police officers and citizens during potentially dangerous situations.

U.S. Senator Bill Nelson sent a letter to the City on Aug. 30 notifying officials that it had been selected to receive the \$24,256 Edward Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Grant. The Port St. Lucie City Council in June authorized staff to apply for the grant that the Port St. Lucie Police Department will use to purchase the tactical robot.

The robot will increase the level of safety for both the Police Department and citizens in dealing with barricaded subjects, hostage situations and unknown threats. The robot will enable police command to insert video and audio surveillance into most structures, wooded areas and retail establishments without exposing officers to unnecessary danger.

The robot has a fully articulated arm that allows tactical teams to remotely navigate the interior of a structure and manipulate inside doors. It also can observe and remove any barricades or obstructions before police attempt to enter a building or situation. Additionally, it has the ability to conduct two-way communication to allow the police crisis negotiation team to attempt communication when traditional methods are not successful.

Besides tactical situations, the robot's audio and visual capabilities also will be helpful during natural disasters and when dealing with hazardous materials.

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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

