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**SERVICE SOLUTIONS SUCCESS**



### **DISTRICTING COMMISSION**

Wednesday, November 2, 2011, 5:30 P.M.

City Council Chambers, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor

City Hall Building, 2 Civic Center Plaza

### **AGENDA**

1. Call to Order
2. Establish Quorum
3. Discussion and Action on:
  - a. Approval of Minutes: October 19, 2011 Meeting
  - b. Drafting and selection of Districting Plans
4. Call for Public Comment
5. Adjournment

### **EXECUTIVE SESSION**

The Districting Commission of the City of El Paso may retire into EXECUTIVE SESSION pursuant to Section 3.5A of the El Paso City Charter and the Texas Government Code, Chapter 551, Subchapter D, to discuss any of the items on this agenda, consistent with the terms of the Open Meetings Act. The Districting Commission will return to open session to take any final action.

Section 551.071

CONSULTATION WITH ATTORNEY

Posted this 27<sup>th</sup> day of October, 2011 at 9:30  
Basement Bulletin Board, City Hall, 2 Civic Center Plaza, by David A. Coronado, Planning and Economic Development

#### **Mayor**

John F. Cook

#### **City Council**

##### *District 1*

Ann Morgan Lilly

##### *District 2*

Susie Byrd

##### *District 3*

Emma Acosta

##### *District 4*

Carl L. Robinson

##### *District 5*

Dr. Michiel R. Noe

##### *District 6*

Eddie Holguin Jr.

##### *District 7*

Steve Ortega

##### *District 8*

Cortney Carlisle Niland

#### **City Manager**

Joyce A. Wilson



**Planning & Economic Development**

2 Civic Center Plaza • El Paso, Texas 79901 • (915) 541-4670

**WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 19, 2011, 5:30 P.M.  
CITY COUNCIL CHAMBERS, 2<sup>ND</sup> FLOOR  
CITY HALL BUILDING, 2 CIVIC CENTER PLAZA**

***Members Present:***

*Gene Finke (Chair), John Karlsruher, Francisco X. Dominguez, Gilbert A. Mendez, Jr., David Thackston (Vice-Chair), Oscar Silva (5:40 p.m.), Rodolfo Troncoso, James L. Graham, Alisa Jorgensen*

***Planning and Economic Development Staff:***

*David Coronado, Executive Secretary, Lead Planner; Todd Taylor, Planner; Mariano Soto, GIS Planner*

***Others Present:***

*Marie Taylor, Assistant City Attorney, City Attorney's Office*

**1. Meeting Called to Order**

Chair Finke called the meeting to order at 5:32 p.m.

**2. Establish Quorum**

Quorum established.

**3. Discussion and action on:**

**a. Approval of Minutes: October 3, 2011 Meeting**

Chair Finke asked Commissioners if they had any additions, corrections and/or revisions.

***MOTION:***

*Motion made by Commissioner Thackston, seconded by Vice-Chair Dominguez and*  
**UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED TO APPROVE THE OCTOBER 3, 2011 MEETING MINUTES.**

***NOT PRESENT FOR THE VOTE: Commissioner Silva***

**b. Guidelines for Persons Submitting Specific Redistricting Proposals**

Chair Finke read the "Districting Commission, Guidelines for Persons Submitting Specific Redistricting Proposals" into the record and asked if Commissioners had any questions for Staff. The Guidelines are attached to the minutes.

Commissioner Silva arrived at 5:40 p.m.



Regarding item 5., Ms. Taylor noted, Staff will revise the date from ~~August 31, 2011~~ to **August 30, 2011.**

#### **ITEM 1. – SUGGESTED REVISION**

Chair Finke suggested Commissioners amend the language as follows:

1. Plans should be submitted in writing **"to the Planning Department of the City of El Paso."**

Ms. Taylor clarified the Planning Department is a division of the Planning and Economic Development Department. She suggested the amended language read "1. Plans should be submitted in writing **"to the Planning and Economic Development Department of the City of El Paso."**

Chair Finke asked if Commissioners had any further comments or discussions. There being none.

