



Councilmanic Redistricting Commission 2021

Members

Donna Hill Staton, Chair
McNeal Brown
Everlene Cunningham
Mahesh S. Kukata
David Marker
Chris Oxenham
Ray Serrano

Cynthia Fikes, Alternate
Lili Shippe, Alternate

Councilmanic Redistricting Commission
Minutes
Hybrid – In Person and Virtually via WebEx
Thursday, September 30, 2021
4:00 p.m.

Commissioners Attending in Person: Donna Hill Staton, Chair, David Marker, and Ray Serrano

Commissioners Attending Virtually: McNeal Brown, Everlene Cunningham, Mahesh S. Kukata, and Chris Oxenham

Commissioners Absent: Cynthia Fikes (Alternate) and Lili Shippe (Alternate)

Staff Attending: Gary Kuc, County Solicitor; Amanda Mihill, Assistant County Solicitor; Michelle Harrod, Council Administrator; Theodore Wimberly, Administrative Manager; Lynne Rosen, Senior Legislative Analyst; and Rob Slivinsky, GIS Manager

Ms. Staton welcomed everyone.

The Commissioners approved with specified changes the minutes of the Commission's September 14, 2021 meeting.

The Commissioners and Mr. Slivinsky discussed how to use the Maptitude software to draw maps and to share maps with other Commissioners. Mr. Slivinsky demonstrated the various Maptitude features that the Commissioners can use to draft maps, including the share the plan button, the new plan button, the tool box, the zoom in and zoom out tools, the magnifying glass, the hand tool to move around the map, and the information tool.

Mr. Slivinsky reviewed a large print out of a map with the current Councilmanic districts and population labels that can be used as a wall map. He further discussed that Commissioners who want to share a plan can email a PDF of the plan to him, and he can print out paper maps.

The Commissioners discussed how to share maps received from the public.

Mr. Wimberly explained that the public can utilize the Contact Us button on the website to send PDFs of maps or drop off maps at the Council office that can be scanned and shared with the Commissioners within 48 hours of receipt.



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Ms. Staton discussed that the public is encouraged to send maps to the Commission and written public comments on proposed maps by October 29, 2021 to permit consideration of their comments in advance of the Commission's November 2, 2021 Work Session.

Mr. Wimberly explained that after up to three final maps are chosen by the Commission, the maps will be posted on the Commission website.

The Commissioners discussed if there is software available to the public.

Mr. Slivinsky discussed if a person has the latest Census data, the person could use free software that is available online.

Mr. Wimberly discussed that maps could be handwritten and submitted to the Commission.

Ms. Staton requested that the map with the current Councilmanic districts and population labels be posted on the Commission website for people to download and use to make sure they are using the right data.

Ms. Staton discussed a request from the League of Women Voters for the Commission to add a third public hearing to the schedule. Ms. Staton discussed the challenge of scheduling three public hearings with the compressed schedule of the Commission. She explained that Mr. Wimberly conveyed the time limitations to the representative of the League of Women Voters. The Commission has the ability to receive comments from the public in writing. The next public hearing is on October 26, 2021 at 7:00 p.m. Upon suggestion of the Chair, the Commission discussed and rejected as unfeasible the option of adding a second mid-day public hearing on October 26.

The Commissioners expressed their confidence and comfort that the ability of the public to submit written comments to the Commission and testify at one of the Commission's two public hearings, allowed for meaningful community participation in the Commission's part of the Redistricting process, despite the compressed timeline. In addition, the County Council will hold a hearing on a proposed plan before its adoption.

The Commissioners discussed the receipt of public comments and the distribution of the comments to the Commissioners.

Ms. Staton announced that Work Session #3 is October 12, 2021 at 4:00 p.m.

Ms. Staton thanked everyone for attending and adjourned the meeting at 5:06 p.m.