



MEDIA RELEASE

THE CITY OF WESTON

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WESTON UNIVERSITY CLASS OF 2010 Completes Commission Simulation Exercise Students Graduate at May 17th City Commission Meeting

On April 28th students of the City's Weston University Program completed their Commission Simulation exercise, which is required to graduate. The simulation, that took place in the Commission Chambers at Weston City Hall, was complete with role assignments, agenda and an audience - just like the real thing.

In their roles as Commissioners, staff, or developers, students are tasked with evaluating and voting on a number of very real city issues. Students had assistance from City Commissioners and staff, but only if it was needed, and students certainly held their own in this mock City Commission meeting. As has each class before them, they found that making a decision that impacts someone's lively hood and the community is not as easy as it sometimes appears.

Weston initiated the "Weston University" program in October 2002, to give select high school students an in-depth education on the functions of local government. In its 8th year, the City of Weston is pleased to announce the graduation of our 24 program students, from Cypress Bay, Sagemont and Western High Schools, at the May 17th City Commission meeting at 7:00 p.m. at Weston City Hall.

The seven-month program is designed to provide a unique civic education. Students met once a month for a full-day class that highlighted a different civic discipline:

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| ▪ Local Government Administration & Finance | Fire & E.M.S. Services, & Fire Marshal |
| ▪ Development Services | State & Local Government & Simulation Preparation |
| ▪ Law Enforcement Services | Trip to our State Capitol in Tallahassee |
| ▪ Community Services Department | City Commission Simulation Exercise |

The objectives of the eight-month program are to:

- Develop an appreciation for and an understanding of local government through instruction, conversations, observation of daily activities and operation, and actual experiences.
- Gain an understanding of Weston's governmental structure and the role of residents in the decision making process.
- Learn problem-solving procedures used by city government, recognizing the positions taken by city officials and the reasons behind them.
- Effectively participate in a City Commission simulation, after having gained knowledge throughout the program, necessary to present and defend both sides of the agenda issues.

Use of Weston City Seal without authorization: Florida Statutes 165.043 Official county or municipal seal. --The governing body of a county or municipality may, by ordinance, designate an official county or municipal seal. The manufacture, use, display, or other employment of any facsimile or reproduction of the county or municipal seal, except by county or municipal officials or employees in the performance of their official duties, without the express approval of the governing body, is a second degree misdemeanor, punishable as provided in s. 775.082 or s. 775.083.

The City of Weston 954-385-2000 www.westonfl.org
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