



## Meeting Minutes

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

DATE: **Monday, September 30, 2024**  
TIME: 5:00 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 5:02 p.m. by Chair Ed Hendel.

Upon roll call, those present and absent were:

<u>Present:</u>	<u>Appointor:</u>
Maribel Alvarez	Mayor
Vanessa Gallego	Ward 1
Tre'Davon Rhodes, Vice Chair	Ward 2
Ed Hendel, Chair	Ward 3
Robert Jaramillo	Ward 5
Raquel Abel	Ward 6

Absent: None

#### Staff Present:

Suzanne Mesich, City Clerk  
Maria Talamante, Assistant City Clerk  
Jesus Acedo, City Clerk's Office  
Shawna Lee, City Clerk's Office  
Randy Hammel, City Clerk's Office  
Robert Hunter, City Clerk's Office  
Mike Rankin, City Attorney

#### 2. Approval of Minutes from September 23, 2024

This item was continued to a future meeting.

### **3. Call to the Audience**

There were no speakers.

### **4. Discussion and Possible Action regarding RAC's Recommendation to Mayor and Council**

Chair Hendel reminded the Committee they previously voted to have their letter of recommendation to the Mayor and Council begin with the recommendation not to redistrict this year.

Discussion ensued regarding the process the RAC wanted to recommend to the Mayor and Council for the 2028 redistricting.

Committee Member Jaramillo stated the public education aspect of the process should include a history component, including information on the historic population growth of the Wards and projections of future population and demographic trends.

Committee Member Alvarez mentioned the development of a public portal could house information on redistricting, including data on population and demographic trends.

Committee Member Jaramillo stated a portal should also include maps and the visuals would be helpful to making connections to the data and the changes.

Chair Hendel noted it would be ideal if there could be an online tool to allow the public to create their own maps. He stated there should be a system in place where people outside of government were able to manipulate the map, create their own districts, and in turn gain a better understanding of the process.

Chair Hendel discussed the timeline for the process, recognizing Committee Member Alvarez' proposal to begin the process in 2026 and end with the appointment of the RAC in 2028. He noted the RAC should start towards the beginning of the calendar year and suggested the month of January.

Vice Chair Rhodes stated the task force should be a body separate from the RAC, so they would be able to operate outside of the open meeting law limitations restricting RAC interaction and exchange with the public. He suggested a body akin to a task force and noted the task force should engage neighborhood associations and community organizations and acknowledged Committee Member Jaramillo's idea of including youth through engagement with high schools and colleges.

Committee Member Alvarez asked there be an acknowledgement in the letter of recommendation of the confusion about certain redistricting terminology like "rough proportionality". She further noted the importance of expressing this sentiment as support for recommending a process of education.

Suzanne Mesich, City Clerk, stated the Clerk's Office would prepare a draft recommendation based on the Committee's discussion and this would be submitted to the Committee for their review and amendment.

Mike Rankin, City Attorney, spoke on issues relating to a task force and a formal board committee or commission. He noted the limitations on various bodies were derived from the Arizona Statutes on open meeting law. He further stated open meeting law would apply to any body appointed by the Mayor and Council, whether they were called a task force or not. He noted a task force appointed by the City Manager would not be subject to the open meeting law. This task force, he stated, could provide recommendations to the City Manager, as opposed to the Mayor and Council.

City Attorney Rankin stated the work of a task force could begin well in advance of a potential redistricting year and under the current Tucson Code, the RAC could start as early as January of the potential redistricting year. He also noted the Code could be changed and the Committee should keep this in mind when developing their recommendations.

Chair Hendel lead the Committee in discussion about the construction of a task force and who might appoint the members of such a task force. He noted the importance of having people from each ward represented on the task force.

Committee Member Alvarez stated she liked the idea of the City Manager appointing a citizen's task force, seeing as they were responsible for oversight of the city functions and this may override political divisions. She suggested language be included in the recommendation encouraging the appointment of a broad representation of the city and stakeholders on the task force.

Chair Hendel asked if there were alternative options to a task force appointed by the City Manager with regard to facilitating town hall style meetings and public engagement events. He further asked if there was any precedent for city-organized public education and listening session events involving back and forth communication with the public.

City Attorney Rankin expressed there were notice, agenda, quorum and open meeting law requirements associated with any body appointed by the Mayor and Council. He described a few examples of task forces the City has had to facilitate public outreach and engagement and inform City plans. He noted in addition to the appointment of a task force by the City Manager, Council offices and Council Members were also free to organize their own public outreach events, including town halls and they did this frequently. He further noted, while Wards could coordinate outreach events, it was important to a public education component that it be consistent.

City Attorney Rankin suggested the Committee focus on what it was they wanted to accomplish instead of the details of the mechanics of the process. He suggested focusing on the timelines, associated activities, audience, and objectives, and leaving the details of the coordination to the Mayor and Council and the City.

Chair Hendel stated any reports and findings generated by a task force should be made available to the RAC as a component of the process.

