

# City of Pomona

505 S. Garey Ave  
Pomona, CA 91766

## Regular Meeting Minutes

### INDEPENDENT REDISTRICTING COMMISSION



*Commissioner Aldo Yañez-Ruiz  
Vice-Chair Leticia Casillas-Sanchez  
Commissioner Natalie Chaidez  
Commissioner Timmy Luong  
Commissioner Ruth Alvarez  
Commissioner Nancy Diaz  
Commissioner John Mendoza*

#### VISION STATEMENT

*Pomona will be recognized as a vibrant, safe, beautiful  
community that is a fun and exciting destination and the home of  
arts and artists, students and scholars, business and industry.*

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Wednesday, January 26, 2022

5:00 PM

Teleconference via Zoom

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**5:00 P.M. Teleconference via Zoom**

#### **CALL TO ORDER**

Chair Yañez Ruiz called the Independent Redistricting Commission Meeting to order at 5:02 p.m.

He mentioned that, due to an unexpected illness, there would be no interpreter for the meeting.

#### **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

Chair Yañez Ruiz led the Pledge of Allegiance.

#### **ROLL CALL**

Present via Zoom:      Chair Aldo Yañez Ruiz  
                                 Vice-Chair Leticia Casillas-Sanchez  
                                 Commissioner Timmy Luong  
                                 Commissioner Ruth Alvarez  
                                 Commissioner Nancy Diaz  
                                 Commissioner John Mendoza

Absent:                      Commissioner Natalie Chaidez

#### **STAFF PRESENT via Zoom**

Rosalia Butler, City Clerk  
Karla Shipman, Deputy City Clerk/Acting Commission Secretary  
Mark Gluba, Deputy City Manager  
Maria Arellano, Administrative Clerk, City Clerk's Office

Staff from Tripepi Smith, an organization contracted by the City to provide marketing and outreach for the redistricting process.

Staff from National Demographics Corporation (NDC), an organization contracted by the City to provide demography services for the redistricting process.

Nine members of the public attended the meeting.

### **PUBLIC COMMENT**

Eunice Russell said she did not remember a mention of the due dates for the maps during the December meeting and said she asked the question with no response. She expressed her discontent with the rushed nature of the process. She mentioned the history of the City using third party consultants and said that past efforts were not always to the benefit of the citizens of Pomona. She asked the Commission to be mindful in the redistricting process because it affects the lives of so many people. She asked staff to provide the number of citizens that have participated in the public hearings thus far.

Ann Tomkins suggested adding the Independent Redistricting Commission meetings to the City website calendar in addition to the separate Draw Pomona website. She said this could be a reason for lower attendance at the meetings because most citizens look to the City website calendar for current meeting information and schedules. She thanked the Commissioners for their service.

John Clifford echoed the suggestion by Eunice Russell to provide the number of meeting attendees and suggested adding the numbers to the meeting minutes for each meeting. He asked about the procedure for public comment in the map review process.

Luis Huerta-Silva of California Common Cause asked why there was no Spanish translation for the meeting. He mentioned the large Spanish-speaking population in Pomona and said that having translation for future meetings would ensure fair and equitable involvement.

### **CONSENT AGENDA**

#### **1. Approval of Independent Redistricting Commission Meeting Minutes**

It is recommended that the Independent Redistricting Commission approve the following Independent Redistricting Commission Meeting Minutes

-October 27, 2021 Meeting Minutes

- November 13, 2021 Meeting Minutes
- December 15, 2021 Meeting Minutes

Commissioner Alvarez asked if the number of attendees could be added to the meeting minutes up for approval.

Clare Burgess of Tripepi Smith said staff could retrieve the number of attendees from the Zoom recordings of the meetings.

City Clerk Butler indicated the Commission could approve the minutes with an amendment to include the number of attendees on the final minutes.

