

**REDISTRICTING COMMISSION
MEETING MINUTES
DALLAS CITY HALL, ROOM 6ES
THURSDAY, AUGUST 11, 2011**

Commission Members Present:

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

Staff Present:

Yasmin Tolliver, Redistricting Manager
Barbara McAninch, Asst. City Attorney
Lindsay Kramer, Demographer
Peter Bratt, Redistricting Coordinator
Daisy Torres, Redistricting Coordinator
Arlcia Herron, Office Assistant

CITY SECRETARY
DALLAS, TEXAS

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Commission Members Absent:

Domingo Garcia

Members of the Public Present: 15

Media Present: 2

6:04 P.M. The meeting called to order by Chair, Dr. Ruth Morgan. A quorum was present.

1. Opening Remarks

- The Chair reminded commissioners and the public that no cell phones may be used during the meeting.
- The Chair expressed appreciation to staff for the work after the Tuesday night's meeting on August 9, 2011 to get all of the plans modified in accordance with the Commissions' directions and back to the Commissioners for timely review before the meeting.

2. Approval of August 9, 2011 Minutes

- Motion: Commissioner Wood moved to approve the August 9, 2011 Minutes. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Mays.
- Commissioner Jones corrected her statement on page 2, item B to include the question that she asked which reads as follows:
She asked, "Are we allowed voting to move plans forward and make amendments at the same time?"
In addition, Commissioner Jones amended her statement on page 4, item M, to state:

“She had concerns with District 13 in this plan, but believed it could be balanced and would support it if her Southern colleagues could agree that it could be reconciled.”

o Ayes: 13

Nays: 0

The motion to approve the Minutes as corrected passed unanimously. (Commissioner Lozano, and Commissioner Garcia were not present at the vote).

3. Staff Updates

- Project Manager Yasmin Tolliver spoke on the Commission Meeting Schedule and Work Timeline. City Staff and Council Assistants have distributed a flyer advertising the Public Forum to their contact list. She said the flyer will be distributed to all those who have contacted the Redistricting Office for information or to express a concern, and she asked the Commissioners to distribute the flyer to their contacts.
- The Project Manager reminded Commissioners to make an appointment to remove the ArcGIS software from their laptops.
- The Project Manager also noted that Commissioners should be sure to make their amendments to the plans moved forward known to staff tonight to allow preparation of the maps for the Tuesday August 16, 2011 meeting so that these can be prepared and posted for the Public Forum on Saturday August 20, 2011.
- Asst. City Attorney Barbara McAninch stated that she made the changes to the initial draft of the Public Forum Rules as instructed by the Commission at the meeting on August 9, 2011. She reviewed the changes with the Commission and asked if there were additional changes.
- Motion: Commissioner Ratcliff moved to have two segments of discussion at the Public Forum. One segment which would be for individuals that want to speak to a particular map, and the other segment would be for individuals that want to speak on multiple maps, including maps in inventory that had not been moved forward by the Commission. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Halstead.

o Ayes: 14

Nays: 0

The motion passed unanimously (Commissioner Garcia was not present at the vote).

4. Commission Review and Discussion of Plans Moved Forward at August 9, 2011 Meeting

- wPlan03a
 - o Demographer Lindsay Kramer reviewed wPlan03a. This map made changes to wPlan03 in all districts except District 7. The total population deviation range increased to 8.48%. Districts 1 and 6 have a total Hispanic population share of about 70%, however the Hispanic voting age population is below 70% in both. The configuration of

wPlan03a remains at 8 minority and 2 coalition districts. The compactness scores were slightly reduced, but are more compact than the current City Council map. District 4 had the largest decrease in population with a loss of 3,865 residents, and District 10 had the greatest increase with the gain of 3,654.

