



# 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

August 17, 2021

Commissioners attending the Webex Meeting: Donna Hill Staton, Chair, McNeal Brown, Mahesh S. Kukata, David Marker, Chris Oxenham, Ray Serrano, and Cynthia Fikes (Alternate)

Commissioners not attending the Webex Meeting: Everlene Cunningham and Lille Shippe (Alternate)

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

Ms. Staton opened the Public Hearing at 7:00 p.m. She discussed that this is the first public hearing of the Commission. The Commission has been working since February to meet the goal to provide recommendations to the Council regarding the drawing of councilmanic districts based on the 2020 census. The purpose of the meeting is to inform the public about its work and the release of census data. Due to unusual circumstances the Commission is receiving data very late and is having to do the job in about eight weeks compared to prior commissions that had six months. The redistricting plan must be presented in time for the 2022 election. Ms. Staton reviewed the Agenda.

Ms. Mihill reviewed the Councilmanic redistricting process in accordance with Section 202(f) of the Howard County Charter and The Commission is required to prepare a redistricting plan and present it to the Council by a date set by Council Resolution. The Council must hold a public hearing within 30 days of receipt of the plan. If the Council does not enact an ordinance by a date set by Council Resolution, the Commission plan becomes law. Council Resolution 35-2021 was introduced in February and tabled due to the delay in the release of Census data. Ms. Mihill reviewed the legal requirements in the Charter to draw Councilmanic districts that are compact, contiguous, substantially equal in population, and have common interest as a result of geography, history, or existing political boundaries.

Ms. Staton noted for the public that there is an Office of Law legal memorandum that is posted on the Commission website. There is additional information on the website, including the Commission schedule. Any other requests for information to be posted on the website should be emailed to the Commission.



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Mr. Slivinsky discussed that the Census Bureau has released the data. The State received the legacy data. Maptitude has the data ready to go in a useable format that he is checking to make sure everything is working. He would like to add other fields of data.

Ms. Staton discussed the information provided by Mr. Slivinsky. The useable data was expected to be received much later. All the Commissioners have received Maptitude training. There will be a truing up of the data.

Mr. Slivinsky discussed that the legacy data is not final because it does not have the prisoner reallocation. Redistricting can begin with the current data, and in a few weeks from now when the final data is downloaded by the State and when the prisoner population data is released, the maps will have to be rebuilt using the final data.

Ms. Staton clarified that for the census count, incarcerated persons are assigned to their home jurisdictions, not their place of incarceration.

The Commissioners discussed the possibility of additional data sets.

Mr. Slivinsky discussed that he will learn more about the availability of updated applications and share that information with the Commissioners.

Ms. Staton discussed that the Commissioners will have the data set earlier than anticipated. Mr. Slivinsky will notify staff when the Commissioners can begin working with the data.

Mr. Slivinsky discussed that the Commissioners will work on the County server and will have to create a new account.

The following interested parties testified: Angie Boyter, Matthew Blum, Beth Hufnagel, Diane Butler, and Ken Stevens.

Ms. Staton thanked everyone for their participation and reviewed the Commission schedule that is posted on the Commission website. The Commission will be guided by safety concerns when deciding to convene in person or virtually.

Ms. Staton adjourned the meeting at 7:43 p.m.