



# City of Hyattsville

Redistricting Commission  
Public Hearing

October 17, 2022

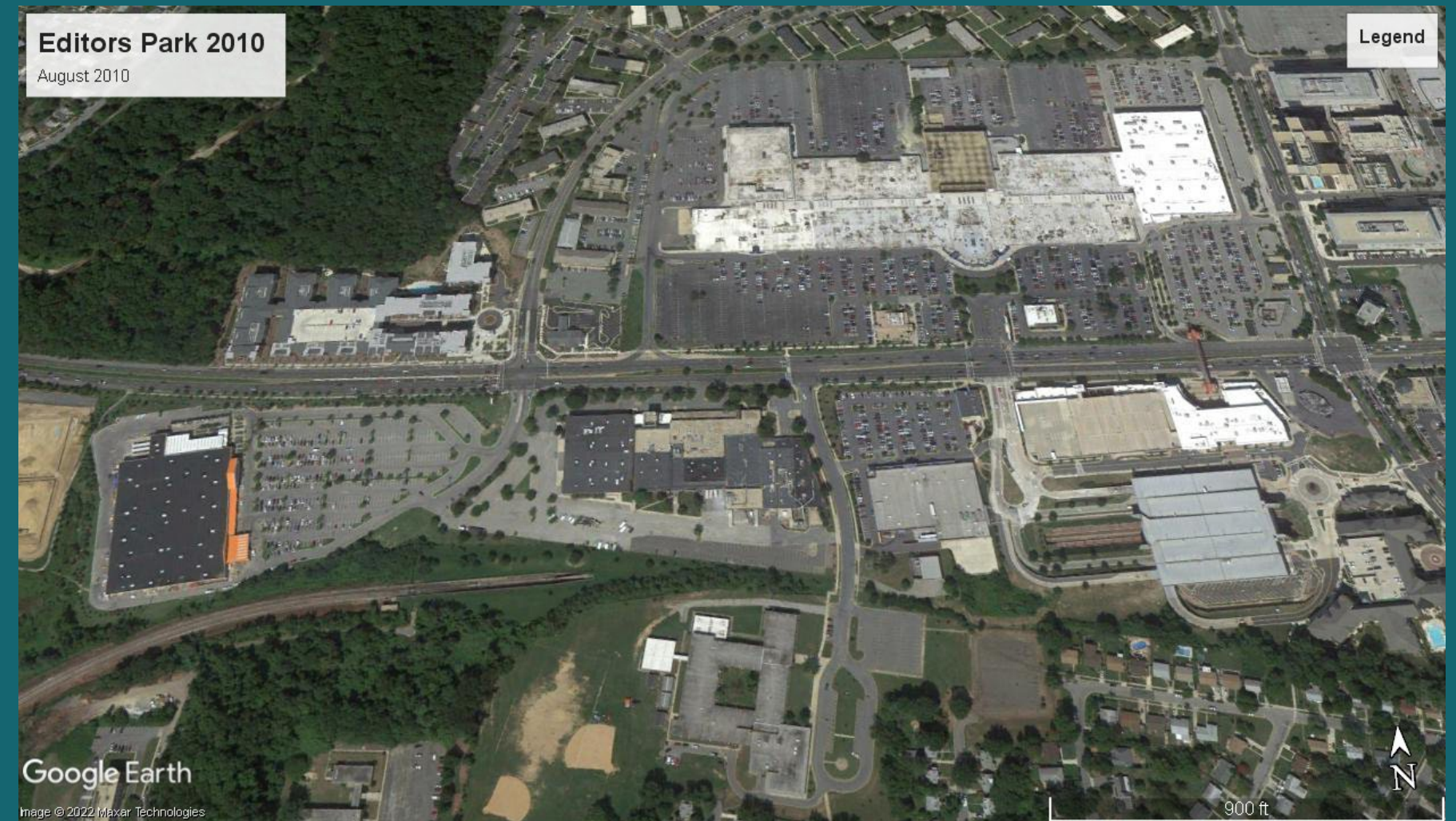
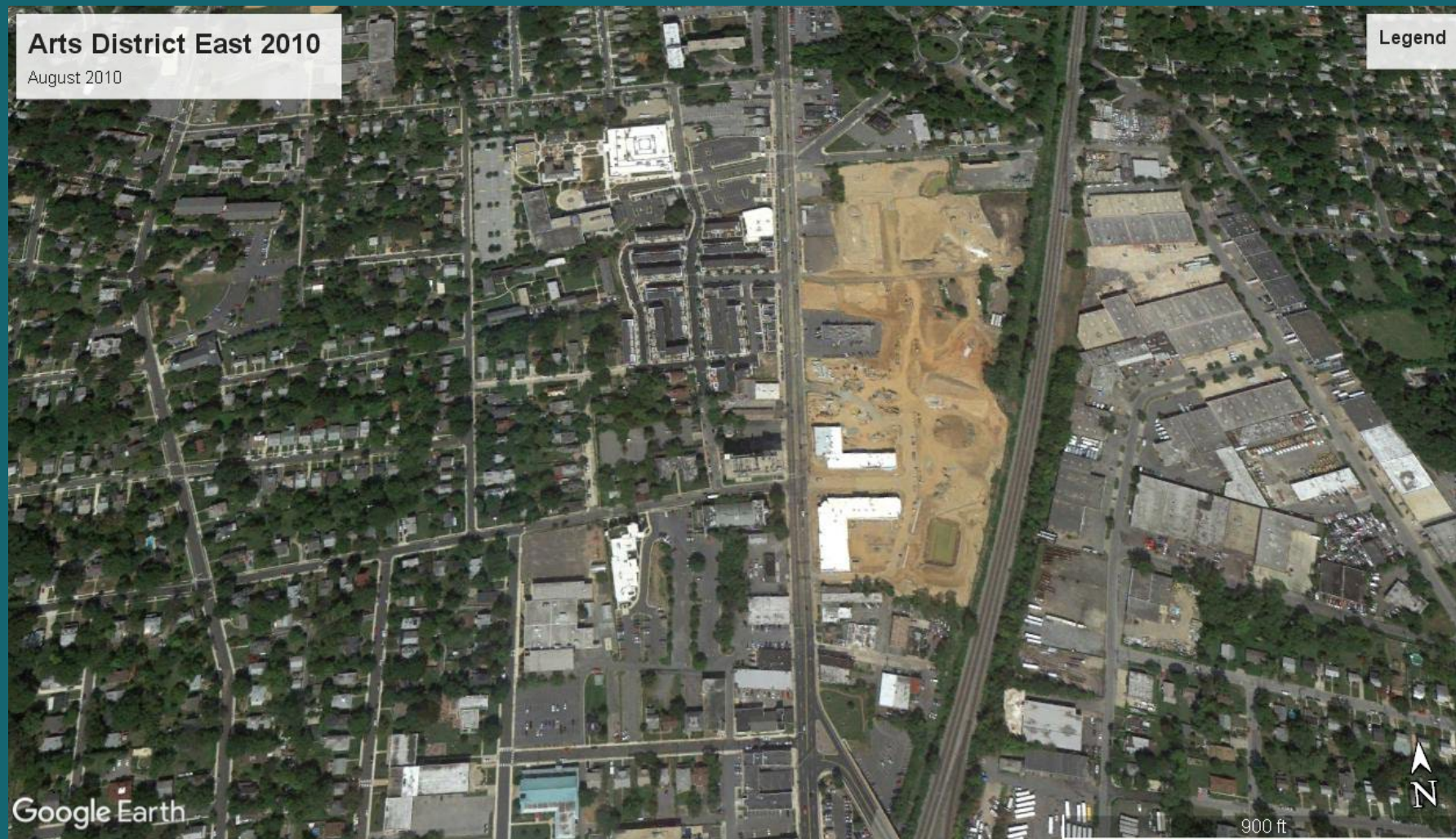


