

Notes from Community Meetings Regarding City Council District Map Creation

Date: July 31, 2017
Location: Cameron Community Center
Presenters: Laura Minnich, Deputy City Manager, City of West Covina
Yolanda Summerhill, Deputy City Attorney, Jones & Mayer
Council in Attendance: Mayor Corey Warshaw, Councilmember James Toma, Councilman Lloyd Johnson, Councilman Tony Wu

Community Feedback:

- Question was asked why are we accommodating language needs in this process and what other languages are available besides English and Spanish? *Response provided that the Community Participation Kit is currently available in both English and Spanish and other languages can be made available upon request.*
- Question was asked when creating districts, what is the criteria to divide up the City? *Response provided that roughly equal population size is needed for each district.*
- Question was asked isn't this the first opportunity where a resident would not be able to vote for anyone running if their district is not one of those open in 2018? *Response provided was Yes.*
- Question was asked if one district needs to be heavily Latino? *Response provided that it is highly likely that at least one of the districts created will be heavily Latino based on demographics.*
- Comment was made that the area north of the freeway is designated as low-income and why is income not involved and only geography? Suggestion made that income needs to be factored in. *Response provided that socio-economics are considered.*
- Question asked on where to find more detailed info for each population unit or how to zoom in on a population unit? *Response provided there is an online mapping tool available on Westcovina.org/districts.*
- Question was asked what happens to existing Councilmembers if they live in the same district? *Response provided that they would need to run against each other when their seats are up for election.*
- Concerns were raised regarding how ethnicity is being determined by last name and how marriage could affect that. *Response provided that the demographic data uses Filipino and Latino surnames.*
- Concern raised if a Latino candidate is not elected in November 2018 will we get sued again?
- Comment made regarding geographic clusters of Latino or Asian American communities in the South end of town.
- Question was asked on who designated the north end of town as low-income? *Response provided it is a federal designation.*

Notes from Community Meetings July 31, 2017 and August 9, 2017

- Comment made that resident has been living here 33 years working hard for a living and just now finds out they are living in a low-income area and wants to know why no one informed her prior.
 - Comment made that wealth will be a factor of these boundaries.
 - Comment made that residents do not want to be identified as low-income.
 - Comment made that the freeway should not be the dividing line for districts. *Response provided that the freeway is not required to be a dividing line for districts.*
 - Comment made that this is not racial issue but rather that the Council is not representative of the community.
 - Suggestion made to have a Tagalog interpreter at the next community meeting.
 - Concerns raised regarding the ability to draw a contiguous map easily.
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Date: August 9, 2017

Location: Shadow Oak Community Center

Presenters: Laura Minnich, Deputy City Manager, City of West Covina
Kimberly Hall Barlow, City Attorney, Jones & Mayer

Council in Attendance: Mayor Corey Warshaw, Councilmember James Toma, Councilman Lloyd Johnson

Community Feedback:

- Question was asked regarding if the community submitted maps will be posted online and when? *Response provided that maps received by members of the community will be posted online as part of the September 19th public hearing and will include the demographer's analysis of each map's compliance with the statutory requirements of creating district maps.*
- Comment made that School District boundaries seem important to incorporate. *Response provided that School District boundary maps will be uploaded to the City's website. [later comment was made that they are all currently available on district websites.]*
- Question was asked how were the statistics gathered on languages spoken? *From the 2010 Census and the American Communities Survey.*
- Comment made that there are 7 School Districts and 8 Water Districts that divide up West Covina.
- Concern was raised about how the dividing of the City into 5 Council Districts will impact the operations of the City and City Hall decisions.
- Concern raised about lack of parking for tonight's Public Meeting and suggestion made that in the future Sports Practice be canceled to allow for more parking for residents that want to attend the Districting meeting.
- Suggestion made to hold all of the meetings regarding Districting exclusively at City Hall and not move them around the Community so that they can all be live streamed from the Council Chambers and there would be ample parking. *Response provided that the meetings are being moved around the community to provide access to residents that*

may not find coming to a meeting at City Hall convenient. Additionally, the public hearings are recorded and live streamed and are an additional opportunity to provide community feedback on the design of Council Districts. The in-person Community Meetings provide an alternative for those that are looking for a more informal opportunity to ask questions and provide feedback.

