

City of Pomona

505 S. Garey Ave
Pomona, CA 91766

Special 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.*

Thursday, March 10, 2022

5:00 PM

Teleconference via Zoom

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)

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.

Seventeen members of the public attended the meeting.

PUBLIC COMMENT

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

PUBLIC HEARING

1. 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 went through the maps for discussion by the Commission.

City Clerk Butler let everyone know that the interpreter informed her she was in an accident and would not be able to attend the meeting. She said that City staff would do their best to accommodate Spanish-speaking individuals should the need arise.

Chair Yañez Ruiz indicated that he would like to address the comments by the public at the last meeting regarding the dilution of the black vote. He pointed out that Map 129 actually increases the voting power of black residents in District 6 when compared with the current district data. He said the Commission was taking into account how the redistricting process affects black voters in the city, but that race and ethnicity could not be the only factor considered.

He brought up Map 107 and questioned the legality of the map. He indicated the Commission could discuss any proposed changes to Map 107, but said he could not

support a map as it was. He suggested dropping the map from consideration due to possible legal challenges in the future.

Commissioner Luong said he was in support of dropping Map 107 because it would dilute the Asian American voting population in District 5.

Commissioner Mendoza questioned the reasoning for dropping Map 107. He said he was not in favor of removing any map from consideration until he heard the advice of legal counsel and public input on the maps.

Chair Yañez Ruiz explained that Map 107 created six Latino majority districts and that the Commission had the opportunity to create one district that was not a Latino majority. He said it could be problematic because candidates could win in all six districts without considering any other demographic data like educational background, income, ethnicity and other factors. He said that, in his opinion, this scenario would be unconstitutional. He asked for Scott Smith from the City Attorney's Office to weigh in on the issue.

Mr. Smith said he would need to look at the configuration and location of other minority groups within Map 107, but he did not think it was illegal to have six majority Hispanic districts.

Commissioner Chaidez pointed out that, per staff direction, the Commission would need to reduce the number of maps and decide how best to do that. She asked if it would be better to have that conversation after hearing from the public.

Jeff Simonetti said he recommended the Commission listen to public testimony before making decisions on removing maps for consideration. He explained the considerations he mentioned in his presentation were just suggestions and not an exhaustive list of factors the Commission should be conscious of when looking at the maps. He said it was up to the discretion of the Commission on how they would like to move forward in making the final selection. He said staff would recommend narrowing down the map selection before going into the final meeting.

Commissioner Chaidez said the Commission valued the community contribution of the draft maps and that it would narrow down the selection by listening to community input and by following the regulations set forth.

Mr. Simonetti indicated the Commission could elect to move forward with a map with certain changes if it was the desire of the Commission.

Chair Yañez Ruiz explained the Commission could use the mapping software to edit the maps as they looked at them later in the evening.

Commissioner Alvarez asked if the Commission would be able to look at Map 107,

including street names, in more detail later in the meeting. She said she agreed with Commissioner Mendoza that they should still consider Map 107 based on community input. She said she agreed with Commissioner Chaidez that the Commission could adjust the maps. She pointed out the Commission really needed to listen to public input on the maps and said she did not want the community to feel ignored or excluded from the process.

Commissioner Chaidez reminded the Commission they had before them a variety of demographics to consider beyond race and ethnicity. She cautioned the Commission about focusing too much on one factor and said it was important to focus on the other data as well.

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**

Ann Tomkins thanked the Commission for its hard work. She pointed out that there would be unhappy people regardless of the outcome. She said she really appreciated the addition of the current district information and said it was helpful to be able to compare the data with the proposed draft maps. She suggested some minor modifications concerning the Lincoln Park and Hacienda Park historic districts if the Commission decided to move forward with Maps 115 & 117. She indicated she did not prefer a specific map and said she noticed that Maps 115, 129 & 130 made the fewest changes to the demographic makeup of the districts. She said she preferred bigger thoroughfares and natural boundaries as district boundaries so it would be easier for people to understand the parameters of their district.

Eunice Russell thanked the Commission for its service and commended Commissioner Chaidez for pointing out the Commission had the right to make changes to the existing maps. She encouraged the Commissioners not to feel intimidated in making those changes. She pointed out some contradictory language in the discussion on race and ethnicity. She said it was hard to make certain decisions because the citizen voting age information was coming from old data from the American Community Survey for 2013-2017 and pointed out the more recent data from the same survey. She questioned why the Commission was not factoring in new development in the discussion about community population. She mentioned that Map 127 had two districts without a majority Hispanic population and that the Commission had not even considered that map. She emphasized the need for cautious deliberation throughout the process and suggested adding a special meeting. She expressed her discontent with the addition of Map 130 and said the Commission should reconsider Map 127. She pointed out that all of the

maps had at least a 20-25% Asian American population in District 5 as noted earlier by Commissioner Diaz. She said she was not blaming the Commissioners and pointed out they were only working with the information provided to them by staff and the consultants.