#### **MOTION:**

*Motion made by Commissioner Thackston, seconded by Commissioner Jorgensen and UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED TO APPROVE THE DISTRICTING COMMISSION, GUIDELINES FOR PERSONS SUBMITTING SPECIFIC REDISTRICTING PROPOSALS WITH THE CHANGES PROPOSED BY CHAIR FINKE AND STAFF.*

#### **c. Drafting and selection of Districting Plans**

Mr. Coronado provided a brief presentation on the Staff Draft Illustrative Districting Plan options provided for this meeting.

#### **COMMISSION COMMENTS**

Commissioner Thackston commented on the lack of connectivity between the areas in District 8 and asked about the possibility of moving UTEP from District 1 to District 8. Commissioner Fink commented that the voter precinct in question, Precinct 35 included the home of the Representative of District 1. Commissioner Karlsruher stated his objection to moving Precinct 35 to District 8 and commented that the change would divide the Kern neighborhood.

Commissioner Jorgensen asked about eliminating Precincts 22 and 32 from District 8 in SD-1 and adding Precincts 79, 81, 83 and 84. She then stated that she wants to take back the Five Points neighborhood and unify it into one district, District 8.

Commissioner Dominguez asked if the school district boundaries had been taken into consideration when drafting the plan options.

Commissioner Jorgensen stated her objection to dividing the Mission Hills neighborhood and stated that it should remain in District 1.

Commissioner Thackston asked to move Precinct 60 from District 4 to District 2.

Commissioner Graham stated that in SD-1, District 5 is giving up Eastwood/Album Park to District 3 and would like to see what future parks are being planned for District 5. Commissioner Silva later stated that Eastwood/Album Park acts as a city-wide park and it is not necessary for it to remain in District 5.

Commissioner Mendez stated that he would like to see the area near McRae moved from District 7 to District 3 similar to the boundaries shown in SD-2.

Commissioner Silva stated that he preferred the boundaries for District 5 in SD-1 most.

Commissioner Graham commented on the County of El Paso's new voter precinct boundaries and the population center of the Tigua/Native American community. He then distributed copies of his *"Thoughts and Concerns - Traditional Lands and Property of the Tigua People"* to Commissioners and Staff (copy of letter attached to the minutes). Commissioner Thackston stated that the shift in Precinct 150 may have been due to State Representative District lines and asked staff to check. Commissioner Graham asked that Precinct 150 be moved from District 7 to District 6 similar to the boundaries shown in SD-3. He also asked that Staff look at the Native American demographics in the area. Commissioner Jorgensen asked that staff look at the properties owned by the Tigua and Chair Fink asked that one of the community meetings be held in the area.

Commissioner Graham stated his approval that Hanks High School was moved into District 7 in SD-1.

Commissioner Thackston commented on the fact that SD-2 does not allow for future growth in Districts 5 and 7 and thought it might be better to allow more than District 7 to grow similar to the layout shown in SD-3. Commissioner Graham agreed that Districts 5, 6 and 7 are best laid out in SD-3, though he had concerns about the proposed boundaries of District 7.

Chair Finke asked if any members of the public wished to comment. There was no public comment.

Chair Finke asked if Commissioners had any further comments or discussions. No further comment or discussion from Commissioners.

4. **Call for Public Comment**

*None.*

5. **Adjournment**

**MOTION:**

*Motion made by Vice-Chair Thackston, seconded by Commissioner Dominguez and UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED TO ADJOURN. Meeting adjourned at 6:58PM.*

## DISTRICTING COMMISSION

### GUIDELINES FOR PERSONS SUBMITTING SPECIFIC REDISTRICTING PROPOSALS

In order to make sure that any plan that might be submitted is of maximum assistance to the City Council and to the Districting Commission in the decision-making process, the Districting Commission hereby sets the following guidelines:

