UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
MIDDLE DISTRICT OF FLORIDA
JACKSONVILLE DIVISION

JACKSONVILLE BRANCH OF THE NAACP, et al.,

Plaintiffs, Case No.: 3:22-cv-493-MMH-LLL

v.

CITY OF JACKSONVILLE, et al.,

Defendants.
_____/

DEFENDANTS' NOTICE OF FILING EXHIBITS

Pursuant to Local Rule 6.02(a)(2), Defendants' give notice of filing the following exhibits to Defendants' Response to Plaintiff's Motion for Preliminary Injunctive Relief. Defendants will also provide two courtesy copies of the electronically filed documents to the Court via hand-delivery.

ECF No.	Description
	District Map
40-1	2022 City Council District Map with Final District Lines
	Meeting Transcripts
40-2	August 18, 2021 – Special Committee Meeting on Redistricting
40-3	August 24, 2021 – Special Committee Meeting on Redistricting
40-4	September 2, 2021 – Special Committee Meeting on Redistricting
40-5	September 7, 2021 – Special Committee Meeting on Redistricting
40-6	October 4, 2021 – Special Committee Meeting on Redistricting
40-7	January 27, 2022 – City of Jacksonville Rules Committee Redistricting Public Hearing

CITY OF JACKSONVILLE, FLORIDA

OFFICE OF THE CITY COUNCIL

SPECIAL COMMITTEE MEETING ON REDISTRICTING

MEETING HELD ON AUGUST 18, 2021

9:00 a.m.

117 West Duval Street

City Council Chambers

Jacksonville, Florida 32202

Meeting transcribed by:

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IN ATTENDANCE

Aaron Bowman
Danny Becton
Garrett Dennis
Brenda Priestly Jackson
Randy White
Sam Newby
Kelly Coker
Darryl Willie (online)
Jeff Clements
Peggy Sidman
Bill Killingsworth
Eric Grantham
Bernadette Smith
Maritza Sanchez

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AARON BOWMAN: A couple of things: I think, before we start, obviously this is a data-driven event we're going to go through. We've got the data. The data, now that we've had a chance to look at it, I did not think it was going to take it down to the street level; it looks like it does. And it looks like it's not exactly in a form that we're used to using, but it looks like everything we have is enough to just start it on seeing where the populations grew or decreased.

So what that did, is that means our calendar started on the 12th of August, and that is the legal ruling on that, and I think Peggy is going to go over the calendar. But real shortly, what that means for us is I'm establishing our goal that we have filed the legislation before we go on Christmas break. So that is a tight schedule because it is due by no later than the 11th of January. So if we don't meet that date, we're going to have a lot of work that first week back. So that's our goal that we'll set, and I know that's going to stress Mr. Killingsworth and his team, because, like I say, it's not exactly friendly data right now.

But with that, I will turn it over and recognize the president for your opening remarks.

Mr. President.

SAM NEWBY: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. First of all, I want to thank each and every one of you for agreeing to serve on this committee.

And just like you said, this is a very important committee. Probably for this year it's probably the most important committee. And, Mr. Chairman, I want to thank you for you willing to serve as Chairman.

Also, Vice Chairman Becton, I want to thank you.

And also I want to take the time to thank Councilman Dennis Garrett who chaired it last year. You did an excellent job, and I really thank you for kind of leading us.

And I want to thank Mr. Holland for all of the work he did.

And I just want to say, like I said, when I put this committee together, it took me a while, because I wanted to make sure that I had the right people on this committee, and I am confident that I do have the right people. So thank y'all once again.

The charge is about two pages long, so I'm not fixing to read that whole charge, but I'm sure each and every one of you have read it. So thank you and good luck.

AARON BOWMAN: Thank you, President Newby. And, yes, it is a long charge. And this is probably one of those committees, more than anything, that up front I want to stress how important it is that the last thing we want to do is go down a path that can be legally challenged, and so I know Peggy is going to talk a little bit more about that.

So what are we going to do today? So first of all, we're going to give it over to our Office of General Counsel. Both Peggy and Paige are assigned to us, and I recommend all this team get together with them independently. If you have questions, comments, it's a great place to get with them and get it answered. I know they are willing and ready to do that.

Then as you've probably seen from the agenda, I've asked Mr. Bill Killingsworth to kind of be our consultant on this. He did it ten years ago. He's got a lot of experience, got a lot of team members that have done it before, and so we're going to

talk to him about what it is he's got, how he's going to go about doing it.

And then we will go over the hard rules of what does our charter say, what does case law say on what we have to do.

And then I think we will talk about some other things that we can give guidance to Mr. Killingsworth and his team on what do we think is important to us, and we will talk about what some of those things might be and certainly if you have things to add on that.

And then what we'll do then is by the September 9th meeting -- and, of course, with budget hearings it's pretty difficult trying to squeeze stuff in right now -- but thinking the 9th of September, that'll be the first time really that Mr. Killingsworth and his team can come back and start talking to us about districts and what he's seeing from the data.

And that, I think, will be our first look at what it is we really need to do. And, unfortunately, it's not in a format right now that we can pass it out and give it to all of you and say, "Here's what we got." You saw that the raw number is -- we're going to look at about 70,000, I

think, per district on average, and we came in just under a million people.

So -- and then we will close. I will not have any public comments today, because we've got a pretty tight schedule. And then I think Peggy is also going to talk about what happens to this report after we file the legislation, what is the process.

So you guys know how I am. If you've got anything, raise your hand, press the button. This is a team. This is a group working together.

So thank you, Ms. Sidman. The floor is yours.

PEGGY SIDMAN: Good morning. Peggy Sidman, Office of General Counsel.

So, first of all, thank you for giving us this opportunity. You may know at this point that we circulated two memos yesterday for those returning members of the Special Redistricting Committee. The memo -- the 23-page memo that's dated February 2021 is the same memo. There's been no updates. And that's on legal guidance.

The second memo, which is about a four-page memo, is dated August 2021, and that is new; I don't think that's been shared with the former members or the current members. That triggers

based on the date that the Census data was released.

I will tell you that Jason Gabriel has impaneled a team and Jason Teal has continued that team of OGC lawyers who are here to assist you and guide you in this. Predominantly, for counsel, it will be Paige Johnston. I participated in this event ten years ago, and we want to make sure that ten years from now we have folks that have participated.

We also have Trisha Bowles with us; she's here. Mary Margaret is the author of the memo, along with Jason Gabriel, of February, and then, of course, your current General Counsel, Jason Teal.

So having said that, I'm to give a high-level overview, an executive summary of legal guidance, and then I'll go in -- which addresses the February memo -- and then I will go into the timeline, which is the August memo, if that suits.

AARON BOWMAN: Thank you, Ms. Sidman.

Before you continue, I would like to recognize School Board Member Coker has joined us. And School Board Member Willie is not with us, but he is watching on streaming. So we've got everybody engaged. Thank you.

PEGGY SIDMAN: Thank you. So as you are well aware, every ten years, after the release of the Census data, the City of Jacksonville is charged with redistricting the City Council and the School Board districts.

The Charter and Ordinance Code, along with the state and federal laws, require that the districts be equal in population, compact, contiguous, not drawn along racial lines, and comply with Section 2 of the Voting Rights Act.

The City Council will want to comply with the one person/one vote principle. This principle requires that the districts be equal in population as nearly as practical. As a general rule, as long as the population of any given district does not deviate beyond 10 percent, the redistricting plan is likely not to violate the one person/one vote.

The City Council will want to explain these minor deviations as necessary to achieve a legitimate objective. Such objectives might include compactness, continuity, integrity of political subdivisions, which is like municipalities, towns, independent districts, and competitive balances among political parties.

Council should ensure that in drawing the

district line, it doesn't use race as a predominate factor. Courts have deemed racial gerrymandering as unlawful. Bizarre shapes can be indicative of racial gerrymandering.

Those overseeing the district-drawing process should avoid cracked or packed districts, and you may have seen this in the memo; and I will just explain what that means.

Minorities can be packed into a single district in the case of City Council districts such that one district could carry a majority minority vote, but then dilute the voting in the other 13. Likewise -- so that's packed.

Cracked is when a minority is cracked or divided up between the 14 districts, again, to dilute a vote. So courts will determine that redistricting is unlawfully diluted if the vote of the minorities are diluted.

Council redistricting plans will also want to consider total population versus voting population, and this is a decision that the Council will make.

So the question will be, is do you take the population of the City of Jacksonville and divide it by 14, the full population that is given to you by the Census data, or do you take the voting-age

population and divide that by the districts?

Courts seem to have approved both. Recent case law has approved total population for one person/one vote. And alternatively, under a Voting Rights Act claim, the Supreme Court and the Eleventh Circuit stated that voting-age population was favored, but total population was also permitted. So when you make that decision, I would just guide you to make it not based on any bias.

Then let's talk about political party. A council can take political party into account when drawing the lines. The Supreme Court has ruled that the Federal Courts lack jurisdiction in addressing claims of political gerrymandering.

So in summary, the Council, in drawing the redistricting plans, will want to employ the principle of one person/one vote, not use race as a predominant factor -- it can be considered, but not the predominant factor -- create districts that are equal in population, taking into account compactness, contiguousness, and honoring natural and significant manmade physical boundaries like rivers, highways, bridges. Of course, any defensible redistricting plan will not have a discriminatory intent.

So using the Census data, the Council goal is to divide the 14 Council member districts, the five at-large residency districts, and the seven School Board districts as evenly as possible, and by that I mean compared with each other. So what you are going to do is your 14 Council districts are going to be even with that deviation permissive. And then you know that two Council districts are joined together to make one School Board district. So those School Board districts will also have to be even to each other. And compared to that 10 percent, your at-large City Council districts will be the same guidance.

I have provided for you a one page -- did that get handed out, Bernadette, the one page?

So allowable redistricting considerations, these are just some. They are noted in our memo, but I thought it was just easier to look at here. So, again, major physical boundaries such as bridges, rivers. Political subdivisions, that's, again, cities like the City of Neptune Beach, City of Atlantic Beach, Baldwin, or if you have CDDs or those type of recognized political subdivisions.

Schools, in the case of the School Board, may not want to put all of the high schools in one

School Board district. You want to look at where those placements are, and the Planning Department is very aware of this.

Notable major structures: We talked about that. Bridges.

And then also I didn't mention this, but existing incumbencies, so where the folks that are incumbent members of the School Board or the City Council, where they live and how they represent their communities of interest.

So, finally, the Florida redistricting entities may not treat race, sex, or economic status as predominant reasons for drawing the district lines. But those will be matters of consideration.

So I want to move now into the timing. I will note that -- again, it's an excerpt from the memo, but it's a one page. I just thought it was easier to read here. And to put the burning question I think most people have, is when does that apply? Based on these dates, it applies for the City Council members for Spring of 2023 and for the School Board members in 2024. I'm not sure if you consider August fall, but it's August 2024. So it's not going to impact the most recent upcoming

one. So I know that that has been a question that our office has fielded.

So just quickly, to kind of walk through this, you may be aware -- painfully aware -- that the beginning of this process is the official receipt of the Census data. This memo -- it's our legal opinion that the official receipt of the Census data is August 12th. Your Chair has noted that. And so with that being the kickoff, the date by which this Special Committee will want to tender its report in the form of legislation is Sunday, January 9th. Your Chair has indicated that he would like to see that prior to the Christmas break. And then that immediately gets filed and referred to the Rules Committee -- excuse me -- January 11th is a Council day, so that will be the day that it gets referred to the Rules Committee. That triggers the three public hearings.

So the Council -- the Rules Committee will hold three public hearings in separate areas of town, and it has to be -- those public hearings must be held within 45 days of that. So that puts that date at February 25th. So the Rules Committee may want to begin to figure out where those places are and get those going. We had a little bit of --

ten years ago we had a little bit of a challenge trying -- we used FSCJ, but trying to get in there and make sure we had all of the contracts signed that were needed.

After that -- after you conclude your public hearings as required under the Ordinance Code, the Rules Committee will meet, but no sooner than 15 days after the conclusion of those public hearings, and that puts it on 3/12. So what will happen is the earliest possible time that the Council can hear the Committee report is 3/15; so that's difficult. You'd have to have a Special Rules Committee hearing in order to do that.

The latest time that the Council can entertain the bill for action is going to be April 12th. So I found that the Rules Committee regularly scheduled meetings would be 3/22, so March 22, and 4/5, so April 5th.

So, again, as I mentioned, the effective date would be Spring of 2023 for the Council election. The new districts will be effective as of that date. And the new School Board districts will be effective -- I don't know if you consider August fall, but August 2024.

So that's what I have for your overall

guidance. We are here. We will be here throughout the process. We will be able to help assist and guide you as you develop different maps.

Nothing on these dates mean that you can't do any action before that, that you can't work with the Planning Department. And if you find that your district has grown where you might want to see that growth, or if you found your district has reduced where you might want to see that reduction -- and it's very common for the elected officials, whether they are on the Redistricting Committee or not, to be having those dialogues.

AARON BOWMAN: Thank you, Ms. Sidman. A couple of things: Number one, since we will vote on giving Mr. Killingsworth some guidance, I will take public comments, so we put the cards out there.

Okay. My queue is not working, so if you could take a look at that.

While we're figuring out the queue, Ms. Sidman, a couple of questions for you. Once we do the legislation, our committee is really done? We don't get involved any more after that; right?

PEGGY SIDMAN: Not as a committee, but you will find that your Council members will be

involved throughout.

AARON BOWMAN: All right. Okay. And can you explain once Rules gets it, has the three meetings, it's a little unclear to me on the Charter, how the amendment process works. And if there are desired amendments from Council members or from the Rules Committee, it's a little unclear on how that process works. Can you help us on that?

PEGGY SIDMAN: Sure. So it will be a bill, as you are very familiar with the piece of legislation. The amendments will be brought, as amendments are brought, to the Rules Committee or the Special Committee.

And, generally speaking, members that can offer amendments are members of the Rules Committee. You can always have noticed meetings with members of the Rules Committee and share those ideas, amendments with those members. It is a very collegiate and collective method, because any change in one district necessitates a change in another district. So every action has a reaction.

So if one district expands in an area, then that other district will have to either expand or reduce in that area, depending on your considerations, your math considerations, like,

what is your district numbers, where are you on the deviations, how are you keeping in your compactness.

Likewise, in the amendment process, there can be amendments brought by any Council member on the floor. But those amendments have to take into consideration the totality of the districts together and the School Board districts, because you could be -- the Council could draw 14 districts that meet that deviation of 10 percent, but when you put those two districts together to make your School Board district, it might fall outside.

So that's why you have to work so collegiately. And the Planning Department is well aware of the whole picture and can help guide you in that.

AARON BOWMAN: Okay. Thank you.

And one last thing before it goes to the Committee members. So we do have two School Board members with us. Thank you for being here. You will have full rights of talking and making comments, but when it comes to voting, you will not have the voting rights. So the voting will be the five members, but certainly definitely your opinions and your comments are extremely important

to us because you are impacted by this.

With that, I will go to Councilman Dennis.

GARRETT DENNIS: Thank you, Chair Bowman. To Ms. Sidman -- and I'm glad that you ended your statement, Councilman Bowman, to the School Board members, because if we were to go by this outline, calendar outline, it puts the School Board races in flux. And so I would like for you to speak a little bit on that.

And even I would like to hear from the School Board members, because, you know, again, if we were to go by this calendar, then they will not have maps for the turned out or the new School Board -- the School Board races for the fall. So I don't know if we need to accelerate this calendar for the school -- you know, in consideration for the School Board, or we need to let them know now for those who will be on the ballot in 2022 that they're going to have to regroup.

So we probably -- if that's the case, then we probably need to get a memo, a legal memo, out to the Supervisor of Elections Office and all of the candidates that's thinking about running in 2022, because we won't be done with our work, based on this calendar.

PEGGY SIDMAN: So if I understand the question correctly, Council Member Dennis is correct, there's a School Board election in 2022. So in 2022 those running would run under the current districts as they exist today.

But maybe to extrapolate, if I'm gathering your question correctly, then when they run again, they would be in a different district, possibly, because the maps could be drawn differently.

Is that right? Is that your --

GARRETT DENNIS: That is correct. And if I am correct, we can't draw a map kicking anyone out of office. So would that give us -- would that present a legal challenge? Because if we draw new maps to people that are elected on the old maps, and then the new map actually draws them out of their district, would that give us or put us in a posture to be challenged because we did not put that into consideration in drawing the maps?

In my opinion, I think accelerating the calendar versus, you know, drawing this out and putting the potential candidates, School Board members -- future School Board members -- in a pickle, would be my recommendation. But, yes, I think we really need to look at that and think

about it as we move forward. Thank you.

PEGGY SIDMAN: May I address? Yes?

So it's a consideration. As you see on the list here -- and Council Member Dennis has accurately identified that -- talking about existing incumbencies, it's difficult for anybody to know who will run in the future or if those that run will choose a subsequent term.

So it's something to consider. We certainly can probably -- I can't do the math that fast in my head here, but we could certainly do something that if you wanted to do a hurry-up and try to get it out to impact the 2022, but I'm not sure that there's a timeline that allows for that. But -- so we certainly can look at that, Council Member Dennis.

AARON BOWMAN: Thank you, Council Member Dennis.

Ms. Sidman, if I remember correctly, isn't nine months a trigger that would impact the next elections? And if I remember, qualifying, I believe, is in July. So, I mean, that would make us have to have this done by October, and I just don't see that as reality. But am I correct in those dates?

PEGGY SIDMAN: Yes, there is a trigger, and it is nine months, and it's nine months after the effective date of the redistricting, and so we would have to really back that way up. And I'm not as good at math as the Chair is, but we can run those numbers and see if it's a possibility or how that would work.

AARON BOWMAN: Thank you. And if you could do that and then just send a note to this committee, I would appreciate it.

Council Member Becton.

DANNY BECTON: Thank you. Through the Chair, my fellow Council member nailed exactly the line of questioning that I was going to go down as well to the point of knowing that we can't write a current Council member or School Board member out of their elected districts. That's one of the pillars of redistricting.

And to that end, what would be the timeline if we did accelerate this and work to include the elections in the fall of 2022? What would that look like?

PEGGY SIDMAN: Again, I'd have to -- we have to run the numbers.

DANNY BECTON: Okay.

PEGGY SIDMAN: So it would be nine months after. So if it's August of 2022, just simple math, that's the eight-month. You would have to have it effective in December. So -- but we will get you -- we will get you those. I don't -- I'm not great at math. I would like to be right.

DANNY BECTON: Yeah, you could look at it on one hand that what are the odds of that happening? And I guess someone -- you know, a candidate at this point, you know, certainly the ones living on the edges of any one district, would be more susceptible as the lines ebbed and flowed as changes were made versus someone who lived, you know, more solid in the middle of a district where it's less unlikely.

But I guess there still is the -- you know, it still could happen. In other words, it still could happen that we could draw maps. A candidate out there running for an open seat wins their election; they live on the edge; the lines that we drew changed their district representation for 2024, which, once again, violates one of those major pillars of you can't write somebody out of their district.

And I think we're in a very, you know,

precarious -- and a circumstance that is only being created because of the delay in data, which has certainly been unusual at best, but somehow we're going to have to figure out how to navigate this.

However, what are the odds of this happening type of thing? Because we can look at how many Council districts are up for open-seat-elections type or up for elections. I guess they all are, right? Three? So I've been shown three. And see where those are and maybe factor those into our evaluation, and then see what are the odds and what are the candidates running. But I think it's going to be a tap dance and is definitely going to add some complexity to what is already a, you know, somewhat complex situation, trying to balance everything that you've identified here today in redistricting.

So anyway, I won't belabor it, but my colleague definitely went down the path that occurred to me immediately as we -- I heard 2024 being the first, you know, School Board election that these new maps supposedly would affect.

So thank you, through the Chair.

PEGGY SIDMAN: Just as you are considering this, remember that it's the existing incumbencies

for consideration, and your data that you'll get will help derive that, because you may find that an area is growing or an area is reducing. So you want to always, you know, lead with the data and then apply your considerations and the law to that, and that's the math, science, cartography, geography that you are undertaking in this process.

AARON BOWMAN: Thank you, Mr. Becton.

And we'll also ask Mr. Killingsworth on that when he gets up here, but I know he was very concerned when I told him I wanted to have this done by the end of the year. So I would like to make sure we know the exact dates that if we wanted to have the districts firmed up for the School Board races, what those would be, when the bill would have to be -- when this committee would have to be done, when would the bill file, when could it get out. I don't think it works, but we won't know that until we actually see the dates.

So thank you.

Council Member Priestly Jackson.

BRENDA PRIESTLY JACKSON: Thank you. Through the Chair, a couple of points: One, we were talking about when it's referred to the Rules Committee. And so that 45-day window -- and I

think it's important in my read of the memorandum and notes from the prior Redistricting Committees and Rules Committee work, that if any amendments are proffered for the proposed districts after the three public hearings, that requires additional public hearings, is my read of that. Is that correct?

PEGGY SIDMAN: Through the Chair to Council Member Priestly Jackson, just like any legislation, if it's substantially changed, then it would require additional public hearings, yes.

BRENDA PRIESTLY JACKSON: And I probably want to sit and talk with you about that. Because my read was if you change one, after you had the public hearings and tell the public "We're meeting here, these are the district boundaries," and if you change one of those, my read of it is you are required to have another public hearing after that, and so that then moves the timeline.

So I think that's a consideration, and I'm certain the Chair then will draw as many of our colleagues as we can into this process as we go along so that we don't get that by the time it goes to the Rules Committee.

The second consideration: I am not in favor

of acceleration of a timeline. I just think that's inherently problematic. My read of the Ordinance Code is that we have nine months, and that's the time frame that we need to do it in. And it does not -- your memorandum, which we were given initially for those of us who were on in February of this past year, said at that time that it did not apply to the 2022 School Board races. And so, I mean, I think that that is reasonable to understand it doesn't apply to that.

We've been saying that all along we didn't know if we were going to be delayed getting the data this late. So I don't see a need to change that for that. I think that the consideration as it relates to applying to the City Council for 2023 and the School Board for 2024, the reality is our School Board is term limited as well. So there's a whole other layer of that that will come in because it applies to incumbents. It does not apply to candidates. It applies to incumbents.

So I just want us to be mindful of all of that. I think it is fair -- and I'm looking forward to hearing what Ms. Coker Daniels -- Dr. Coker Daniels has to share relative to this. I think it is inherently fair that they are on notice

of this 2024. I don't believe it's actually fair to say it's 2022, because that's a different constituency that they would have to become familiar with if there are changes for that one.

So those are my two comments.

AARON BOWMAN: Thank you.

Board Member Coker Daniels.

KELLY COKER DANIELS: Thank you. And first I want to thank the Committee for allowing the School Board to participate in this dialogue as nonvoting members. We are appreciative of being included.

Just for factual information, in 2022 we do have three that will be up for election. None of them are termed out. They are all up for re-election. In 2024 we have four members; two of those will be termed out at that time; two will run for a second election at that point, just as an FYI, if that helps in the conversation. And we do appreciate the tap dance that we may go through as a result of this.

I think I understand what could happen if we were to try to accelerate. I certainly hear the Committee about whether they will or whether they won't vote to head that way. If we do not -- if the Committee does not accelerate in that manner, I

just want to make sure I understand in my reporting back to my School Board colleagues that for those that are running in 2022, there's a possibility of districts that could change by no more than 10 percent in the second run for whoever wins in 2022?

PEGGY SIDMAN: Through the Chair to Board Member Coker, it's a possibility.

One of the things, as I noted in my presentation, is that we try to keep it as one vote/one person as possible, so we try to keep those as close as possible.

But the two Council member districts joined together, if those have a deviation of 10 percent and then it expands when it comes to School Board, that will be considered a violation, so they will look to try to move those closer together.

But it's a possibility in 2024.

KELLY COKER DANIELS: Thank you. I just want to be accurate in my reporting back. I appreciate it.

AARON BOWMAN: Thank you.

Council Member Priestly Jackson.

BRENDA PRIESTLY JACKSON: Thank you, Chair Bowman.

And just to follow up on what Dr. Coker

Daniels said: To me, then, we don't have an issue with acceleration. If in 2022 the three are not termed out, they wouldn't have been drawn out anyway -- right? -- for the election in 2022. So there's no need to accelerate because they are not termed out and they are not drawn out of their districts.

For 2024 two are termed out and two are up, if they choose to run again. And I say that because when I was on the School Board, we weren't termed out; we chose, all three, not to run again, all three of us not to run again. So I think that that for me says that we don't have to accelerate a timeline.

We can be mindful of those four in 2024, particularly the two who are not termed out. And I think because they will be incumbents, it will be incumbent upon us to consider where they reside when drawing the districts. That to me is -- I just would like your ...

PEGGY SIDMAN: Through the Chair to Council Member Priestly Jackson, you are right; that's for your consideration.

AARON BOWMAN: Council Member Becton.

DANNY BECTON: Thank you, through the Chair.

And not to belabor this point, but I want to make sure our School Board colleague over here is -- the question that I -- you had talked about the 10 percent in the fact that every Council district has to stay within a 10 percent deviation of one another at the end, and, therefore, that would translate also to the School Board districts being two Council districts.

But theoretically, you know, if somebody lived -- you know, a School Board member lived at the top edge of something and the districts did change quite a bit, their constituency could change more than 10 percent. The 10 percent has nothing to do with their current constituency and their future constituency. It's just about how many total folks, whether we do it by total population or by total voters, from one district or one School Board district to another is within that 10 percent deviation.

So I wanted to make that nuance, difference, because I thought I heard -- I wasn't sure which one you were talking about. It almost felt like you were talking about the constituency part. And that could change -- not saying it will -- but theoretically it could change a lot more than

10 percent and still be -- you know, still be legal.

Did I say anything incorrect, Ms. Sidman, on that?

PEGGY SIDMAN: So just a couple of things. You are going to hear in a minute from Mr. Killingsworth, and he's going to tell you -- not to steal his thunder -- but that Jacksonville has grown by 100,000 people. So your constituency is changing. And for those of you who are on LUZ and others that are just very familiar with your districts as you are, you know that when there is multi-family housing and apartments and things like that, those things change just as they develop in your area. So that changes your numbers and where folks live.

I do want to be mindful of our terminology. The choice of what you are considering is total population or voting-age population, not voters; voting-age population. So this is not as to voters; this is voting-age population.

Thank you.

AARON BOWMAN: Council Member Dennis.

GARRETT DENNIS: Thank you, through the Chair. And I don't know if this is a question for Ms.

Sidman or Mr. Killingsworth or both of y'all can take a stab at this: I understand the circumstances that we are under, that we received data late. And from, you know, past history, I remember 2010, and the data wasn't late. But when have we been finished before?

In the past have we had the maps completed before election? I guess if you go back, that would be before the 2012 elections. And if we received data back in 2000, it was completed by 2002. So, sure, we can go with this very long date or, you know, expanded calendar and be ready for 2024; however, we will be setting a precedent or a new precedent not to have it completed.

And, again, it's not about accelerating and being problematic. December 1st is when we will need to have it completed to the Rules Committee, December 1st. So you are talking about August, September, October, November; so we're talking four months for this committee to do the work to present it to the Rules Committee to try to have it done. Right?

PEGGY SIDMAN: I am not sure --

GARRETT DENNIS: Let me -- let me please -- let me finish.

PEGGY SIDMAN: I'm sorry.

GARRETT DENNIS: And so we will have it finished in order to -- in order to have the maps ready for 2022. And then we can move on to other things that needs to be done.

So, again, you know, this is what we're -- we've been charged in here to do. And I don't -- I don't see, you know, why we should, you know, just drag it out to put another body of politics in flux. But that's just my opinion.

But, again, my question is the historical. Have we had the process completed for '22 -- excuse me -- for 2002 election, for the 2012 election? And so now this will be the first time where we won't have it completed for the two years later, and now it's four years. Thank you.

PEGGY SIDMAN: Mr. Chair, am I recognized?

AARON BOWMAN: Please go ahead.

PEGGY SIDMAN: So, again, the historical piece we can get that for you; I don't have that as I stand here today.

I'm not sure that the 12/1 date for something to go to the Rules Committee is the date. I'm thinking it's more 12/1 has to be effective by Council. But, again, I would rather provide you

that information as we committed to do.

AARON BOWMAN: Okay. Thank you. Seeing no one else is on the queue, thank you, Ms. Sidman.

PEGGY SIDMAN: Thank you.

AARON BOWMAN: Mr. Killingsworth.

BILL KILLINGSWORTH: Good afternoon, Mr. Chairman and Committee. My name is Bill Killingsworth. I'm the Director of the Planning and Development Department.

I would like to talk about basically three things today: One is at least my perceived role, should you all select the Department to be your consultant.

Some criteria in which to guide development of the boundaries. In particular, I'm going to talk about criteria that the last committee discussed. They didn't select all of them, but they discussed them.

Peggy went into the legal criteria that you can consider.

And then thirdly, I would like to just talk briefly about the mechanics of some of the process, particularly in starting out. Starting out last time was very structured, and then as the process went along, it became more organic.

So my role -- my perception, should I be chosen as a consultant, is that, A, I need to be available to 19 members of the City Council pretty much all of the time. So my life for the next three months is going to be very busy. I need to be responsive to your requests.

I need to facilitate both public and noticed meetings. And the noticed meetings will come back to the fact that I can't be a go-between between Council members. So I can utilize my knowledge in conversations with each Council member with input from the public to craft boundaries, but I can't go to one Council member and say, "Hey, Council Member A will give up this area if you will give up that area." That's something that has to be done in a noticed meeting, and I will be glad to facilitate those, but that's where I can't go.

That's why I have a responsibility to utilize the knowledge that I have in the Department and the input we get from the public to craft boundaries that are consistent with the criteria that we give -- that you give to me.

And then ultimately I have to recognize that I don't make the decision on the boundaries. This Committee and ultimately Council will make the

decisions. My job is to make recommendations consistent with the criteria. Ultimately, other factors besides criteria will play into the edges, but hopefully the criteria will guide the large geography changes that are needed, if needed.

So the three types of criteria choices that I would like to talk about, Peggy has talked about unit of representation. So the Council is going to have to decide whether or not you want to use total population or the population of those 18 and over, commonly referred to as voting-age population.

I will say historically that we use total population. And in looking at the numbers -- and I will talk a little bit about the numbers. I don't have a lot of numbers to present to you today, but we have done some consistency checks with the data that we have.

At this point, at least in terms of large-scale geographies, I'm not sure it will make a huge difference. So I guess my recommendation is we've had a historic use of total population, and I think it would be -- it wouldn't be a challenge to continue to use total population.

I do want to talk about geographic constraints. That was discussed at the last time

ten years ago, which doesn't seem that long ago, but I certainly feel the ten years. So there was a strong desire to have all of the beaches in one Council district, and that desire was materialized.

There was also a strong desire to -- initially it was to not cross the river boundary. But the reality was the math didn't work, and so we had to cross the river boundary. In looking at the numbers this time, whether or not you use voting age or whether or not you use total population, mathematically it may be possible to not cross the river.

Should Cecil Field all be in one district, or should it be represented by multiple districts? Downtown; should downtown be represented by one district, or should it be represented by multiple districts? Clearly, if you make a decision to minimize crossing the river, that bodes for at least two Council districts.

And then are there any other features that the committee feels we shouldn't cross; interstates, major bodies of water, things like that.

What I would say in terms of geographic constraints, was really there are only two: preserve the Beaches as a whole district, and then

minimize crossing the river. That was what was chosen last time. This Council is certainly free to choose any that they feel represents the community today.

In terms of communities of interest, you know, there is criteria that you can provide. Last time there was a strong desire to maintain the historic communities of interest that existed in the City in prior Council districts.

There was not, at least publicly, a big desire until the very end in terms of political constraints, so in terms of voter registration, D's and R's. In the end everybody wanted to know that information, but in the beginning it was not something that factored into the constraints.

And then obviously the protection of Council and School Board incumbencies, and then whether or not we should consider school attendance zones.

Of those that they discussed last time, the decision was made to maintain the four communities of interest that historically existed as Council districts and then protect incumbencies, and that's all they chose out of communities of interest. Now communities of interest did play a part when we played on the lines, but they weren't broad

criteria in terms of guidance to the Department.

In terms of process, I need some simple guidance on whether or not you would like the Department just to go nuts and come up with entirely new boundaries and start from there, which is what the last Council committee did on this. They said start from scratch, and that's what we did.

This time you may want us to start from existing boundaries. I will say that the population distribution -- and with the Chair's permission I will tease Council Member Becton on Council District 11. Had it not been for Council District 11, we might be able to just keep the same Council districts. But the reality is his district is substantially bigger than what even a 10-percent variance would cover. So we are going to have to make changes in the south and east, and then that will probably result to changes everywhere else.

How do you want to do the at-large districts? So I think in terms of the first one, I would recommend we start from existing boundaries, though not -- it gives us a place -- given that most of them could change, but for Council District 11 and Council Member Carrico's district I think would

exceed the 10 percent, the rest of them are within the 10 percent. It kind of makes sense to start from the existing boundaries.

At-large districts, last time we did those first; they tend to be easy. We just -- because it's a residency requirement and because they are voted, citywide we need five blocks that have the right numbers in them and the incumbents in those districts. That tends to be easy. We can get that done and out of the way. So we could do that as well as make a cut at the first pass, the first or second meeting.

Do you want us to do this incrementally or wholistically, with a W, dealing with the whole, not holistically as in holistic medicine? Last time we did it wholistically. Each time we changed the entire county and brought a revised revision here.

Given that the numbers for the districts -- with the exception of a couple districts -- kind of work, and the fact that last time, even though we did it wholistically, the reality was there was broad consensus south and east of the river in terms of what they wanted, and we were able to do that relatively quickly. And then the discussion

on how to achieve crossing the river, from where that should happen, because we have to, and how to achieve the four communities of interest; that discussion took a lot more time.

So I guess my recommendation is while we will present -- every time we present numbers to you, the numbers will meet the definition in terms of the maps, the focus would be incremental, because I believe this time we could probably get south and east of the river done pretty quickly as well.

And then how much deviation is permissible. I believe Peggy said that there's a 10-percent range between highest and lowest. It doesn't have to be 10 percent. This community can choose to make it less or more. I will say making it less makes it more challenging.

I will talk a little bit about the numbers. So we uploaded into our system all the numbers on Friday. We have been doing consistency checks on the data. We are not checking whether or not the data is correct in the sense of are there the right number of people in each Census block. What we're doing is we're checking to make sure it's consistently internal.

So the way the Census is structured is you

have a Census block, which is you can think of as a downtown block that they typically represent a fixed range of population. Those blocks are aggregated into block groups, which is a larger range of population, but they try to keep those block groups within the same range. And then those block groups aggregate into Census tracks. Census tracks aggregate into places in Duval County.

So what we've done is make sure that the blocks aggregate into the block groups, and aggregate into the tracks, and the tracks aggregate into the County, and that those numbers all add up right. What we're not doing is the Census says there is ten people who live there, and we're not verifying whether or not there's ten people who live there. I simply wouldn't have the capacity to do that, nor is that something I'm prepared to do.

So the average number of the target that we have to hit is 71,107. In 2010 it was 61,733. If you use voting-age population, it would be 55,829, but your totals go down.

So total population is 995,497. Voting-age population is 781,603.

It is interesting, because I did look at the numbers north and south of the river just to kind

of have an idea whether or not we could have whole districts one side of the river or not. We can't have -- under total population we can't have whole districts with every district meeting the average. But we could have whole districts north and south of the river within a 10 percent variance. And what that would probably mean is one side of the river is going to be a little bit high, and the other side of the river is going to be a little bit low.

The interesting part about it is that the voting age proportionately changes a little bit but not enough to really impact that aspect. So that's why I say -- I mean, historically we've done total population, but I don't know that picking one over the other in terms of at least that criteria, which is the only one I've looked at so far, would make a substantial difference.

And then with that, I will stand by for any questions and any guidance you would like to give.

AARON BOWMAN: Thank you, Mr. Killingsworth. I'm sure we've got several questions.

And to the Committee, obviously it's my recommendation that Mr. Killingsworth is our consultant, but as a part of a group and team, I

did not want to dictate that. I want to discuss that and vote on that, so we will do that today.

Also, I will tell you that the schedule was put together originally thinking that the data wouldn't start until the end of September. And when we learned that we had enough data to get started -- so the idea was we're going to talk about what he needed to do, and the next meeting we would give him direction. I think it's not a great idea right now. So I do also want to talk about do we try to do that all today, or do we get back again before? We've got a fifth week coming up. So I think it would be a stretch for us to give him 100-percent guidance today to get started.

But with that, Council Member Becton.

DANNY BECTON: Thank you. Through the Chair, I appreciate that walk down memory lane, Director Killingsworth. If you don't know, I was not a Council member at the time, but I was a community you-might-call activist, and I was knee deep and over my head in redistricting back in 2011.

As to the southeast part of our county, certainly the principle of the Beaches wanting to be uniform in the area for which I represent -- which used to be represented by the Beaches --

didn't make any sense, and we wanted our independence, as we kind of stated, in our own local representation, which had always come from the Beaches for a couple of decades. And that did change, and District 11 shifted from the northwest side of the river to the southeast. That was a major principle which kind of started the southeast part of the redistricting and was kind of the template which everything kind of worked off of.

And with that said, I first want to state to the Chair my work with Director Killingsworth. As a recommendation, he did an outstanding job. I mean, I couldn't imagine anyone who could have done a better job. Mr. Killingsworth is -- as I'm sure you've worked with him on LUZ like I have for many years -- is a very even-keeled individual. He certainly knows how to have those conversations with Council members and is very objective.

I have the highest regard for Director Killingsworth to managing this again. And that is, you know, certainly based on having worked with him so closely in 2011.

The river was -- he was spot on. The river was a major obstacle that we were -- basically with the principle do people on one side of the river

have the same community of interest as people on the other side of the river, and I think everyone came to the conclusion that they did not. And that's where we really tried to work to reduce those river crossings, only based on that principle.

I mean, Mandarin was over there connected with Blanding Boulevard, you know, across the river. It just didn't make any sense. Those people just had nothing in common, but they were connected by Council districts, and that certainly played a part.

We wish we could have gotten rid of the Arlington too, the one there, because people in what is now Council Member Ferraro's district, versus Arlington, even today, you know, they are like, "Why are we connected to them"? So I'm glad to hear that the numbers perhaps could work out to where we could get rid of all of them, because that just makes people who live in the same neighborhoods who have the same interest more connected than people in a far distance area that, you know, you just question this doesn't make any sense when you look at it.

So perhaps that could be an objective of this

committee collectively and agreed to. And at the end of the day, I can tell you that makes it easier, because then as a subgroup, what we did back then was, yes, the Southeast Council members and the community leaders got together and kind of said, "Okay, this is how it makes sense from the Southeast standpoint."

And then the Council members on the Northwest standpoint who knew their areas so well, they worked collectively as another subcommittee to, you know, to come up with their plan. And it just kind of fit -- there was two pieces of the puzzle rather than many pieces of the puzzle, and it went really smooth.

Council Member -- woman -- Denise Lee kind of ran, I believe, the Rules Committee at the time and led that whole process, and it really passed unanimously back in -- we started that in the first of 2011 in about March. They kind of had some meetings earlier, but we had to be finished -- they had to be finished by November.

So what I will also add is, once again, that Director Killingsworth did a fantastic job. There was another point that I was trying to make. Oh, so he pointed out District 11. So back in 2011 we

knew District -- you know, we drew the boundaries. You know, I worked with the Council at the time to identify what the logical boundaries of District 11 on the Southeast side would be. And when we made those logical decisions, District 11 fell underneath the average, because most of my district, when I started out six years ago, was woods, a lot of timberland. Okay? But we knew that's where a large part of the growth area of the county was going to occur. So we almost planned in 2011 how to trim that back ten years from now, which is today.

And so I've already sat down with Property Appraiser Holland as he had worked with us all in the current months, and I said, "Oh, this is easy. We planned -- this was planned in 2011 where, you know, we would trim District 11." And based on that -- which Director Killingsworth has indicated is going to be way outside the area of growth which is going to be the domino on the Southeast. But that perhaps has already been, you know, kind of made back in 2011 when we worked on it that I can easily share that with you guys and say here's the logical -- and if District 11 falls back into the average based on those trimmings, then, you know,

that might make Southeast much easier in the fact that we know what we've got to work with. You know, you've got to have a base somewhere that starts the domino.

And I would assume, Director Killingsworth, that when you said one side of the river will be a little less, one side will be a little heavy, I'm going to use my experience and knowledge to say I bet it's the Northwest side that would be the lesser of the two. Is that -- can I just possibly get that observation?

BILL KILLINGSWORTH: Through the Chair to Councilman Becton -- sorry, my brain was working on something else -- what I will say is if you choose voter-age population, the math works out almost perfectly.

DANNY BECTON: Right.

BILL KILLINGSWORTH: So if you use voter-age population, it's basically six districts, and everybody can be the average, barring whatever fluctuations happen on the edges of the district. If it's total-age population, we basically have three quarters of a district southeast of the river and a quarter of the district north of the river.

DANNY BECTON: So my question was: So when

you talk about, though, if you use total population, one side would be a little less and one side would be a little heavy. And I was asking would it be the northwest side of the river that would be a little light?

BILL KILLINGSWORTH: It would probably be the northwest side of the river.

DANNY BECTON: Yeah, that's what I thought. And having served five years on LUZ, the new district -- so District 11 was the growth area in 2011; right? That was the forecast?

I would say that my estimation for 2030, my Council Member White's area and Council Member Ferraro's area, there's many 5,000-acre rezonings that we've done here lately and so forth. And seeing the growth that's occurring on the Westside and then the Northwest side, I can only imagine ten years ago that's where the growth of our county is going to be.

And I can see my area -- my area I think in two years when I leave office, every blade of grass is going to be accounted for, and there will be some growth, but not the growth I think we are going to see in Council Member White and Council Member Ferraro's area.

So that's just my walk down memory lane. Through the Chair, I appreciate you giving me a little bit of leeway to go over the time. But Director Killingsworth is spot on with his summary today, and I could not more highly recommend Director Killingsworth taking the lead on this.

And if this committee elects to do so, I look forward, Director, for working with you on 2.0 on this task. So thank you very much.

AARON BOWMAN: Thank you, Mr. Becton.

And time is obviously a concern. I think we're not going to get done what I want to get done today, so I'm going to ask all of you to work with me on setting up another meeting.

But Mr. Becton, can I take your comments as a motion for Mr. Killingsworth?

DANNY BECTON: Yes, absolutely.

AARON BOWMAN: Do I have a second on that?

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Second.

AARON BOWMAN: Motion to second.

Any public comment on this? Ms. Sidman?

PEGGY SIDMAN: You can take it at the end or you can take it now.

AARON BOWMAN: Okay. Any discussion on making Mr. Killingsworth the consultant?

Please go ahead.

GARRETT DENNIS: Through the Chair, I have no problem with Mr. Killingsworth's previous Redistricting Committee. We had, you know, Mr. Killingsworth, Mr. Holland, Mr. Hogan as a team working. So I have no problem.

But before Mr. Killingsworth kind of shared, you know, his concern of the work load. So I just want to make sure that, you know, the work load is -- that he's able to manage this, including, you know, his work load, and then also continuing to maybe not use, but advise, Property Appraiser Holland as well through the process.

So, again, I have no problem, but, you know, those are just a couple of questions that I have. But I will be supporting the motion.

AARON BOWMAN: Thank you, Mr. Dennis.

And, Mr. Killingsworth, please respond to that. Obviously, you and I had that discussion of the amount of rezonings we have right now, and you assured me that you are capable and your staff is capable, but I would rather hear it from you than me.

BILL KILLINGSWORTH: So if Council chooses to use the Department as the consultant, we can make

it work; I'm not concerned about that. I would like to correct on the record, so in terms of -- because I did the math real quick -- the reality is if we use total population and don't want to cross the river, the north of the river will average about 73,000 people per district as opposed to 71- -- north of the river 73,000. South of the river will average about 69-. So south will be a little light, and north will be a little heavy. But in terms of capacity, the Department can make it work.

AARON BOWMAN: Thank you. Anybody else on this motion?

All right. All in favor of the motion for making Mr. Killingsworth our consultant, please raise your hand.

Okay. It's unanimous.

Mr. Killingsworth, thank you.

And thank you, Mr. Holland. I know he's going to be reaching out. I appreciate all of the support to him as well.

Going back to the discussion, like I say, I am worried about time, so we are probably going to have to cut it off due to time constraints here, but I will be scheduling one very soon. And at

that meeting we will give Mr. Killingsworth guidance on some of the things that he talked about.

So Council Member Priestly Jackson.

BRENDA PRIESTLY JACKSON: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. These are really quick questions for Mr. Killingsworth. He was speaking so quickly. I just want him to repeat the averages he was giving us for the district sizes, as well as total population and voting-age population numbers that he shared earlier, as well as go back through -- I think he said block, track, and then county.

I just -- I was just writing notes, but you were -- I speak fast, but you were actually speaking faster than me.

BILL KILLINGSWORTH: Through the Chairman to Council Member Priestly Jackson, so the numbers that we came up with while we were doing our consistency check, which was consistent with the Census web page, is there's 995,497 people total population; 781,603 voting-age population. That works out to an average of 71,107 if we use total population, or 55,829 if we use voting-age population, if my math is correct; however, I am a planner and not an engineer.

In terms of the geography, so Census geography is broken up in smaller-to-larger sections. So you have Census blocks which is the smallest unit. And typically in a Census block -- and I don't know how much detail you want, but typically in the Census block you have the least amount of available data because you run into disclosure issues. And so what happens is they aggregate Census blocks up into block groups, and that minimizes disclosure issues. But block groups -- roughly -- I don't know the numbers this time. Last time there were roughly 11,000 blocks. And there may be ten or so blocks in each block group.

And then there may be anywhere from three to ten block groups in a Census track. And then there's roughly 100 Census tracks in the City, and that becomes the -- so they just aggregate data up.

And as you get higher in data -- because the way statistics work, you know, you get better averages in terms of income data and the stuff that's done by survey.

The down side is as you get into smaller and smaller geography, as you run into disclosure issues where if you release the data, it will be clear who that was because there's only one example

within the lot.

AARON BOWMAN: Thank you. Okay. So, unfortunately, I might have to bring this to a close. We will do public comment.

So we're going to be working for the next meeting, and we will make it a little bit longer just so we can make sure that we get done. But what I would ask all of you to do at the next meeting is bring your recommendations on the guidance we give to Mr. Killingsworth so he can start drawing out -- and so that's going to include a lot of things we talked about: total population versus voting age; do we start from scratch; do we cross rivers, et cetera.

So what I would like to do for the next meeting is we will put together that list and give him guidance so he can start off doing real work.

Mr. Becton.

DANNY BECTON: Thank you. Through the Chair, if you don't mind me asking, Mr. Killingsworth, so having gotten the data loaded into your system and you are working on verifying it, when might be the earliest opportunity that you could, you know, go back and get the basic maps kind of plugged in with that data, just to give us the lay of the land as

it currently exists, and perhaps both ways in what you, I think, maybe have already taken a look at in giving us the numbers that you've shared today? When might be the earliest that we might could see that?

BILL KILLINGSWORTH: Through the Chair to Council Member Beckton, if what you are asking for is the current total population by Census, by Council District --

DANNY BECTON: Yes.

BILL KILLINGSWORTH: -- I can provide a table of that this afternoon.

DANNY BECTON: That's what I thought. I thought you could go ahead and start getting us some basic maps of the current way things are, throwing the data at it, and -- whether it's a heat map showing -- you know, or something to that -- or just some basic numbers as to total population, total-age population within each district, so we can just start to rationalize in our minds what that looks like.

So when we do meet, Mr. Chair, we've actually have done a little bit of homework in order to be able to make that decision with a little bit of intelligence and homework, you know, behind it. So

I would certainly applaud the Director if he could get us that as soon as possible.

BILL KILLINGSWORTH: Mr. Chair, if I could clarify?

AARON BOWMAN: Yes.

BILL KILLINGSWORTH: So I can provide with certainty, because I have it in my hand right now, the 2020 Census population by the current Census Council districts for total population.

I'm 99 percent positive I can get you voting age for that same thing so you can just see how the differences are.

I can get maps. They will take a little longer to produce because we haven't started map production. I'm just doing data analysis straight out of the system, not looking at maps.

But if you are looking at total numbers, the map doesn't provide any additional information. It's only when we start looking at the subsections of the Council district.

(Bumping the microphone) Sorry, I talk with my hands, and sometimes that interferes.

But certainly within a short period of time we could start looking at -- if what you want to see is what areas in the existing districts have

population, that may be challenging to the extent that I'll have to go back and make sure that -- which I'm relatively certain we have it, just haven't used it in a long time -- the 2010 block data that we utilized to do the Census. So we could show kind of a difference, but that may take me a little more time to get.

But certainly voter numbers by Council district total and voting age, I can get that quickly, probably by ends day -- day's end.

Mr. Chairman, if I could ask for one consideration.

AARON BOWMAN: Yes.

BILL KILLINGSWORTH: Thursday mornings are very difficult for me. My boss meets with myself and the other directors on Thursday mornings at 9:00 o'clock. So it will be helpful that any other time I can probably get out of, but it's hard to tell my boss no.

AARON BOWMAN: Thank you, Mr. Killingsworth.

Thank you, Mr. Becton.

And, Mr. Killingsworth, I think you know don't wait for meetings to send information out. You are the owner of data. We all want the data. It doesn't have to come while we're in this meeting.

It doesn't have to come through me. If you've got something you need to share that is of benefit to this team, please launch it out. And I look forward to seeing those numbers.

Council Member Dennis.

GARRETT DENNIS: I know you are trying to wrap this up, Chairman, but I do want to make one point as Mr. Killingsworth is out doing this work. I would recommend not starting over from scratch. I know he kind of mentioned that as he was talking. Because -- you know, because we know the population shifts. And so it seems like to start all the way over, almost new numbers, so -- you know, right now what is currently District 9 won't be District 9; it may be District 1 or 2 or 3.

So we have the districts. We know what the population is in my district currently. And to get to 73,000, if I have 69,000, it's to expand the boundary lines to grab 4,000 more instead of actually starting over from a blank canvas.

So when you were talking, it sounded like that's the direction you wanted to do, just starting from a blank canvas and just drawing all new lines, versus starting what we have with the current maps and adding and subtracting population.

Is that accurate? And if that's the case, then it goes back to what we talked about earlier when we were talking about School Board representatives for 2022, 2024.

So, again, not to drag this out, but I wanted to kind of put that out there, what I was hearing, and make sure that you don't go down a rabbit hole and then come back and then we're -- you know, this extended timeline gets extended even further. Thank you.

AARON BOWMAN: So, Mr. Dennis, I think that's a very good point. And I'm certainly willing to entertain that as a motion, because I think that's a key element that can allow him to get started. And then I will -- if we put that one to bed, then I will take public comments and adjourn the meeting.

Mr. Beckton, I need a second.

Do you want to make that a motion?

GARRETT DENNIS: Through the Chair, I would like to make a motion for Mr. Killingsworth to start with the current maps. And as you look at those numbers, you mentioned 73,000, looking at what's the population in the current maps, and looking at, you know, adjusting -- if it's 4,000

more, adjusting the map that way or reducing it, the population, versus starting from a clean canvas drawing all new lines. So I would like to offer that motion.

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Second it.

AARON BOWMAN: Okay. And motion is seconded.

Discussion on that? Are you on that, Mr. Beckton? Okay, Mr. Becton.

DANNY BECTON: Yeah, thank you. Through the Chair and my Council Member Dennis on this, I agree. I mean, so back in 2011, my memory lane walk-through, is we did a wholesale rewrite of the Southeast because of that transition 11, the Beaches, and all the things we talked about.

In my observation for this time around, my opinion is the Southeast is really going to be a tweaking more than a wholesale change, but, you know, anybody can do anything; right?

I can't say -- I don't know very much about the Northwest side, and I think that's why I go back and say we conquered and divided. You know, those Council members who are experts on one side of the river got together and noticed meetings, and we worked, and those Council members on the Northwest side got together.

Because I know very little about, you know, beyond what I've learned in LUZ over the years, and I can't say the lines on the Northwest side last time were wholesale changes. I would say they were mostly tweaked, but you guys -- you know, you are the experts of your area, as Council members, and we respect that.

And I think your point -- I can tell you from the Southeast side, my observation is absolutely I don't think it's going to be necessary. Now, and I'm relying on you having made that motion and your observation, how you feel about the Northwest side. So I definitely support this amendment in that respect. I think you are spot on. Thanks.

AARON BOWMAN: Anyone else on the Dennis -- I don't know if it's an amendment -- I guess initiative, guidance?

All right. And I certainly appreciate you doing that. I think this is key. And I can't even imagine starting with a map -- with our growth rate, all of our zonings going on, and all of the incumbents and everything else, so I think that's good guidance, and I certainly favor it.

All in favor?

Okay. Unanimously.

We've given you one piece of guidance, Mr. Killingsworth. Start with what we've got and adjust from there, and we will get back together and then give you further guidance. Once -- I think it will be very helpful having some raw data thrown across the table as well.

With that, I'm going to go to Carnell Oliver as a public comment card. And, Mr. Oliver, I'm going to give you 3, but it'd be appreciated if you don't use it all.

CARNELL OLIVER: Yes. Carnell Oliver on -- address is on a file.

I want to fundamentally focus on the Voting Rights Act. There are certain dynamics that are associated with the Voting Rights Act. If a population in a particular district grows, that district seat shrinks.

In dealing with the 2010 ballot initiative to band gerrymandering, I think the framework of local City Council member districts in accordance with all 19 district seats, I believe that postcards should be sent to every resident inside of all 19 districts showing where the population has grown at. And if it meets a certain threshold, then those seats shrink.

I don't want y'all to pick your constituents. I want the natural elements of governance to be the most fundamental piece that is important. If that means that all of the incumbents that are up for reelection may not get reelected, then you've got to earn the vote and the trust of your constituents.

But you don't need to keep up the same process of a system. If we have districts that have grown in population, then they need to be shrinked.

Now, I've spent last night reading up on the Voting Rights Act and certain things that deal with minority districts. I don't need y'all manipulating the system. I need you to do your job based on the structure and the framework of the Florida State constitution, run along with the framework of what's going on in our community.

For those that are up for reelection, you're going to have to earn the people's votes. It's your work that you do on this Council that will shape what kind of leadership our community wants.

I know where the growth is really at, and I know that a lot of those district seats will have to change, and that means that everybody is going to be on the chopping block. But this is not your

place to dictate to the public who you want to maintain control in this community.

The framework of our democracy is based on our laws, and I don't agree with working with what you've got, because if you work with what you got, you have some gray area to manipulate the system.

So I prefer start from scratch, putting the data out there to the public, putting -- sending all the postcards out there to all 19 district seats, showing where the population is, and educating the public on what the John Lewis -- I'm sorry -- on what the Voting Right Act says under these certain provisions. Because if you have population growth, those district seats shrink because they meet a certain criteria.

And I yield the rest of my time.

AARON BOWMAN: Thank you.

Ms. Sidman, any closing guidance before we take comments from Council members? Nope? Okay.

Any of the members on the dais have anything, closing comments?

All right. We've got some work ahead for us. Thank you so much for being here. With that, we are adjourned.

(End of meeting at 10:31 a.m.)

REPORTER'S CERTIFICATE

STATE OF FLORIDA)
COUNTY OF DUVAL)

I, Leah P. Maltz, RPR, RMR, do hereby certify that I was authorized to and did stenographically rewrite and then transcribe the foregoing meeting from a video recording; and that the foregoing transcript was produced to the best of my ability.

I further certify that I am not a relative, employee, attorney, or counsel of any of the parties, nor am I a relative or employee of any of the parties' attorneys or counsel connected with the action, nor am I financially interested in the action.

DATED this 6th day of July, 2022.

Leah P. Maltz

LEAH P. MALTZ, RPR, RMR
Court Reporter
Notary Public

CITY OF JACKSONVILLE, FLORIDA

OFFICE OF THE CITY COUNCIL

SPECIAL COMMITTEE MEETING ON REDISTRICTING

MEETING HELD ON AUGUST 24, 2021

2:00 p.m.

117 West Duval Street

Lynwood Roberts Room, 1st Floor, City Hall

Jacksonville, Florida 32202

Meeting transcribed by:

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IN ATTENDANCE

Aaron Bowman
Danny Becton
Garrett Dennis
Brenda Priestly Jackson
Randy White
Randy DeFoor
Ju'Coby Pittman
Kelly Coker
Darryl Willie
Jeff Clements
Paige Johnston
Mary Margaret Giannini
Eric Grantham
Bill Killingsworth
Maritza Sanchez
Jerry Holland

- - -

AARON BOWMAN: Okay. Good afternoon. Let's go ahead and get started. It's my understanding Council Member Priestly Jackson is on her way.

Welcome to our second meeting. And I want to welcome Councilwoman DeFoor and Councilwoman in the back there. I don't see any other Council members. I certainly recognize White and Becton and our School Board members, Darryl Willie and Kelly Coker. So thanks for being here.

So just real quickly, what I want to do today, is we will do public comments up front. I do have one public comment card. And then I will turn it over to Mr. Killingsworth.

And, Mr. Killingsworth, I will ask you if you have any early aha moments on the data you looked at.

And then the real purpose today is for us to give guidance to Mr. Killingsworth, kind of what we talked about, on what's important to us as he starts drawing the start of lines.

And then we will take any comments from obviously Board members. And, Board Members, you are welcome to interrupt me at any time, and I will recognize you.

And then we will close and do that.

Before we get started, we have such a small group here. If we could do introductions, I'd appreciate it.

We will start with you, Mr. Clements. And thank you for doing all of the minutes and getting that updated.

JEFF CLEMENTS: Jeff Clements, Council Research.

PAIGE JOHNSTON: Paige Johnston, Office of General Counsel.

UNIDENTIFIED FEMALE: (Unclear audio.)

DANNY BECTON: Danny Becton, District 11.

AARON BOWMAN: Aaron Bowman, District 3.

RANDY WHITE: Randy White, District 12.

KELLY COKER: Kelly Coker, School Board member, District 1.

DARRYL WILLIE: Darryl Willie, School Board District 4.

BILL KILLINGSWORTH: Bill Killingsworth, Planning Director.

MARY MARGARET GIANNINI: Mary Margaret Giannini, Office of General Counsel.

AARON BOWMAN: Welcome, Mary Margaret.

UNIDENTIFIED MALE: Who, me? (Unclear audio.)

JU'COBY PITTMAN: Ju'Coby Pittman, District 8.

JERRY HOLLAND: Jerry Holland, Duval County Property Appraiser.

AARON BOWMAN: And over to my right.

KIMBERLY MILLER: Kimberly Miller, Duval County Public Schools.

AARON BOWMAN: All right. Thank you.

And Council Member Priestly Jackson.

BRENDA PRIESTLY JACKSON: Good morning, good morning, and good afternoon. I'm Brenda Priestly Jackson, District 10.

AARON BOWMAN: You weren't late, so you're good to go. Thank you.

All right. With that we will go to public comments. Please come up to the microphone and introduce yourself, Mr. Carnell Oliver.

CARNELL OLIVER: Yes, Carnell Oliver. The address is on file.

One of the things that I have real big heartburn as of right now is that there is a lack of transparency in the information. Now, if the Planning Department already had these numbers developed already, it should have been placed on the COJ website. That's just the beginning stages for me as far as getting a better understanding on

redistricting. But from moving forward to this very point, everything needs to be transparent and open, please.

And I yield the rest of my time.

AARON BOWMAN: Thank you.

Our next speaker is Brooks Andrews.

BROOKS ANDREWS: Good afternoon. Brooks Andrews, 3623 Pine Street, in the Riverside/Avondale area.

Thanks for the opportunity to speak for just a few minutes. I don't want to belabor this, but I would like to make a comment relative to our district. I am (unclear audio) for the Riverside/Avondale Preservation. Our district is very very important as it relates to our historic overlay.

Many of the issues that we experience across our district, particularly Riverside/Avondale, to a certain degree Ortega, Murray Hill, are very very common issues. When I say that, I'm speaking of, you know, an infrastructure that has (unclear audio) on it. So we have our fair share of flooding issues.

We have a very very critical responsibility and advocacy responsibility to our neighborhood,

our community, our merchants as it relates to the historic fabric of our neighborhood. And so dealing with those issues and commonality of those issues, as an advocate from Riverside/Avondale Preservation, it's very very important that we keep that district -- at least the historic fabric, the inner portion of that district -- together as we go forward from a redistricting perspective.

So thank you. Thank you for your time this afternoon.

AARON BOWMAN: Okay. All right. Mr. Killingsworth, over to you. What have you discovered in a week here?

BILL KILLINGSWORTH: A week, Mr. Chairman? I think it's more like three working days.

AARON BOWMAN: Awe, come on now (laughing).

BILL KILLINGSWORTH: All right. Good morning, Committee. Bill Killingsworth, Director of Planning and Development. Actually, it's good afternoon, isn't it? Sorry.

I think the purpose here is, you know, that we looked at some considerations for guidance the last time. And I kind of want to clarify that I used the word "criteria" last time. For me, I will treat them as criteria. If you say to don't cross

the river, then I'm not going to present you a map that crosses the river. However, for you they are really just considerations. It's things that you want to consider. As you look at it, it may be that the end result of crossing the river produces something that's not tenable for Council.

So it's not a criteria. I don't want to establish like it's a criteria in terms of on the zoning side in sections where you have to meet it by ordinance or otherwise you can't do it. For you it's just a consideration. For me, I treat them as a criteria.

I think there are four things that I really wanted to get answers on. So I'm going to make the assumption that, to the extent possible, you want compact, contiguous districts, that you want incumbents within the districts, at least particularly the incumbents that potentially have the ability to run for reelection and these being active.

But there are four things that I would like to have some guidance on. One of them is whether or not to cross the river, whether or not you believe the two sides of the river are distinct communities of interest in and of themselves.

You need to make a decision on total population versus voting-age population.

I assume, but I would like to know for a fact, whether or not there's a desire to continue to preserve the four historic communities of interest that the City has had in the past.

And then there was a discussion of a starting point. Looking at the data, I'm indifferent to the starting point at this time. I'm not sure that it's going to make much difference in my work flow, but for you it may make a difference in terms of how you want to see it.

So with that, Mr. Chairman, I would be happy to entertain any discussion on any one of the four.

AARON BOWMAN: Thank you. And just for clarification, Mr. Killingsworth, I think if we divide the number by 14, we've got 71,107. Right? That should be our --

BILL KILLINGSWORTH: For total population, that's correct.

AARON BOWMAN: Total population.

BILL KILLINGSWORTH: If you are going to use voting-age population, it would be 55,825.

AARON BOWMAN: Okay.

BILL KILLINGSWORTH: And I will point out that

if you use voting-age population, it comes out almost exactly six districts north of the river and eight districts south of the river.

If you use total population, then you get basically six and four districts north of the river, and seven-and-three-quarters districts south of the river.

AARON BOWMAN: Okay.

BILL KILLINGSWORTH: So the mechanics of making it balance becomes harder to total, but I think it's doable either way.

AARON BOWMAN: Okay. And I think you kind of mentioned, looking for General Counsel confirmation, trying to get equal populations. The rough rule of thumb is plus or minus 10 percent?

BILL KILLINGSWORTH: The courts have -- my understanding -- and if I'm wrong OGC can jump in -- but my understanding is the courts have generally said if you are less than 10 percent, that you are good.

So what I can tell you for total population, assuming a 5-percent variance on either side, that that would allow for the smallest district to be 67,551 and the largest district to be 74,662.

AARON BOWMAN: Using total?

BILL KILLINGSWORTH: Using total population. The voting-age population will be a range of 53,034 to 58,616.

AARON BOWMAN: Can you repeat those, Mr. Killingsworth?

BILL KILLINGSWORTH: Each of them?

AARON BOWMAN: Yes, please.

BILL KILLINGSWORTH: Okay. So total population -- the target number would be 71,107.

The -- assuming a 5-percent spread on either side of that target, the lower would be 67,552 if you round up. And then the upper boundary would be 74,662, if my eyes can see that far away. Yes.

And then on voting age, if you're ready?

AARON BOWMAN: Yes.

BILL KILLINGSWORTH: Voting age, the ideal population for a district would be 55,825. The lower range would be 53,074. And the upper range would be 58,616.

AARON BOWMAN: Okay. And just to -- and the four issues, you said one was crossing the river?

BILL KILLINGSWORTH: Crossing the river.

AARON BOWMAN: The second was total versus the population?

BILL KILLINGSWORTH: Correct.

AARON BOWMAN: And then I got a little fuzzy on the third and fourth. I think third was maintaining historic communities?

BILL KILLINGSWORTH: Correct.

AARON BOWMAN: And what was the fourth one?

BILL KILLINGSWORTH: And then the fourth one was that there was some discussion about the starting point, whether we should start from the existing boundaries or whether we should just craft from new.

In looking at the data, I'm ambivalent. From a work-flow position, I'm not sure that it will make much difference. From your position in terms of seeing how it evolves, it may make a difference to you.

AARON BOWMAN: Well, I mean, I think we gave you guidance on that last meeting, that we're going to start with the --

BILL KILLINGSWORTH: With the starting, yeah, I think you're right.

AARON BOWMAN: Okay. With that, I'm just going to recognize any of my fellow colleagues that have other issues that we should consider, and we will go through those one at a time and discuss them.

BRENDA PRIESTLY JACKSON: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I think the only question I have relative to the issues, one when you mentioned about compactness and contiguous, and you said "incumbents." I just spoke to General Counsel. My understanding is that's not a criteria; that's a consideration that has to be factored in. So it's not an optional thing. And I think it's a bit more than incumbents running for elective office.

If you change the boundary while someone is in office, then you make them ineligible for their seat while they are still in office, and our statute requires continuous residency.

But the General Counsel can just chime in there. But I think that's important.

PAIGE JOHNSTON: I'll take a shot at it, and if I don't answer it correctly, Mary Margaret can jump in or she can add more, because she actually worked on the memo that Peggy had discussed last go-around.

So, yes, there are a series of considerations, like Bill had mentioned, that case law has established our appropriate considerations. And Bill mentioned the river being one that fits into the major physical-boundary analysis.

Schools, notable major structures, are other types of considerations.

We have talked about incumbents. You can look at existing incumbencies as they represent communities of interest, but there's not a mandate that you have to keep an incumbent in office, I don't believe.

Is that correct, Mary Margaret?

MARY MARGARET GIANNINI: I think the other thing is that there is no prohibition against drawing lines that favor one party over another. So to the extent we're talking about protecting a party, the law does not prohibit that activity.

I think we discussed that to the extent that there are genuine changes in population that would warrant changing the lines of districts, that there is still commission to ensure that we don't draw someone out of their current status as a Council person.

BRENDA PRIESTLY JACKSON: So that's my question. I'm not talking about party. I'm talking about incumbency as an option or a requirement. If you don't know today, you are free to go back and research it and come back.

Because my reading of incumbency was it had to

be factored in. Because even if I was termed out in 2023 or someone was termed out in 2024, at that point we're going to propose boundaries for redistricting that go into effect at that time, even though they won't be on the next election in 2022.

Theoretically, if you drew an incumbent out of their district and they are still in their elected office, i.e. City Council or School Board, that would then make them ineligible for the office because Ordinance Code says continuance, maintaining continuance residency for those positions.

But if you want to look into that further, I would -- I asked the question because I wanted us to understand what we have as criteria to, you know, negotiate and what we don't have as criteria. My read and understanding is we don't have incumbency as a criteria to negotiate. City Council and School Board must be in their districts for this process.

AARON BOWMAN: And, if I may -- and I appreciate the question. As I read the Charter, you can't get drawn out of your district as a sitting Council member, was the way I understood

it. So, for example, if somebody was in office and then we drew them out, and that was affected when we voted it as a Council, they would still be able to serve until the end of their term, is how I read the Charter.

Now, a completely different discussion if that's a good thing to do and the right thing to do, but I think to address your question, the way I read it is you can't get -- the Charter cannot -- the redistricting cannot discontinue your service as an elected official until at least the next time.

BRENDA PRIESTLY JACKSON: And that's my question. That's my question.

PAIGE JOHNSTON: So within the Charter there is language. I believe it's 18.108 for Council and 18.110 for School Board. It speaks to not affecting the current existing term.

But then for the -- when the redistricting plan takes effect, it would obviously be toward -- it would take effect for those future terms. So, obviously, for someone who is in office in a current term, it can't affect them, but it is effective to the next term. Mary Margaret and I can look more into the incumbency question that you

asked.

And, again, the memo addresses what courts have found permissible. So we speak in a lot of what is permissible or in negatives. Like, you cannot -- you know, courts have said you cannot do this. So, you know, by logical, you know, attachment you say, well, you can't do this -- you know, you can't do this, you can't do that. So it gets a little difficult, because sometimes the exact question hasn't been answered, and we have to kind of extrapolate from the case law what we think is permissible. And in some cases in the memo it says we found you can do this.

So, again, incumbency has been a consideration in the case law, but I don't know that it's been specifically addressed to your point, and we will do that research.

BRENDA PRIESTLY JACKSON: Mr. Chairman, I think it's important.

AARON BOWMAN: Absolutely, and, of course, we're going to talk about that criteria here shortly. So it might kind of be not applicable, depending on what we decide.

Mr. Becton.

DANNY BECTON: Thank you, through the Chair.

So one topic that we did discuss in our first meeting, and we kind of got wrapped around that axle, and it's causing us to think our schedules and so forth, that I'm not sure the right information was communicated for which I had a discussion afterwards about. I can't remember who it was, but it was regarding the School Board races in '22. I'm guessing that follow-up conversation that I had might have been maybe with Peggy, or somebody, that in 2011 nor here in 2021 were the School Board races the following year ever part of the redistricting process, therefore would not be part of the redistricting process whether we did this last year or right now for next year.

So can we get to an answer on that that everyone can be on the same page? Because we talked about expediting the process, and so forth, because we have the School Board race this next year kind of in our thought process. But it was my understanding in the conversations that I had that that wasn't even the case in 2011 when they finished in November. The School Board race in '12 was not part of the redistricting.

Is that true? Or what is (unclear audio)?

PAIGE JOHNSTON: I think the information that

you were discussing is some research that Jeff Clements had prepared.

Jeff, can you highlight what you found over the prior Census?

