

**MINUTES**  
**REDISTRICTING TASK FORCE**  
**Regular Meeting**  
**March 21, 1992 9:00 a.m.**  
**Jackie Robinson Center, Multi-Purpose Room**

Chairman Bogaard called the meeting to order at 9:21 a.m.

**ROLL CALL:**

Present: Susan Arcaris  
William J. Bogaard  
Christina Cook  
Elias Galvan  
Edward Garlock  
Marvin Greer  
Ann Marie Hickambottam (Arrived 10:15 a.m.)  
Dr. James King, Jr. (Arrived 9:25 a.m.)  
Edward J. Matys (Arrived 9:45 a.m.)  
Edward Maya (Arrived 9:30 a.m.)  
Joe Morales  
Fred Register  
Rosemary Schroeder  
Paul Secord  
Christopher Sutton

Absent: None

Staff: Victor J. Kaleta, City Attorney  
Donald H. Nollar, Director of Planning, Building &  
Neighborhood Services  
Jane L. Rodriguez, Acting Asst. City Clerk

Chairman Bogaard opened the meeting and stated a series of community meetings have been held to gather input from the public, and the Task Force will continue to seek public input with additional community meetings.

**PUBLIC COMMENT:**

1. Ron Wiggins, resident of District 1, submitted nine letters in support of retaining District 1 intact and signed by presidents of the following neighborhood organizations: East Arroyo Terrace Association; Cypress-Lincoln-Villa Residents Association; East Arroyo Residents Association; Continental Court Board of Governors; Linda Vista-Annandale Association; El Sereno Banner Block; Northwest Citizens Association; Neighbors Against Crime; and W. D. Edson.

Mr. Wiggins stated many people have fought to have a right to live in an ethnically diverse area, that District 1 is now ethnically diverse and the people want it to remain diverse.

Fred Register, Task Force member, asked Mr. Wiggins if the letters he submitted represent formal decisions of the neighborhood organizations or if they were expressions of the presidents as individuals. Mr. Wiggins responded that he could not say how the decisions were reached, but he took the position that the presidents represent each organization's position.

2. Mrs. Audrey Brentley addressed the Task Force on how the decisions were reached within the various organizations that signed the submitted letters. Mrs. Brentley stated that at a coalition meeting of neighborhood organizations, each Chairperson was asked to meet with their board or members and sign the letter if it was the desire of the group. She stated that she was assured this was done.
3. Martin Enrique Marquez, 1447 E. Villa Street, briefly reviewed voting percentages from past elections in District 1, adding that racial polarization did exist in the Linda Vista Area, and also on the east side but not as severe. Mr. Marquez referred to the Garza case, pointing out that communities of interest have to be respected. He stated that District 1, as presently drawn, is not conducive to cooperation and brings about greater combativeness.
4. Lilia Fernandez Palmer, Executive Director of El Centro de Accion, stated she is meeting with small groups within the Latino population and trying to inform them of what is taking place, and encouraging them to come to the Task Force meetings. She stated that she is trying to get a consensus of what the Latino population would like to see come out of this process.
5. Stephen Mack addressed the Task Force and stressed the seriousness of this process and his opposition to dividing District 1, and gave a historical review of the areas where some of the City's Black families have lived over the years.
6. Jerma Ford, member of Northwest Citizens Association, stated everyone should be thought of as Americans, regardless of what they look like and where they live.

There was no further public comment.

Chairman Bogaard requested Task Force members who were absent last Thursday to give their thoughts on the policy questions.

Christina Cook stated she would personally like to see District 1 not remain intact. Regarding Colorado Boulevard, she stated she would like to see some of that maintained within all districts, especially if there is a Latino district so it would give the Latino community some commercial investment. Regarding Question 6, she stated she definitely believes we need to have a Latino district and, at this point of time, it should be by population.

Joe Morales expressed concern that the Task Force is losing recognition of the criteria it is to be following in that by discussing District 1, recognition is given to existing boundaries and districts. He stated he does not think that looking at existing boundaries should be a criteria until later down the line. Mr. Morales stated it was his understanding of the guidelines that the Task Force should be looking at the City of Pasadena as a whole and should start with a

clean slate. He stated the Task Force should look at where the ethnic populations are concentrated in terms of compactness and, pursuant to that, should not dilute the voting strength of those ethnic populations. He added that it is important a Latino district be drawn because the population base is there.

