

**MINUTES  
FOR THE 2010 REDISTRICTING COMMISSION  
OF THE CITY OF SAN DIEGO  
PUBLIC HEARING**

**TUESDAY, JULY 26, 2011**

**LOGAN HIEGHTS BRANCH LIBRARY COMMUNITY ROOM  
567 SOUTH 28<sup>TH</sup> STREET, SAN DIEGO, CA 92113**

**CHRONOLOGY OF THE MEETING:**

The meeting was called to order by Chair Dalal at 6:10 p.m. 38 persons were observed to be in attendance. The meeting was adjourned by Chair Dalal at 6:55 p.m.

**ATTENDANCE DURING THE MEETING:**

(C) Chair Anisha Dalal  
(VC) Vice Chair Carlos  
(M) Arthur Nishioka  
(M) Theresa Quiroz  
(M) David Potter  
(M) Ani Mdivani-Morrow  
(M) Frederick Kosmo

**ROLL CALL:**

Commissioner Quiroz called the roll:

(C) Chair Anisha Dalal – present  
(M) Ani Mdivani-Morrow – present  
(M) Theresa Quiroz – present  
(M) Frederick Kosmo – present  
(M) Arthur Nishioka – present  
(VC) Vice Chair Carlos Marquez – present  
(M) David Potter – present

**NON-AGENDA PUBLIC COMMENT:**

This portion of the agenda provides an opportunity for members of the public to address the Redistricting Commission on items of interest within the jurisdiction of the Commission.

Comments are limited to no more than two minutes per speaker. Submit requests to speak to Midori Wong, Redistricting Commission Chief of Staff, before the item is called. Pursuant to the Ralph M. Brown Act, no discussion or action, other than a referral, shall be taken by the Redistricting Commission on any issue brought forth under Non-Agenda Comment.

(Transcript Begins)

**Comment 1: Michael Sprague**

Yes, updating regarding agendas. Out of the last five meetings I've received one agenda before the meeting—that was two hours before the meeting. The other four, about three so far, that will probably be tomorrow, that will be four out five, not getting them before the meetings. One of the ways that you've each underserved people is to provide their information in writing. Not everyone has a computer, not everyone knows how to use one, there are people who are physically unable to use one, there's a whole variety of reasons that people may in fact want to receive information by mail. That's one of the reasons for the Sunshine Laws, and you know it's been made clear from the very beginning that people wanted to receive information by mail and have been systematically either excluded, or if finally included, all of the information has arrived either late or with microscopic notice—two hours just isn't really quite very good. This system was set-up to be email-centric. I can somewhat understand that, but it shouldn't be at the exclusion of U.S. mail. U.S. mail serves a purpose. It provides to many people who cannot receive information any other way, and it should be maintained as a primary source of communicating. Thank you.

**Ms Wong:** That is the only request to speak.

(Transcript Ends)

**CITY ATTORNEY AND STAFF ASIGNED TO REDISTRICTING COMMISSION COMMENT**

There was no comment.

**PUBLIC HEARING:**

**ITEM 1 – OVERVIEW OF PRELIMINARY REDISTRICTING PLAN**

Ms. Midori Wong, Chief of Staff, Redistricting Commission, provided an overview of the preliminary redistricting plan and the materials included in the agenda packet, including maps, demographic tables, and filing statement prepared in compliance with the City Charter. She also explained how street level detail of the plan could be accessed online using the free redistricting mapping tool.

**ITEM 2 – PUBLIC COMMENT REGARDING PRELIMINARY REDISTRICTING PLAN**

(Transcript Begins)

**Comment 1: Tom Hebrank**

Good evening. My name is Tom Hebrank. I'm a resident of Kensington, and served as the Chair of the Kensington-Talmadge Planning Group for the past three years, having just recently stepped down this past April. I want to first of all thank the Commission and all of the various citizens and groups that have worked so diligently in putting together their current proposal. A lot of time and hard work has gone into this process, and I for one appreciate the care that went into the current map and respect that

dividing lines, such as highways, were so often used as boundaries between districts. I also want to apologize up front for our late entry into this process. It was born out of complacency and generally being unaware that our community was being considered to be moved to another Council District. With the importance placed on communities in interest, I had assumed Kensington would remain in District 3.

