



# Redistricting Commission City of San José MINUTES

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

6:00 PM

Monday, November 8, 2021

Present: Sylvia Alvarez, Dee Barragan, Fred Buzo, Enedina Cardenas, Andrew Ditlevsen, B J Fadem, Ramon Martinez (6:17 p.m.), Freddie W. Sidbury Jr., Lenka Wright

Absent: Jonathan Bruns, Gloria Collins

Staff: 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 6:00 p.m.

## **II. Public Hearing** **a. Review Draft Maps**

Chris Chaffee, on behalf of Redistricting Partners, presented and compared draft map plans D4, the Unity Map (revised 10/27/2021), and Community Map 3.0 with current district lines and also received commissioner feedback. Chris Chaffee then reviewed draft map plans within the Maptitude program and adjusted district lines with the Commission's direction.

Action: Upon motion by Commissioner Ditlevsen and seconded by Commissioner Fadem, the Commission moved to limit map presentations from the public to 5 minutes, only on the topic of new revisions made to maps. (9-0-2; Absent: Bruns, Collins)

Members of the public were invited to present their own maps to the Commission and discussion with Commissioners followed. Trudy Ellerbeck, representing the Board of the Mount Pleasant Neighborhood Association, presented the boundaries of the Mount Pleasant Neighborhood Association which is reflected as DistrictR Map 77538. Jeremy Plunkett presented the Anti-Disenfranchisement Map v0.1. Tod Williams and Marissa Gorsline presented a map depicting the Vendome Neighborhood community of interest. Cheryl Lubow and Sonya Lu presented the Community Map 4.0, which is DistrictR Map 77136. Jeffrey Buchanan and Andres Quintero reviewed changes to the 10/27 version of the Unity Map.

Public Comment: Johnathan Karpf expressed support for the Unity Map because it does not dilute votes. Greg Ripa highlighted that the map he previously presented to the Commission creates two districts with Latinx plurality and protects AAPI and Latinx

CVAP districts. Ben Vo supported the Unity Map and urged the Commission to examine the impacts of draft map plans to renters, immigrants, those of average household income, and those at risk of being displaced. Victor Vasquez, representing SOMOS Mayfair, supported the Unity Map because it brings communities together and ensures that the voices of Asian, Hispanic, Black, Indigenous people, renters, and undocumented residents are represented. Elizabeth Chien-Hale, President of the San José Downtown Residents Association, expressed concern that her community may be moved from District 3 to 6 and asked that her community remain in District 3. Tim Clauson testified that the Vendome neighborhood is a community of interest that should remain in District 3, supported the Community Map, and did not support the Unity Map. Ted Earle, President of the Thousand Oaks Neighborhood Association, asked the Commission to keep the Erikson, Thousand Oaks, Pinehurst, and Tanglewood-Tatra neighborhoods united in District 9 and supported the Community Map. Andrew Macias supported the Unity Map because it addresses the extreme inequalities in San José and treats the East Side with respect. Nancy supported the Community Map because of its natural distinct boundaries. Krista De La Torre supported the Unity Map because it keeps communities together and ensures that each San José resident has a voice and a fair say in their representation. Sandra D. asked Redistricting Partners for a summary to compare all three draft maps on one page and supported both the Community Map and the D4 Map. Janice echoed Sandra D's comments and supported the Community Map. Felwina Opiso-Mondina, with the Pilipino Association of Workers and Immigrants, supported the updated Unity Map because it will right historical wrongs and ensure that the political voices of working people, tenants, and community members are heard. Hector Moreno expressed support for the Unity Map and urged the Commission to keep the East Side of San José together. Blair Beekman requested that draft maps include street names and suggested shifting the borders of Districts 5 and 7. Dr. Forest Peterson, researcher at Stanford University, supported the Unity Map and agreed with the boundary divisions of Districts 2 and 10. Maria Rocha expressed support for the Unity Map because it keeps the Berryessa and other communities together and does not dilute the voices of residents. Neil Park-McClintick, as an organizer of the Unity Map, supported the Unity Map and appreciated that the map recognizes the LGBTQ community as a community of interest which is united in one single district. Tessa Woodmansee appreciated the Unity Map, requested improved notifications for meetings, and agreed that a comparison between all three maps with street names would be useful. Sarah Wang supported the Community Map and strongly opposed the Unity Map. Marni Kamzan supported the Community Map and asked the Commission to examine the Unity Map with the same scrutiny as they did the Community Map. Edmundo Escarcega spoke in favor of the Unity Map because it promotes fairness, and keeps communities whole, and does not radically suppress votes in Districts 3 and 5. Marissa Gorsline supported the Community Map because it adheres to the redistricting principles and keeps communities intact. Annie Vaudagna supported the Community Map because it maintains the Vendome neighborhood in District 3 and meets the state redistricting criteria. Jenny Zhao agreed that it would be useful for a comparison of all three maps to be provided, supported the Community Map because it keeps communities together, and did not support the Unity Map. Sherri Taylor supported the Community Map and wished to hear less divisive language when people voice support or dissatisfaction regarding draft maps. Wade compared the motivations behind



