

MINUTES

FOR THE REDISTRICTING COMMISSION
OF THE CITY OF SAN DIEGO
FOR WEDNESDAY, JUNE 20, 2001
2:00 P.M. - 8:00 P.M.
EXECUTIVE COMPLEX
1010 SECOND AVENUE
LOWER LEVEL CONFERENCE ROOM

CHRONOLOGY OF THE MEETING:

Chairman Pesqueira called the meeting to order at 2:10 p.m. Chairman Pesqueira recessed the meeting at 5:00 p.m. for a dinner break. Chairman Pesqueira reconvened the meeting at 6:14 p.m. The Meeting was adjourned by Chairman Pesqueira at 8:38 p.m.

ITEM-1: CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Pesqueira called the meeting to order at 2:10 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 A001-008.)

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:

Deputy City Attorney Lisa Foster
Staajabu Heshimu, Operations Director
Joey Perry, Senior Planner

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 request to speak to the Commission's Operations Director prior to 2:00 p.m. Pursuant to the Ralph M. Brown Act, no discussion or action, other than a referral, shall be taken by the Redistricting Commission on any issue brought forth under "Non-Agenda Comment."

Mike Madigan:

I have the pleasure of serving as a consultant to the City of San Diego these days on the East Village Ballpark Redevelopment project. I ask a moment of your time to offer this thought: It has been of substantial value, I believe, to the revitalization of Center City that more than one council district has had a piece of that territory. For example, the individuals involved, it is clear that Council Member Wear has worked very hard on a number of downtown projects during his time on the Council. It has been equally true in the person of former Council Member Kehoe who was very interested in downtown and actively involved and supported downtown in a number of ways. Since Ms. Kehoe's departure to the State Legislature, her interest and

role has been filled successfully by Ms. Atkins. In my conversations with Mr. Inzunza, he has suggested that he too has a great interest in downtown. To the extent that you can keep more than one as part of downtown program the city is well served. I thank you for your time.

REDISTRICTING COMMISSION ACTION (Tape location A013-041.)

Jim Varnadore:

I chair City Heights Planning Committee, I am here as a private citizen today. My neighbors were here urging you to retain district boundaries in City Heights. The Commission should not try to fix something that is not broken. The arrangement is vibrant, healthy, and effective. Please preserve it. Ignore those that urge you to divide City Heights. It deserves better than to be chopped apart for special interest groups' political lust. I hope the Commission will stop using that map it has been using. It is the work of the police, the newspaper, and possibly the devil. It is used for their purposes only. That map falsifies City Heights and might mislead you into tragic mistakes. There is no City Heights East. That is a fiction of the Police. There is no City Heights West. That is a fiction of the newspapers. When you exit the I-805 freeway at Home Avenue, you do not enter Gateway or Webster. There is no Gateway Community. There has never been a Gateway Community. Webster is a separate community in its own right and not part of City Heights. Please stop using that bad map. To know how a community is organized, you should ask the people that live there, not the Police and certainly not the newspaper. Please, for the voters sake and your own success, stop using that map. The Planning Department has good maps or you can consult the Mid-City's Community Plan for the exact boundaries of City Heights. Don't bisect City Heights and stop using the bad map the police and newspaper has inflicted on you.

REDISTRICTING COMMISSION ACTION (Tape location A042-072.)

Theresa Curos:

I live in Ridgeview Neighborhood of City Heights. I was disturbed last week when I watched the replay of your meeting last week. Members of the community, even Council Member Atkins, came before you to explain how important it is that you don't draw the line at Fairmount Avenue, but the comments seemed to fall on deaf ears because they were not of any one specific protected group, or you assumed. My children, it may surprise you to know, are

Hispanic. I can't begin to imagine how hard it is to balance the need of so many different groups, but you seem to be forgetting that there are more pressing needs in this community than getting a council member of the same ethnic origin. We have poverty and those of low income need a voice. Don't dilute them. We have different religions, and they all need a voice too. We have homeowners and renters who need a voice. There are so many much more important issues than ensuring that Hispanics live in one area and Asians live in another. To draw the line along Fairmount Avenue may change the ethnic make up of the district, but it may also do more harm than good. You have to decide what your mission is. Are you here to create districts in which all the residents are of one ethnicity or are you here to create districts that are in the best interests of all voters? I find the whole approach of assuming that the voters want a council member that is the same color as them surprising. I live in a white area and we voted overwhelmingly for George Stevens.

REDISTRICTING COMMISSION ACTION

(Tape location A073-098.)

