

**CITY OF PASADENA
REDISTRICTING TASK FORCE
SEPTEMBER 18, 2021 – 10:00 A.M.
CITY HALL, COUNCIL CHAMBER S249**

SPECIAL MEETING

The virtual meeting was convened pursuant to Executive Order N-29-20 issued by Governor Gavin Newsom on March 17, 2020, and was held solely by videoconference/teleconference

OPENING

The Chair called the special meeting of the Redistricting Task Force to order at 10:06 a.m.

ROLL CALL:

Chair Vince Farhat
Vice Chair Rita Moreno
Member Geoffrey Baum
Member Francis Chen
Member David Coher
Member Adriana Lim
Member Patrice Marshall McKenzie
Member Margaret McAustin (Absent)
Member Donald C. Nanney
Member Terry Tornek
Member Jordan Vannini
Member Delano Yarbrough

Staff:

Mark Jomsky, City Clerk
Theresa Fuentes, Assistant City Attorney
Ruben Martinez, Recording Secretary

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

It was moved by Member Coher, seconded by Member Lim, to approve the August 19, 2021 (Special Meeting) minutes, as submitted:

Members Vannini and Yarbrough joined the meeting at 10:09 a.m.

AYES: Members, Baum, Chen, Coher, Lim, McKenzie, Nanney, Tornek, Vannini, Yarbrough, Vice Chair Moreno, Chair Farhat
NOES: None
ABSENT: Member McAustin
ABSTAIN: None

CONDUCT A PUBLIC HEARING IN COMPLIANCE WITH CALIFORNIA ELECTIONS CODE SECTION 21627.1 TO RECEIVE PUBLIC INPUT AND TESTIMONY ON THE 2021 PASADENA REDISTRICTING PROCESS AND COMPOSITION OF COUNCIL DISTRICT BOUNDARIES INCLUDING SUBMISSIONS OF COMMUNITY OF INTEREST INPUT FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC

RECOMMENDATION: It is recommended that the Task Force conduct a public hearing and take the following action:

(1) Find that the proposed action is exempt from the California Environmental Quality Act pursuant to State CEQA Guidelines, Section

15061(b)(3), the General Rule that CEQA only applies to projects that may have an effect on the environment; and
(2) Receive and file written and oral testimony on the City's redistricting process, composition of Council District boundaries, and communities of interest information.

Sandra Robles, Deputy City Clerk, opened the public hearing; reported that the public hearing notice was published in the Pasadena Press on September 6, 2021 and in the Chinese L.A. Daily News, La Opinion, The Pasadena Journal, and The Pasadena Press on September 9, 2021; in addition to the correspondence received on August 19, 2021, 4 letters/emails providing comments and recommendations were received by the City Clerk's Office, distributed to the Task Force, posted on-line, and made part of the public record.

Douglas Johnson, representing National Demographics Corporation, presented a PowerPoint presentation on the collection of submitted community of interest correspondence, public testimony, and maps received to date; and responded to questions.

Member Baum stated the following for the record in regard to the presentation: "I do think that the people who live adjacent to the freeway are definitely impacted by decisions that are made. And I don't understand why that corridor is prohibitive by law. Obviously it has to fit within the same size as other districts, and then also...even if it blocked one district from the other, how is that not compliant with regulations?"

Member Vannini spoke on the need to expand public awareness of the Census data for review and transparency purposes, and noted that both Districts 4 and 6 are currently overpopulated.

The following individuals provided comments on the matter:

Jonathan Edwards, Pasadena resident
Marsha Rood, Pasadena resident
Linda, residence not stated.
Dan Beal, Pasadena resident
Bob Snodgrass, Pasadena resident

Following discussion, it was moved by Member Baum, seconded by Member Vannini, to close the public hearing:

AYES: Members, Baum, Chen, Coher, Lim, McKenzie, Nanney, Tornek, Vannini, Yarbrough, Vice Chair Moreno, Chair Farhat
NOES: None
ABSENT: Member McAustin
ABSTAIN: None