- A discussion of wPlan03a among the Commissioners followed.
- wPlan03b
 - Demographer Kramer reviewed wPlan03b. This plan was created by adding the cPlan13a overlay to wPlan03a. Any area that needed to be reassigned was assigned to the adjacent area. The total population deviation range was 18.75% which is outside of the acceptable range. District 14 had the highest population with a deviation of 9.16%, and District 6 had the lowest population with a deviation of -9.95%. The minority representation stayed the same as wPlan03a, but the compactness scores decreased. The biggest change occurred in District 6, which had a net loss of 7,750 people, while District 4 gained 4,954 residents.
- A discussion of wPlan03b among the Commissioners followed.
- Motion: Commissioner Halstead moved to return wPlan03b back to inventory. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Jones.

A roll call vote followed:

Commissioner Garcia was absent.

Commissioner Loza voted Yes.

Commissioner Sherman voted Yes.

Commissioner Ratcliff voted Yes.

Commissioner Brashear voted Yes.

Commissioner Lozano voted Yes.

Commissioner Mays voted Yes.

Commissioner Hasan voted Yes.

Commissioner Griffith voted Yes.

Commissioner Halstead voted Yes.

Commissioner Hord voted Yes.

Commissioner Wood voted Yes.

Commissioner Jones voted Yes.

Commissioner Love voted Yes.

Commissioner Morgan voted Yes.

- The motion passed 14-0.
- cPlan05a
 - Demographer Kramer reviewed cPlan05a. cPlan05a was an amended version of cPlan05 which added the cPlan13a testimony overlay. The

total population deviation is 11.07%. District 9 lost 5,573 people in the reconfiguration. The minority representation remained the same with 7 minority districts and 2 coalition districts. The compactness scores were slightly lower than in cPlan05, but they all increased when compared to the existing council districts.

- A discussion of cPlan05a among the Commissioners followed. During the discussion, Commissioner Brashear distributed a map and demographics of his suggested edits to cPlan05a to overcome objections to the plan expressed on Tuesday night by some Commissioners.

The Chair called for a 5 minute break that began at 8:38pm. The meeting was called back into order at 8:47pm by the Chair.

- cPlan16a
 - Demographer Kramer reviewed cPlan16a. cPlan16a incorporates an overlay from cplan13a. The population deviation increased to 12.83%, while the minority representation changed to 6 minority districts and 3 minority coalition districts, as District 2 became a minority coalition district, while under cPlan16 it was a minority district. District 11 saw the biggest change in population due to a loss of 11,000 people. All the compactness scores increased and overall cPlan16a is more compact than the existing City Council Districts. cPlan16a required the configuration of the area surrounded by Walnut Hill, Midway, Lemon Ave and Forest Lane to be assigned to both District 2 and 6 based on their previous configurations under cPlan16.
- A discussion of cPlan16a among the commissioners followed.
- Motion: Commissioner Lozano moved to replace cPlan16 with cPlan16a. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Griffith.
 - Ayes: 14
 - Nays: 0The motion passed unanimously (Commissioner Garcia was not present at the vote).

a) Public Comment

- Judge C. Victor Lander resides at 6521 Putting Green Drive in District 5. Judge Lander requested the Commission to focus on maintaining communities of interest, especially the Red Bird, Singing Hills, Bar Harbor, Glen Oaks, and University of North Texas neighborhoods, which are a community of interest. Two of the proposed maps destroy this community of interest and the third map eliminates this community of interest. He moved to this part of Dallas to be closer to his parents, but cPlan16 map puts his mother, who lives across the street from him, into another district. Her house is in Glen Oaks; his house is in the Bar Harbor

area. That is not how communities of interest should be. We have a majority minority city, and we need districts that reflect this.

