

# 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, February 23, 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 5:00 p.m.

#### **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 Natalie Chaidez  
Commissioner Timmy Luong  
Commissioner Ruth Alvarez  
Commissioner Nancy Diaz  
Commissioner John Mendoza

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

Rosalia Butler, City Clerk  
Alison Glynn, Deputy City Clerk/Commission Secretary  
Karla Shipman, Deputy City Clerk

Mark Gluba, Deputy City Manager  
Maria Arellano, Administrative Clerk, City Clerk's Office  
Scott Smith, Attorney, Best, Best & Krieger (BBK)

Hilda Estrada, contracted by the City to provide translation services via Zoom.

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.

25 members of the public attended the meeting.

### **PUBLIC COMMENT**

There was no general public comment for items not on the agenda.

### **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

-January 26, 2022 Meeting Minutes

**MOTION BY COMMISSIONER ALVAREZ, SECOND BY VICE CHAIR CASILLAS-SANCHEZ, CARRIED 7-0, to approve the January 26, 2022 Meeting Minutes.**

### **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 redistricting process.

Chair Yañez Ruiz asked about options for a special meeting in March. He indicated he had a draft map he would like the Commission and public to review.

Mr. Simonetti gave an overview of the new map submittals.

Chair Yañez Ruiz shared his draft map.

Vice-Chair Casillas-Sanchez asked about the draft map and the Holt Avenue corridor.

Commissioner Luong asked about the deviation percentage.

Commissioner Chaidez asked if the draft map could be uploaded to the website with all of the statistics so the public could have a chance to look at it.

Commissioner Luong shared his draft map.

Commissioner Alvarez asked to review Map 104 again.

Chair Yañez Ruiz opened the public hearing.

Commission Secretary Glynn read the comments received via email and through the Draw Pomona website.

**\*Please see attachment for email comments**

Eunice Russell pointed out the omission of black citizens of Pomona in the demographic discussion of the draft maps. She reminded the Commission that Districts 4 & 6 contain the most black voters and mentioned the way the draft maps split up Northern Pomona was diluting the black vote. She expressed her discontent on the late map submittals by Commissioners and said everyone needed to follow the rules regarding submission deadlines. She urged the Commission to review Maps 101 and 107 and stated those maps did not dilute the black vote.

Hank Fung said he liked the idea of creating a central Pomona district as demonstrated in his draft map 117. He spoke on elevating the Asian American community in Pomona and said that District 5 should extend past the 71 freeway to include Asian institutions like the Buddhist temple on White Avenue. He echoed Eunice Russell's concerns about omitting the black community from the demographic discussion. He again urged the Commission to look at Asian Americans in Pomona and said their decision could help to allow Asian American City Council representation for the first time in Pomona history.

Ann Tomkins said she was not opposed to a central Pomona district, but wanted to make sure the boundaries did not cut into historic districts. She pointed out the Hacienda Park Historic District extended slightly below the 10 freeway and that some maps were drawn with that in mind. She said she lived in District 4 and that the 10 Freeway should not be considered a boundary when considering the draft maps. She said she did not see a problem with Holt Avenue as a boundary.

Tomas expressed his concern about the significant changes in some of the draft maps



and said he was in favor of a readjustment based on population data as opposed to redistricting. He suggested keeping the contours of the existing districts together as much as possible to preserve communities of interest. He suggested moving the Westmont area from District 5 into District 2 and moving the across from the library east of Garey into District 3.

John Clifford reminded the Commission they were supposed to consider new population growth and spoke on the major construction off Bonita in District 6 and its effect on the area population. He spoke on the medical corridor surrounding the Pomona Valley Hospital. He urged the Commission to narrow it down to 3-5 maps by the end of the meeting. He said he would like to see a feature on future mapping tools that would prompt the map creator to include explanations on boundary placement.

Linda Hinojosa said she shared most of the sentiments of the speakers before her. She indicated that she considered all of the districts, not just her district, when drawing her map and pointed out that some of the draft maps seemed to be drawn to favor a certain district. She cautioned against disenfranchising voters currently in District 2 by allocating large chunks to District 5 and pointed out the socioeconomic differences of the two districts. She mentioned that the population in Pomona had not drastically changed and said some of the maps proposing drastic changes should not be considered.

Miri Goche said she was in favor of Map 108 and wanted to remain in District 2 with Councilmember Preciado. (Spanish speaker, translated and summarized by City staff)

Miranda Sheffield thanked the Commission agreed with some points made by earlier commenters and said the Commission should focus on making voting a more equitable process in all of the districts. She echoed the comment by Eunice Russell on why there was not a breakdown of black voters.

