

# 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, March 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)

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.

Nineteen members of the public attended the meeting.

### **PUBLIC COMMENT**

John Clifford asked about the exclusion of the public attendee record on the minutes.

Eric Trypucko commended the Commission for its hard work and said he did not favor Map 107, and urged the Commission to consider Maps 130 & 108 instead. He spoke on the decision-making process and its effect on the community and asked the Commissioners to be diligent when choosing a map.

Eunice Russell mentioned she filed a Brown Act complaint and outlined some of the components of her complaint. She asked why the names of the map creators were not published and expressed concern that the maps had been influenced or drafted by politicians. She said the consultants were misleading the public in relation to the demographic data used in the map tool. She cautioned against breaking up District 6 and expressed her concern about reducing the voting power of black voters. She urged the Commission to listen to the voices of the public when making important decisions that could have a deleterious effect on the citizens of Pomona.

Attorney Scott Smith responded to the Brown Act complaint by Ms. Russell. He indicated his firm had gone over the complaint and its three main components and determined that no lapses in Brown Act compliance had occurred. He said he would not recommend the Commission cure any of the allegations put forth in the complaint.

Jeff Simonetti of NDC addressed some of the comments received earlier and said the consultants did not draw any of the maps, but merely just took the maps received through the District R website and put them into a format where the statistics could be calculated and they could be published on the Draw Pomona website for public viewing. He said they did not know the authors of the maps, but that the creator of the map can label it however they like.

Chair Yañez Ruiz pointed out that Maps 129 & 130 were made by Commissioner Luong and himself and that they had attached their names. He indicated they would be looking at an edited version of Map 130 submitted by another Commissioner later in the meeting.

City Clerk Butler shared there would be no Spanish interpretation for the meeting due to



scheduling conflicts and indicated staff would do their best to address any Spanish-speaking individuals that needed assistance.

## **CONSENT CALENDAR**

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

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

- February 23, 2022 Meeting Minutes
- March 10, 2022 Meeting Minutes

Commissioner Alvarez asked if the attendance numbers mentioned by a member of the public would be included in the approved minutes.

Commission Secretary Glynn indicated she would change the minutes to reflect the number of public attendees for each meeting.

**MOTION BY COMMISSIONER LUONG, SECOND BY COMMISSIONER CHAIDEZ, CARRIED 7-0, to approve the February 23, 2022 & March 10, 2022 Meeting Minutes.**

## **DISCUSSION CALENDAR**

### **2. Review and Recommend Edits for the Final Three Proposed Draft Maps**

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

- 1) Review and make edits if deemed necessary to Maps 107, 108 and 130; and
- 2) Recommend a final map to be adopted at the Special Meeting on April 7, 2022

Commission Secretary Glynn read the public comments received via email.

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

**\*Live comments were as follows**

Ann Tomkins thanked the Commission and said she did not prefer any particular map. She asked if the goal of the meeting was to choose one map by the end of the meeting.

Eunice Russell said she appreciated the Commissioners who have tried to incorporate the voice of the people and warned the Commission to be cautious about Maps 108 & 130 especially regarding the Fairplex and Ganesha Hills area. She said Map 107 did the least in breaking up the Northwest area of Pomona and could be adjusted to better meet

the needs of the public. She said the lines should be clear and concise and warned against cutting little sections out of neighborhoods when adjusting the maps.

John Clifford thanked the Commission for all of their hard work.

Chair Yañez Ruiz opened up the Commission discussion on the remaining three focus maps. He mentioned the question raised regarding the goal for narrowing down the map selection and said to keep in mind that, due to legal posting requirements, they could not edit the final map after the meeting tonight. He pointed out it had been recommended the Commission narrow the selection down to one map and asked the Commissioners how they wanted to proceed.

He mentioned that Commissioner Alvarez and Vice Chair Casillas-Sanchez made edited versions of the maps. He indicated he thought the Commission should move forward with Map 130, including the edits submitted by Vice Chair Casillas-Sanchez. He said he would not support the version of Map 107 as it was approved at the last meeting. He asked Commissioner Alvarez and Vice Chair Casillas-Sanchez to discuss the changes made to Map 107.

Chair Yañez Ruiz shared Vice Chair Casillas-Sanchez' edited Map 107.

Commissioner Luong said he was in favor of narrowing it down to Map 130 and that he had tried to edit Map 107 without much success. He said he was not in favor of Map 107 moving forward.

Vice Chair Casillas-Sanchez reminded the Commission their task was to make adjustments rather than redistricting completely. She discussed the changes she made in Map 107 and said it was challenging to manipulate the map without displacing important sections of the population. She discussed the adjustments she made to Maps 108 and 130 and said she was not in favor of moving forward with Map 107 after going through the process.

