

**Redistricting Commission  
Packet  
August 16, 2011**

CITY OF DALLAS

# Plan Listing for Plans Remaining in Consideration by Commission

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Details of All Requested Amendments and Draft  
Options for Review Made During August 11, 2011  
Redistricting Commission Meeting

8/16/2011

**cPlan05a** (replaces cPlan05a that was presented at August 11 meeting, original plan was an option only, not adopted by the Commission, and not published on the Redistricting Website)

#### **Amendments**

1. Incorporation of cPlan05 amendments as proposed by Commissioner Brashear.
2. Inclusion of cPlan13 (with modifications) as proposed by Commissioner Halstead.
3. Exchange areas between District 7 and 14 as proposed by Commissioner Halstead.
4. Remove area west of Duncanville from District 5 as proposed by Commissioner
5. Unify West Dallas area as proposed by Commissioner Halstead.
6. Unify Kessler Stevens area as proposed by Commissioner Sherman.
7. Modifications between District 9 and District 2 as proposed by Commissioner Love.
8. Modifications between District 9 and District 14 as proposed by Commissioner Griffith.
9. Staff modifications for streets as approved by the Commission.

#### **Draft Plan Option 1**

1. Incorporation of cPlan05 amendments as proposed by Commissioner Brashear.
2. Inclusion of cPlan13 (with modifications) as proposed by Commissioner Halstead.
3. Exchange areas between District 7 and 14 as proposed by Commissioner Halstead.
4. Remove area west of Duncanville from District 5 as proposed by Commissioner Halstead.
5. Unify West Dallas area as proposed by Commissioner Halstead.
6. Unify Kessler Stevens area as proposed by Commissioner Sherman.
7. Modifications between District 9 and District 2 as proposed by Commissioner Love.
8. Modifications between District 9 and District 14 as proposed by Commissioner Griffith.
9. Staff modifications for streets as approved by the Commission.
10. Staff modifications to meet deviation.

#### **Draft Plan Option 2**

1. Incorporation of cPlan05 amendments as proposed by Commissioner Brashear.
2. Inclusion of cPlan13 (with modifications) as proposed by Commissioner Halstead.
3. Exchange areas between District 7 and 14 as proposed by Commissioner Halstead.
4. Remove area west of Duncanville from District 5 as proposed by Commissioner Halstead.
5. Unify West Dallas area as proposed by Commissioner Halstead.
6. Unify Kessler Stevens area as proposed by Commissioner Sherman.
7. Modifications between District 9 and District 2 as proposed by Commissioner Love.
8. Modifications between District 9 and District 14 as proposed by Commissioner Griffith.
9. Modifications to District 4 as proposed by Commissioner Ratcliff.
10. Staff modifications for streets as approved by the Commission.
11. Staff modifications to meet deviation.

**cPlan16a** (replaces cPlan16a that was presented at August 11 meeting, original plan was an option only, not adopted by the Commission, and not published on the Redistricting Website)

**Amendments**

1. Incorporation of cPlan16 amendments with cPlan16a amendments as proposed by Commissioner Love.
2. Modifications between District 9 and District 7 as proposed by Commissioner Griffith.
3. Modifications between District 9 and District 14 as proposed by Commissioner Griffith.
4. Staff modifications for streets as approved by the Commission.

**Draft Plan Option 1**

1. Incorporation of cPlan16 amendments with cPlan16a amendments as proposed by Commissioner Love.
2. Modifications between District 9 and District 7 as proposed by Commissioner Griffith.
3. Modifications between District 9 and District 14 as proposed by Commissioner Griffith.
4. Staff modifications for streets as approved by the Commission.
5. Staff modifications for Voting Age Population.

**wPlan03b** (replaces old wPlan03b that was presented at August 11 meeting, original plan was an option only, not adopted by the Commission, and not published on the Redistricting Website)

#### **Amendments**

1. Unify Kessler Stevens area as proposed by Commissioner Sherman.
2. Modifications to District 13 and District 11 shared boundary to follow cPlan13 (with modifications) as proposed by Commissioner Jones.
3. Modifications to central business district and District 4 as proposed by Commissioner Hord.
4. Staff modifications for streets as approved by the Commission.

#### **Draft Plan Option 1**

1. Unify Kessler Stevens area as proposed by Commissioner Sherman.
2. Modifications to District 13 and District 11 shared boundary to follow cPlan13 (with modifications) as proposed by Commissioner Jones.
3. Modifications to central business district and District 4 as proposed by Commissioner Hord.
4. Staff modifications for streets as approved by the Commission.
5. Staff modifications to meet deviation.

#### **Draft Plan Option 2**

1. Unify Kessler Stevens area as proposed by Commissioner Sherman.
2. Modifications to District 13 and District 11 shared boundary to follow cPlan13 (with modifications) as proposed by Commissioner Jones.
3. Modifications to central business district and District 4 as proposed by Commissioner Hord.
4. Modifications District 3, 6, and 14 as requested by Commissioner Loza.
5. Staff modifications for streets as approved by the Commission.
6. Staff modifications to meet deviation.

#### **Draft Plan Option 3**

1. Unify Kessler Stevens area as proposed by Commissioner Sherman.
2. Modifications to District 13 and District 11 shared boundary to follow cPlan13 (with modifications) as proposed by Commissioner Jones.
3. Modifications to central business district and District 4 as proposed by Commissioner Hord.
4. Modifications to District 2, 4, 7, and 8 as proposed by Commissioner Hasan.
5. Staff modifications for streets as approved by the Commission.

#### **Draft Plan Option 4**

1. Unify Kessler Stevens area as proposed by Commissioner Sherman.
2. Modifications to District 13 and District 11 shared boundary to follow cPlan13 (with modifications) as proposed by Commissioner Jones.
3. Modifications to central business district and District 4 as proposed by Commissioner Hord.
4. Modifications to District 2, 4, 7, and 8 as proposed by Commissioner Hasan.
5. Staff modifications for streets as approved by the Commission.
6. Staff modifications to meet deviation.

**Draft Plan Option 5**

1. Unify Kessler Stevens area as proposed by Commissioner Sherman.
2. Modifications to District 13 and District 11 shared boundary to follow cPlan13 (with modifications) as proposed by Commissioner Jones.
3. Modifications to central business district and District 4 as proposed by Commissioner Hord.
4. Modifications to District 2, 4, 7, and 8 as proposed by Commissioner Hasan.
5. Modifications to District 1, 6, and 14 as proposed by Commissioner Loza.
6. Staff modifications for streets as approved by the Commission.
7. Staff modifications to meet deviation.

**Redistricting Commission  
Documents Received  
From Public Speakers  
August 16, 2011**

**Redistricting Commission  
Documents Received  
From Michael King  
August 16, 2011**



## CEDAR CREST COUNTRY CLUB ESTATES

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2433 E. Kiest Blvd.

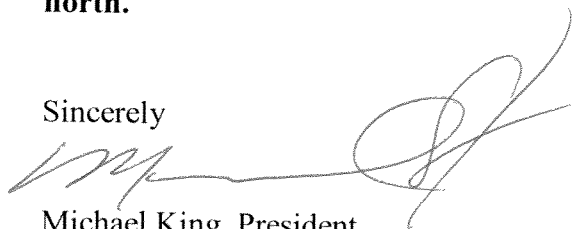
Dallas, TX 75216

Tuesday August 16, 2011

Ruth Morgan, Chairperson  
Billy Ratcliff, Vice Chairperson  
And Members of the Redistricting Committee

On behalf of Cedar Crest Country Club Estates, please send all maps to inventory and take under **heavy** consideration for maps **CPlan16** or **CPlan16a**, **these maps will keep all of East Oak Cliff intact with the whole Oak Cliff not gerrymandering from west to east then north.**

Sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Michael King', written over a horizontal line.

Michael King, President

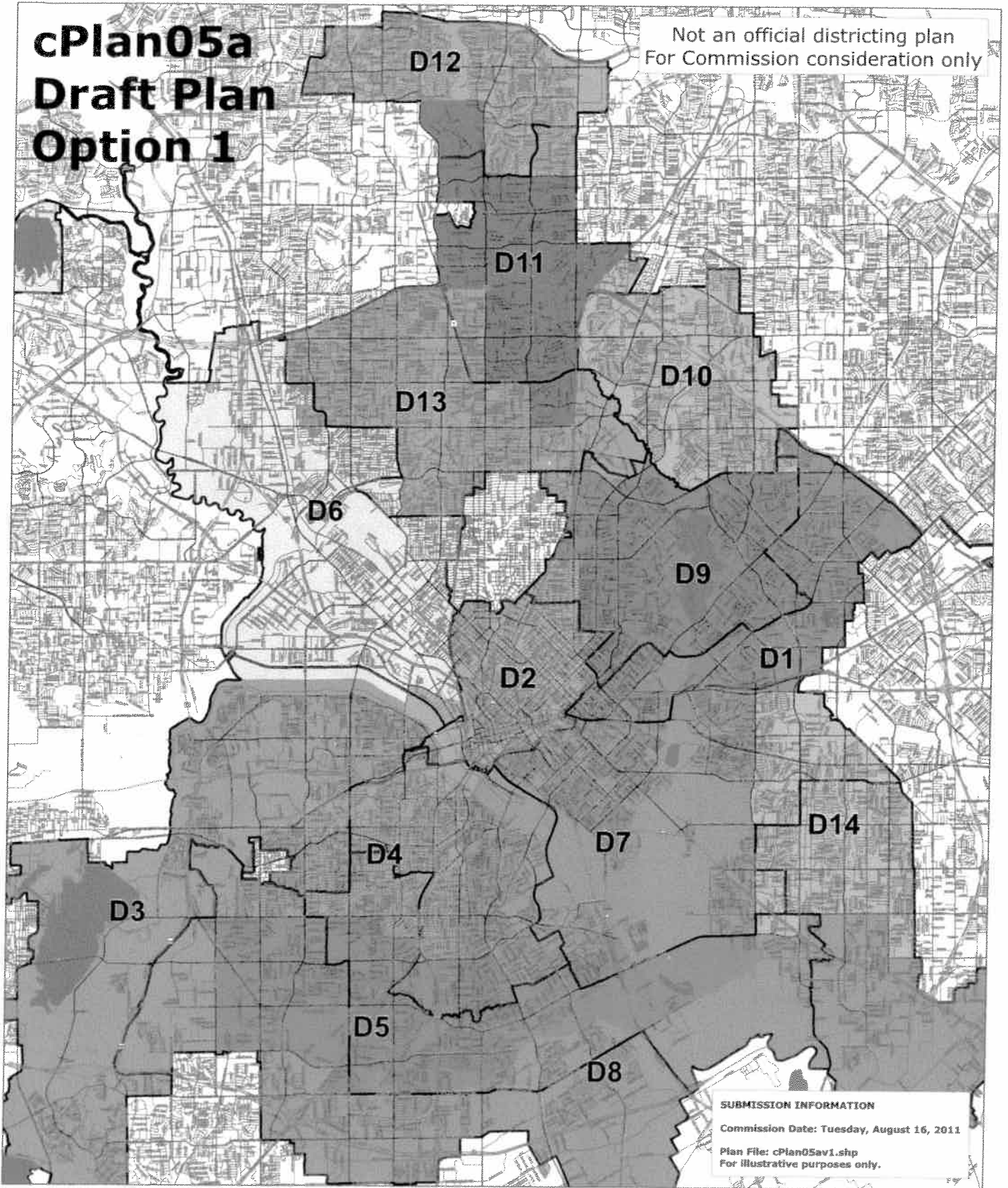
Cc:

Zerlinda Gardner, Secretary  
David Small, Attorney

**Redistricting Commission  
Documents Received  
From Edna Preminton  
August 16, 2011**

# cPlan05a Draft Plan Option 1

Not an official districting plan  
For Commission consideration only



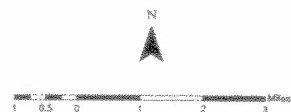
**SUBMISSION INFORMATION**  
 Commission Date: Tuesday, August 16, 2011  
 Plan File: cPlan05a1.shp  
 For illustrative purposes only.

**Legend**

- Highways
- Major Roads
- Other Roadways
- Major Lakes
- cPlan05 Council Districts
- District 1
- District 2
- District 3
- District 4
- District 5
- District 6
- District 7
- District 8
- District 9
- District 10
- District 11
- District 12
- District 13
- District 14

## 2011 Dallas Redistricting Commission

PlanID: cPlan05a Draft Plan Option 1



Original unclassified system name: NAD, 1983, StatePlane, Texas North Central, 8309, 1000, 1100. Original coordinate system name: GCS\_North\_American\_1983. This data is believed to be correct, but its accuracy cannot be guaranteed. It is the user's responsibility to verify the accuracy of this data. Please contact the original creator of the data for questions pertaining to its use.

*Handwritten signature/initials*

- 1 Margaret Blackwell
- 2 Betty Williams
- 3 Jodie
- 4 Edward D. Loney
- 5 Isaiaria M. Woodland
- 6 Etha J. J. J.
- 7 Brenda Carr
- 8 Madeline Riley
- 9 Gene Lutz
- 9 Robert Lutz
- 1 Tom Olson
- 2 Cotty Olson
- 3 Denise Harris
- 4 Anita Knox
- 5 Shadrach Akinola
- 6 Renee Paden

Wood/Sugarberry Creek Watch/HOA  
 8/16/2011 - 7-8pm

Coordinator: Scott Grigg

**Redistricting Commission  
Documents Received  
From Bill Betzen  
August 16, 2011**

# Is Dallas City Council 1991 Redistricting History about to be repeated?

## Protecting incumbents cited as factor in 14-1 Maps 'drawn certain way' because of issue, Miers says

Lawrence E. Young Staff Writer of The Dallas Morning News (DAL) Published: MAY 25, 1991

Dallas City Council member Harriet Miers told a group of minority lawyers Friday that protecting council incumbents influenced the way boundaries were drawn under the 14-1 redistricting plan. "Incumbent issues caused the maps under consideration to be drawn a certain way," Ms. Miers said during a luncheon sponsored by the Dallas Bar Association. "If we can take the issue of incumbency away, we could have a map in a New York minute." Her remarks prompted some minority leaders to contend that the city sacrificed a fifth black district to protect incumbents under the 14-1 plan narrowly approved Monday. "That's reprehensible," attorney Eric Moye said. **"The notion that the protecting of incumbencies rises to the level of the voting rights of citizens who have been denied their constitutional rights is obscene."** The plan approved Monday features four predominantly black districts, two Hispanic ones and two mostly white districts in Oak Cliff and Pleasant Grove. The other six districts also are predominantly white. The mayor would be elected citywide. Ms. Miers was elected president of the State Bar of Texas May 2 and is not running again for City Council. She said after her presentation that the plan that was adopted "really didn't do violence to any incumbents." Plaintiffs in the city's 3-year-old voting rights lawsuit, as well as the only two minority council members, favored a 14-1 plan that would have created five black districts.