1. Plans should be submitted in writing to the Planning and Economic Development Department of the City of El Paso. If a plan is submitted orally, there is significant opportunity for misunderstanding, and it is possible that errors may be made in analyzing it. The Commission wants to be sure that all proposals be fully and accurately considered. Your cooperation in submitting any plan in writing will be of great assistance.
2. Any plan should show the 2010 federal census total population and voting age population by race/ethnicity for each proposed District. If a plan is submitted without a population breakdown, the Commission may not have sufficient information to give it full consideration.
3. Plans should be submitted a minimum of one week prior to a regularly scheduled Districting Commission meeting. As all meetings are open to the public, public comments shall still be heard and accepted at all meetings properly constituted under the Texas Open Meetings Act.
4. Plans should redistrict the entire City, i.e., contain proposed boundaries for all Districts within the City. The Commission, of course, will be considering the affect of any plan on the entire City. Also, the City and the Commission are subject to the Voting Rights Act, which protects various racial and language minorities. Thus, as a matter of federal law, it will be required to consider the affect of any proposal on multiple racial and ethnic groups. If a plan does not redistrict the entire city, it may be impossible for the Commission to assess its impact on one or more protected minority groups. The requirement that any plan redistrict the entire City does not preclude members of the public from proposing that particular voting precincts, neighborhoods, or locations be included in a specific council district.
5. Plans should conform to the redistricting criteria the Commission will be using in drawing the Districts, which was adopted by City Council resolution on August 30, 2011.

All members of the public are welcome to speak on any agenda item at public meetings of the Districting Commission conforming to the Texas Open Meetings Act. Further information is available in the Planning Division, Planning and Economic Development Department, 5<sup>th</sup> Floor City Hall, 915-541-4632

**APPROVED AND ADOPTED BY THE DISTRICTING COMMISSION this \_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 2011.**

\_\_\_\_\_  
Chair, Districting Commission

## Thoughts and Concerns – Traditional Lands and Property of the Tigua People

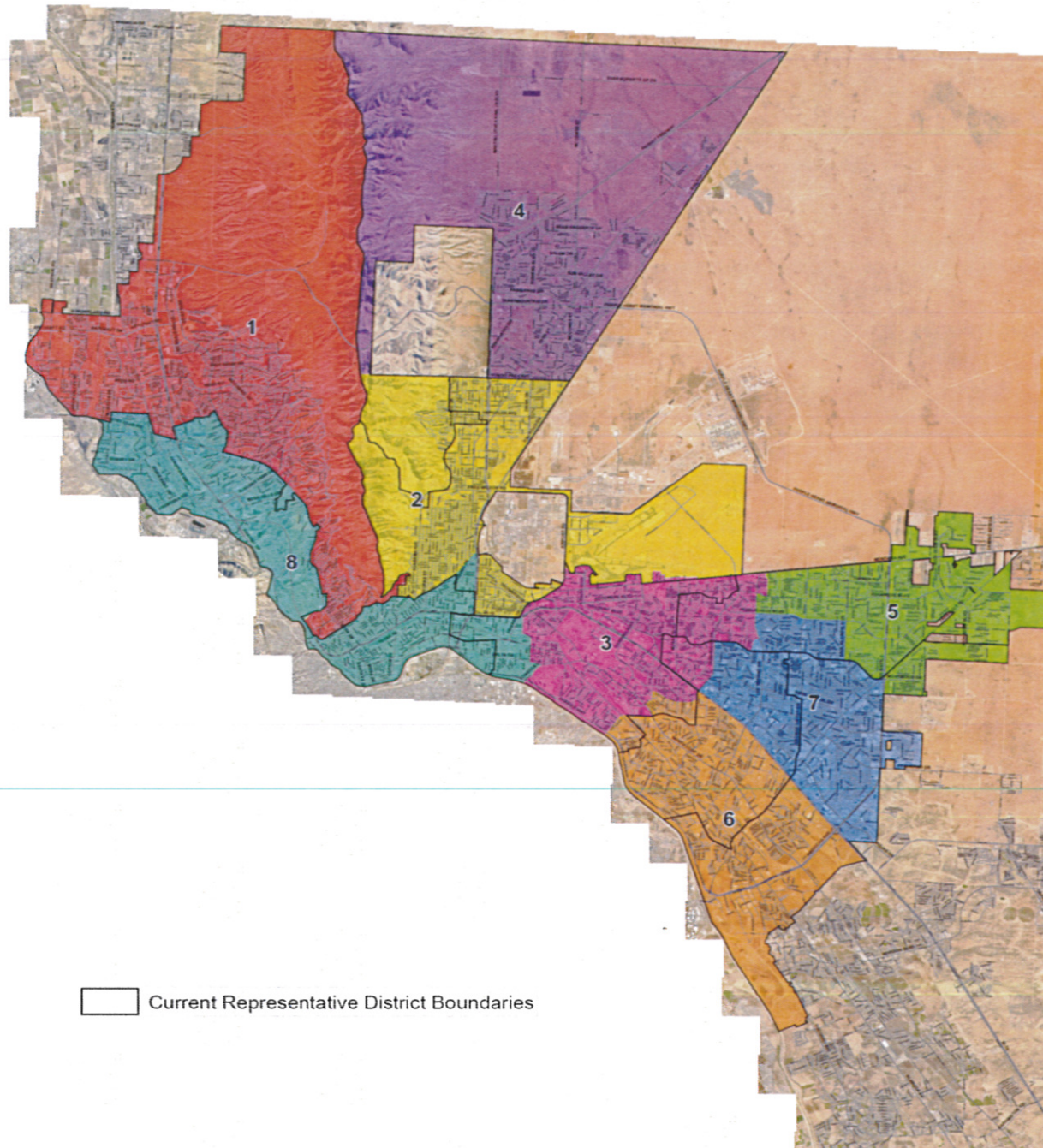
The current boundaries of District 6 and District 7 run in close proximity to the traditional lands and properties of our local Native American Tribe, the Tiguas. In recognition of this important ethnic group within our city it is important that we recognize the Tiguas' geographically compact presence.