- Yolanda Williams resides at 1012 Pinda Ave. in District 5 in Pleasant Grove. Ms. Williams said that Pleasant Grove is not saying it wants its own city council district. Ms. Williams lives east of I-175, which is a community of homeowners that have been there for over 30 years, and she supports the seniors. The only map she will take back to show them will be Mr. Brashear's plan (cPlan05). We do not want District 14 to go down to Kleberg-Riley, so give it back to District 8. Give District 14 back part of South Buckner. If you do this Ms. Williams is going to run for city council again, whether or not 16a passes. Ms. Williams could support cPlan05a only if you give Mr. Akins' District Kleberg-Riley back. Ms. Williams is disappointed that cPlan16a doesn't represent Pleasant Grove, a place where she has been for 38 years. The past 6 years has been the best for Pleasant Grove, as the neighborhood has gotten more done being a part of District 5. We don't need a Hispanic leader. We have had Hispanic leaders run before. We got who we wanted. We want to keep a strong district and someone who is going to continue to work for us.
- Randall Bryant resides at 1211 Willow Glen Dr. in District 5. Mr. Bryant has always supported cPlan16. With the amendments, he is not sure if he totally agrees with the new District 10. As of right now, he would support the overlay and the changes to the South. He feels that the North has gotten all the meat, and the South is fighting for the bones. He suggested moving some areas from District 3 to District 4. There is a portion of the Red Bird area that is not included in District 4, which is the area west of Polk Street all the way to the Love Expressway (I-67) which includes Wynnewood Hills, Elderwoods, Camp Wisdom Estates and Club Manor neighborhoods which are in District 3 and should be moved to District 4. This divides them away from the Twin Oaks and Glen Oaks neighborhoods. Mr. Bryant supports the Northern overlay with the amendments made to the South, however he pointed out that the boundaries of District 6 and 13 divide precinct 1105. This boundary between Districts 6 and 13 also divides a school, and when the boundary runs along Goodyear Drive, it divides a neighborhood, as it has one street in District 6 and the rest of the neighborhood is in District 13. Mr. Bryant thanked Commissioner Jones for the overlay, and requested that the Commission add the neighborhoods mentioned earlier from District 3 to District 4. He also stated that he will find an African American candidate to run in District 10 and hoped that the individuals who sent the 700 emails regarding Lake Highlands will support that person.
- Bill Betzen resides at 6717 Cliffwood in District 8. He identifies with Commissioner Hasan's pain that she speaks about the process of making changes to the plans. This is not a positive process because we are hurting people. One of Mr. Betzen's goals was to move the boundaries as little as possible, but he knew a lot would have to move due to minority representation requirements. Mr. Betzen's goal was to achieve solid

minority representation, and his wPlan03a map has three African America districts with an adult voting age population with one at 67%, one at 65%, and a low of 55%. He noted that in 10 years, the population is going to change, and thus the map can't have a minority population lower than 55% and assume it will still elect a minority candidate 10 years from now. Mr. Betzen noted that wPlan03a basically has three very strong districts. Whichever plan you choose get a district that averages out at least at 60% for all three districts. Mr. Betzen hopes that the Commission respects Dallas history, and he noted that his grandchildren who are African American may have ancestors in Freedman Cemetery. On Tuesday August 9, 2011, a speaker stated she grew up in Freedman Town. She wanted that area, commonly known as States Thomas, and the Freedman's Cemetery put back into a black district and taken out of District 14. Mr. Betzen noted that the land around Sate Thomas has been abused over the years, and he thought that it if was under the guardianship of councilperson that may have their own ancestor buried there it may increase the possibility of it being taken care of. We owe that to the kids in our schools and everybody that can point to a heritage from that land. Heritage and history really count.

5. Commission Discussion and Consideration to Give Directions to Staff on Modifying Plans Moved Forward

wPlan03a

- Motion: Commissioner Loza moved to remove the area in District 3 bounded by North I-35, West of the North Dallas Tollway and Medical District Drive and place it in District 6 in wPlan03a. The area in District 3 east of the North Dallas Tollway should be placed into District 14. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Mays.
 - Ayes: 13
 - Nays: 1The Motion passed with only Commissioner Love voting against the motion (Commissioner Garcia was not present at the vote).
- Motion: Commissioner Hord moved to make three changes to cPlan03a in District 4 and District 1 according to Commissioner Hord's amendments presented to staff and listed below:
 - To put areas north of Woodall Rogers Expressway/west of Central Expressway from District 4 to District 14.
 - To put areas south of Woodall Rogers Expressway/west of Central Expressway from District 4 to District 1.
 - To put the area in District 1 east of Interstate 30 into District 4.
 - To adopt the cPlan13a overlay for Districts 10, 11, and 13.The motion was seconded by Commissioner Brashear.
 - Ayes: 14

Nays: 0

The motion passed unanimously (Commissioner Garcia was not present at the vote).