# Why Are We Doing This?

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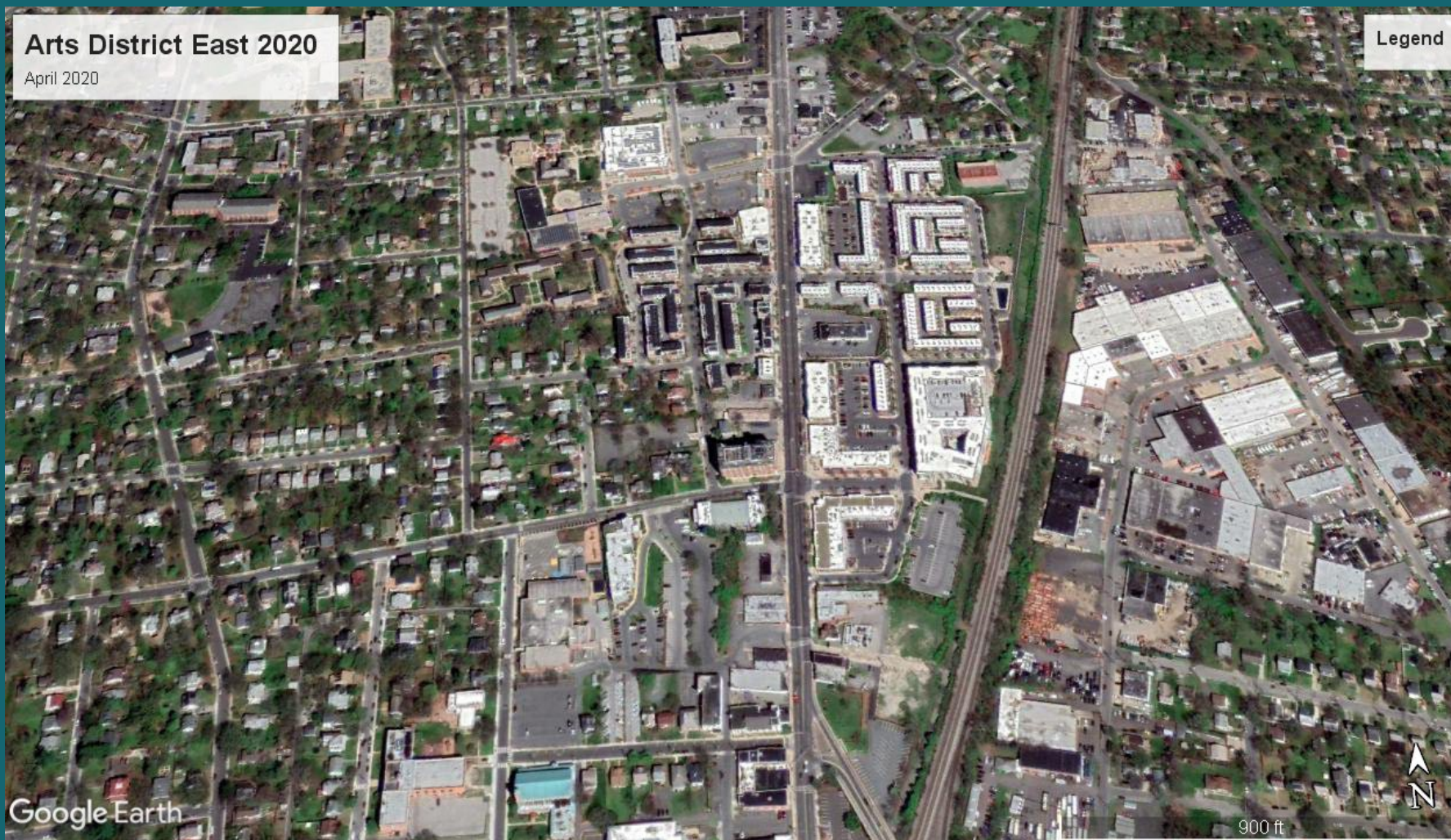
- 2020 Census; Sections §C4-16 and §C4-17 of the City Charter
- From April 1, 2010, to April 1, 2020, **Hyattsville's population grew 20.7%.**