JEFF CLEMENTS: Yeah. At the time of the last meeting, I went back and looked at the last four redistrictings in 2011, 2001, '91 and '81. What I was more concentrating on was how long did the process take from the time that the Census data was released until the Special Committee reported a plan to the Council and then the Council adopted the plan. I did not specifically look at the timing of the next School Board election. I was looking at the City Council election.

So I can tell you in 1981 the plan was adopted in June of '82. Clearly, it wouldn't have applied to even-year elections that year.

In '91 the plan was adopted on November 4th of '91.

In 2001 the plan was adopted on November 13th of 2001.

And in 2011 it was adopted November 8, 2011.

DANNY BECTON: And that's consistent with what I know.

But the question in the room is: Using 2011

as an example, were the School Board elections in 2012 part of that redistricting? Can anybody answer that question?

And if they were not, why not? Because they were finished in November of 2011; legislation was passed, to your point. But it's my understanding -- and I think the conversation I had was with Peggy after our meeting. So she's obviously not here and I can't --

PAIGE JOHNSTON: She is not, but Jeff has the information that she had. So I don't think she looked specifically --

DANNY BECTON: Yes. I mean, this was specifically the 2022 school race. We can find out.

PAIGE JOHNSTON: She is listening. She is not in the room right now, but she's listening.

DANNY BECTON: She can check --

PAIGE JOHNSTON: Yes, so I --

DANNY BECTON: Was it you, Peggy? And if it wasn't you, then I guess we'll go to our School Board colleagues and ask do you have information that we're looking for?

KELLY COKER: Off the top of my head, I was with the district at the time, but I don't recall.

I'm looking, actually. Board Member Priestly Jackson was one of our School-Board-member historians of record.

Anyway, we can go back to the office. They do keep all of that in the office, so we could research it from our end. I will remind the Committee we have three that are up for election. All of them are incumbents. No one is terming out at that point for next year.

DANNY BECTON: Right, that was pointed out. So if we don't have the answer, I think that's very important that we get that.

BRENDA PRIESTLY JACKSON: Yeah, I'm just looking on Page 5 of the memorandum that was originally prepared February 23, 2021, and that's what I base my understanding of, of not being applicable to the next Duval County School Board elections, as it has historically been.

If you look at the bottom paragraph, it gives, "Therefore, if the redistricting plan were to be enacted by December 1, 2021" -- which is not a date that we have for our plan to be enacted -- at that time it would not -- "the new district maps would not apply to the School Board elections occurring in 2022, as the initial election falls inside,

rather than outside, of the nine-month window."

KELLY COKER: Right.

BRENDA PRIESTLY JACKSON: So it's outside of it, so it --

PAIGE JOHNSTON: Well, due to the delay of the information from the Census Bureau, our office anticipated that it would not apply to the School Board election next year unless something had changed in the timing of such.

So the timeline that Mrs. Sidman prepared -- well, I prepared but she presented to you at the last meeting -- indicated that on the normal schedule it would not impact the School Board election.

AARON BOWMAN: And that was certainly my understanding, is it goes to qualifying date, which I think is in July for the next School Board election, and then you back that from nine months earlier, and you get to October, and there's no way we could --

DANNY BECTON: Maybe that was the map that -- in 2011 obviously they finished on time, and it didn't affect it.

So I just know when we left the meeting last time, that elephant in the room was we were somehow

trying to make that election. And then it was noted to me after the meeting that we didn't do it in 2012 for probably exactly the same reason as Chair Bowman just mentioned.

So I don't want to sit here and say -- I mean, we don't have to have our foot on the gas artificially, you know, that we can do this as the process allows, and just know that at the end of the day we are only working for the first races that will occur in March of 2023 for the City Council races.

PAIGE JOHNSTON: Yes, unless the Council wanted to expedite the process to try and meet the School Board election. It may be possible, but it may not be practical.

So I could give you -- so there's two timing considerations to keep in mind. So once you receive the information from the Census Bureau, the Council Redistricting Committee has that -- or the Council has eight months to enact the redistricting plan. So you have to do that within eight months; however, how it ties into the School Board election and the other election is that in order for it to apply to the School Board election, the redistricting plan would have to be in effect nine

months prior to the School Board election. So again --

AARON BOWMAN: The election or the qualifying?

PAIGE JOHNSTON: Well, here's the thing: So the primary election is August 23, 2022. The general election is November 8, 2022. The language in the Charter says the next School Board election. It doesn't distinguish between the primary and the general.

And when I looked into this, in 2020 all of the School Board election races were determined in the primary. You didn't even have any in the general.

So with that being said, I think you have to go with the August 23rd date.

DANNY BECTON: So but we're working from the election date, not the qualifying?

PAIGE JOHNSTON: Yes.

DANNY BECTON: That was my only question.

PAIGE JOHNSTON: Yes. We're going with --

DANNY BECTON: Before the election --

PAIGE JOHNSTON: And so then that means that the Council would have to adopt a redistricting plan by November 23rd.

DANNY BECTON: Well, once again, not trying to

create new precedent in terms of trying to squeeze in this 2022 election. I'm just trying to say this is what's happened in the past, and we shouldn't feel obligated to change any of that just because we think we can by rushing.

PAIGE JOHNSTON: Yes.

DANNY BECTON: All right. So my next point is -- through the Chair, if you don't mind me continuing. I've got several points.

So, Mr. Killingsworth, you said -- in your first statement you were talking about compact and contiguous. I want to also add in our 2011 analysis there were three, and actually the third one was communities of interest.

I thought what's equally important, along with compact and contiguous -- and maybe even more important is we found a lot of communities sometimes being split down the road where one side of the street was in one district and the other side of the street is in another district. So I did want to bring that up.

So total population versus voter population, which of these columns on the spreadsheet that you did forward to us can we find voter population, if it's on there?

BILL KILLINGSWORTH: I believe -- so I don't know that I have that one with me, but I believe it was the first column.

DANNY BECTON: I found those -- so it goes district total population?

BILL KILLINGSWORTH: Right.

DANNY BECTON: I didn't see any voter-age population.

BILL KILLINGSWORTH: On the one that I sent you, at the time we did not have voter-age population.

DANNY BECTON: So if we go that direction, you can send that?

BILL KILLINGSWORTH: Actually, if you look -- so you are talking about the one that I sent that had like --

DANNY BECTON: The only one I have is --

BILL KILLINGSWORTH: Voter age is towards the back, just before you get to total housing units.

DANNY BECTON: Well, I have a total 18 years and older.

BILL KILLINGSWORTH: That's voting age.

DANNY BECTON: So that would be the column that we would decide -- that column for the total population?

BILL KILLINGSWORTH: Correct.

DANNY BECTON: If I remember your comments in the last meeting, though, you favored total population?

BILL KILLINGSWORTH: So it depends -- for me it depends on whether or not you choose to cross the river or not cross the river.

If you choose not to cross the river, the math works out in such a way that with voting-age population, it's six districts to the north and eight districts to the south of the river. That makes it easier for me, so just to be frank.

If you use total population, it will be six and a quarter and seven and three quarters, so then it's -- it becomes harder to try to maintain that 10-percent spread.

But either way I think we can do it if that's the consideration.

DANNY BECTON: What did we use in 2011?

BILL KILLINGSWORTH: Historically, I think the City has always used total population.

DANNY BECTON: Yeah. And so what I did, I took your spreadsheet and modified it quite a bit.

BILL KILLINGSWORTH: Okay.

DANNY BECTON: But I divvied it up among the

west side of the river and another, and when it came to District 2, I gave it to the west. And as I was mentioning to you, the numbers came out in total population 52 percent versus 48 percent, the 52 being the south part of the river.

As I suspected when we had that conversation, (unclear audio) versus -- but it's still only 4 percent, about a 4-percent disparity.

BILL KILLINGSWORTH: So if I may, I think you are congregating large geographies versus districts.

So if you look at north of the river with total population, there was a -- and I will just do the math while I'm sitting here -- there was 443,044 north of the river. If you divide that by the 71,107, that's where you get 6 and a quarter.

The challenge, I think, is if you get the average. So if you do 443,044 divided by 7, seven districts under your scenario, the average is then 63,000 per Council district, which goes below the threshold of 67,000.

So your average Council district north of the river, if we made them seven and seven, would be 63,292, which is well below the 71,000.

DANNY BECTON: Well, here's -- I did some

further analysis. I don't think it's as simple as that. I think you have to look at the pluses and minuses. And, to your point, I came up with a 71,107 average.

Now, now when I divvied up the two sides of the river, if I didn't mention this earlier, I gave District 2 all of the Westside when I gave you those numbers. So even though District 2 is the only one that bleeds over to the south, I gave it all to the Westside. Okay?

So what I continued to do was to take the 71,000 average, and then I compared it to the existing districts' averages. And on the Southside I'm showing two districts under the average. I'm showing the Beaches by a 6,171 deficit, and I'm showing Ms. Cumber's District 5 as 3,000.

Now, one of the big issues on the size is actually my district. I'm actually right at 20,000 over that. So when I look at the map, to me it's -- I'm just trying to help my colleagues. What I've already started thinking is when you look at that side of the river, District 11 by its spin-off of 20,000 people is, to me, the most logical starting point, because once that happens, those folks have to go somewhere. And they are

1 going to expect -- and the logical effect is
2 Mandarin to the west.
3 And then Ms. Cumber's district, which is
4 short -- remember I said 3,000 -- bleeding down
5 into Mandarin, picking up what Mandarin will --
6 which is right now flat. They are actually pretty
7 much right on the average. But when they pick up
8 how many folks -- and I've given Mr. Killingsworth
9 about four options to kind of trim down District
10 11. And once that's done, it will really start the
11 domino of how redistricting takes place to help
12 District 5 achieve its equality to the average.
13 And but the bigger -- then the next bigger
14 issue on the Southside is the Beaches. How do they
15 find 6,000 folks? And my answer to your crossing
16 the river is saying that (unclear audio) my
17 position back in 2011 (unclear audio) that is it
18 should not happen unless it's just, you know,
19 totally necessary. That's what it ended up when we
20 did District 2 in 2011; it was just totally
21 necessary.
22 Now, the question is can District 2 stay to
23 the west, and perhaps how is the Beaches going to
24 grab its 6,000? Might it cross the river and go up
25 and be at the Intracoastal? That was a

conversation that we had back in 2011, could it just be a coastal community that goes all the way up to Nassau County? Just a thought.

But I think a representative, including Chair Bowman here, is -- those are going to affect those districts over there, most specifically the Beaches, and District 3, and looking down District 1, and how those are.

So that was just kind of my nickel tour of what I've already seen and the expertise that I have on our side of the river. But then when I looked at the other side of the river, there's five districts out of the seven that are under that average, but it's not big numbers. There's like -- it ranges from, like, 3,000-4,000.

Then there's two districts which is Councilman Ferraro's taking all of the Westside, and then Mr. White, that are at (unclear audio). So that was just kind of my score card when I took the data that he had already sent us.

And I guess I'm kind of favoring the total population at this point until, I guess, there's a more compelling reason to go to the voter population. But I will stay open to that discussion in kind of seeing how this plays out in

smaller -- like I mentioned it earlier -- smaller subcommittees where it might be the south Council members getting -- the Southeast Council members getting together and figuring out how this works and the west-of-the-river Council members getting together to figure out how those opportunities might be worked out. So I hope that just provides some analysis that I've already initiated by my spreadsheet.

AARON BOWMAN: Thank you, Mr. Becton. And just real quick, don't worry about it now, but I do want to say the analogy of the river is the same as the Intracoastal. And I can tell you my district is along the Intracoastal, and in the last redistricting we lost a portion of that over to the Beaches, and those are two completely different communities. So it's not just the river; it's also the Intracoastal.

Ms. Jackson.

BRENDA PRIESTLY JACKSON: Thank you, Chair Bowman.

Just I guess to highlight or kind of lift up what Council Vice Chair Becton shared, it's a little different for us that's north and northwest. And so, interestingly enough, I did the numbers as

well as the percentages, and if you deal with the 7, 8, 9 and 10, then 7, 9 and 10 are all close enough to the 5-percent-average deviation, the 67,552. In fact, 10 and 9 are right at it, and 7 is a little bit low.

Our lowest district of the 7, 8, 9 and 10 is actually 8. And so 8 has the second lowest population -- total population right now after the Beaches, which has the No. 1.

12 has the most. And if we throw 2 in, 2 is at the average. I will share that -- and this is kind of my honest opinion -- it's really not an issue for those of us who are on the west and north part of the seven bridges; it's really not, other than District 8.

And so the beauty of District 8 for us is that it runs up with District 12 -- probably not needed for Council Member White -- but there's some clean ways that there can be a population shift for the districts right there without, I don't think, really damaging communities of interest and all of that as well.

And I also think that one of the challenges of District 8 -- and I'll just say we call it now the four communities of interest, which were formerly

1 known as minority access districts. I love our
2 words stepping around here. But the reality is
3 that District 8 actually has more -- a larger
4 percentage of African-Americans than any of them,
5 and that is really like -- it's like an imbalance;
6 right? So it has 68 percent.
7 And then District 7 has 60 percent.
8 District 9 has 57.
9 And 10 has 58 percent.
10 So I think that when we talk about communities
11 of interest, we also must talk about those
12 communities that we believe that they have similar
13 concerns relative to the city as a whole. But I
14 don't really see the challenges for those of us on
15 the west and the north. (Unclear audio.)
16 The only thing I will add is if you do to 2
17 and you make 2 on the north, that's actually what
18 you got out from under in 11. And what happened,
19 District 2, which was actually (unclear audio), it
20 had this weird thing to looping all around the
21 city. It was the most bizarre configuration.
22 And, actually, school -- City Council District
23 7 from 2000 to 2010 jumped across the Mathews
24 Bridge. How do I know this? Because I represented
25 School District 4. And so, interestingly enough,

you jumped across the Mathews Bridge, and you had -- when you turned on University, on the right side of the street, which was Arlington Heights, but you didn't have (unclear audio), which is right on the water, because that community didn't want to be a part of it. I loved that you all cleaned all that up in 2010 and '11.

If you move District 2, you might be in danger of creating that same outer band of all over the city issue again, which I would just say we probably need to be informed about why we moved away from that, which I think was a good thing in all of that.

I am in support of total population, particularly with a city that has -- what? -- about 24 percent of our young people are under 18; right? So we need total population, because it's not as if (unclear audio) a major factor in everything we do, and we've historically done that.

So I will just -- I appreciate this information. And I think there's much of our colleagues that participated in this process, and going forward they can also know what numbers we're looking at and what we're doing and what our thoughts are as far as that.

The only thing I would like to add is, you know, I am not in support at all for expediting anything to have the School Board races included, because I just don't think it's fair, and I think we need to decide, whatever we do.

And when you expedite things, you tend to not necessarily follow all of the noticed and other consideration requirements that you usually would. I back things up from the work of the Redistricting Committee to when it goes to the Rules Committee, which has hard timelines of what it has to have and what it has, and that would -- definitely has the potential to move it further along.

But those are the only things that I would like to add, Mr. Chairman. And I think Ms. Coker Daniels has her -- Dr. Coker Daniels has her hand up.

KELLY COKER: Just to Council Person Brenda Priestly Jackson's point, I reached out to (unclear audio) just this moment ago. They both independently confirmed that it was -- that, as you said, the election right after the 2011, that one was the same. And then it was changed for the one after that, the plan that you are speaking to.

AARON BOWMAN: Okay.

KELLY COKER: It stayed the same in 2020, if my memory serves me correct.

AARON BOWMAN: As I read the tea leaves, this is going to be a nonissue anyway, but we will talk and make sure we vote on schedule.

MARY MARGARET GIANNINI: I just wanted to clarify legal things. I haven't heard anything that makes me concerned, but I just wanted to say that "total population," if you go the total-population route, I don't think there will be any valid challenge taking that method, because the Supreme Court has not definitively said, "You have to count this way."

But when the Supreme Court has discussed redistricting in the one person/one vote rubric, as we're talking now, the Supreme Court has used language that is total-population language. So if you go total-population route, you have a very strong basis upon which to ground that approach.

I do want to add an important caveat, however: A layered process or a layered step to this process is anticipating any Section 2 Voting Rights amendment -- or Voting Rights Act challenges. And that is where you have to make sure that if you potentially had a minority majority district, that

you don't draw lines that, in essence, dilute the votes of those citizens.

In the process of analyzing whether or not your voting districts are defense-worthy to a Section 2 Voting Rights Act challenge, at that point the Supreme Court has used language that indicates that you need to use citizen-voting-age population, so even more narrow than voting-age population. And so -- but that is several steps down into the process as you are sort of anticipating potential challenges as you are drawing the lines that are distinct from the 10-percent deviation, the conversation we're having right now.

So there are two metrics that you will have to keep in mind. The total population, I think right now for this conversation, is well-grounded and well-supported in the law. But as you are considering how you may draw minority majority districts, then looking at the numbers and how the Supreme Court has laid out how you evaluate the validity of those districts, in that situation citizen-voting-age population is the language the Court has used. The Court hasn't definitively said, but the language the Court is using is

leaning and hinting towards citizen voting age. So I just want that to be hovering out there as you continue your conversations.

AARON BOWMAN: Thank you.

I recognize Councilman Dennis has joined us.

Do we have any other comments? Mr. Willie?

DARRYL WILLIE: Yeah, a quick thought, just a question. So if the School Board elections won't matter for this round -- I'm just doing a scenario: Someone new gets into that seat; district is already drawn; they don't live in that seat anymore. Would they be eligible to stay in their seat in that following next term? So we're not counting them, and then we have -- the redistricting is drawn after they get elected, and then we draw it and they are drawn out. Then what happens to their seat based on what the Charter says and where we are?

MARY MARGARET GIANNINI: I --

DARRYL WILLIE: Because that could potentially happen.

MARY MARGARET GIANNINI: And I think that goes back to Councilwoman Priestly Jackson's incumbency question, where I think we want to be able to do a little bit more homework to make sure that we

accurately answer your question.

DARRYL WILLIE: Correct. And it relates to incumbency -- not incumbency, actually, as much as it does for a person unseating an incumbent, being in a seat, and then in the middle of that having the redistrict to be drawn -- districts to be drawn, and then being drawn out.

MARY MARGARET GIANNINI: Okay.

BRENDA PRIESTLY JACKSON: I think, through the Chair, then that actually does not happen, because when we're saying it doesn't apply, it's -- we would have completed the redistricting process. We're just simply saying for the purposes of the next election, that doesn't. So I don't think, under your scenario -- if the 2022 folks are included, your question is what happens for the 2026 --

DARRYL WILLIE: Right --

BRENDA PRIESTLY JACKSON: -- with an incumbent? Well, at that point I think we've already said, I guess, with the three of you all, they are termed out anyway.

But arguably -- we will already know the boundaries, because if we plug in incumbents, if that's the process that we use, that's going to be

for all of the incumbents in City Council or School Board at this time.

My issue, actually, is not forward looking as much as it is an impact on the eligibility of folks who are in an area right now comporting with the Charter for residency requirements.

DARRYL WILLIE: Right.

BRENDA PRIESTLY JACKSON: When we say doesn't apply to 2022, it doesn't mean that we don't have new districts then. We're just saying -- we better be done by then; we are required to be done by then. We're simply saying it won't be applicable to those elections. Does that make sense? So the district boundaries will be drawn.

DARRYL WILLIE: It does, but if I'm a candidate, a new candidate, and I decide to jump in, I have to live in the old boundaries or the new boundaries? That's the question. Because if I live in the old boundaries and then it changes to the new boundaries, then that's where it gets --

BRENDA PRIESTLY JACKSON: Well, there has to be some new boundaries. If they are not an incumbent, they are not protected in any kind of way, I think. That's the whole (unclear audio).

DANNY BECTON: Yeah, so let me give a real

real situation. I think our School Board Member Willie does have a point.

So I've got to lose 20,000 folks; right? So one of my suggestions is, is when District 12 is trimmed out -- and I've got some thoughts -- is I've got this northern area here that's UNF and Kernan, above JTB. Let's say that happens and that trims out. Well, right now my School Board district is District 6 Mandarin and District 11. This no way would go into 6, and it wouldn't be staying in 11, so it would be spun off.

So my School Board race for 2022 is an open seat. What if somebody in that area in Kernan ran for -- what's that, District 7 -- School Board, Ms. Hershey's seat, and won? To his point, what would happen to that person in four years in '26? Right? 22 plus four. Yeah. Would they run again? They would not be in district -- School Board District 7. And I think that's an interesting point. The likelihood of it happening in most other districts is probably small, because, you know, depending on how the lines change.

But I can tell you there's going to have to be some drastic cuts to get 20,000 people out of, you know, my area. And it possibly could happen

because I have an open seat. And I can't tell you if there's any candidates for the next election in that area, but it could happen. And there's some other areas that are going to be cut, but they would likely stay in District 6. This is the only one that has the potential of moving out of School Board District 7 in a real-world situation.

BRENDA PRIESTLY JACKSON: That's why I think we haven't had an incumbency question answered so we can know when to consider that.

AARON BOWMAN: And we will get there. And certainly I think that the basic answer to your question, Mr. Willie, is that the next School Board race will be under the current districts we have. The one four years after that will be all based on where you live, how many districts we are about to do.

So it could be, like Mr. Becton said, somebody runs for a seat and then four years later finds out they are no longer in that district. But they'll be able to continue to serve.

Yes, Ms. Coker Daniels.

KELLY COKER: I just want to make reference to the incumbency question that keeps coming up.

I will say District 1 -- City Council District

1 and School Board District 1 has been in that scenario in the past when the incumbent was always running. You may recall that when we originally started this process, they actually discussed it. (Unclear audio).

If you look at that district in particular, Empire Point, Colonial Point on Atlantic Boulevard are included in an odd shape or the tail end of that district. It should probably have Atlantic and University, but because of each time of the Census, each of us all lived in that area, so the boundaries to keep those in there.

So just there is a historical reference on a School Board race and a City Council race in progress under those scenarios.

AARON BOWMAN: All right. Before we start taking these issues one by one --

RANDY WHITE: I have one question.

AARON BOWMAN: Yes, sir.

RANDY WHITE: Yes, sir, through the Chair, if it's permissible, I know I'm very happy with Mr. Killingsworth; he's done this many many times, and so has Mr. Holland. Could we see, if he's heard everything we've said, if he has any suggestions of what he's heard that might make it easier on us?

So would that be appropriate?

AARON BOWMAN: I'm sorry. Can you repeat that?

RANDY WHITE: Would it be appropriate -- Mr. Holland has done this also, and I'm certainly happy with Mr. Killingsworth; he's done it also -- if he has any suggestions of what he's heard that we've been talking about, to make life easier on us? Would you let him come to the podium, if that's proper?

AARON BOWMAN: Yes, Mr. White, I'm happy to honor your request.

JERRY HOLLAND: Thank you, Mr. White, and thank you, through the Chair.

I just will reflect on a few things. Obviously, having been involved 10 years ago and 20 years ago, some of the things you talked about are things that we did experience and do know. For example, the question about, you know, does incumbency of a current member, you know, affect it by the decisions of your redistricting, meaning that you may be a member that is termed out, but do you have a new district?

Well, obviously, 10 years ago District 11 was on the other side of the river. 20 years ago

District 13 was on the other side of the river. And I'll never get -- because I represented the Beaches at that time -- some of my constituents said to Council Member (unclear audio), "We're so glad you are our Council person now," but she wasn't.

But from that standpoint, your decisions and your redistricting will affect the next election. It doesn't change any lines between now and the next election. So it doesn't affect any incumbency now and the next election as far as you no longer represent that or you no longer live in the district. It is a matter of the next election where the new electees will be elected.

The other perspective as you talked about -- and I like the direction you are going on total age -- and one of the reasons we've gone total age since consolidation is also because what we've reflected in the last 10 years and 20 years is, is that it's helped keep those historical Districts 7, 8, 9 and 10 back then, as you called them, minority access districts. Because in lower-income areas -- it had nothing to do with race -- but in lower-income areas, there was a higher population of families with children; so, therefore, the size

of the district geographically, it was to the benefit to go total age.

If you go 18 and older, what you'll see is, is that in order to meet those numbers and those averages and means, you will have to geographically be larger, and it will lower your minority numbers.

The other perspective to remember is -- and Councilman Becton talking about 20,000 on your number -- is really you need to look at not the mean. You need to look at, as you were, Councilwoman, the low end and the high end. Your 16,000 over is what your concentration should be, not 20,000, because 16,000 meets the number and you've met what you need to do.

And in the same way, as you look at numbers, Councilman Garrett wouldn't have to change a single number; he's met that.

And, like you said, other than Councilman Pittman, she's the one that's got to grow. But really when you look at it, it's going to -- obviously, one district, as in Councilman Becton's district, is going to put 16,000 people in other districts; no doubt about it. It has to in order to balance the system. Even though Mandarin is almost even and the other ones are off only a few

hundred, but it will make the changes.

But the reality is, is that I totally appreciate going total age. I totally think from an incumbency you don't have to worry about the current members as far as those who are termed out if they are in another district, and hopefully that's a perspective that helps from that standpoint. So thank you for that opportunity.

RANDY WHITE: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Thank you.

AARON BOWMAN: Okay. Thanks.

DANNY BECTON: Well, can I comment on Mr. Holland's?

AARON BOWMAN: Yes.

DANNY BECTON: Mr. Holland, you bring up a good point about, you know, looking at the minimum and the max on that curve. I guess I also factored in a third dimension, and that is future growth. Okay? And I -- so I'm thinking 20 -- just like I did in 2011, I was already thinking if this rose, where would be the logical -- you know, how would this be reshaped easily, rather than difficultly?

And one of the things I underestimated last time we met was how much more growth I have in my area. And I still have a thousand acres on the

southeast quadrant. I still have eTown. We just changed the land use of 5,000 acres on the west side of the Dee Dot. I mean, I still see a population explosion continuing, not to say that it won't be in competition with the Westside, Mr. White's district, and then Mr. Ferraro's district, because we've seen an awful lot of rezoned neighborhoods in those areas.

So while I totally got what you said and thought about it, I'm still thinking, well, you know, if we don't get rid of too much, then that 90,000 will again be 90,000. You know what I mean? The next time around it will even make it more difficult if we don't try to get it closer to the min, rather than the max, just for the future, you know. That was another thought that I had.

JERRY HOLLAND: Obviously, in a perfect world, everything at the median will be the perfect world. But the reality is to get there, you have to affect other districts more than you have to if you stay with the minimum or maximum. So you may get a perfect world where you go, "I'm prepared for the future and growth."

Realize that a Census is a snapshot in time. And the requirement by the law is to deal with that

snapshot, not to deal with what's projected in the future, whether it be a loss or gain of population.

But realize that if you deal with the minimum and max, you are going to affect your colleagues in a least manner so that their communities of interest can stay together more like they are today than what the future may hold. That's the reason I always go deal more with the minimum and the max than the median, because that's truly going to make less of an impact to your colleagues that are around you.

Thank you.

DANNY BECTON: Thank you for being here and your thoughts.

AARON BOWMAN: Thank you. And if I could, if you guys are all right with it, what I would like to do is I think we've got about three issues of guidance that we can go ahead and address right now. Obviously, we're not going to say we're closed until everybody has had a chance to add one if they want to.

But if we could do that, if everybody is all right with it, if you take these three, the three I'm thinking about is:

Schedule. Do we want to try to expedite this?

Two is total population versus voting.

And three is incumbent.

So I would like to go ahead and take those up right now and give those some guidance.

DANNY BECTON: Well, through the Chair, I'll be glad to make a motion. It sounds like everybody's favoring total population, so I will be glad to do that for certainly a consideration.

GARRETT DENNIS: I second that.

DANNY BECTON: And that was to favor total population.

AARON BOWMAN: There was a second.

Anybody want to talk about total population?

And I agree, and I think Ms. Priestly Jackson and I think alike, because on my notes coming down here I said, "It is absolutely not fair to the people nine years" -- well, nine to 17 right now -- "counting them out of where they're going to be over the next few years."

So all in favor of total population?

(Members indicating.)

All right. Total population, Mr. Killingsworth, is your guidance.

We did talk a little bit about -- but now Mr. Dennis is here. He brought up last week do we try

to expedite this process or let it flow. So is there anybody who wants to make --

BRENDA PRIESTLY JACKSON: I make a motion that we adhere to traditional timelines and not expedite the process.

DANNY BECTON: I second that.

AARON BOWMAN: A second. Any discussion on that?

DANNY BECTON: Through the Chair, just to the fact that we have acknowledged today that whether we expedite this, it will almost be impossible for us to beat a nine-month timeline before August 23, '22. We would have to finish up and have everything done, voted on by Council by some date in probably even earlier than October, because I guess there's public hearings -- I mean, public meetings that have to -- I mean, we're talking right now trying to finish by December. So there would be community involvement the first of the year.

And then traditionally we have, I think, uncovered the fact that that's -- you know, the next School Board election was never -- even under perfect conditions where they finished where they were designed to do so in November, that it was

even a consideration.

So with that, I think it's just at this point pragmatic to say that these School Board races in '22 were not and continue to be not part of the redistricting decisions made. But the City Council races the following year are the target objectives of the first elections to be affected. So with that I'll --

BRENDA PRIESTLY JACKSON: And I just want to add, Mr. Chairman, I think -- I appreciate your (unclear audio) all of this. I think if you shorten anything or expedite anything, we already have neighbors who are distrustful, and so if we deviate -- any deviation you make from what we have historically done, I think we need to be very clear on the record that it's warranted.

And I see us ripe for challenges if we expedite anything to accelerate things, particularly since we still have the COVID-19 pandemic hovering above us with things going on. So we want to make certain that we are able to let our neighbors know throughout the process what we're doing in having these public hearings.

AARON BOWMAN: Mr. Dennis.

GARRETT DENNIS: Through the Chair, just

asking the Committee as far as expediting, my thoughts on expediting was to not string out meetings once a month, versus us having our working group maybe twice a month, and not speeding up having the community meetings or anything like this, because it's still going to have to go through a process once it goes to Rules.

I was just thinking about having a working group, per se, in expediting. That's what, you know, I don't want us to kind of stretch out.

AARON BOWMAN: Okay. And thank you, Mr. Dennis. We had given the goal of before we go on break in December, and I think once we work with Mr. Killingsworth on how do we get there -- and I agree with you; just saying we're going to meet every month until we are done is not the right answer. So I appreciate your support on that.

And I appreciate all of you. We stepped on this one pretty quickly because I know we had to, and thank you for showing up.

Mr. Becton, did you want to add something?

DANNY BECTON: Yeah. I just want to add that even if this committee just met once a month to make the big decisions, I think it's still incumbent upon members here to have smaller group

meetings, have noticed meetings with your colleagues that you want to bounce ideas off of or get into a specific issue that affects multiple -- call a noticed meeting. That's how -- I think it was tremendously successful last time as well. So those can occur many times during the month.

And then if it is only a month that we feel -- that the Chair feels like, "Hey, we got some big decisions or some outcomes that we need to, through the Director, make a decision on," those are, you know, obviously the meetings that you were referring to.

But I would certainly personally think about, you know, how a noticed meeting might -- you might round up with your colleagues and address smaller issues and try to come to some conclusions.

So I hope that's appropriate.

AARON BOWMAN: That is. Thank you. And you are absolutely right; the five of us cannot draw 14 districts. So we absolutely have to have our colleagues involved with that, and I agree with that.

All right. So we have a motion just to maintain the scheduled status quo, not to expedite, and a second.

All in favor of that?

(Members indicating.)

AARON BOWMAN: So we're not going to expedite the schedule.

The third one I talked about was the incumbents. So I think on this the motion would be, if somebody wants to offer it, that we try -- that we not draw current Council members outside -- or School Board members outside of their districts. Is that what I'm hearing?

BRENDA PRIESTLY JACKSON: I would just have a caveat, Mr. Chairman. I think that that would be the understanding, but I don't know if you got a little far ahead. Did you maybe not maybe want (unclear audio) what we are required to do. We can look at that on September 9th, whatever your pleasure.

DANNY BECTON: Through the Chair, I think that's very appropriate for a City Council member. That's the first election that this applies to in any non-open seat. Any incumbent absolutely needs to be -- reside and stay resided in their district for the 2020 group.

And I believe, based on my spreadsheet, I have noted how many open seats, and that was on a

separate sheet of paper. And there's one, two, three, four, five, six, seven open seats out of 19. So the remainder are incumbents that, yes, should not be written out of the district.

Now, as far as School Board, I think that answer lies in that question I proposed, and I'm not sure how I can anticipate who is going to run in District 7.

AARON BOWMAN: I think both of you are in good guidance. So I think, then, the motion would be to -- and remember these are considerations. These are not -- if we have to come back and say, "Whoops, this wasn't a legal thing we told you to do," we can. So I think based on my colleagues, I think the motion would be -- if somebody wants to give it -- is that we do not draw incumbents outside of their current districts for City Council.

Do we have a motion?

RANDY WHITE: I will make that motion.

DANNY BECTON: Correct. Yes, I will second that, Mr. White having moved it.

AARON BOWMAN: Yes.

BRENDA PRIESTLY JACKSON: You know, I often say I'm just a School Board member pretending to be

a Council member right now. I would like to expand it to the current School Board members. And if we find out from General Counsel's Office that that's not a consideration or a factor -- I just would not want to undertake this work drawing current School Board members out of the districts at this point. That's a consideration to me. That's pretty major, I would think.

DANNY BECTON: Through the Chair, to Ms. Jackson, I need more information on the question we're proposing. By just saying City Council members at this point doesn't preclude us coming back and adding School Board, because I think -- personally, I want to know the answer.

'22 doesn't matter. There's going to be elections based on the current maps. It's the '26 races where it's going to matter. And I'm not sure how we can know who those incumbents necessarily are, because there's going to be -- out of the '22 race, there's going to be incumbents for 2026; right? So we don't know who's going to win or who's going to lose. It's just they're going to run knowing that in '26 these lines could be different, and they are going to know that.

I mean, somebody (unclear audio) to run in

School Board race for '22 for next year. They don't know what the new lines are, and they run a risk in certain areas for our city that in '26 they may not all fall in the exact same district. That's kind of a risk. And we're trying to find out what happens at that point and what the legality of that is. And until we know that, I think it's just still an open question that we can come back to in our next meeting if we get some answers.

BRENDA PRIESTLY JACKSON: And I guess there's two things I'll share about that. One, the issue is for '22, because they are all incumbents. So any new lines drawn after that, they will be termed out anyway in 2026. But there's also a group for 2024. And so those have a hybrid, I think. Two are termed and two are not termed.

And I know it would never be the intent of this committee, but I think if we drew or had a consideration that marginalized School Board districts in this process at all, that could send an unintended message to the public in terms of incumbents. And so that's why I wanted to know is it a factor to consider, is it a legal requirement to consider, is it a valid legal requirement to

consider anyone, which is why I ask if we might not want to look at that on September 9th for incumbency, in general, to round it all out.

And I will share with you one thing, that, you know, we are trying to not be engaged in the politics of what we're doing, but there's a big backdrop of politics to what we're doing. And there is a current move afoot to have our School Board races be -- no longer be nonpartisan, which, to me, is the most important and valuable thing of that, for them (unclear audio) partisan.

I think that our work here impacts all of that, which is why I would like to look at both of those questions, and ones in terms of incumbents who are on City Council and incumbents on the School Board, just to know what our parameters are. I wouldn't want anyone to take our actions as a yea or a nay, one of the other issues that are (unclear audio).

AARON BOWMAN: So based on both your comments, I see three ways we can go with this. One way is to say Council members should not be drawn out of their lines.

The second way would be that, barring any legal determinations that we don't know, Council

members and School Board members should not be drawn out of their lines.

Is that --

DANNY BECTON: And that is non-open seats?

AARON BOWMAN: That's correct.

DANNY BECTON: So I wouldn't count, you wouldn't count?

AARON BOWMAN: Right. It's incumbents.

DANNY BECTON: Right. Incumbents. Right. Okay, just to clarify.

AARON BOWMAN: So is everybody comfortable if we did that?

PAIGE JOHNSTON: Just for clarification, I do think if you are just going by the language in the charter, I would read it to say that it does not affect the School Board for this upcoming election in '22, but for '24 it would impact them.

So, again, to the point that someone had made, before the next election they will actually know what the new district is; it just will not impact their being able to run in '22. It would impact --

DANNY BECTON: '24.

PAIGE JOHNSTON: -- '24, even if someone was an incumbent if they were drawn out of a district, I believe.

But I think what Mary Margaret and I want to do is look at case law and make sure that we're interpreting that correctly, but by the language in the Charter, I think it is meant to apply to the '24 election.

AARON BOWMAN: Okay. And I think what we really need to do is give Mr. Killingsworth some stuff to go work on.

So I think if we word it that way, that barring any legal determination that does not allow Mr. Killingsworth's guidance, is to not draw incumbents out of districts for City Council and for the School Board.

RANDY WHITE: Yes, sir, that's my motion.

BRENDA PRIESTLY JACKSON: Second.

AARON BOWMAN: Discussion?

All in favor?

(Members indicating.)

AARON BOWMAN: Okay. All right. Those were the first three.

And then just throwing stuff that I've heard we've talked about that we probably ought to address, is crossing the river, Intracoastal, historic communities, schools, community interests, and one I have an issue with a little bit in mind

is also neighborhoods. I've got a community that goes right down the middle of it, which is with you, Mr. Becton, Glen Kernan.

RANDY WHITE: Mr. Chairman?

AARON BOWMAN: It's all yours.

RANDY WHITE: Mr. Chair, did we consider giving him the direction that we would start from existing boundaries? Did we give him that already?

AARON BOWMAN: Yes, we did.

RANDY WHITE: Okay. Thank you.

AARON BOWMAN: So anybody want to make a motion on any of these motions?

RANDY WHITE: Mr. Chair, I would like to make a motion that we do express to the Director to minimize river crossings, to keep river crossings minimized.

AARON BOWMAN: Okay. Do I have a second?

BRENDA PRIESTLY JACKSON: Second.

AARON BOWMAN: Any discussion?

All in favor?

Did you want to discuss?

GARRETT DENNIS: Well, he said "minimize." It's not possible that -- yeah, so, no, I'm good.

DANNY BECTON: I said "minimize" instead of "eliminate," knowing that we might have to do it.

I'm not opposed to, like, one, you know, but I don't want to be adding, you know, unless it became deathly necessary.

AARON BOWMAN: And I think it goes without saying that I think that's part of the Charter, that you've already got guidance to be compact and contiguous; correct? We don't need to give you guidance on that? That's part of your guidance as well, right, or do you need us to give you guidance on that one? That might be a better legal question to --

BILL KILLINGSWORTH: To the Chair, I mean, that's guidance in general. In the end, the communities of interest that you are trying to protect will come out when we meet individually.

I mean, we know broad communities, but when it comes down to individual districts, the Council member may say this community should not be separated from this one, and it may come down to reasons that are not obvious to the Planning Department.

AARON BOWMAN: Yeah. I think what you are saying, Mr. Killingsworth, though, is I don't think there's harm of giving you that guidance?

BILL KILLINGSWORTH: No, there's not. We do

take that, just like compacting.

AARON BOWMAN: I think I probably --

DANNY BECTON: Well, I tell you what, I will move that --

PAIGE JOHNSTON: Mr. Chair, if I might, I can read to you what the Charter states.

AARON BOWMAN: Yes, please.

PAIGE JOHNSTON: So there are two -- this is under Section 18.101, Legislative Findings. It states "The Council is obligated to insure that all districts are as nearly equal in population and are arranged in as logical and compact a geographical pattern as it is possible to achieve and to insure that all federal and state constitutions, laws, and requirements are complied with."

And then in addition, there's additional language below that, that says "While the Council districts are based upon population with respect to their size, the geographical arrangement and territorial boundaries of the districts must take into consideration other factors, particularly compactness and contiguity, so that the people of the City and their varied economic, social, and ethnic interests and objectives are adequately represented in the Council."

So that is what he would have to do.

AARON BOWMAN: So your nonlegal description is that Mr. Becton's motion is redundant? Is that true? That's already covered in the Charter so we don't need to tell Bill to --

PAIGE JOHNSTON: That is the language in the Charter, so he should -- so Mr. Killingsworth --

AARON BOWMAN: I don't always talk lawyerese [sic]. I just want to make sure.

All right. Are there any other -- and can we give Mr. Killingsworth -- once again, I'm asking you what guidance you need, and I also understand you've done this before, and you're a pretty smart guy. Schools is one we talked about, you know, UNF, Edward Waters. Do we need to give you guidance not to cut those in half?

BILL KILLINGSWORTH: No, Mr. Chairman.

AARON BOWMAN: Okay.

BILL KILLINGSWORTH: So I'm not intimately familiar with how the school does their attendance zones, but my suspicion is that regardless of how we do this, we'll probably mess up attendance, so that won't be exactly School-Board related. But to the extent that you would like us to look at that, we could do that as well. Last time we did not

look at attendance at all.

BRENDA PRIESTLY JACKSON: I would just encourage you to work with the School Board, because normally they have their whole tax and sales tax and facilities, which is (unclear audio) schools and all that. So you might want to look at that. They probably have done some background, I would think, on where those, you know, communities of interest, schools communities of interest that could be consolidated just as a factor. But we have a (unclear audio).

AARON BOWMAN: Yes, Ms. Coker.

KELLY COKER: I just wanted to make reference that she is absolutely spot-on. We've now had a ten-year facilities ban. There are a number of schools that potentially could be consolidated and will geographically change things as well. We would be happy to coordinate a meeting with our Operations Division so you can sit down with them and go through with any questions you have. I can make that happen.

AARON BOWMAN: Mr. Dennis.

GARRETT DENNIS: I do have one suggestion to Mr. Killingsworth, through the Chair and Committee.

I know that, Mr. Killingsworth, you've been

reaching out to Council members and everything, and I know that our next meeting is on the 9th. But not to micromanage you, but I think it should be a priority -- this should be a priority so Council members like Council Member Becton should be a priority since we know he has 20,000 that will have to move out of his district. And Councilwoman Pittman, she has that to gain. So I think those Council members should be a part of that.

You are probably already doing that. So going back to the 9th -- because I would love to start seeing maybe -- I know I was late, so I apologize about that, but I would love to see a preliminary map sometimes soon on -- you know, on the potential configuration.

So I don't know how the rest of the committee feels, but, you know, just prioritizing those meetings.

AARON BOWMAN: No, I think you are spot-on, Mr. Dennis, because I think if Mr. Killingsworth worked in a vacuum and started drawing new lines for Mr. Becton -- he's losing at least 16,000 people -- and didn't talk to him about it, that probably will not go over real well. As well as Ms. Pittman that looks to grow, she may have

communities she thinks are of interest that need to be pulled in more so than others.

So I agree with you that you could prioritize, you know, on the ones on the losers and the gainers probably first because they are going to be the ones that -- you know, a lot of our districts you could probably just say "It is what it is and it's not going to change, and we'll go on our way."

BRENDA PRIESTLY JACKSON: And the other thing is the actual lowest is the Beaches; it's 13, you know.

So I think that -- I'm so grateful for Council Member Becton's work, because you were in on that work that changed the shift that now has to be contemplated. And so that's the lowest district. It's not the -- it's District 13. It is those individuals who wanted to just have a Council member that was only at the Beaches. And contrary to those of us that sat across the bridges, it's all about crossing a ditch. So they had a whole different spin on that.

So I think that needs to be a priority as well to understand what give and take that has to happen for those in the Beaches community's expectations, when they are the lowest district right now.

AARON BOWMAN: All right. Thank you.

And the only other one that I've got is -- I'm looking for colleagues here -- I mean, to me it is kind of redundant. You talked historic communities. I mean, that, to me, is a community of interest. Is there a difference between -- I mean --

BILL KILLINGSWORTH: So the reason I brought that up, Mr. Chairman, is last time initially we were not asked to look at that. The desire was we want 14 as compact, regular-shaped districts as we can. And that's where we started, and then it went from there.

So initially last time we did not look at -- though, I think we recognized long-term. That's probably where we're going. We didn't start from a place of recognizing that we were going to maintain the four historic communities of interest.

AARON BOWMAN: Okay. So I think what you told me is that you've got marching orders and are sufficient on that.

Does any other member have any other considerations to give Mr. Killingsworth?

And, Mr. Killingsworth, we scheduled the 9th of September. We do want to make sure that we're

moving forward at the right order, but I also don't like to have meetings that are meaningless.

Is the 9th of September, you think, a good day to get together to kind of roll out what you think you may -- based on the marching orders you've got today?

BILL KILLINGSWORTH: So Mr. Chairman, I believe so. If I could ask for the consideration that I get back with the Chair like a week from now to see how far we're along, just so that if there is an issue, that we're not scheduling a meeting that we would end up postponing anyway. But it would be my desire to have something for you by the 9th.

AARON BOWMAN: Okay. Great.

Yes, ma'am?

BRENDA PRIESTLY JACKSON: Mr. Chair, you may have done this, and so I may be behind and didn't see it, but have we sent -- and, Mr. Killingsworth, thank you so much for this information.

Have we sent all of our colleagues on the Council? They've all received it? Okay. That was the only thing. Wonderful.

Thank you.

AARON BOWMAN: All right. Anything from

Legal? School Board? Members?

Okay. It's been a great meeting today. Thank you so much. This meeting is adjourned.

(End of meeting at 3:31 p.m.)

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REPORTER'S CERTIFICATE

STATE OF FLORIDA)
COUNTY OF DUVAL)

I, Leah P. Maltz, RPR, RMR, FPR, do hereby certify that I was authorized to and did stenographically rewrite and then transcribe the foregoing meeting from a video recording; and that the foregoing transcript was produced to the best of my ability.

I further certify that I am not a relative, employee, attorney, or counsel of any of the parties, nor am I a relative or employee of any of the parties' attorneys or counsel connected with the action, nor am I financially interested in the action.

DATED this 12th day of July, 2022.

Leah P. Maltz

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Leah P. Maltz, RPR, RMR, FPR
Court Reporter and Notary Public

CITY OF JACKSONVILLE, FLORIDA

OFFICE OF THE CITY COUNCIL

SPECIAL COMMITTEE MEETING ON REDISTRICTING

MEETING HELD ON SEPTEMBER 2, 2021

3:00 p.m.

117 West Duval Street

Don Davis Room, 1st Floor, City Hall

Jacksonville, Florida 32202

Meeting transcribed by:

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IN ATTENDANCE

Aaron Bowman
Rory Diamond
Al Ferraro
Kevin Carrico
Joyce Morgan
Kelly Coker
Bill Killingsworth
Paige Johnston
Jeff Clements
Colleen Hampsey
Carol Brock
Chet Aikens
Maritza Sanchez
Barbara Hobson

(*** NOTE: This meeting was transcribed from audio only. There was no video of this meeting. The audio was muffled and unclear at the beginning of the audio file.)

- - -

AARON BOWMAN: Now to you, Mr. Carrico.

KEVIN CARRICO: Sure. I got a chance to review these maps prior to the meeting. I do have kind of a fundamental issue with a lot that I see -- well, not a lot, but one in particular that's represented on every map, a switch from District 3, where the northwest portion is being taken up and being replaced by that southwest -- sorry -- northeast being taken away and adding in the southwest.

Can you point that out? Yeah.

So I'm taking the community in the northeast that is very identifiable to District 4. You know, District 4 is old Southside. It's almost all multi-family homes. You know, I call it a working-class district. We don't have a lot of fancy things other than the Town Center.

But as far as the people who live there, we don't have private golf-course communities, things like that. We're just a good old-fashioned working

community, largely historic with a lot of my neighborhoods. So you take a big chunk of that out and you replace it with basically all multi-family developments in the Baymeadows/95/Philips Highway corridor, it just doesn't really identify with what I think District 4 is.

So my proposal would be if you look at that Baymeadows part -- can you point to it for me, Mr. Killingsworth?

Yeah. Swap that to the piece just east of that, yeah, which is going to be Deerwood and the Deerwood -- I forgot the name of the community to the north of that. It's off of Gate Parkway. Deermeadows or -- not Deercreek.

Deerwood. So it's adding Deerwood instead of the Baymeadows/95 corridor.

AARON BOWMAN: And does population -- I mean, I know doing this on the fly is (audio fades out).

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: (Unclear, low audio.)

KEVIN CARRICO: And then on the next map, if I can give my comments there? Is that how you want to do this? Kind of roundtable through this?

AARON BOWMAN: Sure.

KEVIN CARRICO: Yeah, I mean, just as a whole, not just my district, but as a whole, this map kind

of disrupts a lot more of what we all perceive our districts to be. It takes into Mandarin and District 6. It takes -- does that have the Bartram in there? Yeah, it adds Bartram to that, which, you know, it's across Julington Creek.

It has the San Marco District, District 5, jumping all the way into what most would consider Mandarin. I went to Mandarin High, and it looks like that's diving all into the heart of the North Mandarin area. It takes me in 4 and pushes me out to St. Nicholas and areas that are kind of identifiable with, you know, a San Marco suburb. So it kind of disrupts the whole picture, in my opinion.

AARON BOWMAN: Okay. And recognizing Councilwoman Morgan has joined us. Thank you.

And School Board Member Coker has joined us.

And I know y'all stepped in a little late, but basically what I started us off with is stating that these micromeetings between the joined districts are probably the best way to go, rather than having a big meeting and trying to solve it all at once, if we can get adjacent districts to agree on things. So Bill has probably got about four more micromeetings he's going to try to put

together.

And, of course, this is just a working meeting today. We're not voting on anything. We're just kind of seeing kind of for the first time what we've got and making comments.

So thank you, Council Member Carrico.

Council Member Ferraro.

AL FERRARO: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

I did reach out with Mr. Killingsworth in the area that I know that the committee tried to do, is to keep it to where we didn't have active Council members being in the same area.

I know you and I are going to be termed out at the same time, so that wouldn't have anything to do with anything like that.

But Ms. Morgan's area, which is old Arlington, and then the East Arlington has always been kind of considered going all the way over towards Queens Harbor. You may not hear that. I hear that a lot from constituents and customers. It has a lot more of the same effect of the communities in that area, like Mr. Carrico talked about, with the neighborhoods and how that was affected.

So I was interested in trying to keep as much as a block going east, and I know with me and Mr.

Killingsworth, we talked about it. I didn't get to look at really what the north side of the district was going to look like at this point. But on this part, the south end of our district, this was something I was interested in, trying to have something that meshed together I thought a little bit better.

I think you did a good job, Mr. Killingsworth. I wouldn't want your job.

AARON BOWMAN: Yeah, please.

RORY DIAMOND: I just have a question for Mr. Ferraro. Just my personal bias, I don't care if we cross rivers. I've got an intracoastal going all the way through my district, so I don't care about water and bridges.

But that whole area north of the river, you've been representing for almost eight years, Black Hammock Island and all of those places where all of that development is happening, that so many of us have been up there, I mean, it seems like they are just being kind of left behind in this. Why not just keep them part of 2 and have the rep who's there kind of look out for these similar neighborhoods north and south of the river there? I'm just asking.

AL FERRARO: So I didn't have a problem with it crossing the river. I think that was the task of the committee that said that they didn't want it crossing the river. And this is -- so I have never had heartburn of it crossing the river. Actually, to me, it works well. So I really don't have a problem, to answer your question.

RORY DIAMOND: Okay.

AL FERRARO: When I looked at it of how it was carved out, I just didn't think it really fit. So ...

AARON BOWMAN: Yeah, please.

BILL KILLINGSWORTH: (Low, unclear audio.) The issue is going to be that because of the population on this side, is we can still cross the river, but (low, unclear audio).

AL FERRARO: And, Mr. Chairman, if you don't mind me adding?

AARON BOWMAN: Yeah.

AL FERRARO: To Mr. Diamond's point, when you were talking about keeping the areas together, I know that the north part of my district has always asked me, when redistricting happened, how they wanted Oceanway to be part of it, to where it was kind of divided in half to where what happened in

Springfield -- which it's not bad; it's just two different types of living -- it doesn't really kind of work with the Oceanway area. So the Oceanway and the Black Hammock Island and all of that, they were asking when redistricting happened if we could kind of join it instead of splitting it like it was.

So if it is going to be split, that was something I'd be interested in looking at. And I haven't really seen anything on the north side of what's going to happen yet.

AARON BOWMAN: I think since this one impacts District 3 a lot, I'm not favorable of this scenario, because I will tell you those areas of what I've got is pretty homogeneous and carving out a huge section of that.

So -- and I'm just curious, Mr. Killingsworth, I mean, I haven't looked at population maps, but certainly to the north of the river there is a lot of low-lying lands. And I've got to believe that the population is not that intense across the northern part of -- right across the river. Yeah, in there. Okay.

BILL KILLINGSWORTH: (Low, unclear audio.)

AARON BOWMAN: Okay. Mr. Diamond.

RORY DIAMOND: Thank you, Mr. Chair.

And, again, thank you, Mr. Killingsworth, for all of the hard work.

And thank you, Mr. Holland, who I know also did a bunch of work before this.

District 13 looks pretty much the same. My community is going to be thrilled so long as the Beaches are altogether. So that's kind of my job is done, and I will check the box.

Just on other issues while we're looking at it -- and this is mostly through having spent time running around on LUZ -- I do care about that, and I know you do, too, Councilman Ferraro, that Black Hammock Island and everything kind of east of Boney Road seems all -- and Heckscher -- all that seems a lot like 2 in my brain, but I will leave that to y'all to decide.

I do support Councilman Carrico's idea on the neighborhoods that he mentioned, so I would be fully in support of what he suggested for his district.

The only other wrinkle here on this one is I really think that what Councilman Becton's map looked like was disruptive, to say the least. It was -- it did a lot of moving pieces, and I'm just

not sure what the purpose of it was.

But I know for sure that I think Bartram and that community fits perfectly well with the other south-of-JTB communities. In fact, all the people I know there are expecting to be in 11. I just don't see the logic of lumping them in with, like, Old Mandarin. So I do think I prefer the original map that includes Bartram along with District 11.

But, again, my district is whole. I'm going to be here as an annoying interloper so long as 13 is what it is.

Can we renumber it, though? I'm a little tired of being District 13. I'm ready to be District 1 (laughing).

Don't worry. The new East Arlington, West Arlington District -- I'm teasing (laughing).

All right. That's my 2 cents, sir. And, again, I'm not sure why -- and perhaps the Chair can explain, if you would like -- but, to me, it's just like crossing rivers are no big deal. We've done it in the past. In fact, the original districts crossed the river back 50 years ago. Mine crosses the Intracoastal. 2 has always crossed the river and the Intracoastal. So, to me, it's fine.

AARON BOWMAN: Yeah. And certainly I realize my district was the logical one to feed your district. So I don't like giving up my San Pablo neighborhoods, but I pretty much knew that that's where it makes sense to take from. And kind of along that Council Member Ferraro, that's one of the reasons why I want to keep that other northern district, because I'm already getting chunked out on that side because --

AL FERRARO: What are you talking about?

AARON BOWMAN: Right along San Pablo Road.

So many years past, everything to the west of the Intracoastal was kind of part of the same district. In the last three districtings, we lost the area -- I say "we" -- my district lost the area to the east of San Pablo down the Isle of Palms area at the very bottom of the purple, Mr. Diamond's district. And now simply -- and so I had one side of San Pablo in my district, the other side of San Pablo not.

Now what this does, is it pretty much takes all of one side of San Pablo, north and south, and moves it over to the Beaches.

So -- oh, yeah, I knew where you were going to steal from, because it makes no sense to take it

from anywhere else. So I'm actually kind of fine with that map as the first one is drawn.

So I recognize Council Member Morgan.

JOYCE MORGAN: Yes, thank you so much, Mr. Bowman. I appreciate it.

I did have a chance to speak with Mr. Killingsworth on District 1 which abuts to District 2, and it abuts to District 4. And what I'm looking at is just where we're possibly looking at pulling more of my Regency area into District 2. I propose drawing that line down Monument to Regency Square Boulevard, going over and picking up my library, to keep the Regency Square Library in District 1, and then drawing the line all the way down to Atlantic.

And what we're looking at is it should not have a population change, because those would not be populated areas. Those would be commercial areas. So, you know, if it were population, I would say I've got to give it up, but it's commercial. So that was my suggestion when I talked with Mr. Killingsworth, is I think because this is probably one of the few that stays compact with what we're doing.

AARON BOWMAN: Mr. Killingsworth, can you kind

of illustrate with your hands what Ms. Morgan was talking about?

BILL KILLINGSWORTH: Yes. So what (low, unclear audio).

AARON BOWMAN: And that would be taking away from your proposal of whom? District 4?

JOYCE MORGAN: Two.

AARON BOWMAN: Two. Okay.

BILL KILLINGSWORTH: (Low, unclear audio.)

AARON BOWMAN: Okay. Board Member Coker, do you have any comments, questions?

KELLY COKER: Through the Chair, I will say to Council Member Morgan's standpoint, that this particular library is used for a number of community meetings and whatnot by Arlington residents, and there aren't as many options. So I understand her saying -- addressing that.

To Council Member Ferraro's point of the Black Hammock and that area, having now served it, and also being so familiar with the student population, he's correct that it's a unique population that does -- it makes sense to keep it together, as well.

I was trying to think in terms of schools and distribution of schools for City Council members.

I would love to take these maps back and double-check and see what kind of shifts you all would see in terms of -- it doesn't look like any major high-school issues or whatnot, but I do see some elementary shifts potentially for you all. And so I would be happy to make sure that our Ops Department puts that together on some of those maps, if y'all would like.

AARON BOWMAN: Thank you. Yeah, obviously these maps are totally available to you. And I don't know how much work that is for your folks, but these lines are going to be moving very quickly, so I don't want them to spend hours and hours on something that's all for naught.

Council Member Ferraro, just a question for you: I think what you are saying and what Mr. Diamond said is that the sanctity and the guidance we gave Mr. Killingsworth of crossing the St. Johns River is just not that big of a deal, and in this case splits up homogeneous-like areas? Are you --

AL FERRARO: They are very different. They are very unique in themselves. The biggest thing with our district is we use a lot of gas, a lot of gas. But, you know, if we're trying to keep something similar, if we went east there's more

similarities going into your community than there is going south.

On the north side it's just completely another unique area. I mean, very dissimilar each side of the river. They are both very unique and different. And that was the thing that I was talking with Mr. Killingsworth and the community, that if it was going to be to where you weren't going to cross the river, then going east would be the most, I thought, cohesive thing that would be similar in the district. I know you don't think that, but that was my point of view on it.

But if it was crossing the river, I certainly don't have a problem with it. It's just they are just two different groups. I mean, it's more country; it's more wide; it's more open as you cross the river, but a lot of it has to do with being on the river. There's a lot of similarities there.

You know, you take out Blount Island and you take a lot of the commercial areas out, that pulls out a lot, but there's a lot of waterways and a lot of things that are unique to that area. But if this was going to happen, I'm not just looking at the south end of the river. The north part where

it goes into Oceanway is another big thing to look at. So ...

RORY DIAMOND: So I agree with everything Councilman Ferraro said, and I'm always a little touchy about talking about somebody else's district. I guess my point was if the north part of 2 is not with 2, then we're looking at 7, and I can't think of places that are more dissimilar than Downtown Jacksonville and Black Hammock Island. And so that is very very different. So, to me, it was, like, if we keep it in 2, then you've got someone who is hopefully going across the river and seeing it.

But I agree on Oceanway and maybe the -- so we haven't seen what the north map looks like, but maybe there's a way of making 7 and 2 make some sense so that the -- so that neighborhoods that are similar are lumped together and people feel like they have representation that's right there.

AARON BOWMAN: I agree with you. I think that's a good comment. And I spend a lot of time up there, so I know exactly what you are talking about.

I guess my question to you, Mr. Killingsworth, is, I mean, this is -- obviously, those boxes

worked based on population. If you pulled back in north of the river back into 2 and just made it not quite as broad, are you going to be able to play with the population numbers of adding back in?

BILL KILLINGSWORTH: We can certainly play with it. I just listened to a couple of scenarios. (Low, unclear audio.)

AARON BOWMAN: And, please, I don't want to dominate the conversation here, but for you, Mr. Diamond, I guess my thinking is you going across the river actually doesn't make a whole lot of sense, because, yes, you can get across there on the ferry when the ferry is operational, but otherwise, for you to get from the northern part of south of the St. Johns to the southern part north of the St. Johns, I mean, that's a 45, 50-minute drive. So it doesn't seem to make a whole lot of sense to me unless you tell me that you think it's a great idea.

RORY DIAMOND: Nope. I agree with everything you just said.

I will say this, though, from now having represented half of basically San Pablo Road East, is that the main issues there are dredges. And so, you know, I don't mind being the dredges councilman

who just kind of becomes an expert, and whoever takes my seat one day will also have to do that. It's just one of the quirks of the district, that you are representing the Intracoastal neighborhoods. And so you just kind of get good at it. So that's fine by me.

AARON BOWMAN: Yeah, I think what Mr. Carrico said made a lot of sense to me as well, that what I know about what you just said seems we can work on that. We can take a look at 2 pulling back in north of the river.

The changes, I think -- yesterday I met with Councilwoman Cumber, but, I mean, there were virtually no changes proposed for her; correct?

BILL KILLINGSWORTH: That's correct.

AARON BOWMAN: Okay. So hopefully -- I wasn't looking for big changes. I don't expect she'll have too much problems with that, but I won't speak for her.

Mr. Carrico.

KEVIN CARRICO: My esteemed colleagues to the right both made some points that resonated with me on my request to kind of shift from that Baymeadows area to the Deerwood area.

First, if I give up that northeast, I will

lose Sandalwood High School, which is the only high school I have in District 4. So if I pick up the Deerwood area going south, I would add Atlantic Coast, I believe. That's right there on that. Yeah. So I would lose a high school, gain a high school, which would probably be important to the School Board member.

And another point is I don't have a library in my district. I might be the only one that doesn't have a library. So if I go south on that Deerwood angle, I would pick up the Deerwood library in my district, and that would be a big win.

I don't know if Mr. Becton has any other libraries other than that one. I don't know if that will leave him in a spot where he doesn't have a library or a high school, but at least I wanted to point out those observations.

AL FERRARO: Do you mind, Mr. Chair?

AARON BOWMAN: Go ahead.

AL FERRARO: Yeah, and that's a big deal, because we don't have a library in our district. We're going to be getting one on the north side, but -- as Ms. Morgan said about trying to keep that library in her area. And one of the reasons that's really important is when we have community

meetings, it's a real problem. So there are times when we have meetings for Black Hammock -- not Black Hammock Island -- but Cedar Point, where we have to go into District 7 to have a meeting because we're not able to use a school, and we don't have any City buildings to use.

So the Oceanway Center is something we've had to use, which is -- and the problem that you have there, is when you are having a community meeting, nobody is from the community in the place that you are having the meeting. So we've had that numerous times in our area, which has been a real challenge. And with all of the development that's going on, you really don't get people to follow in where they want to because, you know, they somehow think when you are going to a meeting outside of their area, that it's really not that important or can help them. And that's been a real challenge. And usually you don't hear about that until after everything is passed and moved forward.

So the City buildings or parks -- because that's a lot of the things that we have been doing, is having community meetings at parks. And we have been rained out, and storms, as you see every day we're having, so it's been a real challenge to do

these.

So we don't have a high school or a library in our area. And if Ms. Morgan's went into this and we didn't have District 2 cross both sides of the river, District 2 still would be without a library. So ...

AARON BOWMAN: And thank you, Mr. Ferraro. And that's one thing I didn't talk about, that your east-west design is I'm already losing Alimacani, and I would lose Abess. I would lose all of my schools. I think I would have Chets Creek, and that would be probably I would have one school left in my entire district. So that was the other thing, talking about the community factor.

So, all right. Any other guidance, closing comments? Well, you get to close it out, Mr. Killingsworth. So, yes.

BILL KILLINGSWORTH: So what I think I heard was you would like to have a scenario that's based off of this, but (low, unclear audio), and then swapping out this section of Council District 11 for this section of Council District 11, and that's a different scenario.

And then another scenario in which we try to capture people north of the river for 2 and then

see what it comes out to. Is that correct? Is there anything besides those two?

AL FERRARO: Do you mind?

AARON BOWMAN: Please.

AL FERRARO: So I was interested in District 2 going west if we weren't crossing the river. If we're still going to be using that scenario of crossing it, then I understand, but -- because a lot of those things will happen as far as libraries and some of the buildings that hopefully will be going up soon.

But that was some of my reasonings for going east on there. So -- but I wouldn't be really interested in just crossing the river if it's not really encompassing most of the stuff that we have already been able to work with.

Does that make sense to you, what I'm saying?

BILL KILLINGSWORTH: Yes. What I don't know is how far, because most of the things you are talking about are on the western border, so (low, unclear audio).

AL FERRARO: Right. And that's what makes it challenging for me, is because I'm really only looking at half of what I represent. And it makes it real difficult to say that's where I want to go

when I don't know what the other part of the pie is doing.

AARON BOWMAN: Okay. Mr. Killingsworth?

BILL KILLINGSWORTH: So I will come back with those scenarios.

AARON BOWMAN: Okay.

BILL KILLINGSWORTH: And I can have those prepared for when we have (low, unclear audio).

AARON BOWMAN: Okay.

BILL KILLINGSWORTH: And then hopefully -- I have three or four meetings with the other side and have something that's kind of in the same stage where they looked at different scenarios, they made recommendations on how to modify those, and then everybody would be looking at the whole county ... (low, unclear audio).

AARON BOWMAN: That's great. So let me know your ability to have some of these other micromeetings, and then if you wanted to maintain or delay next week's meeting, we will get a notice out if we need to delay.

And certainly use Carol, as well, to help corner Council members and try to get them to make themselves available so you can meet with them.

And with that, I don't think I -- unless

anybody has any closing comments, we will -- thank you so much for your time. Thanks for meeting and all the individual research you've done on this. And I can't say enough good things about the product you are giving us.

Yes, Mr. Diamond?

RORY DIAMOND: I'm just so excited Mr. Killingsworth's salary doubles for all of this extra work (laughing).

BILL KILLINGSWORTH: (Low, unclear audio.)

AL FERRARO: Mr. Diamond, how would you like to lose all of your Beach areas? That's what we're doing on ours. Yes, so now you know how I feel (laughing).

AARON BOWMAN: That's a good point.

All right. Y'all have a wonderful Labor Day Weekend. Thank you.

(End of meeting at 3:39 p.m.)

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REPORTER'S CERTIFICATE

STATE OF FLORIDA)
COUNTY OF DUVAL)

I, Leah P. Maltz, RPR, RMR, FPR, do hereby certify that I was authorized to and did stenographically write and then transcribe the foregoing meeting from a video recording; and that the foregoing transcript was produced to the best of my ability.

I further certify that I am not a relative, employee, attorney, or counsel of any of the parties, nor am I a relative or employee of any of the parties' attorneys or counsel connected with the action, nor am I financially interested in the action.

DATED this 15th day of July, 2022.

Leah P. Maltz

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Leah P. Maltz, RPR, RMR, FPR
Court Reporter and Notary Public

CITY OF JACKSONVILLE, FLORIDA

OFFICE OF THE CITY COUNCIL

SPECIAL COMMITTEE MEETING ON REDISTRICTING

MEETING HELD ON SEPTEMBER 7, 2021

4:00 p.m.

117 West Duval Street

Lynwood Roberts Room, 1st Floor, City Hall

Jacksonville, Florida 32202

Meeting transcribed by:

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IN ATTENDANCE

Danny Becton
Kevin Carrico
LeAnna Cumber
Rory Diamond
Michael Boylan
Sam Newby
Kelly Coker
Cindy Pearson
Lori Hershey
Bill Killingsworth
Jerry Holland
Paige Johnston
Jeff Clements
Joe Johnson
Eric Grantham

September 7, 2021 4:00 p.m.

- - -

DANNY BECTON: All right. We'll call this noticed meeting -- thank you. We'll call this noticed meeting to order. And I certainly want to thank everyone for being here to have this discussion on redistricting.

I want to take a moment to kind of go around the room here and introduce ourselves.

Jeff Clements, do you want to start?

JEFF CLEMENTS: Jeff Clements, Council Research.

PAIGE JOHNSTON: Paige Johnston, Office of General Counsel.

CINDY PEARSON: Cindy Pearson, District 3 School Board.

DANNY BECTON: Welcome.

RORY DIAMOND: Good afternoon. Rory Diamond, District 13.

MICHAEL BOYLAN: Michael Boylan, District 6.

KEVIN CARRICO: Kevin Carrico, District 4.

LEANNA CUMBER: LeAnna Cumber, District 5.

DANNY BECTON: And I'm Danny Becton, District 11.

LORI HERSHEY: Lori Hershey, District 7.

KELLY COKER: Kelly Coker, School Board District 1.

DANNY BECTON: All right. Thank you. We have Council President Sam Newby in the audience, along with Property Appraiser Jerry Holland, and we do have the Director, Mr. Bill Killingsworth, with us today. And, once again, I want to thank everybody for being here.

The first part of this meeting I would like to -- I've asked Director Killingsworth to give us kind of an update or a synopsis of what I think he's already provided in a previous meeting, plus any changes that have been made since then.

So, Director Killingsworth, I will turn it over to you.

BILL KILLINGSWORTH: So last Thursday Councilman Bowman had a noticed meeting with all of the districts that touched his district. So at that meeting I presented three scenarios. One of them, which I apparently have out of order, this is the one crafted based off the criteria the Special Committee gave us, which was start from the existing districts, don't cross the river, and keep the incumbents within the boundaries in some way or another.

As part of this discussion and talking with Council members, Council Member Bowman wanted me to meet with all of the surrounding councilmen so that the first time they saw the map wasn't when they came into the meeting so that they could offer up alternative scenarios.

There were two alternative scenarios, one by Mr. Becton and one by Councilman Ferraro. And so I will start with, I guess, Councilman Ferraro. You can see the difference. Basically, on the original scenario, 2 and 3 run north and south.

Council Member Ferraro wanted us to look at a scenario in which 2 and 3 ran east and west. I mentioned that the challenge with that scenario is that both he and Mr. Bowman live in the northern sections of the district, so that would take Mr. Bowman out. But he asked for that anyway, so we provided it, which, essentially, so everything is still south of the river.

Ferraro had to pick up this area -- District 2 had to pick up this area to meet the minimum population, and then he picked up this section of Council Member Bowman's district.

And then Council Member Bowman's district picked up this section of Council Member Becton's

district, as well as lost a little bit over here to the Beaches.