**MOTION BY COMMISSIONER ALVAREZ, SECOND BY COMMISSIONER DIAZ, CARRIED 6-0 (Commissioner Chaidez absent), to approve the October 27, 2021; November 13, 2021; and December 15, 2021 Meeting Minutes with the amendment adding public attendees for the aforementioned meetings.**

## **PUBLIC HEARING**

### **2. Public Hearing to Receive Input on Submitted Draft Maps**

It is recommended that the Independent Redistricting Commission take the following actions:

- 1) Open the public hearing to receive input from the community regarding submitted draft maps of the City's future voting districts; and
- 2) Provide feedback to National Demographic Corporation regarding the submitted draft maps

Jeff Simonetti, from NDC, gave a presentation on the submitted draft maps and communities of interest.

Chair Yañez Ruiz opened the public hearing.

John Clifford mentioned the district numbering used in the presentation and said it was confusing. He said there had been a mention at a past meeting of adding a historic district overlay and wondered why it was not included in the map-drawing tool.

Ann Tomkins echoed Mr. Clifford's comments about the district numbering and said it could be confusing for members of the public. She asked if the district numbers would be drastically changed or if the maps would be calculated to take into account the majority population in the district and the placement of current districts. She spoke about the sequencing of elections by district number laid out in the City Charter. She pointed out that the presentation was missing the Edison District, a fourth historic district in Pomona, and indicated she provided a communities of interest map outlining the boundaries of the



designated historic districts.

Jeanette Ellis Royston said she appreciated all the hard work put into this effort and asked about the labeling of specific neighborhoods as opposed to district numbers in the presentation. She mentioned the possible closure of several Pomona schools and asked the purpose of including the school locations in the presentation.

Eunice Russell asked for clarification on the district numbering on the maps and asked about the process for resubmitting maps before the February deadline.

Jeff Simonetti indicated he would like to answer some of the questions posed by the public before proceeding. He said he included the district numbering as it was submitted in the various maps to ensure full transparency, but said he could change the maps to reflect the old district placements at the next meeting if it was the direction of the Commission.

He spoke on the Edison Historic District and said it was lumped in with the downtown community of interest.

He said when he referred to specific neighborhoods like Phillips Ranch he was referring to the community of interest rather than its specific district.

Regarding including schools as communities of interest, he said it was up to the public and the Commission to decide if they wanted to factor in the location of schools and what criteria would be used.

He indicated that existing maps could be revised and edited prior to the February 4 deadline.

Deputy City Manager Gluba pointed out the preservation of existing district numbers would be important to City staff as well due to existing projects and City data associated with the current district numbers. He said he understands that the populations may shift, but suggested the maps stay in line with the current location of districts.

Chair Yañez Ruiz said the issue was with District R labeling the first district drawn as District 1 regardless of its current location. He said it does not necessarily mean that the Commission is going to change the numbering.

Deputy City Manager Gluba suggested the Commission look critically at the traditional district number locations when approving a final map.

Jeff Simonetti said they would need to do that at the February hearing due to posting requirements. He said he could go back and change the existing maps to reflect the traditional districts prior to the next meeting if it was the direction of the Commission.

Chair Yañez Ruiz pointed out that everyone on the Commission understands the

historical numbering of the districts.

Chair Yañez Ruiz closed the public hearing.

Chair Yañez Ruiz opened up the discussion for members of the Commission.

Commissioner Mendoza said he would like to see different district numbering to reflect the district changes.

Chair Yañez Ruiz mentioned the point made by Ann Tomkins about the sequencing of elections and said they could unintentionally lower voter turnout if they drastically changed the location of some districts.

Commissioner Alvarez agreed with the Chair and staff regarding the placement of the districts. She said labeling the districts to reflect the majority population and historic district numbering would help to avoid confusion.

Jeff Simonetti indicated he could renumber the submitted maps to reflect the current districts by the next meeting.

Deputy City Manager Gluba brought up the Charter Review amendment pending for the next election that showed the sequencing of the election and said there was definitely a vested interest in trying to keep the districts in the same general geographic regions as the current ones.

Commissioner Luong emphasized the need for Mr. Simonetti to renumber the submitted maps for the next meeting.

