

October 21, 2021

City of San Diego Independent Redistricting Commission
c/o: Ms. Laura J. Fleming, Executive Director Redistricting2020@sanidiego.gov; LJFleming@sanidiego.gov; JBerry@sanidiego.gov
202 C Street
San Diego, California 92101

RE: **Non Agenda Comment – COMPACTNESS**

Dear Honorable Chairman Hebrank, Honorable Vicechair Malbourgh, and Honorable Commissioners,

Thank you for the notice of the First Consideration of Consultant Maps **Meeting, scheduled for: 6 PM, Thursday, October 21, 2021.** Broadcast publicly available on Zoom [**SEE: Information in Footer Below**]

BACKGROUND, CONTEXT, AND REQUEST OF COMMISSION:

The Agenda for this meeting has a single Item – “**Item 1 - Review 2-3 Preliminary Citywide Maps and Provide Instructions for HaystaqDNA to Consolidate to a Single Map**” My Non Agenda Comment concerns general nonspecific principals which govern redistricting. I am requesting that the Commission ask the Consultant to report on the factors and standards that determine the legal standard of **COMPACTNESS**.

I believe that the controlling case on **COMPACTNESS** is **Gomillian v. Lightfoot** (364 U.S. 339, 1960). The case is interesting as it dealt with gerrymandering for racial purposes and specifically the inclusion of an educational institution to change the profile of a specially created district. This seminal case was later cited in **Baker v. Carr** (369 U.S. 186, 1962) and **Mobile v. Bolden** (446 U.S. 55 (1980)). My ask, for Commission discussion and direction to its staff and consultant **HaystaqDNA** , is that they do some basic analysis and make a presentation concerning **COMPACTNESS**. I think that analysis of **COMPACTNESS** should at minimum include the **Gomillian** factor count of the number of sides in the irregular polygon of any proposed District. The second basic **COMPACTNESS** analysis, I suggest, is a basic geometric Area calculation with the ratio of population to the geometric area of any alternate or proposed new District map.

If this initial basic **COMPACTNESS** analysis demonstrates some significant outliers; then then staff and the consultants should consider the methodologies suggested in [Measuring the Compactness of Political Districting Plans, Roland G. Fryer Jr. and Richard Holden , July 16, 2009](#) - [measuring the compactness of political districting plans.pdf \(harvard.edu\)](#) and [Measuring Compactness and the Role of a Compactness Standard in a Test for Partisan and Racial Gerrymandering, Richard G. Niemi, Bernard Grofman, Carl Carlucci, and Thomas Hofeller, The Journal of Politics: Vol 52, No 4 \(uchicago.edu\).](#)

CONCLUSION:

I look forward to presenting oral testimony on the matters presented in this letter, at the Commission’s meeting of October 21, 2021. Please place all of my letters into the Commission’s record .

All the best,

/s/

John Stump, resident, property owner, and taxpayer in current Districts Four (D 4) and Nine (D 9)