Ms. Miers said protecting incumbents was a factor in the development of both the plan favored by plaintiffs and the one approved by council members. She said she voted against the plan favored by plaintiffs because it protected some incumbents and not others. "It protected everyone but (council member) John Evans," who represents Pleasant Grove, Ms. Miers said.

The plan would have split Pleasant Grove among four black districts.

Minority leaders said they were outraged at the notion that the city would place the protection of white incumbents on the same level - as the protection of minority voting rights. To satisfy its obligations under the U.S. Voting Rights Act, they said, the city must maximize minority voting strength regardless of the effect on incumbent white council members. "It's unfortunate," said lawyer Kevin Wiggins, a member of the Dallas Park and Recreation Board. "With this council, it seems the balance always weighs in favor of protecting incumbents or neighborhoods rather than minority voting rights." Ms. Miers defended her decision to back the redistricting plan with four black districts.

She said the creation of a fifth black district was "one component of a very complex set of circumstances" that included the protection of incumbents and neighborhoods.

Ms. Miers said that throughout the redistricting controversy she did what she thought was right. She noted that she opposed the competing 10-4-1 plan even though that angered many whites.

Betsy Julian, a lawyer who represents the plaintiffs, said Ms. Miers' remarks represent a significant admission. Ms. Julian said the U.S. Supreme Court ruled earlier this year in a redistricting case involving the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors that politicians could not sacrifice minority districts to protect incumbents. "In a political sense, incumbency is a legitimate issue, but protecting incumbencies should not take precedent over minority voting rights," she said.

## Progress made and danger remaining: Dallas City Council Redistricting Meeting 08/16/11

On 8/15/11 the 11 amended maps from the 8/11/11 Dallas City Council Redistricting Commission meeting were posted online. The following chart has been created reflecting the most critical measurements from these 11 maps. Only one map on the list below has not met the most critical population equality criteria. That is cPlan05a. It has a total deviation from the population target that goes above 10%, a critical flaw. The other plan, wPlan03b, was not included in the listing below due to that same fatal flaw.

The following chart reflects wonderful progress. The average district perimeter is significantly improved in every plan! Gerrymandering will be lessened significantly in Dallas. We have much to celebrate!

This chart also reflects challenges. The differences between the plans in the ability to provide 8 secure minority districts is significant. While they all meet minimum criteria, hopefully the Redistricting Commission will see the wisdom of going well beyond the minimum criteria.

Summary of compactness and minority representation data - the two most critical redistricting guideline criteria remaining after the population equality guideline is met - from the amended plans considered and produced by the 8/11/11 Commission meeting.

Names of amended Dallas City Council District plans, 8/11/11:	Demographics: (All measurements are in percentages.)										Compactness:	
	Percentage of Black Voting Age Population (VAP) from three highest percentage districts.			Black VAP percentage average	Percentage of Hispanic Voting Age Population (VAP) from five highest percentage districts.					Hispanic VAP percentage Average	Average District Perimeter in miles:	Average of 4 Indexes
cPlan05a	60.29	57.98	56.42	<b>58.23</b>	69.49	63.64	62.59	57.02	51.3	<b>60.81</b>	31.3	1.43
cplan05a Option 1	60.29	57.98	56.42	<b>58.23</b>	69.49	63.64	62.59	57.02	51.00	<b>60.75</b>	31.31	1.43
cplan05a Option 2	62.30	59.29	55.78	<b>59.12</b>	67.30	63.45	62.59	59.54	48.95	<b>60.37</b>	32.04	1.41
cPlan16a	66.67	61.98	51.01	<b>59.89</b>	71.39	65.59	57.44	57.37	53.32	<b>61.02</b>	34.91	1.24
cPlan16a Option 1	65.42	61.98	50.81	<b>59.40</b>	69.32	65.76	57.45	57.29	54.42	<b>60.85</b>	34.57	1.24
wPlan03a	67.42	65.25	55.40	<b>62.69</b>	64.49	64.46	63.42	61.98	57.63	<b>62.40</b>	31.96	1.34
wPlan03b Option 1	67.42	66.36	55.42	<b>63.07</b>	64.46	62.56	62.32	61.98	57.63	<b>61.79</b>	32.58	1.31
wPlan03b Option 2	69.67	57.16	53.33	<b>60.05</b>	64.44	62.21	61.27	58.72	51.06	<b>59.54</b>	31.69	1.33
wPlan03b Option 3	65.28	57.52	55.42	<b>59.41</b>	64.90	64.46	64.38	60.84	50.75	<b>61.07</b>	31.82	1.36
wPlan03b Option 4	66.43	60.98	51.48	<b>59.63</b>	64.46	62.56	62.32	59.75	49.96	<b>59.81</b>	31.08	1.40
wPlan03b Option 5	69.36	60.94	50.15	<b>60.15</b>	64.63	64.44	59.75	56.11	49.53	<b>58.89</b>	30.60	1.40
Average District Perimeter in miles:	The average perimeter for current Dallas City Council Districts is 43.52 miles.											
Average of 4 Indexes:	This is the average of the four index scores showing how much each plan improved in compactness over current districts created in 2001. No improvement is a score of 1.0.											

**Redistricting Commission  
Public Testimony Received  
Via Fax, Email, and Mail  
from 2:50PM August 10, 2011  
to 3:15PM August 12, 2011**



**Bratt, Peter**

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**From:** Nancy Snoddy [Nancy\_Snoddy@infosys.com]  
**Sent:** Friday, August 12, 2011 11:42 AM  
**To:** reDallas11  
**Subject:** redistricting of Lake Highlands

All,

I have lived in Lake Highlands since 1964 and have been very proud to say I live in Lake Highlands. We have always been represented by one voice and I feel it is very important that this does not change. Should the redistricting take place I feel strongly this will affect the Lake Highlands community. I respectfully ask that you vote **NO** to the redistricting of Lake Highlands.

Nancy Snoddy

**Nancy Snoddy**  
Practice Operations  
+1-469-229-9516 (work)  
+1-214-663-5883 (mobile)  
+1-510-284-4673 (fax)  
[nancy\\_snoddy@infosys.com](mailto:nancy_snoddy@infosys.com)  
Infosys Consulting

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\*\*\*INFOSYS\*\*\*\*\* End of Disclaimer \*\*\*\*\*INFOSYS\*\*\*

**Bratt, Peter**

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**From:** Dean Vanderbilt [dean432@gmail.com]  
**Sent:** Friday, August 12, 2011 11:40 AM  
**To:** reDallas11  
**Subject:** Comment on City Council Districts

Dear Members of the Commission,

Ten years ago I had the opportunity to serve on the Redistricting Commission that created the current district structure. It was a challenging and rewarding experience, and I thank the current commission members for agreeing to serve.

Back then, we worked very hard to ensure that Lake Highlands could continue to thrive, as it had for over 20 years, through the cooperative efforts of the City of Dallas, RISD, and a large number of community organizations.

Hopefully the Commission will recognize the importance of the LH community to the City of Dallas and develop a plan that allows it to continue.

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Dean Vanderbilt  
Email: [dean432@gmail.com](mailto:dean432@gmail.com)  
Cell: 214-632-9636

**Bratt, Peter**

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**From:** JAN HENRY [MIKEJANHENRY@SBCGLOBAL.NET]  
**Sent:** Friday, August 12, 2011 2:14 PM  
**To:** reDallas11  
**Subject:** redistricting

I am 62 years old and have lived in Dallas all my life. I have lived in Lake Highlands for 32 years. I lived in Parkdale(east Dallas) for 21 years and Pleasant Grove for 9 years.

I am sick and tired of Politicans trying to draw District lines so that minorities can win a seat on the City Council. Leave the districts like they are. Wherever people live they live and that is life. Stop trying to dictate what races are on the City Council. Some districts are white, some black, some hispanic and some Asian. Stop it now!!! Grow up and accept things for how they are.

JAN HENRY  
[jan-henry@sbcglobal.net](mailto:jan-henry@sbcglobal.net)  
972-523-0411

**Bratt, Peter**

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**From:** Georgia Jordan [mayj@att.net]  
**Sent:** Friday, August 12, 2011 2:44 PM  
**To:** reDallas11  
**Subject:** Re/Redistricting of Lake Highlands  
**Attachments:** --static--liam\_crowdsurfer\_bottom.gif

I strongly oppose the redistricting of Lake Highlands. I am in favor of keeping Lake Highlands/District 10 intact.

**Bratt, Peter**

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**From:** Kim Creason [kcreason@att.net]  
**Sent:** Friday, August 12, 2011 10:42 AM  
**To:** reDallas11  
**Subject:** Fw: District 10 Lake Highlands

Councilman,

I have been a proud resident of Lake Highlands since 1981; when I moved to Dallas we could have lived in any area but my husband and I decided Lake Highlands was the **community** we wanted to live in and raise our children. This is a wonderful area with a small town feel in the midst of a large city and we want to keep it that way. We ask that you please keep district 10 intact and not split it out into multiple districts. We are a **united community** and do not feel that dividing Lake Highlands into separate districts is in the best interest of the fine people in this area.

Regards,

Kimberly Creason

Resident of Lake Highlands

## **Bratt, Peter**

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**From:** Dan Sefko [ds@freese.com]  
**Sent:** Friday, August 12, 2011 10:31 AM  
**To:** reDallas11  
**Subject:** Redistricting

I cannot attend on the 20<sup>th</sup>. PLEASE vote for the cPlan05 or wPlan03. The worst possible thing for Dallas would be to approve the Domingo Garcia Plan. It will ruin Dallas for 10 years until the next redistricting plan comes around. We can't afford the financial burden that the Domingo plan will impose on us in this economy plus its makes absolutely NO sense! Thank You for reading this.----Dan Sefko, 55 year resident of Dallas

**Dan Sefko, FAICP**  
Group Manager

**Urban Planning Group**  
Freese & Nichols Inc  
1701 N Market Street #500  
Dallas TX 75202  
Direct: 214-217-2372  
[ds@freese.com](mailto:ds@freese.com)

Please consider the environment before printing this message.

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**Mr. & Mrs. Tom L. Blakeney  
9212 Seagrove Dr.  
Dallas, Texas 75243  
214-503-1661**

August 10, 2011

Re: District 10

To the City of Dallas Re-Districting Commission,

We understand that among the re-districting plans put before the commission, one exists that will split District 10 into 3 parts. We would like the commission to reject that plan.

We have many reasons for wanting District 10 to remain intact, but we wish to present only the most compelling to the commission: District 10 works.

Please, reject any plan to break our district into parts that could change what we believe is a good working part of the City of Dallas. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely

Tom & Dee Blakeney

## Torres, Daisy

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**From:** Laura Atherton [laura.atherton@maxithc.com]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, August 10, 2011 3:45 PM  
**To:** reDallas11  
**Subject:** cPlan16- OPPOSED

To Whom it may Concern:

I am writing to express my strong opposition to the cPlan16 "unity plan" proposed. I do not believe that this encourages any sort of unity in our community at all. This plan is racially driven and geared specifically toward the Hispanic population, and in my opinion, reverse racism. The entire community feels that they have zero control over this redistricting and it is not something that should be considered at this time. Please leave District 10 intact. This is a highly desirable area and community exactly the way it is. Please do not fix what is not broken.

Laura Atherton  
Recruiting Manager | [www.maxithc.com](http://www.maxithc.com)  
maxIT Healthcare, LLC | 214.385.5723 Cell | [laura.atherton@maxithc.com](mailto:laura.atherton@maxithc.com)

<http://www.maxithc.com/overview.htm>      <http://www.maxithc.com/RV-tour.htm>

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## Cedar Crest Country Club Estates

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2433 East Kiest Blvd.

Dallas, TX 75216

Thursday, August 11, 2011

Ruth Morgan, Chair  
Billy Ratcliff, Vice Chair and Members of the Redistricting Committee  
Dallas City Hall  
6ES  
1500 Marilla St. Dallas, TX 75201

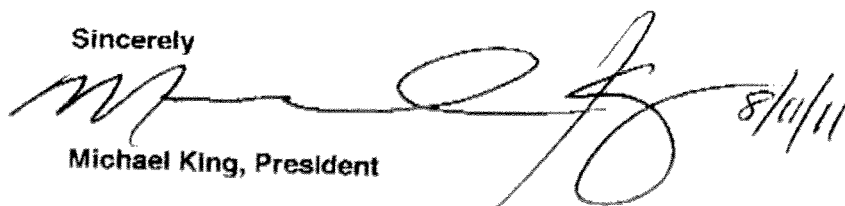
First and foremost I would like to thank each of you for your hard work in remapping this city, the final maps that are being considered are the results of long hours analyzing data, that you felt is in the best interests of all citizens of Dallas. we know there can only be 1 map.

