

**Mapping Subcommittee of the Redistricting Committee
Meeting Minutes for Saturday, March 11, 2023
City Council Chambers**

The Mapping Subcommittee meeting was called to order at 12:53 p.m. by Janika White. Lisa Bennett called roll, and the following committee members were present: Lisa Bennett (community member), Dr. Darrick Harris (community member), Council Chairperson Martavius Jones (City Council), and Attorney Janika White (community member). Bennett agreed to take notes for the meeting minutes.

In his presentation to the subcommittee, Harris reviewed maps that were presented during the Thursday, March 9 Redistricting Committee meeting. The presentation also included several concept maps with a reminder that the target population per district is 90,443 with a total population deviation of 10% (+/- 5%). The concept maps are listed and explained below (note CCS = City Council Single).

CCS Plan 1: This plan is radically different from the current council district map. There is a focus on a North to South orientation with some changes in district numbering. This plan attempts to keep communities together. For example, the Whitehaven area would be one district instead of being split into two districts as it is on the current district map. Jones suggested keeping district numbers the same as current district map numbers as an easier sale to current council members. He also noted that the precinct map with census population is “very instructive” and that “it’s something the council has never seen.” White requested that precinct numbers be included on all concept maps.

CCS Plan 2: This map attempts to keep as many communities together as possible and meet population deviation standards. Harris noted that the shapes of districts have more to do with precincts than any other factor, but the concept maps do attempt to have more symmetrically balanced shapes than the current council district map. White asked for the rationale for oddly shaped districts in the Airport and Whitehaven areas. Harris stated that due to population size in that area, you can’t include all precincts of Whitehaven. However, this concept map focuses on the central Whitehaven precincts. Harris also noted that this is more of an East to West orientation.

CCS Plan 5: This map is closest to the current council map with minor changes. One notable change is the drawing of District 4 boundaries. Harris explained that this map is still an attempt to keep communities together, referencing the current boundaries of District 1 that stretch from Cordova to Raleigh and Frayser. Bennett asked for the rationale supporting the current boundaries of District 1 as the communities in the district are significantly different in many ways. Harris explained that there are historical reasons for the district’s current boundaries. Jones suggested starting the Thursday, March 16 presentation to the Redistricting Committee as it is most likely to be received by City Council members. White asked which map most closely keeps communities together and meets the needs of population by precinct. Harris explained that all of the maps meet both criteria but in different ways regarding keeping communities together. He

explained that map plans 2 and 5 were in response to questions council members posed about district changes in the Thursday, March 9 meeting.

CCS Plan 6: This map includes street names and is a combination of sorts of maps 2 and 5. Most of Downtown is combined. Concerns expressed by Councilperson Patrice Robinson regarding District 6 changes during the Thursday, March 9 meeting are addressed with this map. Some of District 3 precincts are moved into District 9; however, this means some precincts might be split. This map also addresses questions posed by Councilperson Jeff Warren about the Cooper-Young area during the Thursday, March 9 meeting. Harris explained that blocks instead of precincts are moved with this map to keep the Cooper-Young area together.

Community member Dr. Greg Blumenthal requested to address the subcommittee. He asked how neighborhoods and communities are defined as attempts are made to keep communities together. He queried if factors such as geography, race, politics, socio-economic status, "I know it when I see it," and other factors are determinants. Harris explained that all of those factors are determinants and referenced historical neighborhoods and communities. Blumenthal suggested that looking at zip codes could be a strong way to identify populations as they capture factors such as age, socio-economic status, age, etc. He stated that precincts are not drawn to respect zip codes but using zip codes might help simplify the discussion.

Harris presented two super district maps.

Plan 1: This plan focuses on allowing communities to stay together and has an East-West orientation.

Plan 2: This plan has an orientation similar to the current map. Jones stated that he prefers this map from the perspective of a candidate as it relates to traveling throughout a super district and the expenses related to campaign materials.

Harris said he plans to present two more super district concept maps and an additional single district map. He also plans to present the single district concept maps at the March 16 Redistricting Committee meeting.

White reminded all present that mapping tools and other tools and information are available to community members who are interested in presenting a map for consideration. Submissions must be made by Friday, March 17.

Bennett asked for clarification regarding committee members' attendance of meetings virtually. She stated that Councilperson Patrice Robinson was not physically present at the Thursday, March 9 meeting; however, she was allowed to ask questions during the meeting as a City Council member. Community members who are members of the Redistricting Committee were previously told that they were only allowed to participate as community members and not as committee members if they were not physically present for meetings. Chairperson Jones stated that council

members and community members of the committee should be held to the same standard and that he will address this concern.

White reminded everyone about the March 16 Redistricting Committee meeting and called for a motion to close the meeting. A motion was made by Bennett and seconded by Harris. The meeting was adjourned.

Minutes respectfully submitted by Lisa D. Bennett (District 1 community member)