

MINUTES

2021 New Castle County Redistricting Commission

August 24, 2021

I. Call to Order

- Redistricting Chairman Ted Blunt convened the August 24, 2021 meeting of the 2021 Redistricting Commission at 6:05 p.m. in Council Chambers.

II. Roll Call

- Chairman Blunt asked Nellie Hill, Clerk of Council, to perform the roll call. Commission members present were: Paul Jones (District 1), Robert Valihura (District 2), Katherine Beard (District 3), Justen Wright (District 4), Constance Merlet (virtual) (District 5), Keith Thompson (District 6), Terrence Wright (District 8), Vincent D'Anna (At-Large), Patricia Abernethy (District 11), James Hudson (District 12), Chairman Blunt (District 10).
- Commission Members absent were: Michael Shaw (District 7), Charles Stirk (District 9)
- Others Present: Nellie Hill (Clerk of Council), Michael Migliore (Counsel to Council), Anthony Albence (State of Delaware Elections Commissioner), Chris Ramos (State of Delaware Department of Elections IT Director)

III. Reading and Approval of July 28, 2021 Meeting Minutes.

- Chairman Ted Blunt requested Ms. Hill to read the minutes from the July 12, 2021 meeting.
- Bob Valihura moved to waive the reading of the minutes, the motion was seconded by Jim Hudson and approved by voice vote. The motion carried and the minutes were approved.
- Kathy Beard inquired about the public comment record. Chairman Blunt confirmed that all submitted written public comment becomes part of the written record, is available to the Commission, and becomes part of the final report.

IV. Discussion re: Redistricting Data and Discussion re: District Lines and District Descriptions

- Terry Wright was called upon by Chairman Blunt to provide the rationale used by the 2011 Redistricting Commission in the event it might be useful for the current Commission. This document is attached to the minutes as part of the record.
- Bob Valihura moved that the statement by Mr. Wright be deemed guiding principles in the Commission's effort to undertake redistricting this year and to attain what is required of the Commission.
- Vince D'Anna asked to add to Mr. Valihura's motion that the Commission be sensitive to and maintain the two additional majority minority districts that have emerged with the 2021 numbers, bringing the total up from two to four.
- Chairman Blunt also added that the Commission should attempt to be as least disruptive to the current districts as possible.
- Chairman Blunt invited Anthony Albence, State of Delaware Elections Commissioner and Chris Ramos, State of Delaware Department of Elections IT Director, to address the Commission, commenting on questions the Department of Elections could possibly consider, such as keeping the district size consistent with a 5% deviation and that the

deviation should also show that the average size of the districts could drop down to 45,500.

- Anthony Albence explained the goal of the Commission is to adjust the lines as the Commission sees fit, while respecting the census block lines, the natural boundaries and contiguous communities.
- Chairman Blunt requested that the Department of Election show three difference scenario maps. Anthony Albence stated they could accommodate this and show scenarios to the group, taking direction from the Commission as a whole or a Commission agreed upon liaison. Bob Valihura moved the request of the Chairman for the Department of Elections to provide three scenarios, it was seconded, and all were in favor.
- Bob Valihura suggested that the Department of Elections be guided by the principals outlined by Terry Wright in his comments regarding the rationale of the 2011 Redistricting Commission. Patty Abernethy added to the motion that the Department take into account Mr. D'Anna's comments regarding preserving the newly established majority minority districts and by Chairman Blunt regarding the district size and deviations. Vince D'Anna asked that it be added to the guiding principles that the districts that have grown the most be the smallest of the districts to account for future growth. Bob Valihura also added the Department should take into account where the current Council representatives live.
- Chairman Blunt stated that Terry Wright will share the guiding principles established by the Commission with the Department of Elections to be used when developing scenarios for the Commission.

V. Establish Future Meeting Schedule

--The following dates were outlined and agreed upon as future Commission meeting dates:

- Monday, August 30, 2021 at 6:00 p.m. in Council Chambers
- Tuesday, September 7, 2021 at 6:00 p.m. in Council Chambers
- Friday, September 10, 2021 at 6:00 p.m. in Council Chambers (if needed)

VI. Public Comment

--No members of the public registered to provide public comment in accordance with the Commission Rules of Procedure.

VII. Other

--No comments under other.

VIII. Adjournment

--Chairman Blunt adjourned the meeting at 6:50pm.