Ed Tessier said he recognized all the hard work by the Commission and staff on this process. He spoke on the downtown area and the disadvantage of the current district boundaries that split the area between several Councilmembers. He spoke on the downtown as its own unique neighborhood and said it is the place with the most potential for adding more residents. He indicated that he favored Maps 108 and 129 because they did not split up downtown or the Holt Avenue corridor.

Tomas spoke on the need to readjust the districts rather than redistrict them. He said the existing districts had communities of interest that should not be separated. He said he played around with the mapping software and came up with a map similar to Map 129. He asked the Commission to take some of the suggestions from the public and clean up Map 129 to better reflect the needs of the community.

John Clifford reminded the Commission to take into account the recent addition of a large apartment building built in District 6 after the Census. He said the building should add about 600 more people to the area at Bonita and Garey Avenue. He said he liked the idea of moving District 4 up on the east side and keeping District 6 similar to how it is drawn now above the 10 Freeway.

Chair Yañez Ruiz closed the public hearing and asked Jeff Simonetti to address some of the points brought up in public comment.

Mr. Simonetti clarified the 2020 Census data was the data used for the demographic data map sheets and that the notation in the footnotes indicating the data was from the 2010 Census was a typo.

He addressed the comments about new development and said it could be considered, but only after the state and federal requirements were met.

He confirmed the Commission did have the ability to edit the current focus maps but that the final map had to be finalized 7 days prior to any adoption. He stressed the map could not be modified at the final meeting approving the map.

Chair Yañez Ruiz clarified that Map 130 was the edited version of Map 129.

Commissioner Alvarez pointed out that Eunice Russell was referencing the American Community Survey data in her comment and asked Mr. Simonetti if they were using any other data other than the 2020 Census data for the maps.

Mr. Simonetti clarified that they were using both the 2020 Census data and data from the

American Community Survey referenced by Mrs. Russell in her comments. He pointed out the population and the data associated with it came from the 2020 Census data.

Commissioner Alvarez asked if the data from the American Community Survey was current. Mr. Simonetti indicated they did have the 2019 data from the American Community Survey.

Commissioner Mendoza asked about the reference by Mrs. Russell to Map 127 and the two districts without a majority Hispanic population.

Commissioner Alvarez asked if they could even consider Map 127 since they had voted to not move it forward.

Chair Yañez Ruiz said they could take one of the existing focus maps and potentially create two districts where there is no racial ethnic majority.

The Commission discussed the various maps, public input, and the criteria for narrowing the selection down.

After some discussion, the Commission decided to move forward with Maps 107, 108, & 130 and to use the March 23, 2022 meeting to discuss the remaining maps and narrow it down to a final map.

MOTION BY COMMISSIONER MENDOZA, SECOND BY COMMISSIONER ALVAREZ, CARRIED 7-0, to focus on Maps 107, 108 & 130.

After some discussion, the Commission proposed scheduling a special meeting on Thursday, April 7, 2022 to present the final map.

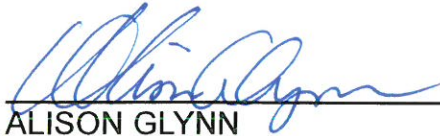
MOTION BY COMMISSIONER CHAIDEZ, SECOND BY COMMISSIONER LUONG, CARRIED 6-1 (Commissioner Diaz in opposition), to schedule a Special Meeting on Thursday, April 7, 2022 at 5:00 pm.

ADJOURNMENT

Chair Yañez Ruiz adjourned the meeting at 7:25 pm to the next regular meeting on March 23, 2022 at 5:00 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

ATTEST:



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



ALDO YANEZ RUIZ
Chair of the Independent Redistricting
Commission

***The following comments were received via email and the Draw Pomona website:**

Judith St. John

Please give preference to Maps 107 or 127. These maps keep a community of interest together, with Fairplex and the neighborhoods affected by Fairplex in one district. The neighborhoods north of the I-10 freeway have historically been together and share common interests.

Please disregards maps 104, 115, and 119 that separate Fairplex from their own property—the maintenance yard, their RV Park, and County Fair parking lot 9. Together with 129 and 130, they all separate Fairplex from the neighborhood it affects east of White.