And that's the only change on this scenario.

DANNY BECTON: And also picked up Pablo Creek, for District 3, below JTB?

BILL KILLINGSWORTH: That was in the original scenario.

DANNY BECTON: Okay.

BILL KILLINGSWORTH: But he regained these pieces here that he had lost in the original scenario, as well as picked up here.

And Council Member Becton asked us to look at giving Bartram Park Council District 6, recognizing that 6 would then be overpopulation, would have to move 5 down, which did move Council District 4 west. So that is that scenario.

By giving Bartram Park -- Bartram Park is about 12,000 people, and District 6 had to give up an equivalent number of people. But 5 and 6 don't actually have to give us anybody; they could keep the districts exactly the same. But by putting 12,000 here, we have to open up 12,000 here. We couldn't give them back. So that caused Council District 5 to come down and Council District 4 to go westward.

At the meeting Thursday, the committee asked us to look at a scenario that rather than going westward, we came down and picked up Deerwood, and rather than not crossing the river, look at crossing into 2. So we are working on that right now.

Actually, I know that picking up Deerwood, in lieu of going to the west or in lieu of picking up this section here, works from a population standpoint. We are not done on the north side, because crossing the river cascades all the way around. So we're still working on that.

Today I've met with a number of Council members on the Northside to get their input as we're doing it. And I believe a noticed meeting by Council Member Priestly Jackson is going out Thursday. And the meeting of the Special Committee would have been out this Thursday.

So that's a ten-minute synopsis of what happened last week.

DANNY BECTON: And you kind of stole -- I'm supposed to announce -- make sure everybody understands that the full Redistricting Committee meeting will not meet next Thursday. It will be rescheduled to a future date. And the reason for

rescheduling is to allow more smaller meetings before going back to a full meeting.

BILL KILLINGSWORTH: Right. (Unclear audio.) Negotiations should happen in small meetings, and (unclear audio).

DANNY BECTON: And I certainly agree with that. Any initial questions with him, to the Director, kind of -- it doesn't look like any.

So I just want to make a short statement of why I called this meeting. And the reason I've called this meeting is to discuss specifically the possible effects that District 6, 5 and 4 might have on changes that need to occur in the downsizing within District 11, as the need to reduce this population between 16- and almost 21,000 is necessary.

District 11 is at the south/southeast most part of the county, bordered on two sides by St. Johns County, so we can't go south or east in any reduction.

If from the west, however, a change was made, obviously this affects District 6, and, therefore, that's why I thought it was important that Council Member Boylan was here.

From the north, the changes would likely

affect Districts 4 and possibly 3, as the Director has noted.

But the core of my discussions today is options that I see affecting others in trimming back District 11 and how those changes would cause a domino.

My only interest today is District 11 resides on the southeast part. The domino has to start somewhere. And for me, given that that southeast corner is 20,000 over population, I don't think it takes a whole lot of reasoning to understand that I think you have to make that decision first, and then everything else plays in a cause and effect of that decision, and there lies the discussion today here today that I hope to begin.

District 11 has two, maybe three, major transportation corridors that were identified back in 2011, and that is JTB to the north and US-1 down to the west, which connects up to I-95 there at 295 and Philips Highway and so forth.

So until 2011, during that redistricting process, these were identified as major boundaries where communities of interest lie on one side versus another and very dramatic.

So today the areas outside of those

transportation corridors are the first logical means to reduce the population back then and, in my mind, today. Unfortunately, they have been determined to be very populated. The area above JTB, which is the UNF-Kernan area, represents about 10,308 population. And to the west in Bartram Park, on the west side of I-95, that represents about (disrupted audio), totaling about 22,138.

It is my opinion that these two populations, more than any other areas, do not have any communities of interest or very little to do with their neighbors on the major opposite sides of those corridors. Therefore, I'm thinking as the district Council member in that area, that these are first areas to be considered in any population reduction.

Beyond that, as far as I'm concerned, the way that it affects districts to the north are totally up to the Council members who know their areas more specific. Therefore, any previous reference of, let's say, the Becton option, the only thing that that option was, these are the two areas that I highly recommend that we reduce, because they were the logical areas that I gained back in 2011 and really didn't -- I don't want to say want them, but

they didn't make that much sense then, but I had to have them because we were at a population -- we lacked in population because the district wasn't developed.

So today I hope to encourage the discussion among my colleagues here that the two options that I have proposed to Director Killingsworth, one is to take that area above JTB and lop it off at about 300, and then look at the Bartram Park area, which is on the west side of I-95, and actually was in Mandarin before it was in District 11.

So with that I would really just like to turn it over to discussions. And certainly my colleague to the west, Council Member Boylan, I certainly would love to have your thoughts on that.

And certainly beyond that, I think District 5, probably Ms. Cumber might have some thoughts.

And then obviously that domino kind of starts into District 4, 3 and 2. But I think to work in the opposite direction is kind of doing it backwards. And I hope today that we can have a discussion that either we agree on that and kind of work from bottom up, or maybe somebody has got a better mousetrap. So that's what I have to say. And thank you for being here, and I will open it up

for discussion.

So who wants to go first?

Council Member Boylan.

MICHAEL BOYLAN: Thank you, Council Member Becton. As I take a look at the maps, and we've got the Version 2 up here right now, what that proposes there (audio disruption). In my view, number one at the topside of it there, it protrudes historically what I characterize into the heart of Mandarin, traditionally the Mandarin area. So I think I would not like to see that happen.

To your point, the Bartram area is more consistent with -- and the properties in the neighborhoods there are more consistent with everything outside of Mandarin than inside of Mandarin. Mandarin is a well-established, relatively few speaking -- relatively speaking, fewer developed communities like the others.

And I think the history of Mandarin, as much as we keep it intact -- and I do respect Council Member Cumber's comment on it as well -- but I do feel it's important to if we get to leave Mandarin alone. I think everyone wants to say that, but in this case that whatever is proposed in the original version and then again in Version 3 is how I would

like to see District 6 carved out.

DANNY BECTON: Okay. So help me understand again the synopsis of what you just kind of said.

MICHAEL BOYLAN: Take a look at District -- the first version -- his original version and our Version 3 both essentially takes a little bit of Mandarin of District 6 out of the north side a bit. It keeps the rest of it essentially intact.

I understand the necessity because of Council Member Cumber's district is pretty much landlocked north and south to some degree, so I can appreciate that protrusion, but the severity of that protrusion in Version 2 doesn't (audio disruption).

DANNY BECTON: I guess I'm still confused. So are you -- are you advocating --

MICHAEL BOYLAN: I am advocating for what you see right there in terms of District 6, you know, leaving the Bartram component of it, staying within your -- the context of your district, because it is more consistent in character with the balance of that district than it is with District 6.

DANNY BECTON: So you think folks on the west side of I-95 have more to do with people on the east side of I-95 than --

MICHAEL BOYLAN: Right, at the southern end

there, yeah. That's the Bartram Park area, largely you are talking about, which are mostly townhomes and apartments. There aren't a lot of single-family homes in that area. And we have very little of that currently in the Mandarin area. Mandarin is predominantly single-family homes and old single-family homes. Although some (audio disruption) -- but not in comparison to the rest of. I just don't think it's in the character -- the south end of that district right now is not in the same character as Mandarin, District 6.

DANNY BECTON: Okay.

MICHAEL BOYLAN: That's all I have.

DANNY BECTON: Any other comments?

KEVIN CARRICO: Just go around the loop?

DANNY BECTON: Sure. Council Member Carrico.

KEVIN CARRICO: Sure. Can I look at the map? Can I get up and point at the map?

DANNY BECTON: Oh, absolutely.

KEVIN CARRICO: If I could squeeze through this; it was a lot of barbecue this weekend (laughing). So to help you out with what he was saying, I think he was saying that this is protruding too deep into what is kind of Old Mandarin, was a problem. And then he doesn't

really think that this identifies with Old Mandarin, so just kind of keeping the Old Mandarin, Old Mandarin, which being from Mandarin I kind of see that too. Some of these areas south of Hartley Road over there, 295, San Jose, that's Mandarin to me.

But as far as District 4 goes, if District 2 has to come down and take this piece right here, this is historical District 4. This is established old Southside neighbors; right? So if I want to take a big chunk of my established, old Southside neighborhoods and give them up, I would like to see similar old, established Southside neighborhoods, like at Deerwood, come into play, rather than this area of the map right here, kind of the Baymeadows/95 corridor.

I just think that identifies -- this area identifies a little more of what I'm giving up to keep District 4 identifiable to District 4. So that is my main concern there. So I would just like to flip-flop that. If I have to go south, I would rather go this way than that way.

That's all I've got for D-4.

So what about that? So I would still like to -- (unclear audio) -- then if everyone else kind

of disagrees then -- (unclear audio). And if everyone else kind of disagrees, then (unclear audio). If Bartram stays in 11, then 11 needs to give up the people. So it's going to have to come down from there.

DANNY BECTON: Well, since everybody has been kind of contemplating what's been said, I guess I will offer my added opinion as the District 11 -- Council District 11 Council Member, and that is that I have a very big problem splitting up -- the major corridor in District 11 is Baymeadows. In 2010 and before, Baymeadows was split into three to four different Council districts. And now we're going back in -- we're looking at going back into that situation of splitting it at least three different times at that point. And, to me, that's a -- how do I want to word it? -- that's a no-vote in my book, is starting the split to come across JTB, which I don't think -- I beg to differ has very less communities of interest than on the north side.

And I certainly -- once again, the Bartram area used to be part of Mandarin before it was part of District 11. I had to take that from Mandarin before giving it up.

MICHAEL BOYLAN: But it wasn't near developed as it is today as part of that process?

DANNY BECTON: No, it was probably 80 -- it was ten years ago. There's no new -- there's absolutely maybe only one new community, and that's the one -- I'm trying to think of the name of it -- which is more south on Bartram Park Boulevard.

So, I mean, this is where we get into, you know, we agree and we disagree. But at the end of the day, we've got to make some decisions in the southeast section, because it does cause the domino effect throughout the rest of the Southside.

And -- yes, Ms. Cumber.

LEANNA CUMBER: I don't know if this is good for Bill Killingsworth, but -- so my district, District 5, is the most diverse district in the city, racially and economically and so forth. So what I would be interested in to know is how -- it looks like Version -- well, it looks like -- these look the same, except they have more street names here. So it looks like Version 3 doesn't really change the district, except it just adds a little bit on the south end.

The Version 2 significantly changes it. So I would be interested to know how it changes -- how

it changes demographically by doing that.

BILL KILLINGSWORTH: I can get you that information in terms of voting profiles and economic profiles. I don't have that off the top of my head.

The biggest issue was by taking away -- this section here is about 12,000 people. So by adding 12,000, we had to take away 12,000.

LEANNA CUMBER: Yeah, actually -- that one is not really going to --

BILL KILLINGSWORTH: The only one --

LEANNA CUMBER: If you go to the next one, we're losing (unclear audio).

BILL KILLINGSWORTH: By adding 12,000 to this one, he has to lose 12,000.

LEANNA CUMBER: Yes.

BILL KILLINGSWORTH: You can't give it back here, because that's where it came from. So you are the only one that can take it.

LEANNA CUMBER: Yeah. Thanks.

What I'm wondering is how the impact of taking everything from Emerson and Philips and moving it over to District 3, how that impacts.

BILL KILLINGSWORTH: You mean 4?

LEANNA CUMBER: 4, I'm sorry. That's going to

significantly impact the diversity of the district demographically and economically and so forth.

BILL KILLINGSWORTH: I can get you that.

LEANNA CUMBER: I understand that with a pickup down below, because I think that the combination of losing that piece of the district and picking up the Mandarin piece is going to shift the demographics significantly, so, yeah.

BILL KILLINGSWORTH: I will be glad to get that for you.

MICHAEL BOYLAN: I will tell you, LeAnna, that's not a very diverse community.

LEANNA CUMBER: I got that. Thank you.

DANNY BECTON: I mean, the point -- you know, the southeast -- this is a conversation I had with the Director -- and certainly the population was a lot more in the two areas that we identified early on than we had anticipated. They turned out to be a lot more dense.

But we sat down -- the Director and I rationaled the fact that District 11 still has -- that area still has a great deal of potential growth in the southeast quadrant of the north, up there to eTown and throughout.

So there's still a huge -- in other words, if

we don't do it today, here was my thought: If you don't take Bartram Park today, you are going to get it ten years from now. And is it better to have people with a little bit of stabilization, to not be jerked ten years ago when they were all, "Oh, I thought I was in Mandarin"? Well, "You used to be; you are not anymore," to, you know, being in Mandarin eventually and getting back. So that was our thought.

And, you know, we could sit here and go -- we could, you know, from a population standpoint consider using Bartram Park Boulevard as a line and say, okay, half the people are going to have to go -- you know, are going to have to leave, to half the people can stay. And, to me, that kind of didn't make sense, because you've got the same community on both sides of the street that have communities of interest. It's just that I-95 is just another world away.

When I -- over there in that part of my district, and I go over that bridge -- and, by the way, I spent 12 years in Mandarin right down the road living -- I built a house off of Old St. Augustine Road, so I am very familiar with what's Mandarin and what's not. So with everyone saying

"I used to live in Mandarin," I used to live in Mandarin from '87 to '99, so I quite know it quite well.

But you can only offer, and it certainly takes the Council to come to some mutual decision-making. But these are the conversations, I can tell you, that took place ten years ago.

Yeah, Council Member Diamond.

RORY DIAMOND: Thank you. I'm kind of visiting today, because obviously 13 is way off to the east there and not specifically affected by the 11, 6, 5, 4 mix-around.

But I think you are right, Mr. Chair, in this meeting, that everything that happens in 11 is going to ricochet up and over.

From my perspective, which I'll be saying throughout this, which is I don't really care that much about the geographic or transportation barriers. Perhaps that's just my view of the world. I've got the Intracoastal going through my district. And, you know, I crisscross three bridges and have both sides of JTB, both sides of Beach, both sides of Atlantic. And, to me, those boundaries are a little less interesting to me than keeping communities together.

And then I wanted to support the two folks we know for sure who will be running for re-election in their district, so I want to support Council Boylan. And so I do support Bartram staying alive. I think that makes sense, both from the communities of common character, I guess, the better word, but also keeping, you know, the traditional Mandarin seat. And if that's for another ten years, then, you know, so be it.

And then I support Councilman Carrico's view of having Deerwood into District 4. My understanding is he's got to lose some and grow some. I think that's a logical swap-around to make sure he has a traditional Southside neighborhood in one piece. That also means he gets a library in his district and trades one high school for another high school.

If you also look at the incumbent School Board members who will be running for reelection, essentially going with what Mr. Killingsworth has, also kind of ensures that all of those incumbents are not moved around, either; whereas, you may get dicier if some of these more dramatic move-arounds happen.

So that's just my 2 cents. But, again, this

isn't my meeting. I am kind of an interloper here, but I just wanted to give my 2 cents.

DANNY BECTON: Do any School Board members want to say anything? Do you want to share with me the area?

LORI HERSHEY: I'm listening.

DANNY BECTON: Okay.

LORI HERSHEY: I did not bring my glasses so that I can read these maps closely. So I am looking for A.C. Skinner Parkway.

I do have a question for Councilman Carrico with Deerwood. Where does that run? Does that run down A.C. Skinner Parkway, or is it just Deerwood?

KEVIN CARRICO: Southside Boulevard would be the border to the west, Baymeadows to the south, and then depending upon how they draw the eastern boundary, if it spills into -- it's right on --

BILL KILLINGSWORTH: Southside Boulevard East and West? You have the Southeast Library right there.

KEVIN CARRICO: And then you have Sandalwood in all of the proposed drawings (unclear audio).

BILL KILLINGSWORTH: The point here is where the population is. So Southside Boulevard, Baymeadows, Point Meadows Drive, and then JTB would

be the northern boundaries.

And these are just the considerations if we don't cross the river. So if 2 does, you know, a committee -- the other noticed meeting asked us to come up with a scenario where 2 crosses the river. What's that going to do with 2 crossing the river, is that it's going to pull things this way.

RORY DIAMOND: Mr. Chair? Can I just interrupt on 2? Just I was -- Kevin and I were at the last meeting, and just to reiterate my statements from that one, one of the benefits of having to cross the river is the Black Hammock Island community could then stay in 2, as opposed to being added to essentially what's the Downtown district. If you are looking at communities of similar character, Downtown and Black Hammock Island are probably on the end of the spectrum. And having chatted with those folks, they prefer to stay in 2.

Again, respecting Councilman Ferraro's views, and, also, Councilman Bowman really didn't like the idea of his district being essentially lopped off the top, and he preferred the current north-south version of 2. So in order for that to work, it's pretty clear that it has to cross the river.

Sorry to step on you, Bill.

DANNY BECTON: Okay. Well, to your comments, by giving -- by placing that area of Deerwood to JTB in District 4, where he picks up a library, I lose my only public space. I don't guess that matters.

And, once again, my line in the sand is splitting Baymeadows up into multiple Council districts. That's a nonstarter for me at this point. There is no need into it. Not to say that years from now that as Jacksonville grows on the Southside, that that might be inevitable.

But there's a lot easier areas to cut back that are just being ignored and dismissed. And so I would say we're not starting up -- starting out on a very harmonious -- respectful of the area of the district Council member that knows it quite best, for whatever reason that's being presented here.

So we can all just offer our opinions and ultimately --

MICHAEL BOYLAN: Council Member Becton, if I might, I think -- and I appreciate that. And I think you are looking at yours (unclear audio), as I look at mine myopically. I don't think it's a

reflection on our attitude about other districts.

I think the sad reality is in this process, the fewer districts that are impacted (unclear audio) districts in process is probably the best you can hope for. And I think that's what we're looking at in the context of that plan. And, unfortunately, yours is one (unclear audio), because -- you know, it's significant growth.

Councilman Cumber, I would appreciate your understanding of the idea of protruding north and south, stretching north and south as opposed to what Version 1 offers, which is a little more eastward, gets you more of a body, if you will. I would have thought it would be more advantageous to you as opposed to the elongated Version No. 2.

LEANNA CUMBER: Well, Version 1 is (unclear audio). So, yeah, I just want to understand, like I said, how it changes, how that changes the overall demographics.

DANNY BECTON: So I'm looking at this map before us, and I'm seeing I-295, Buckman Bridge. The pink does go below there. I totally agree with you. Anything below 295 there is definitely Mandarin.

And I was not anticipating seeing that type of

change on any map, because I thought the Director told me Hartley Road was the southern boundary, or 295, but I see what cause that is, because of the blue area that stayed above 295 there along the river. So perhaps everything south of 295 could stay in Mandarin, if we actually wanted to, in some form or fashion.

JERRY HOLLAND: Mr. Chairman, if I could give you a suggestion?

DANNY BECTON: Yes, sir.

Property Appraiser Holland.

JERRY HOLLAND: And based on Councilman Boylan, if you start with the premise of V3, which I think the councilman likes in District 6, and you took back the section that was west of 95 that's currently put into this district there, and you worked with your maximum number, couldn't you take most of Baymeadows, and couldn't you work with, you know, bringing that up higher?

Because I think in the scenario on V2 -- no, V3 -- I think you are at 68,000. I am just trying to get you where you wanted to go with more of Baymeadows. It seems if you work with the premise and try to go with the max and go with as much as you can, and give up what you gave away to District

6 in V3, that might help you achieve what you are looking for.

DANNY BECTON: You know, it probably will be more helpful if you kind of stepped up and looked at the map. Because we're talking about V3, V this, V that. I don't have a copy of these maps.

JERRY HOLLAND: Oh, I see.

DANNY BECTON: That's whatever we're looking at on the --

JERRY HOLLAND: I'm just suggesting. This number right now is 68,000 on yours in this scenario.

DANNY BECTON: Okay.

JERRY HOLLAND: Well, actually, you don't want this one, because that puts you in District 6.

You actually want to go back to one -- that is this one. Okay. And you are at 68,000 here, also.

This small section here could go back into 6, if you are picking up anybody here.

DANNY BECTON: What is that?

JERRY HOLLAND: That is I-95 West, this area right here that's currently in your district.

BILL KILLINGSWORTH: So the only reason this sliver is out and this sliver is out, is because without crossing the river, all of the districts

have to be -- south and east of the river -- have to be on the low side. So just so that we had some working room on the north side and we took a little bit out here and here, it's about a thousand people in each scenario.

DANNY BECTON: So the color is -- maybe this helps: The colors right now represent the current districts?

BILL KILLINGSWORTH: No. Proposed.

JERRY HOLLAND: The red lines are the current districts.

DANNY BECTON: Okay. Red lines are the current.

I think you have to decide. So you are expanding District 11 into there.

BILL KILLINGSWORTH: Actually, because of the population lost here. So you got dropped down to here, here, and here. You got dropped down to 68.

The only reason these two could stay exactly as they are and still meet the minimum requirements so that we would have room to work on the north side, we reduced -- we increased this one a little bit to bump it up a thousand, and decreased this one a little bit to bump it up a thousand, so that the spread on the north side would work, because we

have to stay within 10 percent.

So the scenario we're bumping this up to the max will only work if we cross the river.

JERRY HOLLAND: Which we haven't even gotten to the firestorm of what's going to happen to 7 when you pick up the nonminority areas. That's going to be a difference.

But if you're trying -- the certain goals that you want to get, the question is, is your goals more important than District 2 staying on this side of the river? If they are, then staying at the minimums is not the way to achieve your goals.

If your No. 1 goal is staying on this side of the river, then you're going to have to give up these goals that you are looking at.

DANNY BECTON: The only real goal that I have out of all of these conversations is not splitting up Baymeadows. I think that rises to the top of -- that rises completely to the top.

Bartram -- I'm not going to be the district Council member, and I've been proud to represent Bartram. I love the peninsula. I love -- you know, if I was to -- I'm trying to be pragmatic in saying this district has got to lose somewhere between 16- and at least 20,000 people. And these

were the philosophies that we used in 2011, and I'm trying to carry those forward to what we anticipate ten years from now, a lopping off. And I only come to the table with those only because they were embedded ten years ago. Perhaps I need to go home and sleep on it.

But where -- I do have -- y'all started to bring in a philosophical issue of splitting Baymeadows, and I didn't realize that was even an option on the table until participating in this meeting. And now that I see there's momentum from a few Council members to do that, at some point, as you are passionate about something in your district that you -- there's a line in the sand that you wouldn't cross. I'm here to tell you that's a line in my sand that it would take some tremendous convincing to start splitting up the corridor that desperately needs --

BILL KILLINGSWORTH: So this is just me, and I don't have a vote, but at this point I don't know that anybody needs to draw hard lines, because doing a scenario where we cross the river will change everything down here, and it may be that various issues will be addressed in that one change.

The issue is with the scenario where we don't cross the river, every district on this side has to be a little bit light, and every district on the north side of the river has to be a little bit heavy, and it constrains how we move.

UNIDENTIFIED MALE SPEAKER: That's because of proposed growth?

BILL KILLINGSWORTH: No, not proposed growth. It's because of the existing population. Basically there's 7-and-3-quarters districts south of the river, and there's 6-and-a-quarter districts north of the river.

JERRY HOLLAND: But if I wanted to get one, two, three, four, five votes today that said this, is you could do this scenario, you pull this back; you could take as much of this; this section would go back into your section; this would stay as proposed; and you would have this section right here less than this right here, and I think these five here would say thumbs-up.

And I think the priority of staying on the river is defeating what some of your major goals are. You probably need to send a message to your committee that "We're okay with these changes, but we're going to have to go north." And that's not

the biggest and worse thing to happen, because if you look historically, that's happened more often than not.

So that's just -- you asked -- you know, you wanted a suggestion. I would seriously look at that, and that's where I would -- if I was looking for votes, I would pick up --

BILL KILLINGSWORTH: Which we're looking at right now because the prior committee asked us to do so.

UNIDENTIFIED MALE SPEAKER: I was looking and thinking the same way.

DANNY BECTON: Personally -- and I'm here to clarify. I really don't have that many -- I stated one issue. Everything else, to me, was pragmatic in what I thought was logical. Okay?

But if I have to really state what I would get passionate about, and it's what I've already shared with you, as far as Bartram, as far as UNF out there, you know, type of things, those were all just pragmatic thoughts of ten years ago.

But if I'm really having to protect the core importance of my area, like my fellow friend over here from Mandarin, then let's -- you know, let's talk about that.

I didn't realize I had to go that deep to really spell out what would be passionately, I really didn't, because I had 22,000 people to give away that I thought was a no-brainer. But what turns out to be a no-brainer seems to be a nonstarter.

Anyway, Mr. Carrico.

KEVIN CARRICO: Yeah, no, I'm glad you are putting it all on the table and we can discuss it here, because we can't -- but in this scenario that we're looking at right there with that section of Baymeadows in my district, you are against that as well?

DANNY BECTON: Anything that goes and splits up Baymeadows, it's too important. I mean, that area, you know, was in decline. It needed a harmonious representation to understand the complete vision of that area. Right now it's split up over the bridge there -- the railroad track. And when I go over that bridge, I feel like I'm in a totally different part of it.

But when you come on the east side of it --

UNIDENTIFIED FEMALE SPEAKER: That's a wonderful district (laughing).

DANNY BECTON: Absolutely. But I'm just

saying it's two totally communities of interest that are separated by a railroad track and US-1 and a huge bridge.

But to answer your question, yes --

UNIDENTIFIED MALE SPEAKER: I would argue when you go across Southside Boulevard to that side of Baymeadows, it's a totally different community than the one in the middle. It's almost three.

DANNY BECTON: Well, I think you need to add some residents over there, which you don't know -- I mean, go ask Deerwood what they think. Do they have more in common with District 4 or with Baymeadows and the Southside? I think I know those people better than anyone on this Council.

KEVIN CARRICO: Okay. Now, just so you understand, I'm coming here not to get Deerwood in my district. But when I see a corridor in my district added that doesn't make sense, I am telling you -- I'm just stating I would rather go south that way.

DANNY BECTON: It's a wonderful district, I am sure it is.

KEVIN CARRICO: I don't have a library at all. I hope you don't lose one and I gain one, because you will feel my pain of not having a library.

DANNY BECTON: But I'm giving up some nice folks up there -- you know, I'm giving up some nice folks up there -- the district is -- in Kernan. I don't know -- you know, they've got it drawn into District 3, but who's to say District 4 can't go over to, you know, to where my boundary is. I mean, this is one version here. And, honestly, I'm indifferent about that change. But I've only seen one presentation, you know, that just shows it in District 3. And I'm, like, if you would have asked me, it could have been 4; it could have been 3 just as easily from one to another.

But good discussion. I mean, this is what we're having this meeting for, is to have this broad discussion of thoughts.

RORY DIAMOND: It's really obviously, to me, having kind of watched everything that's happened up to this moment and participating in these last few kind of smaller groups, is that this river thing, it's just -- it's just not going to work. We will have to cross the river, if these scenarios are going to get fixed. (Unclear audio.)

It just doesn't make sense to me that -- you know, we have intracoastals going right through the middle of the district that we're having a problem

crossing over. (Unclear audio.) So that's just my 2 cents before we get out of here.

DANNY BECTON: Good point. And the objective of the Redistricting Committee was to minimize, if possible; it wasn't to eliminate.

And back 11 years ago, I mean, as much as we eliminated 4, 5 -- I don't remember the exact number, but all but one -- it just became impossible. (Audio disruption).

So I'm not -- once again, I'm almost indifferent when it comes to -- when it starts to get in y'all's neck of the woods, I'm, like, y'all are the experts in those areas, and you should be working with your adjacent neighbors. And that's why y'all -- I didn't feel compelled to come to that meeting last Thursday, even though I had a conflict, because the people who were going to be there -- or who were there -- were the experts of those areas who would need to go in and try to tell Mr. Carrico or Mr. Diamond what is the Beaches and what is not.

I mean, it doesn't seem that's being reciprocated for the southeast part of this, but, so, that's okay.

UNIDENTIFIED MALE SPEAKER: (Unclear audio.)

DANNY BECTON: Anything else? Any direction from Mr. Killingsworth?

BILL KILLINGSWORTH: It sounds like it's the same direction as the last committee, which has come up with a scenario that crosses the river.

I mean, because I can tell you what to do. If 2 crosses the river, it will draw things up this way, which will take some of the pressure off of here.

That's not it. Let's just go to this. This one. This one is I think -- it will take some of the pressure off of here and here in Mr. Bowman's district. So by doing that, then Councilman Carrico's district, that comes up. So I don't know.

We may still have to -- clearly, your district has to lose between 16- and 20,000 people. So it's got to come out somewhere, but it would change the dynamics of where and how it had to come out.

So, I mean, at this point it seems like the same -- it's the same guidance. Look at the north.

DANNY BECTON: They call themselves Ponte Vedra; right?

UNIDENTIFIED MALE SPEAKER: Hey, that's where I work, sir (laughing).

DANNY BECTON: All right. Well, it sounds like we've still got some more work, but this has been certainly -- I don't know about y'all -- beneficial, at least a discussion so we can understand what our positions are and what the thoughts are of everyone.

I mean, certainly I'll -- I'll certainly open up my, you know, mind to options and what's being considered here, and I hope everyone here will do the same of what you've learned and you've heard.

So perhaps we just have to do this again a few weeks from now on and see if we have any -- see if we have any camaraderie or ideas that are consistent with one another between now and then.

Right now it hasn't been scheduled. So I think, given the lack of ideas that are consistent with one another kind of thing, I think this kind of shows that we have some work to do. And --

BILL KILLINGSWORTH: So there's a -- I still haven't seen the notice, but my understanding is if there hasn't been a notice, there will be a notice that Ms. Priestly Jackson will put out for kind of all the districts that touch hers, similar to Mr. Bowman's district. And I think the intent was to schedule that at the same time the meeting -- the

Special Committee's meeting was. So we will get a lot of feedback from that group, and we will come up with a scenario. We're working on a scenario right now that crosses the river for District 2.

So I'm hoping by that meeting we will have a scenario that's staff-driven, and then we can allow those Council members to stretch it to those desires, and we will see how it influences it here.

DANNY BECTON: All right. Anything else? All right. I appreciate everybody being here today.

(End of meeting at 4:57 p.m.)

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REPORTER'S CERTIFICATE

STATE OF FLORIDA)
COUNTY OF DUVAL)

I, Leah P. Maltz, RPR, RMR, FPR, do hereby certify that I was authorized to and did stenographically write and then transcribe the foregoing meeting from a video recording; and that the foregoing transcript was produced to the best of my ability.

I further certify that I am not a relative, employee, attorney, or counsel of any of the parties, nor am I a relative or employee of any of the parties' attorneys or counsel connected with the action, nor am I financially interested in the action.

DATED this 15th day of July, 2022.

Leah P. Maltz

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Leah P. Maltz, RPR, RMR, FPR
Court Reporter and Notary Public

CITY OF JACKSONVILLE, FLORIDA

OFFICE OF THE CITY COUNCIL

SPECIAL COMMITTEE MEETING ON REDISTRICTING

MEETING HELD ON OCTOBER 4, 2021

1:30 p.m.

117 West Duval Street

Don Davis Room, 1st Floor, City Hall

Jacksonville, Florida 32202

Meeting transcribed by:

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IN ATTENDANCE

Ju'Coby Pittman
Randy White
Aaron Bowman
Randy DeFoor
Reggie Gaffney
Paige Johnston
Jeff Clements
Joe Johnson
Amber Lehman
Carol Brock
Mercedes Parker
Brooks Dame
Andrew Pantazi

October 4, 2021 1:30 p.m.

- - -

***(Note: This meeting was transcribed from an audio recording.)

AARON BOWMAN: Good morning. Good afternoon. Aaron Bowman, District 3 and Redistricting Chair, and I've got to leave at about 2:00 o'clock.

RANDY WHITE: Randy White, District 12.

JU'COBY PITTMAN: Ju'Coby Pittman, District 8.

RANDY DEFOOR: Randy DeFoor, District 14.

JU'COBY PITTMAN: Well, first of all, I don't think -- looking at this, we don't have any information.

RANDY WHITE: Oh, no, this is all new stuff here that Ms. DeFoor will probably explain.

JU'COBY PITTMAN: Okay.

RANDY WHITE: Are we not -- is Bill Killingsworth going to be here? Because I don't -- talk amongst ourselves, I guess.

AARON BOWMAN: Did we invite him?

JU'COBY PITTMAN: You didn't invite him? Oh.

RANDY DEFOOR: Well, let's see if we can grab him real quick.

AARON BOWMAN: Yes, Carol is going to check.

JU'COBY PITTMAN: Yeah, Councilwoman, go

ahead.

RANDY DEFOOR: All right. So this is a suggestion that we should consider, because I think it creates a win/win. It actually reinforces everyone's district.

JU'COBY PITTMAN: Okay.

RANDY DEFOOR: So I was -- when I look at Riverside and mainly Precinct 415 and 1407, with a little slice of 1413, which is basically going down Kings Street, if we were to go down Kings Street and give that to Gaffney, Riverside is more in line with Brooklyn and Springfield than it really is with the rest of my district.

JU'COBY PITTMAN: Uh-huh.

RANDY DEFOOR: And it would -- and so it's in line with those, so the voting is very similar in all of those areas.

JU'COBY PITTMAN: Okay.

RANDY DEFOOR: Very strongly so.

JU'COBY PITTMAN: And how many people does that include, do you know?

RANDY DEFOOR: So the total is -- yeah, I have it written -- 5,644. And so to replace that, I would go to Mr. White's district and grab Precinct 1210 and a slice going down old Middleburg Road of

Precinct 1211, and that would get me at 6200. So then I think I would be set.

I think Mr. White, then, could go up and grab that section that y'all had discussed a while back that's very -- where his family lived.

JU'COBY PITTMAN: Okay. Where the teeth is?

RANDY DEFOOR: Yeah.

RANDY WHITE: There was Draft 1 that we didn't want to do that, cut out Baldwin, so we're not going to talk about that.

And this was Draft 3 that actually come over here. It come over here and give you that. And that was 2800 people, I think. Yeah, I think that was 2800 people.

JU'COBY PITTMAN: Well, you gave me that little piece. I think this is, like, 810, or something like that.

RANDY WHITE: It was 810 and 1800, or about 2,000. It was 2800 total. But you had the 8 in there before, so -- there it is. It was 1824 and 876.

JU'COBY PITTMAN: Uh-uh.

RANDY WHITE: Then if we come over here, it gives you too much, so I can't give you more of that, and that's when we were talking about going

up here.

JU'COBY PITTMAN: Okay.

RANDY WHITE: And with giving you that and that, I think makes your numbers work. Then Randy --

JU'COBY PITTMAN: Okay. So you're going to be able to give Randy --

RANDY WHITE: Well, this is the first time I've seen --

JU'COBY PITTMAN: Got you. Okay.

RANDY WHITE: -- and I thought it was a little -- that's what I thought it was in that little area there. So Randy can look at that.

This actually goes a little -- oh, let's see.

That is 6200 people?

RANDY DEFOOR: No, that is 4,688. So I have to grab a little tiny going on down Old -- to make up the difference.

RANDY WHITE: Because that's going to put my numbers way over, just like if they come here and give you something else. That's why they was talking about that. That's going to make my numbers way off, and then I'm going to be on the low end.

RANDY DEFOOR: So that's why you would grab

the other section of --

RANDY WHITE: That's 18, and that's 2700.

JU'COBY PITTMAN: But then I won't have enough.

RANDY DEFOOR: Then you go to Gaffney's.

JU'COBY PITTMAN: But he's not willing to give that.

REGGIE GAFFNEY: Well, don't say that yet because of what she got.

RANDY DEFOOR: See, I --

MR. GAFFNEY: What I think I'm going to have to do is give up all what I'm trying to hold on to right there. That, and plus there right by on Dunn Avenue (audio fading out).

(Muffled cross-talking of participants.)

REGGIE GAFFNEY: My question -- and that was one of my main communities that I really wanted to keep, but, at the same time, it's about trying to get this done now. So I'm listening to what Council Member DeFoor said. So I'm at this point willing to give it up if it makes sense to go more this way, or take a look at what Council Member Ferraro had. It's just either that or this. I'm not sure yet. (Muffled, unclear audio).

JU'COBY PITTMAN: When do you and Councilman

Ferraro meet?

REGGIE GAFFNEY: Well, we got to -- we hadn't met yet. Mr. Killingsworth met with both of us, and we got a somewhat agreement, but it still was a question of Rolling River. It works if I'm giving up Rolling River. It don't if I'm not. And so I was willing to at least listen about this. And I'm still not sure how it's going to work with what he has with that additional two and then what you talking about. So I just want to -- I am just trying to understand.

RANDY DEFOOR: Sure.

REGGIE GAFFNEY: My preference is --

RANDY DEFOOR: Yeah, I don't think you would have to take any from him if we did it this way, is my assumption, but we would have to look at the numbers.

REGGIE GAFFNEY: Yeah. I like this.

RANDY DEFOOR: It should reinforce your numbers.

REGGIE GAFFNEY: Yeah, and that's what my preference is. I grew up in Mixon Town, so I'm familiar with this.

RANDY DEFOOR: Then you know.

RANDY WHITE: If I get mine back, what she's

got here in 1210, I have no problem with that. That gives her 4688. It reduces me by 4688, which is actually more, because I needed a little bit more from those 2700. So that probably sounds like that would be good.

RANDY DEFOOR: Yeah.

RANDY WHITE: I don't have no problem with that. So I'm going to back out of the way.

But I would get that back, what I had originally. I will get that, which I didn't have that 800 originally, but it will make a clean line on Old Plank Road.

JU'COBY PITTMAN: Then Reggie has --

RANDY WHITE: Then Reggie has got --

REGGIE GAFFNEY: In what she's proposing, I'll give up Rolling River.

JU'COBY PITTMAN: Okay.

REGGIE GAFFNEY: So Mr. Killingsworth needs to hear what we all agree on.

RANDY DEFOOR: Right.

REGGIE GAFFNEY: Now, I think the elephant in the room hasn't spoken yet, because if I'm what I was supposed to take for District 2, what is going to go to him is what (unclear, muffled audio).

RANDY WHITE: I seen him on the steps. I

don't know if he's lost or what. So I think that --

REGGIE GAFFNEY: Chairperson, if you don't mind, I think we all in agreement if I can add this on to District 7, give up Rolling River, and we try (unclear audio).

RANDY WHITE: But is this Rolling Rivers? How many people is that?

REGGIE GAFFNEY: That is one sub.

RANDY WHITE: But I'm saying does that give you enough? Because I've got to get all of this back for her to get this, and Reggie gets something. So he's got to give you something else, I would think, but maybe Randy has looked at that.

REGGIE GAFFNEY: I think that would, from my understanding, would give it to him.

JU'COBY PITTMAN: Well, that piece that what we were looking at was -- that was the 876 (unclear audio).

RANDY WHITE: That's not really a problem.

JU'COBY PITTMAN: Okay.

RANDY WHITE: But I think going to this 4600 number down here, I think I'm going to be -- for the numbers to work.

RANDY DEFOOR: In that line I need that 1500,

too, which you should be happy to give that away, Randy, looking at the numbers.

JU'COBY PITTMAN: But you are not sure right now, right? You just wanted to add something?

RANDY DEFOOR: No. I -- this is the only thing I can think that can happen where we don't bother Brenda and Garrett. They don't want -- where we are all -- where you're reinforced. Like, otherwise, you're going to take a lot of people that -- I mean, do you know what I'm saying?

JU'COBY PITTMAN: Right.

RANDY DEFOOR: And I'm -- and Randy is giving up people that he doesn't want to give up, and I just think this is a win/win.

AARON BOWMAN: If I may, I don't think it works, because I think we had to give up (audio fades out) ... talking about it, so everything south of the river (audio fades out) high population down there, because our averages down there are 73,590. (Audio fades out.)

Averages above the river are 67,797. So (audio fades out).

Carol just told me Mr. Killingsworth is actually out of the office today.

RANDY DEFOOR: Well, let's let him take a look

at it, if you don't mind, because it's not supposed to do that. It shouldn't do that.

AARON BOWMAN: Why do you say that?

RANDY DEFOOR: If you look at the numbers -- because of what I've given him, he can give up that amount to --

AARON BOWMAN: They needed to shed from District 2; that was the problem. He needed to absorb --

RANDY DEFOOR: How much?

AARON BOWMAN: I think it was about 4,000. So I think by rearranging just north of the river, it throws 4,000 back in south of the river that we don't have the ability to distribute.

RANDY DEFOOR: Okay. Well, that was my offer to help out (laughing). Otherwise, I will just stay where I am.

REGGIE GAFFNEY: So I appreciate that.

RANDY DEFOOR: Yeah.

MR. GAFFNEY: (Audio faded out). What y'all shared with me the last time, it looks like I'm the one who has to make this work. If it wasn't for that council person, I'd fight for Rolling River because I love it so much. I spent a lot of time knocking on doors down there. But to make you

whole, it makes sense. And if somehow Mr. Killingsworth said don't based on what the Chairperson just said, and we will see what I got to pick up the next time we meet. I was thinking he was going to be here. So we need to talk about what him and I talked about last Tuesday in the green room.

JU'COBY PITTMAN: At least we have two options.

RANDY WHITE: We're not doing that one.

REGGIE GAFFNEY: What Councilwoman DeFoor is saying -- I guess you can reach out to him.

RANDY DEFOOR: Yeah, I will. I will do that right now.

REGGIE GAFFNEY: Tell him what you proposed, and tell him I'm okay with that. But if what the Chairperson is saying don't work, then we have to go to Plan B, and he'll come to me tomorrow with Plan B.

JU'COBY PITTMAN: I'm glad you're here today, because that solves -- at least if I'm able to pick this back up and whatever you give me, then it will make me whole.

REGGIE GAFFNEY: When I decide to run ten years from now, you'll help me campaign.

JU'COBY PITTMAN: I will be sitting on somebody's front porch by then. Okay? (Laughing.)

REGGIE GAFFNEY: (Unclear audio.)

JU'COBY PITTMAN: Okay. Well, Councilman, I really -- I want to say thank you all so much for even coming and trying to make this work. And now we've got it right and I don't have to worry about it no more, you know.

AARON BOWMAN: Given that I don't think we're going to be able to do this, I think then that takes us back to the problem of you and Mr. White being able to come to terms on 8 and 12.

RANDY WHITE: I think we're really there. This does that 2700.

JU'COBY PITTMAN: I just take that back.

AARON BOWMAN: Okay.

RANDY WHITE: They take that up there that he says is now okay, she takes back.

JU'COBY PITTMAN: So if we get the piece he's offering to give me, and I take back what I had from the 876 --

AARON BOWMAN: Then you guys are whole.

JU'COBY PITTMAN: -- then we are whole.

AARON BOWMAN: And I think what Mr. Killingsworth told me is he had met individually

with Mr. Gaffney and Mr. Ferraro, that he thinks there might be an agreement there; although, you guys haven't met yet.

So potentially we're whole, and then we will take a look at what Ms. DeFoor offered. And if that doesn't mess up the other eight districts, then (audio fades out).

RANDY WHITE: Yeah, I'm okay taking what I'm giving away back and giving her that if that Scenario B works.

JU'COBY PITTMAN: Thank you all.

RANDY DEFOOR: Thank you.

RANDY WHITE: Well, that was short and sweet.

(End of meeting at 1:18 p.m.)

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REPORTER'S CERTIFICATE

STATE OF FLORIDA)
COUNTY OF DUVAL)

I, Leah P. Maltz, RPR, RMR, FPR, do hereby certify that I was authorized to and did stenographically write and then transcribe the foregoing meeting from an audio recording; and that the foregoing transcript was produced to the best of my ability.

I further certify that I am not a relative, employee, attorney, or counsel of any of the parties, nor am I a relative or employee of any of the parties' attorneys or counsel connected with the action, nor am I financially interested in the action.

DATED this 19th day of July, 2022.

Leah P. Maltz

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Leah P. Maltz, RPR, RMR, FPR
Court Reporter and Notary Public

CITY OF JACKSONVILLE

RULES COMMITTEE

REDISTRICTING - PUBLIC HEARING

Videotaped proceedings held on Thursday, January 27, 2022, commencing at 6:00 p.m., at Edward H. White High School, 1700 Old Middleburg Road North, Jacksonville, Florida.

COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT:

COUNCIL MEMBER BRENDA PRIESTLY JACKSON, Chair.
COUNCIL MEMBER RANDY DeFOOR, Vice Chair.
COUNCIL MEMBER LeANNA CUMBER.
COUNCIL MEMBER RANDY WHITE.

ALSO PRESENT:

DARRYL WILLIE, Duval County School Board.
KELLY COKER-DANIELS, Duval County School Board.
CHARLOTTE JOYCE, Duval County School Board.
BILL KILLINGSWORTH, Director, Planning Dept.
PAIGE JOHNSTON, Office of General Counsel.
SAM NEWBY, City Council President.
JU'COBY PITTMAN, City Council Member.

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P R O C E E D I N G S
January 27, 2022 6:00 p.m.
- - -

COUNCIL MEMBER PRIESTLY JACKSON: Good evening.

I am Brenda Priestly Jackson, chairperson of the Jacksonville City Council Rules Committee, and we welcome you to the first of four public hearings on redistricting that's before the City Council.

With me today are other Rules Committee meeting members and our Council President, Sam Newby, who is sitting here as a member of the Rules Committee today to ensure we have a quorum; Council Member Randy White; Vice Chair of the Rules Committee, Council Member Randy DeFoor.

We have the chairperson of the Duval County School Board who participated in this committee, Darryl Willie; vice chairperson of the Duval County School Board who worked with us on redistricting work as well, Dr. Kelly Coker; and also at the dais we have our chief from the Office of General Counsel, Paige Johnston. And our redistricting consolidation expert, Bill Killingsworth, is with us as well

today.

And so it is our intention to share with you how we arrived at the proposal that is up for consideration at this point before the City Council. We have placed maps throughout the room for you to take a look at. We have not only the maps from the single-member districts, but we also have the maps for the at-large districts, and also a link is being provided for the (inaudible) website on the City's -- COJ's web page as well.

At this time, we have an agenda prepared for us. We will take public comment cards until 6:30. We have a hard stop at 7:30. Each member or neighbor who wants to speak will be afforded an opportunity to speak up to three minutes. If we have more individuals to speak than twenty, then we will divide the time accordingly to have time allocated to the community (inaudible) on the schedule.

With that, I will now pass the agenda up for the legal framework for redistricting to be addressed by Paige Johnston of the Office of General Counsel.

MS. JOHNSTON: Thank you, Madam Chair.

Hello. I'm Paige Johnston, Office of General Counsel for the City of Jacksonville.

I just want to give you a brief legal framework and then also talk about the process leading up to this point and the other things that will come to pass as we go through this process, just very briefly.

So from a constitutional (audio malfunction) -- from a constitutional standpoint, you have the principle of one person, one vote. So every individual of voting age is important in the process of electing the representatives.

And so the constitutional process is that each of the districts that are created should be as close as equal in population as possible. And that is going to be the initial goal, to be the population as equal as possible.

And so Mr. Killingsworth is going to go into more detail as to the census process and how they polled the data from the census numbers. But essentially, the Charter and Ordinance Code of the City of Jacksonville creates a process by which every year, following the census that is created by the

U.S. government, when we receive those numbers on population counts, then we immediately take that information.

And our subject matter expert, which in this case is our Planning Department director, they take that information, they see the total number of the new population in Duval County, it either goes up or down or stays relatively the same. But they take that population count, and then we determine, based on existing districts, where we need to increase a district or decrease a district based on the new population.

And so, like I said, they will go into more of that process, but I did want to explain that it's triggered by the Charter, there's a process in the Ordinance Code, and we start with those population counts.

Now, there are other considerations as to population, and those may be things such as compactness and continuity between the districts. Obviously, many of you have heard the term "gerrymander." And for those of you who maybe don't fully understand or haven't heard the definition, basically it's a

1 situation where one group is either -- the
2 boundaries of the district is manipulated in a
3 way that one group is either disadvantaged or
4 advantaged over another group.
5 So you may have heard of court cases that
6 have reviewed different district maps at the
7 city level, at the federal government level, at
8 the state level.
9 And essentially, there's two concepts that
10 you might hear in terms of maps. People may
11 complain that the maps are "packed" or
12 "cracked." And basically what that means is --
13 by packing the district, the allegation is that
14 you are putting all people of a particular
15 group -- that could be a socioeconomic, a
16 racial or ethnic group, a political party.
17 You're putting them all in a concentrated
18 district and you're diluting their voting
19 interests by putting them all within one
20 district.
21 And they may have only one representative
22 to go to, whereas if they were spread out more,
23 they may have more representative power by
24 having different elected officials.
25 Then the cracking is the opposite. It's

diluting a group over a series of districts to, again, dilute their power.

So those are the two kind of concepts you will see from the legal perspective that people argue that those may be constitutional or unconstitutional.

One way that we prevent that is that -- from a standpoint of the number of people total, we can't break down the population for every district so that there's equal number of people. There's going to be a little bit of a variation. It may be a couple hundred; it may be a couple thousand.

As you all probably know, the city of Jacksonville is now at 900,000 population; it's almost a million. So if you divided that by 19,000, they come up with a median range of the number of people per district. You're not going to get that exact number because you have some subdivisions that take up big parts of the city, and you probably want to include those subdivisions as people within those subdivisions because they have interests that are very similar. So you may want one district to be slightly over, and then as a result,

1 another district is going to be slightly under.
2 And so the courts have held that as long
3 as we have no more than a 10 percent deviation
4 between the largest group and the smallest
5 group, that that is equal population. So we're
6 looking at that at the forefront. And then
7 beyond that, we're looking at compactness and
8 continuity.
9 And the Ordinance Code also says
10 specifically that there has to be other
11 consideration for other factors, and those are
12 varied economic, social, and ethnic interests
13 and objectives, and that those are adequately
14 represented for the Council. Okay?
15 So sometimes you'll hear us referring to
16 "communities of interest." That's kind of that
17 catch phrase that would include either
18 economic, socioeconomic, ethnic, ethnic/racial,
19 all of those categories. And we can't -- we
20 can't require that every single group be
21 represented in total, but we can do our best to
22 make sure that the one person, one vote is
23 carried forward with your electoral -- elected
24 officials.
25 So with that in mind, that's kind of the

framework. Then the other considerations do come into play.

Early on in the process, the Council looked at certain things like geographic boundaries and decided that they did not want to cross the river multiple times for different districts. If they could include certain districts within -- with the boundary of the river, that was a good thing, so Mr. Killingsworth was advised to look at that.

Another thing that was important to the Special Committee on Redistricting, which was appointed by the Council president, Mr. Sam Newby, is that they wanted to ensure that incumbents were not intentionally drawn out of their districts. Okay? And they also said that they wanted that to apply not just to the City Council, but also to the school board because, in this process, that is in the Charter and it is in the Ordinance Code.

It says that their maps, the school board maps, get redrawn with our maps. So they are involved in the process. They participated in the process. And it was agreed that at-large districts, Council districts, and school

1 districts would try to retain the incumbency to
2 the extent possible.
3 So those are some of the framework that
4 the Councilors were looking at when they
5 created the maps. And basically they went
6 through multiple iterations with
7 Mr. Killingsworth in the special committee
8 process, which were all noticed meetings.
9 And there were also member-to-member
10 meetings that included some of the members of
11 this committee, the Rules Committee, and also
12 the Special Committee on Redistricting and
13 other Council members who were interested.
14 And it was open to the public. You can go
15 to the www.COJ.net website. If you go under
16 "City Council," there is a tab that says "Hot
17 Topics." That hot topic includes
18 redistricting. So if you click on that, you
19 will find information on when all the prior
20 meetings have been held, when there are
21 upcoming meetings. And exhibits and documents
22 that were provided at those meetings we put as
23 PDFs on that site.
24 So you can review all the past
25 information. You can review the minutes of the

meetings and see what was discussed and how they got there.

So the next step is just to talk very briefly about the next steps in the process.

So special districting -- the Special Committee on Redistricting provided its recommendation as to the maps. Those are the maps that Mr. Killingsworth is going to go over. From there, the Special Restricting Committee turned it over to the Rules Committee.

Members of the Rules Committee are here today. They are here today to hear specifically from the public on your input on the maps, on anything having to do with the redistricting process, questions and comments. They are going to listen to you. They are not going to take action here today. They are not supposed to. They're just supposed to listen.

So they're going to have these four meetings, as Ms. Priestly Jackson mentioned. And from there, the Rules Committee is going to, in the weeks following, when they have their noticed regular meetings on the first and third Tuesdays of the month -- they meet at

2 o'clock, and they are going to discuss what happens at these meetings, the public input that's been given at the meetings, and talk about how they want to move forward.

So your input is important. You can follow along with the Rules Committee meetings as well. And then eventually, the Rules Committee will make a recommendation. It goes to the full Council and the full Council will vote.

There is a potential that the redistricting maps may be adopted as soon as March 8th or as late as April 12th. It just depends on if there are any changes that are substantial, that require additional public hearings and additional input.

But the public will be advised throughout this process, and so you have a good point of entering now to get involved and to give your input.

COUNCIL MEMBER PRIESTLY JACKSON: Thank you so much, Ms. Johnston.

We will now move to our colleagues at the Duval County School Board for their comments and their perspective.

MR. WILLIE: Thank you so much for this opportunity.

Darryl Willie, chairman of the Duval County School Board.

First, I would like to just pause and say thank you all for being here and being involved in this civic process. What better place to have this conversation than at one of our schools.

And I would also be remiss if I did not introduce the school board member for this area who's also a graduate of the school.

So if you would stand for us.

This is school board member Charlotte Joyce who is a board member.

(Inaudible), the amazing principal of this amazing school stepped out, I believe. But when she comes back, we'll give her a chance to just (inaudible).

We just want to make sure you see the leadership at this school. If you have not seen what has been happening at this school, she has done a tremendous job leading this school and putting it on the right path. So we're very excited about what's happening here.

I'm sitting right next to my vice chair, Kelly Coker. She and I were -- actually had an opportunity to sit on this -- on the Special Committee, Rules Committee on redistricting this year. And it was actually probably one of the most intimate times that the school board was involved in the process, well before the maps were drawn.

Of course, as you know, each school board district encompasses two City Council districts so that every school board member actually has two City Council districts that sit inside of it. So it was very important for us to be involved in the process to see what the maps looked like, to understand where the schools fit in as well because we wanted to make sure that the schools and the community understood how that was being done.

We felt very good about the process. We were very thrilled to be involved. We gave a lot of data from our end. We sat in on the conversations and listened to what was going on, and we feel like we're in a great place now to ask the community for their input. So we're thrilled about this. We're thankful for the

opportunity. But also this is a great opportunity for you all. We want to hear you-all's voice.

Kelly Coker and I, we are actually not going to be voting on this. We're on the Special Committee, but now it's the City Council's job to actually vote on it. So we're just here as community members now also because it's now in the hands of the community to sort of voice their opinion, and then it's the Rules Committee that actually votes.

So once again, thank you all for being here. Thank you for your time.

COUNCIL MEMBER PRIESTLY JACKSON: Thank you, Chair Willie.

We are now going to move on to the development of redistricting proposal by Bill Killingsworth, Director of the Planning and Development Department at the City of Jacksonville. He was also selected by the chair of the Redistricting Committee by Council Member Bowman as the consolidation expert during this process to guide and advise us.

MR. KILLINGSWORTH: I'm going to stand up and I'm going to step over here. I recognize

that you can't see the maps, but they have been visualized when I talk.

And what I would recommend is, if I talk about a particular district, when you have time, come up and look at what I'm talking about. The maps are available on the website which Paige mentioned, and it is (inaudible), so the audience will be able to see it, but the audience (inaudible) will have to get up and look at the individual maps.

So the Redistricting Committee was formed when we got together. And at the first meeting they gave me some initial guidance. The three key pieces of that guidance was to use total population -- there was a choice between total population and voting age population.

The City has historically used voting age -- I mean, total population, excuse me. Last time I had the pleasure of doing this for the City, we used total. And the time prior to that, to my knowledge, we used that. So there's a history in the city of using total population.

The other was that they didn't want to cross the river, if at all possible, in this

go-round.

And then the third was, to the extent possible, they wanted to minimize change from the existing Council boundaries.

And so when we started looking at it, we started putting together a proposed map for the south and east of the river, principally because there were two districts there that had to change. District 13 had to gain population and District 11 had to lose a substantial amount of population.

So in putting that map together, the initial work for this (inaudible) of the member-to-member meeting, we did not cross the river. Some of you may be aware that Council District 2 crosses the river and it encompasses part of Arlington and part on the Northside. So we did a proposal that 2 did not cross the river.

The member-to-member -- at the member-to-member meeting, there was a lot of discussion on the destruction to the existing Council districts. So by not crossing the river, it created a lot of changes in the south and the east, and so the members wanted to

reconvene the Redistricting Committee, where they held a discussion.

And the guidance there was to minimize the river crossings but that river crossings were permissible and to continue using total population and to minimize changes to the Council districts. So it was essentially minimize the changes to the existing Council districts took priority over minimizing crossing the river.

So as a result of that, like I've already said, Council District 13 and Council District 11 haven't changed. 11 had to pick up people and 13 had to gain people. 13 is the beaches, if you don't know. They are essentially (inaudible). One Council district with a little bit of Isle of Palms. (Inaudible) Council district without crossing the river, which is Council District 3. So they had to take population for Council District 3.

Previously, they just had a little bit of Isle of Palms, so at this go-round they picked up almost all of Isle of Palms and a little piece more.

Council District 11 was really the

elephant in the room. It happened to lose 20,000 people, which -- the city is roughly -- roughly a million people. And if you divide that by 14, that means each Council district has to be around 71,000 people. So they had to give up almost 20,000 people.

The upside is 11 probably catches the most Council districts. So what they ended up doing was giving up Bartram Trails, which is adjacent to Council District 6, which is Mandarin, but -- so every decision has a cascade of other decisions.

That ended up making Mandarin a little bit too big, so Council District 5 took up some of that excess population, which is essentially San Marco. And then because Council District 3 had to give to Council District 13, it picked up a little bit of 11 as well as a little bit of 4.

You have that area south of St. Johns Town Center where there's apartments and it's a lot of younger kids there, and so between Council District 4 and Council District 3, the thought was they were more appropriately located within that campus.

And then that is essentially the changes south and east of the river.

Council District 1 is exactly the same as it was last time. Arlington, in terms of Council District 2, picked up a little sliver of Council District 4 to balance out some population, but it is largely the same.

So then when we get north and west of the river, we have Council District 8 had to give up population. There was a desire to leave -- 9 and 10 did not have to change at all. So there was a desire not to have them change to be consistent with the guidance that we have, and 9 didn't change at all. 10 changed in a very minor way.

There was a neighborhood last time that some of the neighbors got cut off and were in an adjacent district, so we moved them over so that they were in all one Council district.

But the bulk of the discussion in terms of the boundary changes, again (audio malfunction).

Apparently when I shake the mic, it turns off.

Again, (inaudible), in the

member-to-member meetings, composed largely of members from north and west of the river.

And in the discussion for 8, given that 9 and 10 wasn't going to change, at that point they are only adjacent to Council District 7 and Council District 12, so they had to pick up population, so the discussions became where they picked up that population. In the end, it was decided that the community of interest was most fulfilled by picking up a blotch from Council District 7.

In doing that in a way that seemed to be compact and consistent, we had to take a little more than 7 could actually take, so they ended up taking a little from 2 to meet the goals. There was also a group in Arlington who was -- their neighborhood was split between Council District 12 and Council District 14, so we moved them into 14.

And that is the extent of the changes that took place. By and large, I'm not sure that really (inaudible) with the existing Council district map. If you just walk by it, you probably wouldn't, honestly, notice the changes.

And with that, Council Member Jackson, I will step back.

COUNCIL MEMBER PRIESTLY JACKSON: Thank you so much.

I want to also take an opportunity to recognize our colleague Council members, Ju'Coby Pittman, who has joined us, (inaudible) Council members that may have made it in or school board members, thank you all for (inaudible).

Neighbors, this is the time when we hear from you. This is the time when I am going to call your name and you will come to the microphone and you have three minutes to give your public comments and input to us.

It is of the utmost importance that you share your concerns when we have the Rules Committee's public hearings. We, again, have three more scheduled; one next Thursday, on the 3rd, at Atlantic Coast High School; the following Thursday, on the 10th, at First Coast High School; and the fourth and final area at William Raines High School on the 17th of February. Each one is set from 6:00 to 7:30.

It is our intention to take public comment

and hear from you. We will give an interim review of the information we received at the Rules Committee meeting following the public hearings, which means the first one we'll have will be on February the 1st, and then we'll come back to the following and start the process again.

I want to state that I am not -- because some of you're emailing Council members and you're emailing Rules Committee members and emailing school board members, please make sure that your public comments are shared at these hearings. We are required by the Ordinance Code to conduct these hearings and receive your input, and we want to make certain that we address the neighbors' concerns and needs.

Again, thank you so much. And I will begin now by calling -- I'll call the first public speaker and the one that is to follow. And the microphone is over there (indicating). And if I mispronounce your name, please tell me. Please.

First speaker, we have Joy E. Burgess, followed by Eric Parker.

(Audience member approaches the podium.)

AUDIENCE MEMBER: Thank you so much.

My name is Joy Burgess, and I live in the Edgewater neighborhood in Mandarin, and I (inaudible).

I have questions, concerns, and recommendations more to the process than to the mapping. My first question is, what strategies were used to educate the city of Jacksonville's residents about the redistricting process and their role in it?

Second question is, how were city of Jacksonville residents included in the decision-making as it pertains to the mapping process?

In the maps that I see, I wanted to know, is the proposal -- redistricting map subject to the legal challenge based on racial packing in Districts 7, 8, 9, and 10? And you described what racial packing was.

And how would this information, the whole totality of the process, be disseminated to the public so that the people that are not here and can't be here will understand what is happening to them?

Some of my concerns are the lack of

engagement of the citizens of this community in this process that's so important to us, and I think the poor communication between the City Council members and us to help us understand the process.

I also am not, like, sure I understand the discrepancy between the 2020 census that has whites as 49 percent of the population. And (inaudible) the mapping process, we use 52 percent of whites, which overstates the white population and other minority groups.

So my recommendations are this:

One, the City of Jacksonville should request that the supervisor of elections run two comparative district demographic reports, one based on current districts, the other on recently drafted maps. And this comparison should be shared with you guys, City Council members, as well as the public, us. And it could be a useful snapshot of how the proposed maps alter the demographics, such as age, race, party designation in each voting district.

I think we should be consistent with the federal government in defining our -- the definition of "race" and how that applies. And

so that may need some remapping to make sure that's consistent.

I think the City should create an executive summary to allow all of us to really understand what has happened to us and the impact that it has for us for the next ten years. So all the things that have happened should be created in a short executive summary so that we can see the process.

(Timer notification.)

MS. BURGESS: I think we should create a citizen -- a resident ad hoc committee (inaudible). An ad hoc committee would allow us to be at the table with you guys to understand the process.

Thank you.

THE CHAIRMAN: Thank you so much, Ms. Burgess.

Eric Parker, followed by Greg Withers.

(Audience member approaches the podium.)

AUDIENCE MEMBER: Good evening.

I'm Eric Parker and I live in District 2.

I brought my own map because it helps me as well to visualize.

So in your statement of methodology, you

state traditional redistricting concepts of compactness, continuity, and considerations of the communities of interest as defined in the Charter. (Inaudible) originally the Planning and Development Department provided Council district -- the St. Johns River.

Also, elsewhere in your memorandum about the legal aspects and elsewhere in your methodology, you specifically want -- or you state that it's important not to cross the river and not to use bridges, but it seems as if you're ignoring that Napoleon Bonaparte originally crossed over for District 2.

Another one of your importances was not to cut out, specifically, incumbents that are in office. And that is stated in the legal breakdown as well.

The councilman for District 2 is not an incumbent. He's term-limited out. He's not running for City Council of District 2. Coincidentally, in almost the exact same spot where the axis is, where he is, there is a candidate running for District 2.

So I was just wondering, how much does a candidate running for office play into where

you decide to draw the district lines? I understand there were two districts that the population was outside of the 10 percent, give or take, that it needed to change. But if you simply put District 2 where there's not an incumbent running -- if you put the line north of the St. Johns River, you could divide that space between 3 and 1 and shift up to change the population needed in the southeast side of Jacksonville.

And then, what if you shift District 2's line up above the St. Johns River, you could simply shift over here, the west line of District 2 to US-17 Main Street as a natural border.

And then I understand we're required to probably redraw the entire district maps, but I think that would make more sense because it's also stated in here that you use cultural, ethnic, community guidelines and interests of the community as well.

And my point is I think East Arlington has more in common with Arlington and the beaches area than it does the Oceanway, northeast side of Jacksonville. And I think that the Oceanway

area that is now -- was in District 7 and is going to be in District 7 also has more to do with District 2.

And I will assume that if you shifted all the lines that way --

(Timer notification.)

MR. PARKER: Thank you.

COUNCIL MEMBER PRIESTLY JACKSON: Thank you so much, Mr. Parker.

Greg Withers, followed by Sam Coodley.

And I want to thank Council Member LeAnna Cumber, who's a member of the Rules Committee, has joined us.

Thank you so much, Council Member Cumber.

(Audience member approaches the podium.)

AUDIENCE MEMBER: Hi. My name is Greg Withers. I'm going to (inaudible).

I heard y'all speaking about how you were (inaudible) communities being cut off. My mine in particular is cut into three, between 10, 12, and 8, this area of (inaudible). We're right to the north of the I-10 -- and I guess that would be to the west of 95, and (inaudible) as well.

We're right here in this area

(indicating). And in this little town, we're cut into three different districts with every district being different. What I mean by that is, one is more rural, some are more suburbia, other being more businesslike area, more businesses and such.

And if you could just -- I know (inaudible) is looking into this district to make sure such things does not happen to other neighborhoods and places around the city as much as possible.

That is all. Thank you.

COUNCIL MEMBER PRIESTLY JACKSON: Thank you. Thank you so much, Mr. Withers.

Just a little reminder that we stop accepting public comment cards at 6:30. I think we may have accepted a few minutes after this. We'll make sure we honor all those public comment cards time to speak.

Sam Coodley, followed by Cole Gabriel.

(Audience member approaches the podium.)

AUDIENCE MEMBER: Hi. Thank you and good evening, everyone.

And thanks to everyone in the community for being here. We'd love to see more of those

chairs filled in the next three sessions, but thanks for everyone who's here tonight.

I am reaching out as a resident of District 9. I live right near the intersection of Stockton and Edison. I recognize the stated priority about keeping things the same as much as possible, but I have to say, I don't think District 9 is compact. To be honest, it looks like the Big Dipper in terms of how -- you know, really not a contiguous shape. You know, District 10 next to us I think is similar insofar as, you know, if it were a physical object I think it would almost be cracked in half because it's so thin.

And I am just a little bit concerned about what seems to be a really strong partisan gerrymandering here insofar as under the current map, if you have the 2018 Senate results where Bill Nelson won 6,400 votes here, you would have nine of the seats go to Republicans, while barely five would go to the Democrats.

So given that is the case when it was a 6,400 majority for Democrats, how do you explain that as not a partisan gerrymander?

COUNCIL MEMBER PRIESTLY JACKSON: We're not answering questions. We're taking your comments. It's a public hearing.

MR. COODLEY: I would really be interested in hearing at some point justifications for how there isn't a partisan gerrymander when even if one side manages to win by thousands of votes, the other side gets nearly twice as many seats.

And, again, respecting the concept that above all else we have to protect this (inaudible) existing map, I would propose it also seems like you're actually just maintaining the existing partisan gerrymander that was already in place under the old maps.

And again, the victims of it are (inaudible), you know, in these communities that, in turn, don't get properly represented. It's, you know, really, I think, a disservice to the community for the proposition of let's keep incumbents in power rather than having an even playing field or not, you know, having a map that cuts 47 (inaudible) neighborhoods into separate pieces, apparently in order to make sure that existing politicians can maintain their power, even if it means sacrificing, you

1 know, people's proper representation.
2 (Timer notification.)
3 MR. COODLEY: I don't understand how
4 that's not a partisan gerrymandering --
5 COUNCIL MEMBER PRIESTLY JACKSON: Thank
6 you.
7 Cole Gabriel, followed by Thomas Martin.
8 (Audience member approaches the podium.)
9 AUDIENCE MEMBER: Good evening.
10 My name is Cole Gabriel. I live in
11 District 7.
12 First, let me express my concern with the
13 lack of information available and relevant to
14 public comment up to this point. Readable
15 draft maps were not made available during
16 Redistricting Committee meetings, and most
17 redistricting was done in member-to-member
18 meetings where public comment was not
19 permitted.
20 In addition, I believe it is inappropriate
21 that we are prioritizing -- that prioritizing
22 incumbents has been a primary priority up to
23 this point. Many Council members and school
24 board members live along their district
25 boundaries. The ability of the committee to

make objections to maps was incredibly limited despite the rapidly changing demographics of Jacksonville over the past ten years.

I challenge the Council to create an executive summary detailing the process in totality on the methodology, data collected, studies performed, and the impact of citizen input from redistricting meetings.

I am concerned that black residents are being unfairly and perhaps illegally packed into minority voting districts where their voting power is being reduced. I am concerned that prioritizing incumbents does not allow for a proper review of our districts to occur. And I am concerned that the public did not get sufficient opportunity to weigh in on the process until after the maps were drawn.

Considering these issues and looking to the future, I ask that the Council be willing to draft legislation to change the redistricting process to be led and approved by an independent committee.

Thank you.

COUNCIL MEMBER PRIESTLY JACKSON: Thank you, Mr. Gabriel.

AUDIENCE MEMBERS: (Applause.)

COUNCIL MEMBER PRIESTLY JACKSON: Please, no clapping. You can give your public comments, but no clapping, please.

Thomas R. Martin, followed by Daniel Henry.

(Audience member approaches the podium.)

AUDIENCE MEMBER: Good evening.

I'm Thomas Martin, and I live in District 14, along the Clay County line.

I was just looking -- I'm also in a big development area. It was started back in 1975, called the Villages of Argyle. It's about 9,000 acres.

But anyway, it's (inaudible) and it goes up all the way to Riverside, so it's sort of a strange thing. I was suggesting that maybe starting at the river and going west to Cecil Airport and then going north, stay along this (inaudible), the county boundaries, and then, maybe up to 103rd Street, and make that one district starting at the river to Cecil Airport, and then from the -- the city line up to 103rd Street because that would make districts much more compact and that's one of

the issues that we have that seems that everyone is complaining about, the compactness.