- Motion: Commissioner Hasan moved to direct the staff to make an option map that made the following changes to wPlan03a:
 - To move the area between Route 12, C. F. Hawn Expressway (I-175) and Interstate 45 from District 7 to District 8.
 - Put the area of District 8 north of Route 12 into District 4.
 - To use staff discretion to change boundaries of District 4 and District 7 to meet population requirements.

The new map will be presented to the commission as wPlan03Option1 on Tuesday. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Mays.

○ Ayes: 14

Nays: 0

The motion passed unanimously (Commissioner Garcia was not present at the vote).

cPlan05a

Commissioner Brashear requested that his proposed amendments be considered, but had to leave the meeting at 10:38pm, apologizing to the commissioners for his departure.

- Motion: Commissioner Griffith moved to place the neighborhoods bounded on the north and west by Ferguson Road and between Highland Road and Oates into District 9. This motion was to add to Commissioner Brashear's edited version of cPlan05a. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Wood.

○ Ayes: 13

Nays: 0

The motion passed unanimously (Commissioners Brashear and Garcia were not present at the vote).

- Motion: Commissioner Halstead moved to direct staff to modify cPlan05a as follows:
 - To apply the cPlan13a overlay as reflected by cPlan05a.
 - To adopt the changes presented by Commissioner Brashear earlier in the meeting in his written handout earlier in the meeting.
 - To amend District 2 by adding the parts of West Dallas to District 4 that would put all of West Dallas into one council district. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Hord.

○ Ayes: 13

Nays: 0

The motion passed unanimously (Commissioners Brashear and Garcia were not present at the vote).

- Motion: Due to possible confusion as to which version of cPlan05 were being modified, Commissioner Wood moved to make the southern boundary of District 12 be the Dallas county line as it was on cPlan05a. This motion would replace Mr. Brashear's revised boundary for cPlan05a. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Loza. Commissioner Halstead amended Commissioner Wood's motion by asking staff to do the following:
 - To overlay the cPlan13a onto Districts 10, 11, 12 and 13,
 - That staff be directed to adjust boundaries to incorporate the amendment that were submitted by Commissioner Brashear this evening with the changes regarding West Dallas.
 - That Commissioner Griffith's motion also be incorporated into the map.
 The motion was seconded by Commissioner Wood.
 - Ayes: 13
 - Nays: 0
 The motion passed unanimously (Commissioners Brashear and Garcia were not present at the vote).

Commissioner Lozano left the meeting at 10:53pm.

- Motion: Commissioner Love moved that the northern boundary of District 2 be extended along the Dallas/Park Cities city limits up to Mockingbird Lane to Matilda Street down to the existing boundary between Districts 2 and 9. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Mays.
 - Ayes: 12
 - Nays: 0
 The motion passed unanimously (Commissioners Brashear, Lozano and Garcia were not present at the vote).
- Motion: Commissioner Ratcliff moved to change the boundaries of District 4 in cPlan05a as follows: Marsalis Ave to Laureland Rd (which becomes Red Bird Ln) to Polk Street to Love Expressway (I-67) to Interstate 35 to Interstate 30 to Interstate 45. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Halstead. The motion was withdrawn until the Commission can see the effect of the modification. Commissioner Griffith moved to direct the staff to take instruction on Commissioner Ratcliff's proposed map and make an option map and bring it back to the Commission as an option map next time as cPlan05Option3. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Hasan.
 - Ayes: 12
 - Nays: 0
 The motion passed unanimously (Commissioners Brashear, Lozano and Garcia were not present at the vote).

