



# City of Margate

5790 Margate Boulevard  
Margate, FL 33063  
954-972-6454  
[www.margatefl.com](http://www.margatefl.com)

## Meeting Minutes City Commission Workshop

*Mayor Tommy Ruzzano*

*Vice Mayor Arlene R. Schwartz*

*Commissioners:*

*Antonio V. Arserio, Anthony N. Caggiano, Joanne Simone*

*City Manager Cale Curtis*

*City Attorney Janette M. Smith*

*City Clerk Joseph J. Kavanagh*

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Tuesday, May 12, 2020

4:00 PM

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83947868500>

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### CALL TO ORDER

### ROLL CALL

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

Commissioner Caggiano attended via Zoom

Commissioner Simone attended via Zoom

Commissioner Arserio attended via Zoom

Vice Mayor Schwartz attended via Zoom

Mayor Ruzzano attended in-person

City Manager Cale Curtis attended in person

City Attorney Janette M. Smith attended in person

City Clerk Joseph J. Kavanagh attended in person

### MOMENT OF SILENCE - INVOCATION

### PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

#### 1) PRESENTATION(S)

**A.** [ID 2020-178](#) COVID-19 UPDATE: WHAT TO EXPECT MOVING FORWARD.

MAYOR TOMMY RUZZANO explained the concept on organizing this Workshop and referenced a call with the County's Mayors about reopening. He indicated that the counties were approved to be opened up by Monday and for the businesses, as early as Thursday or Friday. He advised that at the moment, the County did not have a plan for re-opening and also said that he had been receiving calls on what to expect. He said that for this Workshop, he put together a group of people ranging from those along the front line in the hospitals to principals, School Board members, business owners, residents

and house of worship leaders. He said that West Palm Beach was given authority to go into Phase I and Miami Dade was looking to open on the Monday. He sought input and suggestions on what they were to expect and gave an example if someone entered a store without wearing a mask. He also wanted an open discussion for everyone to participate and that he did not plan on setting any rules for the City. He read the names from a list of participants for this Workshop.

COMMISSIONER ANTHONY N. CAGGIANO questioned if the State had specific guidelines of what the different Phases were for re-opening.

Discussion ensued including the term of "community leaders" for this Workshop.

BROWARD COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOL BOARD MEMBER, DISTRICT 7 NORA RUPERT introduced herself.

Discussion ensued on the conduct of the meeting.

COMMISSIONER ANTONIO V. ARSERIO said that 99.9 percent of the restrictions were put in place by the Florida State Governor DeSantis and by the County. He indicated that both he and Margate did not want to be more restrictive and that people should adhere to the rules. He said that he valued the community leaders but forewarned that most of the things that would be brought up today would probably not be for the City to handle. He thanked the Mayor for holding this Workshop and said that he would forward this video to the Governor's office and would also ensure that the County was aware of it. He expected staff to show a vision of what the new normal would look like.

MAYOR TOMMY RUZZANO repeated the objective of this meeting and elaborated on his discussion with many restaurant owners who were debating to have paper or plastic menus or whether they were going to have condiments on the table and that those were the type of issues he wanted to address with the community.

Discussion ensued on the objective of this meeting and what they hoped to accomplish.

COMMISSIONER JOANNE SIMONE explained that as there was a Broward County Workshop today pertaining to a plan to reopen, she requested the comments of City Manager Curtis. She informed that Broward County was going to send their End-of-Course (EOC) Order to the Governor for his approval. She said that there had been no mention that Broward County wanted to open up before May 18th.

Discussion ensued on how the meeting should be conducted and how people got selected on this panel.

BROWARD COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOL BOARD MEMBER RUPERT referenced plans and said that although they had home rule, the majority would have to do with the Governor. She aired on the side of caution that they would not open schools full time until the Fall at the earliest and said that it would also depend on the data and the facts. She said that she was incredibly worried about a new mutation that had come to light in the last few weeks which was hitting the children. She explained that children were showing more blood clots and referenced the Kawasaki disease with minor symptoms from the Coronavirus disease (COVID-19). She discussed the COVID-19 pandemic further and how it affected her from not partaking in events such as the food drives. She wanted to ensure that their employees and children were safe before they returned to school. She questioned where children were going to go if parents had to return to work before the pandemic ended and that they were waiting to hear from Broward County. She

