

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**PBCC convenes state, local leaders to address gang violence**

*Causes, solutions to be explored at March 27 town meeting*

(Lake Worth – March 2, 2007) The recent dramatic increase in gang violence in Palm Beach County provides a strong indication that nothing short of a countywide effort will stem this disturbing trend. Palm Beach Community College, in keeping with its mission to respond to community need, is bringing together State Attorney General Bill McCollum as well as other state, city and county officials, law enforcement and community leaders along with the public, to learn more about the gang violence affecting our community and how to stop that violence.

The Gang Violence Town Meeting, to be held March 27 at 9:30 a.m. in the Duncan Theater at PBCC at Lake Worth, will raise awareness as well as help develop training programs for law enforcement and other community organizations to help combat this frightening trend.

“As gang activity becomes increasingly more prevalent in our state we must harness all of our available resources and engage in efforts to make Florida an unfavorable environment for such criminal activity,” said Bill McCollum, Florida state attorney general of his participation on the meeting’s panel discussion.

Other members of the panel discussion include Palm Beach County Sheriff Ric Bradshaw; Special Agent Ed DeVelasco, Florida Department of Law Enforcement; Rusty Keeble, president of Florida Gang Investigators; Palm Beach County School District Police Officer Kevin Kushel and X102.3 disc jockey D.J. Dady Phatts. There will also be time for audience members to have their questions and concerns addressed following the panel discussion.

“This town meeting will give the community the opportunity to better understand the problem that faces Palm Beach County and how we, meaning the community and law enforcement, must work together to solve this problem before it gets worse,” said Bradshaw.

The Gang Violence Town Meeting is open to the public. For more information call 561-868-3892 or visit online at [www.pbcc.edu/townmeeting.xml](http://www.pbcc.edu/townmeeting.xml).

**About Palm Beach Community College:** Serving more than 46,000 students annually, Palm Beach Community College is the largest institution of higher education in Palm Beach County, providing associate degrees, professional certificates, career and customized training and lifelong learning. Florida’s first public community college, PBCC offers more than 100 programs of study at locations in Lake Worth, Boca Raton, Palm Beach Gardens and Belle Glade.

#30#

**Media Contact**

Gwenn Adams  
College Relations and Marketing Specialist  
(561) 868-3950