Thank you.

THE CHAIRMAN: Thank you, Mr. Martin.

Daniel Henry, followed by Nancy -- is it Starts or Staats, Dr. Staats?

(Audience member approaches the podium.)

AUDIENCE MEMBER: Okay. My name is Daniel Henry. I live at District 11, and my address is on file.

I just have two questions, and hopefully they will be able to get addressed at the following town hall (inaudible) format.

I was curious to why, when the maps were drawn -- and I think this has been addressed -- the City didn't use the federal definition of "races." That's the (inaudible) definitions. So it creates a dynamic that if someone marked "mixed race" on their census and they may identify as black or Hispanic, the City Council has "mixed," so you don't get a fair representation as to whether or not someone identifies as black or Hispanic in certain districts.

And like I think it was said over the

previous comments, it also overstates the number of residents that live in Jacksonville that identify as white compared to any other race. So that's the first question. Hopefully, Mr. Killingsworth or someone else will be able to address that.

And the second question I was curious about, because I wasn't able to (inaudible) or attend it, was a functional analysis done as to what percentage would be needed in certain communities of interest in order for them to elect a representative that reflects their values as they are?

I know that wasn't done ten years ago, it didn't seem like it was done now. So if we're using certain numbers -- one of you guys talked about it in member-to-member meetings -- could determine what components needed to be in certain areas for those districts. How did you guys come to that conclusion? Because that wasn't evident by the discussion or by the data that's available to the public.

So any kind of functional analysis that was done that fits that legal definition so people would be able to know that would be

1 particularly helpful.
2 These maps have never been challenged in
3 court at any point, but I think you're begging
4 that to happen at some point because that is
5 not available (inaudible).
6 Thanks.
7 COUNCIL MEMBER PRIESTLY JACKSON: Thank
8 you, Mr. Henry.
9 Nancy -- is that Staats?
10 AUDIENCE MEMBER: Staats. I'll answer to
11 that.
12 COUNCIL MEMBER PRIESTLY JACKSON: Followed
13 by Jane Kosut.
14 (Audience member approaches the podium.)
15 AUDIENCE MEMBER: Thank you for your time,
16 everyone.
17 And I would just want to reiterate one
18 thing, is maintaining the status quo does not
19 lead to growth and it does not lead to
20 improvement. I think it's okay to think about
21 that, but I think we also need to think about,
22 how do we change Jacksonville for the better?
23 How do we make it so that people are fairly
24 represented? So just something to think about.
25 My specific questions are two. One is,

what changes can be -- could be made to the current maps to improve voting effectiveness of black and Hispanic voters throughout Duval County versus just Districts 7, 8, 9, and 10? In other words, trying to support the one person/one vote principle.

It's my understanding that most of the population increase in Jacksonville has been among black and Hispanic people, yet I don't see that reflected anywhere.

My second question is, have the proposed maps shifted the numerical representation, thus voting advantage, to either major political party, particularly those in any district or at-large group?

And, again, I thank you for the time.

COUNCIL MEMBER PRIESTLY JACKSON: Thank you.

Jane -- is it Kosut?

AUDIENCE MEMBER: Kosut.

COUNCIL MEMBER PRIESTLY JACKSON: Followed by Tyra Smude.

(Audience member approaches the podium.)

AUDIENCE MEMBER: Jane Kosut, Atlantic Beach. Thank you.

The supervisor of elections runs a district demographic profile report. It would be helpful for all of us to understand the impact of the draft maps if we could see the latest district demographic report run against a demographic report based on the currently proposed map. This will show any lessening or strengthening of voting advantage by party and race.

Can this be completed by February 10th and shared with the public?

I follow on to, I believe, Ms. Burgess' question. Isn't a proposed redistricting map subject to legal challenge based on racial packing in Districts 7, 8, 9, and 10?

Thank you.

COUNCIL MEMBER PRIESTLY JACKSON: Thank you, Ms. Kotus.

Tyra Smude, followed by Susanne Barker.

(Audience member approaches the podium.)

AUDIENCE MEMBER: Thank you for being here and having the public hearing.

My name is Tyra. I live in the Avondale area, Jacksonville, 32205.

I guess I know that you laid out all this

criteria and all the stuff about compactness, about trying to have fair representation, about gerrymandering, all those I get.

I just don't understand the criteria for success that you have for achieving this. The one criteria that I can get is that incumbents stay in their seats or sit in their district. That's the only one that I can really get a clear read on how you interpret success.

You look at the shapes of almost all of those north and west. The shapes of the districts, I know they represent the status quo. (Inaudible) District 9, District 10, District 14, where I am, District 7, they're, like, weird shapes, like a snake or a bear as someone else said.

AUDIENCE MEMBER: (Inaudible.)

MS. SMUDE: On the other side, on the western districts, they are more normal. So that's okay. So I get that. I could see a -- you know, a picture for success there, a compactness in shape, what I don't get on the Westside.

Another thing I have a question about is among the (inaudible), the changes and moving

forward in Jacksonville, embracing who it is not and who it wants to become, and why can't we look at what's going on.

On the western side, every single one of those districts looks like (inaudible). They're all over average of what the -- you know, like just -- take (inaudible) districts, (inaudible), they all are more than their fair share. Why is that? Why can't we keep up? It seems like such a simple win.

What else did I have?

Oh, if I were to guess, just looking at the districts on the Westside and looking at why are there these weird shapes there, I would guess it's based on race. And my particular bugaboo is School District 6.

If you look at that district and that map here -- but (inaudible) District 12 and District 14, look at the shape. It looks like one big U-shape with a big gorge out of it. Guess which one is that? Guess who lives -- who lives in that gorge? (Inaudible) District 12 and District 14, most of the white folks. Those aren't white. We can be better.

And maybe -- I don't know. I don't have a

crystal ball and I don't understand why (inaudible), but maybe you can lay out some of the criteria for us.

(Timer notification.)

COUNCIL MEMBER PRIESTLY JACKSON: Thank you so much, Ms. Smude.

Susanne Barker, followed by Bill Lewis.

(Audience member approaches the podium.)

AUDIENCE MEMBER: Good evening.

My name is Susanne Barker, and I'm in District 13.

This is my first time ever being involved in a discussion about redistricting. I must admit, I'm just getting informed. And I'm kind of just really, frankly, appalled that -- that our City Council would decide that they would start with all the information in the census and then say, okay, we want to make sure that we don't make it so that any sitting councilperson won't be (inaudible). That's just appalling to me. I mean, the census have changed, but information is in there.

I think that there are other cities in Florida that we (inaudible) independent counsels for not doing that, but I think that

could be something to think of in the future so that we don't get these weird-looking shapes. Like, 9 looks really weird.

And, you know -- and also to think that what we should be looking for is to make all -- to have some parity, where there'd be competition, where it wouldn't be a given one way or the other that one is going to be Republican or Democrat, that -- that (inaudible) equal racially and people are (inaudible) going to have to compete for their seats, I think that's important.

And in this day and age, we -- we just don't want people making up their own statistics. And it's just crazy. That's all I have to say.

Thank you.

THE CHAIRMAN: Thank you, Ms. Barker.

Bill Lewis, followed by Megan Moxhet.

(Audience member approaches the podium.)

AUDIENCE MEMBER: I'm going to give some free technical advice. Move this microphone next to us, not in front of the speaker. I've been doing sound systems since I was nine years old. That's why you're getting all the

feedback tonight.

COUNCIL MEMBER PRIESTLY JACKSON: Mr. Miller, could you (inaudible) public comment (inaudible) redistricting (inaudible).

AUDIENCE MEMBER: I'm just giving some free technical advice.

My name is Bill Lewis. I live at 8852 Ivy Mill Place South, Jacksonville, Florida 32244.

I'm the president of the Argyle Civic Council. Twenty years ago, I sat at a meeting like this on Kent Campus and was appalled by the fact they wanted to put Argyle Forest in the same City Council district with Mayport.

(Inaudible) matter of public record that we (inaudible) City Council members when I was in a meeting on Tuesday. So on June 27, '19 -- 2019, 19 members of the Jacksonville City Council all sworn into office that they would uphold the city Charter, the laws of Florida, and the Constitution of the United States. Tonight they have all failed.

The reason why is because in the city Charter it calls for logical and compact districts. It says nothing else about protecting your seat in office or anything else

like that. That is why it looks like a mess like this.

The other thing, every time since 2001, the Rules chairman has always said we're going to stick with four minority access districts. That's why these maps look like garbage. And I've always said this.

At that time, compromise with Argyle would put us in a district with Ortega and Avondale, and so we've had Michael Corrigan, Jim Love, and now Randy DeFoor and (inaudible) in Argyle (inaudible) in office that way.

One of these days, ten years from now, we'll get some people in office that actually want to do the will of the people and follow the city Charter, but for right now, that's not going to happen. So we're back in the same district we started with in 2001. Nothing has changed on that, and I don't see anything changing.

If you send any notices to City Council, emails, whatever, add in there "Add this to the public record for City Council, Bill 2022-0001," and they have to print it out and put it in the file, and it becomes part of the

public record.

You send an email without that little thing, "Add this to the public record, City Council Bill 2022-0001" -- if it's not in there, it goes into the garbage can.

I don't like the way it was done, but we're stuck with it.

Thank you so much.

THE CHAIRMAN: Megan M-o-x-h-e-t, followed by Michael Anderson.

(Audience member approaches the podium.)

AUDIENCE MEMBER: Hi. I actually checked the "do not wish to speak" box.

COUNCIL MEMBER PRIESTLY JACKSON: Michael Anderson, followed by Cherrie McKenzie.

(Audience member approaches the podium.)

AUDIENCE MEMBER: Good evening.

My name is Michael Anderson. Address is on file.

As someone who has been deeply involved in the electoral campaign process here in Jacksonville the last three years and basically walking every inch of Duval County with these maps that are proposed, it actually really is trash, garbage.

It literally -- the maps that we have currently are basically -- in certain precincts it's literally cut between, you know, half side of the street, and then it's the other half -- if you move to the other side, it is a completely different precinct, different district.

As we do these lines, can we please (audio malfunction) precisely for -- for our canvassers and our people who are going out for your campaigns and your elected office and how they are going to get around to talk to voters for that.

Also, I'm -- is there other maps with different priorities other than the ones that we have here?

There was another question.

And then also, as a person who, like, lives in District 11, on the Southside, there are literally -- how it is basically now in the Southside, it's literally District 5, where it's like -- literally, it's cut with San Marco, goes all the way down, and then it jets over to, like, Old St. Augustine Road in that area. And it's like those -- those folks

literally -- and those neighborhoods have nothing in common with each other, other than just, like, that basically side of the street and (inaudible) the street.

So again, I'm giving some commonality. Also, we are the blackest county in the state of Florida. That literally should be representative of these maps, of these districts, and it is not. So please fix that.

Thank you.

COUNCIL MEMBER PRIESTLY JACKSON: Thank you, Mr. Anderson.

Cherrie McKenzie, followed by Michelle Hollie.

(Audience member approaches the podium.)

AUDIENCE MEMBER: Cherrie McKenzie, and I reside at 6094 Caprice Drive, 32224.

And I came here tonight just to sort of understand more about the process. And I'm probably -- I'll say that in my old age I think I'm -- I'm getting a little cynical because what I sort of gathered so far is that this is nothing more than political theater, that, in essence, we're going through the motions because, in fact, the only way I learned about

this meeting -- I just happened to be listening to NPR and they sort of mentioned it in passing. I didn't see anything or receive any type of notification or whatever.

But my point is, I live in District 9, and I think, as others have said it, it is an abomination. I live south of 103rd, and I have absolutely nothing, zero, zip, nada, nyet in common with someone who lives in Sherwood Forest, yet we have been -- as someone else said, salamandered [sic] into that district.

So again, as someone from District 9, I just want to -- at least, if you guys are going to go through the motions -- and I'm not attacking you, but I'm just saying, this is my impression. If you guys are going to go through the motions, I thought it was only fitting that I, as a resident of District 9, come here and also go through the motions of thinking that you will listen to what I said.

Thank you.

THE CHAIRMAN: With that, our final speaker is Michelle Hollie.

(Audience member approaches the podium.)

AUDIENCE MEMBER: Good evening, everyone.

My name is Michelle Hollie. I'm a longtime resident with the Riverside/Avondale neighborhood, and I serve as president of the Northeast Florida Chapter of the ACLU of Florida. It serves five total counties, including Duval.

How the City Council and corresponding school districts are drawn will impact our communities for the next decade. The Council has an obligation to ensure fair and equal representation for all people.

Maps offered by this Council, as outlined by our city Charter, should be logical and as compact as possible. Districts should reflect the diverse interests of the people and neighborhoods of Jacksonville. They should not be drawn with the self-interests of a particular party or for particular person's reelection advantage.

As I look at these maps with contorted shapes stretching across one side of Jacksonville to the next and listen to the concerns of my neighbors and my fellow residents, I'm concerned that the voices of the residents are not only not being heard, they

are being stifled.

Speaking as a resident, a person living and working in Jacksonville for 20 years, I experienced significant difficulty from trying to participate in the redistricting process up to this point.

What were the guiding principles and input when you created these maps? Is this a partisan gerrymander? Were you drawing a partisan gerrymander? And was there any attempt to undo the partisanship that had already existed?

Thank you.

COUNCIL MEMBER PRIESTLY JACKSON: Thank you, Ms. Hollie.

That's our last public speaker for tonight. And so let me share with each of you that I have taken many of your comments and questions down. We will have the minutes of this meeting. It is our goal to consider your public comments and come back when we have a meeting a week from now at Atlantic Coast. (Inaudible) comments and share responses to what you have told us today.

A couple of things I want to tell our

neighbors. I can tell you, as one of the team, that you've got the process, and that's the role of the public hearing with the Rules Committee now. Let me say it again. You've got the process, and that's the role of the Rules Committee with the public hearing staff.

Ten years ago, they held four hearings in a week. Ten years ago, they held four hearings in a week. We have four hearings over four weeks to be able to respond and address your concerns. That's what we'll be able to do.

And I want to give you my word as a neighbor and pretty much a lifetime resident of Jacksonville, that we will come back and share with you, based on your comments today, and look at those things you have recommended and see if those adjustments can be made. We will address all those questions.

I don't think anybody up here has a desire to shy away or run away from any of the questions you posed. And I can honestly share with those that are sitting up here, I don't know that self-interest was the driver. I can tell you from myself that maybe it was a lack of knowledge and understanding of what matters

(inaudible).

And I'm going to use just briefly the incumbency piece. The house I live in is the house my parents built 60 years ago, and it's always been in the same district. Does that make sense? So it's always been (inaudible). So for me, it was a nonissue because it's always been there, right?

But I hear what you-all are saying, so we owe you an answer back from that, for what those factors are, along with historical data on what this Redistricting Committee recommended that passed it to the Rules Committee. But once it's in the Rules Committee, it's in your hands, Colleagues. That is why, if we do our homework after this meeting, we will have a portion of our agenda at the Rules Committee -- meets on the 1st, but we will address redistricting (inaudible), and we'll be back to address your concerns and provide responses to (inaudible). We'll be at Atlantic Coast High School, in its auditorium, on February the 3rd, from 6:00 until 7:30 p.m.

Thank you, neighbors, for coming. I appreciate it, and I look forward to seeing

many of you next week and (inaudible) at that time as well.

(The foregoing proceedings were adjourned at 7:06 p.m.)

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CERTIFICATE OF REPORTER

STATE OF FLORIDA)
)
COUNTY OF DUVAL)

I, Diane M. Tropia, Florida Professional Reporter, certify that I was authorized to and did transcribe the foregoing videotaped proceedings and that the transcript is a true and complete record of my stenographic notes.

DATED this 26th day of July 2022.

Diane M Tropia
_____

Diane M. Tropia
Florida Professional Reporter

CITY OF JACKSONVILLE

RULES COMMITTEE

REDISTRICTING - PUBLIC HEARING

Videotaped proceedings held on Thursday, February 3, 2022, commencing at 6:00 p.m., at Atlantic Coast High School, 9735 R.G. Skinner Parkway, Jacksonville, Florida.

COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT:

COUNCIL MEMBER BRENDA PRIESTLY JACKSON, Chair.
COUNCIL MEMBER RANDY DeFOOR, Vice Chair.
COUNCIL MEMBER AARON BOWMAN.
COUNCIL MEMBER LeANNA CUMBER.
COUNCIL MEMBER RORY DIAMOND.

ALSO PRESENT:

DARRYL WILLIE, Duval County School Board.
KELLY COKER-DANIELS, Duval County School Board.
BILL KILLINGSWORTH, Director, Planning Dept.
PAIGE JOHNSTON, Office of General Counsel.
SAM NEWBY, City Council President.
JOYCE MORGAN, City Council Member.
DANNY BECTON, City Council Member.

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P R O C E E D I N G S
February 3, 2022 6:00 p.m.
- - -

COUNCIL MEMBER PRIESTLY JACKSON: Good evening, neighbors.

My name is Brenda Priestly Jackson, and I am the chair of the Jacksonville City Council Rules Committee.

We are the committee that holds these public hearings on redistricting, and I'm grateful to see those members of the Rules Committee present today. And I'm going to pass the microphone down for each of them to introduce themselves.

COUNCIL MEMBER DeFOOR: Good evening.

My name is Randy DeFoor, and I represent District 14.

COUNCIL MEMBER DIAMOND: Good evening.

Rory Diamond, District 13.

COUNCIL MEMBER BOWMAN: Hello.

Aaron Bowman, District 3.

COUNCIL MEMBER CUMBER: LeAnna Cumber, District 5.

COUNCIL MEMBER PRIESTLY JACKSON: And our Council president.

COUNCIL PRESIDENT NEWBY: Sam Newby,

Group 5, at-large.

COUNCIL MEMBER PRIESTLY JACKSON: We will now have the members of the Duval County School Board introduce themselves.

MR. WILLIE: Good evening, everyone.

Darryl Willie, Duval County School Board chairman.

MS. COKER: Kelly Coker, Duval County School Board vice chairman, School Board District 1.

MS. JOHNSTON: Paige Johnston, Office of General Counsel.

MR. KILLINGSWORTH: Bill Killingsworth, Planning Department.

COUNCIL MEMBER PRIESTLY JACKSON: Thank you so much.

We are here today to hear from the public regarding the legislation that is before the City Council on redistricting, 2022-0001. And I am going to read a statement at the beginning of this meeting, which is our second meeting at a Duval County public school. (Inaudible) and we were at Ed White High School.

Pursuant to Duval County School Board Policy 9.40, Section 2(c), "Political

advertisement and distribution of political and campaign material is prohibited on Duval County School Board property."

We ask that all attendees of the Rules Committee public hearings on redistricting to not advertise or distribute political advertisements or campaign materials at the public hearings in or on Duval County School Board property. Your adherence with this policy is greatly appreciated.

With that, we're going to begin with a legal framework for redistricting, and we will incorporate into that some of the public comments that we received last week. Followed by that, we will have a school board redistricting perspective with Chair Willie, and then the development of the redistricting proposal will be offered by Bill Killingsworth, Director of Planning and Development and our expert on redistricting.

Ms. Johnston.

MS. JOHNSTON: Hello.

Again, I'm Paige Johnston from the Office of General Counsel. I just wanted to give you an overall framework for the process and where

we're at, where we started, and where we're going, and also to highlight and hopefully respond to some of the comments that were at the last meeting, giving a little more clarification on certain legal terms.

So the redistricting process is something that you see at the federal, state, and local level. And basically what happens is that the U.S. Census data comes out every ten years. And with that, there's population changes that occur in the various districts, whether they be federal, state, or local.

And as a result of those changes, it's a good time for, our case, the local government, to decide whether existing district lines are appropriate or whether there needs to be changes.

So we start out with the concept of, we have the data, we look at where there are current population increases or decreases to determine whether our districts, as they currently are, meet this criteria or whether it needs to be changed, or whether the Council wants to change certain districts for other reasons. And I'll talk a little bit more about

that.

So basically, the initial concept is from the Constitution, from the Equal Protection Clause of the 14th Amendment, which requires that everyone be afforded one vote for every one person. So everyone gets an equal say in their decision-making for the government. They do that through their (inaudible).

So the first thing that we look at is population. And, again, we get the census information. We get a count for how many people are in the city of Jacksonville, which Duval County is consolidated within the city of Jacksonville. For these purposes, the at-large districts include Baldwin and the Beaches, but the other -- but the districts for the Council members are -- well, that's not true because we have the Beaches, we have Rory and we have Mr. White. So it's all Jacksonville, Duval County, when we're talking about these numbers.

So the census numbers came out. Our population is around 900,000 or a little more, just under one million. And so we have to look at -- we have 14 districts that are set up by the Charter, and we have requirements by the

Charter and by the Ordinance Code as to the redistricting process. And so in line with the Constitutional requirements and the one person, one vote, our primary objective is to make each of the districts as relatively equal as we can.

Now, there's not going to be a situation where each of the districts are exact numbers of residents. And so what the subject matter expert here, Bill Killingsworth, starts with is census numbers. And he looks at the existing district boundaries and says, okay, which district boundaries -- the population within those boundaries have gone up and which ones have gone down?

So he's trying to get them to -- as equal of a number as possible. And so he looks, okay, particular districts may grow quite a bit and some may go down. So we know from the redistricting standpoint that we have to look specifically at those districts, and then it's a waterfall effect for the other districts.

So we look at those districts, decide which ones have increased or decreased and kind of start the process with those districts and go forward from there.

So a couple of things to keep in mind because, as I said, it's based on (inaudible). The courts have established that essentially as long as there's no more than a 10 percent population deviation between the lowest district and the highest district, then arguably we meet the one person, one vote. So Bill will go through his process of looking at the numbers, and some of that will become more clear.

But basically, as long as the districts are within that 10 percent deviation, courts will likely determine that the math is constitutional that's being offered.

So another thing that comes up in the talking points for redistricting -- and we've heard this quite a lot with the speakers -- was -- we heard an emphasis and focus on race or political affiliation.

So one thing to keep in mind is that under the Equal Protection Clause, race cannot be the predominant factor for particular district boundaries, and political affiliation is not necessarily relevant from a court's point of view. So in -- in calculating the numbers for

the population and then looking at other factors that the Council can consider, there are things like compactness, continuity, and maintaining communities of interest -- and I'll talk about what "community of interest" is.

There's also a consideration that can be made by the Council is -- as to incumbency and keeping incumbency within a particular district. And when I talk about incumbency, I'm talking about the existing City Council members for a particular district.

And so the Council members are staggered in their terms. So with every redistricting process, there's going to be probably around half of those Council members who are truly incumbents, that they can run for their same seat at the next election. But around half of them are not going to be running because of term limits, but that is a consideration that courts have found (inaudible) for consideration.

So taking that into account, when the Special Committee on Redistricting started meeting to discuss the numbers and the map configuration, they determined a few things

that they wanted to focus on in terms of priority.

One thing that was settled very early on is that the Special Committee decided that, to the extent possible, they wanted to keep the districts intact, understanding that there were certain districts that were going to need to be changed.

So like I said, Bill comes up with the numbers that are requiring the change, and from there, certain districts didn't require any change if -- if other districts were adjusted. And it was -- their preference was that they not, you know, fix the map where it didn't need to be fixed, so to speak. So many of the Council members wanted to maintain what the existing districts are.

And so, obviously, the existing districts were discussed and confirmed in the last ten years during the prior process and were not challenged. So those are assumed to be constitutional districts.

Another thing I just wanted to point out, because people may use terminology, and I just want everyone to understand the terminology. A

lot of times when we're talking about race or political affiliation, we get comments about "packing" or "cracking" districts. So I just want everyone to kind of know what we're talking about.

So "packing a district" would be a situation where you -- where a party would attempt to put all of a similar group -- maybe race, maybe political affiliation, maybe socioeconomic, maybe just a large group -- put them all within one district so that they cannot have the voice outside of that district to create a majority or to have a say in other districts. That's what's called "packing."

The other concept is called "cracking." It's basically the opposite of that. It's taking a group that may have the ability to have some kind of majority interest and separating them out into multiple districts where they can't combine to make that majority.

So that was discussed a few -- in a few comments that we had the last time.

And there was also (inaudible) concept of "gerrymandering." Many people have used that term. And, generally, gerrymandering is when

the map is manipulated so that one party or one interest is either increasing their power or another person's interests have decreased in value.

So the courts will say that so long as the intent is nondiscriminatory and a party can't show that the intent was intentionally to discriminate against a particular racial group or a group that would form a majority voting bloc, then the map would be considered constitutional.

Now I'm just going to briefly go over where we're at in the process. As I mentioned, there was a Special Committee on Redistricting. They held several meetings. They were all noticed meetings. And if you want more information on the Special Redistricting Committee, you can go to the COJ website, COJ.net. You can click on the link to City Council, and then from there, scroll down to the "Hot Topics." And within the "Hot Topics" there's "Redistricting."

So there will be links for the special committee and then the current activities that are going on with the Rules Committee. You can

review the meetings, the meeting minutes, the exhibits that were addressed at those meetings. And there were also meetings that occurred between Council members, and those will give you a taste for what the Special Committee looked at and was discussed. And some of those priorities that I mentioned earlier were established very early on with that Special Committee.

So moving forward, the Special Committee has met and approved or recommended approval of certain maps. Through the Charter and the Ordinance Code, now it becomes the Rules Committee that reviews those maps, has at least three public hearings, which -- this Rules Committee is having four, so they are exceeding that requirement. And the role here that the committee has is to receive public input.

They're not going to be taking action. They're probably not going to be saying that much to you as they're going to hear from you. So you're going to have the opportunity to get up and speak, either ask questions or make comments. And then if you ask questions, those will be addressed at another -- the next

concurrent meeting, but that's your opportunity to participate in the process.

There will also be meetings of the Rules Committee where they meet during their regular time to take up final action on their recommendation on the redistricting bill. That could happen as early as the beginning of March. It could be as late as April 12th. It depends on whether additional changes are made to the map and whether an additional public hearing is required.

So that's the process that we're at now. And hopefully -- if you have questions that are legal in nature that you don't think I addressed, please state that on the record, and we will work to address those at the next meeting.

COUNCIL MEMBER PRIESTLY JACKSON: Thank you so much, Ms. Johnston, for sharing that.

At this time, I want to acknowledge two of my colleagues. Council Member Becton served as the vice chair of the Redistricting Committee, has joined us, as well as Council Member Morgan who is here today. I don't think there's anyone else that (inaudible).

Thank you all so much.

We will now have the school board redistricting perspective by School Board Chairman Darryl Willie.

MR. WILLIE: Thank you so much.

I'll start by saying, what better place to have this conversation and dialogue than in one of our schools. I think civic dialogue is one the things that we try to instill in our students every single day, and it's so important.

So I want to thank Councilwoman Brenda Priestly Jackson, also City Council President Newby for this opportunity. And it actually goes back to Board Member Warren Jones who shared the time, actually worked with the late Tommy Hazouri to get us a seat at the table at the committee because in years past, it usually -- it gets voted on and then it comes to the school board to check to see, does it make sense.

But we were heavily involved in the process. Myself, alongside Vice Chair Kelly Coker-Daniel, had an opportunity to sit in on the Special Committee meetings and really dive

into the work. And it was a great opportunity to see how it operates.

And the reason why is because, as a school board member, my school board district actually has two City Council districts within it. So if those lines change or shift, as a school board member, we want to know that. That means schools could actually go inside and outside of a school board member's area.

So we wanted to make sure we saw that and were informing the Council committee on those, because if you shift a school, you move a certain number of students, that actually shifts the numbers around. So we wanted to make sure we were informing and keeping the Council updated on that.

Another thing I just want to make note is we were nonvoting members, so we don't actually get a vote at the end of the day on these district lines. We were information, added-value to the process, but not necessarily voting. So I just wanted to inform the public of that.

And last, I'll say, raise your hand if you were at Ed White last week or two weeks ago.

If you sit in these seats, there's a stark difference between Ed White and this school, wouldn't you say? And I think that's why it's so important that you're involved in this process, because the decisions that are made for our students are actually made by adults because of these maps, because of representation.

So I just wanted to let you know, this is a perfect example of why this is such an important process, because who you elect, where these lines are drawn actually (inaudible) to the decisions that are made in these types of facilities. And we are happy that other citizens around our city are going to see facilities like this very soon.

So thank you so much for this opportunity. Excited to be a part of the process and excited to be at Atlantic Coast.

I do want to recognize the principal. Is it Mr. George? There he is.

Fantastic. Give him a round of applause, guests.

(Applause.)

MR. WILLIE: I see (inaudible) back there

and I see (inaudible) back there and (inaudible) from the staff at the district. Thank you all for being here.

And thank you, Principal George, for all the work that you do with our students.

Thank you.

COUNCIL MEMBER PRIESTLY JACKSON: Thank you so much, Chair Willie.

We will now pass it to the development of the redistricting proposals and updates from Bill Killingsworth, director of Planning and Development, expert consultant for redistricting.

MR. KILLINGSWORTH: Expert.

COUNCIL MEMBER PRIESTLY JACKSON: Yes.

MR. KILLINGSWORTH: Hi. My name is Bill Killingsworth. And I have to talk with pictures because I'm a planner.

So when the redistricting subcommittee of Council members kicked off, in their first meeting they gave me, basically, aside from what was in the City ordinance, four key pieces of direction.

One was the discussion on whether or not to use total population or voting age

population. The committee settled on total population because, historically, that's what the City has always done. And I know personally the time before, total was used, and the time before that, total was used.

They also asked that we minimize crossing the river. I see that we have one crossing, which is District 2, both in the current and the proposed. They asked that we minimize changes to district boundaries. And they asked that we maintain the incumbents within their districts.

So with that information, the Department sat down and we looked at -- we honestly looked at not crossing -- a scenario to not cross the river. Now, there isn't a scenario where you could move (inaudible) north and west of the river; there's just not enough population there. There's roughly 450,000 people north and west of the river, 550,000 people south and east of the river.

So if there was seven districts north and west of the river, the population per district is 63- or 64,000 people per district, which is well below where we need to be. The ideal

number is 71. We can range (inaudible). This proposal ranges from about 67- to 74-, I think. But 63- to 64- would be well below. So we -- the math just doesn't work.

I believe the math would work if we pushed to the south and east of the river, and we put in a proposal that we presented to a member-to-member meeting of the members that were composed of districts south and east of the river.

When they looked at how disruptive that was of the existing Council district boundaries, they asked if we could be in a meeting of the redistricting committee as a whole. They discussed it, and the direction given to the Department was that minimizing district changes should take priority over minimizing river crossings. So we took that guidance and started a workaround with that.

Now, within the 14 districts, there are three that actually had to change. District 13 had to grow. District 11 had to lose, and that was a significant amount of population, almost 40,000 people. And 8 had to gain.

Now, what happens when you make those

changes is districts around them end up changing a little bit, too. So I wanted to go over those changes real quick.

District 13 had always crossed the Intracoastal and basically picked up (inaudible) Isle of Palms. Now it crosses just a little bit further west of the Intracoastal and picks up some additional population to get within the target range.

District 11, which was the one that had to lose the most and had the biggest impact, gave population -- basically, gave Bartram to District 6, and -- which is -- so it's a ripple effect. You squeeze the balloon and stuff pops out somewhere else.

Which meant District 6 was now too big. So District 5 took some population from there, as well as District 11 took some -- I mean, District 3 took some population from District 11. And when you look at the maps, you can see that.

District 1 did not change at all.

And then District 4, those apartments that are on Town Center Parkway, south of Town Center Parkway, there was a belief that those

were largely inhabited by younger millennials and that a community of interest there is more closely aligned with the UNF campus. And so those got put into District 3, which made 4 a little bit small given that (inaudible) had to come down to take just a little piece out of 4. So 4 ends up picking up a little bit out of 3.

But they're rather small changes, and in all honesty, unless you're really familiar with the map, I don't think you would notice it.

So then we get north of the river. There's a small change to District 2, up on Main Street, way up on the Northside. Council District 7 picks up some population there. And the reason behind that was that District 8 got too big, and so there was a decision that 9 and 10 didn't have to change. They had -- they were in the proper population.

And because the goal was -- one of the stated objectives was to minimize changes to the districts, those didn't need to change, so we didn't change those, which means the population for 8 either had to come from 7 or from 12. Ultimately, the decision was that the communities (inaudible) were more closely

aligned between 8 and 7, and so 8 picked up some population up in the top (inaudible) corner of the county.

And then, finally, there was a little change to District 14, where 12 and 14 are now (inaudible) and kind of represented by all three districts that are -- and that was something that had been brought up, I believe, at one of the member-to-member meetings. And so we tried to accommodate that within the population spread that we had and part of that (inaudible) into 14.

There was some questions about voter profile, how that changed. There are a couple of districts that swapped, one way or the other, by a small amount.

Typically, I do transportation, more transportation-oriented work, so for me, less than 5 percent is not considered significant. This is politics, so 1 is probably significant to somebody. So I have the numbers. I'm going to give it to Jeff. He can post it online, and each individual can make a determination whether or not it's significant or not.

But I want -- what I will tell you is that

in each case where there is a small change in terms of (inaudible), when you look at the number of no-party affiliations that are in that district, it's really those voters who probably are making the decision on how that district turns out between D's and R's.

The other is -- there was some question about the demographics and the information that we have. The charts that are on the map on the table are straight out of the census, so those numbers are straight out of the census.

Now, we don't have every table that's out of the census because on the census this time you could check as many boxes in terms of your racial profile that you want, and there is simply -- to go on a horizontal map, there's just simply not enough space. (Inaudible), so we did the best we could, but the data's available, and we're glad to provide it to you.

And with that, Chairman, I am done.

COUNCIL MEMBER PRIESTLY JACKSON: Thank you, Mr. Killingsworth.

It is our goal to listen to members, and we are accepting public comment cards until 6:30 for each meeting. You will have three

minutes to speak each. We are hearing from you. We are not answering questions that you pose, but we're taking copious notes, and we debrief every Monday following the public hearing to address it at the next Rules Committee meeting and for the next public hearing as well.

So with that -- and please, if I mistake or mispronounce your name, please correct me.

Our first speaker is Gloria Einstein, followed by Pat Wojciechowski.

(Audience member approaches the podium.)

AUDIENCE MEMBER: Thank you, Ms. Priestly Jackson and committee.

City Council's decision to (inaudible) districts, to protect -- to protect incumbents is a profoundly selfish, corrupt choice. It elevates the desires of current elected officials over the rights of voters and it imposes that choice on Jacksonville for ten years.

Competitive districts would incentivize representatives to actually represent the districts to benefit the voters and to make defensible choices and decisions.

Redistricting for competitive districts is entirely permissible, and we have the data to make that (inaudible) choice.

Competitive districts give the people a voice and would give representatives a responsibility to take actions that benefit the people and to communicate with the people about what they (inaudible).

City districts, which City Council has chosen, allow representatives to pursue their own interests using their City positions to benefit themselves, their friends, and organizations with which they are affiliated without considering the public needs.

Representatives in safe districts know that they can get away with a lot, and they will. Representatives in competitive districts have to account to the voters in each election and know that their actions will be examined by viable opposing candidates and will be judged by the people.

This is the idea behind representative democracy. It is what keeps representatives honest and hard work [sic]. Jacksonville City Council has chosen to turn its back on this

basic principle. Members of both parties have conspired to benefit themselves at the expense of the people.

(Timer notification.)

MS. EINSTEIN: This redistricting plan should be revised to provide competitive districts.

Thank you.

COUNCIL MEMBER PRIESTLY JACKSON: Thank you, Ms. Einstein.

Pat Wojciechowski, followed by Tim H-o-r-n-o-i-c-e [sic]. And I can't read the rest of it.

AUDIENCE MEMBER: Centerwall.

COUNCIL MEMBER PRIESTLY JACKSON: (Inaudible.)

AUDIENCE MEMBER: Good evening.

My name is Pat Wojciechowski. Oh, yes.

My concern this evening is the City of Jacksonville's decision to use the total population count instead of using only the voting age population as a criteria for redrawing districts. By including people younger than 18 and those who are incarcerated in the jail, the City of Jacksonville has set

some boundaries to unfairly reflect a larger population than is actually in existence.

Since the goal was, as I understand it, to create parity among the districts, the City of Jacksonville should use the voting age population statistics to ensure population parity between the Council districts.

Also, it is my opinion that the incarcerated population should not be counted in areas where prisons exist because they unfairly swell the population counts for those districts.

Thank you.

COUNCIL MEMBER PRIESTLY JACKSON: Next is Ted -- I'm going to (inaudible) this last name, followed by Eric Parker.

(Audience member approaches the podium.)

AUDIENCE MEMBER: Good evening.

My name is Ted Hornoi-Centerwall. I want to thank you today for this opportunity.

Since I have three minutes, I'm going to get right into my three parts.

The part that's related to the other two -- and they are not necessarily dependent on each other, but they all (inaudible), and

they all relate to each other as they relate to citizen involvement.

So how do we promote citizen involvement? I noticed that there a lot of empty chairs here. I would like to see a lot more chairs with people in them. So how do we do this?

Well, the first thing we could do is have the Special Committee for Redistricting actually create an executive summary that truly reflects the process and make that available to the average citizen. If that citizen has that information, they will more likely want to be involved, especially if it's really casual information, information that they can relate to.

Number two, I believe the City of Jacksonville would benefit by creating an ad hoc task force, and the purpose of this would be to encourage citizen involvement. So this would mean that it would involve citizens, activists of various stripes, members of the City Council, maybe people involved with the school district. All kinds of people need to be involved in this.

Again, we'd have a much more healthy

system if we had more people here that were more involved.

Which brings me to the third point, which has already been touched on by another person, which is to say that rather than simply count the number of people that are living in certain districts, count the people who are actually -- actually potential voters. Voting age population is a more realistic and defensible, I believe, judgment than simply saying, well, we have this (inaudible). I would encourage you to really consider that as an option.

And, again, I want to mention that all three of these things can be done sooner rather than later, and I would encourage them to be done sooner rather than later.

I want to thank you very much for this opportunity.

COUNCIL MEMBER PRIESTLY JACKSON: Thank you.

Eric Parker, followed by Daniel Henry.

(Audience member approaches the podium.)

AUDIENCE MEMBER: Good evening.

Eric Parker. My address is on file, District 2.

Is it a coincidence that the executive Council assistant for Aaron Bowman, who's the chairman for the Special Committee on Redistricting, is also the spouse of one of the Republican candidates filed to run for City Council District 2? Do you not think that this is a conflict of interest? Did this connection play any part in drawing the District 2 lines, south of the St. Johns River?

Are these meetings simply meant to meet the requirement of the Sunshine Law? Are any of the public's comments during these public hearings going to be taken into consideration by this special committee?

Is this anything more than just political theater? If so, why didn't they conduct these public hearings before the district lines were recommended instead of after?

Why are these meetings being conducted at 6 p.m. to 7:30 p.m., when some of the public can actually show up and speak, but the previous special committee meetings back in September were at 3:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. when it was more difficult for some people to show up and speak?

I would like for all of these to be considered by the whole Council.

Thank you.

COUNCIL MEMBER PRIESTLY JACKSON: Thank you.

Daniel Henry, followed by Alexander Watkins.

(Audience member approaches the podium.)

AUDIENCE MEMBER: Hi. My name is Daniel Henry. My address is on file, and I live in this district, District 11.

The two questions that I (inaudible) have partially been answered, but I wanted to restate them so that way they can get be fully answered.

The first question I ask is why the City did not use the OMB standards when it comes to race as to how they categorize it. I know that Mr. Killingsworth just said that they took the table directly from the census, but that doesn't answer my question because OMB and the Department of Justice, when they count race, especially those that are of multiple races, they identify them in each of the races that they signify.

The City doesn't do that. They (inaudible) them as one category that doesn't represent the races that they belong to. That also comes into effect as to how you (inaudible) Hispanic or Latino voters because you want to (inaudible) white (inaudible) category, so you create a dynamic where the census clearly shows that people of color make up the majority of inhabitants in Duval County, but the numbers show that white voters -- white inhabitants make up the majority in the county.

So if that (inaudible) directly addresses those (inaudible) from the table, that would be helpful.

The second question that I asked that wasn't answered was to whether or not there was a functional analysis done to defend the presumptions that were made in multiple of the member-to-member meetings as to how many voters or people in districts are needed to elect a person that looks like them. We're talking about communities of interest.

There were a lot of discussions about how many voters or how many voters of a particular group were needed in order to elect someone,

but there was no functional analysis, data, or report that was made public that defended those conclusions.

So you have many dynamics, particularly on the west side of the city where you have Council districts that have an overwhelming number of African-Americans that live in those districts, but we don't know whether or not that percentage that has been placed in those districts will elect an African-American.

And that's why it's critically important because each of the Council districts are -- you draw (inaudible). So if you have 65 percent of that (inaudible) make up District 9, for instance, or make up District 10 or make up District 10, it has an impact on (inaudible). That's important.

These maps are going to have an impact for the next ten years. And I don't want to see the City back at another town hall ten years from now asking the same questions that have no direct answer.

So thank you.

COUNCIL MEMBER PRIESTLY JACKSON: Alexander Watkins, followed by Michael

Anderson.

(Audience member approaches the podium.)

AUDIENCE MEMBER: Good evening.

My name is Alexander Watkins. My address is on file.

I want to also address the issue of potential racial packing, and primarily in the districts of 7 and 8 in discussing the communities of interest.

(Inaudible) was beginning to uncover is the fact that these maps are being representative for the next ten years. And it's not a matter of partisan politics; it's a matter of what is right and what is wrong. So rather than attacking you, I charge you all as civic leaders to take a real look in each of these (inaudible), and make sure that every citizen in the city has equal representation to adequately vote for people that will represent the majority of them and their issues.

I also want to charge you all to listen to the issue that the community members are presenting to you. I listen to a lot of (inaudible). They say that their communities are made by people and they can be changed by

people. You are our members of the (inaudible). So when they come to you and present to you issues that affect us, I hope that you listen to and advocate for.

So I just wanted to come forth today and say to you all to really take a look at the issue of racial packing in primarily the Districts 7 and 8 and how that will affect the adequate representation of black, brown people in our community for the next ten years.

Thank you.

THE CHAIRMAN: Michael Anderson, followed by Judy Sheklin.

(Audience member approaches the podium.)

AUDIENCE MEMBER: Good evening.

I'm Michael Anderson. I'm (inaudible).

It's great to see more of the Council members and folks from the community who were not at Ed White, but are here. That's very interesting. (Inaudible). Nothing is going to happen with (inaudible). What happened to the (inaudible) because (inaudible). We had the white population of young people, 18 to 40, who are now (inaudible), who change, but just a function of (inaudible) young people in the

process because, again, this is not -- not only a, (inaudible) people who are sitting in this room, but people who are literally going to this school, and in ten years from now will be in an apartment on the Southside voting for whoever is here.

So (inaudible) outcomes for the young people who basically don't have (inaudible). And then also, when it comes to racial (inaudible) -- racial (inaudible), the state house that is a (inaudible) to keep most of the minority access to (inaudible) on the Northside. And then again (inaudible) the same with the City Council trying to keep all of the -- of the minority (inaudible) on the Northside.

I know someone who canvassed on the Southside. There are a lot more black and brown people (inaudible) here in District 5, District 6, District 11. And so, again, using -- using those (inaudible) would be helpful as well.

And then also, again, when it comes to these precincts and how these things are cut, please make it logical or accessible for us to

1 help the candidates.
2 (Timer notification.)
3 COUNCIL MEMBER PRIESTLY JACKSON: Thank
4 you.
5 Judy Sheklin, followed by Elizabeth Sams.
6 (Audience member approaches the podium.)
7 AUDIENCE MEMBER: Good evening.
8 (Inaudible) in addressing some of the
9 concerns of other speakers tonight, I want
10 to --
11 COUNCIL MEMBER PRIESTLY JACKSON: Do you
12 want to state your name?
13 AUDIENCE MEMBER: I'm sorry. Judy
14 Sheklin. I live in District 13.
15 I appreciate (inaudible) and I'm certainly
16 glad (inaudible) confusing. And it's -- most
17 of us are concerned with the way that the
18 public was largely excluded from the beginning
19 of this process and the way the maps were
20 drawn.
21 Other questions and concerns that I had
22 regarding the makeup of the districts. One of
23 the criteria used to draw the maps was to
24 equalize the population between districts.
25 Why, then, are Council Districts 7, 8, 9, and

10, those districts with the highest black populace, and District 12 limited to 67- to 68,000 total population versus 72-, 74,000 in each of the other lines (inaudible)? That does not seem equitable.

The actual process, too, has seemed against black citizens' involvement. I know that I have neighbors (inaudible) COVID who could not attend these meetings. So are there ways that people can see them live-streamed, make comments, questions if they are unable to be here or concerned about their health?

And in thinking of the future and the future redistricting cycles, I believe it is necessary to change these. And it would be good that the City Council would consider altering this process so perhaps some input could be given and also more involved with the transparency.

In other localities around the country, citizen groups are creating these redistricting plans and maps, and they have been received, you know, much more positively. And I wonder why we aren't doing this here and why we could not consider doing this in the future.

And finally, at the first hearing a woman asked whether the proposed maps have shifted the voting advantage of either political party in any district or at-large group, and I haven't heard a response to that question yet. And if it's available, that would be great, and if not, would it be available by the next week's meeting?

Thank you very much for allowing me to speak.

COUNCIL MEMBER PRIESTLY JACKSON: Thank you.

Elizabeth Sams, followed by LaShonda Holloway.

(Audience member approaches the podium.)

AUDIENCE MEMBER: Good evening.

I'm Elizabeth Sams, and I have what I hope is a creative idea.

The basic question that many of us are presenting in a variety of ways is just trying to understand how the proposed maps are changing (inaudible) to what extent of either the major parties or minority voters in each district.

Since Duval has so many (inaudible)

district demographic profile reports monthly, is it possible before the next hearing to run a comparison between the January 2022 demographic profile of each district and what the profiles in these maps would look like? It might be -- I realize that we all wish we had an opportunity to make noise earlier about better and different data collection, but that seems like something that would be doable, you know, to (inaudible).

Another question for you to address more broadly is, what is the plan to inform the citizens of Duval in detail about this process, once the maps are approved?

And finally, looking to the future, I want to reiterate what so many other people (inaudible). I think we need to really -- there's been a lot of relying on history, and I understand that's economical and convenient and there's a comfort with sticking with what we know. But going forward, we strongly need to consider a right to create a more inclusive process and fairer process.

I like the idea of the independent commissions other cities and states are using

(inaudible). (Inaudible) certainly learn a lot about those practices, and I would hope that this committee and the Council at-large would engage in the idea of (inaudible) we need to start considering so we have a better process (inaudible).

Thank you.

COUNCIL MEMBER PRIESTLY JACKSON: LaShonda Holloway, followed by Joy E. Burgess.

(Audience member approaches the podium.)

AUDIENCE MEMBER: Good evening.

My name is LaShonda Holloway, and my address appears on file.

I rise as a fourth generation Jacksonvillian, and for more than 50 years the city has suffered from the effects of poor redistricting plans. I appear tonight in hopes that this particular committee will hear me when I ask some questions and pose other questions.

The first is, why do the City of Jacksonville (inaudible) the federal census definition of race? Of course, the federal definition of race is 49 percent of Jacksonville's residents are non-Hispanic,

white; however, the City of Jacksonville uses a formula that says that it's 52 percent white.

Moreover, we know that during consolidation, Districts 7, 8, 9, and 10 were packed. And we also know that undermines white voters' ability to impact citywide politics. I understand that these (inaudible). However, now that District 8 -- with the proposed maps, District 8 has 70 percent African-American. Why not consider putting (inaudible) percent of that population in District 12 for a more competitive District 12 district?

District 12, at present, has (inaudible) percent African-American, 11 percent Hispanic. Why not consider making District 8 61 percent and increasing District 12 so that minorities will have even more access?

Lastly, I also understand that District 11, of course, is larger, so the (inaudible) District 6, and that impacted 3 and 5. The reality is we need more competitive districts in this city. The city has grown and expanded, and we need to have a (inaudible) that reflects the city.

Last, (inaudible) to guide each of (inaudible).

Thank you for your time. My name is LaShonda Holloway, and I reside in District 7.

COUNCIL MEMBER PRIESTLY JACKSON: Joy Burgess, followed by Tim Vergenz.

(Audience member approaches the podium.)

AUDIENCE MEMBER: Thank you.

My name is Joy Burgess, and I live in District 6, and that's the Mandarin area.

I just want to elaborate on something a gentleman said earlier because all of my questions were asked. Not answered, but asked.

He mentioned an executive summary, but when you think of the executive summary as (inaudible) because what is clear from that public hearing (inaudible) this public hearing, many of the citizens of this community were left out of the process. And I'm convinced, as I'm getting to really understand what democracy needs, it doesn't work if we're not part of the conversation, and we need to be part of the conversation from the beginning.

So the executive summary could be our story that we can look at, refer to as you're

looking towards the next ten years. You guys are (inaudible). I get that you don't have time to (inaudible). Hire one of our excellent reporters that tell a story as well is (inaudible). He's wonderful at telling stories that we can understand.

The other thing I wanted to emphasize that's already been said is this redistricting ad hoc task force as the gentleman mentioned. It could really represent the diversity of our city, not just racial and ethnic diversity, but age, gender, and all kinds of stuff. If you want to know what's going on with the city, you have got to allow us to have a conversation.

And I'm guessing that we probably all have a different sense of what being involved means. Sit us down. Let's begin to plan for ten years. I'm being optimistic that we can change and really be a city that embraces its citizens, not rhetorically but really embraces the diversity of our thoughts that change our city.

So (inaudible) we should look at that and really (inaudible) the citizens that are active that are here, not who you think are good

citizens, but -- and involve yourself, City Council members, so we can talk about that.

I do want to reiterate what the former speaker talked about in terms of maybe an independent district of (inaudible). There's an organization called Campaign Legal Center. That's (inaudible) focus on, and it's done all over the country. They having problems and people fight for it, but the (inaudible), it's done, and it works. It takes it out of your hands to put it together in different ways.

But you shouldn't have to worry about that because in this political (inaudible) for incumbents that want to keep their seats. Allow the citizens to really figure out how they can do that so it's equitable and makes sense for all of us.

So thank you.

And I want to applaud the young people in this audience. They are so wonderful. I'm so proud of you guys. You guys (inaudible) hear our voices.

Thank you so much.

COUNCIL MEMBER PRIESTLY JACKSON: Thank you.

Our last speaker today is Tim -- is it Verganz?

AUDIENCE MEMBER: Vergenz.

COUNCIL MEMBER PRIESTLY JACKSON: Vergenz.

AUDIENCE MEMBER: Hello. Yeah, Tim Vergenz.

COUNCIL MEMBER PRIESTLY JACKSON: Vergenz.

AUDIENCE MEMBER: Yeah. (Inaudible).

Yeah, I'm in District 6. I have two main comments that I wanted to say, one of which is when I read the (inaudible) -- when I first heard that one of the explicit goals of redistricting was to protect incumbents, (inaudible) angry about that.

I want to express that anger because I think that the goal should be that the representatives represent the communities and not the -- like, the voters should be picking the representatives, not the representatives picking the voters. So I would really (inaudible) but rather have (inaudible).

And I'll be honest. When I look at districts like 7 and 8, for example -- when I first looked at the districts -- and I'm relatively recently, you know, of voting age.

These don't look compact at all. They look very severe and striking, that they're not -- like, this is not, to me, (inaudible) compactness. And really that -- yeah, (inaudible) problematic (inaudible).

Citizens being (inaudible) very recently involved (inaudible). I heard someone say earlier explicitly that (inaudible).

I also (inaudible) something that was stated earlier by Paige (inaudible). You had said that the courts said that as long as the intent of the (inaudible) is nondiscriminatory, that is it constitutional. I just want to call out, to me, that does not sound like, oh, as long as you can't prove that they were trying to gerrymander, that's, you know, fine.

To me, (inaudible), not doing the necessary analysis to make sure that you are properly representing your citizens, not (inaudible). Not doing the necessary analysis, to me, is intentionally (inaudible). If you're not -- if you're not making sure that you're avoiding discriminating, you are (inaudible).

So (inaudible) comments that I want to make is that I think myself -- and I'm sure

many other people are (inaudible) with the way that this is going. So that (inaudible).

Thank you.

COUNCIL MEMBER PRIESTLY JACKSON: Thank you, neighbors, for sharing.

(Inaudible) that your comments are being copiously taken down, and we will (inaudible) on Monday, sharing them with the Rules Committee, and pass them out to all of our colleagues. We will do it after every meeting.

The purpose of the public hearing is to receive your input. Pursuant to the Ordinance Code, this is when the neighbors are in the process. Okay? So I will share with you, we will review what we hear today at the next Rules Committee meeting and we will build upon that with the subsequent public hearings before the Rules Committee takes any actions on anything that is before us. That is where we are right now pursuant to the Ordinance Code.

The next public hearing is next Thursday, February 10, at First Coast High School.

And I want to state again, the Rules Committee has decided to (inaudible), in conjunction with our colleagues on the school

board, public hearings originally throughout Jacksonville over four weeks instead of four in one week, which I (inaudible). Let me say that one more time.

So we published the notices in advance, and we encourage neighbors to come out, come out, come out, and keep giving your points. We're taking them down. And when it is appropriate for us to comment and share with -- that again -- which is at Rules Committee meetings, not public hearings, we will do that. So that remains our intent.

I thank you for what neighbors shared today.

Council President, is there anything you would like to share (inaudible)?

COUNCIL PRESIDENT NEWBY: (Inaudible.)

COUNCIL MEMBER PRIESTLY JACKSON: Meeting is adjourned.

And the time is 6:00 to 7:30 so neighbors can get out and make a meeting or more meetings somewhere close to them, from 6:00 to 7:30.

Thank you so much, and I (inaudible) next week at First Coast.

(The foregoing proceedings were adjourned

at 6:49 p.m.)

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CERTIFICATE OF REPORTER

STATE OF FLORIDA)
)
COUNTY OF DUVAL)

I, Diane M. Tropia, Florida Professional Reporter, certify that I was authorized to and did transcribe the foregoing videotaped proceedings and that the transcript is a true and complete record of my stenographic notes.

DATED this 27th day of July 2022.

Diane M Tropia
_____

Diane M. Tropia
Florida Professional Reporter

CITY OF JACKSONVILLE

RULES COMMITTEE

REDISTRICTING - PUBLIC HEARING

Videotaped proceedings held on Thursday, February 10, 2022, commencing at 6:00 p.m., at First Coast High School, 590 Duval Station Road, Jacksonville, Florida.

COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT:

COUNCIL MEMBER BRENDA PRIESTLY JACKSON, Chair.
COUNCIL MEMBER RANDY DeFOOR, Vice Chair.
COUNCIL MEMBER AARON BOWMAN.
COUNCIL MEMBER RORY DIAMOND.

ALSO PRESENT:

DARRYL WILLIE, Duval County School Board.
KELLY COKER, Duval County School Board.
CINDY PEARSON, Duval County School Board.
BILL KILLINGSWORTH, Director, Planning Dept.
PAIGE JOHNSTON, Office of General Counsel.
SAM NEWBY, City Council President.

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P R O C E E D I N G S
February 10, 2022 6:00 p.m.
- - -

COUNCIL MEMBER PRIESTLY JACKSON: Okay. We're going to get started.

I'd like to welcome everyone to the Rules Committee redistricting public hearing number three. We thank you for joining us previously at Atlantic Coast High School as well as Ed White High School.

We will have our fourth and final, at this time, planned redistricting public hearing at William Marion Raines High School on next Thursday, February the 17th, same time.

We will now have introductions for all of those on the dais.

COUNCIL MEMBER BOWMAN: Hi.

Aaron Bowman, District 3.

COUNCIL MEMBER DEFOOR: Good evening.

I am Randy DeFoor, District 14.

COUNCIL MEMBER PRIESTLY JACKSON: Good evening.

Brenda Priestly Jackson, District 10.

COUNCIL PRESIDENT NEWBY: Good evening.

Sam Newby, Group 5 at-large.

MR. WILLIE: Darryl Willie, Duval Schools,

District 4.

MS. COKER: Kelly Coker, Duval County School Board, District 1.

MS. JOHNSTON: Paige Johnston, Office of General Counsel.

MR. KILLINGSWORTH: Bill Killingsworth, Planning Department.

COUNCIL MEMBER PRIESTLY JACKSON: Thank you so much.

At this time, I would like to share that pursuant to School Board Policy 9.40, Section 2, "Political advertising or political campaigning is unlawful and prohibited on Duval County School Board policy" -- "property." We appreciate your adherence to this policy.

We will proceed in the same manner that we have at the prior two public hearings. We will have a legal framework for redistricting by Paige Johnston, Chief of Legislative Affairs, Office of General Counsel, followed by the school board redistricting perspectives from the chairperson of the school board chair, Mr. Darryl Willie. And then the development of the redistricting proposals by Bill Killingsworth, Director of Planning and

Development and expert consultant for redistricting, followed by all of you.

Ms. Johnston.

MS. JOHNSTON: Hi, everyone.

I did want to give just a preliminary framework for everyone and explain how the federal, state, and (inaudible) redistricting process at the local level can proceed. The maps are going to be presented tonight.

So with any political framework, we, of course, start with constitutional requirements. These are federal requirements. And under the 14th Amendment of the Constitution, one person is one vote. That's the principle that we seek that is of paramount importance when we were starting this process.

So what that means is we're taking the total population and ensuring that the districts (inaudible), that every person has an equal voice and an equal say in the process. So when we get the figures from the census -- and Bill is going to go into a little more detail on the breakdown of the numbers and how (inaudible) do it.

But essentially, we received census

numbers that provided that the population of Duval County is almost one million. It's a little over 900,000. So we take that number as a starting point, that's our total population, and from there we go into (inaudible) of how many -- within the 14 districts that are the districts that represent the 14 districts -- we also look at at-large as well.

But we start with that 14-district number and we determine essentially how many people per population would equal out in each district. Of course, we can't do that precisely, and so what we do is we have somewhat of a range that each district will need to maintain in order to keep that population as reasonably close in number as another district.

And so we look and create in that range what's called a "standard deviation." And so the courts have typically noted in court cases that discuss redistricting at multiple levels that as long as your standard deviation between your smallest district in population to your largest district in population is 10 percent or less, that would be deemed to be as nearly

equal as possible.

So what you'll see on some of the districts is that the numbers will vary. The kind of average number, I think, was starting somewhere around 70,000. And so you will see some that are under 70,000, and you will see some that are above 70,000.

And the reason that that is the case is that population isn't broken out very clearly within an -- you know, equally divided within the district. So what we have to do is we have to look at the districts -- we have to look at what was deemed to be district boundaries to determine, based on the new census data, where we need to shift those numbers, where (inaudible) if a district had grown or if a district has shrunk. And then that has a literal effect on the other districts.

So first we start with the numbers. And that's pursuant to the Equal Protection Clause which we (inaudible).

We also have to look at complying with the City's Charter and the Ordinance Code. And the Charter is like our city constitution. It governs how the government operates, the

consolidated government. And then within that there's a -- there is also a document called the Ordinance Code that also establishes procedures for certain things.

So you can look at the Charter and the Ordinance Code on the redistricting process, and Section 18.101 provides that in addition to -- well, that the districts are as equal as possible, that they're logical and compact, and with a geographical pattern to achieve that all the laws of the state, federal, and local government are complied with. And then they also go on to say that there's additional considerations taken into account, which is compactness and contiguousness, so that the city's varied economic, social and ethnic interests are protected.

So taking those two requirements -- so the Constitution and then the Charter and the Ordinance Code requirements, that is how we start with the process itself.

There's also other considerations that legislative bodies might use to make considerations when they're drawing maps at the Congressional level and also at the local

level. Some of those things that have been enumerated are to respect natural and political boundaries. So natural boundaries may be rivers. It may be something geographic, like a bridge that divides a certain area and creates two different (inaudible).

Another aspect is "communities of interest." You may have heard that term used a lot. And communities of interest can be a broad range of things. They are not particularly defined in (inaudible) case, but they are explained in multiple cases, which would include to preserve communities of interest that include ethnic, cultural, socioeconomic, geographic, economic, and demographic factors. And it includes honoring traditional neighborhoods and local communities of interest.

So another aspect is to consider the existing district boundaries and to preserve those boundaries so long as you still adhere to the requirements for the population of one person, one vote, and all of these considerations that I've gone over have been ratified in the courts consistently in the

1 past.
2 One thing that you may be familiar with
3 hearing about is the term "gerrymandering."
4 You may not know exactly what it means or you
5 might have a basic understanding, but
6 essentially it's saying that you can't
7 manipulate the map or a district to favor one
8 party over another. A lot of times, it's used
9 in a (inaudible) context; sometimes it's used
10 in a political party affiliation context.
11 You certainly are not able to gerrymander
12 based on race. That would be a violation of
13 the 14th Amendment. However, courts have
14 declined to determine whether political
15 gerrymandering is constitutional. Some of you
16 may be familiar with it at the state level.
17 There's a Fair Districts amendment that was
18 passed several years ago. That applies to
19 state. It doesn't apply to federal; it doesn't
20 apply to local government.
21 So although there is a limitation on
22 political gerrymandering at the state level,
23 it's not applicable at our level.
24 Another term -- two terms you may hear
25 often are "packing" and "cracking." And I just

want to explain generally what those are as well. And so, again, that goes back to trying to dilute the strength of a particular group. Many times there's been a discussion of racial groups, trying to dilute their voting ability.

So "packing" is a procedure where districts would be drawn so that the total population of a particular minority group is very high so that if they're only just voting in that one district or they're voting in a few other districts but they're not a majority in the other districts, then they're not able to attain the additional seats. They may obtain the seat in which they're packing the maps, but not in the other districts.

Then "cracking" is the opposite. It has a similar effect because if you crack the populations, then you're kind of spreading them out among other groups so that they are not maintaining -- so that one minority has the higher population to be able to be voted into office.

So both of those types of procedures have been deemed unconstitutional.

One other thing to keep in mind, you may

hear people referring to Section 2 of the Voting Rights Act, and that's an additional layer. It's a law that was passed by Congress that basically says you can't make race a primary -- or sorry, the 14th Amendment says you can't make race a primary factor.

However, the Voting Rights Act says in some circumstances it can be a factor, that you draw the districts with race in mind, based off of (inaudible) challenges of certain groups or other limitations, that the government has basically, again, diluted the strength of a voting group. And so in some cases, they will say that the Voting Rights Act is present and needs to be accounted for in racial decisions.

So what's happened so far in this process is that the Special Committee on Redistricting was formed by the Council president last fall. Again, this is pursuant to Chapter 18 of the Ordinance Code. They met, they discussed the information that came from the census, which, again, Bill will go over for you in more detail.

They went through those items and prepared a recommendation with district maps, at-large

maps, and also school board maps. And so once they gave that recommendation, it then goes to the Rules Committee, which members of the Rules Committee are here sitting for you today, (inaudible), and the Council president also.

And the next step in the process is to obtain public input from the public at at least three public meetings scheduled throughout the city, different locations, all advertised, so that people can participate in the process.

And so right now, this is your opportunity to give your input, to ask questions, to just learn more about the process. Then after these public hearings are concluded, there will also be opportunity for you, if you're interested, in attending the Rules Committee meetings where they actually will discuss the finalization of the maps. And then there will be additional Council meetings in between those dates that you can speak during public comment.

And so the process is somewhat midway completed, but per the Code, this is your opportunity, and there are other available points in time where you can also participate.

So that is kind of my overview, and I will

turn it over to Bill.

COUNCIL MEMBER PRIESTLY JACKSON: Quickly, I want to thank our fellow Rules Committee member, Rory Diamond, who has joined us -- and George, his dog. Thank you for joining us.

We will now go to Chair Willie.

MR. WILLIE: Thank you so much.

It's always great to be in one of our amazing schools. And I'll just pause and say thank you to the principal of this school, Principal (inaudible) is back there. Can you wave your hand? That's our principal. Give it up for (inaudible). (Inaudible) to see him, and to be here as well.

It's always great to have these kind of dialogues and conversations while we are in a school setting. I mean, why not have this (inaudible) dialogue while we're here?

So we are thrilled about this opportunity to be here as school board members. Myself and Dr. Kelly Coker, we had an opportunity to sit, but as a full board. The whole school board, we're also excited to dive into this process.

One of our other school board members is here as well. Cindy Pearson, if you can stand

1 up and wave for us.
2 This is our school board member, Cindy
3 Pearson. You have to clap for her, too. You
4 can clap for her, too.
5 So really quickly, this is our school
6 board perspective. I want to just thank
7 Councilwoman Brenda Priestly Jackson, President
8 Newby for this opportunity to sit and be at the
9 table because that hasn't always been the case
10 with the school board. Oftentimes, we get this
11 after it's already done and they say, "What do
12 you think?"
13 Well, the late Tommy Hazouri, when he was
14 president of the Council, said, hey, I want to
15 get the school board involved early on in the
16 process so you all can be a part of it. So he
17 and Warren Jones, who was the president at that
18 point from our standpoint, got together and
19 said, yeah, let's make that happen. And it's
20 been a great process that the president and
21 others have just welcomed us in.
22 We are -- as a school board, we sat as
23 nonvoting members of the Special Committee on
24 Redistricting. And what we were able to do is,
25 number one, listen, but also offer insight on

the schools and how the schools would be affected by the different boundary changes. And it was amazing to be in the setting, to be involved in the conversation. We were welcomed, once again, with open arms. We feel like we were able to really add a great deal of insight to the process. We were really thankful for that.

Why we're involved in it is because each of the school board members, we serve -- we actually have two City Council districts that comprise our school board districts. So me, as District 4, I have City Council 7 and 8 inside of my district. So if those boundaries change, my district changes as well.

So we were -- we have a vested interest in -- and not only because of the lines and making sure the schools are balanced within the areas, but also because, if these boundaries -- if these districts change, it actually changes some of our school districts and school boundaries, too.

So we, as a school board, were excited about being in the process. We think that the process is -- has been one that we are happy to

be involved in, glad that we can open up our schools so different communities around our city can actually offer and give their feedback to the process. And we're going to be here for the rest of it, and we want to say thank you. And we hope that this continues as we move forward.

Thank you.

COUNCIL MEMBER PRIESTLY JACKSON: Thank you, Chairman Willie.

We are now going to have our redistricting proposals and development by Bill Killingsworth, Director of the Planning and Development Department and expert consultant for redistricting.

And before he starts, just sharing with everyone, we accept -- please fill out a blue speaker's card. You will be given three minutes when we start public comments, and we will be accepting those cards until 6:30 is what we (inaudible).

MR. KILLINGSWORTH: Good evening, everybody.

My name is Bill Killingsworth, and I'm the director of the Planning and Development

Department. And City Council chose to utilize me to help them put together the redistricting maps this go-around.

So the way the process worked was all the map changes were discussed in -- either in the redistricting meeting subcommittee of the Council itself or in the member-to-member meetings. Most of the member-to-member meetings were those members south and east of the river and those members north and west of the river.

So there is no redistricting committee (inaudible) aside from the criteria that's within the ordinance. The guidance that was provided to me was to minimize crossing the river to the extent possible; minimize making changes to the existing boundaries to the extent possible; and to the extent possible, not take an incumbent outside of the district.

So in our first proposal, using that criteria, there was a member-to-member meeting where members from the southeast -- and we had put together a proposal in which District 2, which currently crosses the river and has Arlington and then part of the northeast part

of the county, north of the river, has that district. We (inaudible) that district all the way south and east of the river. When that member-to-member group looked at that and looked at how it was structured with the existing districts, they asked that the -- to convene a new meeting of the redistricting meeting.

And at that meeting, we -- they clarified that they didn't want minimizing to cross the river to supersede minimizing changes to the existing districts. So they still wanted to minimize crossing the river, but not (inaudible) creating huge impacts to the existing districts.

So then through a number of -- I'll go through the order of the member-to-member meetings. But most of the work actually took place in the member-to-member meetings and then were brought up towards the redistricting meeting. And then the Redistricting Committee proposed these maps and this committee legislation which is now at Rules.

So there were three districts that had to change. District 13, which is the Beaches, had

to grow. District 1, which is the southeast corner of the county, had to shrink, had to shrink substantially, by about 20,000 people. And District 8 had to grow.

And so we got to that -- when the data became available, we downloaded that from the census. And so we utilized that methodology and what the census said on the (inaudible) to access the database. And the methodology and the links to that data is on the City's redistricting page.

Additionally, at the end of the process, there was an ask by one of the committee members to get -- to put together the before and after on party affiliation. So that data, it's on the Redistricting page. And then the data on the 2020 census, before and after redistricting, is also on that page.

So in the process, District 13 had always crossed the Intracoastal and had picked up a little bit of Isle of Palms. So that added the population that we needed to get them to 71,000. We basically picked up some more of Isle of Palms and a little bit more west of San Pablo.

1 District 11 had the biggest change of all
2 of the districts. It had to lose 20,000
3 people. So it lost -- gave up, rather,
4 sections to District 3, gave up some to
5 District 6. And giving up to District 6,
6 which they basically had to do because of the
7 (inaudible) population line, created a
8 (inaudible).
9 We had to -- District 6 went above the
10 71,000 (inaudible) with that 10 percent rule
11 that we were talking about. So we took the new
12 population on the north side of District 6, and
13 when you look at the Council district maps, you
14 will see it, and we gave it to District 5 to
15 balance that out.
16 District 4 ended up giving -- taking some
17 from District 3 and giving some to District 3.
18 That area of the Town Center, that's largely
19 apartments. The district councilperson for
20 District 4 felt that those apartments were
21 largely populated by young professionals and
22 that community of interest was more closely
23 associated with UNF, which is basically across
24 the street from them. And so we suggested that
25 that should be moved into District 3 and

(inaudible) agreed to.

District 1 did not change at all.

District 2 took a little bit of District 4 to balance out (inaudible). And as a result, we also had to -- as we -- as I drew kind of chalk lines around the city, District 7, they did have varied populations in District 8. That's (inaudible) got its population from. But it, then, had to pick up a little population from District 2, which is why District 2 had to pick up from 4.

And then 9 and 10. District 9 did not change at all; District 10 changed just a little bit. There was a neighborhood in which the neighborhood was in 12 -- part of it was in 12, part of it was in 10. It wasn't very many households, so we put them all in 10.

