



City of Margate

5790 Margate Boulevard
Margate, FL 33063
954-972-6454
www.margatefl.com

Meeting Minutes Regular City Commission Meeting

Mayor Arlene R. Schwartz
Vice Mayor Antonio V. Arserio
Commissioners:
Anthony N. Caggiano, Tommy Ruzzano, Joanne Simone

City Manager Cale Curtis
City Attorney Weiss Serota Helfman Cole & Bierman
City Clerk Jennifer M. Johnson

Wednesday, October 8, 2025

6:00 PM

Commission Chambers and Zoom.us

Webinar ID: 891 7494 7996

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89174947996>

CALL TO ORDER

ROLL CALL

Present: 5 - Commissioner Tommy Ruzzano, Commissioner Anthony N. Caggiano, Commissioner Joanne Simone, Vice Mayor Antonio V. Arserio and Mayor Arlene R. Schwartz

MOMENT OF SILENCE

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

1) PRESENTATION(S)

- A. [ID 2025-236](#) COMMEMORATING THE SERVICE OF COCO, LOYAL CANINE PARTNER IN PUBLIC SERVICE

MAYOR, ARLENE R. SCHWARTZ, read tributes for Coco. She thanked the City's Communication Department.

DONNA FELLOWS praised the dog owners' family and presented them with an award.

COMMISSIONER, TOMMY RUZZANO, highlighted the forthcoming Fall Festival and Trunk or Treat events.

STUDENTS AND TEACHERS OF THE MONTH

- B. [ID 2025-255](#) ABUNDANT LIFE CHRISTIAN ACADEMY: KAYLA THOMAS (STUDENT), ERNIDE FREDERIC (TEACHER), (Ms. Latoya Dean, Principal and/or Ms. Martha Palhano, Elementary School Assistant Principal)

ASCEND ACADEMY CHARTER HIGH SCHOOL: NGOC NGUYEN (STUDENT), MARIA MARTURET (TEACHER), (Dr. Kathrine Pierandozzi, Principal and/or Ms. Neisha Billy, Assistant Principal)

ATLANTIC WEST ELEMENTARY: NAVIAH MINCEY (STUDENT), MARIANA AGUIAR (TEACHER), (Ms. Shereen R. Reynolds, Principal and/or Ms. Corrine Mendez, Assistant Principal)

BROWARD MATH AND SCIENCE SCHOOLS: KAYLEE PEÑA (STUDENT), DEAJA O'NEAL (TEACHER), (Mr. Hasan Kose, Principal and/or Ms. Katy Twist, Assistant Principal)

LIBERTY ELEMENTARY: AIFA CHOWDHURY (STUDENT), JASON SHERMAN (TEACHER), (Ms. Vicki Flournoy, Principal and/or Ms. Donna Styles, Assistant Principal)

MARGATE ELEMENTARY: AVERY LLOYD (STUDENT), TAHNEE HUNTER (TEACHER), (Mr. Thomas J. Schroeder, Principal and/or Ms. Donna Rucker, Assistant Principal)

MARGATE MIDDLE: DESTINY GOUBOURN (STUDENT), BRANDI RIDORE (TEACHER), (Ms. Sabine Phillips, Principal and/or Ms. Krystal Coke, Assistant Principal)

PHYL'S ACADEMY PREPARATORY SCHOOL: AKIRA ECCLESTON (STUDENT), PAULINE THOMAS (TEACHER), (Ms. Afua Baptiste, Principal and/or Ms. Jalaja Cooke, Elementary School Director)

RISE ACADEMY SCHOOL OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY: VALERIE LOPEZ (STUDENT), BRITTNEY PLUMMER (TEACHER), (Dr. Adriana Guerra, Principal)

WEST BROWARD ACADEMY: RAJON ETIENNE (STUDENT), EMMANUELA DOSTALY (TEACHER), (Mr. Derrick Hugue, Principal and/or Ms. Rossana Padron, Assistant Principal)

EMPLOYEE RECOGNITION FOR YEARS OF SERVICE

- C. [ID 2025-250](#) NICHOLAS R. THOMPSON, POLICE OFFICER - POLICE DEPARTMENT - 10 YEARS

PROCLAMATION(S)

- D. [ID 2025-200](#) SOUTH FLORIDA MENTAL WELLNESS SUMMIT AND EXPO DAY - OCTOBER 23, 2025 (presented to Simone Edwards, Committee Member of South Florida Mental Wellness Summit)

A SUICIDE PREVENTION COORDINATOR AT MIAMI VETERAN AFFAIRS (VA) Suicide Prevention spoke on this Item.

