

**City of Hyattsville — 2022 Redistricting Committee**  
July 13, 2022, 4 PM–5:30 PM — VIRTUAL MEETING

MINUTES

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

**1. Roll Call**

A quorum was noted, and Chair Mosher called the meeting to order at 4:07 p.m. Attendance was registered, and guests and staff introduced themselves.

**2. Minutes**

Minutes from the June 27, 2022, meeting were approved on a voice vote.

**3. 2020 & 2010 Census Data Review**

Zork provided an overview of data from the 2010 and 2020 U.S. Census showing racial and ethnic breakdowns for each ward, as well as the change in each ward and group population from 2010 to 2020.

- It was noted that the figures were shown without disaggregating Hispanic ethnicity from other racial groups.

**4. Current and Future Development**

Robey provided an overview of active development in the city as well as some information about potential areas for future development that could impact city population over the coming decade, both active projects and those in the development pipeline. She also pointed to some county tools that can help illuminate what development is allowed by right and what may be developed in the future.

- Ward 1: 325 new units
  - Canvas, 284 multifamily units
  - Suffrage Point (Lower), 41 townhomes
- Ward 2: 83 new units
  - Suffrage Point (Upper), 16 single family; 67 townhomes
- Ward 3: 1,876 new units
  - Landy Development, 331 townhomes
  - Dewey Development, 681 multifamily units; 168 townhomes
  - 6400 America Blvd., 316 multifamily units
  - Backside of MPG, 380 multifamily units
- Ward 4: 0 new units
- Ward 5: 1,153 new units
  - Riverfront at West Hyattsville, 183 townhomes; 750 multifamily units
  - 5402 Jamestown, 220 multifamily units

Sayer asked if there is a factor for determining how housing units convert to number of people. Robey said she did not have a set factor, but could look for an answer. She noted the Census does have household size estimates that may be used.

## **5. Review Current Ward Boundaries**

Chair Mosher asked for discussion of factors to consider in determining Ward boundaries. The use of major roads and other natural division points as dividing lines is important, but there are also questions of keeping neighborhood communities together, and keeping amenities like parks clearly identified with specific wards (to ensure responsiveness of council members). It was also noted that whatever map(s) is developed must be developed with clear goals and priorities that can be articulated to Council.

A public comment from Marshall urged the committee to reject the use of roads and other boundaries and instead seek to balance the wards regardless of perceived communities. Louimarre noted there are frameworks for incorporating equity into plans like this and suggested that one of them be used to help drive the conversation and process forward.

Sayer asked if there was a mandate to keep the five wards framework. Zork noted that Council did not set that as a mandate for the committee, but it would be possible to do. Ross noted that an advisory recommendation was voted on in 2017, and voters expressed a preference to keep the current five-ward, two-councilmember framework. (The vote was 935–593 on the question to reconsider the number of councilmembers.)

## **6. Mapping Exercise**

The committee discussed possible mapping scenarios they felt would be helpful to have worked out to help in beginning the redistricting process. Mason provided feedback as to whether or not such maps could be developed ahead of the next committee meeting.

- Ross suggested creating a map that showed the city divided into five equal population areas as a starting point. Mason expressed concern about the effort required to develop such a map.
- Groenendyk suggested creating a population density heat map to help highlight where population was concentrated in the city. Mason felt such a map would be doable.
- Ross asked for maps indicating the population center of Hyattsville in 2010 and 2020. Mason believed that would be doable.
- Leland asked for a map based of current wards but arbitrarily shifted to create roughly balanced population across each ward. Mason believed that would be doable.
- Gafford asked for maps to indicate clearly where the planned developments Robey discussed. Mason said that was doable.

Mason said he believed maps indicating population density, the population center, and five arbitrarily balanced wards could be produced within two weeks in time for the committee's next meeting.

## **7. New Business**

Dudek noted that July 30 is a Ward 4 block party and stated he hoped to use it as an

opportunity to engage with others about the redistricting process. He invited other committee members to attend, and Zork encouraged committee members to use similar events to gain feedback from others about the redistricting process. Sayer requested access to the underlying GIS and Census data being used in the redistricting process to aid in running scenarios; Mason indicated he could provide the requested data sets.

**8. Next steps**

Chair Mosher expressed an interest in holding the next committee meeting in person to. Zork said she would check the city calendar to see if meeting space was available at 7 p.m. on July 27 or July 28 (or possibly on August 1, although Marshall noted a Council meeting was scheduled for that date) and would report back to the committee to set the next meeting date.

**9. Adjourn**

There being no further business, Chair Mosher called for motion to adjourn at 5.:27 p.m., which was approved on a voice vote.