Kensington has as its communities and interest our neighboring communities to the west and south, mainly Normal Heights, University Heights, Hillcrest, North Park, and Mission Hills. The lifeline of Kensington is Adams Avenue. We share this important business corridor with University Heights and Normal Heights to form the Adams Avenue Business District and the Adams Avenue Maintenance Assessment District. The Adams Avenue communities share the Roots Festivals, The Taste of Adams, and the Adams Avenue Street Fair each year. On the Kensington side of Adams Avenue, just east of the 15, is the shared Kensington/Normal Heights Public Library. Just to the west of the 15, on the Normal Heights side, is the shared Ward Canyon Park. The Kensington Veterinary Clinic is located on the Normal Heights side of Adams Avenue. The 15 is not a barrier to our communities sharing these public assets, but rather, it is a short walk across the bridge spanning the 15. When we leave Kensington it is to shop, eat, and otherwise enjoy the “mom and pop” establishments found along the length of Adams Avenue.

While the review of the map might indicate that the 15 makes sense as a good dividing line, for us it has become an arbitrary line that is being used to divide us from neighboring communities as part of the redistricting process. In fact, I did an Internet search today looking for a particular business and on [www.about.com](http://www.about.com) for San Diego there was a little blurb that says “what defines Kensington?,” and what was on there is: Kensington is one of the three mid-city urban neighborhoods whose main thoroughfare is Adams Avenue. It is the eastern end of the strip that begins with University Heights at the west end, with Normal Heights in-between. Of the older urban neighborhoods in San Diego, it is one of the most desirable to live. Like its fellow hoods, it is distinguished by the classic Kensington sign that spans Adams Avenue. We share many other characteristics with our sister cities in District 3: the same infrastructure issues and challenges, our historic character, a significant LGBT population, a predominance of single-family residential units, communities not part of any redevelopment zones, and many more. We are part of the mid-city plan. The same cannot be said for most of the communities in our proposed new District 9. These are not communities of interest to Kensington.

Much weight has also been placed on the need to keep Kensington united with Talmadge because we are combined in a single planning group. While our preference would be to keep Kensington and Talmadge together, if this is not possible, and it does look like, if you look at the map, that this is an uphill battle, I would strongly favor Kensington remaining in District 3. Talmadge has stronger ties to some of the communities in the new District 9 than it does Kensington, especially in City Heights through their shared interest in El Cajon Boulevard and the City Heights redevelopment zone. As I mentioned earlier, I understand and appreciate we are late to the game, but we are a community of only about 5,000 residents and I think maps could be redrawn to place us back into District 3 with minimal disruption. We plan over the next week to present some such plans to Redistricting Commission. Thank you very much.

**Comment 2: Robert B. Coffin**

Good evening and thank you very much for providing this forum for us to speak. I came to San Diego in 1968 as a Navy JAG officer and stayed ever since. I arrived, my wife and I, and we put our roots down

in Kensington. It was the first and only community that we have lived in within the city of San Diego. And back then, in '67/'68 it was a quiet little area of San Diego. The traffic was not very intense. This was at the time when the development in San Diego was happening in the outlying areas, in the subdivisions in the northern part of the city, and the southern part of the city. But as time went on, those subdivision opportunities have gone away, and so now, what we are seeing in the city of San Diego in infilling, and it comes in many different shapes and forms.

I am currently the Vice Chair of the Kensington-Talmadge Planning Group and we are receiving, almost ceaselessly, different issues that we have to deal with that result from this infilling. The reason we weren't immediately on top of this issue, and as Tom said, we're a little bit late to the podium, is we've been tackling other major issues. We've been handling the Aldine Slope. Those of you who are familiar with Kensington, there's Aldine Drive that runs down the Fairmount Canyon, and it's one of the largest road construction projects that the City has had in recent years, shoring up all the homes on the south side. We also have undergrounding, and we are leading the way in trying to get the undergrounding into a format where it works for the neighborhoods. So, looking at the future, we believe that we are going to be better suited staying in District 3 than moving to District 9 because we have so many similarities with the older communities who are trying to join hands to meet all of these challenges together. That would be Normal Heights and North Park, and all the way along the line. There are about three areas that have the historic homes that Kensington has. Kensington is one of them, and then there's Mission Hills, and then there's Point Loma. These have the 1928 California Colonials in them, and a lot of those in the Kensington area are being converted to historic homes through the Mills Act, and we believe that we would be stronger, all the communities would be stronger in that respect if we were joined together in one District. And so we would ask this Commission to move Kensington back into District 3, where I believe we are well-joined. We also have similarities, or common interests, Adams Avenue, which is going to be developed, and we think we can develop it as best as possible with all of us working together. So thank you very much and I appreciate your attention.