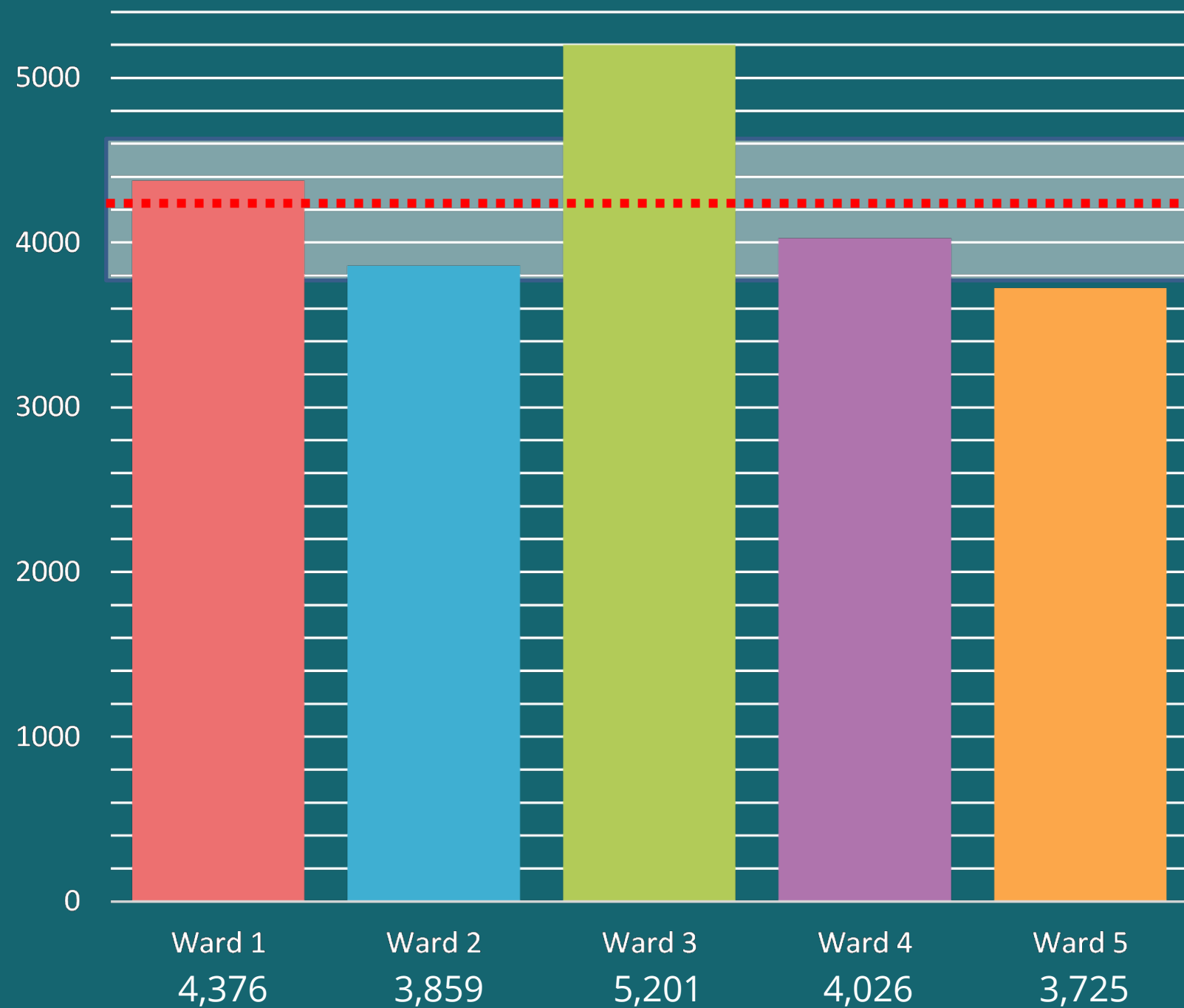
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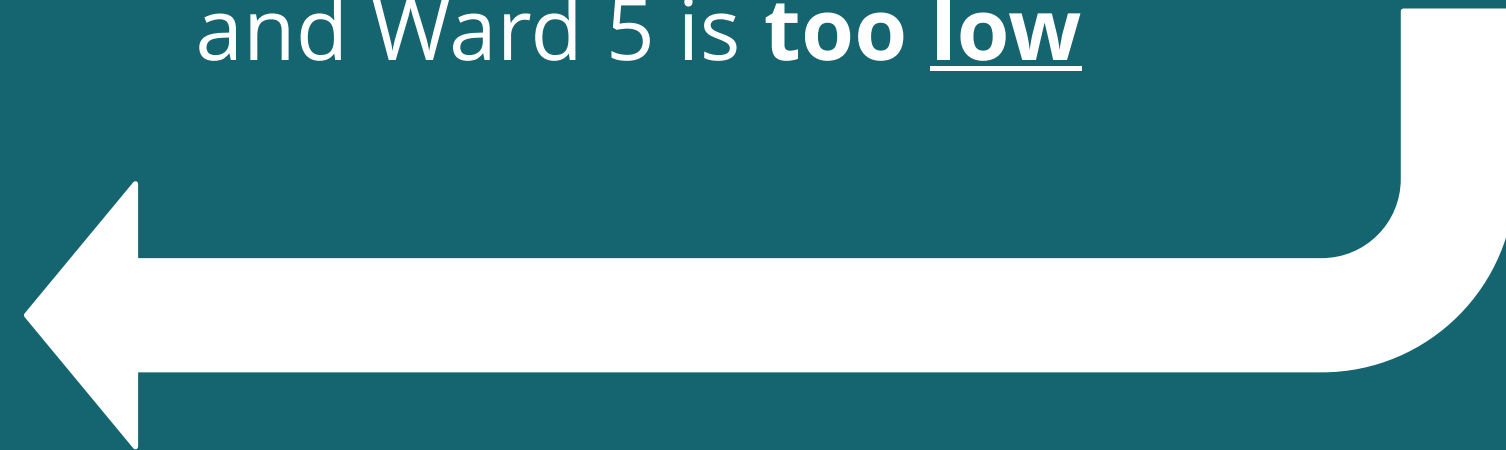
- 2020 Census; Sections §C4-16 and §C4-17 of the City Charter
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# Why Are We Doing This?



