



COUNCILMEMBER CHRIS CATE

SIXTH DISTRICT
CITY OF SAN DIEGO

May 26, 2021

Mr. Ralph Peters
Rancho Peñasquitos Town Council
P.O. Box 720783
San Diego, CA 92172-0783

Dear Mr. Peters,

I am in receipt of your letter on behalf of the Redistricting Sub-Committee of the Rancho Peñasquitos Town Council to the City of San Diego's Redistricting Commission. The letter outlines twelve (12) points the sub-committee believes are valid arguments for not combining any portion of Rancho Peñasquitos with Mira Mesa within a City Council district. As the Councilmember for District 6, which includes the Park Village neighborhood of Rancho Peñasquitos, I need to respond to several points you have outlined in your letter.

To begin, you state in your opening that a split of the Rancho Peñasquitos community "has caused no end of community dissatisfaction," and that this split is an "injustice." For more than 6 years as Councilmember, and the numerous events, meetings, celebrations, and parades I have participated in during my tenure, at no point has this resounding dissatisfaction been brought to my attention. On the contrary, we have enjoyed a fruitful relationship with all Rancho Peñasquitos residents and have effectively collaborated with the District 5 Councilmember on issues of importance for all of the residents of Rancho Peñasquitos at City Hall.

While many of your reasons stated are reasonable and make a sound argument for the Commission to base a decision upon, I **need to respond to your points 9-12.**

It is crystal clear that your audacious intent of these points is to specifically classify Mira Mesa and all of its residents as "those people," and the general "othering" of one of San Diego's most diverse neighborhoods. Whether it is you are implying that Mira Mesa is crime-ridden (Point #9); Rancho Peñasquitos residents do not patronize businesses or restaurants in Mira Mesa (Point #10); or that Rancho Peñasquitos residents do not even attend any of the many churches in their own neighborhood, let alone in Mira Mesa, and instead "worship in RB" (Point #11).

The six sub-points you outline in Point #12 is noticeably lacking any scientific, data-driven sourcing. Perhaps you have done your own statistically valid research and survey work to determine that "a **large** number of "RP" residents moved out of MM", or that Mira Mesa has a "**far higher** percentage of renters", "**far less** owner-occupied dwellings", "**significantly lower** per capita household income", or "a higher crime rate" (emphasis added).

Suffice it to say that I imagine your opinions of Mira Mesa, or better yet, your stereotypes of Mira Mesa and Mira Mesa residents, lead you to include these points within your letter to the Redistricting Commission. This was not needed to make your case.

Rather, your letter re-opened wounds from a decade ago that pits neighborhoods against each other based on the individuals that live within those neighborhoods. Mira Mesa is a vibrant community, and I am proud to represent both Mira Mesa and Rancho Peñasquitos on the San Diego City Council. I would hope as this process unfolds over the coming months, you strongly reconsider the arguments you use to make your case.

Respectfully,

Chris Cate
Councilmember - Sixth District

CC: Rancho Peñasquitos Town Council
Rancho Peñasquitos Planning Group
Mira Mesa Town Council
Mira Mesa Planning Group