

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

Tuesday, January 12, 2021  
12:00 Noon – 1:00 PM

Zoom Meeting  
Virtual Meeting <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89226300007>  
Webinar ID: 892 2630 0007  
By Phone: US: 1-669-900-6833 or 1-929-205-6099

**CALL TO ORDER**

Mayor Schwartz, City of Margate, called the meeting to order at 12:00 p.m. She called for a moment of silence and then the Pledge of Allegiance. The Mayor called for a roll call and self-introductions were made around the room.

**MEMBERS PRESENT:**

Commissioner Sandra L. Welch	Coconut Creek
Commissioner Mikkie Belvedere	Coconut Creek
Commissioner Becky Tooley	Coconut Creek
Vice Mayor Joshua Simmons	Coral Springs
Commissioner Nancy Metayer	Coral Springs
Commissioner Joy Carter	Coral Springs
Mayor Hazelle P. Rogers	Lauderdale Lakes
Vice Mayor Beverly Williams	Lauderdale Lakes
Commissioner Veronica Edwards Phillips	Lauderdale Lakes
Commissioner Marilyn Davis	Lauderdale Lakes
Commissioner Karlene Maxwell-Williams	Lauderdale Lakes
Mayor Kenneth Thurston	Lauderhill
Commissioner Lawrence "Jabbow" Martin	Lauderhill
Commissioner Sarai "Ray" Martin	Lauderhill
Commissioner Denise D. Grant	Lauderhill
Mayor Arlene R. Schwartz	Margate
Vice Mayor Antonio V. Arserio	Margate
Commissioner Tommy Ruzzano	Margate
Commissioner Anthony N. Caggiano	Margate
Mayor Ana M. Ziade	North Lauderdale
Vice Mayor Mario Bustamante	North Lauderdale
Mayor Richard Walker	Parkland
Vice Mayor Bob Mayersohn	Parkland
Commissioner Ken Cutler	Parkland
Assistant Deputy Mayor Jacqueline A. Guzman	Sunrise
Commissioner Mike Gelin	Tamarac

**ALSO PRESENT:**

<b>Cale Curtis, City Manager</b>	<b>Margate</b>
<b>Larry Vignola, Assistant City Manager</b>	<b>Margate</b>
<b>Roberto Lorenzo, Fire Chief</b>	<b>Margate</b>
<b>Luis Villar, Division Chief</b>	<b>Margate</b>
<b>Joseph J. Kavanagh, City Clerk</b>	<b>Margate</b>
<b>Isamar Viveros, Office Specialist III</b>	<b>Margate</b>
<b>Deidra Rogers, Community Engagement Liaison</b>	<b>Tamarac</b>
<b>Dr. Antonio Gandia</b>	<b>Mount Sinai Medical Center</b>

**1. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Approval of the meeting minutes for the December 14, 2020 meeting hosted by the City of Coral Springs.

Mayor Ziade, City of North Lauderdale, moved to approve the minutes. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Carter, City of Coral Springs. There was a unanimous voice vote of approval.

**2. OLD BUSINESS**

Vice Mayor Arserio, City of Margate, spoke about direct funding to the Cities versus the County in receiving Cares Act funding. He has a meeting to discuss this with Congressman Ted Deutch and he encourages everyone to voice his or her opinion.

**3. NEW BUSINESS**

Mayor Schwartz, City of Margate, introduced the speakers for the meeting from the City of Margate. Roberto Lorenzo, Fire Chief and Luis Villar, Division Chief, would be giving an update on COVID.

Fire Chief Lorenzo, City of Margate, thanked the Commission for allowing him the opportunity to present today. He discussed the task force that was created in February 2020 that focused on three key areas. Those areas were preparing the employees to combat COVID, setting up procedures that were realistic and practical and developing policies per CDC guidelines.

Division Chief Villar, City of Margate, presented the current COVID case count numbers, discussed the holiday surge and hospital bed capacity for Broward County. He also discussed the COVID vaccine and who is eligible to receive it at this time.

Dr. Gandia, Mount Sinai Medical Center, stated that the Broward County hospitals are sending out notices that they are in critical capacity. Everyone needs to stay vigilant and he is a proponent of the vaccine.

Mayor Schwartz, City of Margate, asked about ventilator usage in the hospitals.

Dr. Gandia, Mount Sinai Medical Center, discussed the use of ventilators and how they try to use them as a last resort. They prefer to use other techniques first.

Vice Mayor Arserio, City of Margate, asked if field hospitals would be used in the future. He also asked who would qualify as a first responder.

Dr. Gandia, Mount Sinai Medical Center, said they have the capability if need be.

Division Chief Villar, City of Margate, stated front line workers and those exposed on a daily basis to patients would qualify as first responders. He further discussed mobile hospitals and how hospitals have turned to on-site tents to deal with the overage of patients, which has worked better.

Discussion ensued on vaccinations, who is eligible at this time and vaccination pods.

Division Chief Villar, City of Margate, stated the COVID variant is more contagious at this time but that the data is limited. He said 2021, in terms of mask wearing and social distancing, would be similar to 2020.

Mayor Ziade, City of North Lauderdale, asked about elective surgeries and the current surge. She further asked about hospital visitation and if it would be changing in the future.

Dr. Gandia, Mount Sinai Medical Center, said they are back with elective surgeries but not at 100%. He discussed the lack of visitation rights at the hospitals. He further discussed the vaccine and its transmission.

Discussion ensued on the age group that COVID affects and how sick people have gotten. Second vaccination shots and availability or shots were also discussed.

Vice Mayor Arserio, City of Margate, suggested sending a letter to the County or the Broward League of Cities to have a central vaccination website, which would show all vaccination sites and vaccination availability.

Mayor Schwartz, City of Margate, mentioned the Mayors meeting on Thursday and discussing the request at that time.

Commissioner Martin, City of Lauderhill, mentioned how the State is collaborating with Publix for vaccine distribution and recommended it to be discussed during the Mayors meeting.

Commissioner Ruzzano, City of Margate, discussed his recent appointment to the Broward League of Cities task force, which will discuss the State addressing the ban of smoking in public places. He asked if the State should mandate it or allow the Cities to. He asked how other felt about smoking in public places and beaches or if they had any other ideas as he was looking for support.

Vice Mayor Arserio, City of Margate, said the State took away Home Rule authority and that the State has the sole authority to regulate smoking. Nothing to do in terms of enforcement. Task force will lobby to the State to give back authority to the Cities. He is supportive of the task force and the right for the City to make that decision for itself.

Vice Mayor Mayersohn, City of Parkland, stated there is currently a bill that discusses smoking (SB 670) and the companion bill in the house that is in draft form and not yet released. He is in support of the task force and anything that can be done to facilitate it.

Mayor Schwartz, City of Margate, supported the task force.

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

Mayor Schwartz, City of Margate, announced that the February 2021 Northwest Council of Elected Officials meeting would be hosted by the City of Parkland on Monday, February 8, 2021.

#### **ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 12:58 p.m.



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Jennifer M. Johnson, MMC  
Assistant City Clerk