Following further discussion, it was moved by Member Tornek, seconded by Member Yarbrough, to approve the staff recommendation:

AYES: Members, Baum, Chen, Coher, Lim, McKenzie, Nanney, Tornek, Vannini, Yarbrough, Vice Chair Moreno, Chair Farhat
NOES: None
ABSENT: Member McAustin
ABSTAIN: None

REPORT ON THE PRELIMINARY RESULTS OF THE 2020 CENSUS AND IMPACTS ON THE CITY'S REDISTRICTING PROCESS

RECOMMENDATION: This report is for information only and is intended to provide an update on the US Census Bureau's recently released census population data for the City of Pasadena to support the City's redistricting effort.

City Clerk Jomsky, Theresa Fuentes, Assistant City Attorney, and David Ely, representing National Demographics Corporation (NDC), jointly presented a PowerPoint presentation on the item, including providing information regarding legal requirements to utilize census data for purposes of redistricting, reviewed legal criteria that must be met when adjusting council district boundaries, provided information on the preliminary 2020 Census population data by Council District, and sample tables of 2019 American Community Survey demographic data that might be considered as part of the redistricting process, with all responding to questions.

Member Tornek stated that the information related to "Deviation From the Ideal Population" (presented in the PowerPoint) of a total of 17.45% is confusing and should be described as the maximum deviation percentage. He spoke on the challenges that the Task Force will face in achieving population equality for each Council District.

Member Marshall McKenzie was excused and left the meeting at 11:47 a.m.

Vice Chair Moreno expressed concerns with directing staff to conduct a housing analysis as a way to determine where gentrification has occurred in the City, and including that information as part of the Task Force's consideration in adjusting or drawing council district boundaries. She noted the complexity of such an effort, the many variables that must be considered, and her skepticism of how this information might be used to explain the census results when adjusting boundaries. She stated she does not believe gentrification leads to lower population, but rather households are doubling or tripling in occupancy. Vice Chair Moreno emphasized the need for assistance from NDC to base adjustments on Federal Voting Rights Act data, given the apparent undercount in some areas in the City.

Member Lim spoke on the number of new housing permits/units reported in City Council District 3 between the years of 2010 and 2020 in relation to the District's census population data, which reports a loss in population, and asked staff to ensure that the housing data is correct.

In response to Member Lim's inquiry, City Clerk Jomsky noted that the number of permits/units reported in City Council District 3 was provided by City's Planning Department, and that the total count is consistent in both tables provided by the department.

Sandra Robles, Deputy City Clerk, reported that one letter expressing concerns with the accuracy of the Census data was received, suggesting that the Task Force consider ways to resolve the issue of under counted areas of the City, including utilizing other data sources for redistricting, with the correspondence distributed to the Task Force, posted on-line, and made part of the public record.

Member Tornek spoke on the need for the Redistricting consultants to provide information on population shifts and trends in terms of the City's racial characteristics in each of the council districts. He stated he was expecting an overview as it relates to some of the requirements of the Voting Rights Act and the application of federal statutes in advance of considering potential redistricting maps and council district boundary adjustments.

Following discussion, by consensus of the Redistricting Task Force, and on order of the Chair, the information was received and filed.

FUTURE TASK FORCE MEETING SCHEDULE

City Clerk Jomsky presented information on the upcoming Task Force meeting schedule, including upcoming meeting dates, times, anticipated topics for each meeting, and responded to questions.

Member Lim stated her preference that the scheduled start time for the Task Force's October meetings held on Saturdays be set at 9:00 a.m.

Chair Farhat requested that City staff send out the revised Task Force meeting schedule, as well as calendar invitations to all Task Force members.

Following discussion, and by consensus of the Task Force, the Chair confirmed that the October 2021 Redistricting Task Force meetings held on Saturdays will be scheduled to begin at 9:00 a.m., and with the information received and filed.

ADJOURNMENT:

On the order of the Chair, the special meeting of the Redistricting Task Force was adjourned at 12:36 p.m.

VINCE FARHAT, Chair
Redistricting Task Force

ATTEST:

Ruben Martinez
Recording Secretary