



Redistricting Commission

City of San José

MINUTES

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

7:00 PM

Thursday, October 21, 2021

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

Absent: None

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 7:02 p.m.

Action: Upon motion by Commissioner Ditlevsen and seconded by Commissioner Barragan, the Commission moved to accept the Orders of the Day. (9-0-1; Absent: Fadem)

II. Public Record- None

III. Consent Calendar- None

IV. Reports & Information

a. Report from Chair

Vice Chair Cardenas stated that this meeting is the Commission's third draft map public hearing where Redistricting Partners will review posted draft maps and the public will also present their proposed maps. Vice Chair Cardenas noted that public testimony is still being received, detailed up-to-date resources are available on the City website, and she also suggested that the Commission select one of the draft maps as a baseline to which adjustments can be made.

b. Report from Clerk- None

c. Report from Consultant- None

Public Comment: Tessa Woodmansee wished for additional explanation on the reasoning behind the redistricting process and much smaller districts. Tod Williams

asked for the identity and number of meeting attendees to be made public. Cher asked how letters from the public are incorporated and how the public may ask questions during the meeting without chat functions enabled. Brian Macias asked where he would be able to discuss school district lines and zoning.

V. Public Hearing
a. Review Draft Maps

Chris Chaffee, on behalf of Redistricting Partners, reviewed the criteria for district map drawing. Mr. Chaffee also presented and compared draft map plan C3 and received commissioner feedback. Members of the public were invited to present their own maps to the Commission, and discussion with Commissioners followed. Richard Konda, Jeffrey Buchanan, and Andres Quintero presented the Unity Map to the Commission. Greg Ripa presented his map to the Commission, which is DistrictR map number 64429. Richard Ajluni and Sonya Lu presented the Community Map to the Commission. Chris Chaffee then reviewed draft map plans within the Maptitude program and edited district lines with the Commission's direction.

Public Comment: Blair Beekman suggested that District 3 be moved one block over on East Santa Clara street and discussed positives of the downtown area being included in District 7. Nathan Ulsh, Director of Policy and Operations for the San Jose Downtown Association, discussed the need to keep the downtown PBID district intact, to include Downtown West with the downtown district, and to select draft map C3 for further amendments. Cher discussed downtown communities that are split from the downtown district in the Unity Map, prefers the C3 and Community Maps because they adhere to the mapping guidelines, and asked for a feedback mechanism that would allow for input before the Commission's next meeting. Christine Villareal supported the Unity Map and encouraged others to suggest the changes they would like to see to the Unity Map makers. Marni Kamzan supported the Community map and believed that the Unity Map is a form of gerrymandering. Tessa Woodmansee requested for the draft maps to be more user-friendly and for direct responses to public comment. Barbara Marshman asked when the draft maps from the public will be evaluated for compliance under the law. Bonnie Mace supported the C3 draft map and encouraged both placing the OB Whaley school within District 8 to align with the Evergreen school district and keeping the undeveloped area below the freeway in District 8. Antonina supported the C3 draft map because of the unified neighborhoods in District 3. Ingrid Granados supported the Unity Map for the equity it promotes within the City. Ryan Jones supported the Unity Map because it is compact, keeps neighborhoods whole, and was drawn with communities of interest in mind. David supported the Unity Map and stated that East Side San José should not be broken up. Brenda Zendejas supported the Unity Map because it keeps East Side San José whole. Gaby asked for the Ocala Middle School and DCP Middle School to be included in the Alum Rock School District by placing both schools in District 5. Tod Williams liked both draft map C3 and the Community Map and also asked for better resolution in posted maps. Leonardo Moreno supported the Unity Map and did not wish for the voices of East Side San José residents to be diluted if Berryessa were to be included in their district. John Tucker supported the Unity Map because it enhances the