After reviewing the final maps for consideration there is only one map that the neighborhood can support that is the map CPlan16 which was prepared by Commissioners Garcia, Ratcliff, and Love. With this map we can begin to **revitalize** our communities and neighborhoods without sharing funds with council districts that stretch from part of the city to another. These commissioners did an outstanding job and putting the part of current Council District 7, some parts of District 4 and District 5 in East Oak Cliff, and consolidated all to the new Council District 4, with includes the most eastern part (Joppa Community) with no ties to no Council District across the **RIVER!!!!**

**On behalf of the residents of Cedar Crest Country Club Estates, we ask this commission to consider map CPlan16 as the map of the New Dallas 2011-2021.**

If any questions please don't hesitate to contact me. [mikeking@inbox.com](mailto:mikeking@inbox.com)

Sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Michael King', with a date '8/11/11' written to the right of the signature.

Michael King, President

CC: Zerlinda Gardner, Secretary  
David Small, Attorney

**G. WARD BEAUDRY, P.C.**

ATTORNEY AND COUNSELOR AT LAW

ACCREDITED ESTATE PLANNER

4200 THANKSGIVING TOWER

1801 ELM STREET

DALLAS, TEXAS 75201-7203

(214) 969-0001

FAX (214) 969-0003

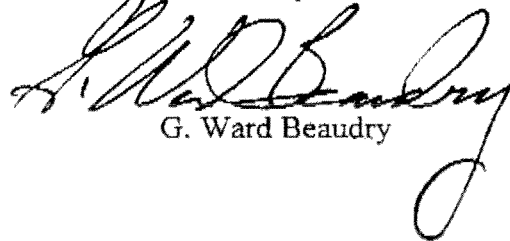
August 8, 2011

Via Fax (214) 670-5798 and  
Redallas11@dallascityhall.com  
The Dallas Redistricting Commission

To The Dallas Redistricting Commission:

I am a long time (since 1969) resident of Lake Highlands and my principal residence is at 9809 Church Circle, Dallas 75238. I implore the Commission to not do anything that would negatively impact the compact nature of our District, which has historically centered around Lake Highlands High School. We have a relatively unique, though diverse, neighborhood and with the TIF in place hope soon to have our own Town Center. The division of the District would in my opinion negatively impact the potential for significant tax revenue which will be generated by the anticipated development at Skillman and Walnut.

Yours truly,



G. Ward Beaudry

Cc: 1) jobaggett@aol.com  
2) kaywheeler@webwheeler.com

GWB/ltr.DallasRedistrictingCommission.8.8.11

**WINN, BEAUDRY & WINN**

ATTORNEYS AT LAW

THANKSGIVING TOWER

1601 ELM STREET, SUITE 4200

DALLAS, TEXAS 75201-7203

214-969-0001

G. WARD BEAUDRY, P.C.  
COLLIN S. LENSING

OF COUNSEL  
MARGARET L. VANDERVALE

TELEFAX 214-969-0005  
WWW.WBWLFP.COM

**fax**

To: Dallas Redistricting Comm - 214-670-5798

from: G. Ward Beaudry *GWB*

date: August 11, 2011

subject:

pages: 2 (including cover page)

NOTES: See attached letter.

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**Bratt, Peter**

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**From:** Jen & Danny Meisenheimer [djmisey@yahoo.com]  
**Sent:** Thursday, August 11, 2011 4:32 PM  
**To:** reDallas11  
**Subject:** Redistricting Lake Highlands

To Whom it May Concern,

I agree wholeheartedly with the letter written by Mr. Alan Walne below. Please consider Lake Highlands a unified community & do not break it up in the proposed redistricting.

Concerned Lake Highlands Resident,  
Jennifer Meisenheimer  
9130 Locarno Drive 75243

*Dear Commission Members'*

*In reviewing the submissions of redistricting maps I have become increasingly alarmed that District 10 is being carved up with no considerations for community of interest or "home town feel". Lake Highlands-virtually all of District 10- is a unique entity within a very large city. We have been able to develop and maintain a hometown feel by bringing the District together in a very complicated but not so complicated way. Lake Highlands High School services almost all residents of District 10. The District is among the most diverse in the city and we make it work because we work together for all in the neighborhood. Audelia Creek and Thurgood Marshall Elementary Schools were created through partnership with the City of Dallas and the Richardson School District achieved by the District 10 council members because of the common interest of the voters of the District.*

*The Lake Highlands Jr. Women's League has worked with the Dallas Park and Recreation Department to install a pavilion and spray ground with hundreds of thousands of dollars donated privately through the efforts of the council members and voters of the district. The Lake Highlands Exchange Club and Lake Highlands Women's League have awarded over a hundred thousand dollars in scholarships a year for many years now to deserving students from Lake Highlands high School of all backgrounds but predominately at risk children-because there is a strong feel of community and union. We make diversity work.*

*To carve up Lake Highlands would be a travesty and something that would do irreparable harm. Please keep the Lake Highlands attendance zone in one City Council District.*

*Respectfully*

*Alan Walne, former District 10 Councilmember*

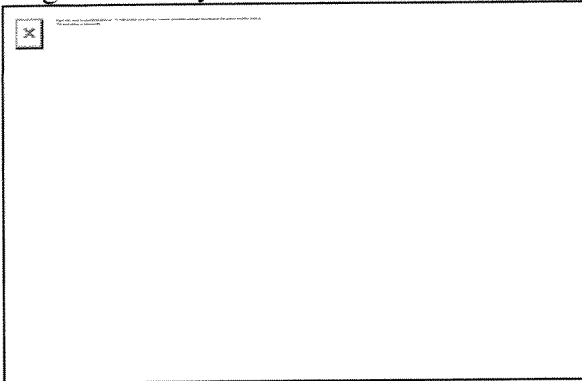
## Bratt, Peter

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**From:** Robin Moss Norcross [robinn@ebby.com]  
**Sent:** Thursday, August 11, 2011 4:32 PM  
**To:** reDallas11; Donna D. Halstead; Allen, Jerry  
**Subject:** Lake Highlands Today.com - News, Schools, Sports, Events in Lake Highlands, Dallas Texas

Editorial: District 10 and its diverse community of interest

Aug 11 2011 by Robin Moss Norcross



The boundaries of community  
Lake Highlands has a very rich and long history of cultural diversity.

The earliest residents of what we now call Lake Highlands were Plains Indians who traveled the creeks in our neighborhood.

Those of us who grew up here in the late 50's and early 60's remember what they left behind; an abundance of arrowheads along those creeks.

The second earliest residents were the freed Caruth family slaves who called "Little Egypt" home, roughly at the intersection of Northwest Highway, Ferndale and Shoreview.

When I moved to 9841 Buxhill Drive in Lake Highlands on Christmas Day in 1960, they were my neighbors.

My first summer here, the kids in the neighborhood would head outside after supper to enjoy a popsicle or two.

We could hear the singing from Little Egypt and would beg someone's dad to pile us in a station wagon and head that way.

Clearly, they were having way more fun than we were, and we delighted in their merriment!

Later that year on Halloween, it was reported from the families on Lanshire (the street that backed to Little Egypt) and the Little Egypt neighborhood kids trick-or-treated together.

One such group was said to humorously sport white face on a black kiddo and black face on a white kiddo – much to everyone's delight.

This was 1960 and our neighborhood not only embraced its diversity, but delighted in it!

The State Historical Marker at McCree Cemetery notes the final resting place of several Little Egypt matriarchs and patriarchs, along with members of the Peters Colony that settled what would later be known as

Lake Highlands, as well as North Dallas, Richardson and Garland.

Perhaps the first ethnically diverse cemetery in Dallas?

These are our Lake Highlands roots, and we have continued to embrace everyone who chooses to live in our community including their their race, ethnicity and culture.

Most of us who call Lake Highlands home do so because we wanted our kids to grow up in the real world – one that embraces the richness that variety enables.

All of us pulling together, primarily to support our children to make the unique contribution that is their destiny. Does it work?

Yes it works, judging by the multitude of LH grads who return each year to buy homes and continue the tradition.

I guess if we have faltered in any way it was to not beat our own drum about what was happening here.

We just thought it was normal; a neighborhood simply being a neighborhood and encouraging every member to be the best they could be.

The Exchange Club of Lake Highlands, the Lake Highlands Women's League and the Wild For Cats non-profit groups give hundreds of thousands of dollars each year to ensure that the most deserving children in Lake Highlands have the opportunity to make their education dreams come true.

Rest assured, they do not disappoint.

Lake Highlands may very well be the first and most successful ongoing, diverse neighborhood in Dallas.

Keeping Lake Highlands and District 10 intact is a no-brainer.

In short, Lake Highlands and District 10 are a huge success, which also means the potential for an increased tax base for the city is inevitable.

I encourage everyone to let the 2011 Redistricting Commission know where you stand on the city's redistricting process.

Lake Highlands is a true community of interest and one that deserves and demands an intact district and unified representation – for all of us.

Sincerely,

Robin Moss Norcross  
10000 Linkwood Dr.  
Dallas, TX 75238  
214.662.9133

**Bratt, Peter**

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**From:** Tom Nowak [polish1979@hotmail.com]  
**Sent:** Thursday, August 11, 2011 4:34 PM  
**To:** reDallas11  
**Subject:** partition of District 10

Members,

I read with alarm that an idea to separate council district 10 is progressing with the Comission. I am firmly opposed to such an idea and can only surmise the intent behind such a plan.

The district in question in already diverse among the population and income levels. The current area has been well represented by one council member because the area speaks as one voice. Separating the area into a multitude of districts will permanently harm the future development and advancement of the area as resources will be spread thin among competing districts.

I ask you to reject any plan that proposes to break up district 10.

Respectfully,

Tom Nowak  
Attorney at Law

9441 Brentgate Dr.  
Dallas, TX 75238

214-405-1179

## Bratt, Peter

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**From:** Jim Hoag [jamesnhoag@yahoo.com]  
**Sent:** Thursday, August 11, 2011 7:37 PM  
**To:** reDallas11  
**Cc:** Laura Hoag  
**Subject:** Keep District 10 intact - Lake Highlands is one community

Keep District 10 (Lake Highlands) unchanged for the following reasons:

- Keep the LHHS attendance zone as a primary consideration
- District 10 is already a diverse district and meets the not gerrymandered definition
- District 10 is a Community of Interest going back to Dean Vanderbilt's council tenure and has been refined to reflect that over the past 30+ years
- The Lake Highlands Exchange Club, Lake Highlands Women's League and Junior Women's League and others have worked hand in hand with the City on programs, having donated hundreds of thousands of dollars to Parks in District 10
- The "small town feel within the heart of the city" that defines LH and has supported council candidates, and redevelopment would be lost
- LH has a long history of being a neighborhood where diversity already works; don't destroy that!

Thank you.

Jim Hoag  
9523 Fieldcrest Ct.  
Dallas, TX 75238



**Bratt, Peter**

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**From:** Linda Eggert [lbeeggert@sbcglobal.net]  
**Sent:** Thursday, August 11, 2011 10:01 PM  
**To:** reDallas11  
**Subject:** District 10 redistricting plan

To: Redistricting committee

I recently read an article stating that district 10 may be divided by a new plan to redistribute the Dallas city council seats. I would like to request that district 10 remain as it is. The community support is very strong and there are many organizations within Lake Highlands that support the entire community as a whole. It is a very diverse community, yet cohesive in its community support. Please leave the district such that is it the Lake Highlands High School attendance zone. This allows the community to support each other and the minorities within it.

Sincerely,

Linda B. Eggert  
9252 Seagrove Drive  
Dallas, TX 75243  
(214)503-7780

**Bratt, Peter**

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**From:** karonash63@aol.com  
**Sent:** Friday, August 12, 2011 12:05 AM  
**To:** reDallas11  
**Subject:** The Redistricting of Lake Highlands

Council Members,

I have lived in Lake Highlands for thirty-seven years. I have seen our community go through some changes. We have all come together many times to support one another and to take care of our community. We work hard to keep Lake Highlands and our property clean and beautiful. We are proud of Lake Highlands. I feel that the redistricting that is being proposed would not be in the best interest of Lake Highlands. Please do not allow this to happen. I know many of us feel this way.

Thank You,  
Karon Ashworth  
Resident of Lake Highlands

**Bratt, Peter**

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**From:** Carrie Patton [Carrie.Patton@heart.org]  
**Sent:** Thursday, August 11, 2011 3:19 PM  
**To:** reDallas11  
**Subject:** Opposition to redistricting: District 10

Dear Commission Members:

I have looked at the recent redistricting submission that would carve up the current District 10, and am very concerned about the fracture this will cause within the Lake Highlands community. On face value, it appears this redistricting proposal has no basis in considering the vast amount of community interest or “small-town” feel that is strongly evident within Lake Highlands. The residents of Lake Highlands have a strong tradition of community ties, despite the fact that we exist within the boundaries of a huge city. This tradition has flourished due to the district staying together and maintaining close supportive roles even with the considerable diversity that exists within its boundaries! Our community has a rich history in supporting a vast array of schools and community organizations, including all the feeder schools into Lake Highlands High School, the Exchange Club of Lake Highlands, the Lake Highlands Women’s League, and the Healing Hands Community Health Clinic...just to name a few!

To slice and dice this long-standing community, and to divide the strong supportive district, is unjustified, and would be a harsh disservice to its hardworking and dedicated citizens. I implore you to **keep all of Lake Highlands within a single district** – for the good of its residents and for the greater good of the city of Dallas.

Respectfully submitted,

Carrie B. Patton  
9343 Locarno Drive  
Dallas, TX 75243  
[carrie.patton@heart.org](mailto:carrie.patton@heart.org)

## Bratt, Peter

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**From:** Greg Duval [gregduval@sbcglobal.net]  
**Sent:** Thursday, August 11, 2011 2:57 PM  
**To:** reDallas11  
**Subject:** Redistricting Input

Redistricting Commission:

I wish to share my thoughts about the redistricting options before you. My family lives in District 10 and has since 2000. We choose to live in Lake Highlands because of the small town feel that is a direct result of the common high school that serves all. Most of my friends from years gone by are living in northern suburbs or perhaps Rowlett or Rockwall. They live there for the affordability of housing and quality of schools. Those are strong magnets for sure. However, we have elected to live here and embrace the diversity of Lake Highlands. We feel that the diversity is indeed a look at the real world as opposed to some bubble that might exist in suburban life.

