

## MEMORANDUM

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September 23, 2021

**TO:** Honorable Mayor and City Commission  
**VIA:** James Slaton, City Manager  
**FROM:** Jennifer Nanek, City Clerk  
**RE:** **Resolution 2021-21 - Establishing a Census Redistricting Committee**

### SYNOPSIS

A redistricting committee needs to be appointed to determine boundary lines for geographic areas represented by Commission Seats 2 through 5.

### RECOMMENDATION

Staff recommends that each commissioner appoint a citizen to serve on the redistricting committee that will define the boundaries of four city commission districts containing population that is as equal as feasible. Staff recommends that the appointments be effective on November 1, 2021.

### BACKGROUND

Now that the results of the 2020 Census have been received and are being compiled, it is necessary to redraw the city commission district boundary lines to ensure that each district contains population that is distributed as equally as feasible.

Although there are currently five commission districts, Seat 1 is an at-large seat held by the mayor. The other four geographical districts will be represented by commission seats two through five.

In accordance with the City Charter, the City Commission must appoint a districting commission comprised of 3 to 5 registered voters of the city within one year of receiving the 2020 census data.

The Charter assigns the following task to the districting commission:

Within six months after its appointment, the districting commission shall file with the city clerk a report containing a recommended plan for adjustment of either the allocation of commission seats within each commission district or adjustment of the commission district boundaries to comply with the following specifications:

- (1) Each district shall be formed of compact, contiguous property, as nearly rectangular as possible, and its boundary lines shall follow the center lines of the streets.
- (2) Each commission seat assigned to the commission districts shall represent as nearly as possible the same number of citizens as determined from population data derived from the last decennial census. The area represented by each commission seat does not differ in population by more than ten percent.

The districting commission may establish its own procedures or methodology for completing its task. Each member will be provided with a copy of the census block map and population data for each block. The goal of the districting commission will be to produce a recommendation to the City Commission for establishment of four geographical districts that are as equal in population as possible.

Exactly how a recommendation is determined will be up to the members of the districting commission.

The City Commission must appoint the districting commission within 12 months of receiving the census data, and the districting commission must make its recommendation within six months after appointment. The census data was received in August 2021.

Following the 2000 and 2010 censuses, it was possible to complete the redistricting process within 12 months of receiving the data, including the six-month period allowed for committee work.

Also by Charter, the ordinance implementing the districting commission recommendation and establishing the new district boundaries must be adopted no later than 90 days before the 2023 election; i.e., not later than December 31, 2022. The districting commission report must be filed no later than November 15, 2022 in order to allow two readings and adoption of an ordinance by December 31, 2022.

## **OPTIONS**

The City Commission may wish to postpone appointment of the districting commission. Once appointed, the commission has six months in which to make its recommendation. The commission may be appointed as late as February 2022 and still make the required deadlines.

If the City Commission wishes to move forward and appoint a districting commission at this time, we recommend making the appointment effective on November 1, 2021. The districting commission would then have until May 1, 2022 to make its recommendation.

## **FISCAL IMPACT**

none

## **ATTACHMENTS**

RESOLUTION 2021-21