



## **Redistricting Commission City of San José MINUTES**

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

**7:00 PM**

**Thursday, November 4, 2021**

Present: Jonathan Bruns, Sylvia Alvarez, Dee Barragan, Fred Buzo, Enedina Cardenas, Gloria Collins, Andrew Ditlevsen, B J Fadem (7:20 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 7:00 p.m.

Action: Upon motion by Commissioner Martinez and seconded by Commissioner Barragan, the Commission moved to accept the Orders of the Day. (10-0-1; Absent: Fadem)

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

### **III. Consent Calendar- None**

### **IV. Reports & Information**

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

#### **b. Report from Clerk**

City Clerk Toni Taber called on Senior Deputy City Attorney Mark Vanni to clarify the extent to which race may be considered within redistricting deliberations.

#### **c. Report from Consultant- None**

Public Comment: Tod Williams asked for clarification on the Voting Rights Act of 1965 which, he believes, states that a map cannot be based predominately on race. Cher asked if a map would be considered to have vote dilution if there is deviation from the current percentages of racial makeup in each district. Tessa Woodmansee asked what the difference is between the “public record” and “letters from the public,” and also requested additional clarity on the draft map titles. Jeffrey

Buchanan, on behalf of Silicon Valley Rising Action and the Unity Mapping Table, discussed concerns of cracking the Latinx vote if the densely populated Latinx neighborhoods in District 3 were to be moved into alternate districts. Marilu Zepeda wished for the Valley Palms Apartments to remain in District 7 and asked that Doe Hill be moved into District 8 instead of Valley Palms. Rita Birrueta wished for Valley Palms to remain in District 7. Marni Kamzan asked how legal requirements regarding race and ethnicity are affected by the population adjustments which are necessary to equalize districts.

City Attorney Vanni provided a response to questions asked during the public comment period.

**V. Public Hearing**  
**a. Review Draft Maps**

Action: Upon motion by Commissioner Ditlevsen and seconded by Commissioner Barragan, the Commission unanimously moved to proceed with Map D3, the Community Map, and the Unity Map. (11-0-0)

Chris Chaffee, on behalf of Redistricting Partners, reviewed the redistricting process and the most recent map revisions that the Commission directed. Mr. Chaffee presented and compared draft map plans D3, the Unity Map (revised 10/27/2021), and Community Map 2.0 (DistrictR Map 71645) with current district lines and also received commissioner feedback. Members of the public were invited to present their own maps to the Commission, and discussion with Commissioners followed. Cheryl Lubow and Sonya Lu presented the Community Map 3.0 to the Commission, which is DistrictR Map 75234. Mike Kraus, President of the Penitencia Neighborhood Association, presented to the Commission on the Penitencia Neighborhood Association as a community of interest. David Noel presented the Greater Blossom Hill/Almaden Expressway community of interest to the Commission on behalf of the Erikson Neighborhood Association. Julie Pollitt presented her Fair Representation Map to the Commission and then recommended the adoption of the Community Map 3.0. Juan Estrada presented on Council District 5 and requested that the Reid-Hillview Airport be included in District 5. Jeffrey Buchanan and Andres Quintero presented the Unity Map to the Commission.

Chris Chaffee then reviewed draft map plans within the Maptitude program and adjusted district lines with the Commission's direction.

Public Comment: Verja Miller expressed support for the Unity Map for better representation of San José communities. Niousha Farhangi, a representative for Fight for \$15, supported the Unity Map because it promotes fairness, it conforms to the legal requirements, and the other maps have the potential to dilute votes of many communities. Krista De La Torre, on behalf of the South Bay Labor Council, expressed support for the Unity Map because it keeps communities together, considers the realities of working people, and ensure that ethnic coalitions have an equal vote in their district. Misrayn Mendoza supported the Unity Map because it offers a fair opportunity for prosperity to