- The Goal is for wards to have balanced population
  - Balance between elected official and their constituents for each Ward
  - 2020 Census:  $4,237 \pm 423$  per Ward
  - Currently Ward 3 population is **too high** and Ward 5 is **too low**



# What Ward Balancing Is Not...

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- Changing Anything Beyond City Council Ward Boundaries.  
(No impact on county, state or federal elections; No impact on school boundaries)
- Partisan Politics. (City races are non-partisan)
- Changing the Number of Wards or the City Council Structure.  
(The Council can consider making such changes, but it was not within the scope for this committee)

# How Do We Do It?

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- **Must** use April 1, 2020, enumeration from the U.S. Census
- **Must** keep wards reasonably compact and contiguous
- **Should** take in account natural boundaries and existing infrastructure
- **Must** seek to ensure fair and effective representation for all residents of the City, keeping in mind historically marginalized groups
- **Must** comply with local, state, and federal laws, including the federal Voting Rights Act of 1965
- **Can** consider the impact of known future development

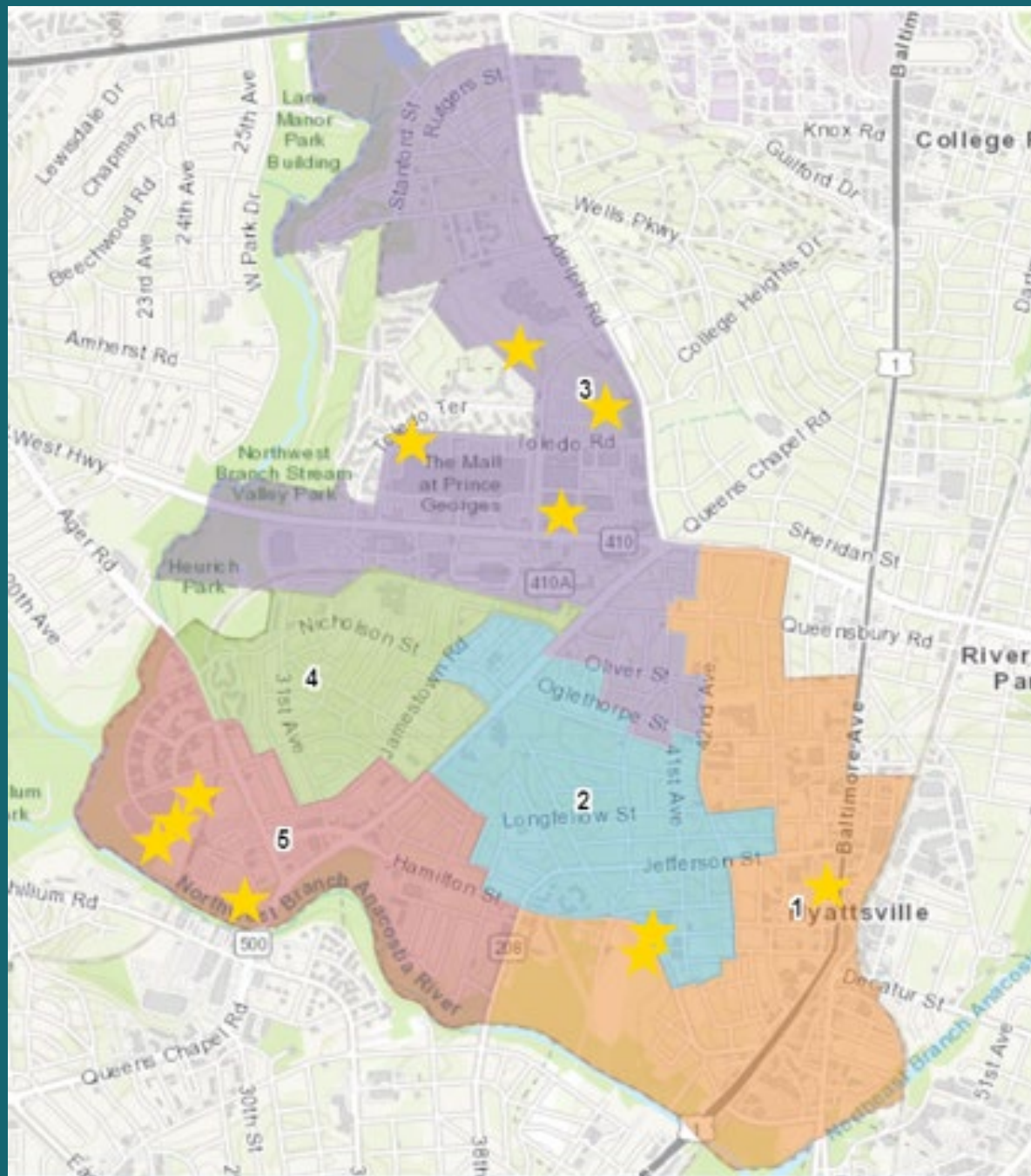
# Equity Consideration

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- In alignment with the Government Alliance on Racial Equity's Equity Impact tool, we considered three key framing questions throughout the process:
  - What are the **equity impacts** of a particular decision?
  - Who will **benefit** from or be **burdened** by the decision?
  - Are there strategies to mitigate **unintended consequences**?

# Future Development



- The Hyattsville Building Boom Continues
- Almost all of the expected growth is in Wards 1, 3, and 5
- These are developments that are under construction or far along in the planning process
- Expected to add 3,437 new housing units (a mix of single-family homes, town homes, and multi-family buildings)



# Future Development



# Public Feedback Thus Far

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## Scale

Some prefer to balance for the decade ahead *“so we’ll all keep the same voting power.”*

Others prefer minimal change: *“you move us around like toys”; “our elected representatives should not be swapped out every 10 years unless we vote them out.”*

## Drawing boundaries

Straight lines feel fair; cut-out blocks look like they were done for *“political purposes”* or *“someone’s trying to benefit themselves.”*

Keeping existing communities together is more important than creating demographically-even wards.

Some streets feel like natural boundaries but try to avoid cuts along residential roads; *“I should be in the same Ward as my neighbors beside and across the street”;* we have *“common traffic concerns”; “I favor dividing wards mid-block along rear property lines.”*

Using census blocks has led to some areas feeling like *“orphans”* split from their communities.



