

NEWS RELEASE



For Immediate Release: October 5, 2010
Contact: City Council Office, 561-845-4095

Councilwoman Davis supports blind residents with “White Cane Week,” events

The City of Riviera Beach is proclaiming Oct. 11-15, 2010, as “White Cane Awareness Week,” which celebrates the freedom and independence the red-tipped “white cane” and applicable laws provide to visually impaired persons carrying it along a sidewalk or roadway.

The State of Florida recognizes the symbolism and critical function of this simple tool. Florida Statute 316.1301 — also called “Traffic Regulations to Assist Blind Persons”— specifically requires, among other things, that motorists stop at an intersection if a pedestrian is seen carrying a white cane.

There are an estimated 1,100 blind and visually impaired persons in the City of Riviera Beach. Councilwoman Davis wishes to bring sensitivity to this topic, and help ensure that sighted residents respect the blind and visually impaired person’s right to self-sufficiency, to unencumbered travel and to open access to streets, sidewalks public buildings and other places.

Councilwoman Davis and the City will host several related events. The celebration begins during the October 6 City Council meeting with the reading of the proclamation declaring “White Cane Awareness Week.” Other events on October 12 will include:

City Manager
Ruth C. Jones

City Attorney
Pamala Hanna Ryan

City Clerk
Carrie E. Ward, MMC

10 – 11 a.m.

Opening Ceremony and Program
City Council Chambers

A dozen blind services organizations, including the National Federation of the Blind, will make presentations about their programs.

11: 15 a.m.

“Street Crossing”

Blue Heron Boulevard at Avenue H

By the visually impaired, illustrating use of white canes.

11:30 a.m. – 1 p.m.

Picnic in the Park

Wells Recreation Center

Invited guests will enjoy an outdoor picnic. Exhibits will be set up in Gym.

CITY OF RIVIERA BEACH

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RIVIERA BEACH

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