Billy Paul:

I am a community activist in Clairmont and a community leader. I am not speaking on behalf of an organized group but on behalf of friends and neighbors in Bay Park. I keep hearing this group talk about removing Bay Park from the community of Clairmont. I think there has been a problem that you haven't had the community boundaries to work with. Your police beats don't work. I live by Clairmont Drive and Burgner Boulevard which is the boundary between the western district and the northern district, although my community relations officer is in Northern. Doing anything to change your district areas by policing does not make sense. What does matter is our community and what you have before you in this map in the dark red is the current community plan. The canyon splits us from Linda Vista. Citizens of Clairmont look at Linda Vista as part of our family. I-5 does separate Clairmont from Pacific Beach. Bay Ho and Bay Park are part of Clairmont. What you are now calling Bay Park was Clairmont. Try to keep the community together. The area where I live over looks Mission Bay. Although Mission Bay is not in our community plan, it should be. I have proposed that little area that hooks on and takes Fiesta Island should be part of District 6 and the community of Clairmont. We need to have greater influence over Mission Bay. There needs to be an area for Mission Bay to be for the people. Fiesta Island should be a place where citizens can find relief from clutter. What has happened is the hotel interests have pushed District 2 to want to put a golf course on Fiesta Island for those people who come to hotels and that shows that having Fiesta Island in District 2 does not work. De Anza Cove is full of pollution and people need to be responsible for

Fiesta Island. That should be added to District 6. Keep Sea World in District 2 and follow Tecolote Road all around and that is our natural boundary. This will not change your census numbers. Have a park for the people of San Diego.

REDISTRICTING COMMISSION ACTION (Tape location A099-193.)

CONSENT ITEM

ITEM 4: APPROVAL OF COMMISSION MINUTES

Approval of Commission Minutes for the Meeting of May 4, 2001
Approval of Commission minutes for the Meeting of May 14, 2001

Approval of Minutes by common consent.

REDISTRICTING COMMISSION ACTION (Tape location A198-207.)

ACTION ITEM

ITEM 5: DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Staff will provide an operational status report including the availability of Redistricting Kits allowing the public to create and submit maps to the Commission, new information on the web page, revisions to the time line, a to-date financial summary, and siting of the post-map public hearings. Possible direction to staff.

Ms. Heshimu distributed some hand-outs which included the post-map public hearing schedule.

Ms Heshimu informed the Commission that staff was attempting to locate different sites for the up-coming public hearings that will be different from the last public hearings. Staff is searching for locations where the targeted audiences are more likely to be reached, so that people that were not able to participate last time can more easily participate this time. Parking accommodations are also being considered.

Commissioner Johnson requested clarification on the time frame for the community meetings.

Ms. Heshimu stated that the times would be from 6-8:00 p.m.

Chairman Pesqueira stated that he has asked Mr. Saito to take over as Chair on July 10 and 17.

Ms. Heshimu stated that included in the hand-outs is a memorandum from JA Consultants. The Consultants have been invited to come at 6:00.

Speaker in the audience stated that he is concerned that there is not a meeting scheduled in Clairmont.

Chairman Pesqueira: We are looking at the districts regardless of neighborhood. They are invited to attend the district meeting.

Speaker: I guess this meeting is not being televised. It would be very helpful to televise.

Chairman Pesqueira: Sometimes the way schedules are arranged depends on whether they will be televised.

Ms. Heshimu: The third piece you have is a paper version of the Redistricting Kit. We had not anticipated, based on a conversation, we had not anticipated inviting people to submit their own maps. There were enough people asking and wanting to submit their maps. We would like to announce on the website within a day or two that the kits are available and people can call to request one. You have everything in this packet except the list of 2000 census tracts by council district. You can look on this chart to verify which council district a particular census tract is in. The public will not have as much information as you do. We're working to get all the information on the website. I hope they will be up at the end of the week. We have made the deadline for submission from the public one month from today.

Joey Perry: We are getting a lot of support from many organizations; and we are having to go through extra processes because not all data is compatible. We are deciding where the maps will be presented and made available. The software is high-end and we are trying to make it more accessible for everyone and it is a time consuming process.

Ms. Heshimu: We are off schedule on learning Maptitude. We think that by the 1st of July we will be able to accommodate that.

Ms. Heshimu: The County Registrar of Voters requested that the City submit its final map by

September 12 if the boundaries are to be in effect for the March 2002 election. We don't have a final map for 30 days after the Commission adopts the final plan. You need to adopt a final plan by August 8. You cannot adopt a final plan until 30 days after you adopt the preliminary plan so that should be by June 27th. You do need to file something with the Clerk by August 8.

Chairman: By July 8 we need to adopt a preliminary and adopt a final by August 8. That gives us 30 days so that it is officially adopted as the preliminary map on August the 8th.

Ms. Heshimu: We should have a new budget. The City's FY 2002 budget has been approved and I assume ours is alright. I have not heard.

Kathy Mayou: As far as I know it is in the budget.

Chairman Pesqueira: Let us know what has been spent and let us know what the City Council has approved that we can spend for the remainder.