# Minimal Adjustments Concept

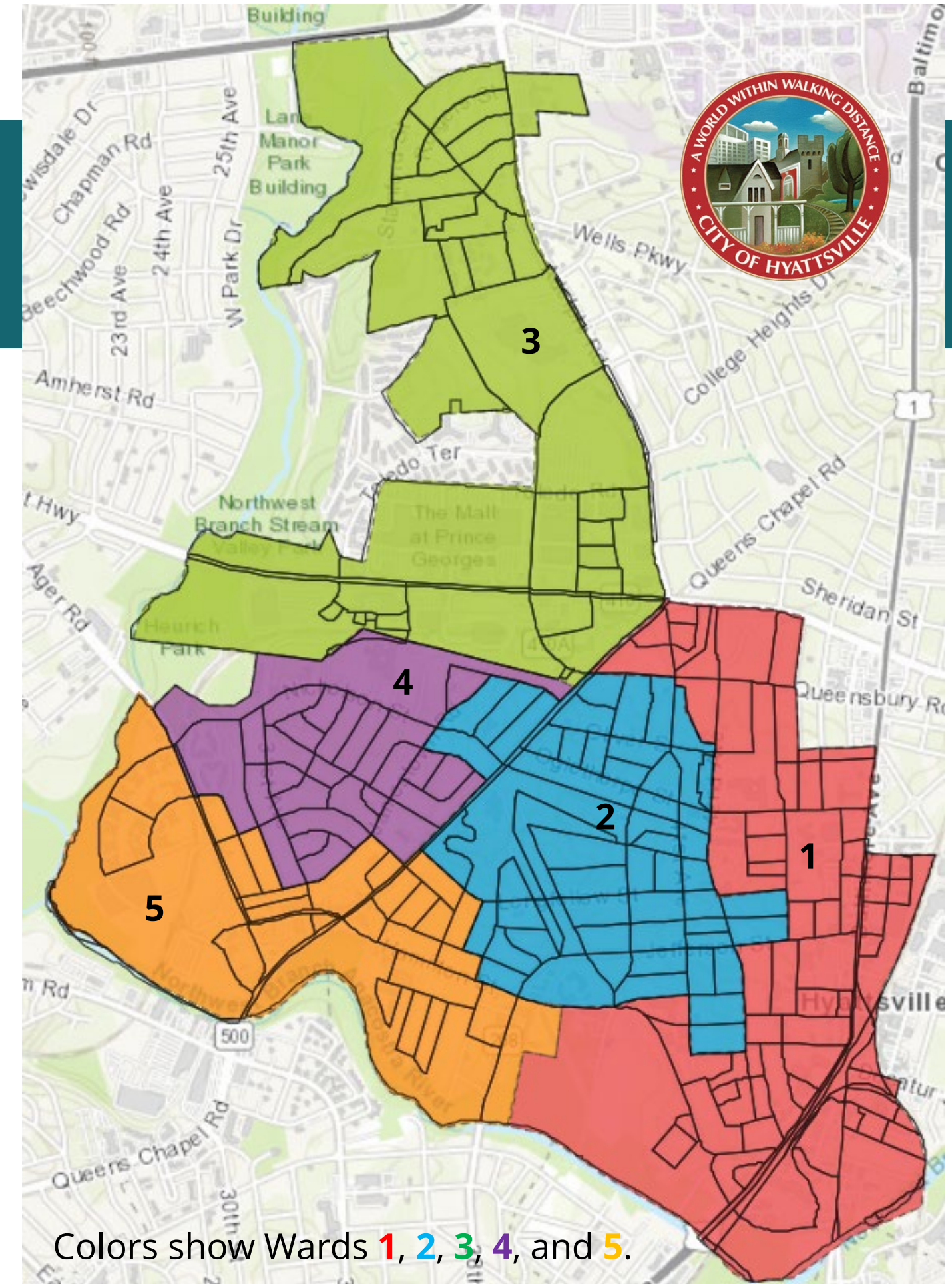
Create compliant Wards while minimizing the number of people whose Ward changes

## Changes:

- Portion of Ward 3 east of Queen's Chapel Rd split between Wards 1-2 at Queensbury Rd
- Suffrage Point development unified into Ward 1 by moving portion south of Hamilton St
