

CITY OF BRIDGEPORT
SPECIAL COMMITTEE on REDISTRICTING

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 1, 2011

6:00 PM

ATTENDANCE: Council members: Martinez; Co-chair, Brannelly
Brantley, *Lyons

*= *arrived late*

COUNCIL PRESIDENT McCarthy (*sat in to make a quorum prior to the arrival of Councilmember Lyons*)

NON-COMMITTEE: Council members: dePara

CITY ATTORNEY: Mark Anastasi

OTHER(s): Kim Brace, Election Data Services
A. Maya, Town Clerk
S. Ayala, Democratic Registrar of Voters
L. Grace, Republican Registrar of Voters

Co-chair Martinez called the meeting to order at 6:10 pm.

Discussion with Consultant Kim Brace of Election Data Services, Inc. of a DRAFT proposed Redistricting Plan/Map and action as appropriate

Mr. Brace explained that they did a number of different things in regard to the proposed Redistricting Plan/Map. They studied the election and census data and put together a beginning map that is the same as the last time when it was presented, to show the majority/minority areas on a block by block basis. He distributed and reviewed the ***Racial & Ethnic Origin Distribution 2010 Census*** map that denoted the red lines districts, population and deviations percentages with voting that represents the non-white percentage. *He noted that the (99) in front of numbers in the 6th column from the right of the deviations chart and the last column on the right should be deleted.*

He went on to explain that the court said they should look at the non-white category if groups are voting together and have Black/White/Asian/Hispanic for the population and voting age population. This represents a consistent pattern seen in all the numbers for the data reviewed tonight. He noted that the underscored W = OMB categorization. For the existing districts, they have information related to the African-American population and no district is more than 50%. He pointed out that District-139 had a percentage of 50.4% in the PVAPNHBL_W column and 49.89% in the PPopNHBL_W (NonHispanicBlack) column. He noted that District-135 is not a majority, but it's close at 46%. So from a court standpoint, it means that they have one seat. On the Hispanic side, they have one seat in District-137, which is 63% Hispanic total population and 61.72% in the PVAPHisp column. On the non-white side, District-134 has 52.93% in the PPopNHWh_A column and 58.26% in the PVAPNHWH_A column.

Mr. Brace reviewed the deviations chart and noted that District-133 had the largest raw development with 844 persons that is above the ideal. He further explained that the court looks at the combination above the population number and the largest under-populated number. He noted that if it's over 10%, then they need to do redistricting, because they have to have a total deviation of 10%.

Council member dePara clarified that they should take the highest percentage deviation and the lowest deviation and add them together to get the total deviation of the currently existing districts.

Mr. Brace stated that they created an alternative draft map plan. He explained that the red line was equal to the existing district as it stands today. And where there is a difference between the red line and colorization behind it, is where the change was reflected. He further explained that you can see where the changes were being proposed - *he referred to the back of the map*. It was pointed out that the green area on the map outlining Fairfield should read Bridgeport. He referred to the lap top visual and pointed out that from Park Avenue to Brooklawn Avenue denoted the town boundary. He said that District-132 goes all the way down to Fairfield – *it was pointed out that a correction should be made on the map to delete Council member Walsh from the designated Fairfield area and it was found that Council member Taylor-Moye appears in the wrong district according to the map*.

**Council President McCarthy stated that since they weren't voting tonight, corrections could be made on Thursday prior to the meeting.*

Council member Lyons commented that in her area, there are Main Street cuts on one side. She noted that she's on one side from Main Street to Park Avenue and Council member Blunt's side goes from Main Street to the border.

Council President McCarthy mentioned that they were trying to be as open with the process as possible. He stated that a lot of issues were fixed, so he felt that was one

reason why the goal was not to make massive changes. And also why the council members would stay in their current district, so that they have a good representation across all parts of the city. He stated that they did try to make a more sensible 136th District without changing it too much.

Ms. Maya stated that she had a problem with lowering the Latino number that much.

City Attorney Anastasi clarified that the comments submitted by Americas Santiago from the Latino Coalition Group should be for their information only. He emphasized that they should focus on one map and then they could have another discussion to consider the alternative information. He further made it clear that this meeting didn't consist of a public hearing and he reminded everyone present that the public hearing would be held following the meeting at 7:00 pm.

Mr. Brace continued and stated that from the standpoint of the Initial Draft Plan, red lines were denoted where a difference could be seen and where they can compare populations on the back to the Initial Draft Plan. He stated that the deviation is now at 7.3% in total, so now they are under 10% and two (2) districts are very close, wherein others are a little wider. However, the 130th District and the 132nd District basically remained the same; except for District -131 that had one block change. He referred to the percentage populations and noted that District-139 has been brought higher in the African-American category in total population and the voting age population is at 59%. The 135th District ends up being increased slightly in voting age and District-137 ends up dropping slightly from 63% to 62.8%, but it still stays comfortably a Hispanic majority seat. Overall, the majority non-white category stays the same.

He mentioned that Mr. Santiago submitted an alternative plan proposal and it was taken and put into the mapping software, but there were a couple of holes with unassigned territory that involved population, so he put them where he thought they should go in District-135 and District-138. He added that Mr. Santiago's plan is tighter in deviation, but it also ended up putting a council member in another district. He repeated that these were initial draft plans only and if there were changes to be made; committee members should meet with him tomorrow prior to the meeting.

ADJOURNMENT

**** COUNCIL MEMBER BRANTELY MOVED TO ADJOURN
** COUNCIL BRANNELLY SECONDED
** MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

The meeting adjourned at 6:50 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Diane Graham
Telesco Secretarial Services