The 2010 census data indicates a relatively small percentage of those within the area we know to have the highest Tigua population density may consider themselves to be Native American. The preponderance of Tigua properties are currently in District 6. It is a reasonable assumption that a majority of our Tigua population reside within District 6 even though census data does not show a high concentration of Native Americans within any districts (District 6 at 0.41% - Total City at 0.25% - District 7 at 0.20%). This suggests that some Tiguas may have responded to the census question of ethnicity as Hispanic (rather than Native American). Or, perhaps the tribal population is simply dwarfed when compared to that of those marking themselves as Hispanic (even within their area of greatest concentration). Regardless of why their population appears to be minimized by census data, we know the Tigua people as an important minority community within our city.

We should also be mindful of the considerable economic and political influence the Tigua Tribe represents. This is a minority group that has a history of "marching to the beat of their own drum". The Tigua leadership has often been at odds with our city leadership. A recent example of a sometimes disagreeable Tigua Tribe is their resistance to our city's planned southern extension of Lee Trevino Drive. The Tiguas have also conducted lucrative business enterprises under special protections afforded them as a federally recognized Native American people. The Tiguas also have a history of making significant campaign contributions to local, state and federal political candidates.

When drawing any new district boundaries we should carefully consider the Tigua community. We should give particular care not to fragment this minority community. We should honor their traditional incumbent-constituency relationship and the respect of their traditions and lands by those within their Ysleta (Lower Valley) neighborhood. Moving the Tiguas to a district composed of areas primarily outside El Paso's Lower Valley could be viewed as contrary to our principals and criteria guidelines. We should consider the Tigua people a community of interest and endeavor to keep them within a single district and, ideally, within the district they have traditionally resided.





SD-4

# City of El Paso Districting Commission



Draft Plan  
SD-4

November 2, 2011

Alternative Plan - SD4				
Council District	2010 Population	2011 Redistricting Optimal	Deviation	
1	89,653	81,140	8,513	10.5%
2	77,902	81,140	(3,238)	-4.0%
3	77,056	81,140	(4,084)	-5.0%
4	78,232	81,140	(2,908)	-3.6%
5	81,091	81,140	(49)	-0.1%
6	81,355	81,140	215	0.3%
7	81,682	81,140	542	0.7%
8	82,150	81,140	1,010	1.2%
Total	649,121	649,121		15.5%

1 of 2



Alternative Plan - SD4				
Council District	2010 Population	2011 Redistricting Optimal	Deviation	
1	89,653	81,140	8,513	10.5%
2	77,902	81,140	(3,238)	-4.0%
3	77,056	81,140	(4,084)	-5.0%
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7	81,682	81,140	542	0.7%
8	82,150	81,140	1,010	1.2%
Total	649,121	649,121		15.5%

