

Commission on Redistricting

Wednesday March 10, 2021

Start Time: 5:05pm

Meeting Minutes

In Attendance:

Commission Members

Mariana Cordier (Chair)
Arthur Edmunds (Vice-Chair)
Imad Aldean
Laura Ard
Keshia Desir
Valerie Ervin
Bruce Goldensohn
Jason Makstein
Nilmini Rubin
Samuel Statland
David Stein

Council Staff

Pamela Dunn
Jeff Zyontz
Liz Olsson

Invited Guest Presenters

Erin Ashbarry, County Attorney's Office

The meeting began at 5:05pm.

The meeting opened with a greeting to the Commission by the Chair.

Next, the Chair introduced Erin Ashbarry, Assistant County Attorney, who provided a detailed presentation on legal issues in Redistricting which included the following:

- Traditional Districting Criteria,
- Substantially Equal Population (one person-one vote),
- The Voting Rights Act of 1965 and Racial Gerrymandering
- Equal Protection Clause and Racial Gerrymandering
- Constitutional Challenges to Political Gerrymandering

After her presentation, Ms. Ashbarry answered questions from the Commission.

The Chair then opened the meeting to other concerns and questions. Commission members commented on the most recent estimated date for receipt of Census Redistricting data of late September 2021. The agenda for the April 14th meeting was discussed. The Board of Elections have confirmed they will present an overview of their role in the redistricting process, and Council Staff are coordinating a briefing by a non-partisan organization on best practices in redistricting.

Commission member Ervin requested a presentation by Planning Staff on demographic and historical development patterns within the County. The Commissioners agreed to add a meeting date on either April 28th or 29th based on availability of Commission members. The Planning Staff presentation will occur on the added date.

The Commission also discussed the May meeting agenda which will include a presentation by Planning Staff on Redistricting software.

The meeting closed on time at 6:30pm.