We love our RISD schools. Our PTA's work very hard to raise money to insure all kids at the school have access to all supplies, field trips, etc. Both me and my wife serve as mentors for minority kids and enjoy reading with them and supporting them in every way with regard to school just as we would our 4th grade daughter. We would hate to see the small town feel and the "all for one and one for all" mentality to be eliminated by a redrawn map.

We are very active at our church too. Our church, which is mostly white, has been providing an on site ministry at multiple apartment complexes so that those who live in LH area apartments but cannot get to a church site can still attend church and kids can still enjoy Vacation Bible School.

I am very active with the LH Exchange Club. Our club is celebrating its 50th anniversary this year. For at least the past fifteen years we have given our college scholarships to deserving students, most of them based on financial need. The club makes college dreams possible for many kids - over \$100,000 every year.

I am not one to make a bold promise/threat of "if this happens I will move," etc. But, this is a very important issue to me and my family and if we are made to give up our sense of community then the basis for why we stay in the city of Dallas with our young family will have been lessened. It will be an intentional step by city government to eliminate one of the very strongest communities in the entire city. That would be a bad statement on the future of the city.

Bottom line is District 10 (aka Lake Highlands), as it currently exists and is represented, is very diverse and is successful because our community speaks with one voice. We all help one another because we all know another - through schools, churches and community events. If you were to divide our community into two or three districts then we would lose one of the very things that makes LH work - a sense of community. I understand the need and desire to create compact districts across the city. I simply would argue that to dis-assemble an existing community district so to make one in other areas of the city is not the best solution. Many districts are seeking to be more community based (geographically compact too). Why take that away from District 10?

**Please keep all of the Lake Highlands High School attendance zone in District 10**

Thank you -

Greg Duval  
9218 Loma Vista  
Dallas TX 75243

**Bratt, Peter**

---

**From:** Alycia Harper [alyciaharper@sbcglobal.net]  
**Sent:** Thursday, August 11, 2011 2:05 PM  
**To:** reDallas11  
**Subject:** Opposed!!!

To the unity plan!

Sent from my iPhone

Eastwood Hills Neighborhood Association  
PO Box 570291  
Dallas, TX 75357  
[eastwoodhills@msn.com](mailto:eastwoodhills@msn.com)  
[eastwoodhillsdallas.com](http://eastwoodhillsdallas.com)

**FAX**

**TO: REDISTRICTING COMMISSION / City of Dallas**

**Fax Number: (214) 670-5798**

**Date: 8/4/11**

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**From: Eileen Moore**

**Number of pages including cover: 7**

**Regarding: Citizen Testimonies**

Mail 811

# EASTWOOD HILLS NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION

July 22, 2011

Redistricting Commission  
City of Dallas  
1500 Marilla St. L1AN  
Dallas, TX 75201

Eastwood Hills is located South of Ferguson Road and North of Interstate 30 in District 7. As the representative board of Eastwood Hills Neighborhood Association, we urge you to strongly consider a redistricting plan that would include our neighborhood with other White Rock Lake communities North of Ferguson Road which more appropriately reflect the residents of Eastwood Hills.

In addition, we urge you to oppose any plan based on the old District 7 plan which does not reflect today's requirements for compactness and the need to keep area communities together.

Thank you for your consideration.

Eileen Moore, President  
8816 Sweetwater Dr  
Dallas, TX 75228  
214-324-9968  
[eileen\\_moore@me.com](mailto:eileen_moore@me.com)



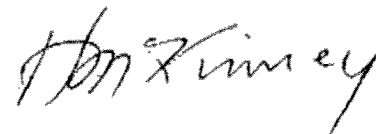
Chris Brashear  
9057 Fringewood  
Dallas, TX 75228  
214-718-6272  
[cdragon777@aol.com](mailto:cdragon777@aol.com)



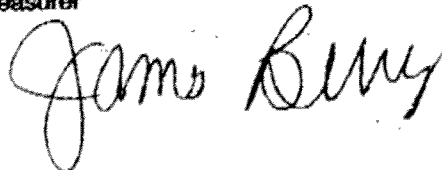
Sue Shell, Vice President  
8817 Forest Cliff Dr  
Dallas, TX 75228  
214-328-4755  
[sueshell07@yahoo.com](mailto:sueshell07@yahoo.com)



Helene McKinney  
8824 Bretshire Dr  
Dallas, TX 75228  
214-367-0293  
[hmktr@yahoo.com](mailto:hmktr@yahoo.com)



James Berry, Secretary/Treasurer  
2907 Rambling Dr  
Dallas, TX 75228  
214-697-3842  
[jberry@yahoo.com](mailto:jberry@yahoo.com)



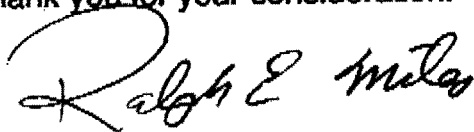
Printed on 8/11/11  
Dallas, TX 75207  
www.eastwoodhills.org  
www.dallas.gov

July 26, 2011

Redistricting Commission  
City of Dallas  
1500 Marilla St. L1AN  
Dallas, TX 75201

I currently reside in District 7 in a neighborhood South of Ferguson Road and North of Interstate 30. I urge you to strongly consider a redistricting plan that would include my neighborhood with other White Rock Lake communities North of Ferguson Road. I urge you to oppose any plan based on the old District 7 plan which does not reflect today's requirements for compactness and the need to keep area communities together.

Thank you for your consideration.



Name: RALPH E MILES

Address: 8827 FORESTLIFE

Dallas, TX 75228

District 7

Phone: 214 321 5617

email:



July 26, 2011

Redistricting Commission  
City of Dallas  
1500 Marilla St. L1AN  
Dallas, TX 75201

I currently reside in District 7 in a neighborhood South of Ferguson Road and North of Interstate 30. I urge you to strongly consider a redistricting plan that would include my neighborhood with other White Rock Lake communities North of Ferguson Road. I urge you to oppose any plan based on the old District 7 plan which does not reflect today's requirements for compactness and the need to keep area communities together.

Thank you for your consideration.

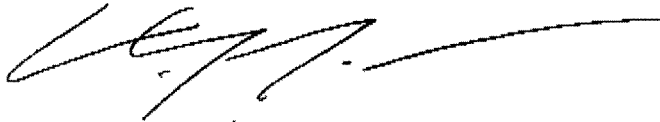
Name: *Kay Knowler*  
Address: *8821 Forest Cliff*  
Dallas, TX 75228  
District 7  
Phone: *214-327-3230*  
email:

July 26, 2011

Redistricting Commission  
City of Dallas  
1500 Marilla St. L1AN  
Dallas, TX 75201

I currently reside in District 7 in a neighborhood South of Ferguson Road and North of Interstate 30. I urge you to strongly consider a redistricting plan that would include my neighborhood with other White Rock Lake communities North of Ferguson Road. I urge you to oppose any plan based on the old District 7 plan which does not reflect today's requirements for compactness and the need to keep area communities together.

Thank you for your consideration.



Name: *Christopher W. Moore*

Address: *8816 Sweetwater Dr*

Dallas, TX 75228

District 7

Phone: *214-850-2181*

email:

*cw.moore@cunningham-moore.com*

July 23, 2011

Redistricting Commission  
City of Dallas  
1500 Marilla St. L1AN  
Dallas, TX 75201

As a resident of District 7, I am in favor of a Redistricting Plan that places our Community of Interest in the White Rock Lake area North of Interstate 30.

I oppose any plan that lacks compactness and does not reflect Communities of Interest .

Thank you for your consideration.

Name: Jerry P. Hunt  
Address: 8832 Sweetwater Dr  
Dallas, TX 75228  
DISTRICT 7  
Phone: 214 327 5649  
email: N/A

July 26, 2011

Redistricting Commission  
City of Dallas  
1500 Marilla St. L1AN  
Dallas, TX 75201

I currently reside in District 7 in a neighborhood South of Ferguson Road and North of Interstate 30. I urge you to strongly consider a redistricting plan that would include my neighborhood with other White Rock Lake communities North of Ferguson Road. I urge you to oppose any plan based on the old District 7 plan which does not reflect today's requirements for compactness and the need to keep area communities together.

Thank you for your consideration.

Name: *Luci Shell*  
Address: *8817 Forest Cliff Dr.*  
Dallas, TX 75228  
District 7  
Phone: *214-328-4755*  
email:

## Bratt, Peter

---

**From:** Charles Curtis [chuckcurtis8@gmail.com]  
**Sent:** Thursday, August 11, 2011 12:48 PM  
**To:** reDallas11  
**Subject:** Unity Map Nonesense

The so-called "United" map is doo-doo.

Why break-up Lake Highlands? It makes no sense unless you're a greedy politician only looking out for yourself.

Flush the United Map down the toilet.

Charles Curtis  
resident of Lake Highlands

**Bratt, Peter**

---

**From:** Ward Beaudry [gwb@wbwllp.com]  
**Sent:** Thursday, August 11, 2011 1:21 PM  
**To:** reDallas11  
**Cc:** jobaggett@aol.com; kaywheeler@webwheeler.com  
**Subject:** Dallas Redistricting Commission  
**Attachments:** DRC letter.pdf

See attached letter.

Ward Beaudry

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Winn, Beaudry & Winn  
Suite 4200 Thanksgiving Tower  
1601 Elm Street  
Dallas, Texas 75201  
(214) 969-0001  
(214) 969-0005 fax  
[www.wbwllp.com](http://www.wbwllp.com)

**G. WARD BEAUDRY, P. C.**

ATTORNEY AND COUNSELOR AT LAW

ACCREDITED ESTATE PLANNER

4200 THANKSGIVING TOWER

1601 ELM STREET

DALLAS, TEXAS 75201-7203

(214) 969-0001

FAX (214) 969-0005

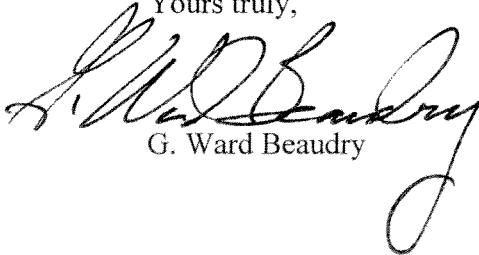
August 8, 2011

Via Fax (214) 670-5798 and  
Redallas11@dallascityhall.com  
The Dallas Redistricting Commission

To The Dallas Redistricting Commission:

I am a long time (since 1969) resident of Lake Highlands and my principal residence is at 9809 Church Circle, Dallas 75238. I implore the Commission to not do anything that would negatively impact the compact nature of our District, which has historically centered around Lake Highlands High School. We have a relatively unique, though diverse, neighborhood and with the TIF in place hope soon to have our own Town Center. The division of the District would in my opinion negatively impact the potential for significant tax revenue which will be generated by the anticipated development at Skillman and Walnut.

Yours truly,



G. Ward Beaudry

Cc: 1) jobaggett@aol.com  
2) kaywheeler@webwheeler.com

GWB/ltr.DallasRedistrictingCommission.8.8.11

**Bratt, Peter**

---

**From:** Woof100@aol.com  
**Sent:** Thursday, August 11, 2011 12:00 PM  
**To:** reDallas11  
**Subject:** City Council District 10 Redistricting

Dear Friends:

Please keep District 10 as it is, or substantially so, when adopting the current redistricting proposal. We don't want our home district split up just as those who live in Oak Cliff, South Dallas, Lakewood or North Dallas would feel about their home. Thank you for considering this request.

Gaynelle and Miles Schulze  
9121 Pinewood Drive  
Dallas 75243



## Bratt, Peter

---

**From:** Marty Adamson [marty\_adamson@hotmail.com]  
**Sent:** Thursday, August 11, 2011 11:46 AM  
**To:** reDallas11  
**Subject:** concerns re: Unity Map

I am concerned that the Unity Map splits the extremely cohesive community of Lake Highlands into three districts. Lake Highlands is a successful "majority minority" neighborhood which has built its identity and its civic-minded organizations around its RISD-operated public schools and their attendance area. Why fragment an area of the city that is so proud of its identity and so committed to making our neighborhood great for all its residents? The Unity Map tries to bring together communities of interest in other parts of the city. Why not Lake Highlands?

Marty Adamson  
9645 Liptonshire Dr  
Dallas, TX 75238  
P 214 349-8054  
E [marty\\_adamson@hotmail.com](mailto:marty_adamson@hotmail.com)

**Bratt, Peter**

---

**From:** Linda Loudon [lindalouden@gmail.com]  
**Sent:** Thursday, August 11, 2011 9:41 AM  
**To:** reDallas11  
**Subject:** Redistricting: District 7

August 11, 2011

Redistricting Commission  
City of Dallas  
1500 Marilla St. L1AN  
Dallas, TX 75201

Redistricting Commission:

As a soon-to-be resident of Eastwood Hills, (I close on 2930 Green Meadow Drive, 75228 in days), in District 7, South of Ferguson Road and North of Interstate 30, **I strongly urge you to consider a redistricting plan that would include my neighborhood with other East Dallas/White Rock Lake communities North of Ferguson Road.**

I believe that my move into the area is a good example of exactly why such redistricting is in order. Similar to many in my age cohort, I am a longtime Dallas resident relocating from a more urban Dallas area to the more family-oriented East Dallas area after having children. Living in Eastwood Hills, my family will be accessing Lakewood, Casa Linda, White Rock Lake, and Lake Highlands retail, amenities, and public areas daily while living in an affordable area of Dallas. I feel strongly that creating a cohesive, compact, and community-focused district in East Dallas is vital to ensure a community that supports the needs of my lifestyle and family, and my vote will support this belief.

***I strongly urge you to oppose any plan based on the old District 7 plan which does not reflect today's requirements for compactness and the need to keep area communities together.***

Thank you for your consideration.