all members of the community. Trudy Ellerbeck identified the Mount Pleasant neighborhood as a community of interest, which is reflected within DistrictR Map 75647. Melissa Got-Lopez, President of the Mount Pleasant Neighborhood Association, identified the Mount Pleasant neighborhood as a community of interest that should not be divided; it is located on the southeast corner of District 5 and District 8. Angel Madero, Council Representative for Councilmember Magdalena Carrasco in District 5, supported Trudy Ellerbeck and Melissa Got-Lopez in testifying that the Mount Pleasant neighborhood is a community of interest as identified in DistrictR Map 75647. Corey Quevedo supported the Unity Map because it keeps the East Side of San José whole. Mayra Pelagio, Executive Director of Latinos United for a New America (LUNA), advocated for the Unity Map because it promotes equitable and fair representation. Edmundo Escarcega supported the Unity Map because it considers San José's history, promotes fairness, keeps communities whole, and does not suppress votes in Districts 3 or 5. Greg Ripa referenced a map he submitted within the letters from the public attachment which combines North San José with the Rose Garden and Midtown areas and asked the Commission to support it because it resolves many of the expressed concerns over district boundaries and accurately reflects communities of interest testimony. Iboneth Quiñones asked that the Ocala neighborhood be included within District 5 and noted that her neighborhood identifies with Alum Rock more than the Evergreen area. Ryan Jones supported the Unity Map as a resident of District 6 because it keeps and brings communities together and does not suppress the votes of renters, Latinx, or Black residents. Kathy Tran supported the Unity Map because it unites renters, increases the representation of renters and also Asian, Latinx, and Black residents. Maricela Lechuga, a Santa Clara County Airport Commissioner and a member of the Cassell Neighborhood Association, supported that the Unity Map elevates the voices of tenants and people of color, but wished for the Mount Pleasant Neighborhood to stay intact and also for the Reid-Hillview Airport to stay in District 5. Joe Cervantes reviewed the legal criteria for fair redistricting maps and urged the Commission to reject the Unity Map. Jill Borders did not support the Unity Map and supported the Community Map instead. Tony Romero, a community organizer for Latinos United for a New America (LUNA), supported the Unity Map because it will empower minority communities and also urged the Commission to keep the Valley Palms apartments and Tropicana Lanai communities within District 7. Victoria Partida, President of the Tropicana Lanai neighborhood, spoke in support of the Unity Map because it keeps her community together. Roland LeBrun, President of the Santa Teresa Bernal Neighborhood Association, did not support Draft Map C4 and expressed support for Draft Map C2. Elizabeth AJ supported the Unity Map because it will allow for all votes to have an equal weight and for all communities to have equal resources. Mullissa Willette spoke in favor of the Unity Map because it does not suppress Asian or Latinx voices and reminded the Commission that her community and others are located on Tamien land. Shane Patrick Connolly, President of the Willow Glen Creek Homeowners Association, asked the Commission to support the Community Map and did not support the Unity Map. Roma Dawson reminded the Commission that their top priority is compliance with both the Federal Voting Rights Act and the State's Fair Maps Act and expressed concern that the Community Map is not in compliance. Hector Moreno spoke in support of the Unity Map because it keeps East Side San José together and aims to bring equity to the City of San

