

MINUTES  
REDISTRICTING TASK FORCE  
Community Meeting  
February 27, 1992  
Pasadena Conference Center, Room 316

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Bogaard at 7:05 p.m.

Present:	William J. Bogaard	Present
	Christina Cook	Present
	Ann Marie Hickambottom	(Arrived 7:15 p.m.)
	Edward Maya	(Arrived 7:18 p.m.)
	Elias Galvan	(Arrived 7:17 p.m.)
	Dr. James King, Jr.	Present
	Rosemary Schroeder	Present
	Joe Morales	(Arrived 7:10 p.m.)
	Christopher Sutton	(Arrived 7:13 p.m.)
	Fred Register	Present
	Paul Secord	Present
	Susan Arcaris	(Arrived 7:15 p.m.)
Absent:	Edward Garlock	
	Edward J. Matys	
	Marvin Greer	
Staff:	Victor J. Kaleta, City Attorney	
	Don Nollar, Director of Planning, Building & Neighborhood Services	
	Maria S. Stewart, City Clerk	

Chairman Bogaard gave a brief overview of the redistricting process and explained how the Task Force was appointed.

Chairman Bogaard introduced David Ely of Pactech, a firm which maintains highly sophisticated computer capability and census data and provides the exercises and colored maps for the Task Force. The Task Force's public relations consultant, Manual Valencia, of Valencia, Maldonado & Echeveste, was also introduced.

Chairman Bogaard explained the Task Force will present its recommendation to the City Council in mid-June. The City Council will make the final decision regarding redistricting boundaries -- it may approve the Task Force's recommendation, modify it, or give further directions to the Task Force.

PRESENTATIONS:

Review of Census Data - Donald Nollar

Donald Nollar, Director of Planning, Building and Neighborhood Services, gave a presentation of the general aspects of the 1990 Census and discussed the broad changes between the 1980 Census and 1990 Census which will have a major effect on the redistricting process. Mr. Nollar stated an ideal district size

of 18,799 residents per district will try to be achieved, and reviewed the Districts which are over and under the ideal size. Mr. Nollar gave a brief review of the colored maps on the wall and discussed the Hispanic distribution. Mr. Nollar also compared racial and ethnic breakdown figures from the 1980 Census and the 1990 Census.

#### Review of Legal Framework - Victor J. Kaleta

Victor J. Kaleta, City Attorney, gave a review of the legal framework within which redistricting is conducted. Mr. Kaleta briefly reviewed the Voting Rights Act, Amendments 14 and 15 to the U.S. Constitution, and court decisions which have had an effect on the redistricting process. Mr. Kaleta also reviewed the priority order of the six redistricting criteria:

##### Primary Criteria

- 1st - Avoid diluting minority voting strength.
- 2nd - Seven district alternatives initially.

##### Secondary Criteria

- 1st - Nearly as equal in population as practical.
- 2nd - Outreach to all elements of Pasadena.

##### Tertiary Criteria

- 1st - Cohesive and compact communities of interest.
- 2nd - Make division along census block lines.

Mr. Kaleta defined the terms "packing" and "cracking" and also briefly reviewed the exercises posted on the wall.

#### Policy Questions - Rosemary Schroeder

Rosemary Schroeder, Task Force Member, reviewed the six policy questions posed to the community (see Attachment 1).

#### INTRODUCTION OF TASK FORCE MEMBERS

Chairman Bogaard introduced each of the Task Force members to the public.

#### PUBLIC COMMENT

1. Vice Mayor Rick Cole raised several issues:
  - a) Maximizing opportunities in Pasadena for Latino empowerment. Vice Mayor Cole stated there is no block in his district that is 100% Latino, Black, or White. He discussed coalition building - finding common interests and ways to give maximum opportunity for the interests of the People of Color who live in north/central and northwest Pasadena and joining them together on issues such as housing and police protection.