Linda Loudon  
2930 Green Meadow Drive  
Dallas, TX 75228  
District 7  
214-704-2414  
[lindalouden@gmail.com](mailto:lindalouden@gmail.com)

Previous address: 5214 Pershing Street, Dallas, TX, 75206

**Bratt, Peter**

---

**From:** Jennifer Wallace [jpwallace@sbcglobal.net]  
**Sent:** Thursday, August 11, 2011 10:58 AM  
**To:** reDallas11  
**Subject:** Lake Highlands Redistricting Committee

**To the Redistricting Committee:**

- Keep the LHHS attendance zone as a primary consideration
- District 10 is already a diverse district and meets the not gerrymandered definition
- District 10 is a Community of Interest going back to Dean Vanderbilt's council tenure and has been refined to reflect that over the past 30+ years
- The Lake Highlands Exchange Club, Lake Highlands Women's League and Junior Women's League and others have worked hand in hand with the City on programs, having donated hundreds of thousands of dollars to Parks in District 10
- The "small town feel within the heart of the city" that defines LH and has supported council candidates, and redevelopment would be lost
- LH has a long history of being a neighborhood where diversity already works; don't destroy that!

Sincerely,

Jennifer Wallace  
9945 Faircrest  
Dallas, TX 75238

**Bratt, Peter**

---

**From:** Tom Parma [tomparma@swbell.net]  
**Sent:** Thursday, August 11, 2011 10:48 AM  
**To:** reDallas11  
**Subject:** LAKE HIGHLANDS

**Redistricting Committee:**

- Keep the LHHS attendance zone as a primary consideration
- District 10 is already a diverse district and meets the not gerrymandered definition
- District 10 is a Community of Interest going back to Dean Vanderbilt's council tenure and has been refined to reflect that over the past 30+ years
- The Lake Highlands Exchange Club, Lake Highlands Women's League and Junior Women's League and others have worked hand in hand with the City on programs, having donated hundreds of thousands of dollars to Parks in District 10
- The "small town feel within the heart of the city" that defines LH and has supported council candidates, and redevelopment would be lost
- LH has a long history of being a neighborhood where diversity already works; don't destroy that!

Sincerely,

Judy Parma  
10011 Trailpine Drive  
Dallas, TX 75238

214-348-3919

**Bratt, Peter**

---

**From:** Tom Parma [tomparma@swbell.net]  
**Sent:** Thursday, August 11, 2011 10:47 AM  
**To:** reDallas11  
**Subject:** LAKE HIGHLANDS

**Redistricting Committee:**

- Keep the LHHS attendance zone as a primary consideration
- District 10 is already a diverse district and meets the not gerrymandered definition
- District 10 is a Community of Interest going back to Dean Vanderbilt's council tenure and has been refined to reflect that over the past 30+ years
- The Lake Highlands Exchange Club, Lake Highlands Women's League and Junior Women's League and others have worked hand in hand with the City on programs, having donated hundreds of thousands of dollars to Parks in District 10
- The "small town feel within the heart of the city" that defines LH and has supported council candidates, and redevelopment would be lost
- LH has a long history of being a neighborhood where diversity already works; don't destroy that!

Sincerely,

Tom Parma  
10011 Trailpine Drive  
Dallas, TX 75238

214-348-3919

## Bratt, Peter

---

**From:** Marcia Barnett [marcia.barnett@sbcglobal.net]  
**Sent:** Thursday, August 11, 2011 10:30 AM  
**To:** reDallas11  
**Cc:** Marcia Barnett  
**Subject:** No! to redistricting District #10  
**Attachments:** Dear Commission Members.docx

Dear Council Members,

In addition to the many fine points made in Alan Walne's letter – which I have attached here as reference – I would like to make the following supporting points:

~ Lake Highlands property taxes as based on the unique mix of single-family homes and multi-occupant dwellings. Splitting the district will lower appraisal rates in many areas and negatively impact revenue to the City of Dallas

~ Lake Highlands schools – for the most part – are in RISD. Splitting the district would make the case for more schools being absorbed into DISD, resulting in higher enrollment for private/parochial schools.

~ Lake Highlands home sales/values have held steady/slightly increased over the past three years – the only area within the LBJ loop that has not seen significant fluctuations in pricing.

I encourage you to reject the proposed redistricting plan for District #10.

Regards,  
Marcia

Marcia Barnett  
Marketing Director - MIPI Alliance  
214-868-8861  
[marcia.barnett@mipi.org](mailto:marcia.barnett@mipi.org)

Dear Commission Members'

In reviewing the submissions of redistricting maps I have become increasingly alarmed that District 10 is being carved up with no considerations for community of interest or "home town feel". Lake Highlands- virtually all of District 10- is a unique entity within a very large city. We have been able to develop and maintain a hometown feel by bringing the District together in a very complicated but not so complicated way. Lake Highlands High School services almost all residents of District 10. The District is among the most diverse in the city and we make it work because we work together for all in the neighborhood. Audelia Creek and Thurgood Marshall Elementary Schools were created through partnership with the City of Dallas and the Richardson School District achieved by the District 10 council members because of the common interest of the voters of the District.

The Lake Highlands Jr. Women's League has worked with the Dallas Park and Recreation Department to install a pavilion and spray ground with hundreds of thousands of dollars donated privately through the efforts of the council members and voters of the district. The Lake Highlands Exchange Club and Lake Highlands Women's League have awarded over a hundred thousand dollars in scholarships a year for many years now to deserving students from Lake Highlands high School of all backgrounds but predominately at risk children-because there is a strong feel of community and union. We make diversity work.

To carve up Lake Highlands would be a travesty and something that would do irreparable harm. Please keep the Lake Highlands attendance zone in one City Council District.

Respectfully

Alan Walne, former District 10 Councilmember

**Bratt, Peter**

---

**From:** Julie Clapp [jiclapp@earthlink.net]  
**Sent:** Thursday, August 11, 2011 9:25 AM  
**To:** reDallas11  
**Subject:** re-districting

As a lifelong resident of Lake Highlands, I am writing to strongly discourage the commissioners from voting to break apart District 10. Lake Highlands is a unique and diverse community which should continue to be one City Council District.

Thank you for your consideration.

Julie Clapp



**Bratt, Peter**

---

**From:** Ashley Horany [ashleyhorany@yahoo.com]  
**Sent:** Thursday, August 11, 2011 9:21 AM  
**To:** reDallas11  
**Subject:** AGAINST

Ashley Horany  
Neuroscience Specialist

## Bratt, Peter

---

**From:** Trey Chapman [Trey.Chapman@Rentacenter.com]  
**Sent:** Thursday, August 11, 2011 7:55 AM  
**To:** reDallas11  
**Subject:** District 10

To whom it may concern,

As a resident of many cities through my childhood (because of my fathers job) I have finally found a place I can call home and raise my 2 sons with my wife.

I have lived in 7 states and attended 5 schools from 4th to 9th grade and no town or city, no matter how big or small, has embraced me and given me a sense of unity like Lake Highlands and District 10.

We have lived in the M Streets, Lakewood and now LH and we could not be more excited about the future of the community. I strongly urge the Council to rethink the Unity Plan and keep District 10 in tact.

A new line on a map is not just a line, it's a whole new life for some that have been searching for a community like this for a lifetime. Please tread lightly and thanks in advance for your consideration!

Thanks,  
Trey Chapman

**Bratt, Peter**

---

**From:** Dana Massey [djmm3@sbcglobal.net]  
**Sent:** Thursday, August 11, 2011 9:16 AM  
**To:** reDallas11  
**Subject:** District 10

Please leave District 10 alone. We, in Lake Highlands, work hard to make our community just that, a community. We do not want any changes made to our District.

My family has lived here since 1992 and have seen how hard the people in this community work to make it have a small town feel.

We would appreciate your consideration of our wishes.

Sincerely,

Dana J. Massey  
9329 Chiswell Road  
Dallas, Texas 75238

**Bratt, Peter**

---

**From:** Mark Johnston [markj88@aol.com]  
**Sent:** Thursday, August 11, 2011 6:33 AM  
**To:** reDallas11  
**Subject:** District 10

Regarding the plans for realignment, splitting up District 10 would be a travesty. Lake Highlands is more of a small town than any area of Dallas and needs to remain that way, with one representative on an already fractured and often disgraceful city council.

Mark Johnston  
9816 Windledge Drive  
Dallas, Tx 75238  
Sent from my iPhone

**Bratt, Peter**

---

**From:** Scott Dahlberg [scottdahlberg@hotmail.com]  
**Sent:** Thursday, August 11, 2011 6:17 AM  
**To:** reDallas11  
**Subject:** cPlan16- AGAINST

Dear City of Dallas Redistricting Commission,

I am against the "Unity Map."

My wife and I moved out of Highland Park to be in Lake Highlands 3 years ago. We moved here because of the community and the diversity already in place. We felt our children, with our involvement, could receive a more well rounded education in a reasonably diverse environment. The division of Lake Highlands would be a horrible step in the wrong direction for this community and for Dallas.

Lake Highlands is a jewel within Dallas. Increased saturation of communities within Dallas, like Lake Highlands, for racial and political purposes will increasingly threaten the safety of those already in such communities, threaten the quality of education of the children in those communities and depreciate the land value of those communities. All of which are steps in the wrong direction, for Dallas. We have seen, first hand, the negative affects Robin Hood has had on our stronger communities. Do not replicate this negative affect by dividing outstanding neighborhoods, like Lake Highlands. There must be better solutions.

Any politician who is behind this plan will lose my support for the rest of his or her political career.

Scott Dahlberg

**Bratt, Peter**

---

**From:** Ferguson, Mark @ Dallas [Mark.Ferguson@cbre.com]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, August 10, 2011 5:02 PM  
**To:** reDallas11  
**Cc:** Allen, Jerry  
**Subject:** Opposing Lake Highlands Re-districting

To whom it may concern,

I am writing to voice my opposition of the proposed re-districting and how it could affect the school districts. I am a concerned Dallas city resident currently living in the Lake Highlands area. When my wife and I heard about the possibility of re-districting the Lake Highland Schools into DISD we became upset. We purposely moved to this area for the schools. Another reason we moved into this neighborhood is because we know many families in the area who are proud of the community and the schools. This community pride will most likely change as many families will move if the school districts change to DISD.

If the change in school districts does happen my wife and I will strongly consider moving to another area outside of the city limits with better schools. This would be really unfortunate because we like our community and neighborhood. It is one of the few areas in the Dallas city limits with this pride. I feel the city of Dallas has made many poor decisions that have hindered the development and growth of the city and hope that this is not another poor decision.

Mark Ferguson  
8511 Bacardi Dr  
Dallas, TX 75238  
214-402-6246

**Bratt, Peter**

---

**From:** Benedetto, Rosemary @ Dallas [Rosemary.Benedetto@cbre.com]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, August 10, 2011 5:06 PM  
**To:** reDallas11  
**Cc:** Allen, Jerry; yazmin.tolliver@dallascityhall.com  
**Subject:** Please vote NO to the District 10 Redistricting Project by Domingo Garcia

Dear Dallas City Council;

Please do not support any plan by Domingo Garcia to re-district Lake Highlands District 10. Please do not support any bill that would tear apart Lake Highlands.

We moved to Lake Highlands from Dallas Lockwood Meadows addition, where we had lived for 33 years to get our grandson into Lake Highlands High School. For 33 years we paid Dallas School Taxes never using the DISD school system. All of our children went to catholic school from Kinder to 12<sup>th</sup> grade. In 2005 we decided to move to Lake Highlands knowing that we would be able to use the LHHS public school/Richardson school district. Now, that it is time for me to use the public school system, I read where this Mr. Garcia wants to pull us into the DISD. Please! Please! Do not allow that to happen. If he is so worried about diversity, let him visit LHHS and see for himself how much diversity we have there.

Please do not vote for this District 10 Redistricting Project.

Regards,  
Rosemary Benedetto  
9303 Faircrest Dr.  
Dallas, TX 75238  
Ho: 214.341.3287

Rosemary Benedetto | Shared Services  
CB Richard Ellis  
2001 Ross Avenue, Suite 3400, Dallas, TX 75201  
T 214.863.3000 - F 214.863.4100  
[rosemary.benedetto@cbre.com](mailto:rosemary.benedetto@cbre.com) | [www.cbre.com](http://www.cbre.com)

Please consider the environment before printing this email.

**Redistricting Commission  
Public Testimony Received  
Via Fax, Email, and mail  
from 3:16PM August 12, 2011  
to 2:40PM August 15, 2011**



## Torres, Daisy

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**From:** Tolliver, Yasmin  
**Sent:** Monday, August 15, 2011 11:23 AM  
**To:** Torres, Daisy  
**Subject:** FW: Map Amendment Process Recommendation

*Yasmin Tolliver*

---

**From:** [BBetzen@aol.com](mailto:BBetzen@aol.com) [<mailto:BBetzen@aol.com>]  
**Sent:** Saturday, August 13, 2011 12:31 PM  
**To:** Tolliver, Yasmin  
**Subject:** Fwd: Map Amendment Process Recommendation

Ms. Tolliver, I did not have the email addresses for Dr. Morgan and Commissioners Lozano, Loza, Love, Brashear, and Mays. Can you also make certain they receive this. A process similar to these 5 steps may really help this last week go much better.