current communities of interest and does not further dilute votes from marginalized communities. Hector Moreno wished for East Side San José to be kept together and supported the Unity Map. Juan Urbina supported the Unity Map and appreciated the intentions of the Unity Map organizers. Raphael Villagarcia supported the Unity Map because it keeps Berryessa whole and for the representation of communities that it aims to protect. Krista De La Torre, on behalf of the South Bay Labor Council, supported the Unity Map because it will keep communities together, will not dilute the voices of working people or marginalized groups, and promotes fairness. Frialyn Castro asked how the Unity Map benefits working families and affects school districts and also wished for maps to become available in better resolution. Ruben Navarro supported the Unity Map for the equity that it aims to promote. Huascar Castro asked the Commission to take racial equity into account and supported the Unity Map because it aims to ensure people of all backgrounds have a voice. Corey Quevedo supported the Unity Map because it keeps Guadalupe Washington whole and ensures voices are not diluted. Tam Nguyen, on behalf of VIVO Foundation, spoke to many residents and supported the Unity Map with the interest of keeping communities together. Edmundo supported the Unity Map because it keeps communities whole, is compact, promotes fairness, and ensures that ethnic coalitions have an equal vote in their districts. Art Maurice supported draft map C3 because it keeps Corey neighborhood in District 6, where his neighborhood association has spent 20 years building relationships. Eunice Chun, Executive Director of Korean American Community Services, supported the Unity Map for the representation it will create for the AAPI community. Mac Todd Young, speaking on behalf of SEIU-USWW, supported the Unity Map because it keeps communities unified. Gina Gates-Lopez highlighted that much of the community is unaware of the redistricting process and that the Unity Map represents the interests of people unable to participate in meetings. Alisi Tulua, a Pacific Islander advocate, supported the Unity Map because it promotes equity for marginalized communities, it brings the communities and neighborhoods of San José together, and it doesn't dilute the voices of marginalized communities. Jennifer Mansfield appreciated both the Unity Map because it aims to undo unfair advantages that were created in the past and the C3 map because it keeps the downtown neighborhoods with are very long history of community engagement across neighborhoods together. Miguel supported the Unity Map because it keeps the East San José community unified and does not combine it with the Berryessa community. Neil Park-McClintick supported the Unity Map because of its goal of promoting equity. Olivia Navarro supported the Unity Map because it will create a more equitable City and it would provide an opportunity for everyone in both Districts 6 and 3. Marissa supported the Community Map and C3 draft map because it keeps the Vendome neighborhood in downtown and unifies the downtown neighborhoods. David Noel, President and Co-Founder of the Erikson Neighborhood Association in District 9, supported draft map C3 and requested that the Commission keep the Erikson, Thousand Oaks, Pinehurst, and Tatra neighborhoods together. Tim Clauson, President of the Vendome Neighborhood Association, supported the Community Map and the C3 map because they keep historic downtown neighborhoods together, and hoped that the draft maps can soon be evaluated for legal compliance. Jose Posadas requested that the Commission keep the Washington neighborhood, Spartan Keys area, Little Portugal, and the Vendome neighborhood within district three. Nancy, from the West Evergreen Neighborhood Association, requested that the Whaley

neighborhood and the West Evergreen neighborhood remain in District 7 in order to retain their representation.

VI. Old Business- None

VII. New Business- None

VIII. Public Comment/Open Forum

Public Comment: Rita Birrueta asked that Valley Palms be kept united in District 7 and also called on the Commission to fix the historical racism in San José. Marilu Zepeda asked that Valley Palms be kept in District 7. Cher expressed concern over the speed and responsiveness of the redistricting process. Jeffrey Buchanan requested that shape files or csv files which correspond to the draft maps be made available to the public and also requested that the revised version of the Unity Map be included in the legislative file. David Noel supported draft map C3 and expressed concern that the Erikson neighborhood would be divided from its community in draft plan C4. Blair Beekman suggested combining progressive ideas from all three maps and agreed that the East Side communities should not be divided. Wolfram Schneider hoped for future maps to consider transportation flows and to coincide with the PBID and Groundwerx downtown areas. Tessa Woodmansee asked for descriptions of the draft maps and appreciated both the minimal change plans and plans that keep her residence in District 6. Alex Shoor appreciated the work and time commitment of the Commissioners and staff.

VIII. Meeting Schedule and Agenda Items

The next regular meeting of the Redistricting Commission is scheduled for October 28, 2021 at 7:00 p.m. via Zoom. Commissioner Wright requested a summary of the outreach that has been conducted for the redistricting process. City Clerk Toni Taber stated that she will contact the Commissioners to find suitable dates for potential special meetings in order to ensure that the Commission may meet as many times as they deem necessary.

X. Adjournment

The Commission adjourned at 11:41 p.m.



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Prepared by:
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Enedina Cardenas
Vice Chair, Redistricting Commission