Doug Alvey said he favored map 108 and said as a property owner on Holt Avenue, he thought it was counterintuitive to split up the street. He stressed business owners were trying to change the business demographic to make Holt safer and more aesthetically pleasing and it would be helpful to have Holt Avenue represented by one Councilmember.

Albar Cortes said she was in favor of Map 108. (Spanish speaker, translated and summarized by City staff)

Cecilia said she was in favor of Map 108 and the map submitted by Commissioner Luong. (Spanish speaker, translated and summarized by City staff)

Chair Yañez Ruiz closed the public hearing.

Commissioner Mendoza mentioned the public comments favoring Maps 107 and 108 and said he echoed the concerns voiced by the public pertaining to keeping the African

American community together.

Commissioner Chaidez thanked the community for their feedback and said community feedback was the most important part of the process. She echoed some of the public comments on grouping communities of interest based on shared economic and social similarities. She spoke on Map 108 and the map by Commissioner Luong and said those maps seemed to address most of the concerns mentioned in public comments.

Commissioner Diaz thanked the community for their feedback and suggested narrowing the draft map selection down to 104, 107, 108, 115 and 119. She said having an explanation as to why the Commission was considering each map would also be helpful for the public.

Commissioner Luong thanked the public for the comments and expressed how valuable the community feedback was. He said he was personally sorry to Eunice Russell for the impression that the Commission was not considering the African American vote and said he appreciated her continual participation in the process. He echoed Commissioner Diaz' suggestion of narrowing it down to the five suggested maps.

Commissioner Alvarez thanked the public for their comments and said she agreed on narrowing it down to the five suggested maps. She pointed out that, even though the entire Commission might not agree on the makeup of the maps, they could be adjusted to meet the needs of the public. She stressed the Commission was redistricting based on population imbalance and said that they did not need to necessarily create new identities for each district.

Vice-Chair Casillas-Sanchez said she agreed with the five suggested maps and urged the Commission to consider the map submitted by Commissioner Luong as well.

Commissioner Luong said in lieu of the public comments about late submissions, he did not feel his map should be considered.

Commissioner Chaidez explained that the Commission would be looking at the draft maps and deciding if they need to make changes to those maps based on a variety of features. She pointed out the maps created by Chair Yañez Ruiz and Commissioner Luong incorporated some of the features of the submitted draft maps. She indicated and some of those changes could be mentioned in the discussion of the proposed draft maps.

Jeff Simonetti reminded the Commission the map had to be posted as is 7 days prior to adoption. He asked the Commission if they had any final edits for the proposed final selection of draft maps.

Chair Yañez Ruiz reminded the public the Commission was considering all ethnic and socioeconomic groups when considering the maps. He explained that the maps created

by he and Commissioner Luong allowed for minority groups to form coalitions at least in one district to get a councilmember of their choosing elected.

City Clerk Butler informed the public that the interpreter had to leave the meeting.

Chair Yañez Ruiz asked Mr. Simonetti to pull up the proposed final draft maps that did not have six majority Latino districts.

Mr. Simonetti confirmed the maps were 104, 107, 108, 115, 117, 119, and the map submitted by Commissioner Luong. He said he did not currently have the demographic data for Commissioner Luong's draft map.

Commissioner Alvarez pointed out the maps submitted by the public were all draft maps and could be manipulated to create one district that did not favor one particular population.

Mr. Simonetti went over the demographic data for the selected maps and determined that Map 107 was the only map with six majority Latino districts.

Chair Yañez Ruiz mentioned the drastic changes to the districts in Map 107 and suggested removing it from consideration.

Commissioner Chaidez mentioned that Map 107 also included some characteristics that the community mentioned in public comment. She asked if the demographic data for the Black and AAPI communities for the existing districts could be added to the Draw Pomona website so the community could compare the data.

Jeff Simonetti said he would work with Tripepi Smith to make sure that demographic data was posted to the website.

Commissioner Mendoza voiced his opposition to eliminating Map 107 due to the support of the public for the map.

Commissioner Diaz asked if they could do a comparison of the current district map with some of the suggested focus maps as criteria for down selection.

Commissioner Chaidez said she would like to eliminate 117 from the final selection due to some citizen concern over drastic changes in district 2 and south Pomona.

Vice-Chair Casillas Sanchez suggested identifying the standard deviation for all of the proposed focus maps to identify the parameters the Commission planned to use.

After some discussion, the Commission decided to schedule an additional special meeting on Thursday, March 10, 2022 at 5 pm.

**MOTION BY COMMISSIONER ALVAREZ, SECOND BY COMMISSIONER LUONG,**

**CARRIED 7-0, to schedule a Special Meeting on Thursday, March 10, 2022 at 5:00 pm.**

After some discussion, the Commission decided to narrow down the list of maps for focus at the March 10, 2022 Special meeting to Maps 104, 107, 108, 115, 117, 119, and the map proposed by Commissioner Luong.