Fred Register clarified the Task Force did not begin its discussions with District 1. He stated its first goal was to create a Latino district, and it then moved to other topics only because there was such a quick consensus on creating a Latino district.

Dr. King expressed concern with seeing District 1 as part of the criteria and said the Task Force needs to discuss other criteria. He added that after getting Black representation for District 1, he does not want to see it split.

Discussion ensued regarding whether the Task Force should be looking at existing boundaries or starting with a clean slate without district lines drawn. The City Attorney responded it could be approached either way -- the crucial issue is whether you meet the criteria with the end product, specifically the Voting Rights Act criteria.

Discussion also ensued regarding regression of African-American representation in District 1 if it is left as it is. Polarization within District 1 was also discussed. The City Attorney stated that in 1979 there was significant polarization and, as the consultant had stated, it still existed in 1991 elections. The City Attorney also stated that due to the differential turnout between the White portion of District 1 and the balance of District 1, it is a swing district.

Chairman Bogaard asked consultant David Ely to comment on two issues: (1) Is the Task Force following a defective process in not following the procedure that Joe Morales suggested? and (2) to address the implications of District 1 and how that has an impact as a separate district and how it relates to other districts and the other goals the Task Force is trying to achieve.

David Ely responded he did not think there was a problem with looking at existing boundaries, as long as existing boundaries are not given priority over Voting Rights issues. Regarding the second issue, Mr. Ely stated that in working with all the various exercises and proposals, it is difficult to create two African-American controlled districts in addition to a Latino district if Linda Vista is left in. If Linda Vista is separated out, two districts can be drawn that have 55% and 59% African-American registration, in addition to a Latino district that is very close to 60% Latino population and 17% Latino registration, which the Latino growth district would not have an adverse effect on Black representation. Mr. Ely stated that if he leaves Linda Vista in, the best he could do comparably is 52% and 53% in African-American registration which, from voter turnout figures, results in less than 50% African-American votes in municipal elections. Mr. Ely stated his professional opinion is that including Linda Vista in the three districts which are going to have minority representation diminishes the voting strength of the African-American population.

Donald Nollar, Director of Planning, Building & Neighborhood Services, distributed material on Census breakdowns of owner-occupied dwelling units by percentage and census tract.

David Ely distributed four new proposals and reviewed them in depth with the Task Force, and answered questions regarding comparisons between the proposals.

Motion by Christopher Sutton, seconded by Edward Garlock, to accept District C in Proposals 2 and 3 as the outline for the Latino district in all future deliberations. Edward Maya voiced his opposition to the motion, stating that to extract a district and vote on it places too great an emphasis on that particular district. Mr. Maya stated the Task Force has a variety of concerns and should look at different exercises, and added that there should be a period of time for reflection. After further discussion and several other members expressing their opposition to the motion, Mr. Sutton withdrew his motion.

Fred Register expressed concern with putting two Councilmembers in one district and requested staff provide a map showing locations where Councilmembers live.

Joe Morales requested Don Nollar provide sales tax data in different economic and commercial areas so the Task Force can tell which areas are blighted or economically viable.

Don Nollar stated the Task Force will meet at regular meetings on April 2nd and 9th, and the community meeting scheduled for April 9th will be rescheduled to a later date.

Chairman Bogaard turned the chair over to Marvin Greer at 12:25 p.m.

David Ely stated he was available if Task Force members wished to meet with him and work out various proposals.

Marvin Greer requested Manuel Valencia, public relations consultant, to get input from District 1 residents who are in favor of splitting District 1.

**PUBLIC COMMENT:**

Mr. Enrique Marquez addressed the Task Force regarding enfranchising property owners regardless of citizenship and long-term residents of approximately seven years. Mr. Marquez also suggested including Beautiful View Avenue in District 1.

Mr. George Holloway addressed the Task Force regarding one person representing different ethnic groups.

**ADJOURNMENT:**

Marvin Greer adjourned the meeting at 12:30 p.m.

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Jane L. Rodriguez  
Acting Asst. City Clerk