Bill

---

**From:** [BBetzen@aol.com](mailto:BBetzen@aol.com)  
**To:** [yasmin.tolliver@dallascityhall.com](mailto:yasmin.tolliver@dallascityhall.com)  
**CC:** [hasanmary@aol.com](mailto:hasanmary@aol.com)  
**BCC:** [Corky@syllp.com](mailto:Corky@syllp.com), [garciaadx@aol.com](mailto:garciaadx@aol.com), [dhalstead@dallascitizenscouncil.org](mailto:dhalstead@dallascitizenscouncil.org), [tomwood@tnspartners.com](mailto:tomwood@tnspartners.com), [elizabeth.jones@utdallas.edu](mailto:elizabeth.jones@utdallas.edu), [ggriff@prodigy.net](mailto:ggriff@prodigy.net), [Mark.Hord@viewpointbank.com](mailto:Mark.Hord@viewpointbank.com), [bratliff@ratliffcompany.com](mailto:bratliff@ratliffcompany.com)  
**Sent:** 8/13/2011 12:25:27 P.M. Central Daylight Time  
**Subj:** Map Amendment Process Recommendation

Dear Commissioners,

I received more reinforcement this morning from A. J. Pate about the value of following procedures such as those in the letter, copied below, that I sent to you yesterday. Please consider such a reasoned and documented set of steps in the process for making amendments. The alternatives appear to be much more time consuming. I am available to help in your preparation of any amendment to any plan. I know time is running out.

Sincerely,

Bill Betzen  
<http://dallasredistricting2011.blogspot.com/>  
214-957-9739

---

**From:** [BBetzen@aol.com](mailto:BBetzen@aol.com)  
**To:** [yasmin.tolliver@dallascityhall.com](mailto:yasmin.tolliver@dallascityhall.com)  
**CC:** [redallas11@dallascityhall.com](mailto:redallas11@dallascityhall.com)  
**Sent:** 8/12/2011 1:02:08 P.M. Central Daylight Time  
**Subj:** Map Amendment Process Recommendation

Dear Honorable Commissioners,

It is awfully late for this to be recommended, but after watching the agony past midnight last night, it is very possible it may only be worse next week. Others also seem to have that fear. It is obvious you are agonizing over these maps to find and create the best. The following recommendations are made seeking to help the process go more smoothly. While some of this is already being done with some recommendations, consistency will help the process significantly.

1. Every amendment to a map should have a reason behind it. It needs to be expressed in detail. If a community of interest is the reason, it should be described in detail, boundaries given, and the representatives of the community of interest who communicated their concerns named if at all possible.
2. The area to be moved should be named by street boundaries.
3. If the change creates an imbalance beyond 5% in any district then the corrections needed must be included in the recommendation before it can be voted on.
4. Changes in demographics must be known before the vote. That vote will cover the entire package of initial move and corrections to be in the one package change.
5. If the above can all be done in writing, maybe by filling in a form, the process will go much more smoothly.

This will require additional planning by each member making a recommendation. Without such advanced planning work included in each recommendation, the meetings could go on well past midnight next time. The quality of the final maps will suffer, if for no other reason than the ultimate fatigue that is only human. The huge volume of work the Commission is valiantly undertaking will be less productive without such efficiency.

It would be an honor to help any commissioner form any recommendations they may want to work on. I am available over this weekend, or at any other time. It can all even be done by email, or I would be glad to meet with my computer and show how changes may affect a map.

The ideal situation would be if every commissioner could access each of the final maps in the online application that is available, such as the one I used for wPlan03. If I could have access to the cPlan05a and cPlan16a online, I could quickly tell anyone what their changes would do to the final map. Without that, I can still report on population & demographics in any given area for the "c" plans, and give more detailed analysis on details to wPlan03a which I am able to work on online.

It is hoped this may help. It is an honor to be a part of this groundbreaking process. Dallas is leading the way!

Sincerely,

Bill Betzen

<http://dallasredistricting2011.blogspot.com/>

214-957-9739

**Bratt, Peter**

---

**From:** Deborah Wright [deborah.wright@prudential.com]  
**Sent:** Monday, August 15, 2011 11:19 AM  
**To:** reDallas11; Allen, Jerry  
**Subject:** 2011 Redistricting Commission

I understand that the current proposal for redistricting would break the Lake Highlands area (currently District 10) into 3 districts. **Please DO NOT SPLIT LAKE HIGHLANDS INTO MULTIPLE DISTRICTS.** Lake Highlands has had a cohesive community identity for many, many years. Splitting it into multiple districts would be counter to the positive influence and impact Lake Highlands has made and certainly would be detrimental to continued support of local initiatives such as the Lake Highlands Town Center, etc.

Regards,  
Deborah K. Wright

**Bratt, Peter**

---

**From:** Amanda Carrell [amandacarrell@yahoo.com]  
**Sent:** Friday, August 12, 2011 2:08 PM  
**To:** reDallas11  
**Cc:** jcarrell3@gmail.com  
**Subject:** Lake Highlands is a community

The proposition to redistrict Lake Highlands is not supported by those of us living within Lake Highlands. We have lived in Merriman Park Estates for almost 4 years and moved there for the sense of community and schools. In our time here, we have gotten involved and met many other young families that will grow up with our boys. Redistricting the neighborhood will disrupt the community and relationships that are strong and the foundation of what we stand and strive for regarding the future of our families. Lake Highlands is a community. Don't divide us up! It will be a big mistake.

J and Amanda Carrell

**Bratt, Peter**

---

**From:** HM Hailey [hmhailey@sbcglobal.net]  
**Sent:** Friday, August 12, 2011 4:51 PM  
**To:** reDallas11  
**Subject:** Proposed re-districting of Dist 10

To: Redistricting Commission

We have become a fairly tight effective group of citizens dedicated to the well being of our neighborhoods, as evidenced by the numerous organizations that are as concerned as I about redistricting.

My neighborhood is the Moss Farm Alliance and has been for over 35 years. I have seen new schools built and many new homes and neighbors who are proud to be a vital part of the Lake Highlands Community. We have a strong sense of country and tradition that binds us together. We grew up together and we have a keen desire to remain in a vital cohesive District where we have been a part of so many improvements.

Your most thoughtful considerations are requested in making any decisions before making changes to District 10.

Respectfully Submitted.

H M Hailey  
Moss Farms  
Lake Highlands

## Bratt, Peter

---

**From:** Janna Gardner [smilew2lps@aol.com]  
**Sent:** Friday, August 12, 2011 8:26 PM  
**To:** reDallas11  
**Subject:** District 10 redistricting issue

To Whom It May Concern:

Thank you for the opportunity to voice my displeasure that city government is contemplating carving up the Lake Highlands area. I moved to Lake Highlands in 1992 for the purpose of my children and at that time future children to have the opportunity to attend schools within the Lake Highlands attendance zone. We moved to the area so our children could be raised in a school district that had not only racial diversity, but also socioeconomic diversity. My sons have had the privilege of attending school, playing sports, being in band and being a Lake Highlands Wildcat Wrangler with children from anglo, latino, african american & asian back grounds. Children and their families of all back grounds are embraced by the Lake Highlands community and those that come from lower socio-economic back grounds are given every opportunity to be successful.

I am extremely disappointed and offended by Mr. Dominguez's comments regarding the below quote.

**"I know change is difficult. I know change isn't always liked by a lot of people, but change is coming," Garcia said during the commission meeting on Tuesday, August 9th.**

**"The main political issue, and it has been for a long time, is many of the people in residential District 10 want to destroy as many apartments in the upper portion [of District 10] and get rid of as many black and brown people as they can."**

Lake Highlands pride is deep and cares for all citizens. I personally started a charity medical and dental clinic in the the Lake Highlands community 4 years ago to assist those that live at 200% of poverty that had no other means to receive health care. Not only has the Lake Highlands community been supportive of my organization, but they have pulled out their check books and raised hundreds of thousands of dollars to assure our friends and neighbors have access to medical and dental services. The Lake Highlands Women's League and Exchange Club work tirelessly to raise money for college scholarships for ALL children. The Wild for Cats campaign has raised money to fund a program that helps ALL students have the opportunity to attend college.

Mr. Dominguez - with all due respect, the Lake Highlands community is not color blind. Our community is caring, compassion, encouraging and tenacious. Come get to know us. You might want to move here. We would love to have you.

Respectfully submitted,  
Janna R. Gardner, Executive Director  
Healing Hands Ministries Medical and Dental Clinic

**Bratt, Peter**

---

**From:** Ebby [ebbygo@yahoo.com]  
**Sent:** Sunday, August 14, 2011 11:25 AM  
**To:** reDallas11  
**Subject:** all against redistricting the Lake High Land

**Bratt, Peter**

---

**From:** H.A. Lofman [lofman5@sbcglobal.net]  
**Sent:** Sunday, August 14, 2011 9:35 PM  
**To:** reDallas11  
**Subject:** Lake Highlands

I am 100% against Domingo Garcia's "Unity Plan" cPlan16. Leave Lake Highlands alone.



**Redistricting Commission  
Media Packet  
August 6, 2011 to August 11,  
2011**



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## LH news

### Editorial: District 10 and its diverse community of interest

Aug 11 2011 by Robin Moss Norcross



The boundaries of community

Lake Highlands has a very rich and long history of cultural diversity.

The earliest residents of what we now call Lake Highlands were Plains Indians who traveled the creeks in our neighborhood.

Those of us who grew up here in the late 50's and early 60's remember what they left behind; an abundance of arrowheads along those creeks.

The second earliest residents were the freed Caruth family slaves who called "Little Egypt" home, roughly at the intersection of Northwest Highway, Ferndale and Shoreview.

When I moved to 9841 Buxhill Drive in Lake Highlands on Christmas Day in 1960, they were my neighbors.

My first summer here, the kids in the neighborhood would head outside after supper to enjoy a popsicle or two.

We could hear the singing from Little Egypt and would beg someone's dad to pile us in a station wagon and head that way.

Clearly, they were having way more fun than we were, and we delighted in their merriment!

Later that year on Halloween, it was reported from the families on Lanshire (the street that backed to Little Egypt) and the Little Egypt neighborhood kids trick-or-treated together.

One such group was said to humorously sport white face on a black kiddo and black face on a white kiddo – much to everyone's delight.

This was 1960 and our neighborhood not only embraced its diversity, but delighted in it!

The **State Historical Marker at McCree Cemetery** notes the final resting place of several Little Egypt matriarchs and patriarchs, along with members of the Peters Colony that settled what would later be known as Lake Highlands, as well as North Dallas, Richardson and Garland.

Perhaps the first ethnically diverse cemetery in Dallas?

These are our Lake Highlands roots, and we have continued to embrace everyone who chooses to live in our community including their race, ethnicity and culture.

Most of us who call Lake Highlands home do so because we wanted our kids to grow up in the real world – one that embraces the richness that variety enables.

All of us pulling together, primarily to support our children to make the unique contribution that is their destiny. Does it work?

Yes it works, judging by the multitude of LH grads who return each year to buy homes and continue the tradition.

I guess if we have faltered in any way it was to not beat our own drum about what was happening here.

We just thought it was normal; a neighborhood simply being a neighborhood and encouraging every member to be the best they could be.

The Exchange Club of Lake Highlands, the Lake Highlands Women's League and the Wild For Cats non-profit groups give hundreds of thousands of dollars each year to ensure that the most deserving children in Lake Highlands have the opportunity to make their education dreams come true.

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Rest assured, they do not disappoint.

Lake Highlands may very well be the first and most successful ongoing, diverse neighborhood in Dallas.

Keeping Lake Highlands and District 10 intact is a no-brainer.

In short, Lake Highlands and District 10 are a huge success, which also means the potential for an **increased tax base** for the city is inevitable.

I encourage everyone to let the 2011 Redistricting Commission know where you stand on the city's redistricting process.

Lake Highlands is a true community of interest and one that deserves and demands an intact district and unified representation – for all of us.

Prior to the Redistricting Commission vote on August 23rd, a public hearing is scheduled at City Hall to allow residents to appear in person and voice their opinions.

The public hearing is set for 2:00 p.m. on Saturday, August 20th at City Hall in council chambers.

Ultimately the commission's plan will be sent to the City Council for a final vote.

Residents interested in speaking at the public hearing must sign up to speak by calling 214.670.5735 or emailing your request to speak to [redallas11@dallascityhall.com](mailto:redallas11@dallascityhall.com) by 2:00 p.m. Friday, August 19th.

*Lead photo courtesy of City of Dallas, Good Neighbor Guide*

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## Wplan03 selected to go forward by Dallas City Council Redistricting Commission, but the evening's last public speaker said something even more important!

This evening, after several hours of discussion on the 15 plans, the 14 commissioners present voted for the three plans out of the 15 that they wanted to go forward. When the votes were counted wPlan03 came out first with 12 of the 14 commissioners present voting for it. Second place was tied between cPlan05 and cPlan16, each receiving 7 votes.

The amendments recommended in writing for wPlan03 on 8/4/11 were voted on and approved with no objections. They will be completed by staff so the amended maps will be ready for the Thursday meeting. Potential additional amendments will be considered to all three plans at that time.

The last public speaker for the evening was a lady who appeared young to me, but had to be about 40. She said she grew up in "Freedman's Town before 1980." She had waited for four hours this evening to speak. She proceeded to make the most priceless statements of the evening by reflecting the normal human need for a connection to our own history.

She spoke of growing up in Freedman's Town, that area just north of Booker T. Washington Arts Magnet High School. She explained how, from the time of the Civil War until modern times, that area was the home of the Black Community in Dallas. She spoke of growing up there, but that the entire area "went white," and now "costs too much." She asked that this area be taken out of District 14.

After she spoke I followed her into the hallway to share my strong agreement with her and show her how Freedman's Town is being moved out of District 14 by wPlan03 and into District 4, a Black majority district.

I showed her the following section of the amended wPlan03 map that had been included in the 8/4/11 handout to the commissioners:



District 14 and 4 boundaries in the amended wPlan03. Click on the above map to enlarge

It was explained that, with wPlan03, the northern boundary of District 04 is moved north to Thomas Avenue and States Street, and to the northeast to include Freedman's Cemetery. Freedman's Town and Cemetery will now be a City Council District that will be managed by Councilman, and former Mayor, Caraway. After he retires, District 4 will probably be managed by another Black leader. It will be a Black majority district! She was very happy, and probably shocked as this was all described.