Raymond Mendoza

As a member of a community of interest (preservation of historic homes), I would like my commissioner (district 4) to consider my choice for map #108. Thank you.

Lisa Gomez

Dear Pomona Redistricting Commission:

My name is Lisa Gomez. I support Map 108 for the Pomona residents and their families. Map 108 allows minorities (African, Asians & Hispanics) to remain intact. All minorities NEED and should HAVE the opportunity to have proper representation. PLEASE listen to the "RESIDENTS" that will be AFFECTED, NOT the special interest groups!

Thank you for your time and service,

Lisa Gomez

Daniel Rodriguez

As a 20 year resident of Pomona, I'm asking the city to push for map 108.

This map makes sure that we do not fall into legal consequences with the voters rights act and is inclusive of all the minorities.

The city can not afford another lawsuit and deserves equal representation.

Thank you.

DJ

Doug Alvey

Dear Mayor and Council Members,

In regards to the 28 different redistricting maps that have been proposed, I would like to request that the Holt corridor remain as is, and not be used as a dividing line with the North side in one district and the South side on another. The issues that my businesses deal with on the South side of the Avenue are the same issues that are happening right across the street on the North side. I would suggest it makes more sense to have the dividing line on either Center St or Monterey, and leave the Holt corridor to be overseen by one council member for each of the East and West areas.

Thank you,

Doug Alvey

Andrea

Hi my name is Andrea,

After careful consideration of all the drafted maps I have selected the most well balanced and reasonable map that fits well without major dramatic changes to our population. I'm in favor of the map108, thank you.

Katherine Have

Good Morning Redistricting Representatives,

I urge you to adopt **Map 107** or simply leave District 6 unchanged.

We need our homes north of the I-10 freeway kept together for governance because we have so many shared interests that we need to come together with our community leaders to address.

Of course, all citizens of Pomona share in the successful outcomes and efforts made in every sector of the City. That said, different neighborhoods have different characteristics. Outcomes are better when homes and areas share interests and characteristics so that they can collectively address them better as a community. When each unique area of Pomona can come together to better itself, the whole of Pomona benefits!

Please don't artificially change boundaries on bases that do not take into consideration the most important aspect of a district = COMMUNITY.

Thank you and sincerely,

Kathryn Have

Ellen Christiansen

To whom it may concern,

As a 23 year resident of Pomona, I am emailing you to convey my support for map107. It is my belief that map 107 best represents the interest of Mountain Meadows. All other map options will cause my community to be marginalized and I fear that our priorities as residents of North Pomona will not be addressed. It would be greatly appreciated if you would please confirm receipt of this email.

Ellen Christiansen

DeAndre Valencia

My name is DeAndre Valencia, a current resident of District 5 residing in Phillips Ranch.

Map 108 is a map I would like to support for Pomona residents and families. This map keeps minorities such as Latinos, Asians, and African Americans together, ultimately ensuring that minorities have equal representation and better opportunities to gain representation in all parts of Pomona.

Thank you for your service,

DeAndre Valencia

Phillips Ranch Resident

Tiffany Hammond

Dear Pomona Redistricting Commission,

My name is Tiffany Hammond, a current resident of District 5 residing in Phillips Ranch.

Map 108 is a map I would like to support for Pomona residents and families. This map keeps minorities such as Latinos, Asians, and African Americans together, ultimately ensuring that minorities have equal representation and better opportunities to gain representation in all parts of Pomona.

Thank you for your service,

Tiffany Hammond

Phillips Ranch Resident

Honorable Commission Members -

Steve Lustro

I would like to thank each of you for your willingness to take on the cumbersome task of reviewing and ultimately recommending a revised Council district map that will be used for the next decade. I appreciate each of you taking the time out of your busy schedules for

the good of Pomona.

Like others in the community, I have reviewed the short list of possible maps for consideration. I kept returning to Maps 104 and 119. They are similar and do a good job of keeping communities of interest together and observing logical boundaries. Further, they don't seek to re-invent any of the districts; rather, modifications are proposed along district edges in order to balance district populations. The only "downside" I have heard about both maps is that they split the Fairplex campus between Districts 1 and 6. I believe this issue can be resolved easily by moving the proposed easterly boundary of D1 from White Avenue to the east boundary of the campus (Fulton Road and its southwesterly projection), and moving the neighborhood bounded by McKinley, Berkeley, Artesia, and Garey into D6. Both maps would maintain a population deviation of less than 2.5%. I hope this suggestion is helpful.

