

DISTRICT 1 UNITED

November 8, 2021

City of San Diego Redistricting Commission

Please relay our comments to the Redistricting Commissioners prior to tomorrow's meeting.

Dear Commission Chair Hebrank and Honorable Commissioners,

Thank you for your service to the City of San Diego. As observers of the meeting on Thursday, November 4, 2021, we were shocked and dismayed by the personal attacks and vitriol displayed at the meeting. The personal attacks and threats have no place in this important process and should not have a bearing on the Commission's decision making.

We appreciate your commitment to the 1.4 million residents of the City of San Diego and your part in the ongoing process of assuring equitable and diverse representation for our population. The 2011 Redistricting Commission had a daunting task to create a new district and provide a Black, an Asian and 2 Hispanic empowerment districts. Our current City Council is the result of that effort. It is the most diverse Council in the city's history. It includes three members of the Latin X community, one Black, a member of the AAPI community, 2 LGBTQ community members, 5 men and 4 women. It seems that the 2011 Redistricting Commission achieved their goals.

There have not been dramatic changes in the demographics of the City of San Diego that would justify dramatic changes to the current district boundaries and the subsequent disenfranchisement of all of the current District 2 and 74% of the current District 1 residents as is suggested by the SD Communities Collaboration map.

There are many deficiencies with the SD Communities Collaboration map. Some of the most egregious are the following:

- It has not been noticed for discussion.
- The proposed map lacks coherent natural or human-made boundaries and is not compact.
- It has a total deviation of 7.77%.
- Travel between the various population centers within the district is difficult if not impossible.
- The neighborhood of University City (University Community south of Rose Canyon) has no realistic connectivity with the rest of D1.
- This map creates effectively one coastal district.
- The map splits COI including: all community planning areas except Torrey Hills; some neighborhoods, maintenance assessment districts, environmental resources and stewardship groups, as well as COI focused on UCSD – UTC/Golden Triangle – La Jolla issues; University City through its heart at Rose Canyon; infrastructure projects; traffic impacts and major intersections; UCSD institutional impacts and shared watersheds.
- Economic gerrymandering is used to move UTC out of District 1.

- The gerrymandering north of I-8 creates districts that are more White and less Hispanic than the Chair's map. Hispanic voters are decreased in 4 districts and diluted in a fifth, much whiter district.
- Neighborhoods are divided using residential streets.
- All four school districts are split between council districts. School clusters and attendance areas are split.
- Multiple environmentally sensitive areas will be split into different Council Districts and separated from the neighboring communities that have provided long-term stewardship for them and for the region as a whole.

The map submitted by D1 United on November 4, 2021 (10/29 Commission Map Mod by D1 United P6374) and presented at the November 4, 2021 hearing made modest changes to the Chair's map and we believe it works well and should be considered. It is a map that our group developed as this process has evolved. The reasoning behind it is sound and does not dramatically change the district boundaries that so far have delivered diverse and equitable representation on the City Council. We believe it is a good map that does the best with the constraints imposed by a population based redistricting process.

Please do not be intimidated or bullied into adopting a map which does not deliver on the stated goals of the Commission.

Thanks again for your service.