

Member Yarbrough reported technical difficulties

CONTINUED PUBLIC HEARING: CONSIDERATION AND APPROVAL OF A PROPOSED REDISTRICTING PLAN/MAP FOR RECOMMENDATION TO THE CITY COUNCIL

Recommendation: It is recommended that the Task Force:

- (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;
- (2) As part of the continued public hearing of the Task Force:
 - A. Receive public input on communities of interest and/or recommendations and testimony regarding the composition of one or more council districts; and
 - B. Consider action on the 10% Deviation Minimal Change Map for recommendation to the City Council; and
- (3) Close the public hearing and approve a recommended redistricting plan or plans to submit to the City Council for consideration.

Sandra Robles, Deputy City Clerk, reported that Enrique Marquez, Pasadena resident, submitted historical information on prior Redistricting efforts in Pasadena, as well as, and including, an Attorney General opinion, maps, and written descriptions; and one community of interest map, and 38 letters/emails providing comments and recommendations were received by the City Clerk's Office. Included with the correspondence are 35 letters in favor of the "Minimal Change Map with 10% Deviation," 16 letters advocating to not move the boundaries of District 3; 17 letters advocating to not move the boundaries of Districts 1 and 3; and one letter advocating to not move the boundaries in Districts 1, 3 and 5. All correspondence was distributed to the Task Force, posted on-line, and made part of the public record.

Douglas Johnson, representing National Demographics Corporation (Redistricting consultants), provided an oral summary of the City's redistricting process, and reviewed the Minimal Change Map with a 10% Deviation; and responded to questions.

The following individuals provided comments/suggestions on the item:

- Marsha Rood, Pasadena resident
- Nina Chomsky, representing Linda Vista-Annandale Association
- Tina Rowe, Pasadena resident
- David Erickson, residence not stated
- Anonymous speaker

Member Baum advocated for the Task Force to recommend the Minimal Change Map with 10% Deviation to the City Council for consideration.

Member McAustin spoke in support of the Minimal Change Map with 10% Deviation, stating as a representative of City Council District No. 2, that the proposed boundary adjustments below Colorado Boulevard

to be moved into District 2 from District 7 should work well for the residents in that area.

Member Vannini provided comments on the redistricting process including the consideration of public input and the Task Force's deliberation on the matter; the need for additional community engagement, education, and discussion on redistricting prior to the next Census; and spoke in support of recommending the Minimal Change Map with 10% Deviation to the City Council for consideration.

Vice Chair Moreno spoke on the need to discuss the increase of population in the Latino communities in terms of the districts. She expressed concerns with the mapping system provided by the consultants which does not provide a citizen voting age population layer, just a voting age population layer, which she believes is essential to analyze districts for emerging and increasing communities as part of the redistricting process. She stated she is unable to determine if the proposed Minimal Change Map with 10% Deviation, as proposed, provided for the growth in the Latino population and, therefore, will not support recommending the 10% Deviation map to the City Council for consideration.

Member Tornek stated that he believes the redistricting process has been fair and thorough, and that some of the dissatisfaction expressed by the community is related to voter turnout and voter participation. He spoke in strong support of recommending the Minimal Change Map with 10% Deviation to the City Council for consideration.

Douglas Johnson, City Redistricting consultants, reported that the interactive review map has been available throughout the process and the data sheets attached to the various maps submitted to the Task Force members provides citizen voting age population data. He noted that the differences between citizen voting age population vs. the voting age population data layer available in the DistrictR mapping tool is approximately the same and does not have significant statistical variation.

Member Coher echoed comments related to an open and fair redistricting process, and noted the challenging framework (i.e. timeline, limitations, etc.) the Task Force was required to operate within.

Member McKenzie spoke on the need to educate the community on the redistricting process (i.e. additional significant engagement, education of communities regarding redistricting...) as early as possible for future redistricting. She spoke in support of the work of the Task Force given the time constraints and challenging circumstances. Member McKenzie recommended that the City work to educate and engage the community on the importance of Census and Redistricting ahead of the next census and redistricting cycle.

Motion: Following discussion, it was moved by Member McAustin, seconded by Member Coher, to close the public hearing:

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

Motion: Following further discussion, it was moved by Member Baum, seconded by Member Lim, to recommend the Minimal Change Map with 10% Deviation, to the City Council for consideration:

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

DISCUSSION AND DIRECTION REGARDING THE PROCESS TO PREPARE AND SUBMIT A FINAL REPORT TO THE CITY COUNCIL

Chair Farhat provided an oral summary of the proposed Final Report Outline, and responded to questions.