**Comment 3: Guy Hanford**

Thank you, Commissioners, for this opportunity to speak. I'm a business owner in Kensington on the Adams Avenue corridor. A few of the reasons that I wanted to come here and represent the businesses in Kensington, is for the last seven years we worked very hard to unite the business district along Adams Avenue through the formation of the Adams Avenue Business Association, the Business Improvement District, and the Maintenance Assessment District, and in the past seven years that we've been working so, together on this, we've really seen great advantages to the entire Business District as, you know, the result of all this hard work. We put our grants together, we have our activities and our events, our Roots Festival, as Tom had mentioned. So, it's not my purpose that we want to disengage ourselves from any of the other surrounding areas, because they're all fantastic—they support Kensington, we support them. But the natural alignment with Normal Heights is so important to our business corridor. That's the only reason I'm here to speak to you today, is so that Normal Heights and Kensington will be considered as being in the same district. I think it would behoove the entire Adams Avenue community for that. And then I make reference to three of your principles that I think also support that idea. One, the contiguous territory to form districts with reasonable access between the population centers and the district—Adams Avenue, Normal Heights, Kensington, people are always traveling back and forth in that whole area, so they're very easily populated back and forth through the business, shopping, and the visiting. The preserving the identifiable communities of interest. I think that's a really important point, the whole

Adams Avenue Business District. And then finally, observing the natural boundaries as district dividing lines. I know you've got the 15, but I don't think that should be considered as a natural dividing line. I think there's other areas, unfortunately, Fairmount Canyon would be one of those. So, if you would kindly consider aligning Kensington with Normal Heights, I'd appreciate it. Thank you.

**Comment 4: Margaret McCann**

Good evening, Commissioners, and thank you for your service. My name is Maggie McCann. I live in Kensington. I'm also the Chair of the Heart of Kensington Neighborhood Preservation Group. I think, as the gentlemen before me have said, most people in Kensington had no idea that when the mapping dust settled that we would wind up separated from the neighborhoods to our west, with which we share so much. As I explained in a rather lengthy email that I sent to you last evening, Kensington developed and grew up, as did Normal Heights and University Heights, because it was a street car suburb, served by the Number 11 street car. And that ran down the length of Adams Avenue from Park Blvd. in the west to the eastern end of Adams Avenue in Kensington. And from the time that that street car first rolled into Kensington in 1910, we have continued to share Adams Avenue. We share facilities; Adams Avenue has "mom and pop" stores up and down that everybody patronizes. But as Tom said, we've got the Kensington/Normal Heights Library, which has moved back and forth between Kensington numerous times before it finally settled where it is. We have a lot of Kensington residents who are business owners of businesses in Normal Heights, and vice-versa. In fact, the Kensington Veterinary Hospital, which is on the Normal Heights side of the bridge, is owned by Kensington residents. So, you know, we continue to share facilities, history, and Adams Avenue, and we ask that you look at moving the approximately 5,000 residents of Kensington back into District 3, so that we can continue to have a shared destiny and a community of interest with those neighborhoods. Thank you very much.