- Houses and Park Place Condominiums southeast of Hamilton St and 38<sup>th</sup> Ave moved into Ward 5
- Volunteer Fire Department buildings unified into Ward 3

## Implications:

- Less disruptive to current residents
- More drastic changes likely necessary in 2030 redistricting



# Growth Conscious Concept

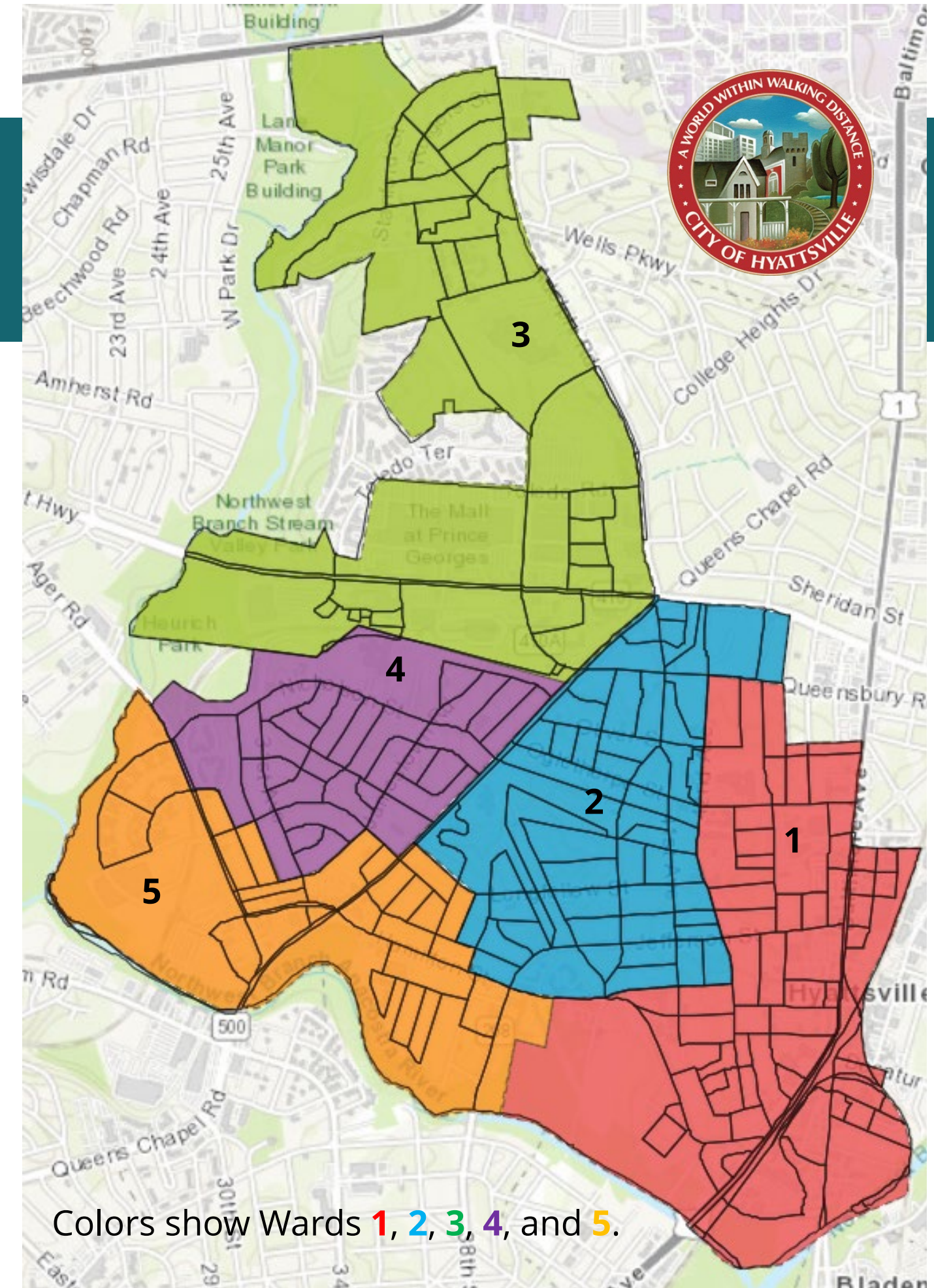
More even Ward populations through the decade given current and expected development

