



Councilmanic Redistricting Commission 2021

Members

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

Councilmanic Redistricting Commission

Minutes

Virtual Meeting via Webex

June 15, 2021

Councilmanic Redistricting Commission Members Participating in Webex Meeting:
Donna Hill Staton, Chair, McNeal Brown, Everlene Cunningham, Mahesh S. Kukata, David Marker, Chris Oxenham, and Ray Serrano.

Alternates Participating in Webex Meeting: Cynthia Fikes

Staff Participating in Webex Meeting: Gary Kuc, County Solicitor, Amanda Mihill, Assistant County Solicitor, Michelle Harrod, Council Administrator, Theodore Wimberly, Administrative Manager, and Lynne Rosen, Senior Policy Analyst

Ms. Staton opened the meeting at 4:33 p.m. and welcomed everyone. She explained that the meeting was starting late due to technical difficulties. She discussed the first order of business was the approval of minutes. The Commission members voted in favor of approving the minutes of the March 16, 2021 meeting.

Jeff Bronow, Division Chief, Division of Research, Department of Planning and Zoning presented on Howard County Population Growth and Demographics. Mr. Bronow discussed that the second Power Point slide is the plan of the 2010 Councilmanic Redistricting Commission that became law. The intent was to balance population to the extent possible to 20 percent in each district. He discussed the wait for the results of the U.S. Census to see what the 2020 population is by councilmanic district. Mr. Bronow reviewed the slides that are on the Councilmanic Redistricting Commission website.

The Commissioners discussed the types of information that will be available when redistricting, including housing units and population by race.

Rob Slivinsky, GIS Manager, Department of Technology and Communication Services, discussed the Maptitude software the Commission members will use to prepare councilmanic redistricting plans and demonstrated the software. Mr. Slivinsky demonstrated how to target a councilmanic district to increase its population using the population from a source councilmanic district. The resulting plan can be shared.



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The Commissioners discussed how to request data sets, and the types of data sets that can be obtained.

Ms. Staton discussed that there should be single point of contact for data set requests, and that the Commissioners should share their requests with each other.

Mr. Bronow discussed that the U.S. Census bureau will provide population data by voting age and race.

Mr. Marker discussed that the Board of Education may have some data to share.

Ms. Staton discussed the sharing of councilmanic redistricting plans with other Commissioners. Ms. Staton discussed the use of initials on any plan that is shared to know who made the plan. Ms. Staton requested a tutorial on the Maptitude software.

Mr. Slivinsky discussed small group training with two or three people.

Mr. Wimberly discussed that training dates will be provided.

Ms. Staton requested that Ms. Mihill provide a refresher on the job of the Commissioners and the legal requirements for a councilmanic redistricting map.

Ms. Mihill discussed that she will resend the Office of Law PowerPoint presentation as a refresher.

Mr. Slivinsky discussed that any modern browser can be used with Maptitude, for example, Chrome or Firefox. He will provide information on a training schedule.

The Commissioners discussed the timeline for their work.

Mr. Kuc discussed that the U.S. Census Bureau announced it will issue a data set by August 16, 2021. The issue is how useable the data set will be. The Census Bureau has stated it will deliver by September 30, 2021 a user-friendly data set.

Ms. Staton discussed that the Board of Elections needs a redistricting plan by January, 2022 to get ready for the primary in June, 2022. The County Council is required to have a public hearing within 30 days of receipt of the Commission plan.

Mr. Kuc discussed that the County Council has to set a date by which a plan must be submitted by the Commission. Within 30 days of that date, the County Council must hold a public hearing. The Council must also set a second date by which the Commission plan becomes



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effective, if before that date the Council does not adopt an ordinance that has a replacement plan for what the Commission proposed.

Mr. Marker discussed the hope that the August 16 data will be user friendly so that the Commission can start working in September.

Ms. Staton discussed that hopefully the Commission can work in September and October, and the Council can do its work in November and December. The Commission must plan a public hearing schedule and discuss the number of public hearings. Ms. Staton discussed the impact of the compressed time frame on the work of the Commission.

Mr. Bronow discussed that he has learned that the State should be able to use the August 16, 2021 data, a vendor has been selected for prisoner reallocation, and the data should be available four to six weeks after the August 16 data release.

The Commissioners discussed the need to announce public hearing dates in advance to provide adequate public notice.

Ms. Staton discussed the Commissioners holding calendar dates every Tuesday beginning in September to use as work sessions and public hearings.

Mr. Kuc discussed there is no legal requirement for a Commission public hearing, but a hearing has traditionally been held. An agenda must be posted in advance to comply with the Open Meetings Act. When preliminary data becomes available, the Commission should be able to begin working with the data. The data can be trued up when final data becomes available, including prisoner reallocation data.

The Commissioners discussed when there would be in-person meetings.

Ms. Harrod discussed that the County Council has indicated that in-person meetings could begin in September.

The Commissioners discussed the number of public hearings, and if the public hearings should be virtual or in person. The Commissioners also discussed how to present any hand drawn maps at a virtual meeting, for example, scanning the maps in advance and presenting them in the virtual meeting. The Commissioners discussed having two public hearings beginning later in the day to accommodate work schedules.

The Commissioners discussed holding Tuesdays on their calendars for future meetings until they receive the final Commission meeting dates.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:08 p.m.