

**REDISTRICTING COMMISSION  
MEETING MINUTES  
DALLAS CITY HALL, ROOM 6ES  
TUESDAY, JULY 26, 2011**

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CITY SECRETARY  
DALLAS, TEXAS

Commission Members Present:

Dr. Ruth Morgan, Chair  
Billy Ratcliff, Vice Chair  
Hollis Brashear  
Domingo Garcia  
Gary Griffith  
Donna Halstead  
Mary Hasan  
Mark Hord  
Elizabeth Jones  
Jon Brooks Love  
John Loza  
John Lozano  
Daniel "Corky" Sherman  
Tom Wood

Staff Present:

Yasmin Tolliver, Redistricting Manager  
Barbara McAninch, Asst. City Attorney  
Lindsay Kramer, Demographer  
Peter Bratt, Redistricting Coordinator  
Tom Perkins, City Attorney  
Warren Ernest, Admin. Asst. City Attorney  
Arlicia Herron, Office Assistant

Commission Members Absent:

Stanley Mays

Members of the Public Present: 20

Media Present: 1

**6:01 P.M.** Meeting called to order by Chair, Dr. Ruth Morgan. A quorum was present.

1. Opening Remarks
  - None
2. Approval of Minutes for July 14, 2011
  - Commissioner Ratcliff moved to approve the Minutes for July 14, 2011
    - Seconded: Commissioner Hord
      - Ayes: 13
      - Nays: 0

There were no corrections, and the Minutes were approved as written.

3. Executive Session

At 6:01 pm the Redistricting Commission went into closed session pursuant to Section 551.071 of the Texas Open Meetings Act to receive legal advice and consult with its attorneys concerning the requirements of the Open Meetings Act and the Public Information Act.

At 6:21 pm the Redistricting Commission returned to open session.

4. Staff Updates

Project Manager Tolliver discussed three items.

- The Project Manger noted that there is a meeting called for Thursday July 28, 2011. The last of the public plans will be submitted on Thursday.
- The Redistricting Plan Matrix was updated to include a column for plan description and plan status.
- The Project Manager presented the tentative Redistricting Commission work plan timeline which included four options for scheduling the remainder of the commission work. The Project Manager stated that a public forum will be held when the Redistricting Commission is down to the last three to four maps to allow the public to voice their opinion on the final plans. However, staff needs to have time to make any changes to the plans, and the commission must also follow the Open Meetings Act's 72 hour posting requirement prior to the public forum. Finally, the Commission needs to determine whether the Commissioners' plans will be presented during one meeting or over the course of two meetings.

Dr. Morgan welcomed Mayor Mike Rawlings to the meeting on behalf of the Redistricting Commission. Mayor Rawlings thanked the Commission for their work and stated he was here to learn.

Commissioner Loza moved to adopt a timeline presented to the commission as Option 1, with the modification that Commissioners have their plans presentation on August 2 and 4, and move other meetings on the schedule down a date, thus requiring a meeting on August 16, 2011.

Commissioner Lozano seconded the motion.

Following a discussion by the Commission, Commissioner Loza withdrew his motion. Commissioner Lozano also withdrew his second. The motion was withdrawn.

The Project Manager stated that by consensus of the Commission, the staff will schedule the presentation of Commission plans between August 2 and August 4, and that Commission discussion of all remaining plans will also be put on the agenda for the August 4 meeting. The proposed timeline will be available at every meeting, and the Commissioners can make changes to the timeline as they move forward.

5. Commissioner Plan or Partial Plan Submission Presentations
- None

6. Public Plan or Partial Plan Submission Presentation

- a) The Demographer's summary of pPlan04cc by Council Member Caraway was delayed as Commissioner Ratcliff announced that he did not intend to make a presentation on this plan, as it is in evolution and has been incorporated into his full plan that will be presented on August 4th. He therefore deferred his presentation of the plan.
- b) Commissioner Ratcliff stated that he would defer his presentation of pPlan04cc on behalf of Council Member Dwaine Caraway.
- c) There was no question period by the Redistricting Commission on pPlan04cc.
- d) Public Comments on pPlan04cc

Assistant City Attorney Barbara McAninch read the Redistricting Commission's rules of public speaking.

