

CITY OF MARGATE, FLORIDA

ORDINANCE NO. _____

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF MARGATE,
FLORIDA, AMENDING CHAPTER 2, ARTICLE I
IN GENERAL, SECTION 2-18 OFFICIAL ZONING
CONFIRMATION LETTERS; AMENDING APPENDIX-
A ZONING; ARTICLE III GENERAL
PROVISIONS, SECTION 3.30. REASONABLE
ACCOMMODATION PROCEDURES; PROVIDING FOR
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT;
PROVIDING FOR SEVERABILITY; PROVIDING
FOR CODIFICATION; PROVIDING FOR AN
EFFECTIVE DATE.

BE IT ORDAINED BY THE CITY COMMISSION OF THE CITY OF
MARGATE, FLORIDA:

SECTION 1: The Code of Ordinances of the City of Margate, Florida, Chapter 2 - Administration, Article I In General, Section 2-18 Official zoning confirmation letters, is hereby amended to read as follows¹:

Sec. 2-18. - Official zoning confirmation letters.

(a) An administrative fee of seventy-five dollars (\$75.00) will be applied to all requests for an official zoning confirmation letter issued by the eCity. Such fee shall be deposited into the general fund.

(1) Each official zoning confirmation letter shall only include zoning and land use information for a single property. If multiple properties are included in a single request for an official zoning confirmation letter, the administrative fee shall be applied for each letter issued by the eCity.

¹CODING: Words in ~~struck-through~~ text are deletions from existing text, words in underlined text are additions to existing text, and **shaded** text are changes between First and Second Readings.

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3 (b) All requests for an official zoning confirmation letter
4 must be submitted to the Economic Development ~~Department~~
5 ~~of environmental and engineering services~~ in writing and
6 include the following:

7

8 (1) Administrative fee;

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10 (2) Address of property for which the official zoning
11 confirmation letter shall provide current zoning and
12 land use information;

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14 (3) Current use of property;

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16 (4) Proposed use of property, if any;

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18 (5) Current telephone number, e-mail address, and
19 mailing address of person or organization that has
20 requested the official zoning confirmation letter.

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23 **SECTION 2:** The Code of Ordinances of the City of
24 Margate, Florida, Appendix-A Zoning, Article III General
25 provisions, Section 3.30 Reasonable accommodation
26 procedures, is hereby amended to read as follows¹:

27

28 Section 3.30. - Reasonable accommodation procedures.

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30 (1) This section implements the policy of the City of Margate
31 for processing of requests for reasonable accommodation
32 to its ordinances, rules, policies, and procedures for
33 persons with disabilities as provided by the federal Fair
34 Housing Amendments Act (42 USC 3601 et seq.) (FHA) and
35 title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act (42 USC
36 12131 et seq.) (ADA). For purposes of this section, a
37 "disabled" individual or person is an individual that
38 qualifies as disabled and/or handicapped under the FHA
39 and/or ADA. Any person who is disabled (or qualifying
40 entities) may request a reasonable accommodation with
41 respect to the ~~the~~ city's land use or zoning laws, rules,
42 policies, practices and/or procedures as provided by the
43 FHA and the ADA pursuant to the procedures set out in
44 this section.

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(2) A request by an applicant for reasonable accommodation under this section shall be made in writing by completion of a reasonable accommodation request form, which form is maintained by (and shall be submitted to) the Economic Development Department of environmental and engineering services (DEES). The reasonable accommodation form shall contain such questions and requests for information as are necessary for processing the reasonable accommodation request. The reasonable accommodation request form shall be substantially in the form set forth in subsection (10), below.

(3) Should the information provided by the disabled individual to the eCity include medical information or records, including records indicating the medical condition, diagnosis or medical history of the disabled individual, such individual may, at the time of submitting such medical information, request that the eCity, to the extent allowed by law, treat such medical information as confidential information of the disabled individual. The eCity shall thereafter endeavor to provide written notice to the disabled individual, and/or their representative, of any request received by the eCity for disclosure of the medical information or documentation which the disabled individual has previously requested be treated as confidential by the eCity. The eCity will cooperate with the disabled individual, to the extent allowed by law, in actions initiated by such individual to oppose the disclosure of such medical information or documentation, but the eCity shall have no obligation to initiate, prosecute or pursue any such action, or to incur any legal or other expenses (whether by retention of outside counsel or allocation of internal resources) in connection therewith, and may comply with any judicial order without prior notice to the disabled individual.

(4) The city manager, or his/her designee, shall have the authority to consider and act on requests for reasonable accommodation, after notice and public hearing to receive comments, input and information from the public (provided, however, the city manager or designee, shall not be required to render their decision at said public hearing). When a reasonable accommodation request form has been completed and submitted to the Economic Development Department DEES, it will be referred to the city manager, or designee, for review and consideration.