said that it was a huge aspect that they had to deal with as they did not want the children home alone and that they certainly wanted to get their economy back up. She informed that their job was to ensure that their children were safe and to receive the best education in the world. She advised that at this moment, graduations were still virtual but they had a back-up plan scheduled for July and had reserved places for them to hold in person, graduations subject to there being no gigantic up tick in cases. She explained that they would be taping their graduation speeches and that all Commissioners were welcome to participate in those recordings. She said that a big issue for her was providing services of mental health, both for their employees and students and referenced multiple suicides in Deerfield Beach. She indicated that she was incredibly worried about the food and homes for the families and thanked the City for their support in getting Margate Middle as part of the food distribution. She said that they did not know what the Fall may look like with the possibility of a second wave and that she anticipated that there could be a hybrid with a combination of class room and remote teaching. She said that their staff were amazing and that she felt humbled seeing them putting their fears aside and distributing food, supplies and helping to get them services. She advised that people could contact her if they had questions and that Superintendent Runcie should have an answer on Summer camps in two weeks.

Discussion ensued on a question and answer session with Mrs. Rupert which included a grab and go service for families with the welcome of donations, working with Margate's Starbucks and the City thanking them for their service. Discussion also included the request of adding an additional Margate school for a food distribution and the public college system for education and athletes.

PHYL'S ACADEMY PRINCIPAL JAN CODLING provided an update on her school during the COVID-19 pandemic and invited Mayor Ruzzano and Mrs. Rupert to their parking lot graduation scheduled for May 31st.

MARGATE ELEMENTARY PRINCIPAL THOMAS SCHROEDER said that he appreciated Ms. Rupert's support and echoed many of the comments that she shared about the reopening of schools. He discussed his primary goal of keeping children connected in a virtual learning environment and highlighted the measures of how they were accomplishing this. He invited the Commission to join them for lunch bunch for Students of the Week via Zoom on Fridays.

Discussion ensued.

MARGATE RESIDENT KUMAR NAIR discussed the loss of a co-worker through COVID-19 and the seriousness of the virus. He referenced that Margate had approximately 132 cases and had concerns if those residents were self-quarantining while also questioning if the City could trace where those infected residents lived to avoid a spike in cases. He suggested that the City needed to open a testing center in Margate and that businesses needed to provide Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) for the residents.

Discussion ensued.

MARGATE RESIDENT DESIREE MILAN said that she recently worked in urgent care as a nurse and provided a detailed description of her experience.

Discussion ensued including the cost for COVID-19 testing, treatment, the turnaround time for results and uploading information to the City's webpage on sites offering free testing.

MAYOR RUZZANO thanked Abundant Life's Bishop Thomas for supplying the Firemen with lunch last week and questioned when they could re-open.

ABUNDANT LIFE BISHOP RICK THOMAS said that over the last several weeks, they had been preparing for re-opening and discussed the measures they made which included providing masks for everyone, sanitizing the church and the capacity issues which could result in the possibility of multiple services. He said that their church had always been there to take care of the hungry people and single mothers. He also said that they provided counseling.

Discussion ensued including details on how they could contact Abundant Life for assistance and information on virtual and archived services through social media.

ABUNDANT LIFE CHILDREN'S PASTOR HEATHER THOMAS discussed reopening and said that they would not have a kids' church. She continued to provide information on alternative children services including virtual and social media platforms.

COMMUNITY EMERGENCY RESPONSE TEAM (CERT) EDWARD A. DECRISTOFARO advised that they would have to follow Governor DeSantis and the City's guidelines pertaining to the restrictions and continue to adhere to social distancing and hygiene practices. He discussed the importance of the Stay at Home order to eradicate the spread of the virus, especially to those who felt unwell. He said that he was working with Captain Pickering and referenced the Vulnerable Population report where he and his team would call people from a list to see if they needed help. He advised that they were following The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and listening to Dr Anthony S. Fauci.

VICE MAYOR SCHWARTZ said that the vulnerable population should contact North West Focal Point Senior Center (NWFPSC) Project Director Karin Diaz and recommended Mr. DeCristofaro to do likewise for further information.

COKESBURY UNITED METHODIST CHURCH LARRY referenced a Trustee's meeting last night and echoed much of the same things which were previously mentioned by Abundant's Life Bishop Thomas pertaining to sanitizing, masks and social distancing. He said that they would be continuing to do videotaping. He also referenced that the Florida Conference had set a date of June 15th for re-opening.

