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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:**

**Nick Blount Announces His Campaign for  
City of Stuart Commissioner, Group 1**

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Stuart, FLA, June 4, 2015 – Nick Blount has announced his candidacy for City of Stuart Commission, Group 1. Nick is currently serving as a City of Stuart commissioner after being unanimously appointed by the city commission on March 23, 2018 in the wake of former City of Stuart Commissioner Tom Campenni's resignation.

Nick retired in 2014, after working for more than 40 years at Florida Power & Light Company. In his most recent position as FPL's External Affairs Manager, Nick was responsible for government affairs and community relations throughout Martin County and the Treasure Coast.

"Prior to my appointment on the city commission, people throughout the community had been encouraging me to seek political office. Since being appointed in March, that encouragement has only gotten stronger," said Blount.

"In just this short period of time, I've been able to hit the ground running and quickly get up to speed on the projects and issues of concern facing the city. My position at FPL was all about developing good working relationships with people, being a consensus builder and a problem solver. It's what I'm good at and it's what I love to do, so serving as a City of Stuart Commissioner is a way for me to take that experience and give back to the community I love," added Blount.

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Nick has been making a positive impact in Martin County during his 44 years living in Stuart, having served in leadership roles on more than a dozen nonprofit, business and community boards including: the Stuart-Martin County, Palm City, and Indiantown chambers of commerce; the United Way of Martin County; Business Development Board of Martin County; Martin County Red Cross; Big Brothers Big Sisters; March of Dimes; and the Stuart Air Show. Nick serves as the Lay Leader for Stuart First United Methodist Church.

“Nick is exactly who we need on the City of Stuart Commission right now. He’s a seasoned, well-respected, long-time resident of Stuart. And he can use his vast experience to serve as a voice of reason and a steady hand of leadership as the city moves past some challenging and tumultuous times,” said former Stuart city commissioner Jeff Krauskopf.

“I can’t think of anyone more qualified than Nick to help provide the leadership and stability our city needs right now,” said, Pastor Jerry Gore. “His strong working relationships with government, business and community leaders throughout our community will serve us well in moving the city forward. I know he’ll listen to residents’ concerns on many issues, including housing. He has my vote,” added Gore.

Nick Blount for Stuart’s campaign website and Facebook page will be launching soon. For more information contact Nick at 772-285-2003 or nicklblount@gmail.com.

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## **More about Nick**

### **Professional Career**

Nick joined Florida Power & Light in 1972. He held numerous positions throughout Florida in Engineering, Operations and External Affairs (Governmental Affairs and Community Relations). Nick retired in 2014 as Area Manager for the Treasure Coast for FPL.

### **Storm Restoration**

Nick was a key leader in restoring FPL’s high voltage system in South Dade County following Hurricane Andrew in 1992. Following the hurricanes in 2004 and 2005 he coordinated FPL’s interface with each of the County Emergency Operation Centers throughout the Treasure Coast. He had the honor of meeting with President George W. Bush following Hurricane Frances to provide an update on power restoration.

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### **Current Community Involvement**

- United Way of Lee, Hendry, Glades & Okeechobee, Okeechobee Manager (2016 - Present)
- Stuart Air Show, Board Member
- Stuart First United Methodist Church, Lay Leader (2004 - present), member (1976-present)
- Martin County Housing Solutions Council, Chair (2017 - present)

### **Previous Community and Government Involvement and Leadership**

- Stuart-Martin County Chamber of Commerce (Trustee, 2010 – 2014)
- Indiantown Chamber of Commerce (Interim Executive Director, 2016)
- Palm City Chamber of Commerce (Board Chair, 2010)
- Martin County Economic Council (Board Chair, 2012)
- Okeechobee County United Way (Campaign Co-Chair, 2016)
- Okeechobee County Economic Council (Board member, 2010-2014)
- Martin County Red Cross (Board Chair, 1993 - 1996)
- Martin County United Way (Campaign Chair, 1982 & 2004; Board Chair, 1983 & 2005; and Interim Executive Director - 2016)
- Big Brothers Big Sisters of IR, SL & OK (Board member, 2012-2013)
- Treasure Coast March of Dimes (Board Chair - 2014)
- Business Development Board (Charlene Hoag Award for Community Leadership - 2010)
- City of Stuart Charter Review Committee (2009)

### **Education**

- Bachelor of Science in Electrical Engineering from the University of Tennessee
- Master of Business Administration, Florida Institute of Technology
- Southeastern Electric Exchange's Leadership Program, University of Georgia
- Harvard Law School's Training program on Negotiation

### **Personal**

Nick grew up in Tennessee and moved to Martin County in 1974 where he and his wife Dee have lived for 44 years. Their daughter Amanda was born and raised in Martin County and is now Assistant Dean of Student Development at Florida Southern College in Lakeland, FL.

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