**Comment 5: Brian Pollard**

Good evening. I wanted to address you this evening to thank you for your service, and to ask you to keep intact the District 4 boundaries you have identified in this map, the July 19<sup>th</sup> plan. I've noticed there have been numerous pleas to alter the boundaries as it relates to District 4, and I understand the fear and anxiety of moving into another district—change is a difficult process to accept for anyone. These areas were joined with District 4 in your proposal to ensure the multilingual, multi-ethnic residents of the new D9 to reach their threshold in creating the additional new 9th District. In that we are bound by the east and west, there was no other place for us to reach our goal of approximately 140-some in population, except to go north, which included Redwood Village and Rolando Park. I understand your decision; others may not. For the record, most of the residents of D4 understand this shift and welcome our potential new neighbors to our district. In an effort to become more familiar with Rolando Park and Redwood Village, I've done some homework, and I've discovered that we have much more similarities than differences. Some of the similarities I've discovered included: both communities have similar household incomes, and similar housing prices; both communities, all of the communities, are in the same San Diego Unified School District; as in District 4, both share the School Board Trustee, the same School Board Trustee, Miss Shelia Jackson, as a representative; as in District 4, parks and recreation areas for our children are a major priority, as they are in Redwood Village and Rolando Park; both communities share the same shopping centers located in Oak Park, which is College Grove, as well as the University business corridor; as in District 4, both communities share beautiful Chollas Lake; "The Voice and Viewpoint," a major District 4 paper, is located in Redwood Village; as in District 4, both

communities nearest transportation main artery is the Martin Luther King, Jr. Freeway; both communities actively participate in the Eastern Planning Group, as do at least two communities within District 4, Oak Park and Webster. I've numerous more similarities, but only have a limited amount of time in which to point them out. I'm mentioning these similarities to provide you all with data, which outlines more things in common with D4, Rolando Park, as well as Redwood Village, than the differences. I believe your recommendation of placing these communities within District 4 is a good and sound decision. Not only does it encourage diversity in our district, it supports and honors similar communities of interest, but it also assists the new creation of the 9th District, which is long overdue and appropriate. Additionally, this could be the start of a more diverse, even more diverse District 4, one that could work together for the common good of the District, as well as each community within the District. These lines appear to be a natural transition to the more diverse District 4 now, and potentially in the future. Thank you once more for your effort, attentiveness, and your ability to balance many, many factors in your decisions. Thank you very much.

**Comment 6: Jerry Guzman-Vergara**

Good evening, Commissioners. I always get more nervous up here, and I speak in front of a lot of people all the time. I think maybe because I'm getting videotaped or something. I'm going to be really quick. I just quickly want to say that I'm in support of the preliminary map, and the continued unity amongst the historic Barrio District. I forgot to introduce myself. My name is Jerry Guzman-Vergara. I'm a resident of District 8. I'm the Executive Director of the Historic Barrio District CDC, and the Sherman Heights Community Center, and I'm also a voting member of the Southeastern San Diego Planning Group. It's going to be really quick, I want to thank you for listening to the constituents of District 8 for not including any part of Downtown into the new district, or the District 8, the existing District 8. And to end, I want to say really quickly also that I am still in support of the 2nd Latino Empowerment District, the African American Empowerment District, the LGBT Empowerment District. Thank you.

**Comment 7: Liliana Garcia Rivera**

Good evening, Commissioners. My name is Liliana Garcia Rivera. I have spoken to you many times before. My message is always the same. Today I'm here, very happy that you're here in the Historic Barrio District, of which I am a resident, and welcome very much—I welcome you all and thank you very much for coming here. I'm also a member of the Latino Redistricting Committee and I speak on behalf of them as well. I want to thank you for all of the time and attention. It's very evident from your map that you have given a lot of attention to what people are saying and I know that we're all going to lose, we all have to lose numbers, unfortunately. But I appreciate that you've respected the community cohesiveness of the historic Barrio District, which is Sherman, Grant Hill, Logan Heights, Memorial, and Stockton together with our beloved Barrio Logan, and we're happy to embrace Shelltown in the proposed map as well. We know that the process is not over, and we ask that if for any reason—we're very happy with this map, we like it—but if there was some deviation, please do not separate the historic Barrio District neighborhoods. And by no means do we want any part of the Downtown/East Village incorporated; we're totally different, with different missions. I want to thank you for recognizing the 9<sup>th</sup> District, as it should be centered around City Heights. If there are any changes to that map, please do not dilute, further dilute the Latino population. Furthermore, I am always in support as well of the African American Empowerment 4<sup>th</sup> District by increasing the African American percentage in that district. And I also support enhancing what has been done with the LGBT Empowerment District, the new District 3.