## Changes:

- Portion of Ward 3 east of Queen's Chapel Rd moved into Ward 2
- Ward 1-2 boundary along Hamilton St, 42<sup>nd</sup> Ave, and Queensbury Rd
- Ward 2-4 boundary along Queen's Chapel Rd
- Houses and Park Place Condominiums south-east of Hamilton St and 38<sup>th</sup> Ave moved into Ward 5
- Volunteer Fire Department buildings unified into Ward 3

## Implications:

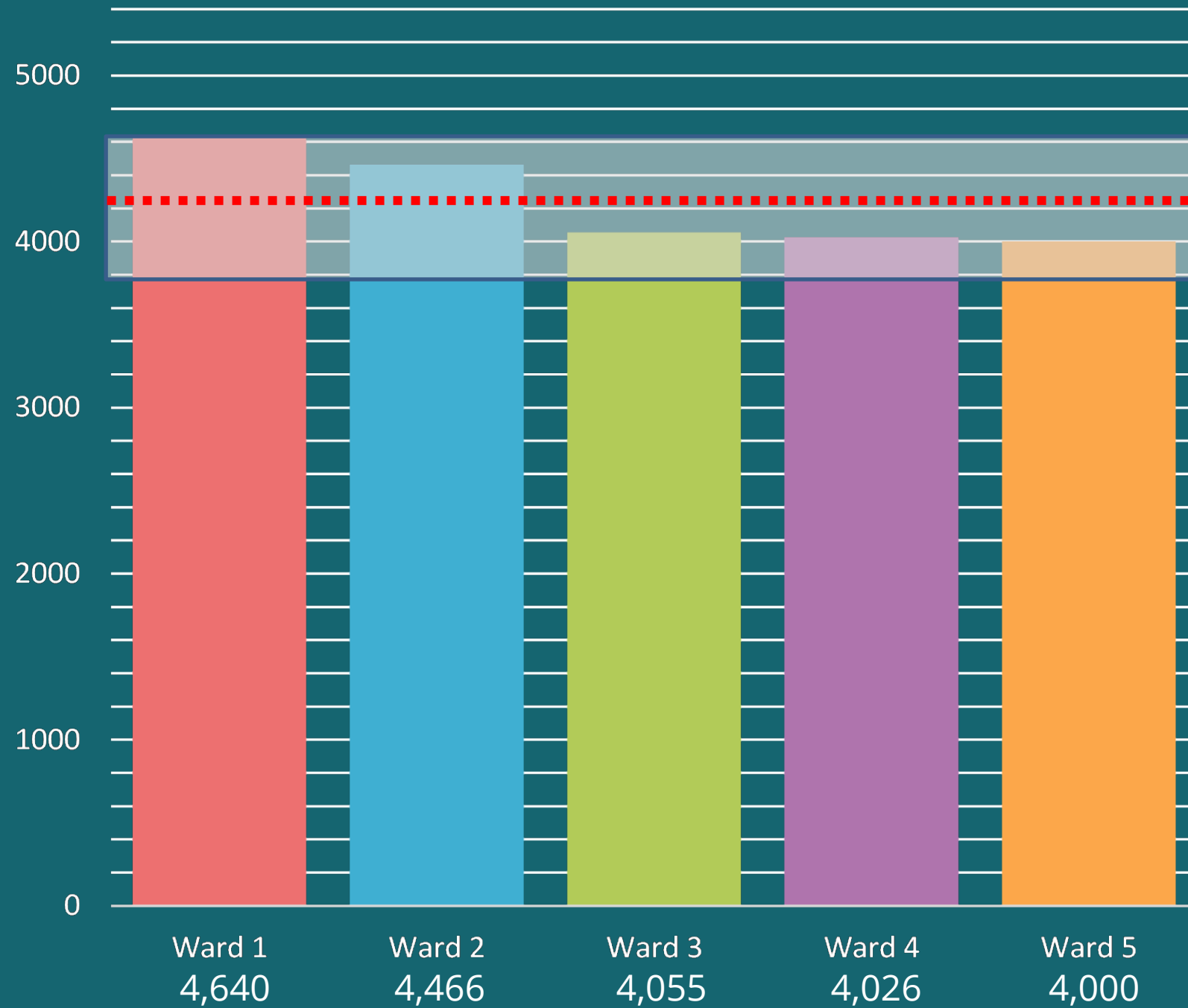
- More disruptive to current residents
- Smaller changes likely necessary in 2030 redistricting



