



COUNCIL AGENDA: 12/14/2021
FILE: 21-2545
ITEM: 3.4

Memorandum

TO: CITY COUNCIL

FROM: Councilmember Maya Esparza

SUBJECT: SEE BELOW

DATE: December 14, 2021

Approved *Maya Esparza*

Date: 12/14/2021

SUBJECT: CITY OF SAN JOSÉ COUNCIL DISTRICT REDISTRICTING PUBLIC HEARING

RECOMMENDATION:

1. Reject the Council Map version brought forward by staff.
2. Adopt the Cohen map, with the following limited changes based on clear community feedback and to ensure clear compliance with the Voting Rights Act:
 - a. Adopt the limited corrections proposed by Councilmember Peralez to ensure Japantown and Hyde Park are entirely within District 3, utilizing Hwy 87 and 880 as the boundaries.
 - b. Add an additional portion of the Canoas Gardens neighborhood to District 6, keeping this part of the district boundary more consistent with the current council boundaries, the Unity Map coalition proposal, Voting Rights Act considerations of avoiding cracking minority populations, and minimizing population deviation in District 6.
 - c. Revise the boundary of Districts 5 and District 8 to ensure the currently existing district boundary is maintained exactly – including the Ocala neighborhood remaining in District 8 and Reid Hillview Airport itself being in District 5, but that its census tracts (and all of their population) be included in District 8.
 - d. Revise the boundary of District 5 and District 3 in Little Portugal to reflect the current Council representation.
 - e. Move South Campus of San Jose State University to District 7, a technical change with no population changes associated with it.
3. Adopt map <https://districtr.org/plan/93391>, which incorporates the changes proposed above, with direction to staff to ensure non-populated changes (South Campus of SJSU and Reid Hillview Airport) are corrected and brought forward by staff in time to be adopted as the final map voted on.

BACKGROUND

The map under consideration today, brought forward by staff and based on this council’s vote on December 7th, fundamentally fails to achieve an equitable outcome for San Jose residents. Since last Tuesday, we have heard clear feedback from trusted community leaders, and a broad cross-section of residents of our diverse city that we should try again.

I propose a map that does just that. It returns to Councilmember Cohen’s helpful proposal. It keeps a few minor and helpful changes. It adds to that a few modest modifications to further ensure we’re meeting our community’s highly reasonable expectations. It ensures that technical corrections are made where needed – most notably at Reid Hillview Airport.

Importantly, it leaves us with a final map that corrects the errors in the previous map that have been identified by our community.

I bring this proposal forward, because I believe we have a clear responsibility to meet the requirements of the Voting Rights Act. But more than that, we have a moral obligation to meet its spirit, not just the letter of the law. Serious concerns have been raised by our community – and its incumbent on the council to embrace solutions.

As stated above in the recommendation language, the map link can be found at:

<https://districtr.org/plan/93391>

For convenience and clarity, I have provided the demographic and population data available in the Districtr mapping software:

