



City of Margate

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Legislation Text

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TO: Mayor and City Commission

FROM: Douglas E. Smith, City Manager

DATE: January 20, 2016

BROWARD COUNTY ORDINANCE REGARDING CIVIL CITATION FOR CANNABIS POSSESSION

BACKGROUND: On November 10, 2015, The Broward County Commission approved an Ordinance where police officers will have the option of issuing a \$150 civil citation to someone caught with 20 grams or less of marijuana instead of filing a misdemeanor criminal charge against that person.

A \$250 citation would be given for a second offense and a \$500 citation for a third offense. Violators would also have to complete an assessment/treatment plan. In lieu of paying fines for first and second offenses, violators may participate in a community service, drug treatment, or educational program which has been approved by the County Administrator. Violators receiving a civil citation for a third violation must consent to participate in a screening and then complete a treatment and educational program or pay a fine, depending upon the result of the screening.

The City of Margate received a letter from Broward County Administrator, Bertha Henry inquiring as to whether our City will be opting out of this ordinance. The initial request was for a response by December 31, 2015; however, this time frame was extended to February 5, 2015.

RECOMMENDATION: For discussion

FISCAL IMPACT: For discussion

CONTACT PERSON: Douglas E. Smith, City Manager