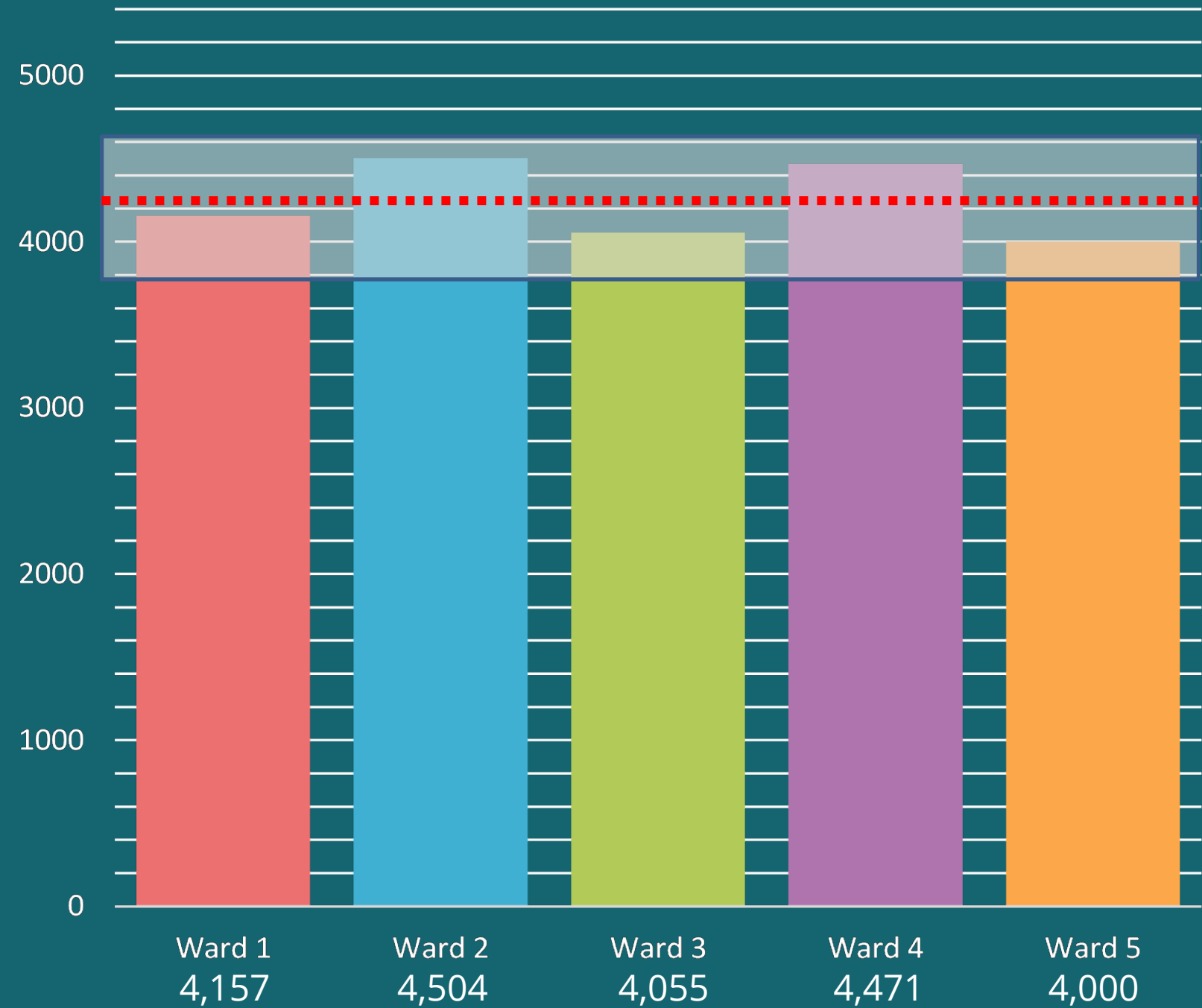
# Comparing Population Size



## Minimal Adjustments



## Growth Conscious



# Comparing the Proposed Maps

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## Similarities

New Wards 3 and 5 identical under both proposals

Volunteer Fire Department facilities unified into Ward 3

“Orphan” corner SE of Hamilton St and 38<sup>th</sup> Ave unified into Ward 5

Ongoing and future developments unified into single Wards

Racial & ethnic balance of Wards similar to current

Slightly (Minimal Adjustments) or moderately (Growth Conscious) more compact than current Wards on average

## Differences

Extent to which Ward populations will remain balanced over the decade 2020–2030

Disruption to current residents (especially Ward 2)

Balance between favoring current lines vs. straighter boundaries often perceived as fairer

The current maps split portions of the North Pointe and Hamilton Manor apartments between two wards. It should be possible to shift census blocks to unify North Pointe in Ward 4 and Hamilton Manor in Ward 5.