CITY OF PASADENA
REDISTRICTING TASK FORCE
MINUTES
PASADENA CITY HALL
100 NORTH GARFIELD AVENUE
COUNCIL CHAMBERS – ROOM S249
FEBRUARY 15, 2012
REGULAR MEETING

OPENING

The Chair called the meeting of the Redistricting Task Force to order at 6:31 p.m.

ROLL CALL:

William A. Crowfoot, Chair
Richard A. McDonald, Vice Chair (6:45 p.m.)
R. Michael Alvarez
Alan Caldwell
Wendelin Donahue
Alex Guerrero
James Marlatt
Mary Machado Schammel
Elizabeth S. Trussell

Staff:

Mark Jomsky, City Clerk
Theresa Fuentes, Assistant City Attorney
Sandra Robles, Recording Secretary
Doug Johnson, Redistricting Consultant
David Ely, Redistricting Consultant
Sara Larson, Redistricting Consultant

PUBLIC HEARING

CONSIDERATION AND ADOPTION OF PROPOSED REDISTRICTING PLAN/MAP FOR RECOMMENDATION TO THE CITY COUNCIL

The Chair stated that the Redistricting Task Force's meeting schedule provides enough flexibility to allow for additional meetings if additional time becomes necessary to complete the process.

Mark Jomsky, City Clerk, reported on 16 letters of correspondence received regarding the proposed redistricting map, with 5 letters stating concerns related to the impacts of multi-Council District representation for the Downtown Neighborhood Association, 10 letters submitted in opposition to changes to the boundaries of Council District 4, and 1 letter providing an alternative to the proposed District 2 and District 4 boundary.

Task Force Member Marlatt stated his concerns regarding the changes to the area in the northwest portion of Council District 4, inquired if it was still possible to have this area returned to District 4, and what opportunity remained for the Task Force to make additional amendments to the map minimizing the impact to District 4 residents.

David Ely, Redistricting Consultant, provided a PowerPoint presentation, of the proposed recommended map with populous information of all the Council Districts, including statistical deviations, and responded to questions.

The following individuals provided comments, stated concerns, and/or provided input to the Task Force on the proposed redistricting map/plan and the Consultant's presentation:

> Fried Wilson, Pasadena Resident, stated his concern regarding the Central District being split between four Council Districts and the lack of green space in the Central District.

> David Gevorkyan, Armenian National Committee, provided a PowerPoint presentation and spoke in support and reference to a recently submitted and proposed redistricting map by the Armenian National Committee, submitted as part of the record for the February 15, 2012 meeting.

> Shoghig Yepremian, Armenian National Committee, spoke in support of the Armenian National Committee's proposed redistricting map.

> Shant Gourdikian, Armenian National Committee, spoke in support of the Armenian National Committee's proposed redistricting map.

> Diane Ricard, Pasadena resident, stated her support for the Downtown Neighborhood Association's request for consideration of single Council District representation for the Association.

> Voao Huang-Analleto, Pasadena resident, pointed to the lack of parks in the Central District as an illustration as to why the Downtown Neighborhood Association would be better served with single Council District representation for the Association.

The following individuals submitted written comments (Public Speaker Cards) in support of the Armenian National Committee's proposed redistricting map:

> Danny Donabedian, Armenian National Committee
> Aram A. Ashdjian, Armenian National Committee
> Shashe Bezdjian, Armenian National Committee
> Vatche Derdenian, Armenian National Committee
> Shahe Jierian, Armenian National Committee

Member Guerrero stated his concerns regarding further changes to the boundary of District 2, where more inclusion of the southern commercial area and removal of the northern residential area might impact the overall dynamics and characteristics of District 2.

Member Trussell stated her concerns regarding the premature amendments being requested to accommodate the Downtown Neighborhood Association, and also commented on the equity issues created in District 4 by the proposed redistricting plan, urging the Task Force to be sensitive to the amount of disruption and changes occurring on the District 4 boundary.

Vice Chair McDonald, requested that the Consultant consider the spectrum of choices regarding minor and major geographically tweaks to Districts 2 and 4 to accomplish the redistricting process criteria and goals, while also showing the Victory Neighborhood Association intact.

In response to Member Guerrero's inquiry regarding correspondence, Mark Jomsky, City Clerk, stated that he would provide a map which noted the locations of submitted public comment correspondence received on the endorsed redistricting map to date.

Member Alvarez stated his support for directing the Consultants to prepare a map with minor adjustments to the upper northern portion of Districts 2 and 4 with minimal changes to the Southern border, and also providing population statistical deviation information of the proposed changes.

Theresa Fuentes, Assistant City Attorney, responded to concerns regarding district population equalities and deviations, and confirmed the legal appropriateness of the changes being considered by the Task Force.

Following discussion, it was moved by Member Guerrero, seconded by Vice Chair McDonald, to direct the Consultants to prepare alternative maps focusing on the border of Council Districts 2 and 4 that balances the population ratios between the two districts, adhering to the established criteria and goals of the Task Force, while also keeping the Victory Neighborhood Association intact. (Motion unanimously carried)
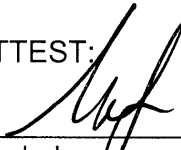
PUBLIC COMMENT ON ISSUES RELATED TO REDISTRICTING

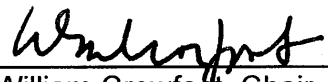No one appeared to provide public comment on issues related to redistricting.

ADJOURNMENT:

On the order of the Chair, the regular meeting of the Redistricting Task Force was adjourned at 8:19 p.m.

William Crowfoot, Chair
Redistricting Task Force

ATTEST:

Mark Jomsky
City Clerk