And in District 12, the community of the Argyles, which was represented by, I believe, 12 and 14 and 10. And District 12, it was thought that it would be more appropriate to (inaudible) from 14. And in a member-to-member (inaudible). And that represented all of the changes.

So in the end, I went back to the

Redistricting Committee. They looked at the maps and they accepted it and then directed OGC to draft legislation. And then that legislation is what's before Rules, which has triggered these four public hearings.

COUNCIL MEMBER PRIESTLY JACKSON: Thank you, Mr. Killingsworth, for that.

We are now poised to begin the public hearing portion of our meeting. And I will -- I will also share that our final meeting that's planned at this time at William Marion Raines High School next Thursday, we will then give a report out of the questions that we've heard or issues raised at the three prior hearings. And so there will be a point in time for that.

We are required by the Ordinance Code to conduct three public hearings. We actually are having four. So I hope it's at the fourth and final one -- it will give us an opportunity to more specifically address the concerns and issues that are being raised (inaudible) and end it in sharing some of those thoughts before we (inaudible).

So with that, we will start our public hearing. And our first speaker is Janie Jones.

(Audience member approaches the podium.)

AUDIENCE MEMBER: Good evening.

My name is Janie Jones. I live at 3806 --

COUNCIL MEMBER PRIESTLY JACKSON: Ma'am, give them one -- we have a problem with the microphone.

MS. JONES: Can you hear me now?

COUNCIL MEMBER PRIESTLY JACKSON: Can you (inaudible)?

MS. JONES: Thank you.

My name is Janie Jones. I live at 3806 Hammock Bluff Drive, 32226, which is in District 2.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide citizen input this evening.

My concern is changing the boundaries of District 2, specifically the section in between Yellow Bluff Road, Main Street South, to Pecan Park Road. This area has been reassigned to District 7, which raises two concerns for me: one, of packing districts, and, two, splitting neighborhoods with shared interests.

The neighborhood in question is Yellow Bluff Landing, which is -- which has been developed and built since 2010. This area is

currently in District 2, but has been redrawn into District 7. I was able to determine that this neighborhood is racially mixed, but predominantly black. District 7 is already 61 percent black, which is a high-enough percentage to give black candidates an advantage in an election. Reassigning this section from District 2 to District 7 is packing District 7 beyond what is necessary to elect a black candidate.

My additional concern is that the interests and concerns of this section of Yellow Bluff will be lost among the interests of District 7. This section is part of the Yellow Bluff Road corridor, which is east of I-95, while the bulk of District 7 lies west of I-95 and includes the airport and downtown.

District 7 does not share the same interests and concerns as the Yellow Bluff section. District 7's main concerns are creating jobs and encouraging economic growth, while in contrast, the Yellow Bluff corridor is undergoing an explosion of growth which brings benefits and challenges to existing neighborhoods.

Yellow Bluff is part of the new Northside, east of I-95, which is growing and changing rapidly. The interests and concerns of the Yellow Bluff community are tied to that Yellow Bluff corridor. It should be left intact where its interests lie. This would comply with redistricting requirements to create compact, contiguous districts and districts which reflect communities of shared interests.

I urge you to restore this Yellow Bluff section to District 2 where it belongs.

Thank you.

COUNCIL MEMBER PRIESTLY JACKSON: Thank you.

Our next public speaker is Mike Ludwick, followed by Daniel Henry.

(Audience member approaches the podium.)

AUDIENCE MEMBER: Good evening.

My name is Mike Ludwick. I support the (inaudible) of the Northside Coalition of Jacksonville, that these gerrymandered districts for the redistricting plan to the Council be scrapped. Bring in an independent consultant to create a plan that (inaudible) U.S. Constitution.

An article from "The Tributary" on January 11th of this year lays out the problems with the current plan. That article states, quote, intentionally packing in black voters beyond what is necessary to (inaudible) districts hurts those voters' ability to have a say in city politics, but doing so could create safer seats for the incumbents (inaudible).

It was appalling to watch City Council members discuss the current plans that would -- to protect their own seats rather than adequately represent the people. Members have to air conflicts of interest to the politicians who were attending (inaudible) voters rather than the other way around.

I would strongly encourage the public to make their voices heard and contact City Council members in support of the demand of the Northside Coalition to end this (inaudible). Unpack black voters. Please contact City Council Northside Coalition to (inaudible) this one. (Inaudible) and unpack black voters.

The easiest way to contact City Council -- Northside Coalition has a letter-writing campaign, and you can follow us on Facebook

(audio malfunction), and you can sign on to the letter-writing campaign there.

Thank you for your time.

COUNCIL MEMBER PRIESTLY JACKSON: Thank you.

Daniel Henry, followed by Rosemary McCoy.

(Audience member approaches the podium.)

AUDIENCE MEMBER: Good evening.

(Inaudible), so I'll be more precise this time.

I really want to focus on the functional analysis question. And the main reason why I bring this up again is now that the Florida House of Representatives has adopted their versions of our -- their maps, I was watching those intently, particularly the redistricting (inaudible).

(Inaudible), I'm not saying that they have the highest (inaudible), but (inaudible) of their staff did functional analysis for each one of their protected districts to (inaudible) and determine what percentage was needed, whatever, for them to elect a candidate that would represent the (inaudible) now.

The reason why I bring this up is if the

Florida House and the Florida Senate can do a functional analysis to determine what percentage is necessary in order for them to elect a candidate of their interest in those (inaudible) districts, why can't City Council do the same? That's a question that I'll be asking directly -- indirectly into the types of ways that -- it seems like it never gets answered, even though (inaudible). I'm asking the questions so that those questions can get answered (inaudible). Several have been answered; this particular one hasn't.

So I'm just curious why City Council (inaudible) standard and our state legislature (inaudible) that in the maps (inaudible).

Thank you.

COUNCIL MEMBER PRIESTLY JACKSON: Rosemary McCoy, followed by Eric Parker.

(Audience member approaches the podium.)

AUDIENCE MEMBER: Hello, everyone. Good evening.

My name is Rosemary McCoy, and I am a District 10 resident. I am also president and cofounder of Harriet Tubman Freedom Fighters, and vice president of the ACLU Northeast

Florida Chapter. I speak today on behalf of both those organizations as well as the Northside Coalition and the Jacksonville NAACP.

Together, our four organizations are committed to improving civic engagement, defending civic liberties, and furthering social, racial, and educational and economic equality in our communities.

Our four organizations jointly sent a letter to the Rules Committee and all City Council members earlier today by email. Our letter attached a detailed report by Dr. Hannah Walker, Assistant Professor of Government at the University of Texas at Austin. We engaged Dr. Walker because of concerns for our members and other Jacksonville residents about the proposed City Council and school board district (inaudible).

We are worried that the City has never conducted a functional analysis of how to ensure that the proposed plan complies with Section 2 of the Voting Rights Act, while also not engaging in rather -- racial gerrymandering, in violation of the United States Constitution. It will cost the

1 taxpayers dollars.
2 Dr. Walker's report examines 14 citywide
3 elections between 2014 and 2020 to measure the
4 level of any racial polarized voting between
5 black and white voters in our election.
6 Dr. Walker concludes that those 14 elections
7 revealed consistent patterns of racially
8 polarized voting in Jacksonville.
9 Dr. Walker's report also analyzed the
10 level of black citizens voting-age population
11 that must be used. She finds that the -- it
12 could range from 19 to 60 percent; the average
13 is 41 percent.
14 Our letter offers the City access to
15 Dr. Walker's data and code, and we ask the City
16 to analyze and redraw the proposed districts to
17 ensure that black voters are properly and
18 lawfully represented in the final plans.
19 In the last two public hearings, numerous
20 residents exposed concerns about what appears
21 to be intentional or necessary packing of black
22 voters into proposed Council Districts 7, 8, 9,
23 and 10, and School Board District 4 and 5.
24 With the findings in the report we submitted,
25 the committee has an opportunity to listen to

the people of Jacksonville.

Thank you.

COUNCIL MEMBER PRIESTLY JACKSON: Thank you.

Eric Parker, followed by Lanelle Phillmon.

(Audience member approaches the podium.)

AUDIENCE MEMBER: Good evening.

Eric Parker. I live in District 2.

Currently, the border for District 2 is just across the street over there, New Berlin. And, in my opinion, the people east and west of New Berlin have more in common than the people north and south of the St. Johns River.

Also, I feel like the people currently in District 2 have more in common with all of the people east of 17 as opposed to north and south of the St. Johns River.

Also, I would imagine if you needed to add some people to District 2, I would bet the people of Oceanway have more in common with the people of Pecan Park and the people in District 2, more than they do the people north and south of the St. Johns River.

Thank you.

COUNCIL MEMBER PRIESTLY JACKSON: Lanelle

Phillmon, followed by Alexander Watkins.

(Audience member approaches the podium.)

AUDIENCE MEMBER: Good evening, Council and school board members. Thank you for this event, for this opportunity to speak to you this evening.

I'm Lanelle Phillmon, president of the League of Women Voters Jacksonville First Coast, and I'm a resident of District 6.

The League of Women Voters is a nonpartisan political organization that neither endorses nor opposes political parties or candidates. But we do take positions on issues. The League encourages an informed and active participation in government through its functions, education of the public, because we believe the basis of good government is an educated electorate and advocating positions on policy issues after careful study and consensus by our members.

I'm here tonight to register concerns about the lack of access by the general public regarding redistricting. In a time of technology, there seemed to be very little use of the technology to engage or educate our

residents. The public meetings held by the Special Committee were held during working hours when many residents were not able to attend, and the timeliness of announcements and cancellation of meetings caused some attendees who were participating to lose time off from work when it was cancelled.

While residents were able to view meetings online during or after the meetings, there was no opportunity to provide public comment, as virtual interactions are no longer allowed during this (inaudible) time of COVID.

Now that there is a (inaudible) to these proposed maps, it will allow the public to participate. And they've scheduled all four meetings out in the community and after hours, which appears to have contributed to greater attendance than those held during the day at the City of Jacksonville.

There's also concern that there never seemed to be an effort to take the 2020 Census data and draw new maps as opposed to taking the existing district lines and adjusting them to mathematically accommodate the goals. We're not sure what led to this decision or what maps

might have been produced by starting anew.

In preparation for this evening's comments, I listened to reported interviews of past Jacksonville mayors and community leaders, regarding consolidation, and they repeatedly mentioned promises made, promises not kept. And a number of the topics that came up were infrastructure, sewage system and septic tanks, and law enforcement. This seems to be the same topics that our city wrestles with 60 years later.

As we prepare for our city's 200th anniversary and we have America publicly support "Lift Every Voice and Sing" as a national anthem, it's our hope that each of you is listening to voices here at home regarding the responsibility to ensure that each voter is able to cast a vote that has equal value in their district and that creates a Council that requires elected representatives to address the needs of all residents and not a chosen few.

If I stand in front of a ballot box at (inaudible) to drop off your vote-by-mail ballot or I tear your ballot into pieces before you get it started into the DS200 machine, most

folks will realize this is wrong.

What most folks are not easily able to distinguish is when a resident's vote is often invalidated by manipulating their neighborhood, their voting precinct or their district by creating a situation where the person's vote is diluted or it's overpowered by map-drawing.

We look forward to the influence that Jacksonville residents' comments have made or will make on the future maps.

Thank you.

COUNCIL MEMBER PRIESTLY JACKSON: Thank you.

Alexander Watkins, followed by Sharmin Smith.

(Audience member approaches the podium.)

AUDIENCE MEMBER: Hello. My name is Alexander Watkins. I'm here to address the perception of racial packing, specifically in Districts 7, 8, 9, and 10.

I hope that based on the comments that you receive tonight that you understand, as my (inaudible) says, that black voters matter, and we do. So packing us in a small area of the city, limiting our raw majority, thus our

representation, is not true democracy.

So rather than stand here and challenge you tonight, I charge you leaders to take a serious consideration and look into this issue. The way things are perceived is the way they are understood. And based on the understanding of the community, they have not been involved. That's a problem. So the (inaudible) solution is transparency and communication. This may be achieved through an ad hoc committee.

I'm a young person with a political science degree. I would love to (inaudible), and just like the school board, early on in the process, to know that, one, we need an advocate and a voice for the community (inaudible), to give you my analysis, innovative ideas, and strategies to get communications out to the public so that we could increase civic engagement.

But, two, to learn from you all and understand the intricate (inaudible) process that is to make decisions such as this that affect the lives of people every day so that one day I can lead, as you all did.

So I just hope that you view tonight and

that you listen to the concerns of the people. We are bringing you the voices of the many, although (inaudible).

Thank you.

COUNCIL MEMBER PRIESTLY JACKSON: And our final speaker for this evening is Sharmin Smith.

Please correct me if I'm (inaudible).

(Audience member approaches the podium.)

AUDIENCE MEMBER: Can you hear me?

My name is Sharmin Smith. I live in Jacksonville Beach, which is District 13. My (inaudible) politician lived in Jacksonville since 1995.

When I first moved here, Jacksonville was all abuzz because they incorporated all of the small towns from Jacksonville in order to reach the population requirement to receive an NFL sports team.

What I see now, more than ever, is a city full of progressive Southerners who are ready to put their city on the map and put us in the spotlight where we truly deserve to be, and are wondering what it would take to truly explain to our city what it will take to throw out all

of the gerrymandered districts and redraw our city in a way that puts us on the front page of the United Nations.

Our country right now has people more involved in politics than they have ever been in our lifetime, and we have an opportunity to really put Jacksonville on the map and redraw districts within the federal guidelines and in the spirit of our city. We have had a reputation before as being the most segregated city in our nation (inaudible). People (inaudible).

And most of the people in our community are unaware of what it would take to truly get rid of these gerrymandered districts.

So I ask you to explain it to the city and ask the citizens if they are willing to do what it takes to get a ballot amendment to truly show Jacksonville as it is, make the districts make sense. I understand the elected officials do not want to have another election and lose their incumbency. I respect that. It's a hard job. But if there was ever a time to do it, it's now, and I hope we undertake the challenge because we're worth it.

Thank you.

COUNCIL MEMBER PRIESTLY JACKSON: Thank you, Ms. Smith.

We will have our next --

COUNCIL MEMBER DIAMOND: (Inaudible) make a comment? Do you mind?

COUNCIL MEMBER PRIESTLY JACKSON: (Inaudible.)

COUNCIL MEMBER DIAMOND: (Inaudible.)

COUNCIL MEMBER PRIESTLY JACKSON: Thank you for coming to the public hearings. We are taking your comments seriously. We debrief every Monday as to the (inaudible), and I'll share with you next week that those comments that have come to us from the various meetings will be addressed at the public hearing next week, along with a brief historical perspective on how some of the districts came to be.

One thing that has been apparent to me is that there is a certain gap in knowledge of how the 14 districts that currently have (inaudible). So we will have a brief presentation of that as well, as well as a report out of the questions that we have received and those questions that we will

address at the next meeting.

I (inaudible) rest assured that (inaudible), we debrief every Monday. We take each -- all the questions that are raised and issues brought at the meetings and we send those out to the members of the Rules Committee, as well as our colleagues on the City Council, for them to contemplate those issues. It's been of significant importance for those Council members who are not on the Rules Committee, so they can understand the concerns that have been raised.

It is my hope that we will address those issues next week and receive additional public comment and move on from there.

Mr. Council President, is there anything you would like to share?

COUNCIL PRESIDENT NEWBY: No.

COUNCIL MEMBER PRIESTLY JACKSON: The fourth public hearing will be held at William Marion Raines High School on Thursday, February the 17th, from 6 o'clock to 7:30 p.m.

I want to thank, once again, our colleagues from the Duval County School Board and Duval County Public Schools for being such

gracious hosts of the public meeting today.

Everybody have a good evening.

(The foregoing proceedings were adjourned at 6:45 p.m.)

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CERTIFICATE OF REPORTER

STATE OF FLORIDA)
)
COUNTY OF DUVAL)

I, Diane M. Tropia, Florida Professional Reporter, certify that I was authorized to and did transcribe the foregoing videotaped proceedings and that the transcript is a true and complete record of my stenographic notes.

DATED this 30th day of July 2022.

Diane M Tropia

Diane M. Tropia
Florida Professional Reporter

CITY OF JACKSONVILLE

RULES COMMITTEE

REDISTRICTING - PUBLIC HEARING

Videotaped proceedings held on Thursday, February 17, 2022, commencing at 6:00 p.m., at William M. Raines High School, 3663 Raines Avenue, Jacksonville, Florida.

COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT:

COUNCIL MEMBER BRENDA PRIESTLY JACKSON, Chair.
COUNCIL MEMBER RANDY DeFOOR, Vice Chair.
COUNCIL MEMBER LeANNA CUMBER.
COUNCIL MEMBER AARON BOWMAN.
COUNCIL MEMBER RORY DIAMOND.
COUNCIL MEMBER RANDY WHITE.

ALSO PRESENT:

DARRYL WILLIE, Duval County School Board.
KELLY COKER, Duval County School Board.
WARREN JONES, Duval County School Board.
BILL KILLINGSWORTH, Director, Planning Dept.
PAIGE JOHNSTON, Office of General Counsel.
SAM NEWBY, City Council President.
JEFF CLEMENTS, Council Research Division.
YVONNE MITCHELL, Council Auditor's Office.

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P R O C E E D I N G S
February 17, 2022 6:00 p.m.
* * * * *

(Videotape begins.)

MS. COKER: Kelly Coker, School Board member, District 1.

MS. JOHNSTON: Paige Johnston, Office of General Counsel.

MR. KILLINGSWORTH: Bill Killingsworth, Director of Planning and Development.

COUNCIL MEMBER PRIESTLY JACKSON: Pursuant to Duval County School Board policy --

(Audio failure.)

COUNCIL MEMBER PRIESTLY JACKSON: There we go.

Pursuant to Duval County School Board Policy 9.40, Section II(c), "Political advertising and distribution of political and campaign material is prohibited on Duval County School Board property."

We ask that all attendees at the Rules Committee public hearings on redistricting not advertise or distribute any political advertisements or campaign materials at the public hearing on Duval County School Board property.

We will follow the same agenda that we have had at the three prior meetings. We'll have a legal framework for redistricting from Paige Johnston, Chief of legal -- Legislative Affairs, Office of General Counsel, followed by the school board redistricting perspective with Chair Darryl Willie, and then development of the redistricting proposals from Bill Killingsworth, director of Planning and Development, and expert consultant for redistricting.

We intend to accept public hearing -- public comment cards until 6:25 this evening. At that time, we will begin our public hearing.

Legal framework, Ms. Johnston.

MS. JOHNSTON: Hello. I'm Paige Johnston, Office of General Counsel.

I just wanted to lay out some background information that may be helpful for you if you're new to the process, and how the interplay between federal, state, and local requirements for redistricting come about and the fact -- how the Redistricting Committee and the Rules Committee have operated over this period of time.

So we start with the federal level requirements because those supersede everything else. And as you all are probably aware, the 14th Amendment is referred to often as the Equal Protection Clause of the Constitution, and that requires that you can't have discrimination based on race.

How that applies to redistricting is that -- the premise that we start with is that we have an equal -- as equal a number in population per district as possible. So just starting with the census, when the City receives the 2020 Census data, they look at the total population of the city of Jacksonville to determine, for the 14 districts, what the population needs to be on an average for each of those 14 districts.

It would be really -- almost impossible to have each district have the same amount of population with each other. So what the City is able to do through concepts that have been approved by federal law is that they can make the districts as close to even as possible while still maintaining other considerations that I'll talk a little bit more about.

So essentially, when the 2020 Census came out, we were dealing with numbers that put the Jacksonville population around 950,000. So you divide that by 14, and you essentially come up with an average of what each district can have. Then the understanding that you can't exactly draw each district to have an equal number per district, we engaged in a process where we are able to go up by 5 percent or down by 5 percent.

So if the average was 70,000, we could increase a district by 5 percent above the 70,000, or we could decrease it by 5 percent to the -- to below so that we have -- within a range. And so it doesn't have to be that specific 5 percent that -- the range is a 10 percent up or down. So you may have a district on the low end that is 2 percent lower than everyone else, and you may have a district on the high end that's 8 percent more than the average.

And so as long as we reside within those ranges, those will be considered as equitable as possible.

So that's the 14th Amendment requirement

for one vote per population. We can look at voting population when -- when the Council is considering the redistricting maps. You can also look at total population.

Bill will go into some details about the redistricting process, but essentially the courts have allowed either interpretation of the voting population or the total population to create districts. So the Council decided early on that they wanted to go with the total population approach, which is the way they've done redistricting, I believe, for the last two prior times, maybe more than that.

One thing to keep in mind, because of the 14th Amendment, is that by drawing a district, race can't be a predominant factor. So that means it can't be the primary factor, but that just means it doesn't have to be -- it could be one of the factors, but you certainly can't draw districts with race alone in mind.

And I'll get into some (audio malfunction). I'm going to explain some terms related to that.

Our Charter, the City of Jacksonville Charter, and the Ordinance Code require that

the districts be contiguous and compact. That means, obviously, that the -- as much as possible, the districts be of a relatively compact size so that they're not making the shape in districts -- not making funny little lines outstretched from districts, not creating jagged boundaries, but something that appears compact and is contiguous to the other districts.

Then there's other considerations that courts allow for a redistricting group to consider when they're looking at redistricting. And so those types of considerations and some of the ones, particularly the City Council through the Redistricting Committee and the Rules Committee looked at, were preserving what's called "communities of interest."

And communities of interest is not like one standard definition. It can include many things. And so courts have found that communities of interest could include those groups of people that are either bound by ethnic, cultural, socioeconomic, geographic, economic and demographic factors, and can include, also, honoring traditional

neighborhoods and local communities of interest. So looking at the particular areas and trying to keep those together so they can vote as a cohesive group and not dividing those where it's not necessary.

They are also able to look at natural boundaries, like rivers, bridges, other types of boundaries that delineate certain areas. They are able to look to try to conserve existing district boundaries so that they preserve communities of interest and other boundaries in creating a new district. They can also look at, you know, if it's -- if it seems to be working in an existing boundary, they don't have to modify that, per se.

And then, like I said, courts have found that those are called valid considerations. Those are generally considerations that the City Council and the Special Redistricting Committee looked at when they started with the maps.

So going into the "gerrymandering," you'll hear the term used quite a bit. And for those of you who aren't familiar with it, it simply means trying to manipulate a map in a manner

that would impact, either to benefit one group over another or to put another group to their detriment.

So many times we hear about racial gerrymandering, and that is illegal under the Constitution under the 14th Amendment because, as I mentioned earlier, you can't use race as a predominant factor. So if you're using race to create district lines to manipulate the populations to either make one population have more power in voting than they should or you're lessening someone else's power, then that could be racial gerrymandering, and that's not acceptable. It's unconstitutional.

However, you may also hear gerrymandering and the concept of party affiliation. Like, someone may say that a particular party has gerrymandered to increase their voting power or to decrease someone else's voting power. And courts have not decided that that's a bad thing.

So essentially, someone can make a claim that -- that it's being gerrymandered based on party affiliation, but courts have yet to recognize that that is a reason to negate a

map.

You will also sometimes hear about the political gerrymandering because at the state level there was a constitutional amendment that was approved by the voters several years back. It addresses state-level Congressional districts and does not allow for political gerrymandering. But that is not applicable at the federal level; it's not applicable to our local government. There aren't legal arguments as to that.

Then, concepts that go along with the gerrymandering is "packing" and "cracking." You may hear people talk about a district being packed or cracked. So they both basically have the same impact, but they're done in different ways.

Packing would be to create a district that has a large percentage of a certain population, whether that be a racial group, an ethnic group, or a political affiliation that would give them an advantage in that district. But then, by putting all their power in that one district, you may lessen their ability to vote in other districts.

And then, by contrast, the cracking is taking a voting power group that may have a lot of impact in one district and dividing or cutting it up into smaller districts where you lessen their voting power.

And both of those are considered to be dilution of voting power. And the City, just like any other federal or state government, has to be aware of potential for packing or cracking because there is the Voting Rights Act, which is a federal law that requires that in some cases you look at history and pattern of discrimination to ensure that, in the future, you're not creating or perpetuating that discrimination.

So in some cases where that is alleged, then the City would have to prove that it was not -- that its maps were not drawn in that manner.

I'd also like to just give you just a couple of comments about where we are in the process.

So the purpose here tonight is for the Rules Committee to hear from the public. It is a community-input session, a public hearing.

And the code requires -- it's Chapter 18 of the Ordinance Code. It sets out the process for redistricting. And it specifically provides that this is an opportunity for the public to speak to the Council, for the Council members to listen and deliberate on the comments that are made, and to take that into consideration when they -- when it's time for them to consider the maps.

So at this point, it's not proper for the Council members to respond to questions. They're taking down notes, just like everyone here who works for the City. We're keeping track of the questions that are asked, and we're looking into those questions as applicable.

So I just want everyone to understand that by not responding to you, it doesn't mean that they're not listening to you. This is set out in the code as a specific process, and they're following that process.

The next steps in the process are that after the public hearings have been concluded, then it is appropriate that the Rules Committee review the redistricting

ordinance and make a determination whether they want to approve the maps, as currently stated, or if they want to make changes to those maps.

They could potentially make small changes that then wouldn't require further public hearings for further discussion. But if they make a substantial change to the maps, there will have to be at least one additional public hearing where the public can discuss, again, to the Council, their thoughts and input and make any other suggestions that they may want to make.

Timingwise, the Rules Committee will likely begin its deliberation on the maps at the March 2nd meeting. If they do want to consider additional amendments or other changes, they may not make a recommendation at that point. They may carry it forward to the March 16th meeting.

But under the Charter, there's a limitation of time, based on when the census data is released, for the Council to make a decision. So the Council must make a decision on the maps by April 12th or else it becomes an issue of having others, like a court, to decide

those maps. So the Council will take action by that April 12th date.

It is possible they may take action prior to that, but during these meetings where they're deliberating, they are noticed public hearings. They are all at City Hall. The information as to when the committees meet are on the City Council website. There's also a helpful tool on the City Council website, if you're interested to see what the prior discussions --

COUNCIL MEMBER PRIESTLY JACKSON: Ms. Johnston --

MS. JOHNSTON: Yes.

COUNCIL MEMBER PRIESTLY JACKSON: Thank you.

MS. JOHNSTON: Sorry.

COUNCIL MEMBER PRIESTLY JACKSON: You went way over your time.

MS. JOHNSTON: Sorry.

She's timing us. Sorry.

COUNCIL MEMBER PRIESTLY JACKSON: Chairman Willie.

Thank you.

MR. WILLIE: Let me go fast, so I don't

get cut off.

Thank you so much. How is everybody doing out there this evening?

AUDIENCE MEMBERS: (Assorted responses.)

MR. WILLIE: It's so awesome to have you all in one of our amazing Duval County public schools. On behalf of Dr. Greene, our amazing superintendent, the rest of the board, I'm thrilled to be here, thrilled that you all are here to engage in this conversation.

What better place to have this civic dialogue than one of our schools. And not just one of our schools, but one of our historic schools in our district.

So as I -- before I move on, I do want to recognize the leadership in this school. I see Dr. Hall back there.

Wave your hand.

I saw him as I came in.

Can we give him a round of applause as the principal of this amazing school?

(Inaudible) and graduation rates are soaring here because of his leadership and the amazing students here, so we want to thank him.

And we want to just say that

representation matters. That's why as a school board we are excited to be in involved in this process. We were involved from the very beginning this year, this time around, because of leadership. The late Tommy Hazouri met with then-chair of the school board, Member Warren Jones, to say, hey, we want to get the school board involved on the front end of this process.

Because if you do not know, the school board actually -- a school board seat actually comprises two City Council seats. So, for example, I'm in District 4, so district -- City Council 7 and 8 are actually underneath or comprised of my school board district.

So it's really important that we understand that. And I believe that myself and the vice chair, Kelly Coker here, were able to sit in these meetings and really offer up some valuable information about the schools and where they sit and making sure that there's the proper sort of distribution across. So we were very excited to be involved.

We're excited that you all are here for this because, at the end of the day, the way

these lines are drawn, it really does matter. It matters because the folks from the City in these seats make decisions, decisions like the ones who passed the half-cent sales tax that's going to pour millions of dollars into our schools and create amazing facilities. So at the end of the day, we are excited to be here, excited to hear from you.

As a school board, we're nonvoting members. So at this point in the process, we are not voting members. It's up to the City Council, Rules Committee, et cetera, to actually vote. But we are here as sort of hosts for this evening, making sure we listen as well. But at this point, it's up to the City Council to make a decision.

Excited to be here, and I'm going to pass the agenda back over to Councilwoman Brenda Priestly Jackson.

And thank you for your leadership, too, and making sure the school board has a vote.

And, of course, our City Council president who brought so much to this.

Thank you.

COUNCIL MEMBER PRIESTLY JACKSON: Thank

you, Chair Willie.

We will now move to the development of the redistricting proposals, Bill Killingsworth, Director of Planning and Development and consolidation, expert consultant for redistricting.

MR. KILLINGSWORTH: Good afternoon.

My name is Bill Killingsworth, and I'm the director of Planning and Development.

So the way the process worked was Council set up a Special Committee on Redistricting to prepare a map that was presented to the Rules Committee along with the legislation that the (inaudible) adopted. Aside from the criteria that's in the ordinance, the Special Committee basically looked at four initial criteria.

One of them has already been mentioned, that's total population versus voting-age population. The courts have ruled that either of them are acceptable. The City has a history of using total population, and for that reason, the Redistricting Committee chose total population as the method to (inaudible) do our work.

The other items that they asked us to do

is to minimize crossing the river to the extent possible, and also to minimize district changes.

And then the third thing and the fourth thing was to not take some -- take an incumbent out of their existing district. I will say, before I get started, that -- with the exception of at-large districts.

AUDIENCE MEMBER: Speak up.

MR. KILLINGSWORTH: Sorry.

With the exception of at-large District 3, that last one didn't play a role, and the only reason, really, the last time that District 3 played a role was because we had four candidates who -- quite frankly, two of them were in the northwest corner of the district and two of them were in the southwest -- or southeast -- no, southeast -- southwest corner, northeast corner.

So they were literally on opposite corners of the district, and we thought it was unfair to change the lines in a way for those four candidates running for a district to not know ultimately what the districts would be. So that one, it did play a role in.

So the Redistricting Committee met, established these criteria. We went to work. The first thing we started on was south and east of the river. We put together a proposal in which District 2, which is the only district that currently crosses the river, did not cross the river. So we moved District 2 south of the river.

There has been comments at a couple of meetings about, why didn't we move District 2 to the north of the river. The bottom line is it's the map. There's roughly 450,000 people north and west of the river. So if we move District 2 north and west of the river, that means seven Council districts north and west of the river. If you divide seven into 450-, you end up with about 63,000. It's a change which is too small. We can't make that method work.

AUDIENCE MEMBER: (Inaudible.)

MR. KILLINGSWORTH: Sorry.

COUNCIL MEMBER PRIESTLY JACKSON: (Inaudible.)

MR. KILLINGSWORTH: So the item in terms of -- because we've had a couple of comments where -- why didn't we push District 2 north

and west of the river. And the reason is because mathematically it won't work. It will work pushing 2 south and east of the river because north of the river is about 450,000 people; south of the river is about 550,000 people. So if we push 2 north of the river, that means there's seven districts north of the river. If you divide 7 into 450,000, you end up with -- I think it's just under 64,000 people, which is too small. We really need to be bigger than that to make it balance, the 10 percent balance across the city.

So the -- so we looked at that. We put together a proposal that had to (inaudible) south and east of the river, which meant there were six districts north and eight districts south.

There was a member-to-member meeting held of the members that comprised the districts south and east of the river. When they looked at how disruptive that was to the existing boundaries -- and one of the criteria was to minimize destruction to the existing boundaries -- they thought that criteria should not take precedence over minimizing changing

the district boundaries.

So there was another redistricting meeting held. They revisited the criteria. And they directed the Department to make changing district boundaries superior to changing crossing -- not crossing the river. So we did that. There were a series of member-to-member meetings between members south and east of the river and members north and east of the river.

In the end, what it comes down to is there are three districts that had to change. District 13 had to gain population; it was too small. District 11 had to lose population; it was way too big. They had about 20,000 people too big. And District 8 had to take population.

So the maps are in the back for the districts, as well as the at-large seats. If you get a chance to look at it, what you will see is District 13 picked up some, a little bit from District 3. District 11 ended up giving to District 3 as well as to District 6.

In giving to District 6, it made sense to give all of Bartram Trails, which is a neighborhood down there, to District 6. In

doing that, it made District 6 a little bit too big, so we had to take some -- take some away from it for District 5.

District 4 gave up a little bit of that area along the Town Center Parkway where the apartments are. The district councilperson felt that that's largely populated by young millennials, and they were closely associated with the population at UNF.

District 1 did not change at all.

District 2, south and east of the river, dipped down and picked up a little bit of District 4. When we get north and west of the river, District 8 had to change.

District 9 and 10 did not have to change, and those district members did not particularly want to change, which meant 8 had to either get from 12 or it had to get from 7. In the end, it made most sense between the Council members for it to come from 7, which meant, even though it's this area right here (indicating) and it looks like a big area, there's not a lot of people there. So it meant 7 had to pick up a little bit from 2, which you'll see is the little green area there.

Also, we had a number of people from Argyle who complained because they were represented by three different Council members. And so in an effort to try to alleviate some of that, we moved part of that into District 14.

With that, Madam Chair, I'll end.

COUNCIL MEMBER PRIESTLY JACKSON: Okay. Thank you.

We are about to begin our public comment portion of the meeting, and we have the clock situated behind us for comments and speakers to offer comments up to three minutes.

I want to share with you, we are not responding back after the public comments conclude today. I will tell you the process going forward and how we're going to review and evaluate the comments that we've received and what that process will be for the Rules Committee to address those issues.

So with that, we will now begin -- our first public speaker is Rodney L. Hurst, followed by Anthony Brown.

(Audience member approaches the podium.)

AUDIENCE MEMBER: To the honorable (inaudible).

Just a few words about where you are and where we are as a community. Let me start by saying in the spirit of transparency, Brenda Priestly Jackson is my niece. So whatever comments I make, notwithstanding that, are directed to this honorable group for this meeting.

The overall -- the overarching impact of consolidation was commitment. (Inaudible) consolidation when the City tried to start -- tried to create annexation by getting the Beaches and Baldwin to vote to annex to the city. That did not work because the Beaches and Baldwin voted not to annex to the city of Jacksonville, and then later they came back and decided for consolidation for everyone's vote. Thus, the -- the consolidation began.

Prior to consolidation, every elected official that ran for public office in Jacksonville and Duval County, even if they ran for a particular district or in a particular district, they still ran countywide.

So one of the (inaudible) of consolidation -- and by running countywide -- obviously, blacks could not elect any

1 black-elected representation because of the
2 dilution of their vote by all candidates
3 running countywide. In fact, believe it or
4 not, there was one black lawyer who did win a
5 seat for justice of the peace and then there
6 was a court and they decided they needed to
7 redraw those -- those maps. And they threw him
8 out of his particular win.
9 And I say that because one of the things
10 that we watched -- and what you do, which is --
11 by reason, is the fact that that commitment
12 remains. And it has to -- it has to remain,
13 and that commitment has to be there because in
14 initial consolidation, there was a commitment
15 that there would be seats that would accrue to
16 the black community, which was a way of selling
17 consolidation to the black community and the
18 consolidated government.
19 So even at-large Council members ran
20 countywide before we had to change and make
21 sure that they ran for districts.
22 So again, commitment is the overarching
23 word.
24 And thank you very much.
25 COUNCIL MEMBER PRIESTLY JACKSON: Thank

you.

Anthony Brown, followed by Carnell Oliver.

(Audience member approaches the podium.)

AUDIENCE MEMBER: How is everybody doing?

I know and I understand this is a redistricting meeting, but there's a list of demands that we have for the Moncrief, New Town, and Durkeeville area. On the heels of what the gentleman just talked about, we still have unfulfilled promises of consolidation. We still have communities that are still neglected due to (inaudible).

And I just come up here, along with my colleagues here, for (inaudible) Alliance for Justice to just give you a list of things that I feel like are attainable and things that are (inaudible), things that are well within our scope in terms of finances and in terms of support from this municipality.

The first thing, in terms of my ask, would be infrastructure improvements, sidewalks, drainage, lights, park improvement, north -- noise reduction for the sidewalks, beautification for our communities, and broadband improvements.

The second thing, and probably the thing that's probably most important, would be the Neighborhood Bill of Rights, policy and zone reviews, and (inaudible) amendments.

The third and final ask that I have for the panel would be a finding to include the (inaudible) property that will act as a community hub, a one-stop shop in terms of improvement of the community, and in terms of bringing a safe zone for our kids in that community as a specific ask.

Specifically in the Moncrief area, we're asking that the City help us and aid us in terms of the building that is on 1533 West 23rd Street. It is up for sale for only $35,000, that the City can provide and/or help us, along with (inaudible) programs.

The other thing, too, is we want to introduce a program called Students for Troops, in which there's a pilot program for schools like Andrew Jackson, Raines, and Ribault, which is the community, and police their own community and they can be identified if they're interested in studying or getting into law enforcement.

We talk about police brutality, so why not the people in the community police their own community? You could have a (inaudible) system from anywhere between $3,500 all the way to $10,000, depending on how long you sign up for.

The other thing that we want to address that we feel like is a necessity in the community is business initiatives for small businesses, black-owned businesses.

And last but not least, also workshops and school (inaudible).

COUNCIL MEMBER PRIESTLY JACKSON: Thank you, Mr. Brown.

Carnell Oliver, followed by Jessica Ransome.

(Audience member approaches the podium.)

AUDIENCE MEMBER: Yes. My name is Carnell Oliver.

Now, I don't like the current status quo. I have this -- I have this thing about (inaudible) and handouts. And for me, in the last redistricting process -- Mr. Killingsworth drew a map the last time.

What progressions have we seen in our community as a whole? Not much. We have

institutions in our community that can help draw district lines. Because I'm going to tell you something. I'm going to be very honest. I am so fed up with the poor representation of black -- of the black community.

I heard what Ms. Paige Johnston had to say about redistricting: The constitutional amendment that passed in 2010, it doesn't apply to the local community. But don't think that I won't try to push it before the legislature to improve on what was passed.

You are overpacking black people into four districts that have never -- that has always been predominantly black and that they've always been solid -- solid Democrat districts. There's some manipulation in this process, and it's time to get away from the good ol' boys system and start moving things in the right direction.

I don't know who (inaudible) guarding the henhouse, because some of y'all are foxes. And you know I know that. I make you look like fools time in and time out. I give you a grace period to prove yourself. Well, I don't -- there's certain -- that's on this Council, I

want them on that seat. And if it means drawing them out their district seat to get them out of there, so be it.

(Inaudible) this community was built by voters' voices, and you don't have the same values as some of us.

And I yield the rest of my time.

COUNCIL MEMBER PRIESTLY JACKSON: Jessica Ransome, followed by Jay [sic] Burgess.

(Audience member approaches the podium.)

AUDIENCE MEMBER: Good evening, everyone.

I'm so glad to be here. My name is Jessica Ransome. I live in District 1. My home address is on file.

I am the product of (inaudible).

I am the president of the Democratic Women's Information Network, and our mission is to grow a network of energized, talented, informed Democratic women on the First Coast. We are very concerned about the redistricting process in Jacksonville and have participated and discussed the redistricting at many meetings and all of the public hearings to date.

So I want to take a few minutes to

1 summarize what we have learned so far.
2 So 136 of Jacksonville residents attended
3 the three redistricting hearings; 35 residents
4 spoke. They asked questions, expressed
5 concerns, made recommendations about the
6 redistricting maps and the overall process.
7 And 20 percent of the residents who spoke
8 suggested boundary changes for the maps.
9 The remaining 80 percent of the residents
10 expressed the following primary concerns: Map
11 and citizen involvement in the redistricting
12 process, which should have occurred prior to
13 the meetings and input in the decision-making
14 from the very beginning; the packing of the
15 black voters in city districts -- Council
16 District 7, 8, 9 and 10, which protect
17 incumbents in these areas at the expense of
18 diluting the black voting influence throughout
19 the city.
20 The disparity between how the City of
21 Jacksonville defines race versus the 2020 U.S.
22 Census data definition in the county race, this
23 has led to the City of Jacksonville
24 overcounting the white population and
25 undercounting minority populations in

Jacksonville.

The use of total population instead of voting-age population to equalize the population between the city and Jacksonville's districts.

Not using a functional analysis that examines racial and voting patterns in each district to determine boundary changes through the mapping process. The City law requires that all districts be drawn so they are logical and compact as possible. The current maps do not represent the people of Jacksonville. They were drawn to protect the incumbents on both sides of the aisles at the expense of our neighborhoods and our communities of interest.

I really believe if you -- if you really believe representation matters, you must fix these maps.

Thank you.

COUNCIL MEMBER PRIESTLY JACKSON: (Inaudible).

Jay [sic] Burgess, followed by Alejandra Granado.

(Audience member approaches the podium.)

AUDIENCE MEMBER: Thank you very much.

And I want to thank you for your work. We appreciate your work.

But as citizens, we've got to -- we love our city, so we have to give you our honest perspectives, but then you're -- just following up on Ms. Ransome (inaudible) of what we heard.

I've been at all of the meetings, and I've learned a lot. And some of the recommendations that were made by our citizens -- and I just want to reiterate, so forgive me for saying it for the fourth time.

The recommendation of creating a redistricting executive summary is critically important because many of us were out -- were not a part of this process. We want to be a part of this process.

And last time, Mr. Willie, you mentioned how excited the school board members were to be a part of the conversation. We want to feel that way, too, so -- to be able to write our story in a way that we understand it from the citizens that are not here and have not been a part of it, they could see what happened. We could refer back to it for the next redistricting process.

Creating an ad hoc task force made up of the diversity of our city. One of our strengths is we're very diverse. We should really celebrate that, but those people need to be a part of this conversation, along with City Council members, to begin to talk about what does involving citizens in the conversation look like, how is it done, and its impact overall. It's a process and we need to really have an understanding of it.

I think this task force should be funded, so when you do things like bringing in the (inaudible) to tell us what the research says, bring in other community members from other communities that have done this very, very successfully, and maybe even take tours -- we used to do that years ago -- of the different districts so we can see the boundaries versus read about the boundaries.

The third recommendation is redrawing the maps. You guys are going to have to go back to the table and -- we've said it over and over again. We're concerned about the lack of using this functional analysis that Ms. Ransome talked about. We're concerned about the

voting-age population not being used. We're concerned about the packing, again, in Districts 7, 8, 9, and 10. How can we do something there?

And we're concerned about -- some of the residents did mention boundary changes that split neighborhoods. How can we adjust that? And I knew you would try because I hear Mr. Killingsworth.

And, finally, one of the things that we've seen in other countries -- in other countries -- in other counties and cities, is exploring the merits of using an independent redistricting commission. We noticed that there's an organization called Campaign Legal Center. They follow this all the time, and we know other communities have done it very successfully.

How can we begin to look at that for 2030 to change the ordinance or whatever we have to do to begin to look at that? And we can use our own ad hoc committee of citizens and City Council members to create that infrastructure.

COUNCIL MEMBER PRIESTLY JACKSON: Thank you, Ms. Burgess.

Alejandra Granado, followed by Therese Gamble.

(Audience member approaches the podium.)

AUDIENCE MEMBER: Yes. Good evening.

My name is Alejandra Granado, and I'm here on behalf of the NAACP Legal Defense and Educational Fund. I'm also here as a lifelong resident of Florida who understands the importance of redistricting and how it can negatively impact the lives of individuals.

We have submitted written testimony, but I'm here on behalf of LDF to remind you of your obligations to comply with the U.S. Constitution and Section 2 of the Voting Rights Act during the post-2020 reapportionment and redistricting cycle.

You must consider whether your current proposed map is in violation of Section 2. You must conduct a localized analysis of racial bloc voting and effectiveness thresholds, and you must avoid drawing local City Council districts in a manner that places voters of color in districts based on their race at higher thresholds than is necessary for them to elect their candidates of choice.

City Council members make decisions and (inaudible) promises that impact every aspect of American life, including access to education, economic opportunity, and the direct and collateral consequences of the criminal legal system.

The current proposed map also fails to address Jacksonville's pervasive and ongoing record of inequality of opportunity in various aspects of life.

The Committee on Redistricting must ensure that voters of color have an equal opportunity to elect candidates of their choice as required by Section 2, while also complying with the Constitution's one person/one vote and Equal Protection principles.

Ultimately, this body must ensure the efficacy and fairness -- and fairness of Jacksonville City Council and school board maps. You have heard and will continue to hear that there's a paramount concern for your constituents. Communities of color in Jacksonville are already underrepresented in the political light of the state and have been left behind for many of the economic

opportunities of the past decade.

The Jacksonville Special Committee on Redistricting must listen to the voices of residents and seriously consider the concerns of whether your current proposed map is in violation of the spirit of Section 2 of the Voting Rights Act and the Equal Protection principles of the U.S. Constitution. You must make every effort to follow the mandates and draw a map that takes the diversity of Jacksonville into account.

Thank you.

COUNCIL MEMBER PRIESTLY JACKSON: Thank you.

Therese Gamble, followed by Prez McClain.

(Audience member approaches the podium.)

AUDIENCE MEMBER: Good evening.

I'm born and raised in Jacksonville, Florida in District 9, the African-American working-class community. I live in District 8, but I am opposed to using the population in Jacksonville. We need to consider the age -- the voting-age population. You may ask why.

2020 was horrific here for everybody, especially in the black and brown communities.

They lost family members. Some of them wound up becoming caregivers, and they had to merge their households into one place. So this is why the voting-age population should be taken into consideration, because we have lost a lot of people during the same year the census was conducted.

The Census Bureau already said only 63 percent of the Americans was counted. What about the rest of us who wasn't counted? So can we truly say that Mr. Killingsly [sic] had the right data to draw a redistricting -- to draw a redistricting map where everybody was not counted? We've got to take that into consideration to change what we have done historically in this city.

I have (inaudible) that I have seen. I have voted and supported many of you with your issues. Now, the black and brown people in this community, we have told you so many ways the change that we need. And it's one thing to talk about it. This community is ready for you all to do something about it.

And cheating us and packing us in districts is not the answer, because the -- the

areas you want to pack us in, half of us done lost family members, half of us have been evicted. Most of them have moved out of the district because they need to live in the shelters or hotels or with other family members. So we have to take that into consideration. You can't continue to practice historical trends to make an innovative change in our district and not consider the age of the people.

I'm -- right now, I'm a caregiver. I'm a business woman. I represent the (inaudible). Why? Because our black and brown people are working so much -- this auditorium would be packed, but they can't be here because they got to work, they got to care for family members.

So I am asking for you and y'all deliberating and making your decision, whether you have black and brown majorities in your district, you need to reconsider the age population, because I'm just as sure that the other races had to move in family members with them, had to relocate people. They had to move out of y'all's districts because they're not living in homes anymore or apartments. They're

in hotels. They're in shelters.

So age -- voter-age population needs to be considered. We cannot change this city's patterns and practices if we keep doing stuff the old way.

Thank you.

COUNCIL MEMBER PRIESTLY JACKSON: Prez McClain, followed by Alexander Watkins.

(Audience member approaches the podium.)

AUDIENCE MEMBER: Hello.

My name is Prez McClain. I'm here basically, I think, today concerning -- I wanted you to hear my voice concerning a red line here.

I've been in Florida for about five years, and I have -- yes, the district I have moved from, I'm not even sure. But I live in three -- excuse me -- the 32209 area.

I've never seen so many abandoned houses. And that is a very big concern of mine because I went to a couple of other meetings, and as far as -- a lot of people want to know as far as, what are we doing about these empty houses, you know?

We've got people that want to invest --

invest in this area. Why don't they invest in looking at the houses that are abandoned and selling them to people at a very low rate and -- to help boost our community? Because these houses are abandoned, and people come in to this area, that's what they see, you know?

Thankfully, I'm able to pay my rent. Okay? Not only am I able to pay my rent, I do a lot of things in the community. I help people with things. And I'm seeing, this is a big problem here.

I don't own a house. I wanted to, okay, but I would like to. I would like to own my own house and -- even in the area that I live in, okay, which is in the red line district, the houses are like 15-, $2,000 to rent a month. I don't have that type of money. Okay? And people in this area don't have that type of money. Everything is out of our reach.

So what are we going to do about fixing this issue? Okay? I would love to own my own house. I mean, if you told me what I'm paying for rent, which is about $1,000 now, through disability, okay, I could afford my own house.

There are so many abandoned houses. And

who lives -- who owns those houses? Because people that own those houses do not live in this area, because if they did, they wouldn't be abandoned. It's a house.

Now, I think there should be some type of ordinance for something that says, okay, if you're going to buy a home in this district, you need to live in it, rent it out to someone, but don't leave it abandoned. Again, that just makes this area look worse. There should be some type of ordinance like that.

What do we need to do to get to that place -- space?

COUNCIL MEMBER PRIESTLY JACKSON: Thank you.

Alexander Watkins, followed by Daniel Henry.

(Audience member approaches the podium.)

AUDIENCE MEMBER: Hello.

My name is Alexander Watkins. My address is on file.

I'm here today to also address the issue of racial packing that appears to be occurring specifically in Districts 7, 8, 9, and 10. And I speak on this issue consistently because of

my favorite hymn, faith comes by hearing and hearing and hearing. And I believe that is also how we learn and begin to establish values.

We understand that it was not the intent of the planning committee to pack these districts by Mr. Killingsworth's presentation. However, nonetheless, that is the result of what occurred. And as such, it should be addressed. Black voters matter. And we will be heard.

I propose that we redesign or redraw the boundary markers of the districts to address this issue of racial packing that occurred.

Most of you would say that you believe that black voters matter, so I charge you as leaders with access to the resources and able to make the decision to make the changes that we asked for to show that belief in your actions, to draw the lines, to have the analysis ranked, to consider voting-age population versus total population, and in the future, to include an ad hoc committee in the process so that the citizens do not feel as though they did not have an opportunity to

thoroughly be engaged.

Communities are made by people, and they will be changed by people. So I encourage you all as leaders to heed the advice, to heed the concerns of the constituents that elected you to serve. We are not speaking here for the few; we are speaking on behalf of the many.

And I leave you all with this: To silence one voice anywhere is to lessen democracy everywhere.

Now is this difficult time of transformation in our community given that the pandemic that is still ongoing is the time to step away from partisan affiliation and pick up the mantle of the people affiliation.

So I charge you all to do what you know is right, to listen to the community, and to heed our concerns.

Thank you.

COUNCIL MEMBER PRIESTLY JACKSON: Daniel Henry, followed by Patrice -- is it D. Montague?

AUDIENCE MEMBER: Montague.

(Audience member approaches the podium.)

AUDIENCE MEMBER: Thank you.

My name is Daniel Henry. I live in District 11.

I've come to all four of the town halls regarding redistricting. I've had two consistent questions that I won't scare you with because I'm sure you've heard me enough.

But one particular point that I want to continue to reemphasize is the fact that -- I've heard Mr. Killingsworth do his presentation four times. I've heard Paige do her analysis about what -- the legal standards that the Redistricting Committee used in order for them to create not only the maps, but the policy positions that (inaudible) decided to run from.

But I haven't heard any consistent or any kind of conversation about whether a functional analysis was done for each one of the districts for them to determine what member was (inaudible) or for them to not only keep them compact but for you to be able to know how many people you needed to put in these districts for them to be able to elect a member of the community that looks like them. And the reason why that's important is because it has a direct

impact for every surrounding district, that we all are neighbors (inaudible).

Ultimately, you-all are going to go back to the Rules Committee after these four town halls and make a decision as to whether or not you want to take any of our points or decide to do something different. But I hope, at least, you'll be able to directly address each one of the questions that many members have spent a lot of time (inaudible) to express to you, because I think all of them are very valid and important. And I know many of you on this committee and in this room truly appreciate some of the advice that you've been trying to get.

So, hopefully, these questions get answered. Functional analysis is definitely one of them I'm particularly interested in.

Thank you so much.

COUNCIL MEMBER PRIESTLY JACKSON: Patrice Montague, followed by Eric Parker.

(Audience member approaches the podium.)

AUDIENCE MEMBER: Hello. Good evening, everyone.

Good evening. My name is Patrice

Montague. I'm a member of District 8.

I just wanted to, first of all, thank you for having this panel and all. And there are only two points that I wanted to make.

One is that the way the maps are drawn, it's just you failed. And at the end of the day, it's not about us; it's about those who come after us. It is -- excuse me. And if we don't draw the maps the right way now, it's going to affect those later. (Inaudible.)

Thank you.

COUNCIL MEMBER PRIESTLY JACKSON: Thank you.

Eric Parker, followed by Tyra Smude.

(Audience member approaches the podium.)

AUDIENCE MEMBER: Good evening.

Eric Parker, District 2.

Sadly, I think it's safe to assume that there will be no major changes to (inaudible). Regardless of the gerrymandering, the racial packing, or the obvious partisan politics, nothing is really going to get changed unless we change it.

To change it, we must do something different. We need to abandon politics as

usual, the status quo, and the establishment altogether.

These gerrymandered district lines will only play a significant role in your lives if you continue to let politicians control them. They control you by controlling your choices, and they accomplish this best by convincing you that there is a difference between the two major parties. It's the duopoly that's got everyone fooled into thinking there is an actual difference between Republicans and Democrats. Nothing is ever going to change.

If they only need to continue blaming each other, they don't have to reflect on themselves and their mistakes. If we continue to vote the same, we're going to continue to get more of the same. Just remember this when you go to the ballot box over the next ten years and your only choice at the ballot box happens to be Republican or Democrat. Remember this when given the opportunity to vote against the establishment.

These well-connected and corrupt politicians know that together we stand and divided we fall, and the only way to maintain

their authoritarian control is to trick you into thinking that we are different, that you have more in common with them than you do with (inaudible). This way, they maintain their power while stripping their responsibility.

Regardless of race, religion, income, or education level, I can almost guarantee I have more in common with the real people of Jacksonville that live in Districts 7, 8, 9, and 10 than they have with the corrupt and well-connected establishment politicians they voted for in those districts.

People are tired of politicians and, instead, want to have conversations and be heard by real people. We're asking the government and the politicians in the city of Jacksonville to forget about appeasing their party and the lobbyists that fund their campaigns and their careers, and, instead, listen to what people want.

Now, to the people of Jacksonville, I'm asking you to remember the outcome of this decision for the next ten years, and remember that regardless of the problem, more government is never the solution.

COUNCIL MEMBER PRIESTLY JACKSON: Tyra Smude, followed by Velma, last name Rounsville.

(Audience member approaches the podium.)

AUDIENCE MEMBER: Hi. It's Tyra Smude (pronouncing).

COUNCIL MEMBER PRIESTLY JACKSON: Smude. I should know that by now.

MS. SMUDE: No worries.

So I want to tell a little story. And -- about how I got involved in this process because I'm not -- anyway, redistricting is happening. The Tributary (inaudible) said -- you know, they had some articles on it. I took a look at their website, and they have that little app that you could, you know, look at it yourself, so I did.

And what got me going was school district 6, which I find just gross. And so I wrote to your committee. I wrote to all the members of your committee, and I didn't hear anything back. Granted, it was email. Granted, I didn't follow it up with a phone call, but I was kind of disappointed.

So then I went to the first Rules Committee meeting, and I kind of said to

myself, about kind of (inaudible) in the letter, about school district 6. And I thought -- and I'm being maybe naive -- that as we went through this process, some of the questions that I raised, that the folks here raised would try to be answered.

Like, why are -- why is school district 6 like that? What were some of the rules that we had -- I mean, I heard the rules, but what were the -- actual standards for saying something is concise? When I look at it and (inaudible).

So I thought in terms of this process that some of these things would be answered, maybe not with (inaudible). And I looked at the minutes on the -- the minutes from the meeting, the last one, and I thought -- and that's why I'm here -- that there was going to be some sort of historical presentation about how we got where we are. And I didn't see them -- I mean, maybe I missed it. I came in a few minutes late.

But anyway, so I'm kind of a punter. I don't normally get involved. This is the first (inaudible) that I've been to in Jacksonville. But I kind of thought it would work more

efficiently, that I would get more answers, and there would be more -- I understand it's not interactive now, but you would go back and think about these things.

I mean, it may be a (inaudible). Maybe that's not how government works. I don't know.

Anyway, so I'm here right now to complain about the process and to hope that we do adopt some things, that the process can be better in the future so that we do have an independent ad hoc group look at these things, and that we do, hopefully, redraw these maps.

Thank you.

COUNCIL MEMBER PRIESTLY JACKSON: Velma Rounsville, followed by Leola Williams.

(Audience member approaches the podium.)

AUDIENCE MEMBER: Good evening.

Velma Rounsville. I live out in District 8. I'll be real short because you probably heard this before.

I have a recommendation that's been spoken to you before, that -- for the future, that there should be some consideration for an independent redistricting commission. It's something that would not happen until 2030, but

it is something that you could begin working on.

I'm sure it may require a change to the Charter, but whatever the process is and whatever would have to be done, I think is something that at least could -- should be considered.

I think it's great that you would look at the merits of this process. It may encourage a lot more of the residents to feel a little bit more comfortable about how to process (inaudible).

So as has already been stated, it's a recommendation for your consideration for the future.

Thank you.

COUNCIL MEMBER PRIESTLY JACKSON: Thank you.

Leola Williams, followed by Jennifer Cowart.

(Audience member approaches the podium.)

AUDIENCE MEMBER: Good evening.

I just wanted to thank you all for hearing us in this meeting, the citizens of Jacksonville input as to the process of

redistricting.

And I'm piggybacking on what has already been said already. But my point is that it seems that the whole process has been a disservice to the citizens. We have not been as involved as we should have because of some -- the lack of information. And I would hope that if you all -- if it's not approved, then you have a chance to draw the lines again and have other meetings, that you would advise the public more, give us more information.

I'm looking at the map up there. We should have had a copy of that at our seats. I'm looking at this book that I was given when I came to the meeting. You know, it's like, we were just handed this on the (inaudible). I didn't attend the other meetings, but I am just saying, it would be -- it would be nice if we could have got them -- more information before this meeting tonight.

Another point is, while you all consider incumbents as a priority for (inaudible), making sure that they stay in their districts, what about the people? Even if they have to change districts, the people are more important

than the (inaudible).

So, you know, these are my -- these are my concerns, and I would hope that the process can be better in the future.

Thank you.

COUNCIL MEMBER PRIESTLY JACKSON: Thank you.

Jennifer Cowart, followed by Sam Coodley.

(Audience member approaches the podium.)

AUDIENCE MEMBER: Thank you, Council members.

Dr. Jennifer Cowart. I live in District 11.

I think what I have to say is very similar to what folks have said already. We had a chance to do something transformative, to really assess the impact of the packing and cracking that we were doing. It's an attempt to assess the representation of the communities across Duval County. And, instead, we prioritized incumbency and looked at different ways of characterizing voters instead of looking at voting age. And I think we've created something that's going to preserve the status quo rather than actually representing

the city of Jacksonville.

I really -- I had a hard time getting to this meeting and I was sick and wasn't able to attend the other three. If it hadn't been for reporting from the media, I would have had a very hard time finding any of this information, aside from maps, on the City Council website. Which I'm grateful those maps were there.

But someone mentioned earlier, an executive summary, a one-pager, of how we got to this point, that would have been really helpful because it was very difficult for me to find this information around my busy schedule, as I'm sure everyone else here had the same problem.

So more engagement with the community, an independent advisory board, as so many have already said, and truly a chance to look at the representation for our community instead of preserving the status quo and incumbency overall.

Thank you.

COUNCIL MEMBER PRIESTLY JACKSON: Thank you, Dr. Cowart.

Sam Coodley, followed by our final public

speaker, Ben Frazier.

(Audience member approaches the podium.)

AUDIENCE MEMBER: Good evening. I would like to cede my time to --

COUNCIL MEMBER PRIESTLY JACKSON: Sir --

AUDIENCE MEMBER: -- (inaudible).

COUNCIL MEMBER PRIESTLY JACKSON: I'm sorry, we don't allow that. You have to have a speaker's card.

AUDIENCE MEMBER: (Inaudible.)

COUNCIL MEMBER PRIESTLY JACKSON: Sir --

AUDIENCE MEMBER: (Inaudible.)

COUNCIL MEMBER PRIESTLY JACKSON: I understand, sir. Unfortunately, you have to have a speaker's card in order to speak. That's the process, and the same one we consistently followed at all public meetings.

AUDIENCE MEMBER: But at all three meetings, it's -- 6:30 was the cutoff time. And tonight, the chair, which you are, you chose to change it to 6:25.

COUNCIL MEMBER PRIESTLY JACKSON: We were trying to do that because we had actually more speakers tonight than we had, so I was hoping to have (inaudible). We actually had more

speakers, but that's our process. So the (inaudible) -- so if you would like to do public comments, you may --

AUDIENCE MEMBER: I do think that (inaudible) had a great point, that it is a shame that, with 20 minutes to spare, folks are being kept arbitrarily based on a new deadline.

I think that is exemplary of what -- you could really help get administrative gerrymandering that we've seen in this city on any number of issues, that the low turnout be exploited to justify closing locations. Right now there's a City Council election, and we have five of the twenty early voting sites closed. Gateway, where 79 percent of voters in 2020 were black, has been permanently closed with no -- with not a replacement that I'm aware of.

And all this is happening while you also have the open sites being in excess of the median income of the city. So this is something that is not only limited to redistricting, but you-all really need to consider the credibility issue.

There's a (inaudible) poll out just today

that says 89 percent of Jacksonville residents do not trust City Council, which is the same point that I think was excellently made earlier, that it's just logical that the fox should not be the one to design the henhouse, especially when the henhouse they designed ten years ago was a racial gerrymandering that packs black voters into these four districts.

The report that we submitted last week indicates that over half of all black voters in the city of Jacksonville have been packed into these four districts. And this is something that will have a lot of (inaudible).

And I'm not going to recap everything that's been said by so many of the other folks here tonight, but you will all have to just be aware that this really does not promote public trust in our public institutions with folks who believe that the deck has been stacked in such a way that this isn't about the voters, but it's about the elected folks making sure that they don't have to do as much fundraising in order to win these seats, because it's just already so packed that you don't have to meet these goals.

And I get it. It's not (inaudible) to talk to rich governors in order to get you elected, but that shouldn't be why these maps are being drawn the way that they are. And, clearly, based on this new poll, a vast majority of Jacksonville residents believe that that is the case.

COUNCIL MEMBER PRIESTLY JACKSON: Our final public speaker is Ben Frazier.

(Audience member approaches the podium.)

AUDIENCE MEMBER: Good evening, everyone.

COUNCIL MEMBER PRIESTLY JACKSON: Good evening.

AUDIENCE MEMBER: Wake up, everybody. No more sleeping in bed. No time to (inaudible). Time for (inaudible) ahead. In the words of James Baldwin, not everything can be changed, but nothing can be changed unless it is faced.

We're facing a new reality and some new dreams. And our dreams, I assure you, go far beyond 7, 8, 9, and 10.

I'm Ben Frazier. I'm the founding president of the Northside Coalition of Jacksonville. Frederick Douglass is another man that I admire. Once said, "Power concedes

nothing without a demand." It never did and it never will.

In that spirit, we demand that this gerrymandered redistricting plan for City Council districts be scrapped, banned, struck. Why? Because it is simply unfair. Two black representatives. Intentionally packing in black people into a few districts beyond what is necessary hurts our ability to impact city politics countywide because it dilutes our power, our strength.

We're looking beyond 7, 8, 9, and 10. It's time for us to grow up. Council members didn't look beyond creating a plan that protects their own seats, their own access. The plan must adequately and accurately represent the power of the people.

To that end, we call for an independent consultant to be hired to create an impartial plan that meets constitutional guidelines, constitutional muster. The plan should allow the people to pick the politicians and not the other way around. The plan should allow for the people to pick the politicians and not the other way around.

Northside Coalition, we say, say it loud, say it proud. We are on your side and on the move. We stand against this plan to (inaudible), and we demand it. Consider a change. Consider a new plan. Consider a new way of approaching this. Just think about it.

In the words of James Baldwin, remember, not everything can be changed, but you have to face it.

Thank you.

COUNCIL MEMBER PRIESTLY JACKSON: Thank you.

I want to thank you all for attending, many of you, the four weeks of public hearings that the Rules Committee has hosted.

I will share with you, as I shared at our first meeting at Ed White High School, that when this process was undertaken ten years ago, they held four meetings in one week. We held four meetings over four weeks to encourage public input and to hear from you.

It was our intention -- and we have done that -- to hear your concerns, and now we will take those concerns into consideration as the Rules Committee. I want to state this again.

Pursuant to the Ordinance Code, redistricting falls to the Rules Committee, not the Special Committee on Redistricting. That work has concluded.

I want to share with you that we will be forwarding a memo to members of the Rules Committee and Council members articulating the process to address, proposed amendments to the legislation, Ordinance 2021-001. It is anticipated that the Rules Committee will address any proposed amendments at the Rules Committee meeting on March 1st, 2022.

Based on the amendments that are found and action taken at that time, the Rules Committee will determine the need for an additional public hearing, possibly at the City Council meeting on March 8th, 2022.

Consistent with the status of the amendments to the legislation, the Rules Committee may request additional actions, including additional public hearings, other methods of seeking additional input, to comply with the ordinance requirements relative to the City Council's role regarding redistricting.

We have received and reviewed public

comments tendered to us every Monday following the redistricting hearings. We will have our final debrief on this Tuesday. We will then tabulate the concerns that have been articulated at the meetings. We will then forward that information and publicize it.

I promised you an open and transparent process, and this is what we're doing. And so, again, we have an Ordinance Code that is before us. We're going to make certain we comply with that. If after this process it is the will of the public that the Ordinance Code is amended, we all have the power to do any of that. Okay?

But I guarantee you that your concerns have been heard. We will address any potential amendments to the legislation as -- as filed at the Rules Committee meeting on March 1st, which is well within our timeline of April.

I want to thank you for coming out, and I want to say with great humility and pride that this was the largest attendance at any meeting, and it's in District 10. So thank you for coming out. Thank you.

Council -- former Council president and school board chairman, and now Board Member

Warren Jones, is -- there he is. Thank you so much.

Thank you for your time and I send you all peace. Good night.

(The foregoing proceedings were adjourned at 7:06 p.m.)

- - -

CERTIFICATE OF REPORTER

STATE OF FLORIDA)
)
COUNTY OF DUVAL)

I, Diane M. Tropia, Florida Professional Reporter, certify that I was authorized to and did stenographically report the foregoing proceedings and that the transcript is a true and complete record of my stenographic notes.

DATED this 31st day of July 2022.

_____Diane M Tropia_____
Diane M. Tropia
Florida Professional Reporter

JACKSONVILLE CITY COUNCIL
RESEARCH DIVISION

Noticed Meeting CM Boyer-Danford Neighborhood Bill of Rights
Meeting Minutes

April 12, 2019
9:00 am

Don Davis Room
First Floor, City Hall
117 W. Duval Street

Topic: CM Boyer-Danford re Neighborhood Bill of Rights

Attendance: Council Member Boyer; Richard Danford – Community Engagement Subcommittee Chair; Colleen Hampsey – Council Research; Crystal Shemwell – Legislative Services

For all other attendees please see the sign in sheet

Meeting Convened: 9:00 am

This was a meeting between Council Member Boyer and Richard Danford, Chair of the Community Engagement Subcommittee to discuss Ordinance 95-247-106 which established the Neighborhood Bill of Rights. CM Boyer explained that the ordinance was approved by council but not codified, and is therefore not implemented or enforceable. One finding of the 2014 Consolidation Task Force was that all ordinances should be codified.

However, CM Boyer pointed out that while the spirit of the Neighborhood Bill of Rights is relevant, the language used is outdated and not in keeping with modern technology. For example, the 1995 ordinance states that questions from the public regarding City Business should be answered within one business day – which is not always practical. Additionally, the ordinance was written before the use of email was commonplace. Dr. Danford said that there needs to be some formal process established so that members of the public feel that they have a way to have their viewpoints or issues heard by City officials.

There was a discussion about how the public may communicate with City officials and departments. Currently Neighborhood Associations, through CPACs, can make recommendations on CIP projects and the budget. However, Dr. Danford said that many portions of the community feels disconnected from local government despite the availability of CPACs. It was mentioned that there is not enough public awareness about CPACs.

CM Boyer said that there are existing processes for public communication, but those processes may not be well known. It was suggested that holding regular town hall meetings or listening sessions might provide a better venue for communication, as people may not always like the outcomes from City decisions but they like to feel heard. Dr. Danford proposed that his subcommittee review the 1995 ordinance, find which portions are effective, update it as needed and submit it to City Council.

With no further business, Mr. Munz adjourned the meeting. The next collaborative subcommittee meeting will be Friday April 12, 2019 at 2:00 pm.

Meeting Adjourned: 9:40 am

Minutes: Colleen Hampsey, Council Research
CHampsey @coj.net (904) 630-1498
Posted 4.16.19 5:00 pm

Tape: CM Boyer-Danford re Neighborhood Bill of Rights
Meeting - Legislative Services Division
4.12.19

OFFICE OF INSPECTOR GENERAL
CITY OF JACKSONVILLE

LETTER OF CLOSURE

Via E-mail: R.danford@jaxul.org

February 24, 2021

Richard D. Danford Jr.
President, Jacksonville Urban League
903 W. Union St.
Jacksonville, FL 32204

Subject: Citizen Complaint, Neighborhood Bill of Rights Process
Office of Inspector General Correspondence Number 2020-06-0002

Dear Mr. Danford:

The Office of Inspector General (OIG) received your complaint submitted on June 11, 2020, regarding your concerns related to a City Council Budget meeting that had taken place. Specifically, you expressed concerns related to the Neighborhood Bill of Rights and the failure of the City of Jacksonville's City Council, Mayor's Office, and other City officials to follow the requirements of *Ordinance Code* 95-247-106 (Attachment 1). You alleged failures regarding requirements to provide communication, advanced notification, prompt (1) day responses to information requests, and an opportunity for citizens to provide input on the annual budget before and during specialized public hearings on priorities and capital improvement projects, and the opportunity to participate in the design of publicly funded neighborhood projects.

