



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Alvin's Inaugural Citizens Academy Graduates Nine

Alvin, Texas. (March 21, 2017) – Nine residents of Alvin who participated in the six-week long citizen's academy, Alvin Upfront, were recognized for completing the course at the Alvin city council meeting on Thursday, March 16th.

In November of 2016, Alvin Upfront was introduced to city council with two primary goals: to educate participants, so that they'd be encouraged to pursue leadership roles within the community and to strengthen relationships between citizens and city staff.

Beginning on February 6, 2017, every Monday evening from 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m., students met in intimate group settings with various staff members and department directors from City of Alvin departments. Each class was held at a corresponding city facility, related to the topic for the evening.

Alvin Upfront classes were aimed at giving students a practical understanding of what the daily responsibilities and activities of each department's staff are and how they directly apply to the city's customer service. In addition to a formal presentation by staff, classes were also designed to be dynamic. Activities incorporated into presentations included a budgetary mathematics exercise; free play of recreational games used by the Parks department; a showcase of response vehicles and tactical equipment; a mock Pre-Development meeting; a demonstration of sign-making; a demonstration of water line connections and a tour of the wastewater treatment plant.

Members of the Alvin Upfront Class of 2017 were residents of Alvin who were registered voters, not currently holding a position as an elected official or running for office during the academy.

Robert Esperanza, the youngest member of the Alvin Upfront, has been a resident of Alvin for 18 years. Mr. Esperanza said:

The Alvin Upfront program has taught me the social and economic activities and duties that take place in Alvin. It promotes security, trust, and more communication between the city employees and citizens. I appreciated getting to know fellow participants and the education that was offered by the program.

Alexandra Aggor, the program facilitator, shed light on the future of the academy.

"The feedback from the students after the course was very positive; we can look forward to an even better academy next year," Aggor said.