



CITY OF PUNTA GORDA

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Media Advisory

The City of Punta Gorda is pleased to welcome Greg Murray as the incoming City Manager of Punta Gorda. Mr. Murray comes to the City with over 10 years of experience as the Washington County Maryland, County Administrator. As an experienced and mature leader he has used his skills to move not only Washington County forward, but also the nine municipalities within the County by assisting with issues at the local, State and Federal level during times of economic uncertainty. No stranger to the type of intergovernmental collaboration required in the City of Punta Gorda his previous County was viewed as a model in the region. Mr. Murray attributes this to the dedicated team that he was fortunate enough to help develop and lead. They are what he is most proud of. He views them as the backbone of the organization; the employees that work hard day after day to accomplish the goals that are set out for achievement.

When asked about the parallels between the position in Punta Gorda and the Washington County position Murray shared, "There are always similar challenges in different political subdivision. They range from financial, to utility, to long-range planning; comprehensive plans and zoning; public safety; the employee base; economic development initiatives to growth and development; historical preservation and senior services... the list goes on and on. It is really not WHERE you managed, but WHAT was managed and how successfully. The similarity is that it is exciting to tackle the challenges and help resolve them to support the elected officials in accomplishing their goals to move the City forward. That is a common bond and exciting to continue here." Another area that Mr. Murray is excited to focus on are all of the management challenges the position brings. "From the canals, to the historic component, to commercial development, to residential growth, to the City Center, and on and on...What I am MOST excited about is the opportunity to use the amenities that Punta Gorda has to offer to help continue the development of the City Center. I have tackled similar projects in my previous position, and it will be very exciting to see what can occur as we move forward with the Council's goals to enhance this beautiful part of the City even more. I look forward to these possibilities becoming a reality," shares Mr. Murray.

As residents of Punta Gorda know we have our fair share of out of the ordinary things happen here and Mr. Murray is no stranger to unique situations. When asked about this type of experience elsewhere, Mr. Murray shared a humorous story as one of many about an antique fly in. Unannounced to local event organizers, the President had decided to visit Camp David that weekend. The no-fly zone was extended into an area that antique planes were using to access the local airport and air controllers had little notice. The military jets couldn't fly slowly enough to get the antique planes out of the area. Ultimately helicopters were brought in to assist and protocols for security details had to change. This as well as many other experiences dealing with unique

situations have reminded Murray that in management you must be prepared for anything, and helped put him on a path for success in Punta Gorda.

Our community here in Punta Gorda is one that values the harbor and water activities and Mr. Murray will feel right at home in that regard as well. He loves being on the water, has a Master Captain credential and enjoys big water and smaller rivers and streams and even the comradery of the canals. Each presents their own brand of fun and excitement and he is looking forward to the experience all of them on the water. For land activities is looking forward to spending time with family and friends, enjoying the environment and experiencing the environment of all the good restaurants in Punta Gorda.

When asked about his family Mr. Murray shared, "I have been blessed with two wonderful parents, a schoolteacher and a nurse, who became ministers when I was young and still are active today. My first daughter of four was actually born in Florida and it was my mother's prodding that made me move back to Maryland so she could be close to her first grandchild. Now they are all grown with children of their own, and I have the opportunity to continue my career back where it all started, and with their support." Punta Gorda has not only the professional challenges and opportunities but it also has the personal quality of life that he looks forward to sharing with his family.

Finally, Mr. Murray expressed, "I am honored to have the opportunity to serve the elected body and residents of Punta Gorda as part of a hard working team of 291 employees. It is a trust that I do not take lightly. My door is always open and my phone always on. I look forward to being involved with the community, and getting to know the people who live here so that together we can help move the City forward and enjoy what it has to offer. The City of Punta Gorda has the good fortune to have an engaged Council, involved citizens, hardworking staff, and dedicated Manager that has served well for 15 years. It is evident when looking at the substantial accomplishments that together they have made. I will work hard to live up to that legacy, and can only hope to be remembered with such respect when my term as Manager ends. " The City of Punta Gorda looks forward to his leadership and impact on the community.

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