**MOTION BY COMMISSIONER MENDOZA, SECOND BY COMMISSIONER ALVAREZ, CARRIED 7-0, to focus on Maps 104, 107, 108, 115, 117, 119, and the map by Commissioner Luong (Map 130).**

Mr. Simonetti indicated he would get the requested demographic data, as well as the map and associated data proposed by Commissioner Luong, posted to the Draw Pomona website.

City Clerk Butler asked about the deadline for draft map submittal.

Chair Yañez Ruiz indicated that the focus should be directed to the maps listed in the previous motion and that the Commission should not consider any new submittals.

#### **COMMISSIONER COMMUNICATION**

No Commissioner communication.

#### **STAFF COMMUNICATION**

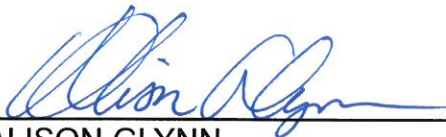
No staff communication.

#### **ADJOURNMENT**

Chair Yañez Ruiz adjourned the meeting at 7:28 pm to the next special meeting on Thursday, March 10, 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



**\*The following comments were received via email:**

**Judy St. John**

Is it too late to comment on the maps for Pomona Council Seat Redistricting? If not, I would like to say that I favor map 107 because it keeps the community together, but 104 excludes the residential neighborhoods abutting Fairplex grounds on the east.

Sincerely,

Judy St. John

**Name redacted**

There are important benefits to Map 107. It keeps together a community of interest. The Pomona residential areas that abut Fairplex on the east and on the south represent a community of interest. Any negative impacts from Fairplex events and activities affect the entire nearby surrounding community. Map 107 preserves the community of interest that currently exists. The other benefit of Map 107 is that it allows at least 50% Latino population in every district.

Please use Map 107.

**Name redacted**

I favor and urge adoption of Map 197 because it maintains an existant (sic) community of interest and is most consistent with an overall result of at least 50 percent Latino/Latina population per district.

**Reyna Garcia Ramos**

As a community member of Pomona all my life, and if I were engaged in redistricting, I am in favor of Pomona Redistricting Plan 107, District ID 101544. I currently live in district 6, my parents live in district 1 and my sister lives in district 4. We are all homeowners in each district and are invested in the community through service and community organizing. Although none of the proposed maps are perfect, we appreciated that Map 107 would keep each of our communities most intact so that we can continue to build a sense of community and thrive. We are concerned that the other maps cut into natural borders in each community, as in hills, parks and flood control channels. Do not separate me or my family from our neighbors, friends and community!

**Miguel Garcia Ramos**



As a community member of North Pomona, I am in favor of Pomona Redistricting Plan 107, District ID 101544. I currently live in district 6 and have family that lives in district 1 and district 4. Map 107 is the redistricting map that keeps each of our communities most intact so that we can continue building a sense of community with our neighbors that share common interests and concerns. I am concerned that the other maps cut into natural borders in our communities, such as in hills, parks and flood control channels. I believe that these maps will group together communities that do not share the same interests and concerns, therefore creating a divide in our city. Map 107 is the map that works in the best interest of the city of Pomona and its communities.

**Mario Ramos**

As a community member of Pomona all my life and a homeowner I am in favor of Pomona Redistricting Plan 107, District ID 101544. My family has lived in district 6 for over 25 years and are vested in the community through services and community organizing that we believe has led to positive outcomes/intrinsic value. Although none of the proposed maps are perfect, we appreciated that Map 107 would keep each of our communities most intact so that we can continue our efforts to build a sense of community that will continue to thrive for our City and District 6. We are concerned that the other maps cut into natural borders in each community, as in hills, parks and flood control channels.

**Dr. Jose Vadi**

I write in support of Map 107 as it supports a strong community of interest and leads to an overall result of at least 50% Latino/a population per district.

Dr. Jose M. Vadi

**Eric Gomez**

I like map 108 .

**Cristina Carrizosa**

To Whom it May Concern:

Please see the attached letter to be read at tonight's Re-districting Commission meeting.

Respectfully,

Cristina Carrizosa

***(attached letter)***

Cristina Carrizosa  
District Three resident.

