

CITY OF HYATTSVILLE

RESOLUTION 2022-03

Establishing a Redistricting Commission

A resolution whereby the City Council establishes a seven (7) person Redistricting Commission to make recommendations on the reapportionment of the City's five (5) wards based on population data from the 2020 U.S. Census.

WHEREAS, pursuant to §C4-16 and §C4-17 of the City's Charter, the Council has the authority to establish, change, or relocate the boundaries of the City's five existing wards; and

WHEREAS, the data analysis of the 2020 census data shows a population deviance of more than 10% in two of the City's wards; and

WHEREAS, the City Council finds it to be in the best interest of the City of Hyattsville to establish a Redistricting Commission to assist the City Council by making recommendations to the boundaries of the City's five (5) legislative wards so the boundaries represent substantially equal populations in each ward; and

WHEREAS, the Council does hereby establish a seven (7) member Redistricting Commission to prepare recommended redistricting plans to be presented to and voted on by the entire Hyattsville City Council; and

WHEREAS, the Council shall appoint to the Redistricting Commission one member from each the Board of Supervisors of Elections, the Ethics Commission, the Planning Committee, Race and the Equity Task Force, and the Education Advisory Committee for a total of five (5) members; and

WHEREAS, the remaining two (2) members of the Redistricting Commission shall be appointed by the Council and composed of resident volunteers who can provide expertise in any of the three following areas: Census or demographic data analysis, GIS technology, racial and social equity, and community outreach and engagement.

WHEREAS, the Commission shall be composed of at least one representative of each of the City's five wards; and

WHEREAS, at its first meeting, the Redistricting Commission shall elect a chair, vice chair and secretary who shall prepare the minutes of each meeting and be responsible for maintain the Commission's records; and

WHEREAS, meetings of the Redistricting Commission shall be subject to the Maryland Open Meetings Act and all records of the Redistricting Commission shall be subject to the provisions of the Maryland Public Information Act; and

WHEREAS, the Redistricting Commission shall meet from time to time as necessary in order to prepare suggested redistricting plans and seek public input on the proposed plans; and

WHEREAS, the Redistricting Committee shall utilize the following criteria when developing the redistricting proposal:

- The City will retain five (5) legislative wards;
- Wards will be as nearly equal in population as possible (no more than 10% variation from the size of population equally distributed across the five wards utilizing the 2020 census data) Wards must be drawn to provide fair and effective representation for all residents of the City, including racial, ethnic, and language minorities;
- Wards will be composed of contiguous territory, as regular and compact in form as practicable, and take into account existing infrastructural and natural boundaries;
- Wards will be drawn in consideration of known future growth;
- The Commission will strive to preserve communities of interest where possible. Communities of interest may include residents with similar social, geographics, cultural, ethics, language, or other interests;
- The Redistricting must be done in compliance with local, state, and federal laws, including the federal Voting Rights Act of 1965; and

WHEREAS, the Redistricting Committee shall submit its final suggested redistricting plans to the City Council by no later than September 12, 2022; and

WHEREAS, at least one public hearing must be held prior to the adoption of new boundaries and additional means of public engagement is encouraged; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the City Council of the City of Hyattsville in regular session establishes a Redistricting Commission; and

INTRODUCED by the Mayor and City Council of the City of Hyattsville, Maryland at a regular meeting on May 16, 2022, at which meeting copies were available to the public for inspection.

ADOPTED by the Mayor and City Council of the City of Hyattsville, Maryland at a regular meeting on May 16, 2022, at which meeting copies were available to the public for inspection.

APPROVED:

City of Hyattsville, Maryland:

5.10.22

Date

Robert S. Croslin
Interim Mayor

ATTEST/WITNESS:

City of Hyattsville, Maryland:

Date

Laura Reams
City Clerk