- Motion: Commissioner Hasan moved to direct the staff to make an option map that made the following changes to cPlan05a:
 - To move the area between Route 12, C. F. Hawn Expressway (I-175) and Interstate 45 from District 7 to District 8.
 - Put the area of District 8 north of Route 12 into District 4.
 - To use staff discretion to change boundaries of District 4 and District 7 to meet population requirements.
 - To extend the boundary of District 5 west along Kiest Blvd to pick up the bottom of District 3.
 - The new map will be presented to the commission as wPlan05Option2 on Tuesday. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Halstead.
 - Ayes: 12
 - Nays: 0

The motion passed unanimously (Commissioners Brashear, Lozano and Garcia were not present at the vote).

wPlan03a

- Motion: Commissioner Jones moved that in wPlan03a the area between McShann, Melshire Estates, and Preston Royal neighborhoods be placed back into District 13, that the boundaries between District 11 and 13 reflect the cPlan13a overlay, and that all if the Vickery Meadow neighborhood, PID, and TIF be placed in District 13.
 - Ayes: 12
 - Nays: 0

The motion passed unanimously (Commissioners Brashear, Lozano and Garcia were not present at the vote).

cPlan05a

- Motion: Commissioner Sherman moved that area bordered by Redmond Dr, N. Hampton Rd, Forth Worth Avenue, and N. Westmoreland Rd be moved from District 3 to District 4 in cPlan05a. Likewise, this same area should be moved from District 3 to District 1 in wPlan03a. Both of these changes will be presented as an option map in by the staff on Tuesday August 16, 2011. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Griffith.
 - Ayes: 12
 - Nays: 0

The motion passed unanimously (Commissioners Brashear, Lozano and Garcia were not present at the vote).
- Motion: Commissioner Halsted moved for cPlan05a to be modified as follows:
 - That the area bordered by N Jim Miller Rd, Samuell Blvd, Lawnview Ave and Military Parkway (commonly known as Buckner Terrace) be moved from District 14 to District 7.

- That the areas between Lake June Rd, Route 12, Jim Miller Rd from be moved from District 7 to District 14. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Loza.

o Ayes: 11

Nays: 1

The motion passed, with Commissioner Hasan voting against the Motion. (Commissioners Brashear, Lozano and Garcia were not present at the vote).

- Motion: Commissioner Halstead moved that cPlan05a be modified to have the western boundary of District 5 follow Duncanville Rd, and that the areas of District 5 west of Duncanville Rd be placed in District 4. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Loza.

o Ayes: 8

Nays: 4

The motion passed, with Commissioners Hasan, Love, Mays and Ratcliff voting against the motion. (Commissioners Brashear, Lozano and Garcia were not present at the vote).

cPlan16a

- Motion: Commissioner Love moved to adopt the written proposed amendments to cPlan16 onto cPlan16a as followed:
 - To put Lake Cliff from District 3 to District 1.
 - To put all neighborhoods north of Ferguson Road from District 7 into District 9.
 - To make minor changes to the boundaries between Districts 2 and 14 as directed by Commissioner Love. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Ratcliff.

o Ayes: 12

Nays: 0

The motion passed unanimously (Commissioners Brashear, Lozano and Garcia were not present at the vote).

- Motion: Commissioner Griffith moved that in cPlan16a the area between Loving Ave, Garland Road and Winstead Ave be moved from District 14 into District 9. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Love.

o Ayes: 12

Nays: 0

The motion passed unanimously (Commissioners Brashear, Lozano and Garcia were not present at the vote).

- Motion: Commissioner Halstead moved that staff check all street boundaries on all proposed maps with modifications before the Tuesday August 16, 2011 meeting to make sure they are all within one district and to make sure all population is assigned correctly. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Jones.

- Ayes: 12

- Nays: 0

The motion passed unanimously (Commissioners Brashear, Lozano and Garcia were not present at the vote).

6. Public Speakers

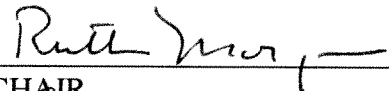
- Commissioner Mays read a letter from Mr. Michael King of District 7 into the record.

7. Additional Questions/Final Remarks

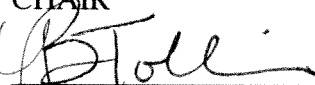
- None

8. Adjournment

- The meeting adjourned at 11:49 pm.



CHAIR



COMMISSION ADMINISTRATOR

Note: For detailed information on meeting refer to the video tape of the meeting posted on the Redistricting website.