

Within the past 25 years, the city has partnered with the Kiwanis Club for a few ventures. The first and longest lasting one is the children's clothing closet which is operated out of the city-owned building next to the YMCA. The club worked with the city for egg hunts for 15 years, the bunny breakfast for 7 years, the fishing tournament for 15 years. Kiwanis already has a confident and successful working relationship with the city.

Kiwanis plans to support the city building a permanent building for the children's clothing closet in conjunction with the YMCA and arts center. Kiwanis therefore would graciously like to give back through supporting the "Do the Right thing program". **Keeping with the recent consensus by the City Commission, to do more to prevent alcohol use and abuse within the youth of North Port, we submit the following information and proposal.**

### **Our Mission**

The purpose of "Do the Right Thing of North Port, Inc." (DTRT) is to recognize and reward North Port youths for their exemplary behavior, accomplishments, and good deeds through a unique partnership with the City of North Port Department and other participating non-profits, foundations and businesses. The DTRT Awards Program distinguishes exceptional school-age children who choose to be drug and crime free, exhibit non-violent behavior, do well in school, make a difference in this communities, and demonstrate turnaround behavior. Each month of the school year, parents, police officers, teachers, and other adults nominate children for "doing the right thing." A selection committee will review the nominations and selects finalists for the month and then an overall winner at a year-end ceremony.

### The Proposal

#### **Start a North Port Police Department Do the Right Thing program in conjunction with the Kiwanis Club of North Port.**

**Who:** North Port Police Department in partnership with the Kiwanis Club of North Port and several other foundations, businesses and non-profits.

**What:** Start a North Port Do the Right Thing Chapter.

**When:** Beginning September, about 1 month after school begins.

**Where:** Nominees from all schools within the City of North Port, home schools, or any student 18 and under that reside within the City.

**Why:** City Commissioners recently expressed more positive opportunities for children and young adults here. Commissioners were concerned about students making more positive choices. This proposal creates ongoing recognition of students who do things like turn in lost wallets, tell an adult about a suspected threat, fight or weapon at a school, help teachers, writing to military personnel, exhibiting positive behavior and doing the right thing!

**How:** Start up fees of \$1,000 should be used from existing police department forfeiture funds. The non-profit 501-(C)(3) Kiwanis Club/Foundation of North Port can co-operate

aquatic center or Achieve Anything passes/memberships to the Morgan and Mullen Center or a free pass to a City-sponsored event.

- The Do the Right Thing winner could be named the Jr. Grand Marshall of the Poinsettia Parade and have their name announced at the City's signature event, the Freedom Festival.
- City provide the location for the annual awards banquet at a City facility such as the George Mullen Center or Morgan Family Center, both which have kitchens and electrical equipment such as microphones, chairs and tables. Kiwanis will take care of the decorations (this is a good time when the Police Explores/ Youth Board could help).
- If the program builds, in the future there's opportunities to give scholarships and send the local winner to the state and national Do the Right Thing conferences. This would be something the NPPD, City Commission and Do the Right Thing Committee would agree to jointly fund.
- The Do the Right Thing Committee would ask that the City consider giving a small donation (\$1,000) annually fund when possible to help build and promote the program. This would be proposed during the City's annual budget, unless the Chief chooses to have a budget amendment.

and begin planning the 2019/2020-year events and all annual events thereafter. Kiwanis will raise funds and support the program annually so as to limit the impact to the forfeiture fund in the future.

*\* What is the forfeiture fund and laws regulating its use? Can it be for the Do the Right Thing Program? \**

Yes according to Florida statutes:

[http://www.leg.state.fl.us/statutes/index.cfm?](http://www.leg.state.fl.us/statutes/index.cfm?App_mode=Display_Statute&URL=0900-0999/0932/Sections/0932.7055.html)

[App\\_mode=Display\\_Statute&URL=0900-0999/0932/Sections/0932.7055.html](http://www.leg.state.fl.us/statutes/index.cfm?App_mode=Display_Statute&URL=0900-0999/0932/Sections/0932.7055.html)

"Such funds may be used only for school resource officer, crime prevention, safe neighborhood, drug abuse education, or drug prevention programs or such other law enforcement purposes as the board of county commissioners or governing body of the municipality deems appropriate.

2. Such funds shall not be a source of revenue to meet normal operating needs of the law enforcement agency.

3. Any local law enforcement agency that acquires at least \$15,000 pursuant to the Florida Contraband Forfeiture Act within a fiscal year must expend or donate no less than 25 percent of such proceeds for the support or operation of any drug treatment, drug abuse education, drug prevention, crime prevention, safe neighborhood, or school resource officer program or programs. The local law enforcement agency has the discretion to determine which program or programs will receive the designated proceeds."

Please note that the City of North Port's

forfeiture fund increased in the 2018/19 final report and we are confident that the fund will increase again, at minimum of \$10,000 in the 2019/20 summary report.

### How it would work

The Kiwanis Club of North Port would essentially be responsible for Do The Right Thing Program.

*Members will establish a committee to do the following as well as other unknown program functions:*

- Speak to school officials/ police administration/ and to the community to generate nominations.
- Solicit from foundations, businesses and individuals for sponsorships for prizes, T-shirts, certificates, web design, brochures needed for the ongoing programs.