

## MINUTES

**FOR THE 2000 REDISTRICTING COMMISSION  
OF THE CITY OF SAN DIEGO  
OF  
WEDNESDAY, JUNE 6, 2001  
IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBERS - 12<sup>TH</sup> FLOOR**

### CHRONOLOGY OF THE MEETING:

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Pesqueira at 4:05 p.m. Chairman Pesqueira adjourned the meeting at 7:18 p.m. to the next scheduled Redistricting Commission Meeting of June 13, 2001, at 4:00 p.m. in the Council Chambers, 12<sup>th</sup> floor City Administration Building.

#### **ITEM-1: CALL TO ORDER**

Chairman Ralph Pesqueira called the meeting to order at 4:05 p.m.

#### **ITEM-2: ROLL CALL**

Operations Director Staajabu Heshimu called the roll:

- (C) Chairman Ralph R. Pesqueira-present
- (VC) Vice Chairman Leland T. Saito-present
- (M) Mateo R. Camarillo-present
- (M) Charles W. Johnson-present
- (M) Marichu G. Magaña-present
- (M) Shirley ODell-present
- (M) Juan Antonio Ulloa-present

REDISTRICTING COMMISSION ACTION: (Tape location: A004-007.)

ATTENDANCE DURING THE MEETING:

- (C) Chairman Ralph R. Pesqueira-present
- (VC) Vice Chairman Leland T. Saito-present
- (M) Mateo R. Camarillo-present
- (M) Charles W. Johnson-present
- (M) Marichu G. Magaña-present
- (M) Shirley Odell-present
- (M) Juan Antonio Ulloa-present

Also present was:

Deputy City Attorney Lisa Foster  
Kathy Mayou Valverde, City Manager's Liaison  
Operations Director Staajabu Heshimu  
Senior Planner Joey Perry

**ITEM-3: NON-AGENDA COMMENT**

This portion of the agenda provides an opportunity for members of the public to address the Redistricting Commission on items of interest within the jurisdiction of the Commission.

Comments are limited to no more than two minutes per speaker. Submit requests to speak to the Operations Director prior to 4:00 p.m. Pursuant to the Ralph M. Brown Act, no discussion or action, other than a referral, will be taken by the Redistricting Commission on any issue brought forth under "Non-Agenda Comment."

**Speaker 1**                      Mark Conlan

I have a question for the Commission. I was under the impression from the previous meeting that I attended that at this stage there would already be a draft map of the new districts, and that the purpose of this round of meetings was to solicit community input on a draft map before your Commission finalizes the map. Judging from today's agenda, I appear to be mistaken in that. What I would like to know is when a draft map would be available, and what, if any, public comment would occur between the time you draft a map and the time you finalize it.

REDISTRICTING COMMISSION ACTION:                      (Tape location: A008-023.)

Chairman Pesqueira explained that was the initial schedule but because of software glitches they had to delay it. If all goes well, there will be a demonstration of the computer program later on tonight. Once they get the preliminary map finished there will be time allotted for additional public comments. They are expecting to have some of the draft maps in the later part of June.

REDISTRICTING COMMISSION ACTION:                      (Tape location: A024-036.)

**CONSENT ITEMS**

**ITEM-4:                      APPROVAL OF COMMISSION MINUTES**

Approval by Common Consent of Commission Minutes for the meeting of April 30, 2001.

REDISTRICTING COMMISSION ACTION:                      (Tape location: A037-040.)

**ACTION ITEMS**

**ITEM-5:                      DIRECTOR'S REPORT**

Ms. Heshimu stated that Joey Perry has spent a lot of time trying working with the new redistricting software, working out "glitches" and loading pertinent information onto staff computers. Ms. Heshimu wants to recognize and thank the people from San Diego Data Processing Corporation who assisted Ms. Perry. They are also working on getting population data and other information up on the web page by next week. Ms. Heshimu noted that people would not be able to play with the Maptitude program over the Internet, but they will be able to get all of the information needed to construct their own map(s).

Ms. Heshimu explained that on June 20<sup>th</sup> neither of the City Administration Building meeting rooms are available. The Commission meeting will be held in the Executive Complex right across the street.