CERT MEMBER AND HOMEOWNERS ASSOCIATION (HOA) PRESIDENT OF PARADISE GARDENS III ELSA J. SANCHEZ, discussed a recent webinar with some Board members and their Attorney where she was advised that HoAs could be more restrictive than those measures imposed by the City or Federal Government. She continued to discuss rules pertaining to her HoA and referenced the sanitization for the communal pool area and Clubhouse. She spoke of the importance of complying and also forewarned that people should contact their respective HoA and insurance companies for guidance on Regulations. She highlighted the positive feedback she had received from residents and said that this was a great meeting.

Discussion ensued on sanitization, keeping the Clubhouse closed, opening the HoA pools and uploading frequently asked questions pertaining to COVID-19 onto the City's website.

CITY ATTORNEY JANETTE M. SMITH said that she checked with the Public Information Officers (PIO) in the City Manager's Office concerning Governor DeSantis' Executive

Orders and the County's Emergency Orders which were available on the website.

Discussion ensued on Wawa and the language of the Executive Orders which should be written in plain English.

WAWA MANAGER (MARGATE) JARROD BLUM explained that they did a deep cleaning session between 2:00am - 3:00am and that they must follow the company's and County's guidelines.

MAYOR RUZZANO thanked Mr. Blum for all the work he and the store did in the community.

MARGATE RESIDENT MR. NAIR questioned Wawa's policy on facial coverings.

Discussion ensued on Wawa including serving customers without facial coverings, self-serve dispensers, sanitizing and the number of employees at the Margate branch.

The Roll Call was performed.

Discussion ensued.

PETE'S BARBER SHOP STEVEN P. STROUSE explained that he was willing to take the risk to open with caution. He informed that he would be responsible for their employees and clients, that proper sanitation would be applied and that everyone would be wearing a mask. He continued to discuss his proposed operational procedures and highlighted the importance of returning to work.

Discussion ensued including using ultraviolet light to kill germs, requirements for temperature checks and appointments made for barber shops.

MARGATE STUDENT AND RESIDENT JOE BRANDAO discussed a contingency plan of having the college closed for the rest of the semester where they would have all classes online. He indicated that this protocol was similar to universities such as Florida Atlantic University (FAU), The Universal Academy of Florida (UAF) and Miami Dade College. He suggested that Margate could have an outreach program, in conjunction with Coconut Creek and Broward College, with the use of social media.

Discussion ensued including an outreach program.

KEEP OUR MONEY IN MARGATE GROUP (KOMIM) ROBERT REINER said that businesses could not make up for lost revenue but the only thing a business could do at this point was to increase the revenue in order to survive. He discussed how KOMIM was set up and explained that when businesses re-open, they should start a marketing campaign program by using the acronym of Let's All Go Out (LAGO).

Discussion ensued on LAGO, clarifying the purpose of this Workshop and changing the marketing campaign acronym to the Grand Reopening of Margate (GROM).

BROWARD COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOL BOARD MEMBER RUPERT referenced Mr. Reiner's KOMIM and spoke on the importance of supporting local businesses and providing information on the website.

Discussion ensued including the benefits of KOMIM.

WAY BACK WHEN ANTIQUE & COLLECTIBLE JOEY RUIZ thanked everyone who participated in this meeting. He explained how they were following guidelines and that his store was taking the necessary precautions. He questioned when the City was going to post their guidelines on their website together with those from Broward County and Governor DeSantis.

Discussion ensued including reopening, non-essential businesses and information pertaining to Emergency Reimbursement Grant for Small Businesses Community Redevelopment Agency (CRA) grant.

COMMISSIONER ARSERIO requested the consideration of a future City Commission Agenda item for Discussion and Possible Action on the temporary lifting of restrictions of balloons, feather banners and signs for a City Grand re-opening.

Discussion ensued.

CITY ATTORNEY SMITH thanked the Commission for putting this Workshop together and apologized for the confusion by referencing community leaders. She said it was a good seminar and Workshop for the business owners and their community leaders in coming together to discuss. She advised that the City was following all the Executive and Emergency Orders and that they were working collaboratively in getting the information out.

CITY CLERK JOSEPH J. KAVANAGH apologized to the City Commission for the technical issues at the start of the meeting. He realized it was frustrating but hoped that ultimately, the meeting accomplished what it was supposed to and thanked everyone for their patience.

CHIEF OF POLICE, JON SHAW thanked the amazing outpouring of support from everyone in the City and community towards his department. He explained that he received many questions on the organizational structure on how the Police Department were doing things during the pandemic.

MS. SANCHEZ referenced the reopening and questioned what the Police Department could enforce.

CHIEF OF POLICE SHAW explained that the way to enforce was through education and also to be present to ensure that people would comply.