Cristina Carrizosa

During the last meeting the rules for admission of maps were disregarded. According to the consultants it was legal to include additional maps although the dateline was long passed. Perhaps it is true. However, the same opportunity was not offered to the general population. Disregarding the established rules lessens the credibility of the consultants.

In looking at the additional maps, I find the need to change my preferences as follows:

Number one- No change to the existing districts at all.

Number two- Map # 129.

Number Three Map # 108

Once again I thank all commissioners, members of the city staff, and residents for the efforts and hard work put forth by all of you.

Respectfully,

Cristina Carrizosa

Jay Romero

Good evening, I want to address the commission on the maps that are to be considered tonight. But before doing so I also want to thank each and everyone of you for putting the time and effort. I don't necessarily understand the process to the fullest but strongly believe that a fair and democratic process will be in order.

I did not see a map that I can say is the perfect map and I'm sure not everyone will agree on a specific map however I believe that map 129 will be fair with most districts and that is the map I will request to be considered thank you.

Luis Rosales

My name is Luis Rosales

Pomona is my home

I was very concerned and skeptical of how the city was going to handle this, when dealing with special sessions, I highly recommend having City Attorney Staff

I have previously serve on the Planning & City Charter Commissions and got a bad taste of how hard it was to make changes or recommendations in Pomona

One thing for sure, this Independent Commission seems to be fair, nice to see new names instead of the same people all the time.

I did look at the final maps

I favor map 129 for many reasons

Finally I want to acknowledge Rosalia and Allison (City Clerk's Department) they were very helpful in answering all my questions and concerns

Thank you

Amber Guzman

To Whom It May Concern:

I appreciate the time for allowing my comment tonight and also thank you for sharing my comments at the last meeting. I had the opportunity to review the seven drafted maps and the most recent map posted yesterday.

My vote is for map 129, thank you all for your time and dedication.

Sincerely,

Amber Guzman

Jaqueline Suarez

Thank you for sharing my comments at the last meeting. After careful review and consideration of the 7 drafted maps, including the most recent map I wasn't previously aware of, my vote is for MAP 129.

Destiny Delgadillo

Good afternoon commissioners, thank you for taking time to read this email. I would like to submit a request that you consider map 129 as it will keep our community together.

Thank you,

Frank Villa

Good evening,

Thank you commissioners for all the work that was put into this process. I'd like to comment on the final drafted maps. After reviewing all the focus maps including the recent map that was added last night, I choose that 129 be the final map for consideration.

Jacqueline Elizalde

Good evening,

I had the opportunity to attend the previous commission meeting and want to thank the commission for really considering the public's comments. Over the years, when opportunities like these have come up, time after time we see the public's input go unheard or ignored. A perfect and most recent example: the Charter Commission. While I agree with everyone's sentiments about the challenges of not having "One MAP fits all", the goal here should have never been to redistrict but instead "adjust" to our population. During this redistricting process I'm sure most of us, including the public, have gained knowledge and perhaps something great will come of it.

Although I was somewhat taken back for the late receipt of Map 129, I couldn't help note that Commissioner Luong's map actually considers the majority of our communities when he drafted this map. It is important that we note those things, especially when it affects underserved districts. After reviewing all said maps, I have selected Map 129 to be considered by the commission.

Thank you, commissioners, staff and most importantly the public for working together on this process.

Jacqueline Elizalde, District 2 resident

Andrea Zamudio

Thank you for sharing my comments tonight, unfortunately my comment did not meet the deadline at the last meeting. I've had the opportunity to review the seven drafted maps including the most recent map which was posted yesterday. I was previously in favor of

map 108 but since the updates were presented my vote is for map 129. Thank you all for your time and dedication.

Luis Rosales Sr. Y Trinidad Rosales

Good evening. Thank you for your public service and compromise with the Commission. I want to express interest in the final and redacted maps. After reviewing the maps, and after careful consideration, I choose Map #129.

(Spanish speaker, translated and summarized by City staff)

Mario Ramos

After researching other countless of other options and as a community member of Pomona all my life and a homeowner I am in favor of Pomona Redistricting Plan 129, District ID 115055. Plan 115055 meets the spirit and intent of the Voter Rights Act guidelines. As I stated before, 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 appreciate that Map 129 would keep each of our communities most intact so that we can continue our efforts to build a sense of community that will continue thrive for our City and District 6. We are concerned that the other maps/plans cut too much into natural borders in each community and do not meet the conceptual integrity of the Voter Right Act guidelines.

If you have any further questions please reach out to me.

Mario Ramos