



City of Port St. Lucie

The Forum's Mission:

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.

Internal Team: Mayor Oravec, Chief John Bolduc, Patricia Roebing, Kristina Ciuperger, Carmen Capezzuto, Jerome Post, Kathleen McAlpine, Jesus Merejo, Lesley George, Julian Lucas, Ella Gilbert, Patti Tobin



City of Port St. Lucie

On July 17, 2016, Mayor Oravec sent the following email to City Council Members, City Manager and City Attorney:

Dear Vice Mayor, City Council Members, City Manager, & City Attorney,

The recent acts of violence in our country, stemming from racial tensions, terrorism, hate and a lack of understanding, among other things, have me increasingly concerned. As we know all too well, a perpetrator of despicable evil even called our community "home." In response to these many tragedies and continuing threats, this e-mail serves to request a discussion as part of the Retreat or a future meeting, concerning:

- Your interest in producing an **Annual City Race Relations & Inclusion Forum**. This evening, I penned those thoughts set forth in the **below newsletter**. However, I would very much like to collaborate with you, staff, and stakeholders to produce an official city event for all interested citizens.
- Analyzing our municipal corporation's current levels of diversity and inclusion with a subsequent review and modification, as appropriate, of the City's related policies.
- Evaluation and feasibility of technologies to promote safety and/or accountability:
 - Body cameras. Please see a recent story: <http://www.palmbeachpost.com/news/news/delray-beach-police-launch-new-body-camera-program/nrqrH/>
 - Permanent license plate readers at major points of entry to the City. As you know, we already employ this technology on a mobile platform. For a relevant article, please see: <http://www.governing.com/columns/tech-talk/gov-automated-license-plate-readers-police.html>

It is my hope that we can engage in honest dialogue, formulate considerate plans, take action, and provide continuous accountability in order to maintain and enhance our identity as a safe city and as a city for all people. I am eager to hear your thoughts.

Mr. Bremer, will you be so kind as to schedule the requested discussion(s)?

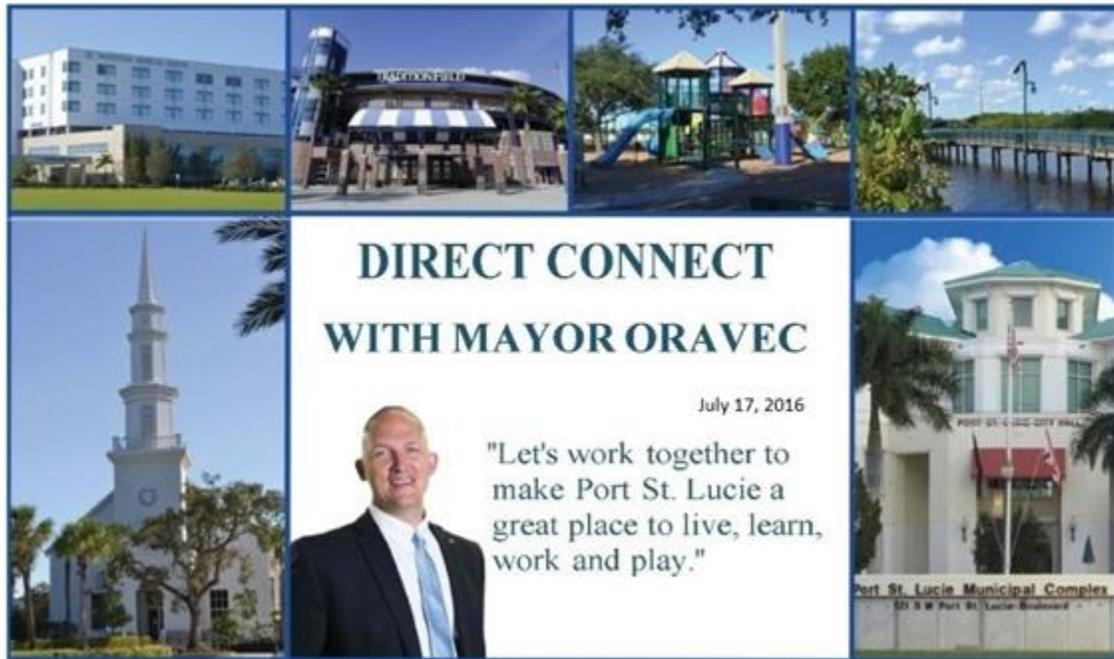
Thank you,

Greg



City of Port St. Lucie

On July 17, 2016, Mayor Oravec posted the following:



The Violence Must Stop...

...If We Are to Live Up to Our Country's Great Potential and Ideals.

This must stop... <http://www.cnn.com/.../us/baton-route-police-shoot.../index.html>

Dear PSL,

As a society, I wish we would do a better job of remembering the lessons already hard fought and learned. Why repeat past mistakes? Responding to actual and/or perceived injustices with indiscriminate murder is not, and will never be, the solution. There is a better way, and it has already been proven.

Let's improve our country together through honest dialogue, considerate plans, definite actions, and continuous accountability.

Let's do what we can, starting here in PSL. I am currently working with citizens like



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Rudy Howard, the National League of Cities and others to plan an annual forum on Race Relations and Inclusion, tentatively scheduled for September. Will you join us?

Rather than holding the forum in response to a specific event, I would like to see it serve as a tool that is purposefully and, at least, annually used to help us maintain and enhance our identity as a city for all people.

Like any city, we have our problems, biases, and opportunities for improvement. We can and should work to be more inclusive. However, at the same time, it is important for us to recognize and celebrate just how lucky we are and what we are getting right.

We are a melting pot of people living together. As you might remember, Florida Trend Magazine actually highlighted our city for providing a mirror image to the State of Florida's average demographics, (<http://www.floridatrend.com/article/19135/a-mirror-image-finding-a-florida-community-that-matches-state-averages>). If you're wondering what makes being average extraordinary, it is that you don't normally find the average in one place. With matters of demographics, it is too often the calculated central point between two opposite extremes, i.e. adding together one white neighborhood and one black neighborhood and saying that the area is mixed. In PSL, there are no such demography games. We are truly integrated and do not live in segregated neighborhoods. In fact, our integration can actually be measured scientifically by something called the "Index of Dissimilarity." (Please see this website to learn more: <http://www.s4.brown.edu/us2010/segregation2010/city.aspx?cityid=1258715>).

We are and should be proud of that, just as we are and should be proud of being the Safest Large City in Florida in 2015 and for 12 of the last 14 years; and I think it is important for us to see that these accomplishments and sources of pride are interrelated and interdependent. Let's keep working at them both, together!

If you would like to participate in the upcoming forum or have specific ideas about programming, exercises, or do's & don'ts, please be sure to let me know. There are many aspects to "Inclusion," and, in addition to race relations, I would like to see the forum address LGBT and other pressing issues. Let's get this right.



City of Port St. Lucie

Please respect and appreciate each other and our exceptional Police Department. In PSL, we're stronger and safer because we're all in it together, because we are truly a city for all people.

With gratitude, I am

Your Mayor,

Greg

Parting Quote - (Staying with a classic...)

"Darkness cannot drive out darkness; only light can do that. Hate cannot drive out hate; only love can do that." Martin Luther King, Jr.