

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.*

Thursday, July 28, 2021

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 5:02 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 II
Stephanie Smith, Director of Election Services, Best, Best and 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.

***Spanish interpretation of the entire meeting was not available due to technical difficulties. However, Ms. Estrada was available for interpretation upon request.**

PUBLIC COMMENT

There was no public comment.

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

-June 23, 2021 Meeting Minutes

Commissioner Diaz asked if the historical data shared with the Commission by City staff would be documented in the minutes.

MOTION BY COMMISSIONER MENDOZA, SECOND BY VICE-CHAIR CASILLAS-SANCHEZ, CARRIED 7-0, to approve the June 23, 2021 Meeting Minutes.

PUBLIC HEARING

2. Public Hearing to Receive Input on City District Boundaries

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

- 1) Receive a report from staff on the redistricting process and permissible criteria to be considered to redraw City Council Election Boundaries; and
- 2) Conduct a Public Hearing to receive testimony and comments regarding City District Boundaries

Jeff Simonetti, from NDC, gave the presentation.

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

Vice Chair Casillas-Sanchez asked about the ethnic groups selected and why there was no Asian American Pacific Islander (AAPI) community representation in the NDC presentation.

Mr. Simonetti said he could add the AAPI data to the next presentation.

Commissioner Chaidez asked about the timeline for Census data release and wondered why it was October and not August.

Jeff Simonetti explained the data was not immediately available to the State for the drawing of maps. He pointed out the prisoner data would not be available until October.

Commissioner Chaidez mentioned a recent neighborhood mapping exercise done by the City and suggested considering that data in the mapping process.

Commissioner Diaz asked about the data on potential homes lost due to the construction on Highway 71.

City Clerk Butler said City staff would look into acquiring the data from Caltrans.

Commissioner Luong asked about the process of identifying neighborhoods and secondary areas of communities of interest and asked for some examples.

Mr. Simonetti shared some examples of communities of interest and indicated it would be up to the Commission and the community to identify them.

Commissioner Alvarez mentioned the areas around local high schools as communities of interest.

Chair Yañez Ruiz pointed out the huge disparity in population deviation between the population of District 5 and some other areas that exceeded 10%.

Commissioner Chaidez said she was concerned with equity in accessing the mapping tools. She mentioned the workshop option and asked what plans were in place to engage the community that may not have access to desktop computers.

Jeff Simonetti mentioned a public participation kit that included an option for submitting a paper map that could later be converted to electronic format.

Clare Burgess of Tripepi Smith gave an overview of some of the outreach efforts being employed and encouraged the Commission to contact her with any suggestions or groups to add to the outreach campaign.

Commissioner Diaz asked about the languages used in these outreach efforts and asked if there was a way to include the Asian American community.

Clare Burgess said she would work with City staff on ways to get the AAPI community

involved.

Commissioner Chaidez mentioned an upcoming community workshop on redistricting conducted by the Latino and Latina Roundtable and other community organizations.

Clare Burgess encouraged the individual Commission members to conduct community outreach on their own. She said they could access the NDC presentation on the Draw Pomona website and contact staff or Tripepi Smith for additional materials.

Commissioner Chaidez asked about the legality of community outreach efforts by individual commissioners.

Stephanie Smith of BBK Law Firm said that community outreach by one or more members of the Commission was permissible and not a violation of the Brown Act as less than a quorum was present at the events.

Commissioner Diaz asked if the Commission could receive a motion to add some more community engagement activities, like workshops and roadshows, to add to the project plan.

MOTION BY COMMISSIONER DIAZ, SECOND BY COMMISSIONER LUONG, CARRIED 7-0, to put together a community outreach effort to allow the community to learn more about redistricting and provide feedback.

Chair Yañez Ruiz opened the public hearing.

Paula Lantz spoke on the three recognized historical districts and suggested that the entirety of each district fall into one district instead of divided between districts. She voiced her concerns about outreach to the community and indicated her support for the motion by Commissioner Diaz to increase outreach. She echoed concerns about AAPI representation in the redistricting process.

Commission Secretary Glynn read comments from the Q&A.

***Q&A Comments were as follows:**

Jeanette Ellis-Royston asked if the low voting numbers of the African-American community from the NDC presentation were based on total population numbers.

John Clifford suggested taking a deeper look at the Downtown district and stated it was a unique area with common needs and concerns.

Chair Yañez Ruiz closed the public hearing.

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

Chair Yañez Ruiz mentioned the low voter turnout in District 5, which has a larger percentage of the AAPI community, and indicated it may be because minority groups in a district tend to

not come out and vote. He pointed out moving voters from districts who vote primarily in the presidential election to districts who vote in the mid-term elections might have a negative effect on voter turnout. He also mentioned the economic disparity between the districts and asked for a heat map showing the AAPI population throughout the City.

Commissioner Chaidez again mentioned the mapping exercise done by the Neighborhood Services Department and asked about outreach by other city departments. She also expressed concern about community engagement, especially in the non-English-speaking community. She said she liked the earlier suggestion to look to school district mapping. She mentioned efforts by the Charter Review Commission that might affect the work of the Redistricting Commission.

City Clerk Butler announced the proposed amendments by the Charter Review Commission would be on the upcoming September 20, 2021 Council agenda.

Chair Yañez Ruiz pointed out there were School Board districts and a process for creating those districts that fell outside the purview of the Commission.

Commissioner Diaz mentioned they should look at the data on students redirected to a different district due to school closures.

Commissioner Mendoza mentioned the Commission had no jurisdiction over election dates and said the focus of the Commission should be to ensure that fair districts were drawn.

City Clerk Butler said the responsibility of the Commission was to review Councilmember election districts and that the Pomona Unified School District boundaries did not fall under the jurisdiction of the Independent Redistricting Commission.

COMMISSIONER COMMUNICATION

Commissioner Chaidez mentioned the upcoming Latino and Latina Roundtable of the San Gabriel Valley and Pomona Valley event on redistricting and encouraged the Commissioners to share information about the event with the community.

STAFF COMMUNICATION

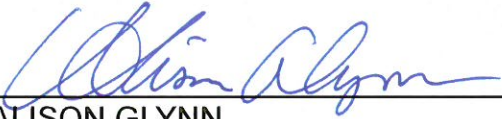
City Clerk Butler shared that the next meeting would be via Zoom and mentioned the goal was to resume in-person meetings in September. She indicated she would update the Commission on any changes.

ADJOURNMENT

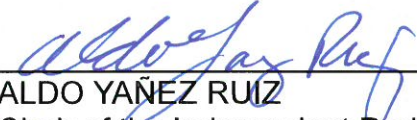
Chair Yañez Ruiz adjourned the meeting at 6:07 pm to the next regular meeting on August 25, 2021 at 5:00 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

ATTEST:



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



ALDO YAÑEZ RUIZ
Chair of the Independent Redistricting
Commission