- Question was asked why are the in-person community meetings not being recorded? *Response provided that the public hearings are recorded and live streamed and are an additional opportunity to provide community feedback on the design of Council Districts. The in-person Community Meetings provide an alternative for those that are looking for a more informal opportunity to ask questions and provide feedback, and are not required to be recorded. It was also noted that there were a variety of ways in which public could provide feedback.*
- Concerns were made regarding how detailed the notes would be to provide to the demographer regarding comments from the Community Meetings.
- Request was made for the utility district maps to be uploaded to the website.
- Request was made for more information regarding the HUD designation area within West Covina.
- Comment was made that the freeway should not necessarily be a dividing line for districts and that the districts should not be divided purely on a “north/south/east/west” basis.
- Comment was made that if lawsuit was based on race, did that mean that districts had to be drawn by race. *Response was provided that federal law prohibits drawing districts solely on the basis of race. Standard for determining violation of California Voting Rights is not same standard or criteria for drawing districts.*
- Question was asked regarding why there are no street names on the basic maps in the Community Participation Kit. *Response provided that street names are included in the online mapping tool.*
- Question was asked if one of the future meetings would be broadcast. *Response was Yes.*
- Comment was made about whether the “downtown” area should or should not be kept together as its own district, away from the more residential areas.
- Question was asked how the demographer will incorporate information received. *Response provided that the demographer has access to all data, surveys, census information and will use that in combination with the community feedback. An example was given on how the demographer would consider community feedback on the statutory criteria.*
- Question was asked if we are drawing Districts based on race. *Response provided that race is not a requirement and could not be the sole criteria, however population is and the current population in West Covina will likely create a district that is over 50 % Latino.*
- Question asked if the community submitted maps will be reviewable. *Response provided that maps received by members of the community will be posted online as part of the September 19th public hearing and will include the demographer’s analysis of each map’s compliance with the statutory requirements of creating district maps.*

- Question was asked when the public will have access to the September 19th meeting materials. *Response provided when the agenda is posted for that meeting which is typically the Wednesday prior to the meeting. Staff will request Demographer to provide input on community submitted maps as soon as possible so that they can be made available to the public on the website.*
- Comment made that the demographer at NDC was contacted by a member of the public and he found the demographer extremely helpful. Resident encouraged others to also contact the demographer.
- Suggestion made to have the demographer at a future community meeting to assist folks in drawing their own maps.
- Concerns were raised about what can be excluded or included when drawing districts. *Response reiterated that community feedback on what constituted communities of interest was critical to the process, including where people attend school, shop and recreate as a neighborhood or community.*
- Question was asked if you could break up population units as reflected on the maps in the “kits”? *Response provided was yes and the best way to do so is by contacting the demographer.*
- Comment was made that census tract info is hard to use to make maps.
- Comment was made that the CVRA lawsuit is about the disenfranchised Latino voters, so is the City required to have a majority Latino district. *Response provided was that law does not require a majority minority district, but City could not intentionally fail to form majority minority district in order to dilute minority vote. Based on City being majority Latino, one or more districts may naturally be majority minority.*
- Question was asked about the process of getting to the November 2018 election. *Response provided on the process.*
- Question was asked about whether the plaintiffs in the CVRA lawsuit would have a voice in how the districts are drawn. *Response provided that all West Covina residents have a voice in how the districts are drawn and the City Council will make the ultimate decision based on legal criteria, input from the public and recommendations of the professional demographer.*
- Question was asked what happens if an election occurs with multiple incumbents living in one district? *Response provided that only 1 candidate can win in any given district regardless of whether they are an incumbent or not.*
- Question asked if a mapping tool can be created that allows you to generate a map online by selecting different population units. *Response provided that tool is an add-on from the demographer and costs \$13,000 and was not budgeted for.*
- Concern raised that Districts would be drawn by income levels and create a largely low-income District. *Response that districts are not drawn by economics, but socio-economics is one factor in determining communities of interest.*
- Suggestion was made to add to the website how the process will work once maps are created moving towards the 2018 election. *Response was provided that Staff concurred and indicated that additional information would be added to the website.*

Notes from Community Meetings July 31, 2017 and August 9, 2017

- Suggestion was made for the August 15th District Public Hearing to be moved to the beginning of the Council Meeting. *Response was provided that City Council has discretion to reorder agenda.*
- Question was asked when will the process of map design conclude? *Response provided that the settlement agreement stipulated the date of December 16, 2017 by when the maps must be completed and adopted. City Council will hold several more community meetings and public hearings prior to that date.*
- Question was asked if the incumbents would be given preference in the drawing of districts? *Response provided that no preference would be given to incumbents or to potential candidates.*
- Question was asked when other maps would be available such as school districts, fire districts, water districts? *Response provided that they would be uploaded to the District website on Thursday, August 10th.*
- Question raised regarding how a vacancy on the Council will be filled in one of the “at-large” seats prior to the 2020 election. *Response provided by City Attorney’s office that any such vacancy would be filled by appointment or special election. City Attorney indicated that research would be done on residency requirements for appointees or candidates to fill any “at-large” vacancy, and post an answer on the Districts webpage.*
- Attendees were encouraged to sign up for e-notifications for updates on future meetings as well as updates to the webpage.
- Question was asked about whether any attendees rode a bike to the community meeting.