

## David Richards

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**From:** David Richards  
**Sent:** Tuesday, January 18, 2022 5:05 PM  
**To:** Rami Ibrahim  
**Cc:** Yasmeen Obeid; Ramah Awad; Jeanine Erikat  
**Subject:** RE: January 22 Redistricting Hearing

Good afternoon Rami,  
Thank you for your follow up email.

I have discussed your request with the City Attorney's Office and unfortunately the City is not able to grant your request for Zoom participation during the upcoming Redistricting Hearing. Members of the public can participate either in-person at the meeting in advance by emailing comments to [redistricting@elcajon.org](mailto:redistricting@elcajon.org).

The City Council Redistricting Hearings are in fact City Council meetings and meeting proceedings are determined by the City Council. The City Council has elected to hold in-person meetings and does not have an ordinance that would allow for the use of virtual meeting participation. Furthermore, virtual participation would have to be noticed (to include specific instructions for participation, and through a medium chosen by the City) and the notice of this hearing did not specify virtual participation. Further, the City is concerned with the use of a non-City sponsored virtual platform, and the potential for claims of other residents that by permitting the third party platform (1) they weren't aware of their own ability to sponsor a virtual meeting for their constituents, or (2) (in the event your platform is made accessible by any member of the public) if their participation is somehow interrupted, or there are technical issues preventing their participation, that they have been denied their right to participate.

In addition, the Redistricting Hearings were scheduled to encourage maximum in-person participation. Each of the hearings has been scheduled to begin at 6 p.m. or later, if on a weekday, or on a Saturday, and at different physical location throughout the City. The reliability of internet access at these satellite locations was determined early on to be unreliable so the City elected not to stream the meetings.

The City is following all meeting guidelines to ensure that our residents, community groups, and staff are safe during this time. This includes requiring all guests to wear facemasks at the hearing and providing adequate space for social distancing. Alternatively, as mentioned earlier, participants who cannot attend are welcome to submit written comment to the City Council in writing ahead of the hearing.

On a final note, the draft maps and associated demographics for each map were posted on the City's website on Friday, January 18, on the City's website, on the "Draft Map" webpage.

Please keep me informed about any interpretation needs as you become aware of them and I will arrange the necessary interpreters.

David Richards  
Assistant to the City Manager  
City Manager's Office  
City of El Cajon  
(619) 441-1768  
[drichards@elcajon.gov](mailto:drichards@elcajon.gov)

\*Please note my email has changed recently to [drichards@elcajon.gov](mailto:drichards@elcajon.gov).

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**From:** Rami Ibrahim <[rami@panasd.org](mailto:rami@panasd.org)>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, January 18, 2022 1:01 PM  
**To:** David Richards <[DRichards@elcajon.gov](mailto:DRichards@elcajon.gov)>  
**Cc:** Yasmeen Obeid <[yasmeen@majdalcenter.org](mailto:yasmeen@majdalcenter.org)>; Ramah Awad <[ramah@majdalcenter.org](mailto:ramah@majdalcenter.org)>; Jeanine Erikat <[jeanine@panasd.org](mailto:jeanine@panasd.org)>  
**Subject:** Re: January 22 Redistricting Hearing

**CAUTION:** [EXTERNAL EMAIL] Do not click any links or open any attachments unless you trust the sender and know the content is safe.

Hi David,

Thank you for preemptively requesting an Arabic translator for the meeting. I will let you know if we need to request a Dari and Pashtou translator for the meeting as well.

As for our request for zoom testimony, why is the City unable to accommodate speakers who want to call in or watch the meeting via Zoom, especially since the regular city council meetings are recorded?

Additionally, can we expect that the draft maps will be shown at the upcoming hearing, or will they be posted at least 7 days before the City Council meeting where maps are voted on?

Thank you,

**Rami Ibrahim**  
Organizing Fellow  
**Partnership for the Advancement of New Americans — PANA**  
4089 Fairmount Ave, San Diego, CA 92105 — [panasandiego.org](http://panasandiego.org)  
**Contact: Cell:** (760) 704-7682

On Jan 14, 2022, at 8:44 AM, David Richards <[DRichards@elcajon.gov](mailto:DRichards@elcajon.gov)> wrote:

Hi Rami,  
Thanks for your email.

As you know, the City of El Cajon is committed to complying with the FAIR Maps Act. In fact, we believe we have exceeded the requirements of the law, much more than other jurisdictions.

We recognize the concern over the recent COVID-19 case rate. Be assured that the hearing is being held in a large auditorium which allows ample social distancing. We are also requesting that participants wear masks (which we will provide).

We feel confident that those interested in the process have been able to do so. Interested parties can also provide input in writing and by email. Lastly, there will be a final City Council hearing to adopt the map (most likely at 7:00 PM on February 8th).

On a side note, I have preemptively requested an Arabic translator for next weekend's hearing.

Thanks again and please let me know if you have any other questions.

Dave

David Richards  
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**From:** Rami Ibrahim <[rami@panasd.org](mailto:rami@panasd.org)>  
**Sent:** Thursday, January 13, 2022 12:44 PM  
**To:** David Richards <[DRichards@elcajon.gov](mailto:DRichards@elcajon.gov)>

Cc: Yasmeen Obeid <[yasmeen@majdalcenter.org](mailto:yasmeen@majdalcenter.org)>; Ramah Awad <[ramah@majdalcenter.org](mailto:ramah@majdalcenter.org)>; Jeanine Erikat <[jeanine@panasd.org](mailto:jeanine@panasd.org)>

Subject: January 22 Redistricting Hearing

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Hello David,

I hope this email finds you well. Our community is very excited to engage in the final El Cajon Redistricting Hearing, however, we have become aware that some community members are unable to show up in person due to COVID-19 concerns, precautions, and the Omicron variant.

To accommodate this, our community organizers, Yasmeen Obeid or Ramah Awad, would be able to fill out speaker slips for community members to give their testimony over Zoom at the January 22nd hearing. We would handle all aspects of the technical side. Would City Staff be able to accommodate this?

Thank you so much,

**Rami Ibrahim**

Organizing Fellow

**Partnership for the Advancement of New Americans — PANA**

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