RE: Support for Map # 108

Feb.23, 2022

*My opinion regarding Re-districting Maps.*

*Tenets of redistricting include equal population. That is accomplished plus or minus some numbers across most maps. However, the concept of communities of interest seems to be lacking. Contiguous populations that share common social and economic status should be included in one single district for purpose of effective representation. They also must share racial and ethnic background, common history, culture, and language.*

*Yet, by looking at the maps one may think there is a clear effort to dilute the voting power of residents in South Pomona. The entire District 2 is placed in areas completely different geographically, socially, and economically, as evident in maps #s 101,102,109,106,107,117,118,120 and 122-128. Looking at Maps #105 & 106 it is obvious the makers know zero about present District # 3. Compacting, that is avoiding odd shapes, is also a problems in some maps. A clear example is Map # 122.*

*Cracking or diluting the voting power across a district must be avoided by preserving existing political communities to avoid introducing racial or economic changes. Map #108 gets closer than others to achieve this purpose. I thank all commissioners and city personnel for your hard work and effort.*

*Respectfully,*

*Cristina Carrizosa*

**Alice R. Gomez**

After viewing all 28 maps, I would support Map 108 as the best for the City of Pomona.  
Alice R. Gomez (long time resident)

**Jess Gomez 2/23/22**

I Jess Gomez say YES to MAP 108

**Cathy Tessier 2/23/22 3:28 pm:**

February 23, 2022

TO: Pomona Redistricting Commission

RE: Response to meeting – 2.23.22

I support the following maps based on the following reasons

1. Keeping neighborhoods intact about the same way they are now
2. Making sure the entire downtown district is consolidated into one district: approximately White to Towne, and Mission to just short of Holt
3. That Holt not be "split"; in other words, that district lines stop a block or ½ block short of Holt, or Holt as a total street is included in either the district to the north or south of it.

Plan 108 meets these criteria the best:

1. Keeps the historical districts complete
2. Maintains a population balance between Districts 5 and 6
3. Puts the entire downtown area (the basis of which is the Downtown Specific Plan) into one district
4. Keeps Holt Blvd intact (regardless of what district it is in)
5. Present the least disruptive redrawn lines to maintain traditional neighborhoods

Plan 126 - likewise meets the above criteria – but only if the northern lines of Districts 2 and 3 can be moved south to either include Holt totally or to one street south of Holt. This would probably require slight adjustments on the eastern edge of District 5 and the northern tip of District 5

Plan 113 – The same issue exists with Holt. Move the northern edge of D3 down to just south of Holt.

This plan stops D2 at the tracks and needs to move that line up to just south of Holt (or to above Holt entirely) Adjustments as to population could be made at the south tip of D2 to accommodate changes to D3

### **Luis Rosales**

I have major concerns on how this is being conducted.

I submitted a map, with lots confusion and can see many of our residents being automatically out of the process due to lack of computer knowledge and the ability to navigate a map submission. This is resulting in less input from residents.

This is a sensitive subject, redistricting had already been addressed here in Pomona.

I hope for the sake of integrity, that we do this right, and not rush for the sake of deadlines. We don't need to completely change districts, adjust to population only, that means minor changes and consideration of communities of interest.

I'm disappointed and dissatisfied with my map submission. I made time to provide input but no one followed up, now I see my map never made it through.

I called the city clerk's office to double check that my map was okay for consideration. At least to make adjustments to meet the requirements but I didn't get notified, that's disappointing.

This is why many residents don't have faith or trust City Hall

My experience dealing with City Clerk's personnel over the phone has been good, no complaints, but I do wish that I would of been told that my map didn't meet the requirements or why it never made it through.

A very disappointed resident, Luis Rosales.

Since I didn't get a chance to modified my map I would support 108 map

### **Jacqueline Suarez**

Hi, this is Jaqueline Suarez, resident of Pomona. While I reviewed some of the maps, I couldn't happen to notice that they shift dramatically and not necessarily respecting our communities of interest. The huge disservice mostly comes from Southwest and Southeast Pomona. It seems that whoever submitted these maps didn't consider the population as being the problem but instead wanted to take a whole district and reinvent it. Additionally, a few of these maps manipulate our boundaries creating a huge disadvantage. I don't see residents like me being lumped in whole with Phillips Ranch District 5, the representation and needs just aren't the same.

This is what brought me here tonight and why I've chosen a well-balanced map. My choice is MAP 108.

Thank you for your time.

### **Amber Guzman**

My name is Amber Guzman, a longtime resident of Pomona. I've come across this commission through the City's Facebook page by coincidence while looking for another subject. I honestly wish the city had created more outreach to its residents like myself, it would have been great to have known this at an earlier time. While looking at some of the maps I couldn't happen to notice that they shift dramatically almost if there is a special type of interest by someone. I'd like to know who drafted these maps and if this something that can be requested via the Public Records Act given its anonymity?

Nevertheless, I'm grateful to the commissioners for taking on such a great challenge, these things are never easy. Keeping the integrity of communities of interest should be first and foremost respected and I honestly do not see this happening on some of these drafted



maps (particularly for District 2). A few of these maps manipulate our boundaries creating a disadvantage for residents.

This is what brought me here tonight and why I've chosen the less radical maps. My choice is numbered from most favorite to least:

Option 1 – 108

Option 2 - 115