Commissioner Camarillo: Earlier in the meeting there was a schedule identified. The question is if we are going to submit the map before July 9, the purpose of the eight hearings is to receive comment on the map? For what?

Chairman Pesqueira: Remember the law requires three meetings after we submit a map. We decided to have eight meetings to get feedback from the community. That's the purpose.

Commissioner Camarillo: We need to be very clear so the public is aware so the expectations match as to what the hearings are for.

Chairman Pesqueira: After the map is submitted we are required by law to have at least three meetings. There can be modifications based on influence.

Commissioner Johnson: We were supposed to make sure we get the areas that we missed the last time.

Chairman Pesqueira: We're not looking at this as communities, but different locations within the district.

Ms. Heshimu: Mr. Johnson are you talking about the targeted outreach? We will be presenting that to you.

ODell: What was the name of the gentleman that spoke to us regarding the lawsuit that was

filed last time, Mike Aguirre, what do you think about giving him a special invitation in case he gets involved in the future.

Ms. Heshimu: He will be at the meeting on the 26th.

Commissioner Camarillo: Mike is an attorney. His client is the Chicano Federation.

REDISTRICTING COMMISSION ACTION (Tape location A208-685.)

ITEM 6: PRESENTATION FROM THE CONSULTANT ON TARGETED OUTREACH EFFORTS.

JA Consultants will report on the results of targeted outreach efforts since the premap community meetings and the outreach plan for the post-map public hearings. Possible direction to staff related to additional outreach or plans for the upcoming public hearings.

JA Consultants reported that the bulk of work has been compiling lists, finding ways to get more participation and assisting staff in arranging public hearings. We have been communicating with key leaders in communities that have been under-represented. We have not had extensive representation of Latino leaders. That may be because they have been concentrating on county redistricting. That is now over and we are expecting to see more participation since that is over. Leland Saito and Levine Sy are our contacts in the Asian community. Some people feel disenfranchised. City Hall is a bit intimidating to some people. However, if it is impacting them, they will come down. Some people are not comfortable speaking in front of people; however, their presence is what is important. For the Filipino community, we have been in touch with Alex Brigado. The Mayor's Asian advisory board will be putting this on their agenda.

REDISTRICTING COMMISSION ACTION (Tape location D444-E075.)

ITEM 7: DEVELOPMENT OF PRELIMINARY MAP

Commission members will continue the map development process which began at the Redistricting Commission meeting of June 6, 2001. Staff will assist the Commission members in making further refinements to the Commission's Draft #1, as well as to one or more of several staff-developed drafts using the Maptitude Redistricting software. Maptitude will also be used to analyze the effects of the proposed boundary changes on protected groups and communities

of interest. Possible direction to staff relating to refinement of the draft preliminary map.

Consultant Karin McDonald presented statistics in a spread sheet format on the existing council districts including total population, deviation, Latino, non-Latino, White, Black and other racial data, and voting patterns. These statistics and data were explained and discussed. The consultant also presented various maps with different variables including the map that was drawn by the Commission on June 6 to give the Commission an opportunity to work with many different options.

Ms. McDonald explained that the population must be within plus or minus 10 percent deviation of the total overall City average.

Mr. Camarillo expressed his concerns regarding lack of voting statistics for the racial groups.

Commissioner Saito: The June 6, 2001 plan, I thought was an exercise. I don't think we should use this as our preliminary plan.

Commissioner Camarillo: I agree. That exercise was moving numbers not people. We don't know the particulars of the people nor the voting behaviors.

Chairman Pesqueira: I was surprised that we came so close to our goal. It's true it was a practice map, but it gave us a good starting point.

Ms. McDonald stated that staff took comments and created four alternative plans. These plans were explained and presented for discussion.

Commissioners Johnson and Ulloa expressed their desire to work with the June 6th map.

Chairman Pesqueira recommended working with map alternative 3 and the June 6th map.

Commissioner Magana: On plans 2 and 4 which includes Rancho Penasquitos with Mira Mesa and Sorrento Valley, I was looking to see what would happen to the population because Mira Mesa is closely tied with Scripps Ranch as well as with Rancho Penasquitos. The history of the Mira Mesa Community is early in the '70s people moved from south to Mira Mesa so it was a small community. As it continued to grow, a lot of people who lived in Mira Mesa then moved to Penasquitos so you have family groups where the children live in Mira Mesa and the Parents live in Penasquitos, and they share a common valley which is the Penasquitos Preserve where a lot of the community join together in that area. I wanted to see what it would look like.

Ms. Heshimu: Staff wanted to draw some of the things heard in the communities because you would have to go back to the communities and explain and have the opportunity to examine.

Lunch Break at 4:50 p.m.

Meeting reconvened at 6:14 p.m. with all Commissioners present.