Commissioner Alvarez echoed the comments by Vice Chair Casillas-Sanchez on the arduous process of editing Map 107. She discussed the various methods she used to edit Map 107 and said she chose to work on it because it was favored by the public at the beginning of the process. She indicated she had tried her best to keep the communities of interest together based on comments from the public, but that it was difficult to achieve within the constraints of the map.

Chair Yañez Ruiz shared Commissioner Alvarez' edited Map 107 for the public to view.



The Commission discussed Map 107, public input, and the criteria for narrowing the selection down.

Chair Yañez Ruiz pulled up the map of the current council districts and illustrated that the goal of the Commission was to balance the population in each district. He pointed out that the districts needing adjustment the most were not geographically contiguous and that adjustments had to be made in the other districts to correct the population imbalance in districts 5 & 6. He said because of the legal requirements involved, it was not possible to preserve district 6 as it currently is.

Commissioner Mendoza said he favored Vice Chair Casillas-Sanchez' version of Map 107 and said he would not be voting in favor of Maps 108 or 130 because they displaced too many communities of interest. He pointed out the areas in which Maps 108 and 130 displaced these communities.

Chair Yañez Ruiz pointed out that Commissioner Mendoza had plenty of opportunities to draft his own map or make edits to the existing maps. He pointed out that Map 107 actually made drastic changes to current communities of interests.

Commissioner Chaidez said she agreed with the Chair that Map 107 disrupted current communities of interest the most and said they needed to look at the Map that does that the least. She indicated she had also made edits to Map 130 and could share that map in the discussion of that map.

Commissioner Luong proposed the Commission focus on Map 130 and the edits that the other members of the Commission had made to that map. He proposed a motion to eliminate Maps 107 and 108.

Vice Chair Casillas-Sanchez said she was not prepared to support a motion to eliminate any maps until they had looked at the edits to Map 130.

Commissioner Luong withdrew the motion.

Commissioner Chaidez shared her edited version of Map 130 and pointed out the edits she made to try to keep some communities of interest together while balancing the population.

The Commission looked at the version of Map 130 submitted by Commissioner Casillas-Sanchez and discussed possible edits to address some of the comments by the Commission.

After some discussion, the Commission decided to move forward with the version of Map 130 submitted by Vice Chair Casillas-Sanchez and to eliminate Maps 107 and 108 from consideration.

**MOTION BY COMMISSIONER LUONG, SECOND BY COMMISSIONER CHAIDEZ, CARRIED 6-1 (Commissioner Mendoza in opposition), to focus on Vice Chair Casillas-Sanchez' edited version of Map 130.**

Chair Yañez Ruiz asked Jeff Simonetti to bring up the version of Map 130 for the Commission to work on. Mr. Simonetti confirmed that 120396 was the District R ID for the map.

The Commission went through the process of discussing and editing Map 130.

Chair Yañez Ruiz asked the consultants if the map had any apparent problems at a glance.

Mr. Simonetti said he did not see anything that would be problematic and said the Commission was doing a good job of focusing on communities of interest.

Attorney Scott Smith said the Commission had done a great job in its deliberations on the impact to the district shapes in order to preserve communities of interest and indicated he thought the current version of the map was highly defensible.

Mr. Simonetti said the map was within the allowable deviation.

Chair Yañez Ruiz pointed out the Commission was looking at all of the data when making its decisions, and race and ethnicity was not the only factor considered when editing the maps. He explained that the Census did not provide all of the data they needed, so the American Community Survey had the best data available for other variables like household income, college graduation rates, languages spoken at home, and other important data not included in the Census.

Chair Yañez Ruiz asked if there was a motion to approve the current edited version of Map 130 as the final map to submit for adoption at the final meeting on April 7, 2022.

**MOTION BY COMMISSIONER MENDOZA, SECOND BY COMMISSIONER DIAZ, CARRIED 7-0, to approve the edited version of Map 130 for adoption at the April 7, 2022 Special Meeting.**

Jeff Simonetti indicated NDC would post the final map on the District R website and that the map would be processed and posted on the Draw Pomona website in the next couple of days to meet the 7-day legal posting requirement.

**COMMISSIONER COMMUNICATION**

Chair Yañez Ruiz thanked the public for all of their participation in the process and he thanked his fellow Commissioners for their hard work.

**STAFF COMMUNICATION**

Jeff Simonetti indicated he had posted the map on the District R website and shared that the map ID was 120827.

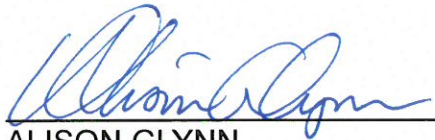
Deputy City Manager Gluba commended the Commission on the completion of this difficult task.

