



# Councilmanic Redistricting Commission 2021

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## 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

July 27, 2021

Commissioners attending the Webex Meeting: Donna Hill Staton, Chair, McNeal Brown, Mahesh S. Kukata, David Marker, and Ray Serrano

Commissioners not attending the Webex Meeting: Everlene Cunningham, Chris Oxenham, Cynthia Fikes (Alternate), and Lille Shippe (Alternate).

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

Ms. Staton welcomed everyone.

The Commissioners approved the minutes of the Commission meeting on June 15, 2021.

Ms. Staton discussed that the next Agenda item is the review of the proposed Commission meeting schedule, including a discussion of the timeline to coordinate with the County Council schedule being mindful of legal requirements. The expectation is to include the public as much as possible in the process with the understanding that the Commission does not have current data. The proposed schedule includes a public hearing in August to let the public know the Commission is working, how the Commission will go about the work, what the public can anticipate with other opportunities for comment, and the target date for adoption of a redistricting map. Ms. Staton reviewed the dates in the proposed schedule

The Commissioners discussed if the public hearing would be in person or virtual. The County Council is working on a hybrid in person and virtual hearing that could be ready in September. The Commissioners also discussed the issue of the public being able to successfully log in to the public hearing.

The Commissioners discussed when they will have access to data. Mr. Slivinsky explained that it depends on how and when the data can be formatted and imported into the County system. He does not have a good estimate at this time. Mr. Slivinsky discussed the release of final data by the U.S. Census Bureau by September 30.



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Ms. Staton reviewed the dates through October 19, 2021, when a subset of three maps would be selected for public comment.

The Commissioners discussed the differences between data released on September 30 and October 30.

Mr. Kuc discussed the August 16 release of data will be in legacy format. The unknown is whether the County system can use the data. September 30 data will hopefully be something that the County system can manipulate.

The Commissioners and Mr. Kuc discussed the various dates for the release of data, the potential differences in the various data sets, and the need to true up a redistricting plan with the final data released on October 30.

Ms. Staton discussed that the goal is to reconcile any differences in the data. She reviewed the proposed schedule and asked for Commissioner input on the schedule.

The Commissioners discussed adjusting the schedule to move the work of the Commission up by a week, and that the Commissioners will begin working with the data as soon as it becomes available in a useable format.

Ms. Staton reviewed the proposed schedule: Public Hearing: August 17 at 7:00 p.m.; Work Sessions: September 14 and September 30 at 4:00 p.m. to discuss maps; October 7: Target date for the exchange of maps; October 12: Work Session at 4:00 p.m. for the presentation and selection of up to three maps for public comment; October 26: Public Hearing on proposed maps; November 2: Work Session at 4:00 p.m. for deliberations; November 9: Work Session at 4:00 p.m. to finalize and adopt a Commission map. The Commission plan that is required by the Charter will be an electronic transmission to the County Council on November 17.

The Commissioners adopted the proposed schedule.

Ms. Mihill reviewed the redistricting legal principles she presented at the June 15, 2021 Commission meeting, including the basis for the principles in case law and Section 202(f) of the County Charter. Under the Charter, any Councilmanic District must be compact, contiguous, substantially equal in population, and have common interest as a result of geography, history, or existing political boundaries. A plan with minor deviations of population is acceptable. A plan with a deviation of population under 10 percent is constitutional. Factors not in the Charter are allowed, but they cannot override the factors specified in the Charter.

The Commissioners discussed the impact of other factors, including race and the related court cases under the Voting Rights Act, and political representation and the related court cases.



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Ms. Mihill discussed that other factors cannot supersede the four Charter factors. She further reviewed that a plan with a maximum deviation under 10 percent from the average of the current population based on the April 1, 2020 official census data is acceptable.

The Commissioners discussed how much time to allow for the receipt of public comments. The Commissioners agreed that it is suggested that public comment be submitted by October 29, 2021.

Ms. Staton thanks everyone for attending and adjourned the meeting at 5:43 p.m.