You requested a step-by-step process for providing input into the City of Jacksonville (COJ) planning as provided by the *Ordinance Code* 95-247-106. Based on our review, the Neighborhood Bill of Rights (Ordinance 95-247-106) was enacted on March 31, 1995, but was never codified into the *Ordinance Code*.

As part of our preliminary review of your complaint, the OIG reviewed *Ordinance Code* 95-247-106, *Ordinance Code* 1999-358-E, spoke with knowledgeable COJ personnel, including the Office of General Counsel (OGC), and reviewed accessible COJ website information. Based on OIG's review and conversations with OGC, the OIG learned that Ordinance 95-247-106 was not codified into the *Ordinance Code* because there were no enforceable provisions within it. However, in 1999, a portion of the Neighborhood Bill of Rights found in *Ordinance Code* 95-247-106, relating to zoning notification requirements was codified into *Ordinance Code* 1999-358-E, which has been revised and currently exists as *Ordinance Code* 2017-318-E.

PO Box 43586, Jacksonville, Florida 32203
Email: InspectorGeneral@coj.net Website: http://www.coj.net/oig
Office: (904) 255-5800 Fax: (904) 255-5813

Within this Ordinance, Chapter 656, Zoning Code, Part 1. General Provisions, Subpart C, Procedures for Rezoning and Amendments to the *Zoning Code*, Section 656.130, titled "*Special notice to neighborhood organizations, CPACs, umbrella neighborhood organizations and civic organizations; neighborhood organization participation in public hearings*" states, verbatim in part (Attachment 2):

> *...Ordinance 95-247-106 (The Neighborhood Bill of Rights) requires notification to neighborhood organizations of the submission of any application for rezoning, zoning or land use variance or exception, Development of Regional Impact (DRI) or Planned Unit Development (PUD) application, or other significant land use action, a clear explanation of the date, time and place of all applicable public hearings and other opportunities for input on the application and a clear explanation of the type of testimony that is allowable and relevant from neighborhood organizations and residents...*

As part of the preliminary review, the OIG contacted City Council's Chief of Research, who explained that the City Council relies on the Council members to disseminate information to the community organizations. However, for the specific requirements outlined in subparagraph (c) in Chapter 656, *Zoning Code*, Part 1. General Provisions, Subpart C, Section 656.130 (Attachment 2), the Council partners with the COJ Planning and Zoning Department to issue the required notifications in accordance with *Ordinance Code*. The Chief of Research advised that a zoning application triggers review and notifications.

The COJ Neighborhoods Department, Neighborhood Services Office, facilitates communication between the COJ and Citizen Planning Advisory Committees (CPACs) which are located in six districts. CPACs are open to any interested citizen and are a main conduit for information flow from the COJ to its citizens.

As part of the preliminary review, the OIG contacted the COJ Neighborhood Services Office Manager, who explained various ways communication flows between the COJ and its citizens; one way includes being a part of a CPAC, which facilitates cooperative involvement in various COJ committees for which individuals may volunteer. In addition, the Manager also advised participation in a committee related to one's interest is another way to keep up with current information related to COJ happenings.

The Neighborhoods Services Office disseminates a great deal of information via e-mail to the neighborhood organizations registered on the *Directory of Neighborhood Organizations* (Directory). The Directory link, as well as information, and a direct link to register an organization to be added to the Directory, can be found via the following link:

https://www.coj.net/departments/housing-and-neighborhoods/neighborhood-initiatives-(1)/citizen-planning-advisory-committees-(cpacs).aspx

The Manager also noted that there is a question on the registration form for the Directory that asks: *"Would you like to receive Zoning Notification?"* Answering ***Yes,*** to this question will add your organization's contact information to the COJ Zoning Office notification list.

Please contact Ms. Lisa Ransom, Manager, Neighborhood Services Office, for assistance and any questions regarding adding the Jacksonville Urban League to the Directory. The Neighborhood Services Office contact number is (904) 255-8250.

The OIG apologizes for the length of time for this reply; however, this matter required additional research due to the age of the original ordinance and its various iterations. Our office considers this matter closed. Thank you for contacting the Office of Inspector General. If you have any additional questions, please contact me at 904-255-5800.

Sincerely,

Andrew McFarlane
Director of Investigations
Office of Inspector General

Attachments:

1 - Ordinance 95-247-106, Amended March 28, 1995
2 - Ordinance Code, Chapter 656, Section 656.130

cc: Dennis Stone, General Counsel, Jacksonville Urban League
OIG Correspondence File 2020-06-0002

AMENDED 3/28/95

Introduced by Council Members Smith, Overton, Davis, Crescimbeni, Leggett, Dale, Reagan, Kravitz, Tullis, Brown, Draper, Fields, Griffin, Jones, Lee, Miller, Soud and Wood:

ORDINANCE 95-247-106

AN ORDINANCE ESTABLISHING THE CITY OF JACKSONVILLE'S "NEIGHBORHOOD BILL OF RIGHTS; DECLARING A CITY POLICY OF IMPLEMENTING THE PROVISIONS OF THE "NEIGHBORHOOD BILL OF RIGHTS' AS THE REGULAR COURSE OF BUSINESS IN CITY GOVERNMENT; REQUESTING THE MAYOR'S OFFICE TO TAKE IMMEDIATE STEPS TO ENSURE UNDERSTANDING OF AND COMPLIANCE WITH THE "NEIGHBORHOOD BILL OF RIGHTS" BY ALL CITY ADMINISTRATIVE DEPARTMENTS; PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

WHEREAS, Jacksonville's many and varied neighborhoods are the lifeblood of the community, providing most residents with their clearest sense of identity with and participation in the communal life of the City; and

WHEREAS, Jacksonville has scores of organized neighborhood, civic and homeowners groups, all of which serve to connect residents with their geographic neighborhoods and with each other for purposes of self-identification, solidarity, community improvement, and the expression of communal opinions and preferences; and

WHEREAS, the City deals with the problems of individuals and neighborhoods on a daily basis through a variety of mechanisms, some directly targeted to neighborhoods but most directed to the public at large; and

WHEREAS, the City should take better advantage of the opportunity offered by its official neighborhood organizations to facilitate communications between the City and its residents; and

WHEREAS, citizens and taxpayers should have the right to expect prompt, fair, courteous, and

well informed treatment from the City at all times in their transactions; and

WHEREAS, the establishment of a formal policy statement regarding City interaction with neighborhood organizations will clearly set out the standard of conduct that should be upheld by all City employees and agencies in dealing with organized neighborhood groups and inform the public about the manner of treatment they should expect to be accorded; now therefore

BE IT ORDAINED by the Council of the City of Jacksonville:

Section 1. The City Council hereby establishes the following "Neighborhood Bill of Rights" to govern the relationship between the personnel and agencies of City government and the City's numerous organized neighborhood associations and groups:

Consolidated City of Jacksonville Neighborhood Bill of Rights

Every organized, officially-recognized neighborhood in the City of Jacksonville has the right to expect and receive the following from the officials, employees and agencies of the City of Jacksonville:

* Prompt, courteous, informed responses to all questions regarding City business. Replies, if only to report that inquiries or research are underway and a full response will be forthcoming at a later time, should be made within one working day of the original neighborhood contact.

* Advance notification of any City-related public works or utility project taking place within or adjacent to a neighborhood (e.g. road paving; water, sewer or drainage work; traffic signal installation or removal; park renovation or substantial maintenance; land purchases, etc.), including the day(s) and probable length of any street closures, utility interruptions, or other adverse impacts on the neighborhood, and the name and phone number of the City representative most knowledgeable and able to immediately answer questions during the course of the work.

* Notification of the submission of any application for rezoning, zoning or land use variance or exception, Development of Regional Impact (DRI) or Planned Unit Development (PUD) application, or other significant land use action; a clear explanation

of the date, time and place of all applicable public hearings and other opportunities for public input on the application; and a clear explanation of the type of testimony that is allowable and relevant from neighborhood organizations and residents.

* Opportunity for formal input into the annual budget process, including the opportunity to express preferred City government priorities, suggested capital improvement projects, and other statements that fairly represent the opinion of a majority of the neighborhood's residents.

* A timely personal response from its district councilperson or that councilperson's aide to questions directed to the City Council office.

* The opportunity to participate in the design of publicly-funded projects within or adjacent to the neighborhood, including the opportunity early in the planning process to express neighborhood preferences about choice of location, materials, orientation, size, land use intensity, and other features.

Section 2. The Council hereby declares that the "Neighborhood Bill of Rights" shall constitute a part of the standard operating procedures of all City offices and agencies, and shall be observed to the greatest extent possible by all City officers, employees and agencies as the formal expression of the City's duty to serve the public effectively, responsively, and courteously through its relationships with citizens' formal neighborhood organization representatives.

Section 3. The Council hereby requests the Mayor to circulate a copy of the "Neighborhood Bill of Rights" to all City employees and officials and to take appropriate steps to see that the "Neighborhood Bill of Rights" is understood and complied with by all representatives of the City who deal with the public.

Section 4. This ordinance shall become effective upon signature by the Mayor, or upon becoming automatically effective without the Mayor's signature.

Form approved:

Phillip L. Cope

Assistant General Counsel

(jrc 2/21/95)

ORDINANCE 95-247-106

CERTIFICATE OF AUTHENTICATION

ENACTED BY THE COUNCIL

March 28, 1995

JIM TULLIS
COUNCIL PRESIDENT

ATTEST:

BEVERLY S. DOMEN
SECRETARY TO THE COUNCIL

APPROVED MAR 3 1 1995, 19____

ED AUSTIN, MAYOR

CITY OF JACKSONVILLE FLORIDA

Sec. 656.130. - Special notice to neighborhood organizations, CPACs, umbrella neighborhood organizations and civic organizations; neighborhood organization participation in public hearings.

(a) The City recognizes that Jacksonville's many and varied neighborhoods are the lifeblood of the community, providing most residents with their clearest sense of identity with and participation in the communal life of the City. As reflected by the adoption of Rule 6 (Procedures Governing Quasi-Judicial Actions), the City desires to encourage the participation of affected neighborhood organizations in all land use matters which come before the City Council, whether such matters are legislative or quasi-judicial, and particularly desires to facilitate the participation of neighborhood organizations in quasi-judicial land use matters.

(b) Ordinance 95-247-106 (The Neighborhood Bill of Rights) requires notification to neighborhood organizations of the submission of any application for rezoning, zoning or land use variance or exception, Development of Regional Impact (DRI) or Planned Unit Development (PUD) application, or other significant land use action, a clear explanation of the date, time and place of all applicable public hearings and other opportunities for input on the application and a clear explanation of the type of testimony that is allowable and relevant from neighborhood organizations and residents.

(c) Notice of a time and place of a public hearing which is required to be held by the Council, the appropriate committee of the Council, the Planning Commission or the Downtown Development Review Board, as the case may be, with respect to any type of land use action specified above shall be provided at least 14 days in advance to any registered neighborhood organizations which serve a neighborhood area located within 350 feet of the land which is the subject of the application, the Citizens Planning Advisory Committees ("CPACs") in the affected area and any "umbrella" neighborhood organizations or civic organizations if those organizations have filed a written request with the City for notification concerning one or more of those types of applications within a specific defined geographic area. Notice received pursuant to this Section 656.130(c) shall not confer "affected party status" upon the recipient of such notice, although any of these organizations, except CPACs, may file a request for a determination of affected party status under Council Rule 6.302 for those matters which are pending before the Council. The failure of a neighborhood organization, CPAC or other

organization required to be notified under this Section shall not invalidate or otherwise have any effect upon a public hearing or action taken by the committee or the Council on the application for rezoning.

(d) The procedures governing quasi-judicial actions before the City Council (Chapter 6, Rules of the City Council) establish informal and formal procedures for hearing quasi-judicial matters. These rules are intended to be applied and interpreted in a manner which recognizes both the legislative and the judicial aspects of the City land use decision-making process and encourages full participation within that process not only by all parties, but by interested neighborhood organizations, individuals and the public as well. The Council's formal hearing procedures are designed primarily to allow the applicant and others who have standing to maintain a lawsuit to establish a proper record before the City Council, since appeals of quasi-judicial matters to the circuit court are based solely on the record before the Council. However, the informal hearing procedures were specifically designed to allow for full participation by any neighborhood organization, as well as the public, and because the hearing is shorter and the process less complex and easier to use, the Council therefore encourages the use of the informal hearing process by all applicants, neighborhood organizations and interested members of the public whenever possible where there is no intent to appeal a quasi-judicial decision of the City Council. Any neighborhood organization or member of the public, whether or not qualified as an "affected party," as defined in Rule 6.302, may participate fully in an informal hearing by requesting additional time to speak at the beginning of the public hearing, and the Council President or the committee chairman, as the case may be, shall grant additional time as necessary to the requesting neighborhood organization or member of the public to allow sufficient time to provide information during the public hearing portion of the hearing, as required under Rule 6.201(e), as long as the information which is being provided will assist the Council in making a complete and informed decision based upon substantial, competent evidence, without unnecessary repetition and delay.

(Ord. 1999-358-E, § 2; Ord. 2007-564-E, § 5; Ord. 2017-318-E , § 8)

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
MIDDLE DISTRICT OF FLORIDA
JACKSONVILLE DIVISION

JACKSONVILLE BRANCH OF THE NAACP; NORTHSIDE COALITION OF JACKSONVILLE, INC.; ACLU OF FLORIDA NORTHEAST CHAPTER; FLORIDA RISING TOGETHER, INC.; MARCELLA WASHINGTON; INGRID MONTGOMERY; AYESHA FRANKLIN; TIFFANIE ROBERTS; ROSEMARY McCOY; SHELIA SINGLETON; EUNICE BARNUM; JANINE WILLIAMS; HARAKA CARSWELL; and DENNIS BARNUM

Plaintiffs,

Case No.: 3:22-cv-493-MMH-LLL

v.

CITY OF JACKSONVILLE and MIKE HOGAN, in his official capacity as Duval County Supervisor of Elections,

Defendants.
_____/

DECLARATION OF DANNY BECTON

1. My name is Danny Becton and I submit this declaration pursuant to 28 U.S.C. §1746. I am over the age of 18 and fully competent to make this declaration.

2. I am a member of the Jacksonville City Council representing District 11. I was initially elected Councilmember by the constituents of District 11 in 2015 and re-elected in 2019.

3. I am a member of the Republican Party.

4. I first became involved in redistricting as a citizen following the 2010 census because I believed that the Southside should have its own council district separate from the Beaches. This resulted in the creation of a relocated District 11 to the east side of the river which also resulted in more compact districts throughout Jacksonville overall.

5. For the 2021-2022 redistricting, I was the Vice Chair of the Special Committee on Redistricting appointed on July 2, 2021 by Council President Newby ("Committee"). The Committee was responsible for, among other things: (1) recommending a person qualified to serve as the Redistricting Consultant, (2) determining what rules must be followed in developing legally defensible districts, (3) developing guidelines for the redistricting process based off of legal considerations, and (4) submitting a final proposed redistricting plan to City Council within 150 days after the U.S. Bureau of the Census certification of the final population count for the City of Jacksonville.

6. The Committee held two meetings in August 2021 where the members discussed: (1) the City of Jacksonville Planning and Development Department (the "Department"), and Mr. Killingsworth's, role in the redistricting process; (2) criteria that the Department should take into account when revising the City Council district boundaries.

7. At its first meeting on August 18, 2021, the Committee unanimously voted to make Mr. Killingsworth, the Director of the City of Jacksonville Planning and Development Department (the "Department"), the Committee's redistricting consultant.

8. The Committee also unanimously agreed that the Department should start the redistricting process based upon the current district boundaries rather than start the redistricting process from scratch. I agreed with this recommendation because it allowed the Council to make the 2011 lines more perfect.

9. Mr. Killingsworth advised that had it not been for District 11's growth of approximately 17,000 people, the Council lines may not have needed to change at all.

10. I voted to start from the 2011 existing District boundaries for several reasons. First, the Department had started from scratch in 2010 and created new district boundaries; these new lines might only need minimal changes, especially north and west of the St. Johns River. Also, only one of the 14 City Council Districts – District 11 – had substantial growth which needed to be accounted for in the 2022 redistricting process, so it seemed natural to start from that district and see "where the dominoes fell" as we incorporated the population changes. In addition,

starting with the previous lines would help protect incumbents from being drawn out of their current districts.

11. At the August 24, 2021, Committee meeting, the Committee provided Mr. Killingsworth several additional considerations to take into account during the redistricting process.

12. On August 24, the Committee unanimously agreed upon the following criteria relating to the redistricting process: (1) continue using total population numbers - instead of voting age population - to comply with the one person/one vote standard; (2) not draw incumbents outside of their current districts; (3) minimize river crossings, but recognizing that it may not be possible to eliminate all river crossings; and (4) not expediting the redistricting process, but rather adhering to the normal redistricting timeline.

13. Additional criteria, such as compact contiguous districts and considering communities of interest, were also discussed.

14. However, Paige Johnston, from the Office of General Counsel advised that these criteria – as well as others – were already contained in Section 18.01 of the City's Ordinance Code.

15. Ms. Johnston advised that a motion to provide these criteria to the Department was not necessary because it would have to follow these guidelines when redistricting the City Council district lines.

16. These considerations established the baseline and starting point for that the Department to work from in generating new District lines.

17. In addition to the Committee's unanimously agreed upon guidelines stated above, other factors were taken into consideration by individual City Council members as it related to redistricting of their specific Districts.

18. Prior to the 2022 redistricting process, District 11 spanned the southeasternmost portion of Duval County. The primary change that occurred to District 11 was to its northern and southwestern boundary. A true and correct copy of the 2011 and 2022 boundaries of District 11 are attached hereto as Exhibit A.

19. According to the 2020 decennial census, District 11's total population was 90,767 people. District 11 had the largest population growth in the County.

20. Mr. Killingsworth, the Director of the Planning and Development Department for the City of Jacksonville and City consultant for the redistricting process, advised that in order to comply with the one person/one vote standard required by the United States Constitution, each of the 14 City Council Districts needed to have an approximate total population of 71,000.

21. According to the 2020 census numbers, District 11 needed to lose substantial population to meet the acceptable population deviation.

22. Starting from the existing City Council district boundaries to equalize the population was the most important factor leading to my advocacy for District 11's new boundaries.

23. As a result of the redistricting, District 11 lost 17,304 people, primarily along the northern and southwestern borders.

24. I understand "communities of interest" to encompass numerous and various descriptors, including the criteria stated in the Ordinance Code – the varied economic, social and ethnic interests and objectives of the citizens of Jacksonville – as well as people with similar political affiliation, people who share similar political concerns, shared racial or ethnic backgrounds, communities with a common history, cultural communities, economic communities, and types of housing. For instance, when I participated in the 2011 redistricting as a citizen, I did so because the Beaches were a vastly different community of interest than the Southside, where I resided. The citizens in each of these communities had vastly different collective concerns, and each group deserved its own representative on the City Council.

25. I never used the term "communities of interest" to solely mean "race," and I do not think the phrase has such a narrow definition.

26. At no point during the redistricting process did I aim to set a specific racial target population for District 11 or any other City Council District.

27. Based on my recollections of the redistricting process, race was only rarely discussed, and in no way was the core factor that influenced the Council's redistricting decisions.

28. At the December 6, 2021 meeting I did state I was concerned that the inclusion of narrow racial categories on the proposed maps made it inadvertently appear that the Committee was considering race.

29. Mr. Killingsworth explained that the data included on the table with the map was taken directly from the census information.

30. According to Mr. Killingsworth, the census data comes with numerous categories of data. Because of the size of the census data set, it was impossible to include the entire table with all its various categories on the map.

31. Because of the amount of the census data, the Department made the decision to include only the information relating to those people who identified as a single race, rather than the multiple other categories included by the census. The Department did not initially include the information relating to persons who identified as multiple races, but could include such information in the legislation as an attachment to the map.

32. Mr. Killingsworth's explanation made sense and I supported the inclusion of the additional census data with the proposed maps.

33. After receiving Mr. Killingsworth's explanation, I was not concerned that race was the factor driving the Council's redistricting decisions.

34. When I voted in favor of Ordinance 2022-01-E and the District lines contained therein, I did not do so in any way because of racial concerns.

35. I voted in favor of Ordinance 2022-01-E because I believed that the District lines contained therein are constitutional and that the maps achieved the objectives of the committee. We accounted for population growth and met the ten percent deviation requirements. In addition, we did our best to minimize river crossings, which was one of my priorities. Another priority was maintaining the continuity of the existing districts, which was also satisfied by this Ordinance. I believed that the Committee had done a thorough job as evidenced by several meetings with Councilmembers and citizens of the affected districts as well as the public at large.

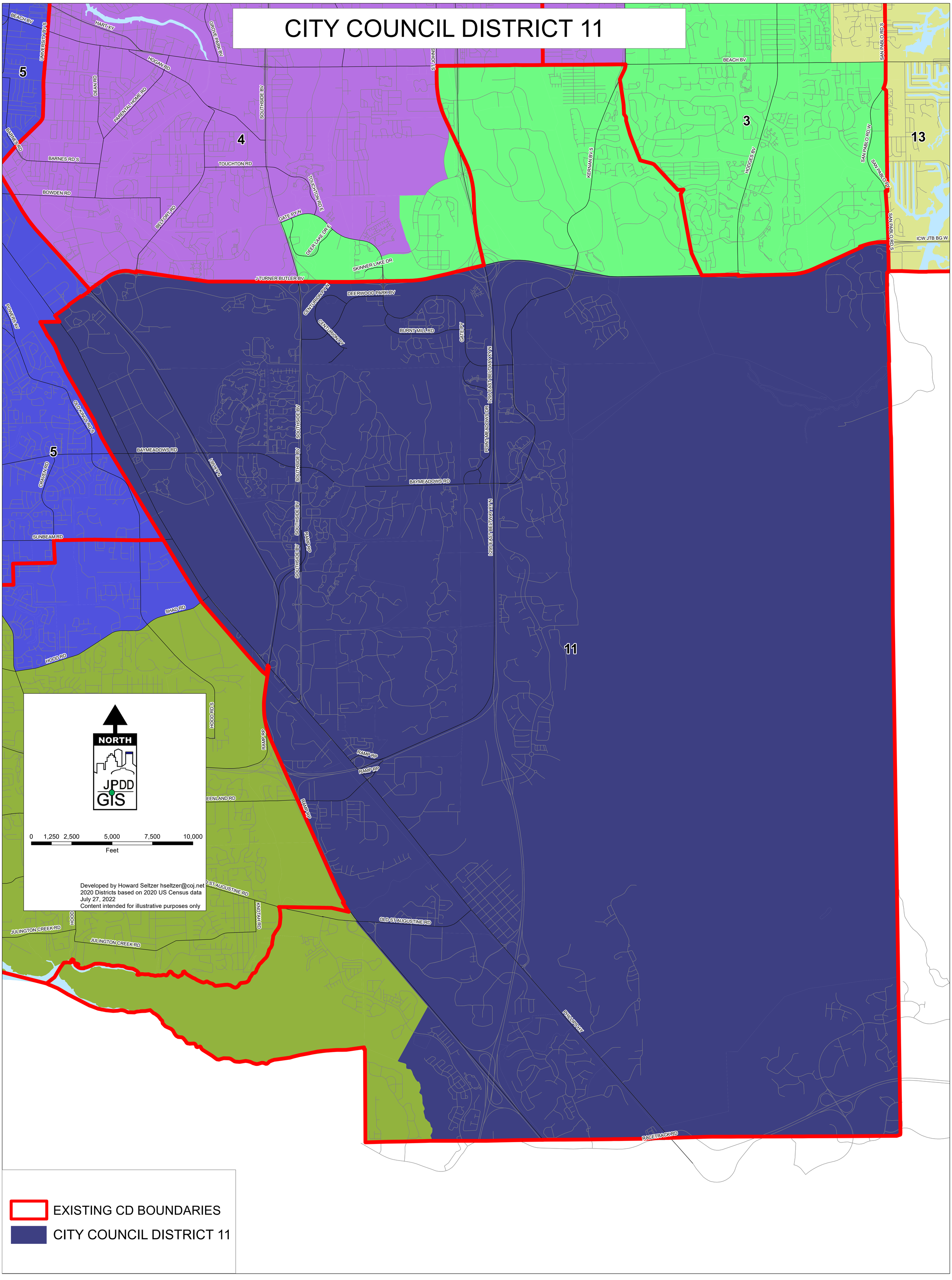
I declare and state under penalty of perjury, that the foregoing is true and correct.

Executed this 9th day of August, 2022, in Duval County, Florida.

DANNY BECTON

EXHIBIT A

CITY COUNCIL DISTRICT 11



UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
MIDDLE DISTRICT OF FLORIDA
JACKSONVILLE DIVISION

JACKSONVILLE BRANCH OF THE NAACP; NORTHSIDE COALITION OF JACKSONVILLE, INC.; ACLU OF FLORIDA NORTHEAST CHAPTER; FLORIDA RISING TOGETHER, INC.; MARCELLA WASHINGTON; INGRID MONTGOMERY; AYESHA FRANKLIN; TIFFANIE ROBERTS; ROSEMARY McCOY; SHELIA SINGLETON; EUNICE BARNUM; JANINE WILLIAMS; HARAKA CARSWELL; and DENNIS BARNUM

Plaintiffs,

Case No.: 3:22-cv-493-MMH-LLL

v.

CITY OF JACKSONVILLE and MIKE HOGAN, in his official capacity as Duval County Supervisor of Elections,

Defendants.
_____/

DECLARATION OF AARON BOWMAN

1. My name is Aaron Bowman and I submit this declaration pursuant to 28 U.S.C. §1746. I am over the age of 18 and fully competent to make this declaration.

2. I am a member of the Jacksonville City Council representing District 3. I was initially elected Councilmember by the constituents of District 3 in 2015 and re-elected in 2019.

3. I am a member of the Republican Party.

4. I was the Chair of the Special Committee on Redistricting appointed on July 2, 2021 by Council President Newby ("Committee"). The Committee was responsible for, among other things: (1) recommending a person qualified to serve as the Redistricting Consultant, (2) determining what rules must be followed in developing legally defensible districts, (3) developing guidelines for the redistricting process based off of legal considerations, and (4) submitting a final proposed redistricting plan to City Council within 150 days after the U.S. Bureau of the Census certification of the final population count for the City of Jacksonville.

5. The Committee held two meetings in August 2021 where the members discussed: (1) the City of Jacksonville Planning and Development Department (the "Department"), and Mr. Killingsworth's, role in the redistricting process; (2) criteria that the Department should take into account when revising the City Council district boundaries.

6. At its first meeting on August 18, 2021, the Committee unanimously voted to make Mr. Killingsworth, the Director of the City of Jacksonville Planning and Development Department (the "Department"), the Committee's redistricting consultant.

7. I had reached out to Mr. Killingsworth prior to the August meetings because of his knowledge about the City's growth and permitting as well as his

experience with the previous redistricting process. He recommended that the Department should start the redistricting process based upon the current district boundaries rather than start the redistricting process from scratch. At the August 18, 2021 meeting, the Committee unanimously agreed to follow this recommendation.

8. Mr. Killingsworth advised that had it not been for District 11's growth of approximately 17,000 people, the Council lines may not have needed to change at all.

9. I voted to start from the 2011 existing District boundaries because: (1) the Department had started from scratch in 2010 and created new district boundaries; (2) only one of the 14 City Council Districts – District 11 – had substantial growth which needed to be accounted for in the 2022 redistricting process; and (3) it would help protect incumbents from being drawn out of their current districts. I was also concerned about minimizing the impact of redistricting on School Board Districts, which are based on the City Council District boundaries.

10. Starting the redistricting process from the existing District boundaries was the first, and in my mind, most important factor provided to the Department for the redistricting process.

11. At the August 24, 2021, Committee meeting, the Committee provided Mr. Killingsworth several additional considerations to take into account during the redistricting process.

12. On August 24, 2021 the Committee unanimously agreed to follow several criteria relating to the redistricting process. First, the Committee agreed to continue using total population numbers - instead of voting age population - to comply with the one person/one vote standard. This would take into account people who were not yet old enough to vote but would "age-in" to voting before the next redistricting in ten years. Second, the Committee wanted to avoid drawing incumbents outside of their current districts, to provide continuity to their constituents as well as to protect people who had filed to run in at-large Districts. In addition, the Committee wanted to minimize river crossings to the extent possible, recognizing that it may not be possible to eliminate all river crossings. Finally, rather than expediting the redistricting process, the Committee chose to adhere to the normal redistricting timeline.

13. Additional criteria such as compact, contiguous districts, and considering communities of interest were also discussed.

14. However, Paige Johnston, from the Office of General Counsel advised that these criteria – as well as others – were already contained in the Ordinance

Code and that the Department would have to follow those guidelines when redistricting the City Council district lines.

15. A copy of the relevant Code provision that was discussed is attached as Exhibit A. (Sec. 18.01).

16. Ms. Johnston advised that a motion to provide these criteria to the Department was not necessary.

17. These considerations established the baseline and starting point for that the Department to work from in generating new District lines.

18. In addition to the Committee's unanimously agreed upon guidelines stated above, other factors were taken into consideration by individual City Council members as it related to redistricting of their specific Districts.

19. One factor that arose during the redistricting process was wanting public facilities, like libraries or schools, within the geographic boundaries.

20. A second was the political affiliation of the constituents in the areas that were being shifted into or out of a District.

21. The first maps presented with regard to the southern districts attempted to eliminate District 2's river crossing, but this would cause too many drastic changes in several district.

22. It was agreed that eliminating crossing the St. Johns River was causing too many problems with part of the southern districts and defeating the other Committee goals.

23. Councilmember Becton reminded the councilmembers that the goal was to minimize river crossings, not necessarily eliminate them.

24. Mr. Killingsworth was given direction to permit District 2 to cross the river and provide updated District boundary options.

25. Prior to the 2022 redistricting process, District 3 was based in the area south of the St. Johns River, north of J. Turner Butler Boulevard, and immediately west of the Intracoastal Waterway. The primary change that occurred to District 3 was to its eastern and western boundaries. A true and correct copy of the 2011 and 2022 boundaries of District 3 are attached hereto as Exhibit B.

26. According to the 2020 decennial census, District 3's total population was 72,561 people.

27. Mr. Killingsworth, the Director of the Planning and Development Department for the City of Jacksonville and City consultant for the redistricting process, advised that in order to comply with the one person/one vote standard required by the United States Constitution, each of the 14 City Council Districts needed to have an approximate total population of 71,000.

28. According to the 2020 census numbers, District 3 did not need to gain or lose any population to meet the acceptable population deviation. However, because of the population growth of District 11, it was likely that District 3's borders would be revised.

29. Minimizing changes to the existing boundaries and maintaining communities of interest were the most important factors leading to my advocacy for District 3's new boundaries.

30. One of the areas added to District 3 was the Town Center area, with several apartment complexes that fit in with the existing community of interest surrounding the University of North Florida.

31. As a result of the redistricting, District 3 gained 1,841 people, primarily along the western border.

32. The term "communities of interest" includes numerous factors, including location near and access to major roads, business areas, and natural resources. It takes into account factors such as lot size, single-family vs. multifamily housing, and zoning. Certain areas naturally attract people with particular interests, such as having more boaters in District 2, horse owners in the more rural Westside districts, and beachgoers in District 13. The term also encompasses the categories of "economic, social, and ethnic interest and objectives" noted in the Jacksonville Ordinance Code.

33. I never used the term "communities of interest" as a euphemism solely for race, nor do I understand the term to be defined so narrowly.

34. At no point during the redistricting process did I aim to set a specific racial target population for District 3 or any other City Council District.

35. My understanding is that the racial balance of some Districts was discussed during the redistricting process out of a concern to neither pack nor dilute the votes of minority citizens. However, my understanding is that these concerns represented only some of many considerations that influenced the Council's redistricting decisions, and did not predominate over all others.

36. I voted in favor of Ordinance 2022-01-E because I believed that the District lines contained therein comport are constitutional and solved all of the issues faced by the Committee. It produced fair districts keeping in mind the similar interests of those in the communities in the districts. The committee met the timelines, completing the work in three and a half months (since we started with the existing lines). The population guidelines were met. Citizens provided input at the well-publicized meetings (even though those meetings were poorly attended). The district lines reflected the consensus of the Council and met the legal requirements and the charge of the committee.

37. My vote in favor of Ordinance 2022-01-E and the District lines contained therein was not predominately driven by race.

38. A copy of the City Council district lines approved in Ordinance 2022-01-E is attached as Exhibit C.

I declare and state under penalty of perjury, that the foregoing is true and correct.

Executed this 9 day of August, 2022, in Duval County, Florida.

AARON BOWMAN

EXHIBIT A

Chapter 18 REDISTRICTING OF COUNCIL AND SCHOOL BOARD DISTRICTS[1]

Sec. 18.101. Legislative findings.

The Council finds and determines as follows:

(a) Charter Sections 5.02 and 13.03 impose upon the Council the duty and responsibility of redistricting the Council districts and the School Board districts;

(b) In making this redistricting, the Council is obligated to insure that all districts are as nearly equal in population and are arranged in as logical and compact a geographical pattern as it is possible to achieve and to insure that all federal and state constitutions, laws and requirements are complied with;

(c) While the Council districts are based upon population with respect to their size, the geographical arrangement and territorial boundaries of the districts must take into consideration other factors, particularly compactness and contiguity, so that the people of the City, and their varied economic, social and ethnic interests and objectives, are adequately represented in the Council; and

(d) This chapter is enacted in order to set forth legislative policy, to provide for appropriate public input, and to provide for an adequate review of the redistricting plan before it is enacted into law.

(Ord. 81-827-390, § 1; Ord. 83-591-400, § 1; Ord. 90-765-354, § 1; Ord. 2012-74-E, § 1)

Editor's note(s)—A reference in this Section to § 11.03 of the Charter has been changed to reflect the correct Section, § 13.03.

Note(s)—Former § 4.101.

Sec. 18.102. Definitions.

In this chapter, unless the context indicates otherwise:

(a) *Census* means the official decennial census master enumeration district list published by the Bureau of the Census and containing the population figures for the City.

(b) *Department* means the Planning and Development Department.

(c) *Director* means the Director of Planning and Development.

(d) District means one of the 14 Council districts into which the General Services District is required to be divided by Section 5.01 of the Charter.

(e) Plan means a plan or scheme for the redistricting of Council districts, which shall also be a redistricting of School Board districts by operation of Section 13.03 of the Charter.

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[1]Editor's note(s)—Ord. 2012-74-E, § 1, amended the title of Ch. 18. Formerly, Ch. 18 was entitled "Reapportionment of Council and School Board Districts."

Charter reference(s)—Reapportionment of council districts, § 5.02; school board districts, § 13.02; apportionment of school board districts, § 13.03.

(f) Redistricting Committee means the committee of the Council appointed by the President to study redistricting and draft a redistricting plan; such committee may be a special committee or a standing committee designated as the Redistricting Committee; such committee's duties will terminate with the submission of a proposed plan to the Council.

(g) Redistricting Consultant or Consultant means the Department or a person, partnership, corporation or entity requested or hired by the Council to assist the Council in drafting a redistricting plan.

(Ord. 81-827-390, § 1; Ord. 83-591-400, § 1; Ord. 90-765-354, § 2; Ord. 2012-74-E, § 1)

Note(s)—Former § 4.102.

Sec. 18.103. Reserved.

Editor's note(s)—The provisions of former § 18.103, relative to time for reapportionment, were deleted as part of the Super Supplement to the Code. Former § 18.103 derived from Ord. 81-827-390, § 1; and Ord. 83-591-400, § 1.

Note(s)—Former § 4.103.

Sec. 18.104. Preparation of plan.

Whenever the Council President deems appropriate, but no more than six months after the official date for the taking of the decennial census, the President shall appoint a special committee or designate a standing committee to serve as a Redistricting Committee. The Redistricting Committee shall investigate possible persons or entities, including the Planning Department, qualified to serve as a Redistricting Consultant. If it deems appropriate, the Redistricting Committee shall send out a request for proposals. After it has completed its investigation, the Redistricting Consultant shall present to the Council the names of the persons or entities recommended to be chosen as the Redistricting Consultant. Such selection shall be based on professional qualifications and experience in redistricting. Unless the Department is chosen, the hiring of a Redistricting Consultant shall follow the Purchasing Code, except that the final choice of the Redistricting Consultant shall be made by the Council. In addition, the Redistricting Committee shall adopt a schedule for preparation of a plan to be submitted to the Council. Within 150 days after U.S. Bureau of the Census certification of the final population count for the City, the Redistricting Committee will submit to the Council a final proposed plan pursuant to Section 18.106. The Redistricting Committee shall have available all alternative plans considered but not recommended. If the Department is not requested to be the Redistricting Consultant, the Department shall advise the Council and the Redistricting Committee with regard to any matter the Council deems advisable.

(Ord. 81-827-390, § 1; Ord. 83-591-400, § 1; Ord. 90-765-354, § 3; Ord. 91-759-252, § 1; Ord. 2012-74-E, § 1)

Note(s)—Former § 4.104.

Sec. 18.105. Reserved.

Editor's note(s)—Former § 18.105 which pertained to guidelines and derived from § 1 of Ord. 81-827-390 and § 1 of Ord. 83-591-400, was repealed by § 4 of Ord. 90-765-354.

Sec. 18.106. Transmission of plan to Council; report.

Not later than 150 days after the census is published, the Redistricting Committee shall transmit to the Council the proposed plan. The plan shall be in the form of an ordinance, introduced by the Redistricting

Committee, amending Appendix 1 of the Charter to substitute for the then-existing district boundaries, the proposed district boundaries. The plan shall be accompanied by a report containing the following information:

(a) A map of the General Services District showing both the existing district boundaries and the proposed district boundaries;

(b) A table indicating the population of each proposed district and the variations of each such population from the population average for all the districts, with an explanation of the variation in each district;

(c) A statement of the methodology used in arriving at the particular plan recommended by the Redistricting Committee;

(d) An appendix of any other redistricting plans considered or created by the Redistricting Committee in the process of creating the recommended plan, with the reasons for rejection of each such redistricting plan; and

(e) Comments and recommendations deemed necessary or advisable by the Redistricting Committee to explain or illustrate the plan.

(Ord. 81-827-390, § 1; Ord. 83-591-400, § 1; Ord. 90-765-354, § 4; Ord. 91-759-252, § 2; Ord. 2012-74-E, § 1)

Note(s)—Former § 4.106.

Sec. 18.107. Reference to Rules Committee; public hearings; report.

(a) As soon as the plan is received by the Council Secretary, it shall be referred to the Rules Committee. The ordinance amending the Charter shall be introduced at the next regular Council meeting following its reception by the Council Secretary, but the Rules Committee may begin consideration of the ordinance as soon as it is referred. It shall not be in order at any time to move for the enactment of the ordinance as an emergency measure. It shall not be in order to move for withdrawal of the ordinance from the Rules Committee, less than 60 days after the ordinance has been referred to the Rules Committee. The ordinance shall be a priority item of business of the Rules Committee, and the Rules Committee shall consider and report the ordinance with all deliberate speed. The Redistricting Consultant shall provide all necessary information and support to the Rules Committee, and the Director shall advise the Rules Committee during its deliberations or provide it with knowledgeable staff personnel.

(b) The Rules Committee shall hold not less than three public hearings, at three separate places in the City, on the ordinance and the plan. The public hearings shall be advertised and held in accordance with the Council rules, and they shall be held after five p.m. and on any day except Sunday. Copies of the ordinance, the plan and the report of the Redistricting Consultant shall be made available to the public upon request and shall be available at the places where the public hearings are held. Written comments or views submitted by members of the public shall be made a part of the official record of the proceedings. The Rules Committee shall consider the testimony heard and evidence received at the public hearings, but it shall not be bound by them nor confined in its deliberations to them. These public hearings shall be completed not later than 45 days after the ordinance is referred to the Rules Committee.

(c) As soon as practicable, but not less than 15 days, after the public hearings have been completed, the Rules Committee shall report the ordinance to the Council. If the Council adopts amendments to the ordinance which substantially change the boundary lines of the proposed districts, the ordinance shall be recommitted to the Rules Committee and it shall hold additional public hearings to receive the comments and views of those persons who are or would be affected by the amendments. All such additional public hearings shall be completed not later than 75 days after the ordinance was originally referred to the Rules Committee, and the Rules Committee shall report the ordinance as amended as soon as practicable after the additional public hearings are completed.

(Ord. 81-827-390, § 1; Ord. 83-591-400, § 1; Ord. 90-765-354, § 4; Ord. 2012-74-E, § 1)

Note(s)—Former § 4.107.

Sec. 18.108. Enactment of ordinance; effective date of redistricted districts.

The ordinance amending Appendix 1 of the Charter shall be enacted by the Council according to its rules, except as provided in Section 18.107. The ordinance shall become effective at the time therein stated, but the redistricted districts shall not become effective for the purpose of electing members of the Council until the next general Consolidated Government election which occurs at least nine months after the enactment of the ordinance.

(Ord. 81-827-390, § 1; Ord. 83-591-400, § 1; Ord. 90-765-354, § 4; Ord. 2012-74-E, § 1)

Note(s)—Former § 4.108.

Sec. 18.109. Redistricting by Circuit Court.

If the Council has not enacted a plan within eight months after the official publication of the census, the Council Secretary shall certify this fact to the General Counsel. The General Counsel shall forthwith petition the Circuit Court for the Fourth Judicial Circuit to make the redistricting required by the Charter and this chapter. An order of the Circuit Court making the redistricting shall be considered the same as an ordinance amending Appendix 1 of the Charter, and shall be given the same effect under this chapter. The redistricting order shall be included in the printed Charter in the same manner as an ordinance amending Appendix 1 thereof.

(Ord. 81-827-390, § 1; Ord. 83-591-400, § 1; Ord. 2012-74-E, § 1)

Editor's note(s)—Ord. 82-490-191, § 1 permitted approval of the 1980 reapportionment plan not later than June 22, 1982, notwithstanding that this date extended beyond the period allowed by this Section.

Note(s)—Former § 4.109.

Sec. 18.110. Effect on School Board districts.

The redistricting of the 14 Council districts shall automatically redistrict the School Board districts, as provided in Section 13.02 of the Charter. The description of the School Board districts contained in Appendix 2 of the Charter shall determine the Council districts comprising each School Board district. The Council may, by ordinance, amend Appendix 2 of the Charter, to change the Council districts comprising each School Board district, subject to the requirements of Section 13.03 of the Charter, which shall also be considered a redistricting. Any redistricting of School Board districts shall not affect any term of office in existence at the time the redistricting becomes effective, but shall be applicable at the next School Board election which occurs at least nine months after the redistricting.

(Ord. 81-827-390, § 1; Ord. 83-591-400, § 1; Ord. 90-765-354, § 4; Ord. 2012-74-E, § 1)

Note(s)—Former § 4.110.

Sec. 18.111. Effect on appointive offices.

A change in the division of the City into districts shall not vacate or otherwise affect the office of any member of an appointed board, commission or independent agency who is serving at the time the redistricting becomes official and who was appointed by reference to a district as it existed at the time such member was appointed. A

member shall continue to represent the district in which he resided at the time of his appointment until the expiration of his term or until he resigns from the board, commission or independent agency, notwithstanding that, as a result of the redistricting, the member no longer resides in the district from which he was appointed.

(Ord. 81-827-390, § 1; Ord. 83-591-400, § 1; Ord. 2012-74-E, § 1)

Note(s)—Former § 4.111.

Sec. 18.112. Post-enactment of Redistricting.

The Council Secretary/Director shall comply with the post-redistricting enactment requirements of F.S. § 124.02 (Notice of change of boundaries of district to be given by publication), § 124.03 (Description of district boundaries to be furnished Department of State), and § 1001.36 (District school board member residence areas), as may be amended from time to time.

(Ord. 2012-74-E, § 1)

Note(s)—Former § 4.111.

EXHIBIT B

CITY COUNCIL DISTRICT 3

EXISTING CD BOUNDARIES

CITY COUNCIL DISTRICT 3

NORTH

JPDD GIS

0 900 1,800 3,600 5,400 7,200

Feet

Developed by Howard Seltzer hseltzer@coj.net
2020 Districts based on 2020 US Census data
July 27, 2022
Content intended for illustrative purposes only

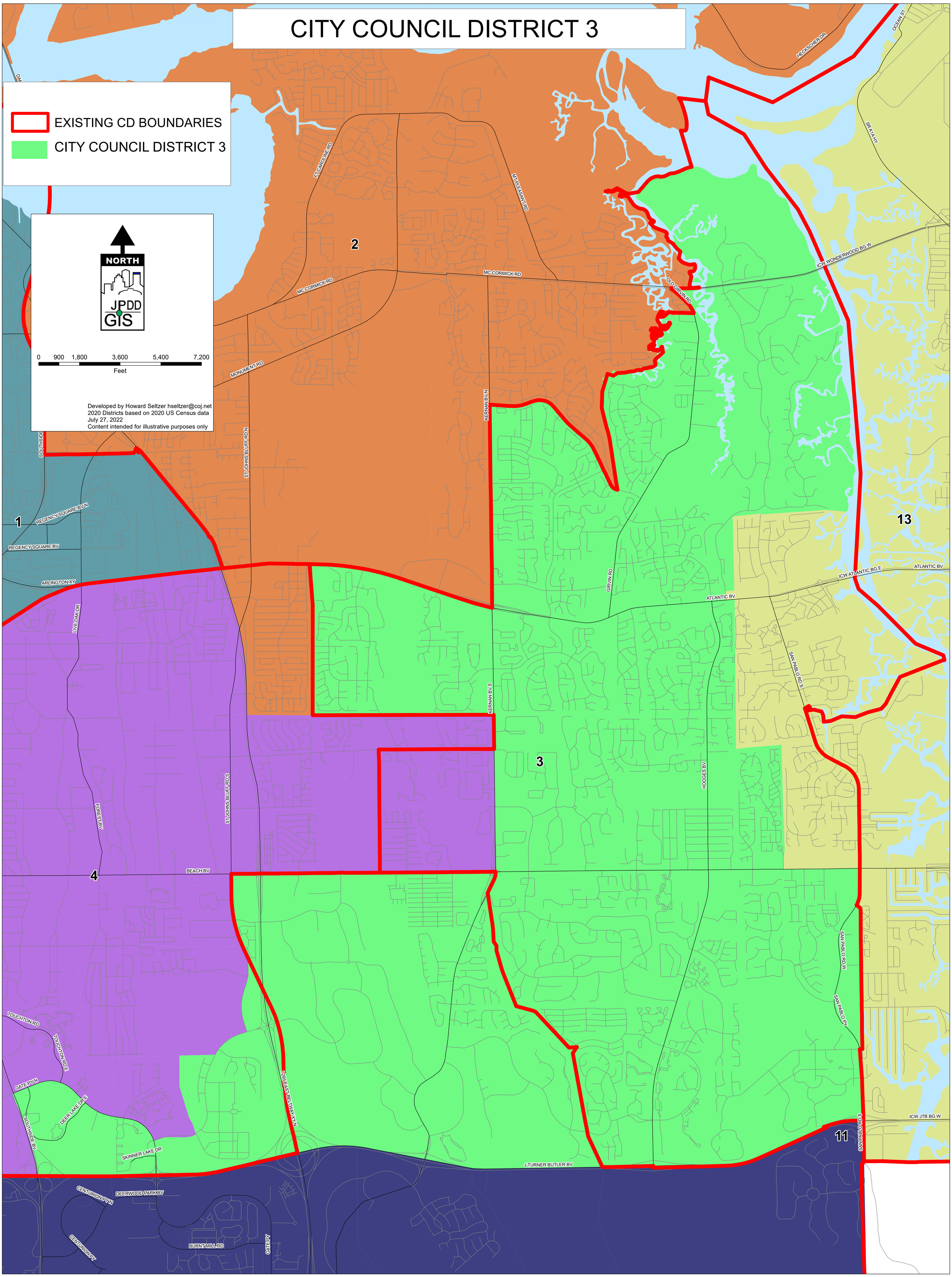
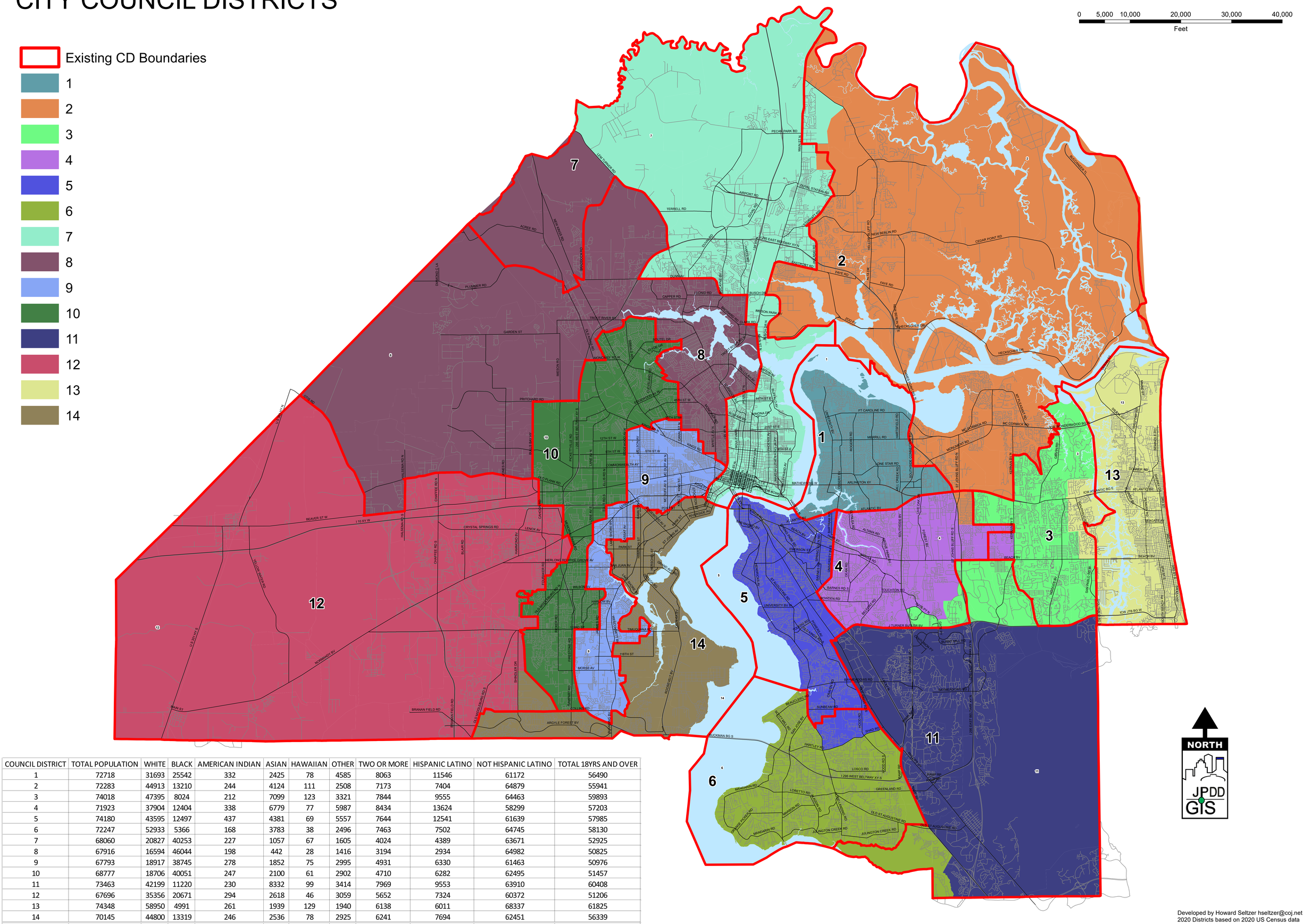


EXHIBIT C

CITY COUNCIL DISTRICTS



COUNCIL DISTRICT	TOTAL POPULATION	WHITE	BLACK	AMERICAN INDIAN	ASIAN	HAWAIIAN	OTHER	TWO OR MORE	HISPANIC LATINO	NOT HISPANIC LATINO	TOTAL 18YRS AND OVER
1	72718	31693	25542	332	2425	78	4585	8063	11546	61172	56490
2	72283	44913	13210	244	4124	111	2508	7173	7404	64879	55941
3	74018	47395	8024	212	7099	123	3321	7844	9555	64463	59893
4	71923	37904	12404	338	6779	77	5987	8434	13624	58299	57203
5	74180	43595	12497	437	4381	69	5557	7644	12541	61639	57985
6	72247	52933	5366	168	3783	38	2496	7463	7502	64745	58130
7	68060	20827	40253	227	1057	67	1605	4024	4389	63671	52925
8	67916	16594	46044	198	442	28	1416	3194	2934	64982	50825
9	67793	18917	38745	278	1852	75	2995	4931	6330	61463	50976
10	68777	18706	40051	247	2100	61	2902	4710	6282	62495	51457
11	73463	42199	11220	230	8332	99	3414	7969	9553	63910	60408
12	67696	35356	20671	294	2618	46	3059	5652	7324	60372	51206
13	74348	58950	4991	261	1939	129	1940	6138	6011	68337	61825
14	70145	44800	13319	246	2536	78	2925	6241	7694	62451	56339
TOTAL	**995567**	**514782**	**292337**	**3712**	**49467**	**1079**	**44710**	**89480**	**112689**	**882878**	**781603**

Developed by Howard Seltzer hseltzer@coj.net
2020 Districts based on 2020 US Census data
March 22, 2022
Content intended for illustrative purposes only

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
MIDDLE DISTRICT OF FLORIDA
JACKSONVILLE DIVISION

JACKSONVILLE BRANCH OF THE NAACP; NORTHSIDE COALITION OF JACKSONVILLE, INC.; ACLU OF FLORIDA NORTHEAST CHAPTER; FLORIDA RISING TOGETHER, INC.; MARCELLA WASHINGTON; INGRID MONTGOMERY; AYESHA FRANKLIN; TIFFANIE ROBERTS; ROSEMARY McCOY; SHELIA SINGLETON; EUNICE BARNUM; JANINE WILLIAMS; HARAKA CARSWELL; and DENNIS BARNUM

Plaintiffs,

Case No.: 3:22-cv-493-MMH-LLL

v.

CITY OF JACKSONVILLE and MIKE HOGAN, in his official capacity as Duval County Supervisor of Elections,

Defendants.
_____/

DECLARATION OF MICHAEL BOYLAN

1. My name is Michael Boylan and I submit this declaration pursuant to 28 U.S.C. §1746. I am over the age of 18 and fully competent to make this declaration.

2. I am a member of the Jacksonville City Council representing District 6. I was initially elected Councilmember by the constituents of District 6 in 2019.

3. I am a member of the Republican Party.

4. Prior to the 2022 redistricting process, District 6 consisted of the southwesternmost portion of Duval County south of the St. Johns River, commonly known as the Mandarin area. The primary change that occurred to District 6 in 2022 was to its northern and southern boundaries. A true and correct copy of the 2011 and 2022 boundaries of District 6 are attached hereto as Exhibit A.

5. According to the 2020 decennial census, District 6's total population was 71,346 people.

6. During the redistricting process, Bill Killingsworth, the Director of the Planning and Development Department for the City of Jacksonville and City consultant for the redistricting process, advised that in order to comply with the one person/one vote standard required by the United States Constitution, each of the 14 City Council Districts needed to have an approximate total population of 71,000.

7. Based on the 2020 census numbers, the boundaries of District 6 could have stayed essentially the same to meet the acceptable population deviation. However, the boundaries were going to be affected slightly due to the significant population growth in the neighboring District 11. These changed boundaries would also be affected by any changes to District 5, which also borders District 11.

8. Because there were going to have to be significant compromises with regard to the boundaries of Districts 5, 6, and 11, I was primarily concerned with maintaining the cohesiveness and continuity of District 6 in drawing the new boundaries.

9. As a result of the redistricting, District 6 gained 901 people, primarily along the southern border.

10. I never used the term "communities of interest" as a substitute solely for race, nor do I consider it to have such a narrow definition. Instead, I understand "communities of interest" to encompass numerous and various descriptors, including the criteria stated in the Ordinance Code – the varied economic, social and ethnic interests and objectives of the citizens of Jacksonville – as well as people with similar political affiliation, similar neighborhood characteristics (such as the tree-lined streets and historic areas of Mandarin), and unique infrastructure needs that are benefitted by continued representation.

11. I never had a goal during the redistricting process offsetting a specific race-based target number for the population of District 6 or any other City Council District.

12. Although race may have been acknowledged or discussed with regard to some Districts during the process, it was never a criterion or a priority in drawing the district lines.

13. I voted in favor of Ordinance 2022-01-E because I believed that the District lines contained therein comport with the law and met the goals of redistricting. These goals included keeping the cohesiveness and character of each district, not crossing the river unless absolutely necessary, and applying the redistricting principles consistently throughout the City while meeting the population deviation standards. I supported the work of the committee and believe in the process, particularly because there was ample opportunity for community engagement.

14. My vote in favor of Ordinance 2022-01-E and the District lines contained therein was not predominantly driven by race.

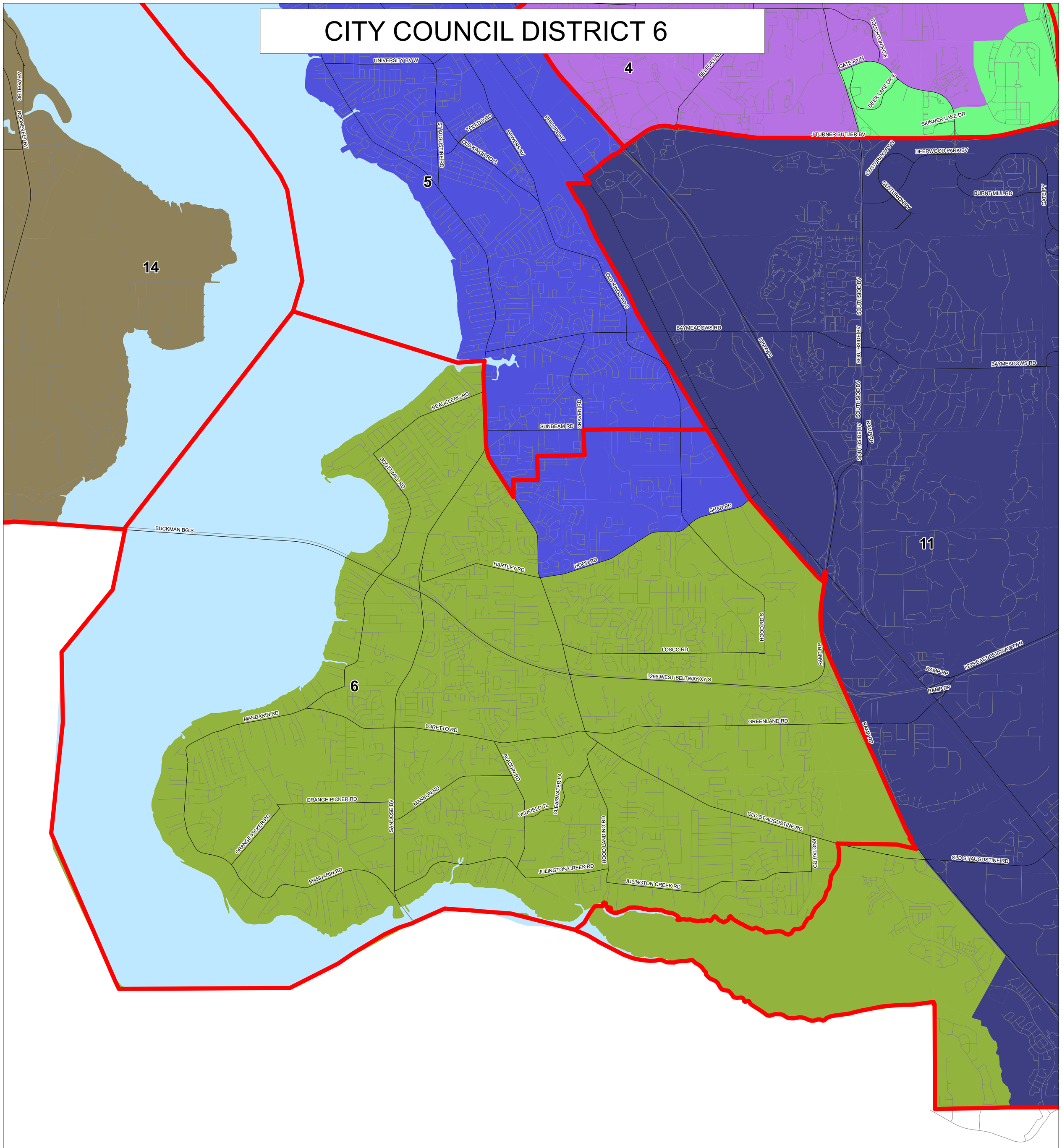
I declare and state under penalty of perjury, that the foregoing is true and correct.

Executed this 9th day of August, 2022, in Duval County, Florida.

MICHAEL BOYLAN

EXHIBIT A

CITY COUNCIL DISTRICT 6



EXISTING CD BOUNDARIES

CITY COUNCIL DISTRICT 6

NORTH

JPDD GIS

0 1,250 2,500 5,000 7,500 10,000

Feet

Developed by Howard Seltzer hseltzer@coj.net
2020 Districts based on 2020 US Census data
July 27, 2022
Content intended for illustrative purposes only

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
MIDDLE DISTRICT OF FLORIDA
JACKSONVILLE DIVISION

JACKSONVILLE BRANCH OF THE NAACP; NORTHSIDE COALITION OF JACKSONVILLE, INC.; ACLU OF FLORIDA NORTHEAST CHAPTER; FLORIDA RISING TOGETHER, INC.; MARCELLA WASHINGTON; INGRID MONTGOMERY; AYESHA FRANKLIN; TIFFANIE ROBERTS; ROSEMARY McCOY; SHELIA SINGLETON; EUNICE BARNUM; JANINE WILLIAMS; HARAKA CARSWELL; and DENNIS BARNUM

Plaintiffs,

Case No.: 3:22-cv-493-MMH-LLL

v.

CITY OF JACKSONVILLE and MIKE HOGAN, in his official capacity as Duval County Supervisor of Elections,

Defendants.
_____/

DECLARATION OF MATTHEW F. CARLUCCI

1. My name is Matthew F. Carlucci and I submit this declaration pursuant to 28 U.S.C. §1746. I am over the age of 18 and fully competent to make this declaration.

2. I am a member of the Jacksonville City Council representing At-Large Group 4. I was elected to this position in 2019, and previously served as the At-Large Councilmember for this group from 1987 to 1994. In addition, I was elected

to serve the voters of City Council District 5 from 1999 to 2003. I served as City Council President from 2001 to 2002.

3. I am a member of the Republican Party who believes that party politics should not play a role in local government.

4. I was the Chair of the Redistricting Committee in 2000-2001. I also participated in the redistricting process as a City Council member after the 1990 census. The lines drawn during the 2022 redistricting are vastly different from those drawn during those previous cycles.

5. At no point during the current redistricting process did I aim to set a specific racial target population for any City Council District. I believe that the districts were drawn with the goal of making the districts safe for particular political parties.

6. I voted in favor of Ordinance 2022-01-E because, having previously chaired a Redistricting Committee, I understood the complexities of the process. Over time, however, I have come to believe that lines drawn in that manner were driven by partisanship. I would have preferred district lines that more accurately reflect the population of Jacksonville as a whole. To me, this is even more true in light of recent political division as it pertains to various issues. Going forward, I believe future councils should aspire to draw district lines more politically diverse and less partisan, which would enhance total representation of the Consolidated

City of Jacksonville and hold Council members to greater accountability. In the meantime, it is my hope that we begin to change our culture of representation to reflect a nonpartisan approach and blaze a trail of more racial unity.

I declare and state under penalty of perjury that the foregoing is true and correct.

Executed this 12th day of August, 2022, in Duval County, Florida.

MATTHEW F. CARLUCCI

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
MIDDLE DISTRICT OF FLORIDA
JACKSONVILLE DIVISION

JACKSONVILLE BRANCH OF THE NAACP; NORTHSIDE COALITION OF JACKSONVILLE, INC.; ACLU OF FLORIDA NORTHEAST CHAPTER; FLORIDA RISING TOGETHER, INC.; MARCELLA WASHINGTON; INGRID MONTGOMERY; AYESHA FRANKLIN; TIFFANIE ROBERTS; ROSEMARY McCOY; SHELIA SINGLETON; EUNICE BARNUM; JANINE WILLIAMS; HARAKA CARSWELL; and DENNIS BARNUM

Plaintiffs,

Case No.: 3:22-cv-493-MMH-LLL

v.

CITY OF JACKSONVILLE and MIKE HOGAN, in his official capacity as Duval County Supervisor of Elections,

Defendants.
_____/

DECLARATION OF KEVIN CARRICO

1. My name is Kevin Carrico and I submit this declaration pursuant to 28 U.S.C. §1746. I am over the age of 18 and fully competent to make this declaration.

2. I am a member of the Jacksonville City Council representing District 4. I was initially elected Councilmember by the constituents of District 4 in 2020 in a special election.

3. I am a member of the Republican Party.

4. Prior to the 2022 redistricting process, District 4 covered the area generally considered to be "old Southside" – the central part of that portion of the City south of the St. Johns River. The primary change that occurred to District 4 were to its eastern and southeastern borders. A true and correct copy of the 2011 and 2022 boundaries of District 1 are attached hereto as Exhibit A.

5. According to the 2020 decennial census, District 4's total population was 76,829 people.

6. Mr. Killingsworth, the Director of the Planning and Development Department for the City of Jacksonville and City consultant for the redistricting process, advised that in order to comply with the one person/one vote standard required by the United States Constitution, each of the 14 City Council Districts needed to have an approximate total population of 71,000.

7. According to the 2020 census numbers, it was my understanding that District 4 needed to lose population to meet the acceptable population deviation.

8. Maintaining the character of the District was the most important factor leading to my advocacy for District 4's new boundaries. In particular, one of my goals was to remove the high-density Town Center area in favor of adding more areas with single-family homes. In addition, District 4 is one of the most

ethnically diverse Council Districts, and the boundary changes maintained that diversity.

9. As a result of the redistricting, District 4's population decreased by 4,927 people.

10. I understand "communities of interest" to describe areas that share common socioeconomic status and interests as well as similar residence styles and business types.

11. I never used the term "communities of interest" as a euphemism solely for race, nor do I understand the term to be defined so narrowly.

12. At no point during the redistricting process did I aim to set a specific racial target population for District 4 or any other City Council District.

13. My understanding is that the racial balance of some Districts was discussed during the redistricting process out of a concern to neither pack nor dilute the votes of minority citizens. However, my understanding is that these concerns represented only some of many considerations that influenced the Council's redistricting decisions, and did not predominate over all others.

14. I voted in favor of Ordinance 2022-01-E because I believed that the District lines contained therein comport are constitutional and because they maintained the character of District 4 and used the natural boundaries of that

district (such as creeks and roads). In addition, the new lines minimized river crossings.

15. My vote in favor of Ordinance 2022-01-E and the District lines contained therein was not predominately driven by race.

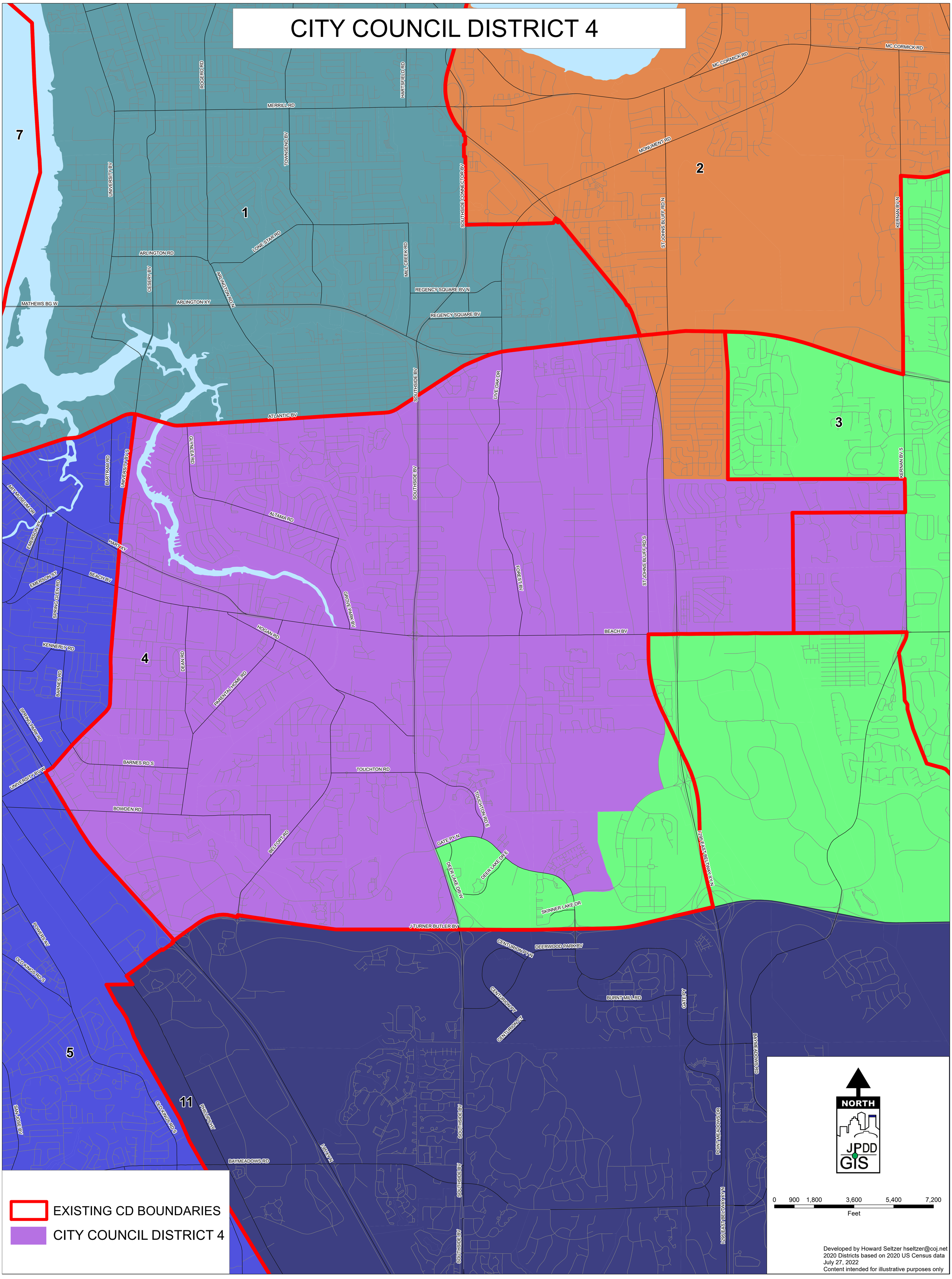
I declare and state under penalty of perjury, that the foregoing is true and correct.

