



Printer-friendly story  
Read more at [tcpalm.com](http://tcpalm.com)

COUNCIL ITEM 5B  
DATE 11/28/11

## Port St. Lucie employees receive DOD service award

By Jennifer Schroeder

Wednesday, November 16, 2011

PORT ST. LUCIE — Four members of the Port St. Lucie Police Department were honored Wednesday with the National Patriotic Employer Award from the Office of the Secretary of Defense in Washington, D.C.

The award is given only when a written request is sent by member of the military to the Department of Defense.

The four were honored during a surprise ceremony in the Port St. Lucie Mayor's Office for the help and service they provided Port St. Lucie Police Officer Richard Schichtel, a chief petty officer with the United State Coast Guard Reserve.

Karen White was the first to receive a plaque and have her nomination letter read by Paula Nicolletti, of Ombudsman ESGR (Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve) and DOD.

"I wasn't sure why I was being presented this honor. I didn't feel I had done anything special," said White, who has worked in the payroll department for seven years and made sure that Schichtel and his family received all the benefits they were rightly due.

Even so, White was grateful to be recognized for her efforts. "Often people don't acknowledge the good, everyday things that we do. It's nice to be appreciated," she said. Port St. Lucie Police Officer Richard Wilson, executive director of the Police Athletic League, and Robert Fabrey and Joe Fabrey, who teach karate for PAL and run the International Military Police Instruction School, also received awards for providing, at no cost, close quarter defensive tactics instruction to Schichtel's unit.

Schichtel explained in his nomination letter that the training was valuable to his unit's safety.

Mayor JoAnn Faiella also was supposed to receive an award, but she wasn't available for the surprise visit.

Nicolletti admits that maybe she kept the ceremony a little too secret.

"I will be glad to come back and give Mayor Faiella her award at the City Council meeting," she said.

Faiella will receive her plaque at the Nov. 28 meeting and the Council also will recognize the other four recipients.



**Bonnie Cruz**

---

**From:** Bonnie Cruz  
**Sent:** Wednesday, November 16, 2011 3:32 PM  
**To:** Karen Phillips; Mayor Faiella; 'paulanicol@comcast.net'  
**Cc:** MaryAnn Verillo; Yvette Cruz  
**Subject:** November 28 7pm Council Meeting

Please place on the Monday, November 28 Council agenda under special presentations an award to be presented to the Mayor from Paula Nicoletti, FL Ombudsman from the Dept. of Defense. *see attached back-up info.*  
*hm# 600-5587, cell# 561-253-4960*

I am copying the City Manager's office for his approval and Ms. Nicoletti for her notification.

Bonnie R. Cruz  
Administrative Assistant, City Council  
121 SW Port St. Lucie Boulevard  
Port St. Lucie, FL 34984  
772-871-5159  
Fax: 772-871-7382  
E-Mail: BonnieC@cityofpsl.com