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### ABOUT ME



Bill Betzen

Middle school teacher with dropout prevention hobby. resume at

<http://www.openadoption.org/bbetzen/resume.htm>, only other Bill Betzen online is his grandfather (1890-1969)

[View my complete profile](#)

I gave her a wPlan03 map with the <http://dallasredistricting2011.blogspot.com/> web address so she could see a more detailed map online. She was excited. I thanked her for coming to speak.

It was a very long meeting, but this last speaker made it all more than worth the investment. We in Dallas must embrace our history! The statements of the last speaker are a powerful reminder of that need. We must thank her. She gave a powerful message for all of Dallas, especially our students.

I finally walked to my car after 10:15 PM. It was the end of a very good day.

Posted by Bill Betzen at 11:57 PM



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# Dallas Redistricting 2011

# Greg's Opinion

10 August, 2011 by gregwythe Categories :  
2011 Redistricting

## Local Redistricting Roundup

A couple of procedural matters and remaining linkage on local redistricting:

### » Chron: City's redistricting OK'd by DOJ

As expected. Now, on to the election. In the course of a lot of conversations yesterday, I've mentioned that District J seems really quiet on the campaign front. No candidate turned in a July 15 report with much over \$5k. **Mike Laster** and **Criselda Romero** both have websites up. I'm not able to find one for **Rodrigo Canedo**. Romero has 84 "likes" and Laster has 258 friends and Canedo has 391 on Facebook as I type. Make of it what you will.

### » Chron: Redistricting plan OK'd over Latino objections

The Chron version of events on the Harris County redistricting passage. The hearing yesterday was the first real opportunity for any kind of back & forth on either of the proposed maps. And in this case, the back & forth involved the Commissioners themselves. Suffice it to say, there was not a lot of respect shown toward those who were wondering why a community that represents over 40% Harris County are so impossible to draw an opportunity district for.

Latinos now are the largest ethnic group in Harris County, at 41 percent of the population.

"All we're asking is that we get fair representation," said Precinct 2 resident Elisa Gonzales, calling on the court to adopt an alternative map by political consultant Robert Jara and community activist Rey Guerra.

"So, I'm to give up my job to give you fair representation?" asked Commissioner Jerry Eversole, who would be drawn out of his precinct in the Guerra-Jara map.

"Whatever it takes," Gonzales said, as one man called "yes" from the back of the chamber.



Actually, according to my ears, more than one person said that. And the story omits Eversole's even ruder closing quip to Mrs. Gonzales.

And here's Miya Shay's report for KTRK ...



As far as a general reminder on the state and federal level lawsuits on redistricting, just go read anything and everything that **Michael Li** is blogging.

Lastly, even though it's not local to me, Dallas teacher **Bill Bentzen** deserves a nice round of applause for his work on redistricting to our north. The process Dallas is using strikes me as pretty interesting. At a minimum, it seems to be above and beyond the mere legal requirements for public input on the redistricting process. While there's been a lot of talk about how many of the Houston area rounds of redistricting were open and transparent, I'd add my voice to a contrary view. The rules may have been abided by, but public hearings were a minimal requirement ... not the be-all of transparency. I know of no single level of redistricting where the public was privy to any of the backroom negotiations that went on among incumbents, for instance. Wouldn't it be great to have, as a redistricting principle, a requirement that incumbents make their "wish lists" public, for instance. I'm sure there's a carrot/stick principle that can accompany it so that those requests can take precedence over other changes in maps that are often given convenient excuses for change that have no basis in reality. Bottom line is that for now, jurisdictions have a tendency to do the least amount that is legally asked of them. I think it's time to ask for more.

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### One Response to "Local Redistricting Roundup"

**Bill Betzen** 08/10/2011



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Thank you Greg for the kind mention. It is very exciting to think that we may actually reduce the average district perimeter by over 26% in Dallas City Council Districts, half of which are now terribly gerrimandered! The current average perimeter is 43.52 miles. If my wplan03 is actually selected, with minimal additional changes, we may reduce that 43.52 miles in average perimeter down to less than 32 miles! That is measurable progress! The progress with wPlan03 can be seen at <http://dallasredistricting2011.blogspot.com/> . If you go down that page you will see the wPlan03 map. You can compare that map to the current Dallas City Council map at [http://www.dallascityhall.com/government/council/adopted\\_map.html](http://www.dallascityhall.com/government/council/adopted_map.html). The boundaries on the south side of the city are the most gerrymandered. That is where most of the changes are.

---

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## City Hall Meet the Man Who Will (Probably) Draw the New Dallas City Council District Boundaries

By Anna Merlan Thu, Aug 11 2011 at 9:02 AM  
Categories: City Hall

Comments (27)

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We know you're sick of hearing about this, but bear with us: Dallas is, like, *thisclose* to getting some shiny, newly redrawn, possibly less-gerrymandered city council districts. The Redistricting Commission sat through another marathon meeting Tuesday night and voted to move forward with just three out of the 15 plans they still had before them. The three plans that made the cut were: cPlan05, drawn by commissioner Hollis Brashear; cPlan 16 (and don't call it the "Unity Plan"), designed by commissioners Domingo Garcia, Brooks Love and Billy Ratcliff (but really mostly by Garcia); and wPlan03, drawn by ordinary guy, not-commissioner Bill Betzen.



Image via Amarillo.com

"Gerrymandering damages communities," says Bill Betzen.

If for some reason you haven't been following redistricting with undivided attention, Betzen's name might not be familiar to you. But if you've gone to even one meeting, he's impossible to miss: He's the gent with silver glasses, snowy white hair and a mustache to match, sitting somewhere near the front of the room and smiling like he's watching aurora borealis or something. He always looks genuinely delighted to be in these commission meetings, no matter how long they drag on, and he listens intently to every public speaker. Betzen is also the submitter who's presented three different maps to the commission, two of which made it to the final 15 Tuesday night.

So who *is* this guy, and why has he devoted the last four months of his life to redistricting?

"I've been concerned about politics and gerrymandering for a long time," Betzen told Unfair Park in a phone conversation Wednesday. Betzen is a native Texan who moved to Oak Cliff in the mid-70s. A former Catholic seminary student (he quickly decided against the priest thing), he was a social worker for 28 years, 17 of them as a child abuse investigator. His decision to move to Oak Cliff, he said, was based on that job: "I knew this zip code had one of the lowest child abuse reporting ratios. I knew people didn't beat their

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Kids as much here. I didn't want to run into my clients."

In 2000, Betzen switched from social work to teaching; he was the computer applications teacher at Quintanilla Middle School until earlier this year, when he took the buyout and retired. He was already five years past retirement age, he said, and "there were a lot of young teachers coming in" who could use the jobs, so he decided it was time to go. His main crusade during his time as a teacher was against the high dropout rates in DISD schools, something he's going to return to full time once redistricting is over.

Three or four years ago, though, Betzen noticed "how terribly gerrymandered the south side of town is." It's a situation that he's convinced the "white power structure" of Dallas has deliberately allowed to develop, he said. "They allowed the south side to gerrymander themselves because they knew it would politically handicap them." (Interestingly, one of the only commissioners who didn't vote to move forward Betzen's plan was Mary Hasan, who represents District 8 -- his own district. "I was surprised," he said, sounding a little hurt, adding that he would "love to know why" she didn't vote for his map.)

Redistricting meetings haven't exactly been packed to the gills, something Betzen acknowledged. "It is hard to get people's interest, because very few people understand what it's about," he said. "Part of the problem is that in our schools we don't talk about gerrymandering and redistricting and what districting is. We need to talk about it more, because it's really a core basic of representative democracy. We don't tell kids enough about how it can be manipulated.

"The terrible stalemate going on in Washington is basically due to gerrymandering," he continued. "All those guys can sit there and do nothing, and they know they're going to be re-elected. If we would draw tight, tiny districts that weren't scrambled all over the place, then those guys might work a little harder."

With that in mind: There's just a few more meetings left, including tonight's, plus a public comment forum that will be held on August 20. You can come down to share your thoughts on any redistricting plan, or maybe just scope out the commissioners and the ordinary guy who have all given so much of their free time to redistricting. There might even be more shouting, though honestly, things have been comparatively civil the last couple times. (Giving the commissioners a bathroom break and some chocolate cake -- er, separately, of course -- seemed to help their mood tremendously Tuesday night.)

Betzen said "rough edges" are all part of the redistricting process, in his view, and added that the way Dallas is going about redistricting is actually incredibly progressive. "Austin, Houston, Philadelphia -- Dallas is way out ahead from everybody about how open they were about this," he said, pointing out a recent press release documenting how how a private company in Philly is trying, for the first time ever, to solicit redistricting plans from the public.

"This is going to a pioneering example of how to do it in the future," Betzen said. "I really think we're breaking ground here. I'm very, very proud of Dallas."

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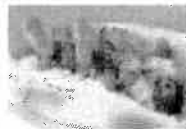
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**DISD Teacher** 23 hours ago


My concern is that Bill will subconsciously draw lines more likely to elect the kind of candidate he personally prefers OR that he will draw lines that include social justice elements intended to redress his perceptions of past wrongdoing.

Bill is a passionate person. He passionately questioned the number of Anglos and middle-class kids present in the magnet schools in DISD, even though those students live in DISD boundaries and their parents pay taxes. I interpreted his comments to be that, since the district is 5% Anglo, the magnets should not exceed a 5% Anglo average. That's not fair to interested Anglo kids and I'm against unfairness to any child, even if they are white, rich, and plain lucky.

He feels passionately that the drop-out numbers are improving, even though multiple people well versed in the statistics completely disagree with his method of computation.


I agree that gerrymandering is a destructive evil; Bill, I just hope you can leave the understandable desire to arrange things way that lines up with one's personal preferences at the door.


 TimCov and 5 more liked this
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**Watching** 21 hours ago in reply to DISD Teacher


Look at his map. Your comments don't connect at all. 14 city council districts vs 9 DISD districts (which take in parts of several other cities) have no parallel.

[Like](#)
[Reply](#)


**DISD Teacher** 19 hours ago in reply to Watching

I'm not talking about DISD districts.

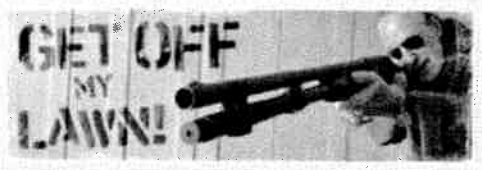
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**Bill Betzen** 17 hours ago in reply to DISD Teacher

DISD Teacher, you are correct in that any good map that is both compact and provides adequate minority representation, so that the City Council makeup reflects our city, will also involve a redress of past wrongdoing to some extent. But your comments about the magnet schools and anything over a 5% Anglo average is way off. I complained about anything over 50% or over 10-times the Anglo percentage in DISD. When a student body in the best school in the district becomes that unbalanced and non-reflective of the DISD as a whole we are certainly in uncomfortable territory to say the least. In that case I only suggested a very simple solution: give a numerical credit of some type for every year an applicant was a DISD student. This could be applied in the audition process at Booker T Washington other of the most popular magnets.

Regarding dropout rates, you pick the statistic you want to use. They have ALL improved over the past 5 years for DISD! (Some of these issues are discussed at <http://www.studentmotivation.o...> I simply think a dropout number is more solid when you count all students in 9th grade and compare that to the number of diplomas ultimately given out. When you introduce the work of a coding clerk who can give a code that eliminates them being counted as a dropout you are on your way to what we had in Houston in 2000 when they claimed dropout rates below 2%, yes, below two percent. More than one principal has said in public that their coding clerks are their most valuable employees. We need to count real people and use real numbers.

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**DISD Teacher** 14 hours ago in reply to Bill Betzen

I'm going off of memory here, but I'm pretty sure you were not happy that while the district is only 5% Anglo, the magnets are more Anglo. That's race-based thinking.

Who cares if the school is "reflective" of the community? Are you going to limit the number of males if there are more females in the "community"? And define community. Are you talking about the community that pays DISD taxes OR only the people who send their children to DISD while they save for a house in the suburbs? And your solution to "credit" kids for DISD attendance would punish kids, who through no doing of their own, attended private school until their parent, for whatever reason, decided it was time for them to go to public school. Why would we punish children for parental decisions? Giving credit for every year the parents paid DISD taxes would have been ok, but it didn't jive with your desire to see fewer whites and/or middle class kids in the magnets. All of it was your attempt to reduce the number of whites in magnets in one way or another. That's your idea of social justice: hold a child accountable for the color of their skin. First it's the whites who are restricted; next it will be the middle class kids.

After so many restrictions that punish kids for the family they are born into, DISD will become a school with zero racial or economic diversity. The schools do not exist to promote one person's idea of utopia. The schools are a service. We all pay for the service and we all get to use it. This is why I am not sure you are the best person to be drawing redistricting lines.

2 people liked this. [Like](#) [Reply](#)



**Mike** 22 hours ago

Isn't the Commission just a warm up act for the City Council? Councilperson Carraway said as much. Exactly what did gerrymandering do to hurt South Dallas? North Dallas does not really care about South Dallas. No amount of boundary magic is going to get them involved. Physical separation is too great.

Each racial group will get its allocation of seats and will set up boundaries to ensure it retains its share until the next redistricting. Nothing substantial will change. Whether Pleasant Grove is in one district or three or four won't change anything.

[Like](#) [Reply](#)



**Watching** 21 hours ago in reply to Mike

The 2001 district lines sliced up the southern sector into ridiculous shapes that stretched from one side of the city to the other.

[Like](#) [Reply](#)



**Mike** 20 hours ago in reply to Watching

I don't deny South Dallas districts had weird shapes. My question was what difference would it have made besides having the councilperson spend more time in car going from meeting to meeting, the complaint I see most often? Is there any evidence we would not have the same level of representation from that area? The subject of the blog thinks gerrymandering helped keep South Dallas poor.

1 person liked this. [Like](#) [Reply](#)



**DISD Teacher** 19 hours ago in reply to Mike

More precisely, Bill says in this very piece that he believes the "white power structure" is responsible for keeping South Dallas poor through gerrymandering.

