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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

City of Port St. Lucie Transforming Ordinary “Traffic Cabinets” Into Works of Art

PORT ST. LUCIE (Sept. 13, 2016) – Dozens of ordinary, plain “traffic cabinets” throughout the City will soon become canvases for works of art that will enhance Port St. Lucie’s beauty and character.

Work has begun on a project to install vinyl wraps covered in scenes that reflect Florida’s beauty on these boxes, which are located next to traffic signals and contain equipment to run the signal. Residents and visitors should keep an eye out for the 4-foot-tall cabinets while traveling around Port St. Lucie, as more than 50 of the boxes are scheduled to be wrapped in the coming weeks.

As part of the City’s desire to bring art to public places, the Port St. Lucie City Council authorized staff to move forward with this beautification project. The City has teamed up with the St. Lucie County School District on part of the project, and St. Lucie County high school students will provide artwork for 12 or more cabinets near schools.

“Introducing art into the community is important. It allows culture to be simply a part of everyday life. It allows people who enjoy art to come here and spend money and makes the city a destination point,” said Port St. Lucie City Councilwoman Michelle Berger. “It also allows us to have pride in the City and what’s happening here. I love this project and hope residents do too.”

The project is the result of several City departments coming together including Neighborhood Services, Public Works, Planning and Zoning and Communications. As a special kick off to this project, the City has partnered with Guy Harvey to wrap the boxes near City Hall at the corner of Airoso and Port St Lucie boulevards. The image used is the same one that will be featured on the Crosstown Parkway Bridge. That box is now complete for residents to enjoy.

A replica of another box, covered with artwork by Lincoln Park Academy students, was unveiled during last weekend's September 11th Remembrance Ceremony. This box will be on display inside the Port St. Lucie Civic Center for about two weeks. The students' artwork was inspired by first responders and the events of Sept. 11, 2001. The traffic cabinet outside the Civic Center at Main Street and Walton Road will be wrapped in this artwork.

Residents also can now enjoy a cabinet at the corner of Crosstown Parkway and Sandia Drive that is wrapped in a photograph of a kayaker enjoying Florida's natural beauty. After this round of cabinets are wrapped, there will still be about 60 other unwrapped cabinets left in the City. Funds have not yet been identified to pay for wrapping those. City staff is exploring ideas on potential artwork for those if the funding becomes available, including the suggestion of taking submittals from local artists.

Funding for this project came from proceeds the City receives when residents recycle.

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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