- E. [ID 2025-201](#) FLORIDA CITY WEEK - OCTOBER 20 - 26, 2025 (presented to Giovanni Batista, Director of Public Works)

PUBLIC WORKS DIRECTOR, GIOVANNI BATISTA, spoke on this Item.

- F. [ID 2025-254](#) FIRE PREVENTION WEEK - OCTOBER 5 - OCTOBER 11, 2025 (presented to Roberto Lorenzo, Fire Chief)

DIVISION CHIEF, DANNY RODRIGUEZ, spoke on this Item.

- G. [ID 2025-278](#) ITALIAN AMERICAN HERITAGE MONTH - OCTOBER, 2025 (presented to Vito Labriola, Division Chief, Margate Fire Department)

DIVISION CHIEF, VITO J. LABRIOLA, spoke on this Item.

2) PUBLIC DISCUSSION

MAYOR SCHWARTZ, provided instructions on how to submit a Public Discussion.

TRACY VAN WINKLE, had questions pertaining to signs for Hildebrand Amusement.

Discussion ensued.

MIRIAM JIMENEZ discussed her application for a Margate facility that had been previously rejected and asked for the local business tax receipt to be approved.

CITY ATTORNEY, DAVID N. TOLCES, reminded the City Commission that the applicant was still in litigation and that she owed Margate money.

Discussion ensued.

MARGATE RESIDENT, SANTO CURATOLO, expressed his concerns on the construction that was coming towards his City and asked if they could preserve the Ace Hardware parking area.

MANDY ACKERMAN discussed housing in Margate and sought more recreational spaces and less housing.

MAYOR SCHWARTZ responded to Ms. Ackerman and advised that none of the things that were being built were low income housing.

LAUREN BERACHA, PARADISE GARDENS III, indicated that the City Commission should have respect for each other as well as the residents.

MINDY LEE, 3274 W BUENA VISTA DRIVE, voiced her concerns about the building expansion in the City and the behavior of the City Commission. She suggested conducting a poll to Margate's residents.

VICE MAYOR ARSERIO indicated that feedback from the previous surveys were positive.

DONNA L. FELLOWS voiced her disapproval on the forthcoming fair.

GARY L. WILDER, 6943 NW 27TH CT, provided suggestions on the redevelopment of the golf course.

3) COMMISSION COMMENTS

COMMISSIONER, TOMMY RUZZANO, provided his thoughts on the City's forthcoming

events. He discussed yesterday's Planning and Zoning meeting regarding development on the golf course.

MAYOR SCHWARTZ indicated that when she moved down to Margate, there was no Coral Gate amongst many other developments that have emerged over the years.

4) CITY MANAGER'S REPORT

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 7:39pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Transcribed by Salene E. Edwards

Jennifer M. Johnson, City Clerk

Date: _____

PLEASE NOTE:

If a person decides to appeal any decision made by the City Commission with respect to any matter considered at this meeting, the person will need a record of the proceedings, and for such purpose may need to ensure that a verbatim record of the proceedings is made, which record includes the testimony and evidence upon which the appeal is to be based. Anyone desiring a verbatim transcript shall have the responsibility, at his/her own expense, to arrange for the transcript.

[Unified Land Development Code – Section 40.300(C)] Any representation made before any City Board, any Administrative Board, or the City Commission in the application for a variance, special exception, conditional use or request for any other permit shall be deemed a condition of the granting of the permit. Should any representation be false or should said representation not be continued as represented, same shall be deemed a violation of the permit and a violation of this section.

Any person with a disability requiring auxiliary aids and services for this meeting may call the City Clerk's office at (954) 972-6454 with their request at least two business days prior to the meeting date.

One or more members of the City of Margate Boards may be in attendance and may participate at the meeting.

Members of the public are invited to view this meeting through Zoom using Webinar ID: 891 7494 7996 or can listen via telephone by calling one of the following phone numbers: US: +1 312 626 6799 or +1 929 205 6099.

- A copy of the Agenda for this Meeting is posted on www.MargateFL.com and on the main bulletin board outside City Hall located at 5790 Margate Blvd, Margate, FL 33063.

THROUGH THE CITY'S WEBSITE:

Go to www.margatefl.com

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ALTERNATE OPTION FOR VIEWING AND LISTENING TO THE MEETING THROUGH ZOOM.US

Instructions:

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