Executed this 9th day of August, 2022, in Duval County, Florida.

KEVIN CARRICO

EXHIBIT A

CITY COUNCIL DISTRICT 4



UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
MIDDLE DISTRICT OF FLORIDA
JACKSONVILLE DIVISION

JACKSONVILLE BRANCH OF THE NAACP; NORTHSIDE COALITION OF JACKSONVILLE, INC.; ACLU OF FLORIDA NORTHEAST CHAPTER; FLORIDA RISING TOGETHER, INC.; MARCELLA WASHINGTON; INGRID MONTGOMERY; AYESHA FRANKLIN; TIFFANIE ROBERTS; ROSEMARY McCOY; SHELIA SINGLETON; EUNICE BARNUM; JANINE WILLIAMS; HARAKA CARSWELL; and DENNIS BARNUM

Plaintiffs,

Case No.: 3:22-cv-493-MMH-LLL

v.

CITY OF JACKSONVILLE and MIKE HOGAN, in his official capacity as Duval County Supervisor of Elections,

Defendants.
_____/

DECLARATION OF LEANNA CUMBER

1. My name is LeAnna Cumber and I submit this declaration pursuant to 28 U.S.C. §1746. I am over the age of 18 and fully competent to make this declaration.

2. I am a member of the Jacksonville City Council representing District 5. I was initially elected Councilmember by the constituents of District 5 in 2019.

3. I am a member of the Republican Party.

4. Prior to the 2022 redistricting process, District 5 consisted of the Southbank, San Marco, St. Nicholas, and San Jose areas, with Atlantic Boulevard, University Boulevard, Old Kings Road, Goodby's Creek and the St. Johns River as major boundaries. The primary change that occurred to District 5 was to its southern boundary, which expanded the District into Mandarin and added to District 5 parts of a neighborhood that had been bifurcated by the previous lines. A true and correct copy of the 2011 and 2022 boundaries of District 5 are attached hereto as Exhibit A.

5. According to the 2020 decennial census, District 5's total population was 68,055 people.

6. Mr. Killingsworth, the Director of the Planning and Development Department for the City of Jacksonville and City consultant for the redistricting process, advised that in order to comply with the one person/one vote standard required by the United States Constitution, each of the 14 City Council Districts needed to have an approximate total population of 71,000.

7. According to the 2020 census numbers, I understood that District 5 did not need to gain or lose any population to meet the acceptable population deviation. However, because of the population growth of District 11, it was likely that District 5's borders would be revised.

8. Minimizing the impacts on constituents was the most important factor leading to my advocacy for District 5's new boundaries. District 5 is one of the most diverse districts in the City, and I wanted to maintain that diversity.

9. As a result of the redistricting, District 5 gained 6,146 people, primarily along the southern border. The district maintained its character, and the added area was similar to those in the existing District 5. The changes restored a previously bifurcated neighborhood while maintaining the compactness of the District.

10. I understand "communities of interest" to encompass many criteria, including those stated in the Ordinance Code. These include common neighborhood types, similar socioeconomic backgrounds, and shared community concerns and histories.

11. I never used the term "communities of interest" as a euphemism solely for race, nor do I understand the term to be defined so narrowly.

12. At no point during the redistricting process did I aim to set a specific racial target population for District 5 or any other City Council District.

13. My understanding is that the racial balance of some Districts was discussed during the redistricting process out of a concern to neither pack nor dilute the votes of minority citizens. However, my understanding is that these

concerns represented only some of many considerations that influenced the Council's redistricting decisions, and did not predominate over all others.

14. I attended all but one of the committee meetings. I ultimately voted in favor of Ordinance 2022-01-E because I believed that the District boundaries drawn by the Committee were constitutional, satisfied the legal criteria, and represented the City's growth since the previous redistricting.

15. My vote in favor of Ordinance 2022-01-E and the District lines contained therein was not predominately driven by race.

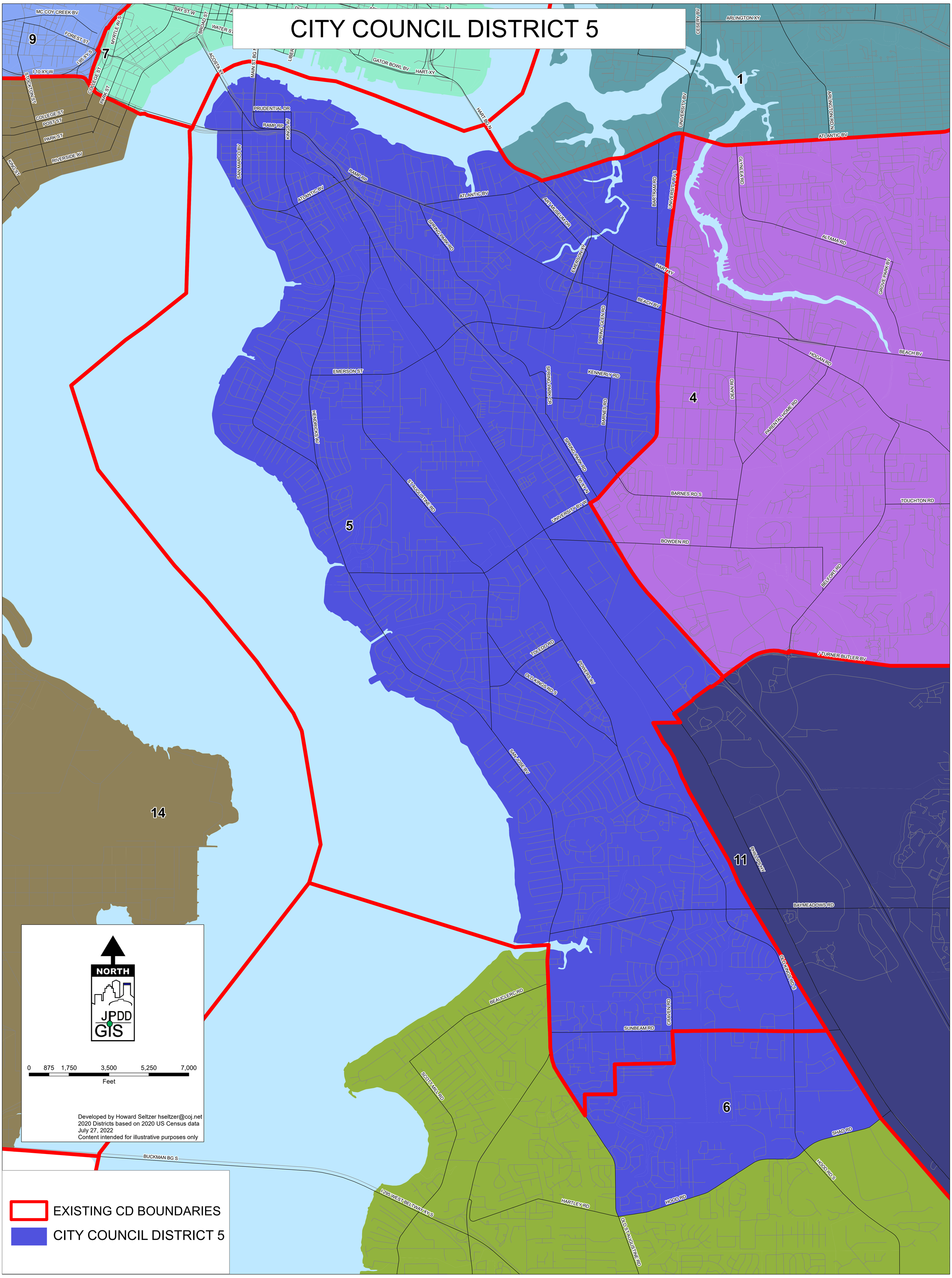
I declare and state under penalty of perjury, that the foregoing is true and correct.

Executed this 9 day of August, 2022, in Duval County, Florida.

LEANNA CUMBER

EXHIBIT A

CITY COUNCIL DISTRICT 5



UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
MIDDLE DISTRICT OF FLORIDA
JACKSONVILLE DIVISION

JACKSONVILLE BRANCH OF THE NAACP; NORTHSIDE COALITION OF JACKSONVILLE, INC.; ACLU OF FLORIDA NORTHEAST CHAPTER; FLORIDA RISING TOGETHER, INC.; MARCELLA WASHINGTON; INGRID MONTGOMERY; AYESHA FRANKLIN; TIFFANIE ROBERTS; ROSEMARY McCOY; SHELIA SINGLETON; EUNICE BARNUM; JANINE WILLIAMS; HARAKA CARSWELL; and DENNIS BARNUM

Plaintiffs,

Case No.: 3:22-cv-493-MMH-LLL

v.

CITY OF JACKSONVILLE and MIKE HOGAN, in his official capacity as Duval County Supervisor of Elections.

Defendants.
_____/

DECLARATION OF RANDY DEFOOR

1. My name is Randy DeFoor and I submit this declaration pursuant to 28 U.S.C. §1746. I am over the age of 18 and fully competent to make this declaration.

2. I am a member of the Jacksonville City Council representing District 14. I was initially elected Councilmember by the constituents of District 14 in 2019. I am not running for re-election.

3. I am a member of the Republican Party.

4. Prior to the 2022 redistricting process, District 14 ran along the western boundary of the St. John's River and along the City's southern border. The primary change that occurred to District 14 was to its western boundary. A true and correct copy of the 2011 and 2022 boundaries of District 14 are attached hereto as Exhibit A.

5. According to the 2020 decennial census, District 14's total population was 67,398 people.

6. Mr. Killingsworth, the Director of the Planning and Development Department for the City of Jacksonville and City consultant for the redistricting process, advised that in order to comply with the one person/one vote standard required by the United States Constitution, each of the 14 City Council Districts needed to have an approximate total population of 71,000.

7. According to the 2020 census numbers, District 14 did not need to gain or lose any population to meet the acceptable population deviation.

8. Keeping the Argyle community in one district was the most important factor leading to my advocacy for District 14's new boundaries.

9. As a result of the redistricting, District 14 gained 2,747 people, primarily from combining portions of a community of interest within District 14's boundaries.

10. Through the 2022 redistricting process, District 14 gained a community of interest from District 12.

11. This area included what I considered a community of interest which fit within District 14, the Argyle community.

12. I understand "communities of interest" to encompass numerous and various descriptors, including the criteria stated in the Ordinance Code – the varied economic, social and ethnic interests and objectives of the citizens of Jacksonville – as well as people living in neighborhoods with similar styles. For instance, in District 14, the Riverside and Avondale areas are "communities of interest" with their residents who appreciate the historic character of the buildings and the tree-lined streets. Argyle is also a "community of interest" with its newer subdivisions and larger shopping and business districts. Each of these areas share common geography as well as similar socio-economic factors.

13. I never used the term "communities of interest" as a euphemism solely for race, nor do I understand the term to be defined so narrowly.

14. By transferring a portion of the Argyle area from District 12 to District 14, communities of interest were joined. This shift also reduced the number of City Council Districts that spread across the Argyle community.

15. I felt that several of the changes to the boundaries in the northwest section of Jacksonville were driven by political affiliation, and I expressed this sentiment several times at the redistricting meetings.

16. At the September 23 Council member public meeting with Districts 7, 8, 9, 12 and 14, I stated that Councilman Gaffney needed to cut to the chase and get the breakdown in terms of Republicans versus Democrats.

17. At the October 4, 2021 Council member public meeting with Districts 8 and 12, I made a proposal to shift part of Riverside to Councilman Gaffney because the voting was more in line with District 7 than 14.

18. I was referring to the political affiliation of the persons living in that area as support for why it may be more appropriate in District 7.

19. The Complaint filed by the Plaintiffs in this action alleges that District 14 has 9 split neighborhoods. This is because the redistricting process itself was based off of the 2020 census blocks, not specific neighborhoods.

20. The final borders of District 14 reflect my commitment to maintaining communities of interest.

21. At no point during the redistricting process did I aim to set a specific racial target population for District 14 or any other City Council District.

22. The racial balance of some Districts was discussed during the redistricting process out of a concern to neither pack nor dilute the votes of

minority citizens. However, my understanding is that these concerns represented only some of many considerations that influenced the Council's redistricting decisions, and did not predominate over all others.

23. The race of the constituents I gained was not the predominant factor in the redistricting of the boundaries of District 14.

24. I voted in favor of Ordinance 2022-01-E because I believed that the District lines contained therein are constitutional and protected communities of interest.

25. My vote in favor of Ordinance 2022-01-E and the District lines contained therein was not predominantly driven by race.

I declare and state under penalty of perjury, that the foregoing is true and correct.

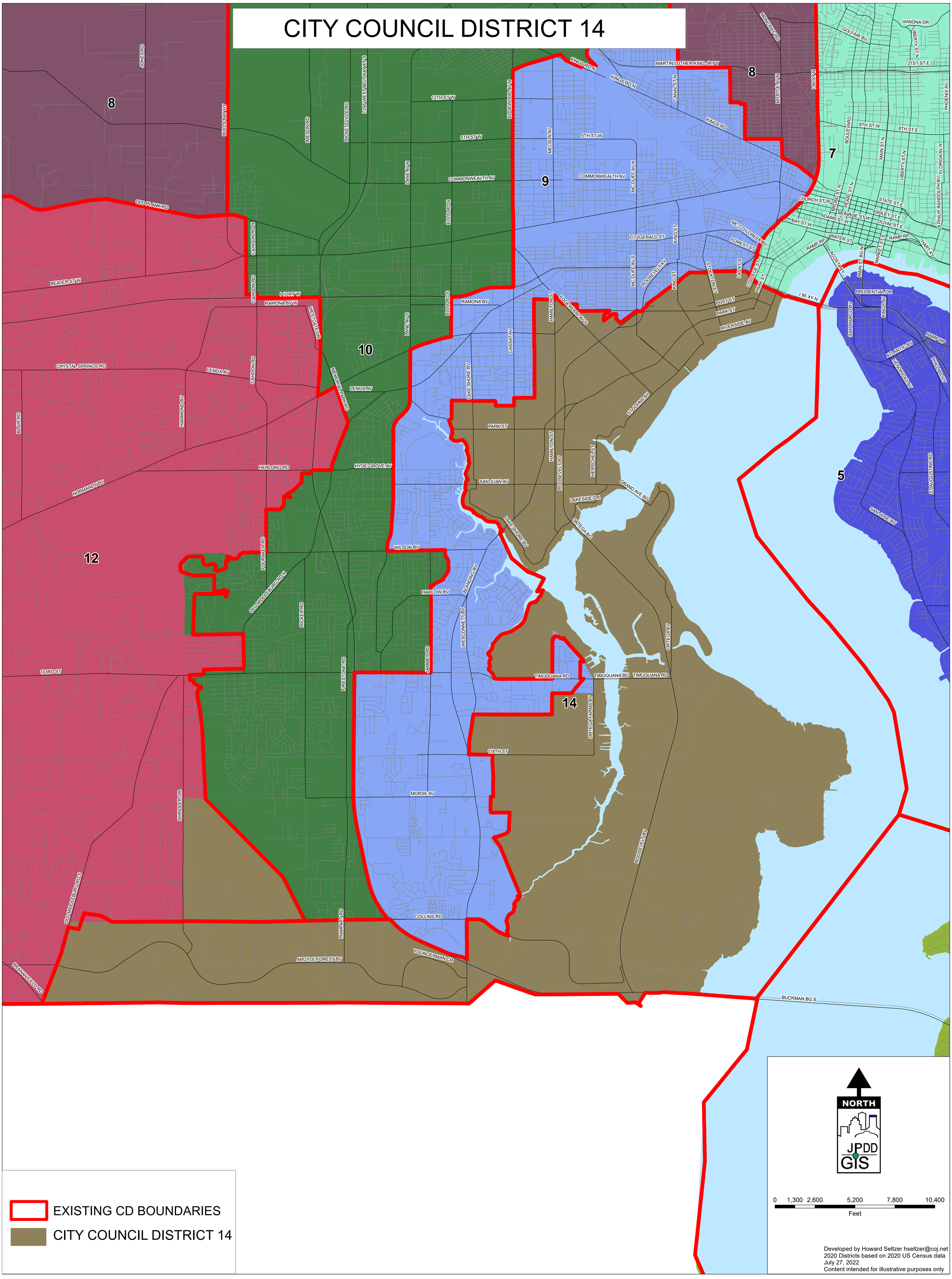
Executed this 9th day of August, 2022, in Duval County, Florida.

Randy DeFoor

RANDY DEFOOR

EXHIBIT A

CITY COUNCIL DISTRICT 14



UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
MIDDLE DISTRICT OF FLORIDA
JACKSONVILLE DIVISION

JACKSONVILLE BRANCH OF THE NAACP; NORTHSIDE COALITION OF JACKSONVILLE, INC.; ACLU OF FLORIDA NORTHEAST CHAPTER; FLORIDA RISING TOGETHER, INC.; MARCELLA WASHINGTON; INGRID MONTGOMERY; AYESHA FRANKLIN; TIFFANIE ROBERTS; ROSEMARY McCOY; SHELIA SINGLETON; EUNICE BARNUM; JANINE WILLIAMS; HARAKA CARSWELL; and DENNIS BARNUM

Plaintiffs, Case No.: 3:22-cv-493-MMH-LLL

v.

CITY OF JACKSONVILLE and MIKE HOGAN, in his official capacity as Duval County Supervisor of Elections,

Defendants.
_____/

DECLARATION OF GARRETT DENNIS

1. My name is Garrett Dennis and I submit this declaration pursuant to 28 U.S.C. §1746. I am over the age of 18 and fully competent to make this declaration.

2. I am a member of the Jacksonville City Council representing District 9. I was and elected by the constituents of District 9 in 2015 and re-elected in 2019. On May 23, 2022, I resigned from my position to run for the Florida State House

of Representatives. My resignation is effective upon the earlier date that I am elected to serve the State of Florida or the date my successor is elected.

3. I am a member of the Democratic Party.

4. I was also a member of the Second Special Committee on Redistricting ("Committee"). The Committee was responsible for, among other things: (1) recommending a person qualified to serve as the Redistricting Consultant, (2) determining what rules must be followed in developing legally defensible districts, (3) developing guidelines for the redistricting process based off of legal considerations, and (4) submitting a final proposed redistricting plan to City Council within 150 days after the U.S. Bureau of the Census certification of the final population count for the City of Jacksonville.

5. At its first meeting, the Committee unanimously voted to make Mr. Killingsworth, the Director of the City of Jacksonville Planning and Development Department (the "Department"), the Committee's redistricting consultant.

6. The Committee provided Mr. Killingsworth several considerations to take into account during the redistricting process.

7. The unanimously agreed upon considerations included: (1) starting from the existing City Council district boundaries; (2) using total population numbers; (3) not drawing incumbents outside of their current districts; (4)

minimizing river crossings, to the extent possible; and (5) not expediting the redistricting process, but rather adhering to the normal redistricting timeline.

8. Other considerations were discussed, but were not specifically included in the Committee's direction since they were already included in Section 18.101 of the Ordinance Code, which the Department was required to follow.

9. These considerations established the baseline and starting point for the Department to work from in generating new District lines.

10. In addition to the Committee's unanimously agreed upon guidelines stated above, other factors were taken into consideration by individual City Council members as it related to redistricting of their specific Districts.

11. The factor that I was advocated for was starting from the existing District boundaries rather than to start drawing the district lines from scratch.

12. This was important to me because City Council had started from scratch in the 2010 redistricting process, in part because the location of the County's population growth had dramatically shifted over the prior ten years. The 2020 census data, however, showed only one District – District 11 – gaining a large number of constituents that needed to be accounted for in the 2022 redistricting process.

13. I believe the most important factor to the Committee as a whole was starting the redistricting process from the existing District boundaries.

14. This was the first consideration the Committee voted on and unanimously approved.

15. Starting from the existing City Council district boundaries to equalize the population was the most important factors leading to District 9's boundary.

16. During the 2022 redistricting process, the only change that occurred to District 9 was along the southeast border. A true and correct copy of the 2011 and 2022 boundaries of District 9 are attached hereto as **Exhibit A**.

17. According to the 2020 decennial census, District 9's total population was 67,706 people.

18. Mr. Killingsworth, the Director of the Planning and Development Department for the City of Jacksonville and City consultant for the redistricting process, advised that in order to comply with the one person/one vote standard required by the United States Constitution, each of the 14 City Council Districts needed to have an approximate total population of 71,000, and that the population deviation must be within a 10% range measured from the District with the largest population to the District with the smallest population.

19. According to the 2020 census numbers, District 9 did not need to gain or lose any population to meet the acceptable population deviation.

20. Because the Committee unanimously agreed to start the redistricting process based off of the prior district boundaries, my primary concern for District

24. I do not recall using the phrase "communities of interest, but if I did, I did not use it as a euphemism solely for race, nor do I understand the term to be defined so narrowly.

25. The Complaint filed by the Plaintiffs in this action alleges that District 9 has 17 split neighborhoods. This is because the redistricting process itself was based off of the 2020 census blocks, and not with an eye to specific neighborhoods.

26. At no point during the redistricting process did I aim to set a specific racial target population for District 9 or any other City Council District.

27. The race of the constituents I gained was not a factor in the redistricting of the boundaries of District 9.

28. The racial balance of some Districts was discussed during the redistricting process out of a concern to neither pack nor dilute the votes of minority citizens. However, my understanding is that these concerns represented only some of many considerations that influenced the Council's redistricting decisions, and did not predominate over all others.

29. I voted in favor of Ordinance 2022-01-E because I believed that the District lines contained therein comport with the constitutional requirement of one person/one vote and did not otherwise violate local, state, or federal law.

30. My vote in favor of Ordinance 2022-01-E and the District lines contained therein was not predominately driven by race.

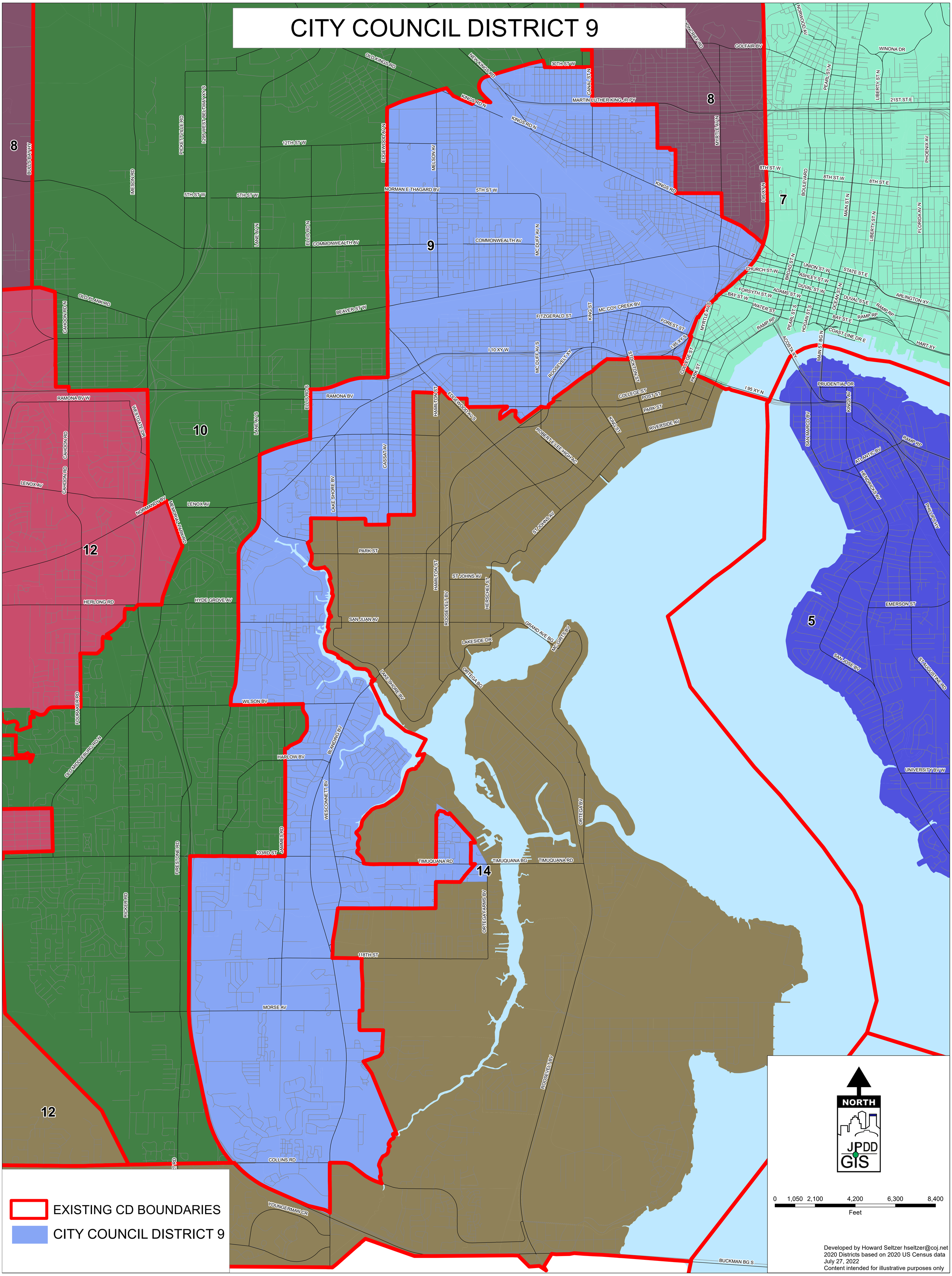
I declare and state under penalty of perjury, that the foregoing is true and correct.

Executed this 9th day of August, 2022, in Duval County, Florida.

GARRET DENNIS

EXHIBIT A

CITY COUNCIL DISTRICT 9



UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
MIDDLE DISTRICT OF FLORIDA
JACKSONVILLE DIVISION

JACKSONVILLE BRANCH OF THE NAACP; NORTHSIDE COALITION OF JACKSONVILLE, INC.; ACLU OF FLORIDA NORTHEAST CHAPTER; FLORIDA RISING TOGETHER, INC.; MARCELLA WASHINGTON; INGRID MONTGOMERY; AYESHA FRANKLIN; TIFFANIE ROBERTS; ROSEMARY McCOY; SHELIA SINGLETON; EUNICE BARNUM; JANINE WILLIAMS; HARAKA CARSWELL; and DENNIS BARNUM

Plaintiffs, Case No.: 3:22-cv-493-MMH-LLL

v.

CITY OF JACKSONVILLE and MIKE HOGAN, in his official capacity as Duval County Supervisor of Elections,

Defendants.
_____/

DECLARATION OF AL FERRARO

1. My name is Al Ferraro and I submit this declaration pursuant to 28 U.S.C. §1746. I am over the age of 18 and fully competent to make this declaration.

2. I am a member of the Jacksonville City Council representing District 2. I was initially elected as the Councilmember for District 2 in 2015 and re-elected in 2019.

3. I am a member of the Republican Party.

4. Prior to the 2022 redistricting process, District 2 spanned the northeasternmost portion of Duval County. The primary changes that occurred to District 2 were to its northwest and southwest boundaries. A true and correct copy of the 2011 and 2022 boundaries of District 2 are attached hereto as Exhibit A.

5. According to the 2020 decennial census, District 2's total population was 71,501 people.

6. Mr. Killingsworth, the Director of the Planning and Development Department for the City of Jacksonville and City consultant for the redistricting process, advised that in order to comply with the one person/one vote standard required by the United States Constitution, each of the 14 City Council Districts needed to have an approximate total population of 71,000.

7. According to the 2020 census numbers, District 2 likely needed to change its boundaries, partially to accommodate the growth in the southeast section of Jacksonville.

8. As a result of the redistricting District 2 gained 782 people.

9. Equalizing the population in all of the districts was the most important factor leading to my advocacy for District 2's new boundaries.

10. As a result of the redistricting, District 2 lost 782 people, primarily along the northwestern border.

11. I understand "communities of interest" to encompass numerous and various descriptors, including the criteria stated in the Ordinance Code – the varied economic, social and ethnic interests and objectives of the citizens of Jacksonville.

12. Although the Committee had a goal of eliminating river crossings at the first redistricting meetings, it became clear that eliminating District 2's current river crossing would be problematic for maintaining the current district boundaries of the Districts south of the river.

13. Eliminating District 2's river crossing quickly became impractical, splitting many communities of interest, and providing proposed district boundaries that were unacceptable to the Councilmembers.

14. The Councilmembers south of the river agreed that District 2 needed to maintain its river crossing in order to not defeat the other redistricting criteria.

15. Once it was determined that District 2 would remain on the north side of the river, there were several proposals to equalize District 7's population, which included moving constituents from District 2 to District 7.

16. The Complaint filed by the Plaintiffs in this action alleges that District 2 has 12 split neighborhoods. This is because the redistricting process itself was based off of the 2020 census blocks, not specific neighborhoods.

17. At no point during the redistricting process did I aim to set a specific racial target population for District 2 or any other City Council District, including those bordering District 2.

18. The racial balance of some Districts was discussed by other Councilmembers during the redistricting process out of a concern to neither pack nor dilute the votes of minority citizens. However, my understanding is that these concerns represented only some of many considerations that influenced the Council's redistricting decisions, and did not predominate over all others.

19. I voted in favor of Ordinance 2022-01-E because I believed that the District lines contained therein are constitutional and served the purpose of meeting the population requirements.

20. My vote in favor of Ordinance 2022-01-E and the District lines contained therein was not predominantly driven by race.

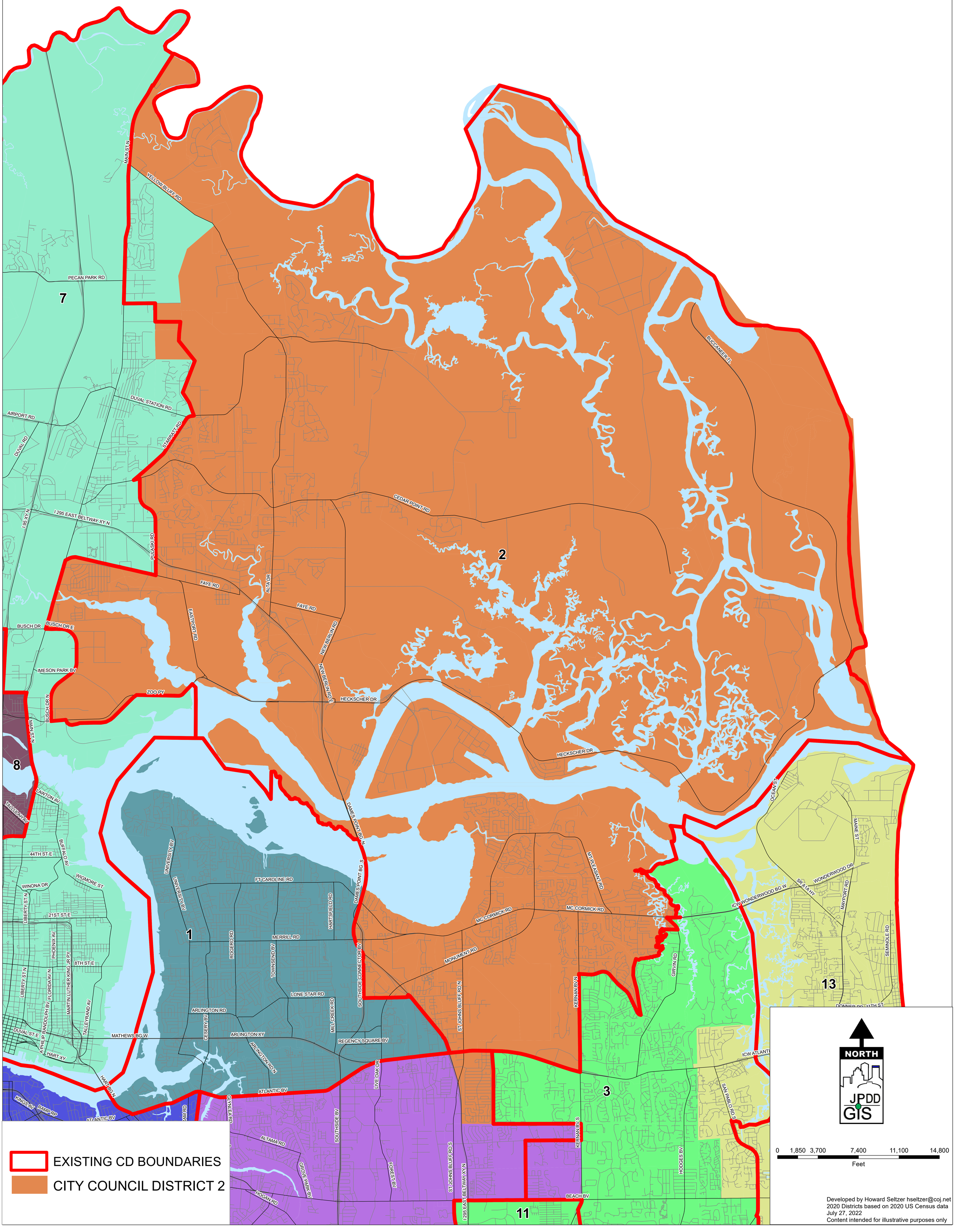
I declare and state under penalty of perjury, that the foregoing is true and correct.

Executed this 10th day of August, 2022, in Duval County, Florida.

AL FERRARO

EXHIBIT A

CITY COUNCIL DISTRICT 2



UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
MIDDLE DISTRICT OF FLORIDA
JACKSONVILLE DIVISION

JACKSONVILLE BRANCH OF THE NAACP; NORTHSIDE COALITION OF JACKSONVILLE, INC.; ACLU OF FLORIDA NORTHEAST CHAPTER; FLORIDA RISING TOGETHER, INC.; MARCELLA WASHINGTON; INGRID MONTGOMERY; AYESHA FRANKLIN; TIFFANIE ROBERTS; ROSEMARY McCOY; SHELIA SINGLETON; EUNICE BARNUM; JANINE WILLIAMS; HARAKA CARSWELL; and DENNIS BARNUM

Plaintiffs, Case No.: 3:22-cv-493-MMH-LLL

v.

CITY OF JACKSONVILLE and MIKE HOGAN, in his official capacity as Duval County Supervisor of Elections,

Defendants.
_____/

DECLARATION OF TERRANCE FREEMAN

1. My name is Terrance Freeman and I submit this declaration pursuant to 28 U.S.C. §1746. I am over the age of 18 and fully competent to make this declaration.

2. I am a member of the Jacksonville City Council representing At-Large Group 1. I was elected to this position in 2019, and am currently the City Council President. During the 2021-22 term, I served as the City Council Vice-President. I

previously served as the City Council member for District 10, having been appointed by Governor Rick Scott in 2018 to fill a vacancy.

3. I am African-American and a member of the Republican Party.

4. The redistricting process occurred while I was serving as Council Vice-President, so I was not extensively involved with the process, particularly as an at-large member. I therefore relied on the work of the Redistricting Committee and Bill Killingsworth, particularly since numerous public meetings had been held and citizens had the opportunity to provide input. I believed the Committee's work not only complied with the law but was also reflective of the wide array of communities in the City.

5. I have never used the term "communities of interest" as a euphemism solely for race, nor do I believe the term can be defined solely on that basis. Instead, the term "communities of interest" encompasses many things, such as clusters of similar neighborhoods – such as urban, rural, or beach environments – as well as shared policy concerns specific to their geographic area. It also encompasses shared histories and cultures and social, economic, racial and ethnic backgrounds.

6. Although I understand that the racial balance of some Districts was discussed during the redistricting process out of a concern to neither pack nor dilute the votes of minority citizens, it appeared to me that the Committee and

other Council members considered numerous other factors in drawing the boundaries, and that racial balance was not the predominant factor out of all the considerations.

7. I voted in favor of Ordinance 2022-01-E because I believed that the revised district boundaries are constitutional and based on all of the various factors considered by the Committee.

8. My vote in favor of Ordinance 2022-01-E and the District lines contained therein was not predominately driven by race.

I declare and state under penalty of perjury, that the foregoing is true and correct.

Executed this 10th day of August, 02022, in Duval County, Florida.

TERRANCE FREEMAN

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
MIDDLE DISTRICT OF FLORIDA
JACKSONVILLE DIVISION

JACKSONVILLE BRANCH OF THE NAACP; NORTHSIDE COALITION OF JACKSONVILLE, INC.; ACLU OF FLORIDA NORTHEAST CHAPTER; FLORIDA RISING TOGETHER, INC.; MARCELLA WASHINGTON; INGRID MONTGOMERY; AYESHA FRANKLIN; TIFFANIE ROBERTS; ROSEMARY McCOY; SHELIA SINGLETON; EUNICE BARNUM; JANINE WILLIAMS; HARAKA CARSWELL; and DENNIS BARNUM

Plaintiffs,

Case No.: 3:22-cv-493-MMH-LLL

v.

CITY OF JACKSONVILLE and MIKE HOGAN, in his official capacity as Duval County Supervisor of Elections,

Defendants.
_____/

DECLARATION OF REGINALD GAFFNEY

1. My name is Reginald Gaffney and I submit this declaration pursuant to 28 U.S.C. §1746. I am over the age of 18 and fully competent to make this declaration.

2. I am a member of the Jacksonville City Council representing District 7. I was initially elected Councilmember by the constituents of District 7 in 2015 and re-elected in 2019. On May 23, 2022, I resigned from my position to run for

the Florida Senate. My resignation is effective upon the earlier date that I am elected to serve the State of Florida or the date my successor is elected.

3. I am a member of the Democratic Party.

4. Prior to the 2022 redistricting process, District 7 spanned the central portion of Duval County north of the St. Johns River. The primary changes that occurred to District 7 were to its northwestern and northeastern boundaries. A true and correct copy of the 2011 and 2022 boundaries of District 7 are attached hereto as Exhibit A.

5. According to the 2020 decennial census, District 7's total population was 67,330 people.

6. Mr. Killingsworth, the Director of the Planning and Development Department for the City of Jacksonville and City consultant for the redistricting process, advised that in order to comply with the one person/one vote standard required by the United States Constitution, each of the 14 City Council Districts needed to have an approximate total population of 71,000.

7. According to the 2020 census numbers, District 7 did not need to gain or lose any population to meet the acceptable population deviation.

8. I understood that the redistricting criteria included working from the 2010 district lines. Because District 7 was within the acceptable population deviation, I did not want to change the boundaries of this District.

9. Starting from the existing City Council district boundaries to equalize the population was the most important factor leading to my advocacy for District 7's new boundaries.

10. I understood that any change to District 7's population and boundaries would have a domino effect on the other districts.

11. As a result of the redistricting, District 7 gained 730 people, primarily in primarily along the northeast border.

12. During the Council member public meetings, several proposals were made regarding the border between District 8 and 7 and District 2 and 7.

13. I understood that District 8 needed to gain population in order to meet the one person/one vote standard.

14. District 8 ultimately gained population from the northwestern border of District 7.

15. This area contained a community of interest to District 8 in that it contained a large Democratic constituency and was similar to other more sparsely populated areas in that district. In addition, it allowed the use of Lem Turner Road as a boundary straight up to the county line.

16. I understand "communities of interest" to encompass numerous and various descriptors, including the criteria stated in the Ordinance Code – the varied economic, social and ethnic interests and objectives of the citizens of

Jacksonville – as well as people with similar political affiliation, people who share similar concerns, shared racial or ethnic backgrounds, communities with a common history, cultural communities, economic communities, and having representatives with similar interests serving the people in the districts.

17. I never used the term "communities of interest" as a euphemism solely for race, nor do I understand the term to be defined so narrowly.

18. By transferring this area from District 7 to District 8, District 7 became more compact and less irregular in shape.

19. However, this change in District boundaries resulted in District 7 needing to gain population from District 2.

20. One of the proposals made to equalize District 7's population included District 7 absorbing a highly Republican area from District 2.

21. I had concerns that absorbing a highly Republican area into District 7 would not be a good fit. However, I was told that the area was evenly split between Republicans and Democrats.

22. Ultimately, the area gained by District 7 included what I considered a community of interest which fit within the District, including more of the Oceanway area, which was already in the District.

23. For me, the changes along the border of District 2 and District 7 were driven solely by the political makeup of the potential constituents.

24. This fact was noted by Councilwomen DeFoor during the September 23, 2021 Member meeting.

25. I agreed to the final border between District 2 and District 7 because District 7 would maintain a strong Democratic population while making other districts whole with an acceptable population deviation.

26. The Complaint filed by the Plaintiffs in this action alleges that District 7 has 9 split neighborhoods. This is because the redistricting process itself was based off of the 2020 census blocks, not specific neighborhoods.

27. The final borders of District 7 reflect my commitment to maintain a strong Democratic population while accounting for the necessary population changes in neighborhing districts.

28. At no point during the redistricting process did I aim to set a specific racial target population for District 7 or any other City Council District.

29. The racial balance of some Districts was discussed during the redistricting process out of a concern to neither pack nor dilute the votes of minority citizens. However, my understanding is that these concerns represented only some of many considerations that influenced the Council's redistricting decisions, and did not predominate over all others.

30. The race of the constituents I gained was not the predominant factor in the redistricting of the boundaries of District 7.

31. Although I was not totally happy with the new boundaries of District 7, I voted in favor of Ordinance 2022-01-E because I believed that the District lines contained therein are constitutional and that the changes had to be made to account for population changes in other districts.

32. My vote in favor of Ordinance 2022-01-E and the District lines contained therein was not predominately driven by race.

I declare and state under penalty of perjury, that the foregoing is true and correct.

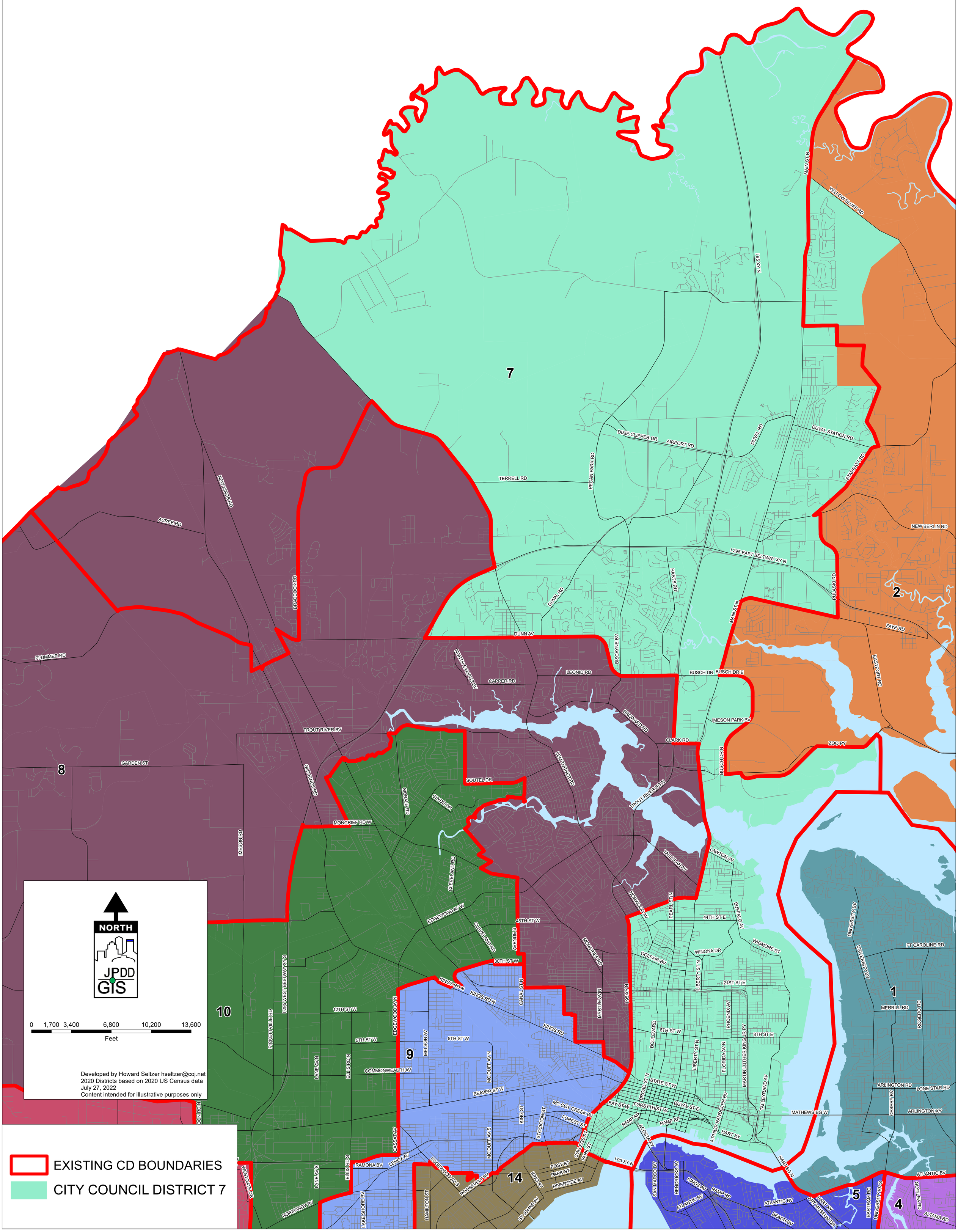
Executed this 10th day of August, 2022, in Duval County, Florida.

Reginald Gaffney

REGINALD GAFFNEY

EXHIBIT A

CITY COUNCIL DISTRICT 7



UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
MIDDLE DISTRICT OF FLORIDA
JACKSONVILLE DIVISION

JACKSONVILLE BRANCH OF THE NAACP; NORTHSIDE COALITION OF JACKSONVILLE, INC.; ACLU OF FLORIDA NORTHEAST CHAPTER; FLORIDA RISING TOGETHER, INC.; MARCELLA WASHINGTON; INGRID MONTGOMERY; AYESHA FRANKLIN; TIFFANIE ROBERTS; ROSEMARY McCOY; SHELIA SINGLETON; EUNICE BARNUM; JANINE WILLIAMS; HARAKA CARSWELL; and DENNIS BARNUM

Plaintiffs,

Case No.: 3:22-cv-493-MMH-LLL

v.

CITY OF JACKSONVILLE and MIKE HOGAN, in his official capacity as Duval County Supervisor of Elections,

Defendants.
_____/

DECLARATION OF NICK HOWLAND

1. My name is Nick Howland and I submit this declaration pursuant to 28 U.S.C. §1746. I am over the age of 18 and fully competent to make this declaration.

2. I am a member of the Jacksonville City Council representing At-Large Group 3. I was elected to this position in a special election on February 22, 2022.

3. I am a member of the Republican Party.

4. The redistricting process was well underway when I was elected to the City Council, but I followed the process with interest as a citizen and then later as a candidate.

5. I never used the term "communities of interest" as a euphemism solely for race, nor do I understand the term to be defined so narrowly.

6. I understand "communities of interest" to encompass numerous and various descriptors, including the criteria stated in the Ordinance Code – the varied economic, social and ethnic interests and objectives of the citizens of Jacksonville – as well as people with similar political affiliation, people who share similar concerns, shared racial or ethnic backgrounds, communities with a common history, cultural communities, economic communities, and military and veteran associated communities.

7. I voted in favor of Ordinance 2022-01-E because I believed that the District lines contained therein are constitutional and completed within the time and the legal constraints that were mandated by federal and state rules, as well as the City Charter and Ordinance Code.

8. My vote in favor of Ordinance 2022-01-E and the District lines contained therein was not predominately driven by race.

I declare and state under penalty of perjury, that the foregoing is true and correct.

Executed this 9th day of August, 2022, in Duval County, Florida.

NICK HOWLAND

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
MIDDLE DISTRICT OF FLORIDA
JACKSONVILLE DIVISION

JACKSONVILLE BRANCH OF THE NAACP; NORTHSIDE COALITION OF JACKSONVILLE, INC.; ACLU OF FLORIDA NORTHEAST CHAPTER; FLORIDA RISING TOGETHER, INC.: MARCELLA WASHINGTON; INGRID MONTGOMERY; AYESHA FRANKLIN; TIFFANIE ROBERTS; ROSEMARY McCOY; SHELIA SINGLETON: EUNICE BARNUM; JANINE WILLIAMS; HARAKA CARSWELL; and DENNIS BARNUM

Plaintiffs, Case No.: 3:22-cv-493-MMH-LLL

v.

CITY OF JACKSONVILLE and MIKE HOGAN, in his official capacity as Duval County Supervisor of Elections,

Defendants.
_____/

DECLARATION OF JOYCE MORGAN

1. My name is Joyce Morgan and I submit this declaration pursuant to 28 U.S.C. §1746. I am over the age of 18 and fully competent to make this declaration.

2. I am a member of the Jacksonville City Council representing District 1. I was initially elected Councilmember by the constituents of District 1 in 2015 and re-elected in 2019.

3. I am a member of the Democratic Party.

4. During the 2022 redistricting process, the primary change that occurred to District 1 was due to shifting census blocks. A true and correct copy of the 2011 and 2022 boundaries of District 1 are attached hereto as **Exhibit A**.

5. According to the 2020 decennial census, District 1's total population was 72,718 people.

6. Mr. Killingsworth, the Director of the Planning and Development Department for the City of Jacksonville and City consultant for the redistricting process, advised that in order to comply with the one person/one vote standard required by the United States Constitution, each of the 14 City Council Districts needed to have an approximate total population of 71,000.

7. According to the 2020 census numbers, District 1 did not need to gain or lose any population to meet the acceptable population deviation.

8. Therefore, maintaining District 1's prior lines as best possible was the most important factor leading to my advocacy for District 1's new boundaries.

9. As a result of the redistricting, District 1's population remained the same.

10. I understand "communities of interest" to encompass numerous and various descriptors, including the criteria stated in the Ordinance Code – the varied economic, social and ethnic interests and objectives of the citizens of

Jacksonville – as well as people with similar political affiliation, people who share similar concerns, shared racial or ethnic backgrounds, communities with a common history, cultural communities, economic communities, shared faith based communities, and those who have lived in a given area for an established period of time.

11. I don't recall using the term "communities of interest," and if I did, I never used it as a euphemism solely for race, nor do I understand the term to be defined so narrowly.

12. At no point during the redistricting process did I aim to set a specific racial target population for District 1 or any other City Council District.

13. My understanding is that the racial balance of some Districts was discussed during the redistricting process out of a concern to neither pack nor dilute the votes of minority citizens. However, my understanding is that these concerns represented only some of many considerations that influenced the Council's redistricting decisions, and did not predominate over all others.

14. I voted in favor of Ordinance 2022-01-E because I believed that the District lines contained therein were fully vetted by the entire Council, had been subject to citizen feedback, and satisfied the requirements of one person/one vote, as well as local, state, and federal law.

15. My vote in favor of Ordinance 2022-01-E and the District lines contained therein was not predominately driven by race.

I declare and state under penalty of perjury, that the foregoing is true and correct.

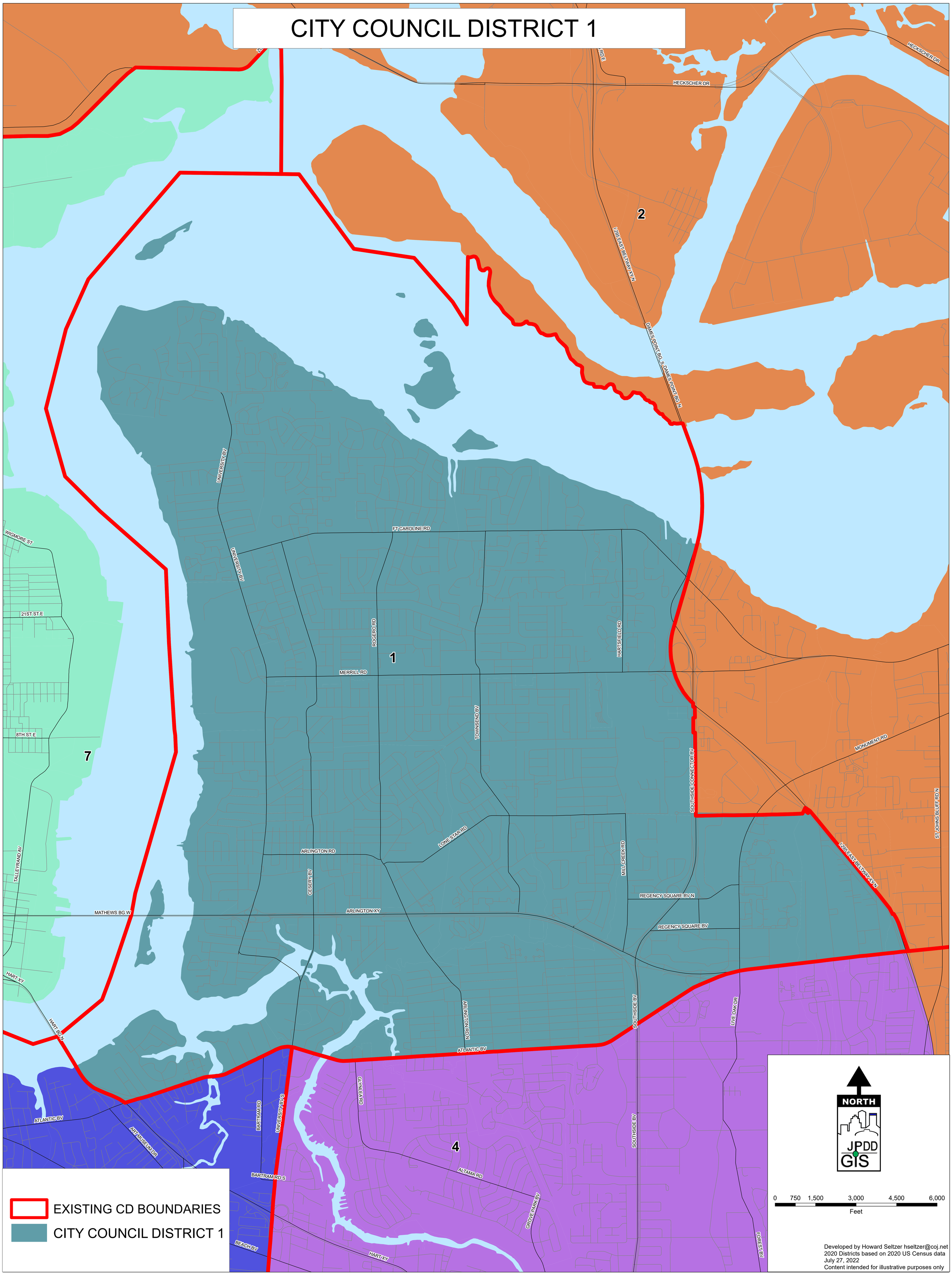
Executed this 9th day of August, 2022, in Duval County, Florida.

Joyce Morgan

JOYCE MORGAN

EXHIBIT A

CITY COUNCIL DISTRICT 1



UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
MIDDLE DISTRICT OF FLORIDA
JACKSONVILLE DIVISION

JACKSONVILLE BRANCH OF THE NAACP; NORTHSIDE COALITION OF JACKSONVILLE, INC.; ACLU OF FLORIDA NORTHEAST CHAPTER; FLORIDA RISING TOGETHER, INC.; MARCELLA WASHINGTON; INGRID MONTGOMERY; AYESHA FRANKLIN; TIFFANIE ROBERTS; ROSEMARY McCOY; SHELIA SINGLETON; EUNICE BARNUM; JANINE WILLIAMS; HARAKA CARSWELL; and DENNIS BARNUM

Plaintiffs,

v. Case No.: 3:22-cv-493-MMH-LLL

CITY OF JACKSONVILLE and MIKE HOGAN, in his official capacity as Duval County Supervisor of Elections,

Defendants.
_____/

DECLARATION OF SAMUEL C. NEWBY

1. My name is Samuel C. Newby and I submit this declaration pursuant to 28 U.S.C. §1746. I am over the age of 18 and fully competent to make this declaration.

2. I am a member of the Jacksonville City Council representing At-Large Group 5. I was first elected to this position in 2015 and reelected in 2019. I served as Council President in 2021-2022.

3. I am a member of the Republican Party, and I have served as the Co-Founder and Chairman of the Florida Assembly of Black Republicans as well as the Chairman of the National Assembly of Black Republicans.

4. I do not recall using or hearing others use the term "communities of interest" as a euphemism for race, and I believe that the term encompasses many more categories than race, including shared cultures and interests among neighbors.

5. I voted in favor of Ordinance 2022-01-E because it met the requirement of incorporating the population changes in each district within ten percent of 71,000 residents while making relatively minor changes to the existing district lines. I believed that those district lines satisfied the constitutional requirements, particularly since they had gone unchallenged for the preceding decade. My primary concern was maintaining consistency and continuity in representation.

6. In addition, African-Americans were elected to seven of the nineteen Council seats under the previous maps, on which the 2022 maps were based. Two of those members – myself and Terrance Freeman – were elected at-large by the entire population of Jacksonville. Three of those members served in top leadership positions in 2021-2022: Brenda Priestly Jackson as Rules Committee Chair, Terrance Freeman as Council Vice-President, and myself as Council President.

7. My vote in favor of Ordinance 2022-01-E and the redrawn boundaries was not motivated by race, but by maintaining most of the previously unchallenged boundaries while adjusting for population growth.

I declare and state under penalty of perjury, that the foregoing is true and correct.

Executed this 4 day of August, 2022, in Duval County, Florida.

SAMUEL C. NEWBY

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
MIDDLE DISTRICT OF FLORIDA
JACKSONVILLE DIVISION

JACKSONVILLE BRANCH OF THE NAACP; NORTHSIDE COALITION OF JACKSONVILLE, INC.; ACLU OF FLORIDA NORTHEAST CHAPTER; FLORIDA RISING TOGETHER, INC.; MARCELLA WASHINGTON; INGRID MONTGOMERY; AYESHA FRANKLIN; TIFFANIE ROBERTS; ROSEMARY McCOY; SHELIA SINGLETON; EUNICE BARNUM; JANINE WILLIAMS; HARAKA CARSWELL; and DENNIS BARNUM

Plaintiffs,

Case No.: 3:22-cv-493-MMH-LLL

v.

CITY OF JACKSONVILLE and MIKE HOGAN, in his official capacity as Duval County Supervisor of Elections,

Defendants.
_____/

DECLARATION OF JU'COBY PITTMAN

1. My name is Ju'Coby Pittman and I submit this declaration pursuant to 28 U.S.C. §1746. I am over the age of 18 and fully competent to make this declaration.

2. I am a member of the Jacksonville City Council representing District 8. I was initially appointed as the Councilmember for District 8 in 2018 and elected by the constituents of District 8 in 2019.

3. I am a member of the Democratic Party.

4. Prior to the 2022 redistricting process, District 8 spanned the northwest section of Duval County and also included the residential areas along the Trout River. The primary change that occurred to District 8 was to its northwestern boundary. A true and correct copy of the 2011 and 2022 boundaries of District 8 are attached hereto as Exhibit A.

5. According to the 2020 decennial census, District 8's total population was 65,166 people.

6. Mr. Killingsworth, the Director of the Planning and Development Department for the City of Jacksonville and City consultant for the redistricting process, advised that in order to comply with the one person/one vote standard required by the United States Constitution, each of the 14 City Council Districts needed to have an approximate total population of 71,000.

7. According to the 2020 census numbers, District 8 needed to gain population to meet the acceptable population deviation.

8. As a result of the redistricting, District 8 gained 2,750 people.

9. Starting from the existing City Council district boundaries to equalize the population was the most important factor leading to my advocacy for District 8's new boundaries.

10. The primary area in which District 8 gained communities of interest were along its northwestern boundary.

11. I understand "communities of interest" to include not only the categories stated in the Ordinance Code – the varied economic, social and ethnic interests and objectives of the citizens of Jacksonville – but also such commonalities as types of housing (such as single family, apartments, subdivisions), location (urban, rural, waterfront), property uses (farms, businesses, parks), common backgrounds and cultures, and economic and political concerns.

12. I never used the term "communities of interest" as a euphemism solely for race, nor do I understand the term to be defined so narrowly.

13. By transferring this area from District 7 to District 8, I believe the boundaries for both Districts became more uniform.

14. In addition, this area had what I considered a community of interest. Specifically, this area was similar to the relatively rural areas already in District 8. I have been working with the constituents of District 8 as these areas are becoming more developed, and the constituents in this area added from District 7 would benefit from my previous work.

15. While racial percentages were discussed in connection with the proposed addition to District 8, I also requested political demographics for each proposed change.

16. I agreed to the final border between District 8 and District 7 because District 8 would maintain a strong Democratic population while making sure that the District satisfied the overall population requirements.

17. One of the proposals to equalize the population in District 8 was to move part of the City of Baldwin from District 12 to District 8.

18. This, however, would not fit the community of interest in that Baldwin is heavily Republican whereas the surrounding areas of District 8 are more Democratic. In addition, the Council member in District 12 is already very familiar with Baldwin, and I believe that is important for all of the citizens of Jacksonville – not just those in District 8 – to maintain continuity of representation and have a good relationship with their representatives. In addition, District 8 is one of the geographically larger districts with a diverse mix of urban, suburban, and rural areas, which requires several types of community meetings on a regular basis. Adding the concentrated population area of Baldwin would require another set of regular meetings to adequately represent and serve the population.

19. The Complaint filed by the Plaintiffs in this action alleges that District 8 has 13 split neighborhoods. This is because the redistricting process itself was based off of the 2020 census blocks, not specific neighborhoods.

20. The final borders of District 8 reflect my commitment to maintain a strong Democratic population while maintaining continuity of representation not only in District 8 but also in neighboring districts.

21. At no point during the redistricting process did I aim to set a specific racial target population for District 8 or any other City Council District.

22. The race of the constituents I gained was not the primary factor in the redistricting of the boundaries of District 8.

23. The racial balance of some Districts was discussed during the redistricting process out of a concern to neither pack nor dilute the votes of minority citizens. However, my understanding is that these concerns represented only some of many considerations that influenced the Council's redistricting decisions, and did not predominate over all others.

24. I voted in favor of Ordinance 2022-01-E because I believed that the District lines contained therein are constitutional and complied with the guidelines set by the committee and met the population deviation requirements. The final product appeared to me to be a good work of compromise – each council member got what they needed without any drastic changes.

25. My vote in favor of Ordinance 2022-01-E and the District lines contained therein was not predominately driven by race.

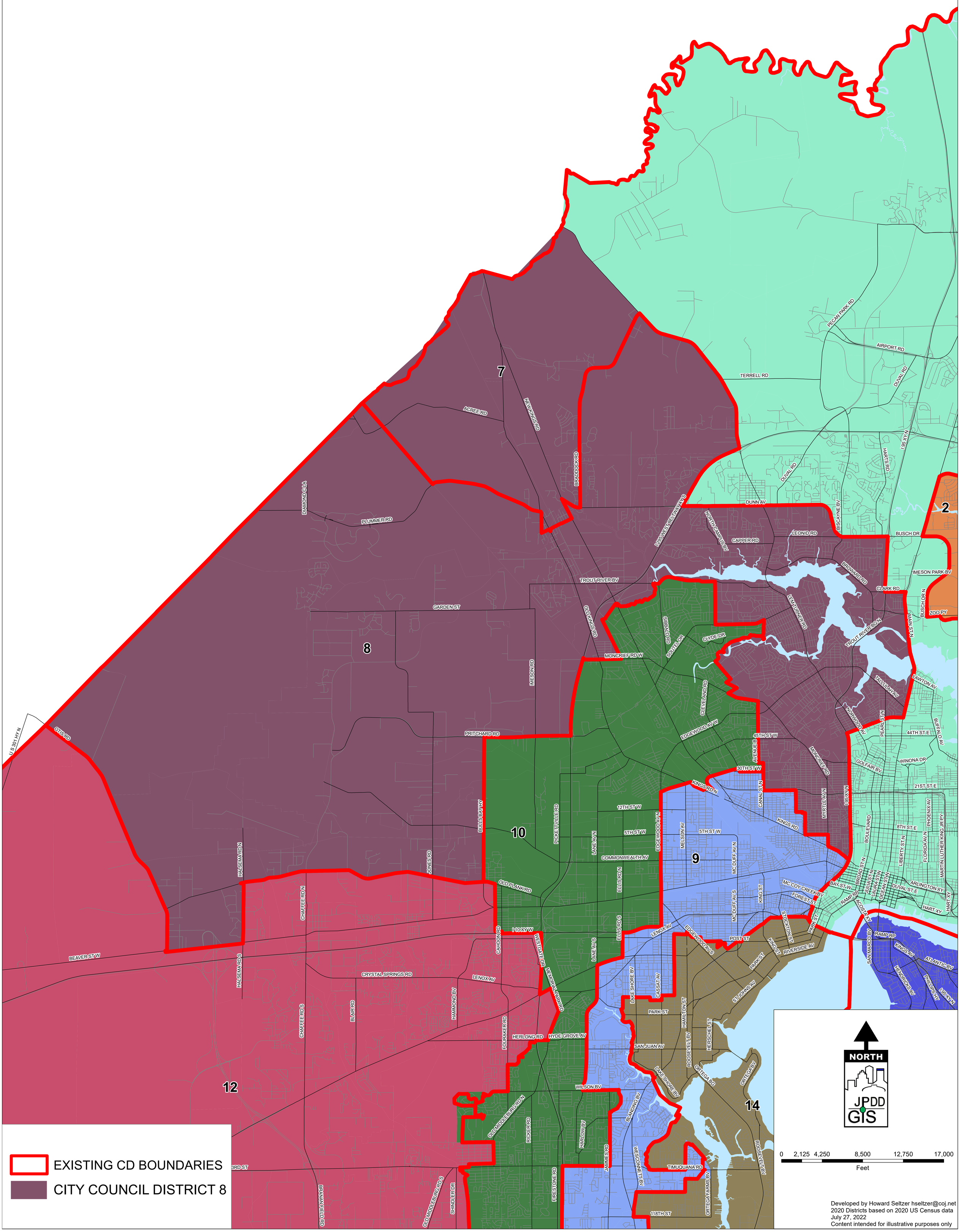
I declare and state under penalty of perjury, that the foregoing is true and correct.

Executed this 9th day of August, 2022, in Duval County, Florida.

JU'COBY PITTMAN

EXHIBIT A

CITY COUNCIL DISTRICT 8



UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
MIDDLE DISTRICT OF FLORIDA
JACKSONVILLE DIVISION

JACKSONVILLE BRANCH OF THE NAACP; NORTHSIDE COALITION OF JACKSONVILLE, INC.; ACLU OF FLORIDA NORTHEAST CHAPTER; FLORIDA RISING TOGETHER, INC.; MARCELLA WASHINGTON; INGRID MONTGOMERY; AYESHA FRANKLIN; TIFFANIE ROBERTS; ROSEMARY McCOY; SHELIA SINGLETON; EUNICE BARNUM; JANINE WILLIAMS; HARAKA CARSWELL; and DENNIS BARNUM

Plaintiffs,

Case No.: 3:22-cv-493-MMH-LLL

v.

CITY OF JACKSONVILLE and MIKE HOGAN, in his official capacity as Duval County Supervisor of Elections,

Defendants.
_____/

DECLARATION OF BRENDA ALEXIS PRIESTLY JACKSON

1. My name is Brenda Alexis Priestly Jackson and I submit this declaration pursuant to 28 U.S.C. §1746. I am over the age of 18 and fully competent to make this declaration.

2. I am a member of the Jacksonville City Council representing District 10. I was elected by the constituents of District 10 in 2019.

3. I am a member of the Democratic Party.

4. I was also a member of the Special Committee on Redistricting appointed on July 2, 2021 by Council President Newby ("Committee") ("Committee"). The Committee was responsible for, among other things: (1) recommending a person qualified to serve as the Redistricting Consultant, (2) determining what rules must be followed in developing legally defensible districts, (3) developing guidelines for the redistricting process based off of legal considerations, and (4) submitting a final proposed redistricting plan to City Council within 150 days after the U.S. Bureau of the Census certification of the final population count for the City of Jacksonville. I also served on the predecessor Redistricting Committee, which met prior to, and in anticipation of the Census Bureau's release of census numbers to states and municipalities on August 12, 2021.

5. At the Committee's first meeting, the Committee unanimously voted to make Mr. Killingsworth, the Director of the City of Jacksonville Planning and Development Department (the "Department"), the Committee's redistricting consultant.

6. The Committee provided Mr. Killingsworth several considerations to take into account during the redistricting process.

7. The unanimously agreed upon considerations included: (1) starting from the existing City Council district boundaries; (2) continue using total population numbers to determine compliance with the one person/one vote standard; (3) not drawing incumbents outside of their current districts; (4) minimizing river crossings, to the extent possible; and (5) not expediting the redistricting process, but rather adhering to the normal redistricting timeline.

8. Other considerations were discussed, but were not specifically included in the Committee's direction since they were already included in Section 18.101 of the Ordinance Code, which the Department was required to follow.

9. These considerations established the baseline and starting point for the Department to work from in generating new District lines.

10. In addition to the Committee's unanimously agreed upon guidelines stated above, other factors were taken into consideration by individual City Council members as it related to redistricting of their specific Districts.

11. The two factors that I expressed the most concern over were: (1) not accelerating the redistricting process so that the new districts would apply for the 2022 School Board election and (2) protecting incumbent School Board and City Council members.

12. My understand regarding incumbency was that it was a major consideration for any new district boundaries and that an incumbent could not be drawn out of their district.

13. Incumbency was an important factor to me, even though at that time I was not running for re-election in District 10.

14. I am also a former School Board member, so considering the residency of incumbent School Board members was an important consideration to me. I specifically advocated that the Committee vote to include incumbency of both Council Members and School Board Members as a core factor to the redistricting process, on which it voted in the affirmative at its August 24, 2021 meeting.

15. Connected with my concern regarding protecting incumbents was my desire not to accelerate the redistricting process.

16. Dr. Coker, a member of the Duval County School Board, advised the Committee that the three School Board members whose terms were set to expire in 2022 could nonetheless run for re-election. In order to ensure that those individuals could run for re-election, I was committed to drawing lines that would protect their incumbency status.

