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[www.MissionHillsHeritage.org](http://www.MissionHillsHeritage.org)

*--A community organization dedicated to preserving the character, charm and historical resources of the Mission Hills neighborhood.*

December 14, 2021

The City of San Diego Redistricting Commission

Re: **Opposition to Redistricting Old Town, Presidio Hills, and Portions of N.W. Mission Hills**

Dear Redistricting Commission:

Mission Hills Heritage (MHH) is a non-profit community organization dedicated to preserving the character and historic resources of the Mission Hills community of the City of San Diego. I am writing to express MHH's opposition to redistricting Old Town, Presidio Hills, and a significant portion of Northwest Mission Hills into District 2.

The Commission's proposed plan neither prioritizes equal and fair representation nor does it follow the criteria that new districts must meet. During this past year, the County of San Diego Health and Human Services Agency, Public Health Services, Community Health Statistics Unit interpreted data from the U.S. Census Bureau 2015-2019 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates Table B101001. The results conclude that presently, each district has approximately the same number of people within +/- 1%ile.

The Commission must also adhere to the Voting Rights Act, in which minority groups must have an equal opportunity to elect representatives of their choice. Returning to the U.S. Census Bureau's data, the Asian/Pacific Islander (API) Population will be directly impacted as there is a sizable difference in populous races consisting of Asian; Indian; Chinese; Burmese; Filipino; Japanese; Korean; Laotian; Pakistani; Taiwanese; and other Asian/Pacific Islanders residing in District 3. The proposed redistricting plan can and will be viewed as a conscious effort to limit API voting strength in District 2 in an attempt to dilute their voting strength. A similar attempt occurred in Louisiana in 2001, which the State ultimately withdrew after fifteen months of litigation.

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The Commission must also ensure that all parts of a district must be connected to each other. The proposed redistricting plan is unable to adhere to this requirement, as major roads and highways separate District 2 from District 3. Furthermore, all neighborhoods within District 3 flow through Old Town – at Presidio Drive, San Diego Avenue, or Washington Street, connecting major highways (interstates 5 and 8) and byways of Mission Hills and Old Town. Adversely, by removing a population of 1,300 in Old Town to include Mission Valley (nearly two miles east), instead, clearly impacts defined communities of interest.

The Commission must also ensure Communities of Interest as much as possible to protect “communities of interest” that share social and economic interests. Specifically, Old Town is also more aligned (organically and by the geographic landscape) with other communities in District 3: Banker's Hill, Balboa Park, Gaslamp (Horton's subdivision of New Town), Presidio Park, and the San Diego River. It has no connection (business and residential) with the Midway area and the Coastal Communities of District 2.

As business owners and residents of Old Town San Diego, we are concerned that this proposed move to District 2 will also diminish its historic and cultural resources, and national significance as the birthplace of California and San Diego.

We ask you to keep Old Town San Diego in District 3 to maintain its integrity, character, neighborhood connections, and historical significance.

We respectfully urge you to NOT redistrict Old Town, Presidio Hills, and portions of Northwest Mission Hills into District 2.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,  
Mission Hills Heritage



Rob Contin, President

cc: Stephen Whitburn, City Council President Pro Tempore (District 3)