- b) Vice Mayor Code stated that all districts should have a blend of residential and commercial areas. He stated he did not feel Colorado Boulevard should be treated as a limitation on the ability to draw fair and appropriate districts. He added that drawing lines to simply touch Colorado does not reflect the reality of politics as he has experienced sitting on the City Council.
- c) Community of interest of renters in the City. Vice Mayor Cole stated sixty-two percent of population is condo owners or renters. He stated the way the districts are drawn, homeowners represent more power regarding representation on the City Council. He also said renters have lower incomes but deserve to be part of the City and participate and have their voices and interests heard. Vice Mayor Cole stated he hopes districts are drawn to take real cognizance of multi-family neighborhoods and the people who live in them.
- d) Vice Mayor Cole said that registered voters should not be viewed as a magic number. He stated many of them move, die, or go away to school, especially in apartment areas. He added that people who show up to the polls is a better indicator rather than raw numbers.
- e) Coherence and compactness. Vice Mayor Cole stated we are all minorities today. He said districts that have no coherence or compactness do not support empowerment. He expressed concern in trying to put together a campaign where there is no sense of neighborhood, where neighborhoods cannot be expressed visually or orally, and how this disempowers people. He stated if information is power, information about where you live and what district you live in is basic to empowerment.

2. Mr. George A. Padilla, 440 Tamarac Drive, Pasadena 91105, addressed Policy Question No. 6, giving Latinos the best possible chance for representation in the City Council. Mr. Padilla does not believe the 90's are the decade of the Latino. He stated majority of Latino population is under 8 years old, and if districts are based on raw numbers, this will not empower anybody for at least those 10 years because the children will not be of voting age. He suggested establishing districts where the registered voters are currently. He discussed how registered Latino voters will influence their children to vote. He stated the Latino population is very mobile, and the Task Force needs to look at the more stable central/northeast area where Latinos are at -- the homeowners.

He also stated "communities of like interest" sounded like segregation and questioned what this phrase means. He questioned why District 1 should be split into two districts. He discussed how Latinos do not want to be isolated and they want their children to mainstream.

City Attorney Victor Kaleta briefly reviewed Exercise 1, Maximizing Latino Population, and Exercise 2, Maximizing Voter Registration, and compared the figures and percentages with each exercise.

2. Ralph McKnight, 1534 Braeburn Road, Altadena, 91001, stated he agrees with Vice Mayor Cole's comments. He said he does not see a solution to the problem of defining districts as long districts are defined by race rather than common need.

Regarding Policy Question 6, Mr. McKnight stated every effort should be made to empower the Latino voters in the political process. He stated that he recommends enabling the Latino population to participate in this process.

Regarding Policy Question 4, mixture of residential and commercial areas, he stated that some districts need financial input and should be a mixture of residential and commercial areas. He said that other areas that are strictly residential and do not need the financial input and, with approval of the citizens of those communities, they should remain totally residential.

He stated he differs with George Padilla regarding defining districts according to registered voters and stated this would not give Latinos any power.

He also stated the number of homeless, crime, unemployment, etc., are all items of interest. He suggested communities of interest should be clearly researched with some effort to making certain that the people in these communities are empowered to gain the representation they need to deal with the problems specific to their community.

3. Jim Lomako, 1500 Whitefield Road, Pasadena, 91104, questioned if the Task Force had considered increasing the number of districts. Chairman Bogaard responded the Task Force had not because the mandate from the Council was to work with 7 districts. Chairman Bogaard stated it would take more of an increase from 7 to 9 districts to create a district that would be clearly controlled by a Latino electorate.

Mr. Lomako also addressed the issue of dividing District 1. He stated it is difficult for residents of District 1 to be effectively represented with the way it is currently set up now. He said the west side of the District and the east side of the District are very different.

Regarding Colorado Boulevard, Mr. Lomako stated there are other issues more important.

Mr. Lomako stated he was in agreement with having compact districts.

5. Ted Jones, 127 S. El Molino Ave., No. 21, Pasadena, 91101, addressed three areas:
  - a) Mr. Jones said that the integrity of the process should be the number one goal of the group. He stated this is political process to draw political lines, and there are certain aspects which need not be political. He added that the Latino population needs to feel for itself the fullness of its power before it considers the business of coalition building.