Vice Chair Casillas Sanchez asked if there was potential for incumbents to be displaced from their current districts with the new map.

Chair Yañez Ruiz mentioned the potential problems with having a majority Latino population in all six districts. He suggested including additional data with the draft maps besides the racial and ethnic composition of the proposed districts.

Jeff Simonetti cited the 2020 Census data on District 5 and said he would include additional data requested by the Chair.

Mr. Simonetti continued his presentation on the submitted draft maps.

Chair Yañez Ruiz reopened the public hearing to hear comments from the public and the Commission on the second half of his presentation.

John Clifford thanked the Commission for their work and mentioned he had issues with

two of the draft maps and the way they split up historic districts. He cautioned against putting three historic districts into one district.

Ann Tomkins commented there were many interesting submitted draft maps and mentioned the downtown representation included in some of the draft maps that did not coincide with the City's view of the composition and representation of that area. She urged the Commission to ensure that a meaningful decision was made about the downtown area when considering the final maps. She mentioned the need to correct the population disparities in districts five and six and the effect on other districts.

Eunice Russell spoke on how the changing boundaries would affect various City zones and plans like the Downtown Plan and the Enterprise Zone. She urged the Commission to look at the distribution of historic districts and businesses to create a balance between the districts and their representation.

Chair Yañez Ruiz closed the public hearing and asked for input from the Commission on the draft maps.

Jeff Simonetti thanked the community for their input and asked the Commission to consider certain factors when considering the placement of communities of interest, including boundaries and whether the community would be better served being represented by one or multiple Council representatives.

Commissioner Luong asked for a few technical changes to the map interface page to make the process less confusing for the public. He also said he would prefer placing the historic districts in different Council districts as opposed to all in one district.

Commissioner Mendoza mentioned several of the draft maps had the Fairplex and Cal Poly in the same district. He said the community has expressed that it would like to see the downtown district represented by one Councilmember rather than multiple. He asked for more demographic information on the various draft maps and said he would like to see a more balanced population in the Phillips Ranch area.

Jeff Simonetti said he would work with Clare Burgess to get more demographic data posted on the website. He said you could use the demographic and ACS data as an overlay while drawing a map on the District R website.

Commissioners Alvarez and Luong asked about the process of selecting the final draft maps.

Mr. Simonetti said the final map selection was up to the Commission with consideration of public input.

Chair Yañez Ruiz solicited input from the Commission on the draft maps and emphasized



the need for the Commission to begin the review process sooner than later.

The Commission spent some time discussing and reviewing the draft maps.

### **COMMISSIONER COMMUNICATION**

Chair Yañez Ruiz mentioned the comments by members of the public regarding the lack of community involvement and stressed that members of the Commission, staff, and consultants were making the effort to reach out to the community. He shared that he had spoken with around 200 students at Cal Poly about the redistricting process and encouraged them to share the information with family and friends. He explained that despite the efforts by staff and the Commission, there unfortunately, had not been a whole lot of involvement from the community so far. He asked everyone to encourage involvement from friends and family members.

### **STAFF COMMUNICATION**

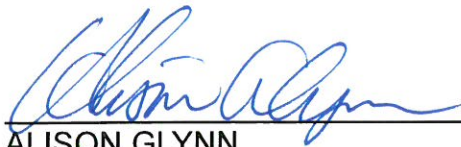
There was no staff communication.

### **ADJOURNMENT**

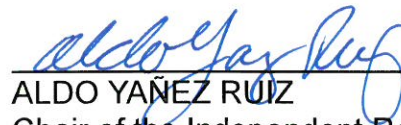
Chair Yañez Ruiz adjourned the meeting at 6:55 pm to the next regular meeting on February 23, 2022 at 5:00 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

ATTEST:



ALISON GLYNN  
Deputy City Clerk /Commission  
Secretary to the Independent  
Redistricting Commission



ALDO YAÑEZ RUIZ  
Chair of the Independent Redistricting  
Commission

