



## Legal Action Report

### City of Tucson Redistricting Advisory Committee (RAC)

DATE: **Tuesday, November 29, 2022**  
TIME: 5:30 p.m.  
LOCATION: City Hall  
255 W. Alameda Street  
Mayor and Council Chambers, 1<sup>st</sup> floor  
Tucson, Arizona

#### 1. Roll Call

The Redistricting Advisory Committee (RAC) meeting was called to order at 5:52 p.m. by Chair Mark Crum.

Upon roll call, those present and absent were:

<u>Present:</u>	<u>Appointor:</u>
Maribel Alvarez	Mayor
Patrick Robles	Ward 1
Jenifer Darland	Ward 2
Ed Hendel	Ward 3
Jon Aitken	Ward 4
Bobby Jaramillo	Ward 5
Mark Crum, Chair	Ward 6

Absent: None

Staff Present:  
Suzanne Mesich, City Clerk  
Yolanda Lozano, Chief Deputy City Clerk  
Maria Talamante, Assistant City Clerk  
Shawna Lee, City Clerk's Office  
Jesus Acedo, City Clerk's Office  
Randy Hammel, City Clerk's Office  
Robert Hunter, City Clerk's Office  
Dennis P. McLaughlin, Principal Assistant City Attorney

#### 2. Approval of Minutes from November 17, 2022

The Minutes from the meeting of November 17, 2022 were approved by a voice vote of 7 to 0.

### **3. Public Hearing on Redistricting Proposal(s)**

Information was provided by Chair Crum on the history, purpose, and objectives of redistricting.

Comments were made by Scott Egan, Miguel Ortega, Katherine Weasel, Patrick McKenna, and John Burr.

It was moved by Committee Member Robles, duly seconded, and carried by a voice vote of 7 to 0, to close the public hearing.

### **4. Discussion of Redistricting Proposal(s)**

### **5. Recommendation of Redistricting Option(s) for Mayor and Council Consideration** (Items 4 and 5 were considered concurrently.)

Chair Crum initiated a discussion on Proposals #2-a and #2-c and considerations related to the public comments. Committee Members expressed thanks to the community for their participation, input and respective insights on the redistricting process. Committee Members sought clarity from legal counsel on the hierarchy of the six redistricting objectives. They further discussed the need to include in their recommendation to the Mayor and Council, a review and clarification of the objectives due to particular objectives being mutually exclusive.

It was moved by Committee Member Hendel, duly seconded, that a section be included in the recommendation a request for clarification of the source and relative priority of each of the objectives in advance of the next Redistricting Advisory Committee session in 2024.

Discussion ensued.

Committee Member Darland offered a friendly amendment to include facilitation of a more thoughtful conversation and a more participatory process through an intentional strategy to engage representation from the broader community, including historical neighborhoods and barrios.

Committee Member Alvarez offered an amendment that the clarification and ranking of the policy objectives should follow the establishment of a participatory inclusive process of consultation in advance of establishing a Redistricting Advisory Committee and changes the current dynamic of the approach to redistricting for future Redistricting Advisory Committees.

Committee Member Hendel presented an amended motion, to include in the recommendation letter, a request to the Mayor and Council to start engaging the public far in advance of the next redistricting meeting to identify the desires and goals of the people of Tucson, start the redistricting committee process as early as they are legally allowed to,

and clarify the source and relative priority of each objective in cases where they are mutually exclusive.

Following discussion, Committee Member Hendel withdrew the motion as amended.

It was moved by Committee Member Hendel, duly seconded, and passed by a roll-call vote of 7 to 0, to include in the recommendation letter to the Mayor and Council, the following requests:

1. Start engaging the public one year in advance of each redistricting deadline, either via the official Redistricting Advisory Committee or a redistricting task force. Starting the conversation just a few months in advance of the deadline results in rightful frustration among both the committee and the broader public.
2. Identify the earliest possible start date for the official meetings of the 2024 Redistricting Advisory Committee and start the appointment process well in advance of that date so the committee can start meeting as soon as legally allowed.
3. Clarify the source of each of the Committee's policy objectives, e.g., United States Supreme Court mandate(s), City Charter, City Code or City policy, and the relative priority of each objective in cases where they are mutually exclusive.

Further discussion ensued related to addressing rough proportionality, the creation of a minority-majority ward, and the process for the creation of additional wards.

It was moved by Committee Member Jaramillo, duly seconded, to recommend Proposal #2-c to Mayor and Council.

Discussion ensued.

Committee Member Robles offered a friendly amendment, to put both Proposal #2-a and #2-c in the recommendation letter to the Mayor and Council. The amendment was not accepted by the motion-maker.

The motion made by Committee Member Jaramillo failed by a roll-call vote of 3 to 4 (Committee Members Aitken, Crum, Darland and Robles dissenting).

It was moved by Committee Member Robles, that the Redistricting Advisory Committee recommend Proposal #2-a to Mayor and Council.

Committee Member Darland offered a friendly amendment, accepted by the motion-maker, to include Proposal #2-c in the recommendation. The motion, as amended, was duly seconded.

Chair Crum offered a friendly amendment, accepted by the motion-maker, to modify Proposal #2-a by incorporating Precinct 45 and splitting it between Wards 1 and 6 along Stone Avenue, and referencing the modified map as Proposal #2-d.

Committee Member Robles clarified that the motion, as amended, was to recommend Proposals 2-a, 2-c, and 2-d to Mayor and Council. The motion, as amended, was passed by a roll-call vote of 6 to 1 (Committee Member Aitken dissenting).

Discussion ensued about the timeframe to provide a proposal to the Mayor and Council and that the final proposal be accompanied by recommendations for long term community engagement in advance of the next redistricting.

## **6. Next Steps**

It was moved by Committee Member Hendel, duly seconded, to cancel the Redistricting Advisory Committee meeting scheduled for Wednesday, November 30, 2022. Following discussion, the motion was withdrawn.

It was mutually agreed to hold the Redistricting Advisory Committee Meeting, scheduled for Wednesday, November 30, 2022, in order to finalize the recommendation letter to the Mayor and Council.

## **7. Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned at 8:33 p.m.