- b) Mr. Jones stated there is nothing wrong with considering raw population figures -- the fact that it may or may not translate into registered voters is not in the best interest of a City-appointed body.
- c) He discussed the process of redrawing the lines every 10 years. He stated a major consideration is to conclude personally and act collectively. He suggested the Task Force not wait for the Council to tell it to look at more than 7 districts.

Chairman Bogaard mentioned that adding more than 7 districts would require a Charter amendment and a vote of the people. A different process would be involved and a different time frame involved.

Dr. King stated the consultant had addressed the issue of creating more districts. David Ely stated we would need in excess of 20 districts to create a Latino-controlled district.

- 6. Vic Cuadra, 1597 E. Washington Ave., Pasadena 91104, suggested having at-large voting such as the Pasadena School Board rather than district only. He stated that would have better representation of all the community concerns.

City Attorney Victor Kaleta gave a brief review of a prior court case involving Pasadena at-large elections and stated the City would be legally challenged if we reverted back to at-large elections.

Chris Sutton, Task Force member, gave a review of the history of at-large elections in Pasadena. He stated that in 1980, as a result of a lawsuit, the voters amended the Charter to district elections. He added that to go back to at-large elections would open up old wounds.

- 7. Victor V. Veysey, resident at 960 San Pasqual, Pasadena 91106, and long-time faculty member at Caltech, stated the whole process needs to be changed. He stated redistricting favors one person or group over another person or group. He discussed conflict of interest in incumbents making the final decision on redistricting lines. Mr. Veysey stated he advocates a new approach of letting the people make the decision about what districts they want and suggested the people vote on the districts they want. He stated we have computer capability to let people state their preference.

Chris Sutton stated that this process would require a complicated City Charter amendment. Discussion ensued as to how this process would work.

Fred Register, Task Force member, responded that this proposal was considered and discussed with experienced persons from the Rose Institute, and it was generally agreed this process is a decade away and would be difficult to do in terms of technical feasibility.

There was no further public comment.

COMMENTS FROM TASK FORCE

Chairman Bogaard briefly reviewed dates for upcoming meetings and stated he hoped the press coverage and the public interest generated by this meeting would lead to more active participation in this process in the weeks ahead.

Fred Register stated he had a list of speaker events and requested Task Force members to sign up for speaking engagements.

Chris Sutton was critical of the low level of press coverage for this process and urged the press to provide more coverage.

Rosemary Schroeder requested clarification of the time of the Saturday meetings. It was clarified that the Saturday meetings begin at 9:00 a.m. The next meeting of the Task Force is schedule for March 12, 7:00 p.m., to be located in the northwest section of the City.

Fred Register emphasized that community groups can still request speakers.

ADJOURNMENT

Chairman Bogaard adjourned the meeting at 9:20 p.m.

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William J. Bogaard, Chairman  
Redistricting Task Force

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Maria M. Stewart  
Acting City Clerk

## Pasadena Redistricting Task Force

### Policy Questions

1. Within the requirements of the law, how important are the boundaries of the current districts? Should the boundaries of the new districts be changed as little as possible? Or should other options be explored?
2. Should the present District One be maintained essentially as it is? Or should the two sides of the Arroyo Seco be placed in different districts?
3. Should Colorado Boulevard continue to be the unifying focus for drawing council districts? Or is it acceptable for one or more districts not to border on Colorado?
4. Is important for every district to include a mixture of residential and commercial areas? Or is it acceptable for one or more districts to be exclusively residential?
5. How important are the compact, easily recognizable districts? Should boundaries be drawn to maximize minority representation, even if the resulting district boundaries are irregular in appearance?
6. The law requires that we consider creating a district which will give Latinos the best possible chance for representation in the City Council. Since it is currently impossible to draw a district with a majority of Latino registered voters, what should be our first priority, a district with a maximum Latino population now? Or a district with a maximum potential for Latino representation over the course of the decade?