17. In addition, I thought acceleration of the process could raise questions about the transparency and fairness of the redistricting process.

18. I believe the most important factor to the Committee as a whole was starting the redistricting process from the existing District boundaries rather than starting the process from scratch.

19. I voted to start from the 2011 existing District boundaries because: (1) the Department had started from scratch in 2010 and created new district boundaries; (2) to the best of my recollection, I had not received any complaints from the constituents of District 10 regarding the 2011 district boundaries; (3) District 11 was the only district with substantial growth that needed to be accounted for in 2022; and (4) it would help protect incumbent City Council and School Board members from being drawn out of their current Districts.

20. Starting from the existing City Council district boundaries to equalize the population was the most important factor leading to my advocacy for District 10's new boundaries.

21. During the 2022 redistricting process, the only change that occurred to District 10 was along the southwest border. A true and correct copy of the 2011 and 2022 boundaries of District 10 are attached hereto as **Exhibit A**.

22. According to the 2020 decennial census, District 10's total population was 67,567 people.

23. Mr. Killingsworth advised that in order to comply with the one person/one vote standard required by the United States Constitution, each of the

14 City Council Districts needed to have an approximate total population of 71,000, and that the population deviation must be within a 10% range measured from the District with the largest population to the District with the smallest population.

24. According to the 2020 census numbers, District 10 did not need to gain or lose any population to meet the acceptable population deviation.

25. Because the Committee unanimously agreed to start the redistricting process based off of the prior district boundaries, my primary concern for District 10 was to equalize the District's population so that the 10% population deviation for all Districts was met.

26. As a result of the redistricting, it was my understanding that District 10 gained 1,210 people, the majority of which resulted from the 2010 census block lines moving and natural population growth.

27. In 2022, District 10 gained a census block that had previously been placed in adjoining District 12 during the 2010 redistricting process.

28. In 2010, this census block had been placed in District 12 because the in-law's of the District 12 representative – Doyle Carter – lived in this area.

29. The prior placement of this area in District 12 caused the boundary between District 10 and 12 to be irregular in shape.

30. This area, nonetheless, shared similar characteristics to District 10, including household size, age of residents, and economic background.

31. During the 2022 redistricting process, the census block containing the area at issue was moved into District 10, which in turn made the boundary between 10 and 12 more uniform and regular.

32. I understand the term "communities of interest" to encompass numerous and various descriptors, including the criteria stated in the Ordinance Code – the varied economic, social and ethnic interests and objectives of the citizens of Jacksonville – as well as people with similar political affiliation, people who share similar concerns, shared racial or ethnic backgrounds, communities with a common history, cultural communities, economic communities, and geographical communities such as the Beaches, or pre-existing political subdivisions like Baldwin.

33. I never used the term "communities of interest" as a euphemism solely for race, nor do I understand the term to be defined so narrowly.

34. I understand the phrase "historical communities of interest" to be a subset of the broader term of "communities of interest."

35. The redistricting process was based on the 2020 census blocks, and not any specific neighborhood boundaries. Although the Complaint filed by the

Plaintiffs in this action alleges that District 10 has 19 split neighborhoods, these were not the basis for the process.

36. The final borders of District 10 reflect my commitment to maintain a district reflective of the one person/one vote principle and allowing voters to actualize their ability to vote for a candidate of their choice, whatever party, race or outlook.

37. At no point during the redistricting process did I aim to set a specific racial target population for District 10 or any other City Council District.

38. The race of the constituents I gained was not the predominant factor in the redistricting of the boundaries of District 10.

39. The racial balance of some Districts was discussed during the redistricting process out of a concern to neither pack nor dilute the votes of minority citizens. However, my understanding is that these concerns represented only some of many considerations that influenced the Council's redistricting decisions, and did not predominate over all others.

40. I voted in favor of Ordinance 2022-01-E because I believed that the District lines contained therein constitutional and comply with the one person/one vote standard as well as with local, state, and federal law.

41. My vote in favor of Ordinance 2022-01-E and the District lines contained therein was not predominately driven by race.

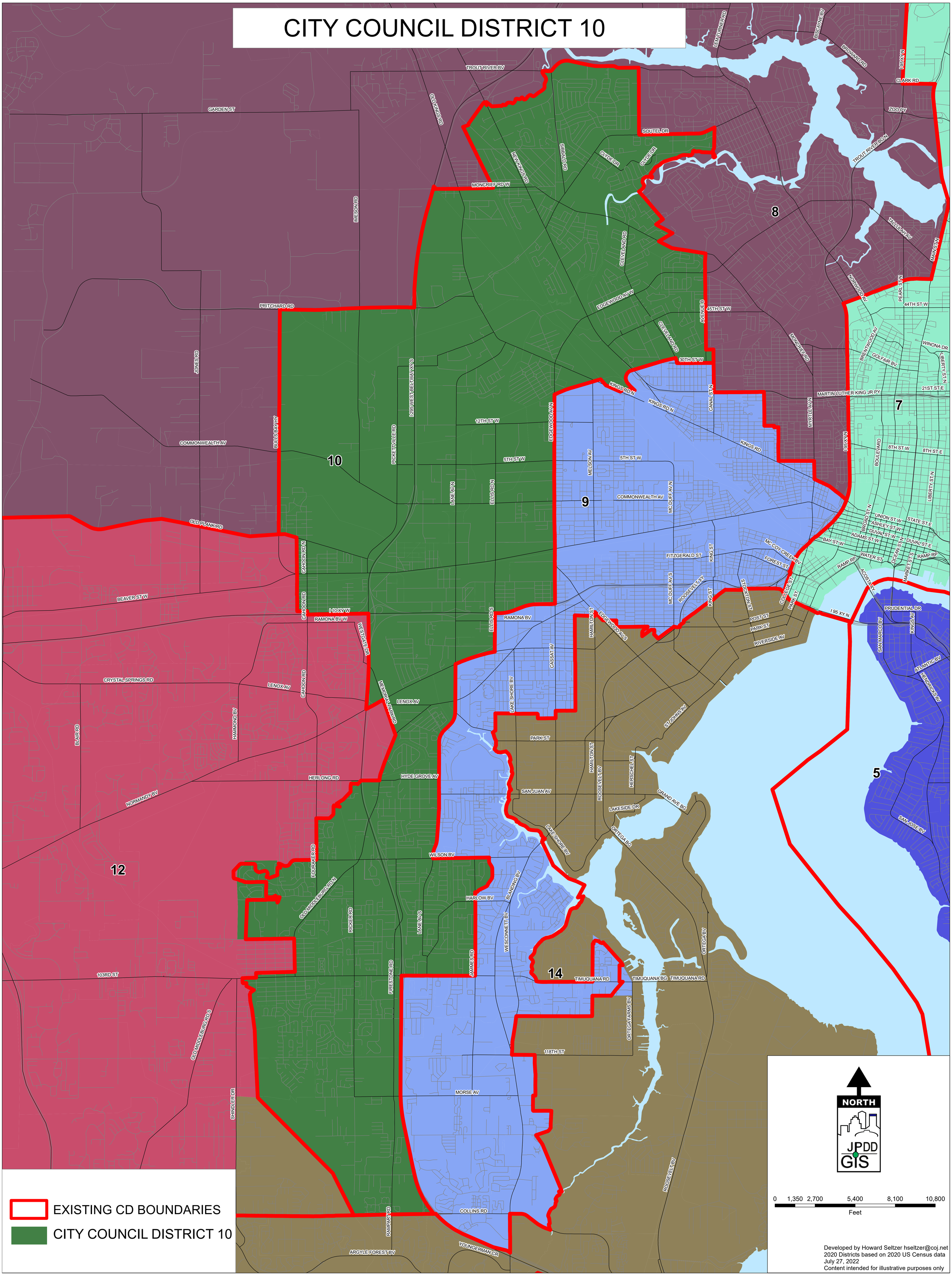
I declare and state under penalty of perjury, that the foregoing is true and correct.

Executed this 9th day of August, 2022, in Duval County, Florida.

BRENDA ALEXIS PRIESTLY JACKSON

EXHIBIT A

CITY COUNCIL DISTRICT 10



UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
MIDDLE DISTRICT OF FLORIDA
JACKSONVILLE DIVISION

JACKSONVILLE BRANCH OF THE NAACP; NORTHSIDE COALITION OF JACKSONVILLE, INC.; ACLU OF FLORIDA NORTHEAST CHAPTER; FLORIDA RISING TOGETHER, INC.; MARCELLA WASHINGTON; INGRID MONTGOMERY; AYESHA FRANKLIN; TIFFANIE ROBERTS; ROSEMARY McCOY; SHELIA SINGLETON; EUNICE BARNUM; JANINE WILLIAMS; HARAKA CARSWELL; and DENNIS BARNUM

Plaintiffs,

v. Case No.: 3:22-cv-493-MMH-LLL

CITY OF JACKSONVILLE and MIKE HOGAN, in his official capacity as Duval County Supervisor of Elections,

Defendants.
_____/

DECLARATION OF RONALD B. SALEM

1. My name is Ronald B. Salem, Pharm. D., and I submit this declaration pursuant to 28 U.S.C. §1746. I am over the age of 18 and fully competent to make this declaration.

2. I am a member of the Jacksonville City Council representing At-Large Group 2. I was elected to this position in 2019, and am serving as Council Vice-President for 2022-2023. I am a member of the Republican Party.

3. I do not recall the term "communities of interest" being used as a euphemism for race by any member of the City Council in discussing redistricting, nor would I have used the term in such a manner.

4. I voted in favor of Ordinance 2022-01-E because I trusted the work of the committee and staff, and because it was represented to me that the maps were defensible in court.

I declare and state under penalty of perjury, that the foregoing is true and correct.

Executed this 9th day of August, 2022, in Duval County, Florida.

Ronald B. Salem

RONALD B. SALEM

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
MIDDLE DISTRICT OF FLORIDA
JACKSONVILLE DIVISION

JACKSONVILLE BRANCH OF THE NAACP; NORTHSIDE COALITION OF JACKSONVILLE, INC.; ACLU OF FLORIDA NORTHEAST CHAPTER; FLORIDA RISING TOGETHER, INC.; MARCELLA WASHINGTON; INGRID MONTGOMERY; AYESHA FRANKLIN; TIFFANIE ROBERTS; ROSEMARY McCOY; SHELIA SINGLETON; EUNICE BARNUM; JANINE WILLIAMS; HARAKA CARSWELL; and DENNIS BARNUM

Plaintiffs,

Case No.: 3:22-cv-493-MMH-LLL

v.

CITY OF JACKSONVILLE and MIKE HOGAN, in his official capacity as Duval County Supervisor of Elections,

Defendants.
_____/

DECLARATION OF RANDY WHITE

1. My name is Randy White and I submit this declaration pursuant to 28 U.S.C. §1746. I am over the age of 18 and fully competent to make this declaration.

2. I am a member of the Jacksonville City Council representing District 12. I was initially elected Councilmember by the constituents of District 12 in 2018 and re-elected in 2019.

3. I am a member of the Republican Party.

4. I was a member of the Special Committee on Redistricting appointed on July 2, 2021 by Council President Newby ("Committee"). The Committee was responsible for, among other things: (1) recommending a person qualified to serve as the Redistricting Consultant, (2) determining what rules must be followed in developing legally defensible districts, (3) developing guidelines for the redistricting process based off of legal considerations, and (4) submitting a final proposed redistricting plan to City Council within 150 days after the U.S. Bureau of the Census certification of the final population count for the City of Jacksonville.

5. At its first meeting, the Committee unanimously voted to make Mr. Killingsworth, the Director of the City of Jacksonville Planning and Development Department (the "Department"), the Committee's redistricting consultant.

6. The Committee provided Mr. Killingsworth several considerations to take into account during the redistricting process.

7. The unanimously agreed upon considerations included: (1) starting from the existing City Council district boundaries; (2) continue using total population numbers to determine compliance with the one person/one vote standard; (3) not drawing incumbents outside of their current districts; (4) minimizing river crossings, to the extent possible; and (5) not expediting the redistricting process, but rather adhering to the normal redistricting timeline.

8. I voted to start from the 2011 existing District boundaries because it was one of the recommendations that would make the process easier.

9. Other considerations were discussed, but were not specifically included in the Committee's direction since they were already included in Section 18.101 of the Ordinance Code, which the Department was required to follow.

10. These considerations established the baseline and starting point for the Department to work from in generating new District lines.

11. In addition to the Committee's unanimously agreed upon guidelines stated above, other factors were taken into consideration by individual City Council members as it related to redistricting of their specific Districts.

12. Keeping the quasi-municipality of Baldwin whole was one of the most important factors leading to my advocacy for District 12's new boundaries, as well as starting from existing lines and not drawing incumbent members of the Council and School Board out of their districts.

13. Prior to the 2022 redistricting process, District 12 spanned the southwesternmost part of the City and included the town of Baldwin. The primary changes that occurred to District 12 were to its eastern and southeastern boundaries. A true and correct copy of the 2011 and 2022 boundaries of District 12 are attached hereto as Exhibit A.

14. According to the 2020 decennial census, District 12's total population was 71,617 people.

15. Mr. Killingsworth, the Director of the Planning and Development Department for the City of Jacksonville and City consultant for the redistricting process, advised that in order to comply with the one person/one vote standard required by the United States Constitution, each of the 14 City Council Districts needed to have an approximate total population of 71,000.

16. According to the 2020 census numbers, District 12 did not need to gain or lose any population to meet the acceptable population deviation. However, as a result of the total population in the surrounding Districts, it was likely that District 12's border needed to change.

17. Because the Committee unanimously agreed to start the redistricting process based off of the prior district boundaries, my primary concern for District 12 was to equalize the District's population so that the 10% population deviation for all Districts was met.

18. As a result of the redistricting, District 12 lost 3,921 people.

19. To achieve the proper population number, a portion of the Argyle community was shifted from District 12 to District 14.

20. This area included what I considered a community of interest which fit within District 14, including the fact that the residents live in a common geographic area of Jacksonville that is naturally bounded by the Ortega River.

21. I do not have my own definition of the term "communities of interest," but defer to the language in section 18.101(c) of the Jacksonville Ordinance Code. I never used the term "communities of interest" as a euphemism solely for race, nor do I understand the term to be defined so narrowly.

22. By transferring the Argyle area from District 12 to District 14, communities of interest were joined.

23. This change also reduced the number of City Council Districts the Argyle community was spread across from three (Districts10, 12, and 14) to two (Districts 10 and 14).

24. One of the proposals raised during the redistricting process was to split the town of Baldwin, which was currently in District 12, to span across District 8 and District 12.

25. This proposal could have equalized population between District 8 and District 12, but it would result in splitting a community of interest – the town of Baldwin.

26. The town of Baldwin is located on the outer edge of Duval County and constitutes the fifth urban services district (Section 2.01, Jacksonville Code of

Ordinances). It is a quasi-municipality that has all governmental, corporate, and proprietary powers to conduct its own municipal government. It has its own charter, mayor, and council.

27. This area fit within directly within the surrounding communities of interest located in District 12 because it is geographically more convenient for District 12 and its small-town nature is vastly different from the more urban area included in District 8. I did not want to give up the Town of Baldwin and felt like it needed to be in District 12.

28. Rather than split this town – a distinct community of interest – into separate Districts, the focus shifted to joining communities of interest in the Argyle area.

29. I agreed to the final borders of District 12 because it allowed the District to give up some population, which was necessary to maintain the acceptable deviation, while largely preserving and maintaining the existing boundaries and communities of interest.

30. The Complaint filed by the Plaintiffs in this action alleges that District 12 has 11 split neighborhoods. This is because the redistricting process itself was based off of the 2020 census blocks, not specific neighborhoods.

31. At no point during the redistricting process did I aim to set a specific racial target population for District 12 or any other City Council District.

32. The racial balance of some Districts was discussed during the redistricting process out of a concern to neither pack nor dilute the votes of minority citizens. However, my understanding is that these concerns represented only some of many considerations that influenced the Council's redistricting decisions, and did not predominate over all others.

33. The race of the constituents I lost was not the predominant factor in the redistricting of the boundaries of District 12.

34. I voted in favor of Ordinance 2022-01-E because I believed that the District lines contained therein comport are constitutional and it kept the Town of Baldwin intact.

35. My vote in favor of Ordinance 2022-01-E and the District lines contained therein was not predominately driven by race.

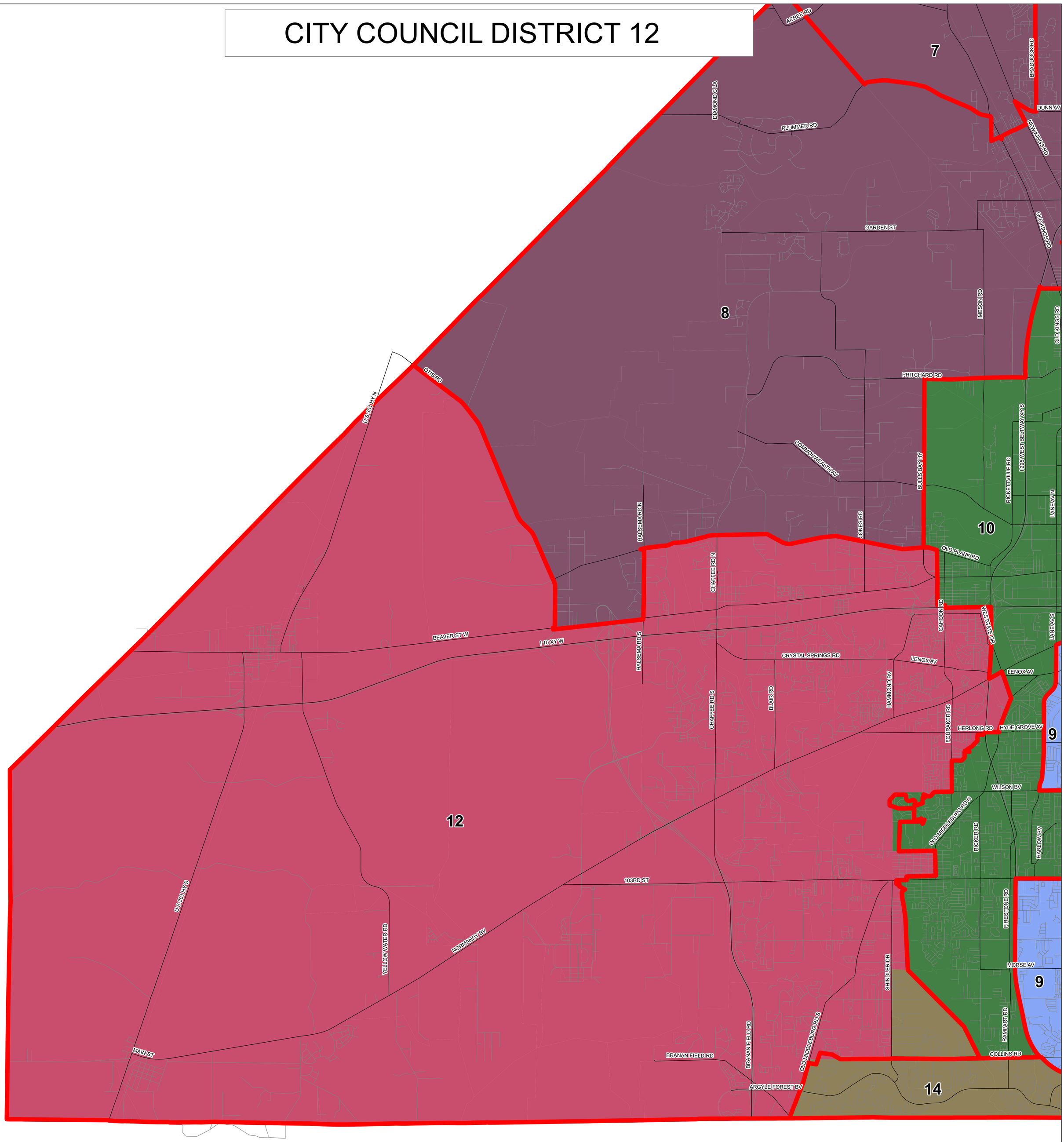
I declare and state under penalty of perjury, that the foregoing is true and correct.

Executed this 12th day of August, 2022, in Duval County, Florida.

RANDY WHITE

EXHIBIT A

CITY COUNCIL DISTRICT 12



EXISTING CD BOUNDARIES

CITY COUNCIL DISTRICT 12

NORTH

JPDD GIS

0 2,125 4,250 8,500 12,750 17,000

Feet

Developed by Howard Seltzer hseltzer@coj.net
2020 Districts based on 2020 US Census data
July 27, 2022
Content intended for illustrative purposes only

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
MIDDLE DISTRICT OF FLORIDA
JACKSONVILLE DIVISION

JACKSONVILLE BRANCH OF THE NAACP; NORTHSIDE COALITION OF JACKSONVILLE, INC.; ACLU OF FLORIDA NORTHEAST CHAPTER; FLORIDA RISING TOGETHER, INC.; MARCELLA WASHINGTON; INGRID MONTGOMERY; AYESHA FRANKLIN; TIFFANIE ROBERTS; ROSEMARY McCOY; SHELIA SINGLETON; EUNICE BARNUM; JANINE WILLIAMS; HARAKA CARSWELL; and DENNIS BARNUM

Plaintiffs, Case No.: 3:22-cv-493-MMH-LLL

v.

CITY OF JACKSONVILLE and MIKE HOGAN, in his official capacity as Duval County Supervisor of Elections,

Defendants.
_____/

DECLARATION OF WILLIAM KILLINGSWORTH

1. My name is William Killingsworth and I submit this declaration pursuant to 28 U.S.C. §1746. I am over the age of 18 and fully competent to make this declaration.

2. I am the Director of Planning and Development for the City of Jacksonville ("Director"). I have held this position for approximately 10 years.

3. Some of my duties as the Director include: the planning activities of the Consolidated Government; administering and interpreting the Comprehensive Plan and the Zoning Code; assisting and making recommendations to the Council with respect to zoning matters; considering and making recommendations to the Planning Commission upon requests for exceptions, variances, and waivers to the Zoning Code; granting administrative deviations to the Zoning Code; coordinating and developing Jacksonville's Resiliency Strategy across all departments and with affiliated agencies; and assisting with the reapportionment of Council districts as required by the Charter or as requested by the Council.

4. The Special Committee on Redistricting ("Committee") decided to use the Department of Planning and Development ("Department") to act as the redistricting consultant for the City of Jacksonville at the first meeting of the Committee,

5. The population of Duval County in 2020, per the census, is 995,497, which means the target population for each district is 71,107. The difference between smallest and largest district can be no more than 10%. In other words, the largest district can be no larger than 1.1% of an increase to the smallest district.

6. In the 2020 census, District 11 demonstrated a growth of approximately 30,000 people, which required changes to surrounding districts.

District 8 needed to gain residents, which impacted its boundaries with district 7.

a. District 7 gave a section to District 8. In turn, District 2 gave a neighborhood to District 7.

b. There were changes in district 9 and 10 that had to do with census block changes.

c. Additionally, District 10 corrected the lines for one neighborhood, straightening out the lines.

7. The Department used Arc GIS, which is the standard computer program used by municipalities for various City projects. It is a multi-purpose tool which includes geographic mapping.

8. To use the program for redistricting purpose, census data is needed.

9. Data migration is seamless between Arc GIS and the census numbers because they are imported using a tool provided by the Census Bureau.

10. Census releases a shape file which includes census blocks. The tabular data was released as an Access database.

11. Census blocks have feature identification numbers.

12. The feature identification numbers relate to the table on ARC GIS and tie together the tabular data and the geographic data.

13. District boundaries must follow census block boundaries.

14. Census releases data in a hierarchy. The smallest are census blocks. Census blocks do not have a standardized shape or set of number of residents. However, they tend to be the size of a given city block, and contain a few hundred residents, depending on the size and population density of that geographic block. They aggregate into block groups. Block groups aggregate into census tracts, which then aggregate up to place and place to the county level.

15. While the City can provide input and recommendations regarding census tracks, the City does not define the geographic boundaries of census blocks.

16. As the census categories get smaller, the boundaries are more likely to change.

17. Several district borders changed because the census block was different than the one in 2010. The district boundaries must be co-linear with the census blocks. If census blocks changed, District boundaries changed accordingly.

18. For example, because of census block changes in Districts 9 and 10, district lines also had to change in Ortega farms and Springtree Village areas, respectively.

19. At the August 18, 2021 meeting the Department was given direction by the Committee to start from the current council districts rather than starting from scratch.

20. At the August 24, 2021, meeting the Department was given direction to: (1) use total population numbers - instead of voting age population - to comply with the one person/one vote standard; (2) not draw incumbents outside of their current districts; (3) minimize river crossings but recognize that it may not be possible to eliminate all river crossings; and (4) not expedite the redistricting process, but rather adhere to the normal redistricting timeline.

21. Because the Department started from existing boundaries, it primarily needed to make changes to the southern part of the City to account for District 11's population growth.

22. This was done by moving the district boundaries on the borders from one district to another until the desired population was met.

23. The Department attempted to keep communities of interest together when moving district boundaries.

24. I understand the term "communities of interest" to encompass numerous and various descriptors, including the criteria stated in the Ordinance Code – the varied economic, social and ethnic interests and objectives of the citizens of Jacksonville – as well as people with similar

political affiliation, people who share similar concerns, shared racial or ethnic backgrounds, communities with a common history, cultural communities, economic communities. I also understand that all districts should be created as nearly equal in population and that they are based upon population with respect to their size, the geographical arrangement and that they must take into consideration compactness and contiguity, so that the people and their varied economic, social and ethnic interests and objectives, are adequately represented by the Council.

25. I had a general understanding of the City's different communities of interest but needed input from individual council members as to their specific districts. I did not weigh the importance of various communities of interest; Council determined how to weigh the importance of various communities of interest.

26. The Supervisor of Elections Office (SEO) provided party affiliations. Party affiliation was one community of interest the Council was interested in.

27. The Committee did not set racial targets for any district and the Department did not use race in drafting its map versions.

28. Plaintiffs allege that the Redistricting 2022 district lines split neighborhoods show that race was used. The Department did not use the

neighborhood map that Plaintiffs reference and never relied upon or referenced in the 2022 redistricting process.

29. During the 2022 redistricting process, he Department did not use a City adopted map that officially recognizes designated neighborhoods in the 2022 redistricting process; nor am I aware that any such map exists.

30. The City previously maintained a map of self-identified neighborhoods, which I understand was created in the late 1980's or early 1990's.

31. This mylar/digitized map caused many problems. Many City residents complained that they were not in their designated neighborhood or did not agree with the lines as drawn on the map.

32. The mylar/digitized map has not been updated and data is likely 30 plus years old.

33. The map was never codified in City law.

34. As stated above, the Department only used census blocks provided by the Census Bureau and data from the SOE.

35. The 2022 redistricting made the City Council district boundaries more logical and uniform. For example, moving part of 7 to 8 smoothed out the border between the two districts.

36. Any racial data include on the maps was directly from provided census data, and not used as a primary source for decision making.

37. Census provides 301 categories of data which cannot fit on the page with the map.

38. Only single race demographics from the census were reported. These included: White, Black, American Indian, Asian, Hawaiian, Hispanic Latino, and Not Hispanic Latino.

39. Other categories include: "Other" and "Two or more".

40. The Department did not consider precincts in drawing District lines.

41. At no point during the redistricting process did the Department aim to set a specific racial target population for any City Council District.

42. The racial balance of some Districts was discussed during the redistricting process out of a concern to neither pack nor dilute the votes of minority citizens. However, my understanding is that these concerns represented only some of many considerations that influenced the Council's redistricting decisions and did not predominate over all others.

I declare and state under penalty of perjury, that the foregoing is true and correct.

Executed this __ day of August 11, 2022, in Duval County, Florida.

WILLIAM KILLINGSWORTH

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
MIDDLE DISTRICT OF FLORIDA
JACKSONVILLE DIVISION

JACKSONVILLE BRANCH OF THE NAACP; NORTHSIDE COALITION OF JACKSONVILLE, INC.; ACLU OF FLORIDA NORTHEAST CHAPTER; FLORIDA RISING TOGETHER, INC.; MARCELLA WASHINGTON; INGRID MONTGOMERY; AYESHA FRANKLIN; TIFFANIE ROBERTS; ROSEMARY McCOY; SHELIA SINGLETON; EUNICE BARNUM; JANINE WILLIAMS; HARAKA CARSWELL; and DENNIS BARNUM

Plaintiffs,

Case No.: 3:22-cv-493-MMH-LLL

v.

CITY OF JACKSONVILLE and MIKE HOGAN, in his official capacity as Duval County Supervisor of Elections,

Defendants.
_____/

DECLARATION OF ROBERT PHILLIPS

I, ROBERT PHILLIPS, do hereby submit this Declaration pursuant to 28 U.S.C. Section 1746, and state as follows:

1. My name is Robert Phillips. I am over the age of eighteen (18) years, and am of sound mind and fully competent, and have personal knowledge to attest to the matters stated herein. I am the Chief Elections Officer for the Duval County Supervisor of Elections.

2. I have personal knowledge of the matters set forth herein.

3. I have been employed by the Duval County Supervisor of Elections Office for 31 years and have been in the role of Chief Elections Officer for 8 years.

4. My responsibilities as Chief Elections Officer include legislative services, budget preparation, procurement, calendaring, other election-related duties, and implementing all reapportionment and redistricting plans in Duval County.

5. City elections, including for Mayor, Sheriff, Supervisor of Elections, Tax Collector, Property Appraiser, and all City Council seats, are held in accordance with § 350.102, Jacksonville Ord. Code. The City of Jacksonville First Election will be held March 21, 2023. If no candidate receives a majority of the votes, the General Election will be held May 16, 2023. There are no provisions in the ordinance to change these dates in the event of a change in the district lines.

6. Although candidate qualifying for the 2023 municipal elections is from January 9-13, 2023, any candidate who desires to qualify by petition rather than paying a fee must submit the petition no later than noon on December 12, 2022. Our office must certify those signatures no later than January 2, 2023. The qualifying date is based on Chapter 99 of the Florida Statutes, and cannot change unless there is a corresponding change to the

election dates which, as stated above, would have to be changed by ordinance.

7. The Office of the Supervisor of Elections will be extremely burdened if the City Council District boundaries are redrawn at this late date. Our office has already relied on the lines drawn when Ordinance 2022-01-E was enacted. When the new City Council Districts were changed, our office had to mail new voter registration cards to approximately 615,000 registered voters. This process took two weeks due to printer capacity. Of course, these changes were also necessitated by the redrawn Congressional and state legislative maps. If the maps are redrawn again for the City Council districts, new registration cards will have to be mailed out to all voters affected by the new district lines at an additional cost. The more the maps are changed, the more voters affected, and the more cards we will have to send out. Costs will correspond to the number of voters.

8. Reissuing voter registration cards is not a simple task. We take many quality control measures to make sure that voters have the correct information when they vote. We have to run tests in our redistricting database, then put it into production. In addition, precincts must be redrawn (as discussed in more detail below). Only at that point can we schedule cards to be mailed. The process usually takes 3-4 weeks; attempting to do this in three weeks or less would weaken our stringent measures for ensuring accuracy. Changing the voter registration cards in such a short time frame would also

result in voter confusion: voters voting at one place in November may be told they have to go to a different location in March because of new lines being drawn. This is especially true for Council Districts 7 and 9, which have vacancies that are being filled in a special election as part of the August 2022 primary and general elections.

9. Many of the processes are dependent on outside vendors with their own timelines. Even if we could shorten our internal processes, the vendors might not be able to (and for large-scale changes, they would likely need additional time).

10. Even if only minor changes are made to the maps, we will have to superimpose the new maps on the current maps and determine where the differences are – the voters in these areas will be impacted by the change, even if no candidates or races are affected.

11. If major changes are made to the maps, however, it is likely that candidates and council district races will be significantly impacted. The ballots will be printed on January 20, 2023; we must send them to the printer no later than January 20. Although we are not required to comply with UOCAVA for the City Elections, we do so anyway to give overseas voters a full and fair opportunity to vote in their hometown elections. Again, rushing the process could adversely affect the voting process. Polling places may also need to be changed.

12. If the City Council Districts were redrawn but not in time for the March 2023 First Election, it would be unduly burdensome to hold the March election for offices not affected by redistricting (such as the Mayor, Sheriff, and constitutional officers) and then a separate later election for the redrawn Council Districts. Each election costs a minimum of $1.5 million, and two elections would most likely have to be held, since many of the fourteen districts would likely have more than two candidates in the race. In addition, voter turnout would likely be lower in a second set of elections.

13. The plaintiffs have alleged in their complaint that the 2022 council districts have too many split precincts. Plaintiffs appear to have a misunderstanding of how precincts are drawn in the City. Precincts do not have permanent boundaries, but are subject to change after redistricting following each census.

14. Precincts are redrawn after the congressional, state legislative, and city council maps are submitted. We look at the census blocks, which indicate where the population resides, and consider only the population demographics, not race or political party. Census blocks remain whole within precincts (except for community development districts, which may need to be split depending on the statutory district boundaries). The primary consideration for drawing precincts is following the newly revised council lines, although we try to follow state legislative and congressional lines as

much as possible.

15. Precincts are also subject to be redrawn without redistricting for a variety of reasons. For instance, depending on population growth in the years between redistricting, certain precincts may gain more population than can be easily handled at the designated polling place. Other precincts may be consolidated if the population decreases in those areas. In short, precincts are fluid boundary lines that can be – and are often – changed at the recommendation of the Supervisor of Elections and upon adoption of an ordinance by the City Council. Compare Jacksonville Ordinance 2022-0384-E (changing voting precincts following City, State Legislative, and Congressional redistricting) with Jacksonville Ordinance 2020-0025-E (creating new precinct and revising precinct boundaries).

I DECLARE UNDER PENALTY OF PERJURY that the foregoing is true and correct.

Executed this 11th day of August, 2022, in Duval County, Florida.

ROBERT PHILLIPS

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
MIDDLE DISTRICT OF FLORIDA
JACKSONVILLE DIVISION

JACKSONVILLE BRANCH OF THE NAACP; NORTHSIDE COALITION OF JACKSONVILLE, INC.; ACLU OF FLORIDA NORTHEAST CHAPTER; FLORIDA RISING TOGETHER, INC.; MARCELLA WASHINGTON; INGRID MONTGOMERY; AYESHA FRANKLIN; TIFFANIE ROBERTS; ROSEMARY McCOY; SHELIA SINGLETON; EUNICE BARNUM; JANINE WILLIAMS; HARAKA CARSWELL; and DENNIS BARNUM

Plaintiffs,

Case No.: 3:22-cv-493-MMH-LLL

v.

CITY OF JACKSONVILLE and MIKE HOGAN, in his official capacity as Duval County Supervisor of Elections,

Defendants.
_____/

DECLARATION OF LANA SELF

1. My name is Lana Self and I submit this declaration pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1746. I am over the age of eighteen and fully competent to make this declaration.

2. I am the Candidate Services Director for the Duval County Supervisor of Elections. I have been employed in this position since 2017. I have been employed by the Supervisor of Elections since 2007.

3. My duties include overseeing candidate and initiative petitions, and providing candidates with the tools, training, and materials for filing, qualifying, and running a political campaign in compliance with applicable laws.

4. Candidates running for City Council must reside and be a registered voter in the district in which they are running for 183 days prior to the date of qualifying.

5. Qualifying for 2023 candidates begins at noon on January 9, 2023, and ends at noon on January 13, 2023.

6. Candidates who want to qualify by petition must submit their petitions no later than December 12, 2022 at noon.

7. As of the date of this declaration, 36 candidates have filed to run in the 14 council districts. Three of these districts have only a single candidate filed, two of whom are incumbents.

8. It is highly likely that there are other candidates who may be interested but have not yet filed. It is impossible to know until the candidates actually file.

9. The number of signatures necessary to qualify by petition is based on the 2022 general election. It is therefore unknown at this time how many signatures are required to qualify by petition.

10. Once a candidate has filed a Form DS-DE 9 (Appointment of Campaign Treasurer and Designation of Campaign Depository), he or she can begin collecting petition signatures. Twenty City Council candidates have already submitted petitions with signatures for the 2023 Unitary Election.

11. It is possible that the lines could be drawn so that a candidate in one district is now running against a declared incumbent.

I declare and state under penalty of perjury that the foregoing is true and correct.

Executed this 11th day of August, 2022, in Duval County, Florida.

Lana Self

LANA SELF

DARIO MORENO INC.
STRATEGY CONSULTING

AUGUST 11, 2022

CITY OF JACKSONVILLE
COMMISSION REDISTRICTING CONSULTING SERVICES

REPORT ON CITY OF JACKSONVILLE REDISTRICTING

DARIO MORENO INC.
STRATEGY CONSULTING

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Principal/*Project Director*
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I. PROPOSER'S EXPERIENCE, QUALIFICATIONS, PAST PERFORMANCE AND CAPABILITIES

QUALIFICATIONS

My testimony is based on over 30 years of professional and academic experience in Florida elections and politics. Over that time, I have conducted intensive factfinding and research in preparation of my books and publications. I was director of the FIU Metropolitan Center (2002-10) and still direct research projects for the center on elections, redistricting, and public opinion. I have used newspapers only to the extent necessary for historical context and dates.

During this time, I have published twenty-five scholarly articles and book chapters dealing with elections and politics in Florida, as well as two books: A Divided Union: Structural Challenges to Bipartisanship in America, co-edited with Eduardo Gamarra, Representative Patrick Murphy, and Representative David Jolly (New York Routledge, 2021), and Florida Politics: Ten Media Markets, One Powerful State, co-edited with Kevin Hill and Susan McManus (Tallahassee: Florida Institute of Government, 2004).

PRINCIPAL INVESTIGATOR

I have served as the Principal Investigator for various research projects at the Florida International University Metropolitan Center dealing with elections and redistricting.

- Co-Principal Investigator, Broward Board of County Commission, $210,000, 2021-2.
- Co-Principal Investigator, Miami-Dade School Board, $135,000, 2021.
- Co-Principal Investigator, Broward School Board, $125,000; 2021.
- Co-Principal Investigator, Survey of Citizens, Miami Beach, $15,500; 2017.
- Principal Investigator, Earned Income Credit Outreach Program, City of Miami, $793,000, 2003-2006.
- Co-Principal Investigator, Miami-Dade Voter Confidence Poll, Miami-Dade County, $35,000, 2006.
- Co-Principal Investigator, Broward Exit Poll, Broward Election Department, $30,000, 2006.
- Principal Investigator, Broward Voter Confidence Poll, Broward Election Department, $25,000, 2005.
- Principal Investigator, Annexation Feasibility Study, City of Opa-Locka, $25,000, 2006.
- Co-Principal Investigator, Miami-Redistricting, City of Miami, $40,000, 2003.
- Principal Investigator, EITC Poll, Human Service Coalition, $10,000, 2002.
- Research Team member, Miami Annexation, City of Miami, $49,500, 2002.
- Co-Principal Investigator, Miami Annexation II, City of Miami, $25,000 2003.
- Principal Investigator, Key Biscayne Visioning Project, Village of Key Biscayne, $15,000.
- Principal Investigator, Earned Income Credit Outreach Program, City of Miami, $205,000, 2004.

PRINCIPAL OF DARIO MORENO INC., A PUBLIC OPINION AND SURVEY FIRM IN SOUTH FLORIDA FROM 2002-2019

Dario Moreno Inc. has conducted over 150 public opinion surveys and polls. It has collaborated with candidates at the state and local level such as Mario Diaz Balart, Carlos Curbelo, Manny Diaz, David Rivera for Congress, the Codina Group and Carlos Gimenez for Miami-Dade County Mayor, Inc, including:

- Consultant Carlos Gimenez campaign for Miami-Dade, 2011, 2012, 2016. Duties included designing and helped direct the absentee ballot campaign of the Carlos
- Gimenez campaign for Miami-Dade County in 2016.
- Consultant for Norman Braman on the efforts to recall Miami-Dade Mayor Carlos Alvarez.
- Consultant for Michael Bileca for State Representative 2010, 2012, 2014, and 2016. Duties included designing and helped direct the absentee ballot campaign for the Michael Bileca campaign for State House 2010.
- Consultant for Yes for a Greater Miami Dade on County Question No 3 January 2008.

EXPERT WITNESS ON VARIOUS FEDERAL AND STATE CASES INVOLVING ELECTIONS OR REDISTRICTING

- Consultant, Florida Rising v. Lee, 2021-2
- Consultant, Florida Senate, 2022
- DeGrandy vs. Wetherall.
- Suarez vs. Miami-Dade School Board.
- Diaz vs. City of Miami Beach.
- Martinez vs. Bush.

OTHER PROFESSIONAL ACTIVITIES

Involvement in uncovering the 1997 City of Miami Voting Fraud case. The election results were overthrown by the courts.

Chairman and Co-Founder of One Nation Inc.

PUBLICATIONS

- *Books*
  - ✓ A Divided Union: Structural Challenges to Bipartisanship in America, co-edited Eduardo Gamarra, Patrick Murphy, David Jolly (New York: Routledge, 2020)
  - ✓ Florida Politics: Ten Media Markets, One Powerful State, co-edited Kevin Hill, Susan McManus (Tallahassee: Florida Institute of Government, 2004).

- ✓ The Struggle for Peace in Central America: The Arias Plan (Gainesville: University Press of Florida, 1994)
- ✓ U.S. Policy in Central America: The Endless Debate (Gainesville: University Press of Florida, 1990)

- *Articles and Book Chapters*
  - ✓ The Geography of Polarization" (with Patrick J. Villalonga) in a A Divided Union: Structural Challenges to Bipartisanship in America.
  - ✓ "The Structure of Primaries" (With Steve Vancore, Glenn Burhans, Anthony Kusich, Patrick Villolonga) in A Divided Union: Structural Challenges to
  - ✓ Bipartisanship in America.
  - ✓ "Carlos Gimenez Conservative Reforms in Miami Dade County, (With Maria Ilcheva) In Marion Orr and Domingo Morel (eds) Latino Mayors: Political Change
  - ✓ in the Postindustrial City, Philadelphia: Temple University Press, 2018.
  - ✓ Cuban American Partisanship: A Secular realignment?" (With James Watts) In Kyle L. Kreider and Thomas J. Baldino (eds) Minority Voting in the United States,
  - ✓ Vol 1: 254-269. Santa Barbara: Praeger, 2016
  - ✓ "The Obama Doctrine in Cuba" (With Maria Ilcheva) in Hanna S. Kassab and Jonathan Rosen (eds) The Obama Doctrine in the Americans Lanham MD:
  - ✓ Lexington Books, 2016.
  - ✓ "Miami." In Oxford Bibliographies in Latino Studies. Ed. Ilan Stavans. New York: Oxford University Press, 2014. Refereed
  - ✓ Ch 4: Latino in Florida Politics (with Maria Ilcheva) in Edwin Benton 5 edition of Government and Politics in Florida 2014
  - ✓ "The Miami Renaissance" in The Roots of Latino Interurban Agency" Rodolfo Rosales and Sharon Navarro (ed o s) (Dallas: North Texas Press, 2013)
  - ✓ "Cuban-Americans." In Oxford Bibliographies in Latino Studies. Ed. Ilan Stavans. New York: Oxford University Press, 2013.
  - ✓ "Fool Me Once: Voter Confidence in Florida" (with Maria Ilcheva and Vanessa Brito) Florida Political Chronicle V19, Winter 2008-2009.
  - ✓ "Cuban Political Power: Challenge and Consequences" Cuban Affairs Quarterly Vol. 2, No. 1 (October 2006). (Electronic Journal)
  - ✓ "Hispanic Vote in Florida: 2004 Election" (with J.C. Flores and Maria Ilcheva) In De la Garza, Rodolfo O., Louis DeSipio, and David L. Leal (eds.). Beyond the

- ✓ Barrio: Latinos in the 2004 Elections. South Bend, IN: University of Notre Dame Press, forthcoming 2009.
- ✓ "Politics and the Challenge of Ethnicity" (with Kevin Hill) In J. Edwin Benton (ed.) Government and Politics in Florida, (3rd ed.) Gainesville: Florida: University Press of Florida, forthcoming 2007.
- ✓ "Cuban American Political Power: Challenges and Consequences," Cuban Affairs, Vol. 1, Issue 4 (October 2006).
- ✓ "Exiles Power: Cubans in the U.S. Political System" in Ernesto Verdeja, Jorge Romero, and David Plotke (eds.) Cuba and the Valrela Initiative from Dissent to
- ✓ Democratization, (New York: New School for Social Research, 2004)
- ✓ "Simulating Globalization," International Studies Perspectives, Vol: 5 (August 2004)
- ✓ "Florida Hispanic Voters: Regional Concentration, National Origin Diversity, and Partisanship" in Florida's Politics: Ten Media Market, One powerful State in Hill, MacManus, and Moreno (eds.) (Tallahassee: Florida Institute of Government) 2004
- ✓ "South Florida" (with Kevin Hill) in Florida's Politics: Ten Media Market, One powerful State in Hill, MacManus, and Moreno (eds.) (Tallahassee: Florida
- ✓ Institute of Government) 2004
- ✓ "Battleground Florida," Co-authored with Kevin A. Hill. In Rudy de la Garza and Louis DeSipio (eds.) Muted Voices: Latinos and the 2000 Elections, Boulder,
- ✓ Colorado: Westview Press, 2003.
- ✓ "Power without a Program: Hispanic Incorporation in Miami," Co-authored with Christopher L. Warren in Ruphus Browning, Dale A. Marshall, and David H. Tabbs (eds.) Racial Politics in American City (third edition) Boston: Massachusetts: Longman, 2003.
- ✓ "A Community or a Crowd: Racial, Ethnic, and Regional Bloc Voting: The Florida House of Representative 1989-98." Co-authored with Kevin A. Hill in Politics and Policy, March 2002.
- ✓ "Racial and Partisan Voting in a Tri-Ethnic City: The 1996 Dade County, Florida Mayoral Race." Co-authored with Kevin A. Hill and Lourdes Cue in Journal of
- ✓ Urban Affairs, Winter 2001.
- ✓ "Second Generation Cubans." Coauthored with Kevin A. Hill in Susan McManus (ed.) Florida Redistricting, Tallahassee FL: Institute of Government, 2001.
- ✓ "Language as a Variable: English, Spanish, Ethnicity and Political Opinion Polling in South Florida." Coauthored with Kevin A. Hill, Journal of Hispanic Behavioral Science, May 2001.
- ✓ "Teaching, Using Role Playing Simulation: Bureaucratic Bargaining Revisited. Coauthored with Heidi H. Hobbs in John Bohrer (ed.) New Techniques for

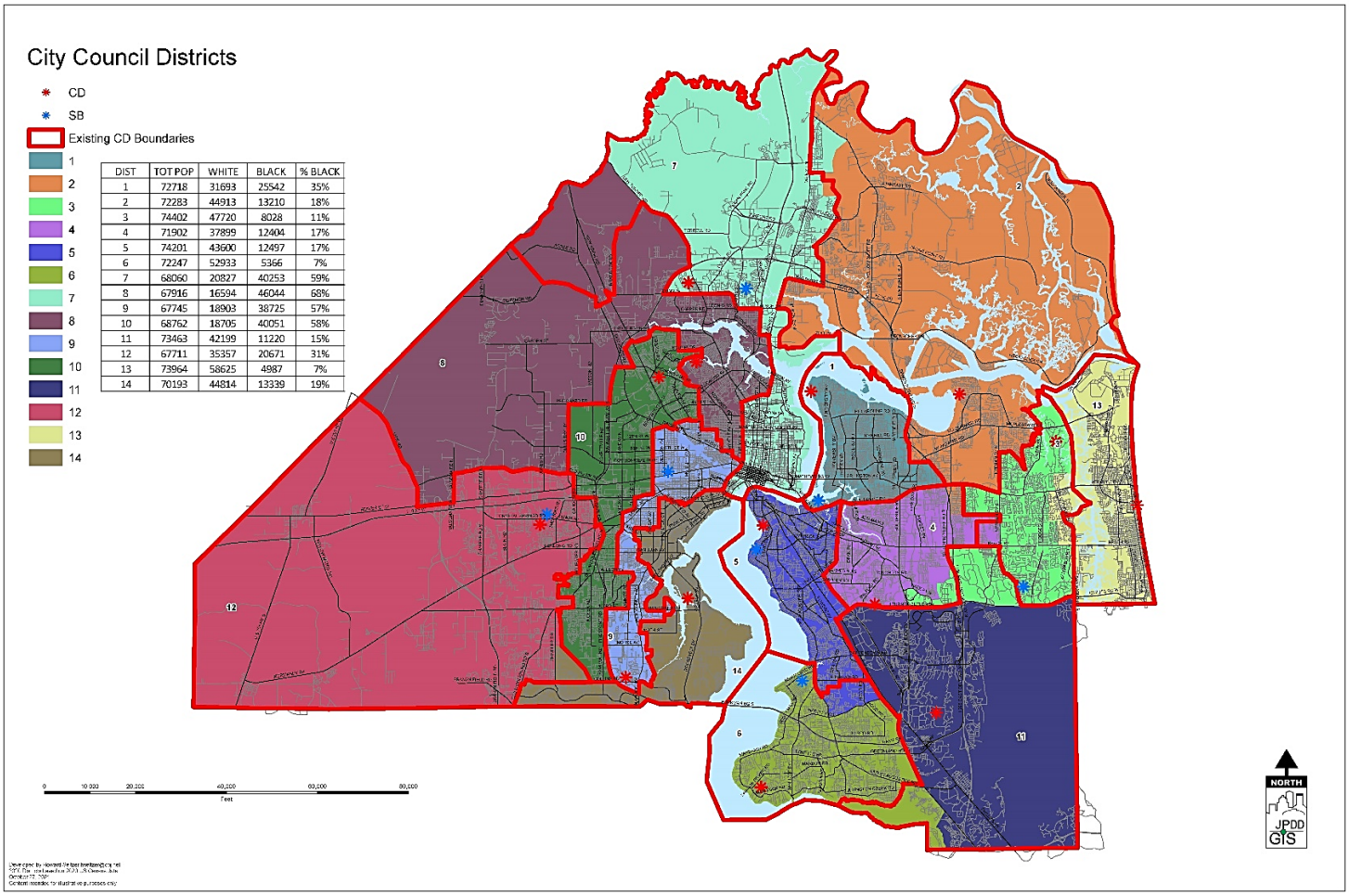
- ✓ Teaching Political Science, New York: Random House, 1999.
- ✓ "The Limits of Sovereignty in a Bifurcated World," In Heidi H. Hobbs (eds.) Pondering post-Internationalism, Albany, New York: State University of New
- ✓ York Press, 1999.
- ✓ "Cuban-Americans in the 1996 Election." Coauthored with Christopher Warren in Rudy Garcia and Luis DeSipio (eds.) Awash in the Mainstream: Latinos in the 1996 Election, Boulder, Colorado: Westview Press, 1998.
- ✓ "Florida Politics and the Challenge of Ethnicity," Coauthored with Christopher Warren and John Stack in Robert Huckshorn (ed.) Government and Politics in
- ✓ Florida (second edition) Gainesville: Florida: University Press of Florida, 1998.
- ✓ "Cuban-American Political Empowerment." In Chris Garcia (ed.) Latinos and the United States Political System, Notre Dame, Indiana: University of Notre Dame
- ✓ Press, 1997.
- ✓ "Second Generation Cubans." Coauthored with Kevin A. Hill, Hispanic Journal of Behavioral Science, May 1996.
- ✓ "Cuban-Americans in Miami Politics: Understanding the Cuban Model." In Wilbur Rich (ed.) The Politics of Minority Coalitions: Race, Ethnicity, and Shared
- ✓ Uncertainties, Westport Connecticut: Greenwood Press, 1996.
- ✓ "Nicaragua," In James Malloy and Eduardo Gamarra (eds.) Latin American and the Caribbean Contemporary Record, New York: Holmes & Meier, 1996.
- ✓ "The Endless Debate Revisited: U.S. Policy in Central America." Coauthored with Dario Perez in David Dent (ed.) Handbook of U.S. Latin American Policy,
- ✓ Westport Connecticut: Greenwood Press, 1995.
- ✓ "Respectable Intervention: The United Stated and Central American Elections." In John Both and Mitchell Seligson (eds.) Elections and Democracy in Central
- ✓ America, Chapel Hill, North Carolina: University of North Carolina Press, 1995.
- ✓ "The Conservative Enclave Revisited: Cuban Americans in the 1992 Election. Coauthored with Christopher Warren in Rudy de la Garza and Luis DeSipio (eds.)
- ✓ Ethnic Ironies: Latino Politics in the 1992 Election, Boulder, Colorado: Westview Press, 1995.
- ✓ The Cuban Community in the 1992 Presidential Election." Harvard Journal of Hispanic Policy, 1992-1993.
- ✓ "Ethnicity & Partisanship: The Case of the 18th Congressional District in Miami," Coauthored with Nicol Rae in Guillermo Gerner Miami Today, Miami, Florida,

- ✓ Florida International University Press, 1992.
- ✓ "The Conservative Enclave: Cubans in Florida," Coauthored with Christopher Warren in Rudolfo de la Garza, From Rhetoric to Reality: Latino Politics in the
- ✓ 1988 Election, Boulder, Colorado: Westview Press, 1992.

II. PROPOSER'S COMPENSATION

I am being compensated $250 per hour for my work in this case.

III. CITY OFJACKSONVILLE 2010 AND 2022 REDISTRICTING MAP BOUNDARIES



DIST	TOT POP	WHITE	BLACK	% BLACK
1	72718	31693	25542	35%
2	72283	44913	13210	18%
3	74402	47720	8028	11%
4	71902	37899	12404	17%
5	74201	43600	12497	17%
6	72247	52933	5366	7%
7	68060	20827	40253	59%
8	67916	16594	46044	68%
9	67745	18903	38725	57%
10	68762	18705	40051	58%
11	73463	42199	11220	15%
12	67711	35357	20671	31%
13	73964	58625	4987	7%
14	70193	44814	13339	19%

IV. REPORT BRIEF

Plaintiff's experts argued that the redistricting plan passed by Jacksonville City Council and signed by Mayor Lenny Curry in March 2022 is in violation of the Voting Rights Act and the United States Constitution. They challenge seven City Council districts (the "Challenged Districts") as racially gerrymandered in violation of the Fourteenth Amendment to the United States Constitution. Plaintiff's claim that the Enacted Plan "packs" African American residents into just four districts (7, 8, 9, and 10). As a natural corollary of this "packing," three adjacent districts (2, 12, and 14) were stripped of their African American residents. Plaintiffs claim the alleged racial gerrymandering affects their ability to impact city politics.

After reviewing the enacted map, the baseline map, the redistricting process in the city of Jacksonville, the reports of Plaintiff's experts, I conclude that the 2022 enacted plan does not dilute African American political power, nor does it prevent them from fair representation on the Jacksonville City Council with the ability to elect candidates of their choice.

First, the redistricting process was transparent and open to the public. The first meeting of the Redistricting process was August 19, 2011, just a week after the census released its official data made specifically for redistricting (Public Law 94-171) on August 12, 2021.

The Special Committee on Redistricting clearly articulated redistricting principles that would guide the City of Jacksonville redistricting process. On August 12, 2021 a first meeting was held where the redistricting committee voted unanimously to (*a*) start the redistricting process from the premise of working from the current council districts rather than starting from scratch when developing proposals.[1] The committee also voted to authorize the Planning and Development Department under director Bill Killingworth to be the Special Committee's consultant for the purpose of analyzing the Census data and producing proposed districts.[2]

Additional redistricting principles were adopted at the August 26, 2021 meeting. The redistricting committee voted (*b*) unanimously to use *total* population as the basis for redistricting instead of *voting age* population. The committee also voted (c) unanimously that they shall not draw sitting City Council members or School Board members out of their districts. It should be noted that some school board legal departments have interpreted Florida Statutes 101.36 as prohibiting drawing out sitting school members of their districts. The Redistricting

[1] Special Committee on Redistricting, August 18,2021

[2] Ibid

committee (d) unanimously approved a motion minimizing the drawing of district boundaries across the St. John River to the extent possible. [3]

The special committee on redistricting unanimously approved a motion to adopt the district map (dated October 27, 2021). It also presented an at-large residence area map (dated October 26, 2021). Both maps were recommended to the City Council as the 2022 redistricting plan and authorized the General Counsel's Office to begin drafting the necessary legislation.

Second, throughout the process African American elected officials participated and played an active part in the deliberations. Two of the seven members of the Special Committee on Redistricting were African Americans: School Board member Darryl Willie and Jacksonville City Council member Brenda Priestly Jackson. In fact, Priestly-Jackson would play an instrumental part in the process as both the chairman of the Rules Committee and as a member of the Redistricting Committee. She made the motion in the redistricting process to recommend the October 27 map to the commission. She chaired the four public Rules Committee meetings (January 27, 2022; February 3, 2022; February 10,2022; and February 17, 2022). Those meetings were organized to encourage public comment on the proposed plan.

During the redistricting process, the four African American councilmembers were supportive of the proposed plan and fully participated in both the committee process and the notice meetings of the north/west commissions that developed the proposed plan. Three of the four African American councilmembers voted for the adopted plan, one was absence from the vote.

Third, the redistricting process reflects the demographic realities and trends in Jacksonville. The population of Jacksonville increased by 16% between 2010 and 2020, but the demographic composition of the city remained stable.[4] The City of Jacksonville did not experience the dramatic demographic shifts that have occurred in other parts of Florida.

[3] Special Committee on Redistricting August 25,2021

[4] Quick Facts: City of Jacksonville, Florida. United States Census Bureau, Retrieved August 8, 2022.

TABLE ONE: CITY OF JACKSONVILLE DEMOGRAPHICS: RACE AND ETHNICITY[5]

	2020	2010	% DIFFERENCE
Non-Latin Whites	51.2%	55.1%	-3.9%
African Americans	31.0%	30.1%	0.9%
Hispanics	10.0%	7.7%	2.3%
Asian	5.0%	4.2%	0.8%
Mixed	4.6%	2.2%	2.4%

The population of Jacksonville did shift slightly. Between 2010 and 2020, more growth occurred in the traditional non-Latin white neighborhoods South/East of the river than in the historic African American neighborhood's northwest of the St. John River. This forces the commission to allow one of the enacted districts to cross the river, namely, District 2. Allowing District 2 to cross the river made the districting process considerably easier, as it permitted some of the population to be shifted north of the river to help equalize the relative over-population of the districts to the South/East of the river.

This population shift to the South/East was the critical issue confronting Jacksonville's mapmaking in the current redistricting process. District 11 on the far southeast corner of the city was overpopulated by nearly 20,000 residents (See Table 2). This district was 27.6% above the target deviation. District 1, a coastal district, was the most underpopulated district; it was missing 6,171 residents below the ideal population, which is 8.7% below the target deviation. The four minority-majority districts in central/north Jacksonville were all underpopulated. District 8 was the most underpopulated, being nearly 6,000 residents below the target population, which is an 8% deviation below the target. Districts 7, 9, and 10 had more modest deviations ranging from 3,401 (-4.8%) to 3,777 (-5.3) below the ideal population (See Table 2).

The changes proposed by the redistricting committee to address these demographic and geographic challenges adhered to the "one person one vote" legal requirement and upheld the redistricting principles adopted by the committee. One of the first decisions made in the redistricting process was to use the current map (dated 2012) as a benchmark for adjusting the districts, rather than starting from a blank slate. Logically, the major changes made between the enacted and benchmark maps was in the South/East. *This area of the city had both the most overpopulated district and the most underpopulated*. The population of District 11 was reduced from 90,757 (Table 1) to 73,463. The excess population in District 11 was partitioned among two neighboring districts (6, 3). Consequently, District 5 picked up a portion of District 6, and District 13 (the most underpopulated district)

picked up nearly 9,000 residents from District 3. Adjustments were also made in the boundary between District 4 and District 3. The most dramatic changes between the old map and the enacted map were in the South/East part of the city where District 11 lost nearly 20,000 residents while District 13 gained 9,000 residents. These changes were worked out in a publicly noticed meeting between the South/East councilmembers and the consultants on September 7, 2022, and September 22, 2022.

TABLE 2: BENCHMARK DISTRICT DATA (BEFORE REDISTRICTING)

DISTRICT	TOTAL POPULATION	TARGET POPULATION	TARGET DEVIATION	TARGET DEVIATION %
1	72,718	71,107	1,611	2.3%
2	71,501	71,107	394	0.6%
3	72,561	71,107	1,454	2.0%
4	76,829	71,107	5,722	8.0%
5	68,055	71,107	(3,052)	-4.3%
6	71,346	71,107	239	0.3%
7	67,330	71,107	(3,777)	-5.3%
8	65,166	71,107	(5,941)	-8.4%
9	67,706	71,107	(3,401)	-4.8%
10	67,567	71,107	(3,540)	-5.0%
11	90,767	71,107	19,660	27.6%
12	71,617	71,107	510	0.7%
13	64,936	71,107	(6,171)	-8.7%
14	67,398	71,107	(3,709)	-5.2%
TOTAL POPULATION				**995,497**

Compared to the South/East area of the city, the changes enacted in the North/West were relatively minimal. The most underpopulated district in the area was District 8, which was nearly 6,000 residents below its target population – a deviation of only 8.4% from its ideal population. The other three majority minority districts were all underpopulated by relatively modest margins of between 3,401 to 3,777 residents. District 14, also in the North/East, was underpopulated by a similar number of residents 3,709 votes. The geographic challenge of equalizing the districts in the North/West was that none of districts were significantly overpopulated. District 12 was overpopulated by only 510 residents and District 2 by only 394. In order to equalize the population in the North/West while minimizing river crossing boundaries, the Commission agreed to keep District 2 crossing the St. John River and also the district slightly south, which would take a little over 4,300 residents from District 4. This provided enough residents to equalize the population in North/West area.

TABLE 3: ENACTED PLAN DISTRICT DATA

DISTRICT	TOTAL POPULATION	TARGET POPULATION	TARGET DEVIATION	TARGET DEVIATION %
1	72,718	71,112	1,606	2.3%
2	72,283	71,112	1,171	1.6%
3	74,402	71,112	3,290	4.6%
4	71,902	71,112	790	1.1%
5	74,201	71,112	3,089	4.3%
6	72,247	71,112	1,135	1.6%
7	68,060	71,112	(3,052)	-4.3%
8	67,916	71,112	(3,196)	-4.5%
9	67,793	71,112	(3,319)	-4.7%
10	68,777	71,112	(2,335)	-3.3%
11	73,463	71,112	2,351	3.3%
12	67,696	71,112	(3,416)	-4.8%
13	73,964	71,112	2,852	4.0%
14	70,145	71,112	(967)	-1.4%
TOTAL				**995,567**

The enacted plan only made minor adjustments from the benchmark plan in the North/West section of the city. The biggest change was an added 2,500 residents to District 8. These residents were added because of a boundary change with District 7, which had received additional population from District 2. Part of the chain reaction in the North/West was a transfer of 2,400 residents from District 12 to District 14. There were only marginal adjustments made to the boundaries between Districts 9 and 10 involving less than 1,100 residents. These minor changes in North/West section of the city had only minimal impact on the demographic make-up of the districts in this area (See Table 4 and 5).

TABLE 4: DISTRICT DEMOGRAPHICS BENCHMARK PLAN (BEFORE REDISTRICTING)

DISTRICT	TOTAL POPULATION		WHITE		BLACK		OTHER*		HISPANIC LATINO		VOTING AGE POP.	
	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%
1	72,718	7%	31,693	6%	25,542	9%	15,483	10%	11,546	10%	56,490	7%
2	71,501	7%	44,574	9%	13,997	5%	12,930	6%	6,857	6%	55,157	7%
3	72,561	7%	48,198	9%	6,514	2%	17,849	8%	8,906	8%	57,524	7%
4	76,829	8%	40,120	8%	13,296	5%	23,413	13%	14,595	13%	61,597	8%
5	68,055	7%	39,543	8%	11,892	4%	16,620	10%	11,728	10%	53,190	7%
6	71,346	7%	52,627	10%	5,090	2%	13,629	7%	7,479	7%	57,376	7%
7	67,330	7%	20,051	4%	40,516	14%	6,763	4%	4,230	4%	52,345	7%
8	65,166	7%	15,793	3%	44,406	15%	4,967	2%	2,726	2%	48,908	6%
9	67,706	7%	18,898	4%	38,711	13%	10,097	6%	6,302	6%	50,896	7%
10	67,567	7%	18,455	4%	39,313	13%	9,799	5%	6,192	5%	50,547	6%
11	90,767	9%	52,759	10%	13,906	5%	24,102	11%	11,930	11%	74,973	10%
12	71,617	7%	37,171	7%	21,970	8%	12,476	7%	7,841	7%	54,228	7%
13	64,936	7%	51,587	10%	4,509	2%	8,840	4%	5,059	4%	54,111	7%
14	67,398	7%	43,250	8%	12,675	4%	11,473	6%	7,295	6%	54,201	7%
TOTAL	**995,497**		**514,719**		**292,337**		**188,441**		**112,686**		**781,543**	
	100%		**52%**		**29%**		**19%**		**11%**		**79%**	

TABLE 5: DISTRICT DEMOGRAPHICS ENACTED PLAN

DISTRICT	TOTAL POPULATION		WHITE		BLACK		OTHER*		HISPANIC LATINO		VOTING AGE POP.	
	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%
1	72,718	7%	31,693	6%	25,542	9%	15,483	8%	11,546	10%	56,490	7%
2	72,283	7%	44,913	9%	13,210	5%	14,160	8%	7,404	7%	55,941	7%
3	74,402	7%	47,720	9%	8,028	3%	18,654	10%	9,578	8%	60,219	8%
4	71,902	7%	37,899	7%	12,404	4%	21,599	11%	13,618	12%	57,187	7%
5	74,201	7%	43,600	8%	12,497	4%	18,104	10%	12,547	11%	58,001	7%
6	72,247	7%	52,933	10%	5,366	2%	13,948	7%	7,502	7%	58,130	7%
7	68,060	7%	20,827	4%	40,253	14%	6,980	4%	4,389	4%	52,925	7%
8	67,916	7%	16,594	3%	46,044	16%	5,278	3%	2,934	3%	50,825	7%
9	67,793	7%	18,917	4%	38,745	13%	10,131	5%	6,330	6%	50,976	7%
10	68,777	7%	18,706	4%	40,051	14%	10,020	5%	6,282	6%	51,457	7%
11	73,463	7%	42,199	8%	11,220	4%	20,044	11%	9,553	8%	60,408	8%
12	67,696	7%	35,356	7%	20,671	7%	11,669	6%	7,324	6%	51,206	7%
13	73,964	7%	58,625	11%	4,987	2%	10,352	5%	5,988	5%	61,499	8%
14	70,145	7%	44,800	9%	13,319	5%	12,026	6%	7,694	7%	56,339	7%
TOTAL	**995,567**		**514,782**		**292,337**		**188,448**		**112,689**		**781,603**	
	100%		**52%**		**29%**		**19%**		**11%**		**79%**	

Fourth, the enacted plan maintains stable majority-minority districts that have performed in electing the candidates of choice for Jacksonville's African American communities. The plaintiffs claim that, since 1991, redistricting in Jacksonville has sorted its residents by race. The city classified African American residents to pack them into just four of the fourteen single member City Council districts.[6] The basic structure of the 1991 redistricting was confirmed during the redistricting process in 2002, 2012 and in 2022. These historically

[6] Plaintiffs Motions for Preliminary, NAACP v. City of Jacksonville, p.1-2

consistent district boundaries have allowed African Americans to increase their influence in city politics. Today, there are six African American City Council members: four from single member districts and two who were elected at-large. Moreover, since the 1991 redistricting, two African Americans have served as President of the Jacksonville City Council – the second most powerful office in city government after the mayor. Currently, both the President of the City Council, Sam Newby, and the Vice President, Terrance Freeman, are African American.

The Redistricting Plan does not dilute African American political power through packing. Plaintiffs claim that Jacksonville's 2022 redistricting plan violates the Voting Rights Act and the Fourteenth Amendment to the U.S. Constitution because it packs African American residents into just four districts. They argue that the four majority African American districts (7, 8, 9, and 10) are unnecessarily overpopulated with African American residents. Three of the districts (7, 9, and 10) have African American populations over 56%, while District 8 is nearly 70% African American. They claim that three neighboring districts (2, 12, and 14) were stripped of African American population, thus making them more non-Latin white. Consequently, this alleged racial gerrymandering affects the Plaintiffs' ability to impact city politics. Dr. Hannah Walker, after doing a functional analysis of Jacksonville elections concluded that African Americans could elect a candidate of their choice when they comprise 44% of the voters.

I disagree with the Plaintiffs' interpretation of packing. Packing consists of drawing districts to concentrate voters of a particular race into one or two districts to diminish their numbers and therefore their ability to elect candidates of their choice in other districts. The anti-packing provisions of the Voting Rights Act was enacted to ensure that jurisdictions were not packing minorities in a few districts to prevent the drawing of more minority-majority districts. Nowhere in the Plaintiffs' complaints, their motion for preliminary injunctions, or the three expert reports do they claim that reducing the African American population of the four allegedly "packed districts" would permit the drawing of a fifth majority-minority district. Dr. Imai submitted a report describing the simulation of 10,000 possible alternative redistricting plans; he did not offer one case of a redistricting plan with five majority-minority districts.

Plaintiffs are demanding significant adjustments to the seven North/West districts, but the North/West has lost population relative to the South/East area of the city. It is very difficult to make population adjustments beyond a couple of percentage points. Councilmember Priestly Jackson recognized this when she acknowledged the decline of the African American populations in the North/West districts: "Those numbers have gone down from the 70s to three of them being in the upper 50s now to one still in the 60s."

V. KEY FINDINGS

- The redistricting process was transparent and open to the public.

- Throughout the process, African American elected officials participated and played an active part in the deliberations.

- The redistricting process reflects the demographic realities and trends in Jacksonville.

- The Redistricting Plan does not dilute African American political power through packing.

- I conclude after reviewing the enacted map, the baseline map, the redistricting process in the city of Jacksonville, the reports of Plaintiffs' experts, that the 2022 enacted plan does not dilute African American political power, nor does it prevent them from fair representation on the Jacksonville City Council with the ability to elect candidates of their choice.

VI. SIGNATURE

I declare under penalty of perjury under the laws of the United States of America that the foregoing is true and correct.

Executed this 11th day of August 2022.

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8/11/2022