- Marvin Crenshaw, residing at 5134 Malcolm X Blvd. in District 7, spoke on pPlan04cc. Mr. Crenshaw stated that he and Sandra Crenshaw wanted to give their views as citizens from Districts 4 and 7 to Mr. Ratcliff, whom he feels did not consider their views as citizens. Mr. Crenshaw feels that it is a violation of the Code of Ethics for the Commissioners to be forwarding Council members maps. Two weeks ago Mr. Crenshaw expressed his concerns to the Redistricting Commission about District 7 and 4 with Buckner Terrace being put into District 7. Feels doing this will cause South Dallas to be out-voted by Buckner Terrace, and that Buckner Terrace does not want to be in a district with South Dallas.
- Sandra Crenshaw, residing at 1431 Quartet St., District 8 and spoke on pPlan04cc on behalf of the Neighborhood Improvement Association. Her concern is with the council person's maps being presented to the Redistricting Commission and has moved forward with the Ethics Commission on this issue.

Mrs. Crenshaw opposes pPlan04cc as presented. Many of the areas of the city were actual cities that have been annexed into the city. She noted that District 8 in precinct 3549 is currently separated between two council districts, and under pPlan04cc, her precinct (which includes Singing Hills and University Hills) is now split between three council districts. Likewise, the Red Bird neighborhood needs to remain in tact and is split at Camp Wisdom Rd, separating it from the other precincts in the area. In District 8, the Kleberg and Riley neighborhoods have some things in common with the rest of District 8, but are a competing community of interest with the Singing Hills neighborhood. In District 7, the input from the communities north of I-30 was that they do not want to be in a district controlled by South Dallas and Fair

Park area. Mrs. Crenshaw will be submitting her written objections to the Redistricting Commission and the Department of Justice. District 10 has been cracked 3 or 4 times.

- e) Demographer Lindsay Kramer reviews the summary of wPlan07cc. wPlan07cc is a partial plan focused on District 7, and was submitted by City Councilmember Carolyn Davis. In wPlan07cc, there is a small population deviation of -0.30% for District 7. Compactness did increase in this plan, but the scores are still low. District 7 under this configuration is contiguous, and a minority coalition district. wPlan07cc's plan for District 7 impacted the boundaries and population for Districts 2, 4, 5, and 9 and those demographics are included in your packet.
- f) Councilmember Carolyn Davis was not present at the meeting, but stated to staff previously that she just wanted the Redistricting Commission to have this plan for District 7 as testimony.
- g) The demographer was asked questions on wPlan07cc by the Redistricting Commission
- h) There were no public comments on wPlan07cc.
- i) Demographer Lindsay Kramer summarized wPlan01. In wPlan01, the population deviation exceeds 5%. This plan has an average population deviation of 2.55%, with a total population deviation range of 8.74%. The plan includes 7 minority districts and 2 minority coalition districts. Packing is noted in Districts 1 and 6 with the total Hispanic population, but the Hispanic voting age population falls below 70% in both instances. This plan also meets the Contiguity and Compactness criteria. Compactness scores did increase.
- j) Mr. Randall Bryant, residing at 1211 Willow Glen Dr. in District 5, presented wPlan01. He stated wPlan01 (or the Bryant123 map as he called it) focused on three main issues.
  - Putting the Pleasant Grove area into one council district, District 4.
  - Putting the West Dallas neighborhood into one district associated with other communities of interest, District 6.
  - Increase minority representation in North Dallas by making District 10 a stronger minority coalition district.He also noted that he kept a number of high schools in District 7 because of the education issues in this area. He moved Love Field and the neighborhoods surrounding it into one district. Downtown, Uptown, Victory Park, West End and Deep Ellum are all in one district (District 14). East Dallas is in District 9.
- k) Members of the Redistricting Commission asked questions on wPlan01.
- l) No public comments were given on wPlan01.

