

Martinez, Ruben

From: Diane Ricard <
Sent: Saturday, October 23, 2021 10:21 AM
To: PublicComment-AutoResponse
Subject: Letter for Pasadena Redistricting Task Force

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Please note, I tried to speak at the 10/23 task force meeting. I had difficulties logging into Zoom on two computers, and wasn't able to unmute my phone to speak.

Dear Redistricting Task Force Members:

Thank you to the task force members for donating your time and energies to redistricting. It is not an easy task to recommend a district map that balances the interests of the many organized groups and communities in Pasadena.

I urge you to reconsider the consolidation of downtown Pasadena into one district with its own representation on the Pasadena City Council. We have a large enough population for our own district, and we have a different lifestyle than residents that live in single family homes in the more suburban parts of Pasadena. We walk more, ride our bikes, and take public transportation. We make fewer vehicle trips. We care about convenience and being safe while traveling this way. We are homeowners and renters. We live in and around Old Pasadena, the Playhouse District and the Lake Avenue Commercial District, but this is a neighborhood. We care about the businesses and development that are in this neighborhood and how it impacts our quality of life. We also enjoy and appreciate the beauty and the character of Pasadena. This is a community of interest. We need someone who lives this lifestyle to represent us on the city council.

Last Saturday I heard us referred to as a new population, and as aspirational. I moved to downtown Pasadena 23 years ago, in 1998. There were plenty of people living here before I arrived. We are not a new community.

There are very few areas in greater Los Angeles that have as many amenities and essential services in a compact area as our downtown area. This is a plus and something city leadership and residents should be proud of.

We have been told we have better representation with four council members than if we have one council member. This fragmented representation is not working for us. We need one council member to be our champion for the whole downtown area. Ten years ago, when we were denied a downtown district, the Downtown Pasadena Neighborhood Association requested

quarterly town hall meetings for downtown residents, to be held jointly by the four council members that have parts of downtown in their districts. This request was never granted.

Please ask your consultant to take another look for a configuration that enables downtown dwellers to be represented by a downtown dweller. Through our presence we are the constant that makes the downtown neighborhood vital, and through our utilization of the downtown businesses we make it economically viable. We take pride in our neighborhood as much as any other neighborhood association takes pride in their neighborhood. Please don't make us wait another 10 years for a chance at a downtown district.

Thank you.

Respectfully,

Diane Ricard

Martinez, Ruben

From: Philip Reinhold <Philip.Reinhold@pasadena.net>
Sent: Saturday, October 23, 2021 10:36 AM
To: PublicComment-AutoResponse
Subject: Pasadena redistricting. We need a downtown district!

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The current district map effectively gerrymanders away representation for renters, non-drivers, and those with a preference for more urban living. The downtown area is an amazing space, but it needs representation to thrive. Please adopt one of the plans to create a downtown district (preferably option B). The minimal change plans are not enough!

-Dr. Philip Reinhold