

November 9, 2021

City of San Diego Redistricting Commission
202 C Street
San Diego CA 92101
Sent via electronic transmission

Re: November 4th Redistricting Commission Meeting and the San Diego Communities Collaboration (SDCC) Map

Dear Commissioners:

Our coalition of organizations would like to thank you for your dedicated work during this redistricting process. This process has not been easy. We especially appreciate all commissioners staying to the end of last Thursday's meeting, although it ended at nearly midnight. We are writing to express concerns regarding events that transpired at the meeting and to propose recommendations for a transparent and ethical path forward.

We appreciate the Commissioners' acknowledgements that the differences in CVAP between the Chair's map and the SDCC map have not yet been analyzed. Several Commissioners expressed their concerns regarding disparities in CVAP. It is imperative that the CVAP data be made available to the Commissioners and the public before any vote.

We are especially concerned by Chair Hebrank's biased actions to advance his own map. The Chair has continuously used "time crunches" when convenient to pressure a vote for his map, undermining the diplomatic process for selecting a map that will affect every citizen of San Diego for a decade and beyond. These actions call to question the integrity of the Chair's map, as well as the Chair's ability to impartially convene the San Diego City Redistricting Commission.

The following are examples of Chair Hebrank using his role to influence the process in his favor:

- The Chair said two weeks ago that the final map will not be radically different from the preliminary map, and that the preliminary map would undergo minor changes. Last week he said that Commissioners should vote for his map, because drastic changes can be made later.
- When there was a motion to adopt the SDCC map, the Chair was ready to adjourn the meeting. When there was a motion to adopt the Chair's map, he then urged for the vote to happen that night.
- The Chair decided to adjourn the meeting until November 9th, instead of concluding the meeting and noticing a vote for the SDCC map.

- Five of the nine Commissioners voted down the Chair's map; this would have been the perfect opportunity to schedule a vote on the only competing map, the SDCC map.
- The Deputy City Attorney asked whether the Chair was adjourning the meeting or concluding it; the Chair replied that the meeting was adjourned without asking Commissioners for their recommendations or preference.
- Adjourning the meeting can be seen as a strategic tactic by the Chair to further delay a vote on the Commission's preferred map, since a vote for the SDCC map will now have to be noticed for an even later meeting.
- Despite Chair Hebrank's comments, there is time to prepare findings and agendize a vote on the SDCC map prior to the 11/15 filing deadline with the City Clerk.
- Despite Chair Hebrank's comments, there is also time to revise the public hearing schedule to fit all five required meetings in before 12/15.

At tonight's meeting, we recommend that the Commissioners:

1. Direct staff to prepare findings and legal review for the SDCC map, and place it on the agenda for consideration as the final preliminary map at the 11/13 hearing.
 - If Commissioners feel that the 11/13 hearing is too close to the 11/15 filing deadline with the city clerk, the Commission should schedule a special meeting during the week for the final vote.
 - If the SDCC map needs to be voted as interim map before a final vote, the Commission should request a special meeting for that vote; and proceed with a final vote on 11/13. According to the Brown Act, special meetings require 24 hours notice to the public.
2. Agendize a vote at the 11/13 hearing for an updated timeline to reschedule the 11/9 and 11/13 Preliminary Map Public Hearings. Although inconvenient, it is in the Commission's and all citizens' best interest to schedule additional meetings than to proceed with the Chair's map.
3. To better understand the time constraints, direct the Deputy City Attorney to provide a timely report on the consequences, if any, of missing the December 15 deadline. The Commission should know this regardless of the path forward.

The preliminary map has to be as close to the final map as possible. As Commissioner Nielsen mentioned, it would take more than five special meetings to amend the Chair's map to accurately reflect the will of the people. **Furthermore, if the preliminary map does change drastically, it would have to undergo additional legal review. This can be a lengthy process, making it very unlikely that the map is approved by December 15.**

Be bold! Make a motion to agendize and notice a vote to adopt the SDCC map as a starting point for drawing new districts.

Thank you for your time and service.

Sincerely,

Unity Map Coalition Steering Committee:

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Asian Solidarity Collective

Eryn Wilson Nieves
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People Over Profits, San Diego

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