Council District	2010 Total Population									2010 Voting Age Population								
	Total Population	Hispanic/ Latino	Not Hispanic/ Latino							Total Voting Age Population	Hispanic/ Latino	Not Hispanic/ Latino						
			One Race						Two or More			One Race						Two or More
			White	Black/ African American	American Indian/ Alaskan Native	Asian	Native Hawaiian/ Other Pacific Islander	Some Other Race				White	Black/ African American	American Indian/ Alaskan Native	Asian	Native Hawaiian/ Other Pacific Islander	Some Other Race	
1	89,653	60,575	24,289	1,546	145	2,152	68	83	795	64,770	41,516	19,732	1,182	119	1,642	51	53	475
2	77,902	60,208	12,212	3,262	275	659	234	67	985	55,598	42,289	9,678	2,204	194	563	146	39	485
3	77,056	64,347	9,603	1,918	165	492	70	84	377	57,836	46,916	8,457	1,533	134	422	63	58	253
4	78,232	51,242	17,479	6,153	302	1,434	208	87	1,327	54,505	33,253	14,373	4,470	226	1,272	151	60	700
5	81,091	69,904	7,288	2,445	122	715	68	69	480	52,616	44,364	5,551	1,754	85	547	40	39	236
6	81,355	78,048	2,414	309	358	43	20	54	109	57,325	54,722	1,966	230	254	40	13	27	73
7	81,682	69,313	9,238	1,691	132	791	51	37	429	57,751	47,716	7,701	1,262	103	629	42	27	271
8	82,150	70,084	9,903	831	134	806	18	62	312	59,726	49,476	8,466	694	108	683	17	45	237
Total	649,121	523,721	92,426	18,155	1,633	7,092	737	543	4,814	460,127	360,252	75,924	13,329	1,223	5,798	523	348	2,730

Council District	2010 Total Population									2010 Voting Age Population								
	Total	Hispanic/ Latino	Not Hispanic/ Latino							Total Voting Age Population	Hispanic/ Latino	Not Hispanic/ Latino						
			One Race						Two or More			One Race						Two or More
			White	Black/ African American	American Indian/ Alaskan Native	Asian	Native Hawaiian/ Other Pacific Islander	Some Other Race				White	Black/ African American	American Indian/ Alaskan Native	Asian	Native Hawaiian/ Other Pacific Islander	Some Other Race	
1	100%	67.6%	27.09%	1.72%	0.16%	2.40%	0.08%	0.09%	0.89%	100%	64.10%	30.46%	1.82%	0.18%	2.54%	0.08%	0.08%	0.73%
2	100%	77.3%	15.68%	4.19%	0.35%	0.85%	0.30%	0.09%	1.26%	100%	76.06%	17.41%	3.96%	0.35%	1.01%	0.26%	0.07%	0.87%
3	100%	83.5%	12.46%	2.49%	0.21%	0.64%	0.09%	0.11%	0.49%	100%	81.12%	14.62%	2.65%	0.23%	0.73%	0.11%	0.10%	0.44%
4	100%	65.5%	22.34%	7.87%	0.39%	1.83%	0.27%	0.11%	1.70%	100%	61.01%	26.37%	8.20%	0.41%	2.33%	0.28%	0.11%	1.28%
5	100%	86.2%	8.99%	3.02%	0.15%	0.88%	0.08%	0.09%	0.59%	100%	84.32%	10.55%	3.33%	0.16%	1.04%	0.08%	0.07%	0.45%
6	100%	95.9%	2.97%	0.38%	0.44%	0.05%	0.02%	0.07%	0.13%	100%	95.46%	3.43%	0.40%	0.44%	0.07%	0.02%	0.05%	0.13%
7	100%	84.9%	11.31%	2.07%	0.16%	0.97%	0.06%	0.05%	0.53%	100%	82.62%	13.33%	2.19%	0.18%	1.09%	0.07%	0.05%	0.47%
8	100%	85.3%	12.05%	1.01%	0.16%	0.98%	0.02%	0.08%	0.38%	100%	82.84%	14.17%	1.16%	0.18%	1.14%	0.03%	0.08%	0.40%
Total	100%	80.68%	14.24%	2.80%	0.25%	1.09%	0.11%	0.08%	0.74%	100%	78.29%	16.50%	2.90%	0.27%	1.26%	0.11%	0.08%	0.59%