José. Marissa voiced support for the Community Map and noted that the Unity Map does not keep the Vendome neighborhood unified. Gaby supported the Unity Map because its organizers honored the request of the Ocala neighborhood to remain in District 5 on the East Side of San José. Andrew Macias spoke in support of the Unity Map because it addresses extreme inequalities and treats the East Side of San José with respect. Madison Beckett supported the Unity Map and believed there must be an intentional effort to restore equity in order to remedy the effects of racism and redlining. Blair Beekman appreciated the ideas behind the Community and Unity Maps and suggested moving District 7 northward to address previously voiced concerns. José Villareal, representing the Coalition of Humans Against Negligent Government Entities (CHANGE), supported the Unity Map because it can create a change in minority communities that will last for the next ten years. Maria Rocha supported the Unity Map because it maintains the integrity of Berryessa and surrounding neighborhoods. Antonina supported the Community Map because it keeps Hyde Park unified, respects the geographic integrity of local neighborhoods and communities, and minimizes the division of communities of interest. Tod Williams expressed concern over the legality of the Unity Map and supported the Community Map because it keeps communities of interest together and achieves fair racial balancing. Genet Areda supported the Unity Map because it promotes fairness, ensures that ethnic coalitions have an equal vote in their districts, and is legally compliant. Sandra Munoz supported the Unity Map as a District 3 resident because it promotes equality in voting power and an equal distribution of resources. Junta de Supervisores asked the Commission to keep the Valley Palms Apartments and Tropicana Lanai community within District 7. Ben Vo spoke in support of the Unity Map because it aims to ensure that all votes have an equal weight and also increases the representation of renters as well as Latinx, Asian, and Black residents significantly. Marni Kamzan supported the Community Map because it has the lowest population deviation between all districts and achieves fair racial balancing. Paul Soto discussed a history of racism and redlining in San José. Leonardo Moreno voiced support for the Unity Map because it keeps the Ocala neighborhood in District 5 with the Alum Rock area. Zin Htwe supported the Unity Map because it promotes a better future where everyone would have the opportunity to voice their own opinions without being ignored due to a lack of representation. Hieu Nguyen spoke in support of the Unity Map because it increases the representation of renters as well as Latinx, Asian and Black residents and also honors the LGBTQIA community as a community of interest. Katherine Wang supported the Unity Map because it increases the representation of renters as well as Latinx, Asian and Black residents rather than splintering already underrepresented communities. Janis Gemignani supported the Community Map and voiced that District 3 must be kept intact. Jorge Casas, a member of Latinos United for a New America (LUNA), wished for the airport to remain in District 5 and supported the Unity Map because it keeps communities together and does not dilute voices of marginalized communities. Sandra D. voiced support for the Community Map because it fulfills the legal requirements, maintains local neighborhoods and communities, has compactness within districts, and has easily identifiable boundaries. Patricia Mendoza, President of the Evergreen Leadership Neighborhood Association, asked the Commission to consider DistrictR Map 75292 in order to identify the Evergreen Leadership Neighborhood Association and ensure that it stays whole within one district. Luke Vratny supported the Unity Map and saw it as an



opportunity for collaboration to build a bigger citywide community. Tony H. spoke in favor of the Unity Map because it keeps communities whole and allows ethnic interest parties a fair vote. Arturo Muñoz, Community Organizer for SOMOS Mayfair and volunteer for Latinos United for a New America (LUNA), supported the Unity Map because it aims to ensure that his community has the representation necessary to continue their advocacy, creates an equitable playing field for the entire community, and does not disenfranchise any groups. Tessa Woodmansee expressed difficulty in accessing the language interpretation channel on Zoom and requested more legible maps. Joseph Best supported the Unity Map and discussed inequities within San José. Gabriela Garzon Gupta discussed the effects of redlining and racist policy and supported the Unity Map because it is compliant with all redistricting requirements and does not disenfranchise voters. Yudy stated support for the Unity Map because it brings and keeps communities together and requested that alternate forms of outreach to be done. Wolfram Schneider discussed population shifts with regard to ethnicity in District 3. Cher discussed the Asian population increasing in the Downtown area and urged the Commission to move forward with the maps they have. Robert Herrera urged the Commission to support the Unity Map because it keeps communities together and allows communities to work together to address the problems that they collectively face. Claudia Rodriguez asked the Commission to keep Valley Palms united in District 7 because of the community's shared culture and in order to protect the rights of tenants, students, and immigrants. Rachel Daniels, President of the Doerr Neighborhood Association, expressed concern over the multitude of maps under consideration and suggested that agendas include only current maps as attachments.

Action: Upon motion by Commissioner Barragan and seconded by Commissioner Fadem, the Commission unanimously moved to advance and proceed with Map D4, the Community Map 3.0, and the Unity Map. (11-0-0)

**VI. Old Business- None**

**VII. New Business- None**

**VIII. Public Comment**

Public Comment: Cher suggested that final voting be postponed to November 17<sup>th</sup> because not all commissioners will be able to attend the November 8<sup>th</sup> meeting. Blair Beekman asked the Commission to consider the equity issues at the three corners Google village area and also his previously stated ideas of shifting District 7 boundaries.

**IX. Meeting Schedule and Agenda Items**

The next regular meeting of the Redistricting Commission is scheduled for November 8, 2021 at 6:00 p.m. via Zoom.

**X. Adjournment**

The Commission adjourned at 12:30 a.m.

*Megan Roche*

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Prepared by:  
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Fred Buzo  
Chair, Redistricting Commission