Historically underrepresented groups in San Diego deserve representation in City Hall, and it is possible for all of these communities of interest to get this empowerment. I appreciate all your work and thank you very much for everything you've done.

**Comment 8: Michael Sprague**

It's always interesting how anybody who's had a segment of Downtown certainly doesn't want it, but District 3 thinks it does. I'm sure we'll regret heavily that decision as they lose their Council member to the Downtown business interests, and by the LGBT community won't have any representation because they'll be a business interest of Downtown. A few quick points, to say the planning groups aren't being divided—that's not true, and frankly, it's not relevant. City Heights, one of the things brought up many years ago was, if a neighborhood has more than 40,000 people, having access to two Council members is not inappropriate. And when you have more than 60,000 people, having access to three Council members is not inappropriate, but to cut a neighborhood's access by two-thirds, yet say that they are more empowered, doesn't make sense. I mean, one is less than three, and I don't see how that's particularly difficult to understand. And City Heights has frequently been able to use the combination of Council members to build projects such as libraries, such as police sub-station. The entire renaissance of City Heights has been based on being in multiple Council districts and multiple money from Council districts. It would be devastating to take that apart because you'll see City Heights go backwards. You created a District 9 that has 25 percent Latino. It's a fake district. It's telling Latinos they have a district, when in fact, they don't. Unless it's District 4, because they are now the largest population in District 4, and Asian-Pacific Islanders are now the second largest in District 4. The African American community is now the third largest in District 4. So, District 9 is not the new Latino district, District 4 is. It is a shame to see where everywhere else you've said, oh we can't go across the freeway, and then we see District 9 jumping a freeway. I don't think you've set your own—you've set goals but haven't been able to reach them. Thank you.

**Comment 9: Carlos Martell**

Good afternoon. Just wanted to reiterate how for District 8 we would like to continue being one community, being one spatially organized neighborhood. If there is any deviation, we would like for it to not inflict, divide, or separate our community, which includes Memorial, Logan Heights, Barrio Logan, Grant Hill Park, and Sherman Heights, and our neighbors to the south in San Ysidro, of course. This sounds too weird. Anyways, I'll support the 2<sup>nd</sup> "Latino" district in the 9<sup>th</sup> District, as well as the African American District in the 4<sup>th</sup> District. Thank you very much.

**Comment 10: Eva Vargas**

Thank you, Commissioners, for doing such a good job, except, except in the community of Southcrest and Shelltown. They're like, right on the tip of the yellowing of the map, that's Shelltown and that's Southcrest. However, Southcrest is not a community. The community of Shelltown considers all of that Shelltown. Southcrest was given that name by SEDC, the Southeast Development Corporation without the community's input. And they've since agreed to return that name to Shelltown. I just want to let you know. As you have on your preliminary plan, it says that you recognize that the City has well-organized group of communities and neighborhoods. That last bullet, that is the essential part of that community. We have our community organization. San Diego Organizing Project is there in that community, and a

number of other planning groups, and Southcrest is also the name of the park, that's another planning group, but it's a park, not a community. I would like to congratulate you on doing what the , interstate, , State of California tried to do to Shelltown. They tried to put a connector of freeways to separate that community. They were not successful. That's how tight this community is. So I'd like you to reconsider that part of Shelltown to be a part of District 9, not part of District 8, but part of District 9. Thank you.

**Comment 11: Andrea Carter**

Hello. I'm a resident of Grant Hill in District 8. I'm fairly pleased with this preliminary map. I think you've done as good a job as possible with trying to keep together all the communities of interest. I just wanted to make comments along the lines of, if you do need to do any other last minutes changes and fiddling around to keep other communities of interest together, perhaps what we're hearing with Kensington or other things, please do not do it at the expense of District 8 and the communities of interest that you've already recognized here. In particular, please don't give us any of Downtown. If you need to make, you know, minor changes, please east of the 15, or as little as possible. Thank you.