### **ADJOURNMENT**

Chair Yañez Ruiz adjourned the meeting at 7:05 pm to the next special meeting on April 7, 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 and the Draw Pomona website:**

**Steve Lustro**

Honorable Commission Members -

As you move toward final adoption of a map, I urge you to take into strong consideration the goals of a revised Council district map. Aside from equalizing populations in all six districts, other objectives were to observe major natural and artificial boundaries and keep neighborhoods of common interest together, while making necessary changes that have the least impact on existing district boundaries. Without question, Maps 108 and 130 on your short list for consideration best meet these criteria. While making necessary modifications to balance population, the proposed district boundaries of each keep changes to a minimum and largely keep neighborhoods of interest intact.

Conversely, Map 107 makes significant changes, many of them completely illogical, to four of the districts in what appears to be an effort to keep one district largely unchanged. This was not the charge of the Independent Redistricting Commission when you took on this responsibility. I urge you to consider the parameters originally set forth for redistricting and adopt a map that meets those parameters and will serve the City of Pomona well for the next decade.

*Steve Lustro*

**Tomas Ursua**

Of the three maps, I believe map 107 has the greater risk of future litigation because it is the one map that most disturbs and reconfigures existing district boundaries, violating the concept of defined geographic communities of interest.

I want to mention a couple of neighborhoods that should be placed according to their natural geographic communities of interest: due to construction of the 71 Freeway, the neighborhood East of the 71, West of Dudley, below Mission, is now isolated from its original district and should be combined with District #2. There are two contiguous districts just West of Fairplex (Between Holt and the 10Fwy) that should be kept together in a map. I believe that Map 129 better accommodated all of these concerns.

**Mario Ramos**

Once again, we are looking at different slate of maps and having to research the best options for our District and City. As a community member of Pomona for 52 years (four generations of Pomona family members across districts) and as a homeowner, I am still in



favor of Pomona Redistricting Plan 129, District ID 115055. Plan 115055 still meets the spirit and intent of the Voter Rights Act guidelines. And as I stated before, my family has lived in District 6 (25 years) and we are vested in the community through services and community organizing that we believe has led to positive outcomes/intrinsic value for the city. Although none of the proposed maps are perfect, my family feels 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 to thrive for our City and District 6. We are concerned that the other maps/plans desecrate our natural borders in each community and do not preserve the conceptual integrity of the Voter Right Act guidelines and this could lead to litigation. Last, we feel the process was never quite clear and inclusive for all communities in the City of Pomona to provide input.

Best,

Mario Ramos, MA & MBA

Dr. Reyna Garcia Ramos

Miguel Garcia Ramos, MA

**Michael Najera**

My name is Michael Najera and we live at 1753 Berkeley Ave. and are completely satisfied with being part of District 6 and having Robert Torres as our Councilman. Therefore, my family and I are "against" the redistricting of District 6.

**Nora Garcia**

Dear Commission Members -

First, I would like to thank you for your time and service. Many of you have served our community for years and your work is appreciated. Second, I would like to urge you to take into strong consideration the goals of a revised Council district map and dismiss map 107.

Map 107 makes significant changes, many of them completely illogical, to four of the districts in what appears to be an effort continue the systemic and historic disenfranchisement of South Pomona. I urge you to consider the parameters originally set forth for redistricting and adopt a map that meets those parameters and will serve the City of Pomona well for the next decade.

Besides equalizing populations in all six districts, other objectives were to observe major natural and artificial boundaries and keep neighborhoods of common interest together, while making necessary changes that have the least impact on existing district boundaries. For these purposes, Maps 108 and 130 best meet these criteria and one of them should be chosen. While making necessary modifications to balance population, the proposed district

boundaries of each keep changes to a minimum and largely keep neighborhoods of interest intact.

With all due respect to my friends in Phillip's Ranch, my neighborhood has nothing in common with theirs and it makes no sense to unify us under strained pretenses.

Please vote down Map 107 and choose either Map 108 or Map 130.

Thank you again for your time and service.

Sincerely,

Nora Garcia

Resident of District 3

**Cynthia Marino**

Good Evening Commission Members, Staff, & Pomona Residents -

My understanding is that the purpose of redistricting is to evenly distribute the population in each district and keep communities together who have common interest, goals, issues and concerns. As a city we have the option to make the necessary changes that will least affect our district boundaries.

My concern is that Map 107 has many changes that make absolutely no sense and I'm astonished it's even being considered. Just out of curiosity did the commission notice that Dist. 6 has a very small change while District 2, 3, & 5 have the biggest most impactable changes?

Considering the purpose of redistricting and the best interest of Pomona, Maps 108 or 130 make the most sense. Please consider these maps when voting.

Sincerely,

Cynthia Marino