- m) Demographer Lindsay Kramer summarized pPlan06, which is being submitted to the Redistricting Commission as testimony. The compactness scores increased slightly, although there are portions of various districts that were noncontiguous. In pPlan06, the population deviation in all districts is less than 3.60% deviation. This plan has an average population deviation of 1.54%. The total population deviation range is 6.95%. District 4 has the highest population deviation, while District 1 has the lowest population deviation. The plan includes 5 minority districts and 4 minority coalition districts, which constitutes retrogression of minority representation from the 2001 District Plan, and therefore does not meet the criteria of the Redistricting Commission.
- n) Mr. Mark Shecter, who resides at 3111 Welborn #1601 in District 14, could not present pPlan06 and his presenter Michael Milliken was unable to make it to the meeting.
- o) There was no question period by the Redistricting Commission on pPlan06.
- p) There were no public comments on pPlan06.
- q) Demographer Lindsay Kramer summarized wPlan51, which is a partial plan for District 12 and is considered testimony by the Redistricting Commission. In wPlan51 population deviation of 0.91% for District 12. District 12 under this configuration is not a minority district. District 12 is a contiguous district. Compactness scores decreased with this configuration.
- r) Lee and Marla Beikman, residing at 7539 Preston Fairways from District 12, presented wPlan51. The North Dallas Neighborhood Alliance represents neighborhood associations in districts 11 and 12. They had to split one school attendance zone which was an elementary school in Plano ISD. They are interested in neighborhood integrity. Area on the west side of District 12 consists of golf courses and gated communities, which are north of Prestonwood golf club in District 11. The Beikmans looked at several other configurations for the district. The choice to keep this map was because it kept as many communities of interest together as possible.
- s) The Redistricting Commission asked questions on wPlan51. Commissioner Wood explained that the major concern for District 12 is the Dart Cottonbelt line development through the District with 5 stations in close proximity. Commissioner Hord explained his concerns with the impact on District 11 from this proposal for District 12. It has compactness issues and makes no sense. It is not better than the alternatives. The area on the west that is taken out in this plan has a clear community of interest with other groups in District 12 and needs to remain in that district. Elementary schools are what most persons rally around in a neighborhood. He provided an alternative plan that he would like to have considered.

t) Public Comments on wPlan51

- Mr. Michael Sanderson, residing at 5823 Fallsview Lane in District 12, stated his support for wPlan51. Mr. Sanderson noted that the Prestonwood Master Association, Prestonwood East, Prestonwood Westlake, Hillcrest Manor and Highland North groups all supported wPlan51. He noted that he did not work closely with the associations that are being moved into District 11 in wPlan51. The middle portion of District 12 bordered by Arapaho Rd, Preston Rd, Frankford Rd, and Coit Rd is considered the heart of District 12.

7. Commission Discussion and Vote on Plan Consideration

- a) No vote was taken on wPlan01

8. Commission Discussion and Vote on Previous Commission Directed Modified Plans

- a) wPlan55a

Demographer Lindsay Kramer presented the commission modified wPlan55a. wPlan55a includes minor modifications to wPlan55 by adding the area of Perry to Fitzhugh previously in District 14 to District 2. This area contained a population of 220 people. This change did not affect compliance with any of the Redistricting Commission's guidelines.

- b) There were no public comments on wPlan55a.
- c) There was no Redistricting Commission discussion or vote on wPlan55a.

9. Public Comment

- Mr. Sam Merten, residing in Frisco, TX made changes to his plan wPlan16. His revised wPlan16 now has a fifth Hispanic district, giving his plan a total of 8 minority districts. His revisions put Buckner Terrace into District 2, Vickery Meadows into District 13, and Oaklawn in District 14.
- Bill Betzen, residing at 6717 Cliffwood in District 8, testified that he had revised his plan wPlan03 to reunite the Uptown area. He moved the northern boundary of District 4 south from Turtle Creek to Thomas Street right in the heart of Freedman's Town, which makes the district a minority-majority district, 65.35% black VAP. He has 5 strong Hispanic districts with an average of 61.87% and three strong black districts with an average of 62.70%. He did not move Kessler Park from District 6 to District 3, but this change can be made if the Dallas County Jail is moved to District 6 with no demographic changes.

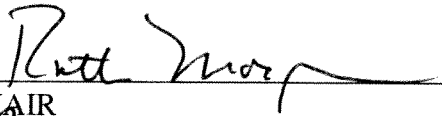
- Elijah McGrew, residing at 2829 Fordom Rd. in District 4, wanted to confirm that the plan approved by the Commission will be presented to the Department of Justice for pre-clearance. He was told that it would be. He gave a history of the Voting Rights Act being primarily for African Americans, and that the word minority was added, and it was changed and amended in 2006 to mean all minorities, not just African-Americans. He noted that Hispanics did not have to face disfranchisement methods at the polls.


10. Additional Questions/Final Remarks

- None.

11. Adjournment

- At 9:04 pm the meeting adjourned.

  
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CHAIR

  
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COMMISSION ADMINISTRATOR

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**Note:** For detailed information on meeting refer to the video recording of the meeting posted on the Redistricting Commission website at <http://www.dallascityhall.com/Redistricting/index.html>