**Comment 12: Ben Rivera**

Good afternoon. Welcome to Logan Heights. First of all, I'd like to thank the Commission for all the hard work they've done and the maps that they've put together. All of us have worked very hard all during these months, meeting after meeting. And a few weeks ago we were very relieved when we saw this map put up, and we thought, well, the job is done. But, as politics would have it, it's not done, so we have to come back, and, you know, keep coming to these meetings, and the message is still the same. The first thing is that we want to maintain the unity of our communities west of Highway 15, and that has been said. No inclusion with Downtown East Village, I'd like to put that in bold letters, bold writing. Also, no more last minute changes, especially ones that would give us Downtown. That was our first thing, and we appreciated that you, and said it yourself, you locked us in first. We appreciated that because we didn't want to be the remnant for all the changes that are going on up in the northern area. And I'd like to emphasize that again, we do not want to be the remnant. And one last thing regarding Latino districts, African-American districts, we, all those of us who are neighborhood organizers, we organize neighborhoods and communities, they happen to be majority Latino or African American, but they are diverse, and we appreciate you looking at these maps in terms of maintaining unity and communities and that's what we're all about. Thank you very much.

**Comment 13: Pat Washington**

How are you doing? Good evening, Commissioners. First of all, I love it when you have these meetings in public libraries with free parking. It's far easier for working communities and families to get to these meetings when they're in these venues. So, I just want to thank you for that, so much, more than anything else, actually. But, in addition to that, one of the things I think is so important is that I really appreciate the map, the preliminary map, the July 19 map. I still believe very strongly that most important, above deviation, as long as you stay within the law, is to do whatever is humanly possible within your scope as Commissioners, within the scope of work, to ensure that historically underrepresented groups are fairly and adequately represented in the new districts and have an opportunity to elect someone of their choice to represent them, which means I still believe we have more work to do with the creation of an Asian-American Empowerment District, and it seems to me from

talking and listening to the people from the APAC community, they really want to be united in Mira Mesa, Rancho Peñasquitos, and that they also want to include the Asian business district in north Kearny Mesa. Again, I hesitate to spell out districts for the APAC community, but I do believe very strongly that we can do a far better job in this redistricting cycle to empower that community. I also want to thank you for what you've done for the African-American Empowerment District, as well as the Latino Empowerment District, and of course, as a lesbian I'm thrilled at the LGBT Empowerment District. So, thank you for your work. I hope that the final map does not contain any unpleasant surprises for the communities that I've mentioned because they all are near and dear to my heart. And I appreciate everything you've done and everything I know you're going to do. Thank you.

**Comment 14: Dorothy Perez**

My name is Dorothy Perez and I, we moved to Linda Vista in 1961, District 6. My husband's retired Navy. We raised five children. One's a teacher, one's a lawyer, one is an accountant, and one is an artist, and the baby is a commander in the U.S. Navy. I'm here to oppose the preliminary map. We are very unhappy with the way it's being divided into three sections. We have been very happy in Linda Vista, we've worked hard to get where we are today. Linda Vista had a very bad image. There was gangs, there was all kinds of problems there, and we are now where we are getting somewhere. We put four signs, "Welcome to Linda Vista, the home of USD" in the Linda Vista area and now I understand you're trying to take USD away from us, Navy housing, Kearny Mesa, or Kearny High School, and Tecolote Canyon. We'd like to keep it as is. If not, we have a map that was presented to you by Mr. Tom Kaye, on the second page, and it would make us very happy if you would consider that. And I thank you very much for your hard work and for your consideration. Like I said, we're not very happy with the map that you gave us. Thank you.

(Transcript Ends)

**ITEM 3 – COMMISSIONER COMMENT**

There were no comments.

**ADJOURNMENT:**

Chair Dalal adjourned the meeting at 6:55 p.m.

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Susan Manning, Executive Secretary  
2010 Redistricting Commission

**Written Comments Received July 26, 2011  
Redistricting Commission Public Hearing**

**Comment 1: Janet Kaye**

1) Please do not change our ability to communicate with City Hall. Division among 3 districts causes dilution. 2) We respectfully request to be equitably represented. 3) We request USD out of District 2. Thank you.

**Comment 2: Drew Corley**

I am opposed to Linda Vista being divided into 3 districts. I am requesting that Linda Vista stay as one single district.