

EXCERPT FROM DRC MEETING 3/22/16 FOR PLANNING & ZONING BOARD MEETING

1G. DRC NO. 03-16-07: CONSIDERATION OF AN ORDINANCE FOR A CITY-WIDE MORATORIUM ON CHARTER SCHOOLS

Ben Ziskal explained that the City Commission had directed staff to create a moratorium on charter schools for the following reasons:

- several pieces of legislation have been filed in Tallahassee that might change the manner in which charter schools were funded, how charters were allocated to the schools, and the manner in which they were sited within a community and the types of properties on which they could be located.

- a number of charter schools in Broward County, including one in Margate, had opened, received money from the School Board, and then closed without advance warning forcing parents to find a new school. He said a charter school in Margate sent letters to parents on the Thursday prior to the end of winter break advising them the school would not be reopening on Monday and they had to find a new school.

- there had been a proliferation of charter schools. He said while Margate had only a few charter schools, it often received inquiries. He said the community and the City Commission had concerns that without providing amendments to the City's Zoning Code and without providing distance separations, Margate could see small charter schools opening in a number of shopping centers and flooding its commercial areas.

Mr. Ziskal explained that the ordinance before them was to pass a moratorium for six months, the maximum allowed by State Statute, to give staff time to evaluate the changes that came out of Tallahassee and also to look at any necessary changes to Margate's Code so as to allow the right charter schools without oversaturating the commercial sectors.

The Committee had no comments.

Mr. Ziskal advised that the ordinance would move forward to Planning and Zoning.