



## MEMORANDUM

TO: VICE MAYOR & CITY COUNCIL  
RUSS BLACKBURN, CITY MANAGER  
JAMES D. STOKES, CITY ATTORNEY  
KAREN A. PHILLIPS, CITY CLERK

FROM: GREGORY J. ORAVEC, MAYOR

SUBJECT: HISTORICAL SOCIETY REQUEST FOR NAMING OF MUNICIPAL COMPLEX FOR DONALD B. COOPER

DATE: APRIL 7, 2021

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This memorandum serves to request the City Council's consideration of the attached letter from the Port St. Lucie Historical Society, requesting the naming of the Port St. Lucie Municipal Complex for former City Manager Donald B. Cooper.

It is worth noting that the request provides more than one option, as the "Municipal Complex", which is signed by a landscape sign at the Airoso entrance, is different than the City Hall building (Building A), itself.



I hope that invoking this option would allay any potential concerns over naming the people's building (City Hall) for any one person.

As for Mr. Cooper's contributions to the City, they are many and, I believe, very worthy of this or another honor. The aforementioned letter references several examples, but we could add several more, including the launching of two of our economic development hotspots, LTC Ranch and the Southern Grove Jobs Corridor.

This request has been pending for months; and it seemed fitting to give it a push on what would have been my friend's 71<sup>st</sup> birthday (and just a couple weeks before our City's 60<sup>th</sup> Anniversary).

I look forward to the Council's consideration of this matter.

Thank you.



# Port St. Lucie Historical Society

P.O. Box 7146 Port St. Lucie, FL 34985-7146

501 (c)(3) Public Charity, NFP

July 13, 2020

Russ Blackburn, City Manager  
City of Port St. Lucie  
121 SW Port St. Lucie Blvd.  
Port St. Lucie, FL 34984

Sent via Email

RE: Donald B. Cooper

Dear Mr. Blackburn,

Almost a year ago, we lost a fine man who played an integral part in our City's history, Donald B. Cooper.

Recently, the Port St. Lucie Historical Society was approached by a one of our members about the city honoring Mr. Cooper. After much discussion by the Society's board, we wanted to share with you the following observations and recommendation.

Mr. Cooper was a fearless, deliberate, and effective leader. Having been employed by the City of Port St. Lucie in 1988 as Assistant City Manager, he was promoted to City Manager in 1990. After 20 years of service he retired in 2010. During his tenure, the city grew exponentially from 48,000 residents to over 150,000. Under his leadership, the city implemented one of the largest water and sewer programs of its time, making services available to all city residents in its original 80 square miles. He was instrumental in the construction of many city facilities including the City Hall Complex, Community Center, Minsky Gym, many city utility sites, and the Civic Center. Roads were widened and landscaped, drainage and sidewalk programs were implemented. Finally, plans for the Crosstown Parkway and bridge were initiated under his leadership. These are just a few of the projects for which Mr. Cooper can be given credit.

Because of these reasons and more, the Port St. Lucie Historical Society Board of Directors unanimously agreed the most fitting tribute to Mr. Cooper and his legacy would be to name the Port St. Lucie City Hall Complex after him. Our hope is that the City Council will take this subject up soon and agree to honor Mr. Cooper in this way.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me.

Best regards,

*Patricia Christensen*

Patricia Christensen  
Chairperson  
Port St. Lucie Historical Society

Cc. Mayor Gregory Oravec  
Vice Mayor Shannon Martin  
City Councilwoman Stephanie Morgan  
City Councilman John Carvelli  
City Councilwoman Jolien Caraballo