



# City Council Staff Report

**DATE:** July 21, 2021

**AGENDA ITEM NO:** Public Hearing  
Agenda Item 4A

**TO:** The Honorable Mayor and City Council  
**FROM:** Vincent D. Chang, City Clerk  
**SUBJECT:** Public Hearing to receive input regarding redrawing of council district boundaries pursuant to Elections Code § 21601

## **RECOMMENDATION:**

It is recommended that the City Council consider:

1. Conducting a Public Hearing to receive testimony on redrawing of council district boundaries pursuant to Elections Code § 21601;
2. Providing direction to the City's demographer regarding redrawing of council district boundaries pursuant to Elections Code § 21601; and
3. Taking such additional, related, action that may be desirable.

## **EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:**

On May 1, 2019, the City Council adopted Ordinance No. 2160 transitioning to district-based elections. In accordance with the Fair and Inclusive Redistricting for Municipalities and Political Subdivisions (FAIR MAPS) Act (Elections Code § 21601-21609), following the federal decennial Census every ten years, districts boundaries must be redrawn so that each district is substantially equal in population. It is important in ensuring that each City Councilmember represents about the same number of constituents. The maps must meet certain requirements and has a total deviation of less than 10% difference.

The U.S. Census Bureau announced on February 12, 2021 that the 2020 Census redistricting data will be released by September 30, 2021. However, "legacy format" data will be released no later than August 16. The Statewide Database will require an additional 30 days to adjust the datasets for redistricting, and the City can expect to receive the data in late September 2021.

Although the final 2020 Census redistricting data is not yet available, staff wants to begin the redistricting process to receive direction from the City Council and to engage community participation. The City contracted with National Demographics Corporation (NDC) to assist with the redistricting process and draw new maps, if needed.

## **BACKGROUND:**

Following each decennial federal Census, the City Council must adopt boundaries for all council districts so that the districts will be substantially equal in population. According to the FAIR MAPS Act, districts must meet the following requirements:

### District Map Criteria

- Comply with federal requirements of equal population and the Voting Rights Act
- Areas that are geographically contiguous (connected).
- Keeping the geographic integrity by minimizing division of community interest of social and economic interests.
- Areas easily identifiable bonded by natural and artificial barriers, streets, and boundaries.
- Encourages geographical compactness where nearby areas of population are not bypassed in favor of more distant populations.
- Do not favor or discriminate against a political party.

### Public Hearings

- Hold a minimum of 4 public hearings, 1 pre-draft maps hearing, 2 post-draft maps hearings, and 1 additional pre/post-draft maps hearing.
- Post-draft maps hearings must be held after 21-day (waiting period) after the release of the State-Adjusted Census data.
- Hearings must start at a fixed time or after completion of previous agenda item.
- At least 1 hearing must be held after 6 p.m. or on the weekend.

### Notices

- Dedicated webpage ([www.MontereyPark.ca.gov/Redistricting2021](http://www.MontereyPark.ca.gov/Redistricting2021)) with explanation of redistricting and public comment process, calendar of hearings, notices and agendas, recordings or written summaries, draft maps considered by the City Council, and adopted map.
- Notices contain date, time and location of hearings and must be posted online 5 days in advance.
- All materials related to the redistricting must be kept online until 2031.

### Outreach

- Encourage public participation including a good faith effort to provide information to local media, provide information through “good government, civil rights, civic engagement, and community groups or organizations.”
- Interested persons sign-up.
- Post information on redistricting and comment process online including applicable non-English languages in accordance with the Secretary of State’s determination of Chinese and Spanish as the required languages.

Translation

- Provide information on redistricting and comment process in applicable non-English languages in accordance with the Secretary of State's determination.
- Requires providing live translation if the request was made 72 hours in advance or 48 hours if the notice was posted 5 days before the hearings.

Timeline for Submittal of Adopted Map

- 205 days before the next regular election if held in November 2022.  
L.A. County's deadline for submittal of final map for November 8, 2022, election is May 12, 2022.

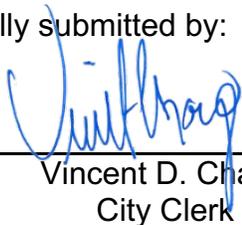
Next Steps

- Upon delivery of the 2020 Census data, NDC will conduct the initial analysis of whether the existing election areas (districts) remain population balanced (Still Balanced Analysis). The results will be presented at subsequent public hearing. Should the existing election areas remain population balanced and compliant with the FAIR MAPS law requirements, the City Council has the option to end the project thus keeping the existing election map and that concludes the redistricting process or choose to redraw the election areas if it wishes to do so. The City Council will need to establish future public hearing dates to seek public input, receive and select propose maps, and introduce an ordinance to adopt new boundaries should the redistricting process proceed.

**FISCAL IMPACT:**

The costs of redistricting process of \$55,000 has been appropriated in the FY 21-22 budget.

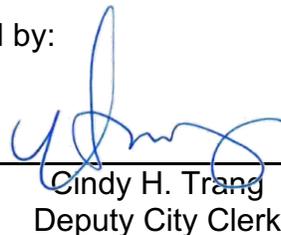
Respectfully submitted by:



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City Clerk

Prepared by:



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Deputy City Clerk

Reviewed by:



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Inez Alvarez  
Assistant City Manager

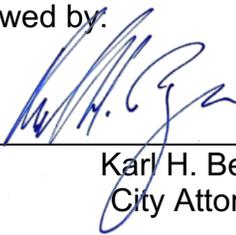
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