Commissioner Ulloa suggested using the June 6th map as the primary map to work with and use the four alternative maps as references.

Chairman Pesqueira agreed with the recommendation.

Commissioner Magana suggested that in looking at the northern portion of the city, alternatives 2 and 4 could basically be the same and drastically different from the June 6th map. Plan 3 and June 6th look similar. Plan 2 and 4 look similar and Plan 1 is all by itself.

Council Member Stevens joined the meeting. Chairman Pesqueira explained about the different plans the Commission is working with. Mr. Stevens shared his concerns regarding District 4 and he suggested leaving the boundaries as they are, but assist District 8 with the numbers it needs in the westerly part of the 4th District south of Imperial Avenue and north of National Avenue.

Chairman Pesqueira asked Commissioner Magana to give the Commission a profile of Penasquitos in order to explore the possibility of uniting Mira Mesa, Penasquitos, and Sorrento Valley.

Commissioner Magana gave a brief profile.

The unification of these communities was discussed.

Commissioner Magana suggested using alternate plans 1 and 2 and June 6th, make changes, check the numbers, then decide which of those three plans would be used.

The Commission worked with the three plans starting with June 6th map.

Commissioner Ulloa expressed his concern with splitting City Heights among three districts and urged that City Heights should be in one district.

Commissioner Saito commented that the priority should be satisfying the Voting Rights Act in regards to City Heights because it is a community with a large number of minority and low income residents and

should take priority above uniting a community of interest such as Hillcrest.

Chairman Pesqueira commented that many of the people from City Heights that spoke before the Commission requested that City Heights be divided among three districts because it gives them more influence by having three council representatives to work with.

Commissioner Camarillo expressed his concern that the people voicing their desire to have City Heights divided into three districts may not be a representative of the people affected.

The Commission worked with the map and explored the idea of keeping City Heights in one district.

Commissioner Magana expressed her opinion that she believed the people representing City Heights at the Commission meetings were the most active citizens in their community and the Commission may encounter legal adversity by uniting City Heights and displeasing the most vocal and involved citizens.

Chairman Pesqueira stated that he did not believe that by leaving City Heights in three districts the Commission would be in violation of the Voting Rights Act. Mr. Pesqueira suggested having the consultant look at the demographics of City Heights by census tract and providing that information for the next meeting.

Commissioner Camarillo requested data by census tract in the inner city area (boundaries between 2, 3, 4, and 8) for the map the Commission has agreed upon this evening.

Chairman Pesqueira requested that the consultant examine whether the Commission is in any way in violation in regards to diluting the vote of any group, hurting any protected group, and if not the Commission needs to ask themselves if they can settle with what they have come up with.

Deputy City Attorney Foster suggested that the consultant be directed to analyze the map in general for any legal problems rather than asking them to look specifically at certain data.

Commissioner Johnson requested that the College Grove Shopping area be put into District 4.

Commissioner Ulloa stated that in order to move College Grove Shopping Center into District 4, the Commission will have to produce some kind of criteria for that move. If it complements the communities in District 4, then it would be a good move.

After adjusting and moving communities of interest and census blocks, the Commission's effort was a map with an overall deviation of 13%. Deputy City Attorney Foster suggested that the Commission not settle for that deviation, but continue to strive for a map with a lower deviation. This map replaced June

6th map as the base map.

Chairman Pesqueira directed the consultant to look at the map closely and make recommendations with the goals of keeping Hillcrest in tact and analyzing City Heights in detail, and produce another two alternative maps, 6 and 7, with a deviation of less than 10% for the Commission's consideration. The current map the Commission worked on would be Map 5.

Ms. Perry summarized the percentage deviation on Map No. 5 by district as follows: District 1 is over by 2.86%, District 2 is short by 4.12%, District 3 is over by 6.81%, District 4 is over by 1.18%, District 5 is over by 1.73%, District 6 is short by 5.83%, District 7 is short by 3.27%, District 8 is over by .64%.

Ms. Heshimu stated that staff will look at the area right in the corner at the junction of Districts 2, 3 and 6. District 2 is under 4%; District 3 is over nearly 7 percent, and District 6 is under about 6%. Staff will explore that more and come back with several options that will fix that problem.

The Commission discussed the upcoming meeting schedule. It was agreed that if a map is not resolved on June 27th the Commission will meet on the 28th.

Deputy City Attorney Foster advised that for a special meeting a 24-hour notice would have to be given.

REDISTRICTING COMMISSION ACTION

(Tape location B043-D443;
E076-G518)

MOTION BY ODELL TO ADJOURN. Second by Johnson. Passed by common consent.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:38 p.m.

REDISTRICTING COMMISSION ACTION

(Tape location G519-520).

Ralph R. Pesqueira, Chairman
2000 Redistricting Commission

Esther Ramos
Legislative Recorder