

CITY OF EL CAJON REDISTRICTING MEETING



MINUTES

EL CAJON, CALIFORNIA

September 8, 2021

The Redistricting Meeting of the City of El Cajon, held Wednesday, September 8, 2021, was called to order by Mayor Pro Tem/Chair Kendrick at 6:31 p.m., in the Renette Recreation Center, 935 Emerald Avenue, El Cajon, California.

ROLL CALL

Councilmembers present:	Goble, and Ortiz
Councilmembers absent:	Metschel
Mayor Pro Tem present:	Kendrick
Mayor absent:	Wells
Other Officers present:	Mitchell, City Manager Foley, City Attorney/General Counsel Cortez, City Clerk

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE TO FLAG led by Mayor Pro Tem Kendrick.

POSTINGS: The City Clerk posted the Agenda of the September 8, 2021, meeting on August 26, 2021.

Minutes of the City of El Cajon Public Hearing to receive community input regarding Redistricting.

MOTION BY GOBLE, SECOND BY ORTIZ, to APPROVE the Minutes of the July 14, 2021 Redistricting Meeting.

MOTION CARRIED BY UNANIMOUS VOTE OF THOSE PRESENT (METSCHER, WELLS – Absent).

PUBLIC HEARING:

1. Public Hearing to Receive Input from the Community Regarding Redistricting

RECOMMENDATION: That the City Council:

1. Receives the report from staff about the redistricting process;
2. Receives an overview about mapping tools;
3. Opens the Public Hearing and receives public testimony; and
4. Closes the Public Hearing.

DISCUSSION

Mayor Pro Tem Kendrick introduced the Assistant to the City Manager, David Richards, who introduced Arabic translator, Zaki Slevani for those requiring live translation.

Mr. Richards stated the requirements to adjust districts every 10 years, following the United States census, to ensure districts have substantially equal populations of voting-aged residents.

Mr. Richards introduced Consultant, Shannon Kelly from National Demographic Corporation to provide detailed information on the redistricting process.

Ms. Kelly reinforced the information provided on the initial Redistricting Public Hearing of July 14, 2021.

Ms. Kelly provided the following information:

- Census data should be released late in September or early October 2021;
- Final map to be adopted no later than April 17, 2022;
- Clarified that to be able to go through the redistricting process, the city must obtain the official census data from the Census Bureau;
- Using public testimony to identify communities of interest not easily counted in the census;
- Redistricting rules and goals;
- Provided information on gerrymandering;
- Shared information on Public Mapping Tools;
- Defined Communities of Interest, and communities of interest in El Cajon; and
- Shared a tutorial on using mapping tools.

Mayor Pro Tem Kendrick opened the Public Hearing.

PUBLIC HEARING: (Continued)

Lahib Alobaidy, an El Cajon resident, using Mr. Slevina to translate, spoke about boundaries considered as a community which are: South bordering – Broadway; East border - Jamacha Rd & North 2nd St.; North border – East West Chase Ave; and West border – North Johnson & Emerald Ave.

Yasmeen Obeid, Community Organizer – Majdal Center spoke about the multiple redistricting workshops held in the Center. Ms. Obeid defined their community as: Broadway to the North; North 2nd St. & Jamacha to the East and East and West Chase to the West.

Anna Holmes, resident of District 4, concerned about who will make the decision on redistricting. Ms. Holmes requested information be provided to seniors who are not computer savvy.

Councilmember Goble clarified that the City Council will make the decision on which map to adopt during City Council meetings, which are open to the public.

Shannon Kelly clarified that redistricting is decided on population size, not voting age.

Councilmember Goble requested that a notice of all council meetings regarding redistricting be posted on the redistricting website well in advance.

Mayor Pro Tem Kendrick encouraged public participation during council meetings.

Mr. Richards reminded the public that the City has offered presentations to communities of interest.

Jeanine Erikat, Partnership for the Advancement of New Americans, spoke about call in options to participate during the public hearings, the outreach by the city and the community of interest in the city. Ms. Erikat echoed the boundaries shared by Ms. Obeid.

Farida Erikat spoke of the community boundaries as stated by Ms. Obeid, and spoke of lack of resources.

Conversation ensued between Councilmember Goble and Ms. Erikat in regards to resources needed, and boundaries stated which divide districts as they are currently drawn. Mr. Goble added that request will be considered but redistricting rules must be followed.

Ramah Awad spoke of community connections that keep groups together to empower them.

Mohamed Erikat requested that communities are kept together and restated the boundaries as previously mentioned by Ms. Obeid.

PUBLIC HEARING: (Continued)

Dalal Erikat spoke of community boundaries as previously mentioned by Ms. Obeid.

Ahmad Zarzour using Mr. Slevina to translate, spoke of community boundaries as previously mentioned by Ms. Obeid.

Jasmeen Obeid returned to advocate for missing resources such as Arab speaking staff members in the City and translators.

Adjournment: Mayor Wells adjourned the Redistricting Meeting of the City of EI at 8:05 p.m.

ANGELA L. CORTEZ, CMC
City Clerk