1 The city manager, or designee, shall issue a written
2 determination within forty-five (45) days of the date of
3 receipt of a completed application and may, in accordance
4 with federal law, (1) grant the accommodation request,
5 (2) grant a portion of the request and deny a portion of
6 the request, and/or impose conditions upon the grant of
7 the request, or (3) deny the request, in accordance with
8 federal law. Any such denial shall be in writing and
9 shall state the grounds therefore. All written
10 determinations shall give notice of the right to appeal.
11 The notice of determination shall be sent to the
12 requesting party (i.e. he disabled individual or his/her
13 representative) by certified mail, return receipt
14 requested. If reasonably necessary to reach a
15 determination on the request for reasonable
16 accommodation, the city manager, or designee, may, prior
17 to the end of said forty-five-day period, request
18 additional information from the requesting party,
19 specifying in sufficient detail what information is
20 required. The requesting party shall have fifteen (15)
21 days after the date of the request for additional
22 information to provide the requested information. In the
23 event a request for additional information is made, the
24 forty-five-day period to issue a written determination
25 shall no longer be applicable, and the city manager, or
26 designee, shall issue a written determination within
27 thirty (30) days after receipt of the additional
28 information. If the requesting party fails to provide the
29 requested additional information within said fifteen-day
30 period, the city manager, or designee, shall issue a
31 written notice advising that the requesting party had
32 failed to timely submit the additional information and
33 therefore the request for reasonable accommodation shall
34 be deemed abandoned and/or withdrawn and no further
35 action by the City with regard to said reasonable
36 accommodation request shall be required.
37

38 (5) In determining whether the reasonable accommodation
39 request shall be granted or denied, the requesting party
40 shall be required to establish that they are protected
41 under the FHA and/or ADA by demonstrating that they are
42 handicapped or disabled, as defined in the FHA and/or
43 ADA. Although the definition of disability is subject to
44 judicial interpretation, for purposes of this ordinance
45 the disabled individual must show: (i) a physical or
46 mental impairment which substantially limits one or more
47 major life activities; or (ii) a record of having such
48 impairment; or (iii) that they are regarded as having

1 such impairment. Next, the requesting party will have to
2 demonstrate that the proposed accommodations being sought
3 are reasonable and necessary to afford
4 handicapped/disabled persons equal opportunity to use and
5 enjoy housing. The foregoing (as interpreted by the
6 courts) shall be the basis for a decision upon a
7 reasonable accommodation request made by the city
8 manager, or designee, or by the city commission in the
9 event of an appeal.

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11 (6) Within thirty (30) days after the city manager's, or
12 designee's, determination on a reasonable accommodation
13 request is mailed to the requesting party, such applicant
14 may appeal the decision. All appeals shall contain a
15 statement containing sufficient detail of the grounds for
16 the appeal. Appeals shall be to the city commission who
17 shall, after public notice and a public hearing, render a
18 determination as soon as reasonably practicable, but in
19 no event later than sixty (60) days after an appeal has
20 been filed.

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22 (7) There shall be no fee imposed by the City in connection
23 with a request for reasonable accommodation under this
24 section or an appeal of a determination on such request
25 to the City Commission, and the City shall have no
26 obligation to pay a requesting party's (or an appealing
27 party's, as applicable) attorneys fees or costs in
28 connection with the request, or an appeal.

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30 (8) While an application for reasonable accommodation, or
31 appeal of a determination of same, is pending before the
32 City, the City will not enforce the subject zoning
33 ordinance, rules, policies, and procedures against the
34 Applicant.

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36 (9) The following general provisions shall be applicable:

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38 (a) The City shall display a notice in the City's public
39 notice bulletin board (and shall maintain copies
40 available for review in Economic Development
41 Department, DEES, the Building Department, and the
42 City Clerk's Office), advising the public disabled
43 individuals (and qualifying entities) may request
44 reasonable accommodation as provided herein.

(b) A disabled individual may apply for a reasonable accommodation on his/her own behalf or may be represented at all stages of the reasonable accommodation process by a person designated by the disabled individual.

(c) The City shall provide such assistance and accommodation as is required pursuant to FHA and ADA in connection with a disabled person's request for reasonable accommodation, including, without limitation, assistance with reading application questions, responding to questions, completing the form, filing an appeal, and appearing at a hearing, etc., to ensure the process is accessible.

SECTION 3: All ordinances or parts of ordinances in conflict herewith are and the same is hereby repealed to the extent of such conflict.

SECTION 4: If any section, sentence, clause, or phrase of this ordinance is held to be invalid or unconstitutional by a court of competent jurisdiction, then said holding shall in no way affect the validity of the remaining portions of this ordinance.

SECTION 5: It is the intention of the City Commission that the provisions of this ordinance shall become and be made a part of the City of Margate Code, and that the sections of this ordinance may be renumbered or relettered and the word "ordinance" may be changed to "section", "article" or such other appropriate word or phrase in order to accomplish such intentions.

SECTION 6: This ordinance shall become effective immediately upon adoption at its second reading.

PASSED ON FIRST READING THIS DAY OF 2017.

PASSED ON SECOND READING THIS DAY OF 2017.

ATTEST:

JOSEPH J. KAVANAGH
CITY CLERK

MAYOR TOMMY BUZZANO

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2 RECORD OF VOTE - 1ST READING RECORD OF VOTE - 2ND READING
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4 Caggiano _____
5 Simone _____
6 Peerman _____
7 Schwartz _____
8 Ruzzano _____
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10 Caggiano _____
11 Simone _____
12 Peerman _____
13 Schwartz _____
14 Ruzzano _____
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