

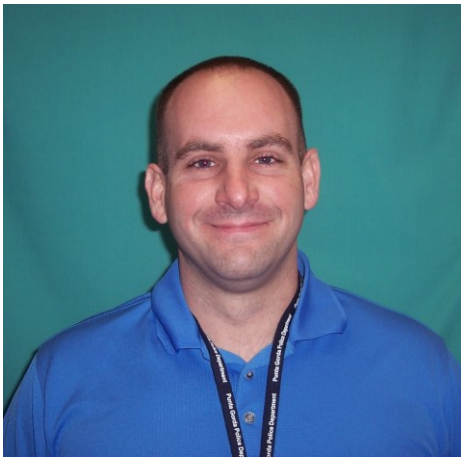


INFORMATION SHARING REPORT

January 13, 2020

Welcome New Employees

The City of Punta Gorda is pleased to welcome two new employees to the Punta Gorda Police Department. Thomas Vetri has been hired as a Police Officer and Glen Ritta is the Police Department Employee Development Coordinator.



Citizens Academy

The City of Punta Gorda, 2020 Citizens Academy officially kicked off with the Administrative Session with a total of 33 participants. Presentations on the overview of our City government including the roles and functions of City Council, City Manager, Legal Department, City Communications Manager, Information Technology, Human Resources and City Clerk were provided.



Signs ... Signs ... Everywhere Signs ... But Why?

Many may have noticed the new interior wayfinding signage that is being installed at City Hall, City Hall Annex, and the Public Safety Complex (Phase I). This project is part of the City's ADA (Americans with Disabilities Act) Transition Plan which is a Federal requirement under Title II of the ADA requiring State and local governments to remove barriers for people with disabilities.



The ADA regulates signage to ensure that people with disabilities (employees, residents and/or visitors) have easy access to navigate buildings and communal space. ADA signs are meant to be posted in a way that's easy to be touched by the blind and also need to be conveniently placed so that people can see them when they need to. One common misconception is that "ADA sign" means Braille sign. While Braille signage is an important part of ADA compliance, there's much more to it than that. ADA signage requirements govern signs that tell people about rooms in a building or the functions of certain spaces, or that let people know about accessibility (such as the sign for a wheelchair-accessible bathroom). ADA signs are required by law.

ADA Compliant Signs:

- have high contrast, tactile letters and braille for optimal readability; and
- include signs that provide labels, names, or designations for permanent interior rooms/doors; and
- be mounted to the wall on the latch side of the door; and
- are placed a 48 inches minimum above the ground and 60 inches maximum; and
- are placed where they can be viewed/touched without impeding the door opening or closing

In addition to the ADA signage, interior wayfinding signage is also being installed to assist our citizens and visitors navigate City facilities. The signage utilize the City's branding colors to delineate different types of spaces:

- Blue – Public Information – Directories, Exits, Restrooms
- Teal – Public/Communal space – Department/Division Areas, Council Chambers, Conference Rooms
- Yellow – Restricted Area's – Authorized Personnel, Closets, HVAC, located in Public/Communal Spaces
- None – Private Spaces – Offices, or internal spaces (may also include HVAC, Break Room, etc.)

Phase II of the project will include the Public Works and Utilities Complex with the goal for all City facilities to be completed by the end of FY 2021.

Chief Briggs Mission Guatemala

Fire Chief Ray Briggs shares the following regarding the mission trip to Guatemala,

“Good morning,

I wanted to drop you a quick note to thank you for all of your prayers, support, and advice in preparation for our mission trip to Guatemala. Once again the trip proved to be so much more than we ever expected. Our team, which included my family and six other members were able to accomplish all of the projects planned. We organized two medical clinics which proved to very well attended, nearly 100 patients were seen over the two days. Most participants were mothers and children who have no access to basic healthcare. The larger project was the building of a small home for a family who had been living in small space primarily built of sugar cane reed. Additionally, over 100 pair of reading glasses were provided to the clinic which will be distributed during outreach opportunities during site/home visits.

The people of Guatemala are truly amazing. Most people we met were truly struggling to meet their basic daily needs, but they were still cheerful and so resilient. They truly have a special place in our hearts. Our team delivered so much more than medications and supplies; we were able to deliver love, compassion, and hope to communities that all too often feel forgotten. Thank you again for helping make this possible. Ray”