the Unity and Community Maps and supported the Community Map. Misrayn Mendoza supported the Unity Map because it fosters equality in the united City of San José. Elizabeth Hirai, member of the Board of Pinehurst Residents Association, supported the Community Map and opposed the Unity Map because it does not follow redistricting laws or best practices. Julie supported the Community Map, did not support the Unity Map because it creates division in the Vendome neighborhood, and requested maps with street names. Yuritza Martinez supported the Unity Map because it promotes equality and opposed the Community Map. Adam G. voiced support for the Community Map because it is practical and keeps the Downtown unified. Cher supported the Community Map and expressed concern that race was the predominant factor for drawing the Unity Map district lines. Wolfram Schneider supported the Community Map because it accurately represents the downtown area. Fred Landis supported the Community Map and opposed the Unity Map because its divisions are based on race. Joseph Cervantes spoke in favor of the Community Map and opposed the Unity Map. David Noel strongly urged the Commission to support the Community Map because it aims to preserve communities of interest, keep districts compact contiguous and manageable, and enables all residents to have the best possible representative and constituent services. Jeremy Plunkett discussed potential voter disenfranchisement if certain district boundaries are changed. Jeffrey Buchanan, member of Silicon Valley Rising Action, urged the Commission to send the Unity Map to City Council, suggested bringing all three maps to Council, and addressed the motives behind the Unity Map. Eddie Correa asked the Unity and Community Map organizers to layer school districts over their proposed maps. Ed Burger, member of the Northside Neighborhood Association, supported the Community Map because it unifies his greater community based on their shared geography.

Action: Commissioner Fadem made a motion for the Commission to proceed with the D4 Map (as approved at the end of the November 4<sup>th</sup> meeting), the Community Map 4.0, and the Unity Map (as updated by the presenters during this November 8<sup>th</sup> meeting). This motion was seconded by Commissioner Alvarez.

Action: Commissioner Ditlevsen suggested a friendly amendment to Commissioner Fadem's motion that the Commission instruct the organizers behind the Community and Unity Maps to submit final versions of their maps to the City Clerk 72 hours prior to the start of the November 17<sup>th</sup> meeting. Presentations by the Unity Map and Community Map organizers will be limited to 5 minutes, and also limited to only changes made to the maps since they were last presented. Commissioners Fadem and Alvarez accepted the friendly amendment made by Commissioner Ditlevsen. Commissioner Wright requested that the Commission refer to the D4 Map as the "Commission Map." The Commission moved Commissioner Fadem's motion, as amended by Commissioner Ditlevsen. (9-0-2; Absent: Bruns, Collins)

### **III. Adjournment**

The Commission adjourned at 9:35 p.m.

*Megan Roche*

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Prepared by:  
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Fred Buzo  
Chair, Redistricting Commission