Member Yarbrough stated that he submitted suggestions on some additional metrics that could be included in a chart format with the final report to illustrate to the public and City Council the impacts of each of the proposed conceptual plans as a way to explain how the Task Force arrived at the Minimal Change Map with a 10% Deviation (i.e. number of individuals moved from one district to another, number of individuals that will be delayed in voting due to a change in district representation, etc.), in comparison to all other maps discussed and considered.

Chair Farhat spoke in support of Member Yarbrough's additional comparative information to include in the Final Report, and recommended that a table be included with the following requested information by Member Yarbrough to the Final Report:

- The number of residents that would change Council Districts, and therefore, change voting cycle;
- The degree of equalization of populations in each Council District;
- A tabulation of the number of recommendations received from each Council District relative to Redistricting; and
- Include information on the number of low to moderate income housing units in each Council District.

The following individuals provided comments/suggestions on the item:

Kimberly Douglas, Pasadena resident
Anonymous speaker

In response to public comment, Mark Jomsky, City Clerk, responded that the Redistricting information will continue to be available on the City's website for the next ten years, as required by the FAIR Acts Map; and responded to questions.

Member Vannini encouraged the public to engage early in the next Redistricting process, specifically reviewing the data available on the City's website.

In response to Member McAustin's inquiry related to the Task Force providing feedback on the Final Report, Theresa Fuentes, Assistant City Attorney, encouraged the Task Force to authorize the Chair and Vice Chair to complete the work related to the Final Report; and responded to questions.

In response to Member McAustin's inquiry related to obtaining a copy of the Final Report, City Clerk Jomsky stated that he will send a link to the Task Force members on Wednesday, November 10, 2021.

Member Chen asked staff to notify the Pasadena residents that their districts will be changing.

Member McKenzie recommended that staff utilize the City's newsletter "Pasadena InFocus" to notify the community on the results of the redistricting process and changes to the Council District boundaries. She also recommended that the motion include direction to staff to develop additional educational tools that will be helpful to the public in terms of a better understanding of the Redistricting process, such as identifying and articulating communities of interest, provide additional instructional material on how best to utilize the mapping software, and a definition of key terms included in the Redistricting Process.

Motion:

Following further discussion, it was moved by Member Nanney, seconded by Member Lim, to adopt the proposed Final Report Outline, including the recommendation of Member Yarbrough to include a visual demonstrative chart as detailed above; a recommendation to the City Council to hold community meetings for neighborhoods affected by changed Council Districts; recommend the City Council publish and publicize the new Redistricting Map in the "Pasadena InFocus"; enable the Chair and Vice Chair to work with staff to prepare the Final Report to be posted online on or before November 10, 2021; and to include in the Final Report a paragraph on education as requested by Member McKenzie, as detailed above:

AYES: Members Baum, Chen, Coher, Lim, McKenzie, McAustin, Nanney, Tornek, Vannini, Yarbrough, Vice Chair Moreno, Chair Farhat

NOES: None

ABSENT: None

ABSTAIN: None

COMMENTS FROM TASK FORCE MEMBERS

Task Force members spoke on the redistricting process and their roles; and expressed appreciation and gratitude to Chair Farhat, Vice Chair Moreno, City Clerk Jomsky, City support staff, and the Redistricting consultants for their hard work; and the community for their input, testimony, and participation throughout the process; and with it being noted by the Chair with gratitude that the process was conducted in the "Pasadena Way", with civility and thoughtful discussion.

City Clerk Jomsky expressed appreciation to the Task Force members for their diligent work and efforts on the Redistricting Process, to the Chair and Vice Chair for their leadership, to staff for all of their hard work in helping to ensure the public and Task Force members were able to participate via teleconference/videoconference, and ensuring that Task Force meetings operated smoothly; and to all City consultants involved in the Redistricting process.

ADJOURNMENT:

On the order of the Chair, the special meeting of the Redistricting Task Force was adjourned at 10:37 a.m.



VINCE FARHAT, Chair
Redistricting Task Force

ATTEST:



Sandra S. Robles
Recording Secretary