Ms. Heshimu announced that staff has identified the geographic areas on the map where they believe the Commission should convene the public hearings, staff will begin reserving the facilities next week. Ms. Heshimu recommended rehiring JA Consultants to help with public outreach and education for this set of public hearings as they did a great job on the previous hearings.

Ms. ODell wondered if there was a running total or report on the budget. She expressed concern about committing to future expenses.

Ms. Heshimu assured the Commission that they are in no danger of going over the budget.

Mr. Ulloa expressed his concern about Ms. Perry's half-time status, and hoped the issue would be resolved before the heavy workload they will be up against in the next couple weeks.

Ms. Valverde said that the City Manager does want to maintain the original agreement made with the Redistricting Commission which is 50 percent of Ms. Perry's time.

Ms. Magaña reminded the Commission that the consultant's fee had a maximum of \$50,000. They had originally budgeted for an amount greater than that. If the consultants were to use the maximum stipulated, it would still be well within their budget.

Ms. Foster asked about targeted outreach and noticed there was something in the packet regarding outreach to City Heights residents. Ms. Foster requested information about the feedback from City Heights.

Ms. Heshimu explained that the Commission had expressed its interest in hearing from that particular community. Since they did not hear from that community at the public hearings, staff is looking at opportunities to do a special outreach.

Mr. Saito asked if the information the Commission received on voting patterns could be placed on next week's agenda.

**REDISTRICTING COMMISSION ACTION:** (Tape location: A041-222.)

**ITEM-6: DEMONSTRATION OF REDISTRICTING SOFTWARE**

Ms. Perry gave a demonstration of the new redistricting software, Maptitude by Calipers. Ms. Perry stated that the information for the city's split census blocks had not been input. The demonstration proceeded with Commissioners interacting on various exercises, moving existing council district boundaries and asking questions about the resulting configurations.

Chairman Pesqueira asked for an estimate on how long it would take to input the ethnic data into the program in order to find out whether they have helped or harmed any protected group with the changes they made to the map.

Ms. Perry said the information regarding the protected groups would be available for next week's meeting.

Ms. Heshimu stated that she recalls in previous discussions that the Commission expressed what information they wanted displayed. She assured the Commissioner that staff will go as fast as they can, that they hoped to have all the requested information loaded before next week. Ms. Heshimu asked the Commission if they preferred that staff bring the computer and Maptitude program to each meeting so the Commissioners can draw maps. The option is to direct staff how to draw the map or maps they wanted..

Chairman Pesqueira suggested that the Commission keep in mind they cannot dilute the voting strength of any ethnic population.

Ms. ODell inquired if staff had any idea of the number of split census tracts.

Ms. Perry stated in some cases there can be significant population shifts like in the area of Pacific Beach.

Mr. Ulloa asked since the Commission was already there with the program and the capability, if they could draft a map based on requests from the public hearings that were not controversial.

Mr. Saito asked if there is a census tract that is partly commercial and partly residential could that be a determining factor for splitting a census tract.

Ms. Foster explained the Charter states to the extent that it is practical. There is not an absolute prohibition, but it is ideal to maintain whole census units. Ms. Foster apologized for not correcting the Commission sooner when referring to split census tracts rather than census units. It is census units that should be kept whole, not necessarily census tracts.

Mr. Johnson wondered if staff could get more clarification on the College Grove area because the boundary lines seems to contradict what was testified at one of the public hearings.

Chairman Pesqueira asked if staff could arrange for the representatives of the City Heights planning group to come down and talk to the Commission.

Mr. Ulloa requested it would be important to contact any and all subgroups from that area as well.

Ms. Heshimu informed they are currently working on special outreach in that community.

Ms. ODell recommended council districts be put on glycine sheets to make it easier to keep up with the constant changes made during the map exercise.

Chairman Pesqueira asked staff what exactly will they be able to accomplish by next week.

Ms. Heshimu explained what they hope to accomplish by next week, and asked the Commissioners to keep in mind that they have been somewhat captive of the technology. She said staff is looking to have the ethnic data, neighborhood policing areas, and community planning areas loaded into the computer by next Monday.

