

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

Tuesday, January 17, 2023  
12:00 Noon – 1:00 PM

Koyou Buffet  
8000 West Sample Road  
Margate, FL 33063

**CALL TO ORDER**

Mayor Caggiano, City of Margate, called the meeting to order at 12:27 p.m. and welcomed those in attendance. Self-introductions were made around the room.

**MEMBERS PRESENT:**

<b>Vice Mayor Sandra Welch</b>	<b>Coconut Creek</b>
<b>Commissioner Jacqueline Railey</b>	<b>Coconut Creek</b>
<b>Commissioner Rebecca Tooley</b>	<b>Coconut Creek</b>
<b>Commissioner Tycie Causwell</b>	<b>Lauderdale Lakes</b>
<b>Commissioner Sharon Thomas</b>	<b>Lauderdale Lakes</b>
<b>Commissioner Melissa P. Dunn</b>	<b>Lauderhill</b>
<b>Commissioner Denise D. Grant</b>	<b>Lauderhill</b>
<b>Commissioner Lawrence “Jabbow” Martin</b>	<b>Lauderhill</b>
<b>Vice Mayor Sarai “Ray” Martin</b>	<b>Lauderhill</b>
<b>Mayor Ken Thurston</b>	<b>Lauderhill</b>
<b>Mayor Anthony N. Caggiano</b>	<b>Margate</b>
<b>Vice Mayor Tommy Ruzzano</b>	<b>Margate</b>
<b>Commissioner Antonio V. Arserio</b>	<b>Margate</b>
<b>Commissioner Arlene R. Schwartz</b>	<b>Margate</b>
<b>Commissioner Joanne Simone</b>	<b>Margate</b>
<b>Commissioner Luke Lewis</b>	<b>North Lauderdale</b>
<b>Mayor Richard Walker</b>	<b>Parkland</b>
<b>Commissioner Ken Cutler</b>	<b>Parkland</b>
<b>Commissioner Bob Mayersohn</b>	<b>Parkland</b>

**ALSO PRESENT:**

<b>Cale Curtis, City Manager</b>	<b>Margate</b>
<b>Larry Vignola, Asst. City Manager</b>	<b>Margate</b>
<b>Joseph Galaska, Chief of Police</b>	<b>Margate</b>
<b>Michael Wallace, Communications Manager</b>	<b>Margate</b>
<b>Roberto Lorenzo, Fire Chief</b>	<b>Margate</b>
<b>Luis Villar, Division Chief</b>	<b>Margate</b>
<b>Jennifer Johnson, City Clerk</b>	<b>Margate</b>
<b>Ayesha Robinson, Asst. City Clerk</b>	<b>Margate</b>
<b>Isamar Viveros, Clerk Coordinator</b>	<b>Margate</b>
<b>Joe Scott</b>	<b>Supervisor of Elections</b>

## **1. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Approval of the meeting minutes for the December 12, 2022 meeting hosted by the City of Coral Springs.

Commissioner Thomas, City of Lauderdale Lakes, moved to approve the minutes of December 12, 2022, as presented. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Cutler, City of Parkland. There was a unanimous voice vote of approval.

## **2. OLD BUSINESS**

Mayor Caggiano, City of Margate, spoke about the Auto Parts Antitrust Litigation settlement. He hoped other municipalities participated and received settlement funds. Mayor Caggiano reminded the elected officials about the 2023 Senior Hall of Fame. He said nominations should be sent to the Area Agency on Aging of Broward County by March 3, 2023.

Commissioner Tooley, City of Coconut Creek, requested the elected officials attend the Broward County School Board meeting on January 24, 2023 to speak in support of Dr. Vickie Cartwright.

There was a recess after Old Business and the meeting reconvened at 12:47 p.m.

## **3. NEW BUSINESS**

Broward County Supervisor of Elections Joe Scott spoke about the November election. He acknowledged there were some issues with precincts and polling locations, and took responsibility for them. He stated his office is working to correct the issues.

Supervisor Scott spoke about the "Vote by Mail" process and how it relates to election cycles. He explained those who choose to vote by mail need to register/re-register by December 31<sup>st</sup> of even numbered years. Commissioner Railey, City of Coconut Creek, requested a mobile unit be deployed to visit municipalities to assist voters with registration and provide election information.

Commissioner Schwartz, City of Margate, inquired about the loss of six precincts in Margate and the issues that occurred at the Cokesbury United Methodist Church and Abundant Life Church locations. Supervisor Scott stated he was aware of the issues at both locations. He said voters assigned to those two locations were not aware there had been a location change. Mayor Caggiano, City of Margate, suggested the Supervisor of Election's office notify municipalities when changes have been made to voting sites or when registration deadlines are approaching so the information can be distributed on local platforms via email blasts, social media and website postings.

Supervisor Scott stated he is currently studying municipality maps for redistricting purposes. He encouraged the elected officials look at maps of their cities and provide him with their feedback. Supervisor Scott confirmed the additional redistricting is going to be based on community input. He explained precincts are located within a municipalities boundary and polling places are established in locations within the precincts. Commissioner Simone, City of Margate, thanked Mr. Scott for his efforts trying to secure Holiday Springs as a polling place.

Commissioner Simone, City of Margate, said during the last election, the 150 foot restricted campaigning area was moved back several times at the polling sites she visited. Commissioner Arserio, City of Margate, spoke as a voter and stated the several letters he received about changes to voting locations for the different elections was very confusing. He also asked Supervisor Scott to consider hiring non-resident poll workers. He stated having resident poll workers could be influential. Supervisor Scott responded it has traditionally always been this way, but he will consider it. Commissioner Schwartz inquired how Margate could obtain an additional polling site. Supervisor Scott encouraged Commissioner Schwartz to contact him to discuss the options.

#### **4. SCHEDULE OF NEXT MEETING**

Mayor Caggiano, City of Margate, announced that the next Northwest Council of Elected Officials meeting would be hosted by the City of Parkland at Aston Gardens at Parkland Commons on February 6, 2023.

#### **ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 1:28 p.m.



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Ayesha Robinson, CMC  
Assistant City Clerk