

**MINUTES OF THE
NORTHWEST COUNCIL OF ELECTED OFFICIALS MEETING**

Tuesday, January 9, 2024
12:00 Noon – 1:00 PM

Jasmine Thai & Sushi
1785 N. State Road 7
Margate, FL 33063
(954) 974-4566

CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Ruzzano, City of Margate, called the meeting to order at 12:14 p.m. He acknowledged the Margate officials and then asked for self-introductions which were made around the room.

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Commissioner Jackie M. Railey	Coconut Creek
Commissioner Joy Carter	Coral Springs
Mayor Veronica Edwards Phillips	Lauderdale Lakes
Vice Mayor Mark Anthony Spence	Lauderdale Lakes
Commissioner Tycie Causewell	Lauderdale Lakes
Commissioner Sharon Thomas	Lauderdale Lakes
Mayor Tommy Ruzzano	Margate
Vice Mayor Arlene R. Schwartz	Margate
Commissioner Antonio V. Arserio	Margate
Commissioner Anthony N. Caggiano	Margate
Commissioner Joanne Simone	Margate
Mayor Samson Borgelin	North Lauderdale
Vice Mayor Darrell Lewis-Ricketts	North Lauderdale
Commissioner Simeon Brier	Parkland
Commissioner Ken Cutler	Parkland
Commissioner Elvin Villalobos	Tamarac

ALSO PRESENT:

Cale Curtis, City Manager	Margate
Danny Rodriguez, Division Chief	Margate
Roberto Lorenzo, Fire Chief	Margate
Jennifer M. Johnson, City Clerk	Margate
Ayesha Robinson, Assistant City Clerk	Margate
Isamar Viveros, Clerk Coordinator	Margate
Theresa Brier, District Director	Jared Moskowitz's Office

1. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Minutes of December 12, 2023, meeting hosted by the City of Coral Springs

Commissioner Antonio Arserio, City of Margate, moved to approve the minutes. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Tycie Causwell, Lauderdale Lakes. There was a unanimous voice vote of approval.

2. OLD BUSINESS

None

3. NEW BUSINESS

A. Supporting Physical Education in our Cities and in Broward Schools for our youth

Mayor Ruzzano spoke about how a prior grant was used to improve almost all the parks throughout the city and how beneficial it has been. He stated the importance of sports programming and local recreation teams and how they engage our youth and keep them occupied. Mayor Ruzzano said he is an avid baseball player and now dedicates time to coaching at Ramblewood Middle School. Mayor Ruzzano spoke about creating a Resolution to the School Board requesting funding to improve and implement new sports programs in our schools. He requested support and remarked there is strength in numbers and stated the urgency to act before the funding deadline expires.

Commissioner Arserio, City of Margate, spoke about potential litigation against the State of Florida to oppose the newly required Full and Public Disclosure of Financial Interests Form (Form 6) and requested support. He stated the suit requires a minimum of ten municipalities to support the effort.

There was a recess for lunch and the meeting reconvened at 12:48 p.m.

NEW BUSINESS (Cont'd)

Vice Mayor Arlene Schwartz, City of Margate spoke about the School Board's proposal to create their own police force in lieu of using Student Resource Officers (SROs). She stated her opposition and the importance of SROs in schools and the funding associated with the assignments. Commissioner Arserio, City of Margate, stated his opposition and spoke about the need to hire 400 police officers and how a nationwide shortage already exists.

Commissioner Elvin Villalobos, City of Tamarac, stated his opposition to the School Board's proposal to create a police force. He requested emails be sent to Sunrise Mayor Michael Ryan opposing the proposal.

Commissioner Joy Carter, City of Coral Springs, stated she spoke to all School Board members about the police force proposal. She remarked that some are in favor of the proposal, and some oppose it.

Commissioner Jackie Railey, City of Coconut Creek, requested support from the mayors to oppose the expansion of the turnpike. She spoke about the Monarch Hill Landfill and how they are requesting a land use plan amendment which would expand the landfill. Commissioner Railey requested support opposing the land use change.

4. SCHEDULE OF NEXT MEETING

The next Northwest Council of Elected Officials meeting will be hosted by the City of Parkland in February. The topic of discussion will be Full and Public Disclosure of Financial Interests (Form 6).

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 12:54 p.m.



Ayesha Robinson, MMC
Assistant City Clerk