MARGATE RESIDENT NAIR questioned if they could enforce COVID-19 residents to stay at home.

VICE MAYOR SCHWARTZ explained that due to the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA), they would not have any idea of where COVID-19 residents lived.

CHIEF OF POLICE SHAW said that they did not necessarily get informed of who carried the COVID-19 virus.

Discussion ensued on the Police's second annual virtual Crime Watch meeting, the recording of crime and an increase in vehicle burglaries and retail theft during the pandemic.

FIRE CHIEF ROBERTO LORENZO echoed Chief Shaw's comments and expressed his

appreciation for the outpouring of support in the community including the delivering of food for their firefighters. He said that the fire crew and law enforcement were at the front line of COVID-19 pandemic and that across the board, the City management staff had supported them 100%. He discussed the latest development on the task force which was set up in early 2020 for the Fire Department to have more control and command of the things they needed to accomplish such as the CDC. He said that the three objectives were prevention, procedures and policies and he also discussed the decrease in call volume over the last few months but indicated an increase in approximately five to six COVID-19 flu-like symptom calls. He said to date, they have had zero percentage of COVID-19 diagnosis for any of their firefighters. He continued to discuss the Fire Department's report.

Discussion ensued including the Fire Department procedures and precautions for every shift, COVID-19 test kits and PPE.

MS. SANCHEZ thanked Fire Chief Lorenzo for their support at a hospital and to the Chief of Police Shaw for giving support for those celebrating special birthdays.

CITY MANAGER CALE D. CURTIS thanked the Commission for holding this informative Workshop. He provided an update on Executive Orders and confirmed that the City had ensured that they were not more restrictive. He indicated that from today's Broward County Commissioners' Workshop, there was optimism that the County would be allowed to be included into Phase I of reopening Florida from the very soon to be issued Executive Order of Governor DeSantis. He said that they were hoping that the Executive Order would come out this week and be effective May 18, 2020 and anticipated what it could essentially look like. He advised that once the Executive Order was received, they would blast that out on all communication channels and that they would ensure that it was clear and easy to read for businesses to open up and to ensure that they were compliant.

Discussion ensued including re-opening of beaches and boat ramps and that information pertaining to barber shops would be available on [myfloridalicense.com](http://myfloridalicense.com).

MR. DECRISTOFARO thanked Mayor Ruzzano and staff for putting this Workshop together and sent a reminder on the forthcoming Hurricane season and preparedness.

COMMISSIONER ARSERIO questioned whether Bill Busch participated in this Workshop or sent correspondence.

CITY CLERK KAVANAGH confirmed that he did not receive any correspondence from Mr. Bill Busch and that he did not see him show up in the chat.

COMMISSIONER ARSERIO referenced identical questions of Dan Booker, Lesa Peerman and Charlie Artner.

CITY CLERK KAVANAGH said that he did not see Dan Booker submit anything to be read into the meeting but recalled seeing the last name "Booker" in the chat at the beginning of the meeting but was unsure if that was Dan Booker. He also confirmed that he did not receive an email from Lesa Peerman or Charlie Artner and said that he was unaware if they were in the chat for the Workshop.

#### COMMISSION COMMENTS

COMMISSIONER CAGGIANO read a statement from The National Institute of Allergy and

Infectious Diseases', Dr. Fauci, at today's Senate Health Committee pertaining to the concerns of lifting the Stay at Home COVID-19 guidelines too quickly. He spoke of the importance of continuing to adhere to the guidelines to avoid a second wave.

COMMISSIONER SIMONE addressed her comments pertaining to the Agenda and said that they needed to do it in a balanced and safe way and that it was everybody's responsibility to be compliant to the guidelines. She advised that it should be reported if people were not adhering to The CDC Safety guidelines. She also requested the possibility of relaxing their Code requirements such as signage and outdoor seating. She thanked those participants who called in and provided comments pertaining to the pandemic.

COMMISSIONER ARSERIO thanked their first responders and City staff. He said that he felt that Margate was more prepared than most municipalities and discussed the same. He thanked the Mayor for putting together this Workshop and said that the outcome of the meeting was a huge success. He spoke of the loss of his Grandmother due to COVID-19. He expressed the need to re-open but said that they were at a crossroads and also spoke about supporting local businesses. He said that he was disappointed that a couple of other community leaders did not participate in today's Workshop.

VICE MAYOR SCHWARTZ echoed everything that was said, thanked the community who had called in and those who had stayed home. She suggested the acronym of "Let's All Be Out Responsibly" (LABOR). She highlighted the Drive-By Birthdays and advised that appointments could be made via the Margate Police Department's Facebook page.

MAYOR RUZZANO thanked everyone for participating and repeated the concept behind the meeting. He said that the City Manager and staff were doing a great job. He discussed relaxing the City Code to help businesses.

COMMISSIONER SIMONE suggested that City Manager Curtis call County Administrator Bertha Henry to obtain a checklist similar to what South Carolina was using.

CITY MANAGER CURTIS said that was a possibility.

Discussion ensued on a general recommendation list.

COMMISSIONER ARSERIO requested small businesses to be cognizant of older employees and those with immune deficiencies or child care issues.

## ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 7:30pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Transcribed by Salene E. Edwards

\_\_\_\_\_  
Joseph J. Kavanagh, 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.

[Appendix A – Zoning – Section 3.3] 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 advisory boards may be in attendance and may participate at the meeting.

#### MARGATE CITY COMMISSION WORKSHOP FINDINGS AND PROCEDURE FOR VIRTUAL PUBLIC MEETING

The Margate City Commission ("MCC") is holding a virtual public hearing on Tuesday, May 12, 2020 at 4 p.m. This statement explains the MCC's findings related to the need to hold the virtual public meeting, and the ability of the public to access the virtual public meeting.

The MCC's findings and procedure for the virtual public meeting are as follows:

- Pursuant to Governor DeSantis' Executive Orders 20-51 and 20-52, in which the Governor declared a public health emergency and a state of emergency, there is a recommendation to limit public gatherings.
- On March 20, 2020, Governor DeSantis issued Executive Order 20-69, suspending the quorum requirements for public meetings held by a local government body, and the requirement that a local government body must meet at a specific public place.
- Consistent with the authority contained in the Governor's Executive Orders, and in order to ensure the health, safety, and welfare of the MCC's clients and employees, the MCC finds that it is in the best interest of the MCC to hold this virtual public meeting.
- Therefore, the MCC will be holding this virtual meeting through the use of electronic communication. Members of the public are invited to join the MCC meeting by accessing the meeting through this link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83947868500> or can listen in via telephone by calling one of the following phone numbers: US: +1 312 626 6799 or +1 929 205 6099 or +1 253 215 8782 or +1 301 715 8592 or +1 346 248 7799 or +1 669 900 6833 - Webinar ID: 839-4786-8500
- A copy of the Agenda for this Virtual Meeting is posted on [www.MargateFL.com](http://www.MargateFL.com) and on the main bulletin board outside City Hall located at 5790 Margate Blvd, Margate, FL 33063.
- Any comments related to any item on the agenda can be submitted to the MCC via the following e-mail address: [JJKAVANAGH@MARGATEFL.COM](mailto:JJKAVANAGH@MARGATEFL.COM)

**INSTRUCTIONS FOR PARTICIPATING IN THE CITY OF MARGATE'S VIRTUAL COMMISSION MEETING**

TUESDAY, MAY 12, 2020 AT 4PM

**THROUGH THE CITY'S WEBSITE:**

Go to [www.margatefl.com](http://www.margatefl.com)

Go to "Agendas & Minutes" > Find the respective meeting date and click "Agenda Summary" to view the agenda items and see the Zoom meeting website address

**THROUGH COMCAST CHANNEL 78:**

If you are a Comcast/Xfinity customer, please go to Channel 78 to view the meeting.

PRIOR to the start of the meeting, email Public Comments to [JJKAVANAGH@MARGATEFL.COM](mailto:JJKAVANAGH@MARGATEFL.COM) (all public comments that are three (3) minutes or less will be read into the record.)

**ALTERNATE OPTION FOR VIEWING AND PARTICIPATING IN THE MEETING:****THROUGH ZOOM TECHNOLOGY:**

Instructions for Attendees\Participants:

Topic: "Virtual City Commission Workshop"

Enter the following link to join the webinar: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83947868500>

Telephone:

Dial (for higher quality, dial a number based on your current location):

US: 1-669-900-6833 or 1-929-205-6099 or 253-215-8782 or 301-715-8592 or 312-626-6799 or 346-248-7799

Webinar ID: 839-4786-8500

To virtually raise hand and be acknowledged to speak:

1. Users who call in can dial \*9 to raise their hand
2. If going through mobile (phone\tablet) app, to raise hand select "Participants", then see option to raise hand.
3. On the computer users should click "Participants" then see option to raise hand
4. Once you have been selected to speak, you will be prompted to unmute your device or stay muted.