



# Redistricting Commission City of San José MINUTES

<https://sanjoseca.zoom.us/j/92742607814>

7:00 PM

Thursday, October 14, 2021

Present: Sylvia Alvarez, Enedina Cardenas, Gloria Collins, Andrew Ditlevsen, B J Fadem (7:40 p.m.), Freddie W. Sidbury Jr., Lenka Wright

Absent: Jonathan Bruns, Ramon Martinez

Staff: Megan Roche, Legislative Secretary; Toni J. Taber, City Clerk; Mark Vanni, Senior Deputy City Attorney; Chris Chaffee, Redistricting Partners

## **I. Call to Order & Orders of the Day**

The meeting was called to order at 7:01 p.m.

Action: Upon motion by Commissioner Alvarez and seconded by Commissioner Ditlevsen, the Commission moved to accept the Orders of the Day. (6-0-3; Absent: Bruns, Fadem, Martinez)

## **II. Public Record- None**

## **III. Consent Calendar**

### **a) Approve Redistricting Commission Minutes.**

Action: The Commission moved to adopt the Redistricting Commission minutes from the two public hearings on September 18, 2021. (6-0-3; Absent: Bruns, Fadem, Martinez)

Public Comment: Blair Beekman described the importance of making elections and government processes more accessible for all.

## **IV. Reports & Information**

### **a. Report from Chair**

Vice Chair Cardenas welcomed Dee Barragan, who will represent District 3, to the Redistricting Commission. Vice Chair Cardenas detailed the ways in which the public may participate and access resources regarding the redistricting process, and also provided suggestions for how the Commission can structure their decision-making on the draft maps.

**b. Report from Clerk**

City Clerk Toni Taber welcomed Dee Barragan to the Commission and noted that she is able to hear testimony during this meeting but may fully participate after she is appointed by City Council on October 19, 2021.

**c. Report from Consultant- None**

Public Comment: None

**V. Public Hearing**

**a. Review Draft Maps**

Chris Chaffee, on behalf of Redistricting Partners, reviewed the community of interest testimony that the Commission has received and also provided an overview of the 2020 Census data in relation to San José's existing districts. He described the way total deviation is calculated and also reminded the Commission the of required criteria for map-drawing. Mr. Chaffee also presented and compared current draft map plans within the Maptitude program and received commissioner feedback.

Public Comment: Chava Bustamante, a member of Latinos United for a New America, stated his support for the Unity Map. Jeffrey Buchanan, a partner behind the Unity Mapping Table, described the Unity Map as a plan created by leading civil rights groups which aims to give historically underrepresented groups an equal say going forward and increasing equity across district lines. Gaby expressed interest in the C4 map and wished for the Ocala neighborhood to be included in District 5. Julie Engelbrecht suggested considering natural divisions and transportation corridors as boundaries in the downtown area. A caller with the phone number ending in 5140 was disinterested in expanding the size of District 9 and did not wish for changes to the current district lines. Brenda Dohmen questioned the Commissioners' best interests for the residents of San José. Bonnie Mace, Executive Director of the Santa Clara County School Board Association, appreciated the efforts to consider school districts in the line-drawing process, asked for OB Whaley to be included in District 8, and valued that the public may submit their own maps for consideration. Matthew Bright, representing the Newhall Neighborhood Association, highlighted a line within the C, C2, and C3 maps which divides a residential complex, and hoped for a small line adjustment in order to keep that complex whole. Wolfram Schneider, a member of the PBID and downtown parking boards, referenced a letter from the public from several downtown associations and suggested that the Commission ensures the services provided by these associations are not split into two separate Council districts. Blair Beekman appreciated the idea of creating additional Council districts, and subsequently suggested splitting District 2's long corridor into two districts and also creating a district central to the airport. Sandra Delvin reminded the Commission of the importance of keeping the San José State Community united in the drawing of district lines. Lennies Gutierrez, Chair of Latino Leadership Alliance, spoke in support of C4 and the Unity Map for the goal of ensuring that communities of color having more equal voice in the City's future. Wade highlighted transportation barriers

that prevent the unification of Vendome areas into District 6 and did not wish for special interests supporting the Unity Map to be considered equally with communities of interest testimony. Marni Kamzan described Naglee Park as a part of the downtown community and wished for neighborhood maps to be discussed with at least the same level of consideration as the Unity Map. Trujillo Miguel Vazquez, on behalf of Grupo Solidaridad, asked the Commission to support the Unity Map. Greg Ripa asked for North San José to be combined with downtown or the Rose Garden area and also requested for transit usage to be a consideration for keeping similar communities together. A caller with the phone number ending in 5649 urged the Commission to support the Unity Map because it is a reflection of communal interests and the interests of those who have not had a voice in governmental processes. Gabriela Garzon Gupta, on behalf of the Asian Law Alliance, supported the Unity Map and map C4 because they maintain the majority-minority Asian and Latinx districts, respect existing communities of interest, and unite multifamily housing communities. David supported the Unity Map and noted that the organizers of the Unity Map work with vulnerable populations including much of the East Side of San José. Cher stated that maps C2 and C3 appear identical and she did not believe that the Unity Map is in accordance with legal guidelines. Gina Gates-Lopez supported the Unity Map and stressed that the organizers of the map are striving to help neighbors. Kristen Strubbe stated that the organizations which brought forth the Unity Map aim to give a voice to the most vulnerable populations in the City and also asked for maps with better resolution to be made available to the public.

**VI. Old Business- None**

**VII. New Business- None**

**VIII. Public Comment/Open Forum**

Public Comment: A caller with the phone number ending in 5140 wished for the City to focus more resources on roads, first responders, and overnight crime prevention shifts. Julie Engelbrecht hoped for transcripts of the meeting to be made available and asked for clarification on where to locate the HTML versions of the draft maps. Cher stated that draft maps C2 and C3 appear to be identical and asked for the opportunity to present alternative draft maps. Blair Beekman agreed that the Ocala area should be in District 5, appreciated East-West ideas, and clarified that his statement during the Neighborhood Services and Education meeting earlier in the day was “as I think we are learning.” Gina Gates-Lopez encouraged members of the community to engage with government processes, asked if redistricting outreach is being done in Spanish and Vietnamese, and wished for parking to be a requirement of new development. Gaby agreed that the Ocala area should be included in District 5.

**VIII. Meeting Schedule and Agenda Items**

The next regular meeting of the Redistricting Commission is scheduled for October 21, 2021 at 7:00 p.m. via Zoom.



**X. Adjournment**

The Commission adjourned at 9:22 p.m.

*Megan Roche*

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Prepared by:  
Megan Roche, Deputy City Clerk

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Enedina Cardenas  
Vice Chair, Redistricting Commission