

City of Hyattsville — 2022 Redistricting Committee
July 27, 2022, 7 PM–8:30 PM — Mayor's Office, Municipal Building

MINUTES

In attendance: Leland Dudek, Jennifer Gafford, Alicia Sanchez Gill Freemyn, Greta Mosher (Chair), T. Carter Ross (Recorder), Andrew Sayer, Krystil Smith, Cynthia Totten. **Staff:** Shakira Louimarre, Sekour Mason, Cindy Zork. **Regrets:** Cliff Mayo. **Guests:** David Marshall.

1. Roll Call

A quorum was noted, and Chair Mosher called the meeting to order at 7:07 p.m. Attendance was registered, and guests and staff introduced themselves.

2. Minutes

Minutes from the July 13, 2022, meeting were approved on a voice vote.

3. Equity Ground Rules Setting

Louimarre presented to the committee information to help understand equity considerations and assessments, including the [GARE framework](#). One goal of including equity is to ensure inclusion for citizens (making people feel they belong in the city). She highlighted the City of Seattle's Racial Equity Toolkit and checklist (Appendix B in the linked toolkit). Louimarre recommended the committee either delegate a subgroup or devote a meeting to working through the toolkit and checklist to help ensure equity considerations are considered appropriately in the process.

4. Community Outreach Tools

Zork talked about some of the citizen engagement/outreach tools the City of Hyattsville is using or onboarding. One of these will be Hello Hyattsville; as that is still in development, she showed Seattle's Citizen Lab and how they [are using it as part of their redistricting process](#). In addition to public events and hearings, this will be another tool that can be used. It should be in place within the next few weeks with a formal launch maybe not happening until mid-September. When the committee has maps and other public information ready, then we can use the tool as part of beta testing.

- Dudek questioned whether or not the platform could be vulnerable to manipulation by some passionate online users. Zork said activity on the site would require registration, which should help limit manipulation.
- Sayer asked if this platform (and other city communications channels) could be used to send out surveys. Zork said, yes, that all those tools would be available.

5. Compactness Metrics

Sayer discussed the concept of compactness, which isn't well defined in legal terms, but there are mathematical ideas that can be applied. Demonstrating compactness could be beneficial in explaining decisions in a transparent manner. The most compact geometric form is a circle, which has a ratio of $\text{perimeter}^2 \div \text{area}$, which equals 4π . The Polsby–Popper Score compares an area's ratio to that of a circle to determine how uncompact a

district is. The closer the PP Score is to 1, the more compact the district. The current wards have PP Scores that range from 0.161 (Ward 3) and 0.402 (Ward 5). Some of this is inevitable simply due to the city's boundaries. Sayer noted that compactness should not be the first or second concern, but it can be helpful in presenting the proposed maps.

6. Review Round 1 Map Updates

Mason showed the two maps developed based on the committee's prior meeting: One showing five wards with equal population and another showing the population density of census blocks in the city.

The equal population map showed the need to reduce the size of Ward 3, and Ward 2 might grow more in response to that need. (Note, the Census 2020 population numbers were used; new development was not considered in the analysis.) Some of the decisions made in dividing the map, Mason did keep in mind natural boundaries, including roads and other dividing points.

The population density heat map showed the density in each census block, which range in size from 30–50 total people per census block to 400–500 people. Therefore, even moving a single census block can have a large impact although some wards have more low-density blocks that would be easier to shift.

- Sanchez Gill Freemyn asked how these (and future) maps could overlay data about different factors, for example, race, ethnicity, and income. Mason said it would be possible, but each factor would be its own map. He can use any of the factors the Census provides, but it may be a time-consuming process.
- Dudek asked if a table of racial/ethnic breakdowns for each of the revised wards could be provided more easily than maps. Mason said that it would be more possible.
- Louimarre noted that it might be good to provide Mason on the front-end data about what sorts of factors would be desirable to have known. Race, ethnicity, and age, as well as, if possible, income and language use.
- Zork asked if there were any other natural dividing lines that should be considered. Dudek asked about the removal of the "notch" of Ward 2 that the current Ward 2 has on the west side of Queens Chapel in the equal population map. Marshall noted that the section of Ward 2 was intended to provide some degree of responsibility for council members across the traditional perceived divide between the eastern and western sides of the city.
- Smith suggested we look at the current Ward's data for the factors being considered and then the change in those factors with the equal population maps. Ross also suggested a PP Score for each of the equal population map wards be calculated, he also noted the need to being work on the equity framework activities Louimarre pointed to.
- Leland asked, for illustration purposes, if a map just dividing the city equally could be developed to help show why this might not work.

7. New Business

Chair Mosher resigned as chair based for personal reasons. The committee elected Sayer as the new chair on a unanimous voice vote.

8. **Next Steps**

Mason said developing the data requested would take about two weeks. Given that the next meeting would be August 10 at 7 p.m. Zork will double check the calendar to confirm that the space and time would work.

9. **Adjourn**

There being no further business, Chair Sayer called for motion to adjourn at 8:35 p.m., which was approved on a voice vote.