

City Of Margate
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Margate invites Middle School students to hold mock Commission Meeting

Margate, FL, October 18, 2006 – On October 25, 2006 the City of Margate will host a one-day field trip for Student Government students from Margate Middle school. Students will get a sneak peak into various City departments as well as hold a mock City Commission meeting.

The City was recently invited to participate in a program initiated by the *Florida League of Cities* called *Florida City Government Week*. The *League* sends out sample proclamations and educational materials to encourage cities to participate in the effort to “recognize the important role played by city government in our lives,” and to “spread the word to all citizens of Florida that they are an integral part of the government that is closest to the people [city government].”

“The objectives set by the *League* runs parallel to our City Manager’s goals which were spelled out in this year’s budget message. And the program provided a great opportunity for some community outreach,” explained Public Information Officer Kery Venezia.

City manager Frank Porcella’s message included the following goal: “...get out in the public and educate them as to the running of Margate’s government... listen to both residents and businesses, balance their ideas and make recommendations when possible.”

In addition, Vice Mayor David McLean, a life-long resident of the City, was an early champion of the program. His father was one of Margate’s first City Commissioners and he distinctly remembers touring the City when he was in school. “These kids are the future leaders of tomorrow. Since I’ve been elected, for the past three years, I’ve participated in Margate Middle School’s career day and I’ve witnessed first hand the interest the kids have in city government,” said Vice Mayor David McLean.

Margate has given tours of various city departments in the past (i.e. police, commission chambers) but touring the whole city all in one day is something new.

At approximately 9:30 a.m. the tour will start with a lesson on Margate City Government, followed by a mock city commission meeting, and tour of the Police Department. Lunch will be held at Calypso Cove Aquatic facility and continue in the afternoon with a tour of the city water plant and public works facility.

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