His race-based mindset, which is increasingly irrelevant in today's racially-mixed society and in fact probably impedes progress for minorities, concerns me.

Dallas cannot become a whole city as long as we are forced to accommodate and approach every topic based on race.

1 person liked this. [Like](#) [Reply](#)



**Texas Our Texas** 17 hours ago in reply to DISD Teacher



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Interesting however Mr. Betzen actually said something slightly different than what this comment attributes to him: South Dallas gerrymandered itself, he says; he does not hold anyone outside of South Dallas "responsible" for South Dallas gerrymandering or "keeping South Dallas poor."

Having heard Mr. Betzen speak about redistricting I am convinced he does not have a race-based mindset. At all. I'd describe his mind-set on redistricting as fair, reasonable, and logical.

Like Reply



**pool boy** 17 hours ago in reply to Texas Our Texas

Didn't see his comments here supporting the Cesar Chavez street naming did you? Anyone who saw those knows who he is and what he's all about.

Like Reply



**Texas Our Texas** 18 hours ago in reply to Mike

Yes -- if a map like Bill's had been in place previously it would have made a huge, positive difference. And Dallas would be a better place as a result.

Suggestion: nose around on the internet for academic and legal literature on the several and varied social pathologies that result from gerrymandered districts. There's a lot of material.

As an example of one of the many pathologies, it's much harder to raise campaign funds in a non-compact, gerrymandered district. And so in the case of the City of Dallas, that makes southern districts more beholden to donors in northern districts.

Like Reply



**Facebook User** 21 hours ago

Bill is a registered Democrat and as a result will focus his attention on making the lines more fair. Fair to black and Hispanic majorities. Fair is in the eye of the beholder and Bill will be as fair as he can be. Republicans and whites may not agree with his definition of fairness. We'll see.

1 person liked this. Like Reply



**Watching** 21 hours ago in reply to Facebook User

I'm a Republican, and I think Bill's map is great. Bill's sense of fairness is not based on how he votes, but how he is as a human being. John Wiley Price is a Democrat and the new County Commissioners' districts are outrageously unfair and partisan, but then he's not much of a human being.

Ed D. and 5 more liked this Like Reply



**Facebook User** 19 hours ago in reply to Watching

Don't get me wrong, I prefer Bill's fairness over JWP's anytime. But I can't imagine ANY member of the GOP would appreciate Bill's map except as an alternative to the other proposed Democratic maps.

Like Reply



**Titus Groan** 21 hours ago

I think if Bill's districts get used, we should make any official elected from them write a letter to their future selves about what they intend to accomplish during their time in office. Then we put it in a vault until next election time and make them read it in a press conference.

Michael MacNaughton and 1 more liked this Like Reply



**DISD Teacher** 19 hours ago in reply to Titus Groan


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Larry James Urban Daily


Hahaha.  
Very funny.

1 person liked this. Like Reply

 **Watching** 21 hours ago


Betzen's map has district lines that are not perfect, but so much better than any other plan. They are compact and sensible.

 El Rey and 2 more liked this Like Reply

 **Anonymous** 20 hours ago


Is there a requirement that re-districting not oust a current councilperson? Scott Griggs would no longer be in District 3 if Brashear's plan is selected as submitted. I really hate to say this, but I like Domingo Garcia's plan best, if only because it doesn't disenfranchise me.

Like Reply

 **Omar Jimenez** 12 hours ago in reply to Anonymous


They are natural, so it can or won't oust a person, either way, this was not supposed to influence a map.

Like Reply

 **Livable Perspective** 20 hours ago

I respect Mr. Betzen's intentions because I know he is doing what he feels is best for the city as a whole. However, his plan severely divides the central core of the city including PD 193 (Uptown/Oak Lawn) and the economic core of the city. In his plan, PD 193 is divided into 4 different districts, leaving those communities at the hands of council members who may have preferred interests in other communities. Oak Lawn's interests are not the same as the White Rock area. Uptown's interests are not the same as those of South Dallas. This process is not about Republican or Democrat, but to unite communities of interest and to bring fair representation of neighborhoods to City Hall. The central core of the city cannot be sacrificed and just stuck with whatever is left over from the neighboring communities.

Like Reply

 **J. Erik Jonsson** 19 hours ago

Districts 2 and 14 don't make any sense to me on Domingo's map.

Like Reply

 **Brenda Marks** 19 hours ago

I too respect Mr. Bentzen and the time he's spent working on this, but his map is a disaster for my neighborhood, Oak Lawn (PD 193) which point has been explained to him on several occasions and in several posts on this blog. It cuts a rather small, contiguous vital and vibrant area into jigsaw pieces and scatters them among 4 (5 depending on where one border actually falls -- can't tell from this viewer and my bad eyesite), that, if allowed to stand, would have horrible effects on our neighborhoods. We have enough trouble already maintaining a level playing field in the on-going redevelopment wars. This will kill us. Thanks Mr. Bentzen, but no thanks.

Like Reply

 **Bill Betzen** 18 hours ago in reply to Brenda Marks

Brenda,  
This morning they placed the updated wPlan03a, as well as the other two plans, on the City Redistricting Web site at <http://www.dallascityhall.com/>... On that page you can look at the wPlan03



as amended by the votes at the Tuesday meeting. I agree that there may be a way to improve PD 193 that has not been found. You can click on the map icon on that page for wPlan03a and a large 36" x 48" copy will load. Maybe you can find a solution that has not been seen yet. It is not easy to find and balance all the other interests that are conflicting on these maps such as compactness and minority representation as well as balanced district population numbers, all of which are listed higher in priority on the Guidelines given out by the city than communities of interest, which is where PD 193 would fall. A copy of these guidelines can be seen on page 4 and 5 of the document at [http://www.dallascityhall.com/...](http://www.dallascityhall.com/)

I just now spent 30 minutes looking for the map of pd 193 in the Commissioners packets. I know it is there but could not find it. As I recall it covers a rather large area. I will be at tonights meeting with my computer where I can work on changing my map. Will you be there? Do you know the boundaries of pd 193 well or do you have a map. I would be glad to help find a solution.

Like Reply



**Livable Perspective** 14 hours ago in reply to Bill Betzen

Mr. Betzen, please check out this link:

<http://www.dallascityattorney...>

Like Reply



**Chevytexas** 17 hours ago

To those of us who are "away" a lot, I have to say regardless of the boundary disputes, Bill's department bring him my respect, and truly reflect the type of personal involvement --along with others as I can see from the dialogue in this thread-- that makes me feel better about Dallas. Only if we ourselves engage the problems directly will we find consensus instead of having something forced upon us. Applause for all of you.

Like Reply



**Sam Merten** 15 hours ago

Bang-up job, Anna, on your coverage of this important issue.

1 person liked this. Like Reply



# Dallas Redistricting Commission will narrow 15 plans to 5 or less on Tuesday 8/9/11

On the posted agenda for the Tuesday, 8/9/11 6 PM meeting of the Dallas City Council Redistricting Commission (room 6SE of Dallas City Hall) the following 15 plans are listed for consideration. At least 10 will be eliminated. Click on the chart below to enlarge it. Study the 8 demographic and compactness measurements from each of these 15 plans.

Statistics from all plans listed for consideration on 8/9/11 Commission Agenda										
Dallas Redistricting Plans		Demographics (VAP = Voting Age Population)					Compactness			
Plan name	Plan created by Commission or Dallas Commissioner's office	Range of Districts	Age of Hispanic VAP % among highest	Lowest Hispanic VAP % of those 1	Age of Black VAP % among highest	Lowest Black VAP % of those 1	Average district score	Wangsteiner's perimeter ratio	Mean of district perimeter ratio	Mean of district perimeter ratio
Best possible in ...		Lowest	Highest	Highest	Highest	Highest	Highest	Lowest	Highest	Highest
wPlan01	Resnick District	8.74%	58.72%	67.26%	59.27%	58.68%	1.3	33.19	143.6	143.6
wPlan03	Bill Betzen	7.7%	61.34%	67.83%	60.74%	55.84%	1.33	31.62	166.6	166.6
wPlan07	John H. ...	8.48%	62.40%	57.63%	62.69%	55.60%	1.34	31.9%	161.6	161.6
wPlan08	Kyle ...	1.77%	66.40%	58.86%	58.40%	54.27%	1.14	37.52	84.0	84.0
wPlan12	Benjamin ...	1.91%	57.87%	66.40%	56.14%	54.47%	1.3	33.02	147.0	147.0
wPlan16	John ...	9.15%	69.18%	67.86%	56.58%	52.69%	1.39	31.51	168.1	168.1
wPlan22	Alexander ...	9.01%	57.75%	66.01%	57.56%	52.37%	1.57	29.11	201.3	201.3
wPlan24a	Commissioner ...	3.94%	61.82%	55.43%	59.93%	54.27%	1.26	33.13	145.5	145.5
wPlan24b	Commissioner ...	5.58%	61.75%	55.43%	59.93%	54.27%	1.29	33.1	145.9	145.9
wPlan43	Shirley ...	9.79%	59.67%	52.56%	54.06%	52.25%	1.33	33.38	142.5	142.5
wPlan55a	Commissioner ...	5.78%	62.54%	68.68%	60.56%	53.29%	1.24	36.26	101.6	101.6
wPlan05	Handa ...	9.01%	60.46%	66.71%	59.62%	60.74%	1.4	30.68	177.9	177.9
wPlan14	Handa ...	9.24%	60.69%	66.71%	60.67%	55.69%	1.42	30.65	180.2	180.2
cPlan04	Commissioner ...	9.58%	57.44%	67.17%	57.29%	58.62%	1.23	34.71	109.5	109.5
cPlan05	Commissioner ...	8.33%	56.65%	64.75%	51.65%	58.65%	1.31	33.38	142.0	142.0
cPlan16	Commissioner ...	7.90%	61.65%	58.25%	58.04%	49.11%	1.18	35.87	107.1	107.1

\* Percentages less than 50% mean that 1 Hispanic majority Dallas City Council Districts are not achieved, and/or that 1 Black majority Dallas City Council Districts are not achieved.

Please print out and study this chart. Bring it to the meeting and sign up to speak. Copies will be available at the meeting. Let the commissioners know which plan you like the most and why. You may also email your concerns and/or opinions to the commissioners at [reDallas11@dallascityhall.com](mailto:reDallas11@dallascityhall.com).

At this meeting the Commissioners will narrow the above list down to 5 or fewer plans to continue considering. The plans are listed on the above chart in the same order they are listed on the meeting agenda (except for the amendments submitted for wPlan03.) If you would like to look at the maps, or the more detailed measurements from each map, the link to the page where all such data is collected within the City of Dallas Redistricting web site is: <http://www.dallascityhall.com/Redistricting/planReview.html>.

Help Dallas prepare for the future.

If you have any questions about this process, or the above chart, I will gladly try to answer them.

Bill Betzen  
[bbetzen@aol.com](mailto:bbetzen@aol.com)

Posted by Bill Betzen at 4:39 PM



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ABOUT ME



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# Dallas Redistricting 2011

## Dallas City Council Redistricting Process haunted by a "separate but equal" ghost

Fifty years ago "separate but equal" was a three word phrase used by respected Dallas leaders, and leaders everywhere, to justify segregated schools and communities. We are now entering the final months of debate surrounding the 2011 Dallas City Council redistricting process. Another three word phrase, "communities of interest," has evolved into an uneasy prominence in this political process. While it has valid valuable uses, and I have often used it, there are times it gives a chilling reminder of how "separate but equal" was used.

The Dallas City Council Redistricting Commission has been meeting regularly since February of this year. These meetings are a wonderful testament to the 15 dedicated volunteers appointed to the Commission. They are donating thousands of hours of work to improve our City. Many of those hours are well documented in the video tapes made of Commission meetings since April, and are online at <http://www.dallascityhall.com/Redistricting/planReview.html>.

On April 13th the redistricting guidelines were approved and made public. There are five general criteria addressed in the redistricting guidelines. The very last, and the very least, of these criteria is "communities of interest."

It has been pointed out many times during Redistricting Commission meetings that while "communities of interest" are certainly a valid consideration, this designation is the least objective of the criteria listed in the guidelines. It is the last criteria listed in the guidelines. It is under "population equality," "minority representation," and "contiguity and compactness."

Watch closely the video tapes of the Redistricting Commission meetings covering both the Commissioners discussions and testimony from the public. Notice the frequent use of the three words "communities of interest." They are the most common criteria mentioned. It is certain that at times the difference from a "separate but equal" meaning is minimal. This most clearly happens in statements as to why a certain "community of interest" should not be included in a certain City Council District. Is the ghost of "separate but equal" present? How do we exorcise this ghost?

There are three answers:

- 1) Inclusiveness must overpower exclusivity.
- 2) Compactness, population equality, and minority representation should rule the process!
- 3) Never allow "communities of interest" to overpower the other, more objective, criteria.

These three steps must rule the redistricting process!

In the redistricting process in Dallas it has already been proven that the most compact districts can also provide the highest level of minority representation. Crooked district boundary lines on residential streets are not necessary! Among the 21 complete redistricting plans being considered, the most compact are generally the ones that have the highest number of minority districts, and also have the highest minority percentage averages within those districts. A list comparing such statistics is at <http://dallasredistricting2011.blogspot.com/2011/07/comparisons-of-21-dallas-city-council.html>.

We need to be very cautious as to what redistricting process phrases may really mean in each use. Such caution will help Dallas create city council districts that will still be a source of pride for our city in 2021, 2031, and 2050. This will happen if we create the most compact Dallas City Council Districts possible, districts that also have the greatest potential to provide city council members who will accurately reflect our city.

Please come to the Dallas City Council Redistricting meetings every Tuesday and Thursday and show your concern for the future of Dallas. On Tuesday, 8/9/11, they will be eliminating at least 10 of the 15 plans that remain on the list for consideration. (Here is a one page chart of these 15 plans with 8 basic demographic and compactness

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### ABOUT ME



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measurements given for each plan.)

Posted by Bill Betzen at 12:51 PM



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