Mr. Ulloa inquired if the data they will be looking at will include income, education, and home ownership. He wondered if the Commission should give specific direction in order to avoid any ambiguities.

Ms. Perry explained that education data is not available from the 2000 Census yet. Although the Commission could use 1990 Census data she would recommend against it.

Mr. Johnson wanted some clarification regarding the five points they had to look for. He did not remember education, home ownership, and income being in any part of their earlier discussions.

Ms. Foster stated that the different pieces of information fall into different places in our continuum. The voting pattern information is part of the picture with the Voting Rights Act. To be a protected group it needs to not only have a common racial identity, but it has to have political cohesiveness. When we start talking about socio-economic data, she see that as more of a part of a community of interest issue. There is a place for it when we get down to that level of discussing the Charter issues.

Chairman Pesqueira suggests to the Commission whatever kind of media they can use to invite people to come down and give feedback would make their job easier.

Mr. Ulloa presented the idea of having the consultants at the next four or five meetings now that they are approaching the critical areas of the redistricting task.

REDISTRICTING COMMISSION ACTION: (Tape location: A223-D050.)

**Speaker 1** Alex Sachs

I thank you for the opportunity to address the group. I am speaking on behalf of the Voting Rights Coalition interested in preserving the community of interest of the Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, and Transgender communities. I just want to thank you all for your work today, and for your recognition of the GLBT community as a community of interest. There was a recognition of some of the issues that were brought before the Commission earlier. That's really what I wanted to say. I would say on the issue of Talmadge that Staa did mention that was an issue that did come up, and the Commission can look at unifying Talmadge and I'm not sure if it's on a census block or census tract basis. We do appreciate you looking at those census blocks when needed, also in the Balboa Park area and Cortez Hill. I was trying to speak on behalf of other residents who were at the District 3 hearing. I do know that there is a Kensington-Talmadge community planning area which is a separate area as Ms. Perry mentioned from the College area. If there were a way to work on that differentiation, it will probably entail splitting the census tract.

REDISTRICTING COMMISSION ACTION: (Tape location: D051-D128.)

Chairman Pesqueira explained that splitting a census tract would not be the Commission's first choice. If they decided to split a census tract, it would definitely be along a well defined artery. He would like to stay away from neighborhood streets where people communicate more easily.

Chairman Pesqueira suggests that Ms. Perry print the sample map so they can show the newly configured boundaries. He reiterates and encourages again to try to have people from City Heights who are interested in their community to try to attend next week's meeting.

Ms. Foster commented on the numbers for District 5, and asked if the Commission wanted to consider being over or under the target population since that area will continue to grow in population over the next ten years.

Ms. Perry stated that the district that will probably have the most growth within the next ten years will be District 1. There is a lot of territory that hasn't been developed yet because it is still in the planning stages.

Chairman Pesqueira asked about census tract 51, and how much of it is in Barrio Logan. He recommends Ms. Perry get more information on that area because it looks like they will need to

investigate this area more closely.

Ms. Foster reminded the Commission that a strong justification is not needed for any district that deviates within 10 percent. Even though the Commission has set the ideal goal of 5 percent or less, there is still that extra allowable margin for deviation.

Mr. Saito asked again for reassurance from Ms. Perry what data she feels will be ready for next week.

Ms. Perry explained the assessor information data which was received yesterday was part of what they had included for next week. She had not had a chance to look at it yet so she did not know exactly what type of information it contained.

Chairman Pesqueira announced that the exercises seemed to produce a pretty good-looking map. He expects the Commission is to further examine each of the boundary lines and fine tune any irregularities.

REDISTRICTING COMMISSION ACTION: (Tape location: D129-E064.)

**ITEM-8: ADJOURNMENT**

Chairman Ralph Pesqueira adjourned the meeting at 7:18 p.m.

REDISTRICTING COMMISSION ACTION: (Tape location: E065-E066.)

---

Ralph Pesqueira, Chairman  
2000 Redistricting Commission

---

Gilbert Sanchez  
(OCA)Legislative Recorder I