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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**Coconut Creek Citizen's Academy Class V Begins April 1st  
Only 25 Seats Available**

Coconut Creek, FL- The City of Coconut Creek will hold its weekly fifth interactive nine-week Citizen's Academy from April 1, 2010 through May 20, 2010, 9:00 a.m. – 11:30 a.m. The Academy teaches residents how city government and individual departments operate. With the exception of week four, classes will take place on Thursdays, with most classes being held in the Coconut Creek Commission Chambers (4800 West Copans Road) and two being bus tours. The Academy is open to twenty-five Coconut Creek residents, aged 18 and above. There is no charge to join the Academy.

"The goal is to provide relevant information and materials that will enable citizens to understand how the departments that make up their local government serve their community," stated Yvonne Lopez, Community Relations Manager, City of Coconut Creek. "Proper understanding can dispel common misconceptions and increase community cooperation".

Personnel who manage or perform city services will teach each class. Other goals of the Academy include: developing civic "ambassadors" within Coconut Creek neighborhoods who can become trusted and reliable sources of information for their neighbors; developing a diverse group of citizens who can offer "ex-officio" advice and feedback on current project, initiatives, or events; building a civic leadership network that increases participation in local affairs; providing city officials with an idea of public sentiment early in the decision-making process; and creating a sense of exclusivity that inspires others to want to participate in the program.

If you would like to join Coconut Creek's Citizen's Academy, please contact Yvonne Lopez at 954.973.6722. Space is only available for twenty-five residents, so call early to reserve your spot.

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