Committee Member Gallego noted the importance of mentioning adequate resources and funding be allocated towards the outreach and engagement effort. She further suggested the use of the term investment in lieu of funding.

Committee Member Alvarez agreed and suggested at least a couple of sentences in the recommendation speak to the proper funding of the process of a broad education campaign.

Discussion ensued regarding the inclusion of and outreach to all sectors of the community in the redistricting process, further development of the points to be included in their recommendation, and the need for clarification by the City on the priorities and goals for redistricting, noting the present difficulties associated with making any ward boundary changes or creating a third majority-minority ward.

Chair Hendel relayed the list of items the Committee would like included in the draft recommendation to the Mayor and Council. He stated the following:

1. The RAC does not recommend any redistricting this year per the recommendation of the City Attorney confirming that the MPD is comfortably below the 10% threshold.
2. The RAC recommends the creation of either a task force appointed by the City Manager or comprised of City staff for the purpose of conducting town halls and listening sessions, facilitating public outreach, engagement, education and acquiring public input.

This Committee recognizes this as preferable to starting the RAC early for the purpose of facilitating a public engagement and education process, because of the limitations on the Committee posed by the open meeting law, that prevents back and forth communication.

It is further recommended that topics for public education include rough proportionality, dilution, packing and other related redistricting topics and issues.

3. The RAC strongly recommends the process begin well in advance of 2028 and more specifically in 2026, further recommending the task force or series of town halls begin in 2026 and continue through the end of 2027, so there is ample time ahead of the work of the next RAC.
4. The RAC recommends the findings of the task force or from the series of town halls and other engagement events and activities, be made available to the next RAC by the end of 2027.

5. The RAC recommends the next RAC be started in January of 2028, so there is an appropriate amount of time for deliberations.

6. The RAC recommends the process of the task force or town halls, include notification of and invitation to all of the neighborhood associations via the normal channels of communication the City has with these associations.

Additionally, the outreach and engagement effort should be as inclusive as possible to secure participation from all segments of the community, being mindful of the participation of residents who were not in neighborhood associations, and also striving to include youth specifically through engagement with high schools and colleges.

7. The RAC recommends that proper investment in resources and funding be put to the outreach, education, and engagement effort.

8. The RAC recommends the current voting age minority percentage in the City of Tucson be clearly presented in the information and materials provided to the public when engaging in community education about the principle of “rough proportionality” and “dilution”.

9. The RAC recommends the outreach, education and engagement process include a discussion on the changes to current ward boundaries that would be required to achieve rough proportionality. Specifically, this should include the provision of sample maps as examples of the magnitude of ward boundary changes that might be necessary to achieve this. This should further include data showing the number of people that would need to be moved from one ward to another in order to achieve this. The goal of this information being to adequately inform the public on the changes that would be required to achieve rough proportionality and inform the prioritization of this consideration in future redistricting.

10. The RAC recommends public information and education related to redistricting be made available via a website. The information housed on the website should include a history of redistricting in the City, historical and current maps, historic and current population and demographic data, and population and demographic data projections.

11. The RAC recommends if it is possible, the inclusion on the website of a tool for public users to create their own redistricting maps. This will provide the public with further insight and understanding of the redistricting process, and better equip them to participate and contribute to the process in a meaningful way.

It was moved by Vice Chair Rhodes, duly seconded, and carried by a voice vote of 6 to 0, to direct the City Clerk’s Office to prepare a draft recommendation to the Mayor and Council, stating there will be no redistricting this year and including the 11

recommendations outlining the process for the next redistricting, for review by the RAC at the next meeting.

## **5. Future Agenda Items**

The following agenda items were identified for the Meeting to be held on October 7, 2024:

- Call to the Audience
- Review of the draft recommendation letter to Mayor and Council

## **6. Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned at 6:25 p.m.

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Upon roll call, those present and absent were:

<u>Present:</u>	<u>Appointor:</u>
Maribel Alvarez	Mayor
Vanessa Gallego	Ward 1
Tre'Davon Rhodes, Vice-Chair	Ward 2
Ed Hendel, Chair	Ward 3
Robert Jaramillo	Ward 5
Raquel Abel	Ward 6

Absent:  
None

Staff Present:  
Suzanne Mesich, 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  
Mike Rankin, City Attorney

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1           CHAIRMAN HENDEL: So, I'll call the meeting to order, and  
2 we'll start with the roll call.  
3           CLERK: Maribel Alvarez.  
4           DR. ALVAREZ: Present.  
5           CLERK: Vanessa Gallego.  
6           MS. GALLEGO: Present.  
7           CLERK: Tre'Devon Rhodes.  
8           MR. RHODES: Present.  
9           CLERK: Ed Hendel.  
10          CHAIRMAN HENDEL: Present.  
11          CLERK: Robert Jaramillo.  
12          MR. JARAMILLO: Present.  
13          CLERK: Raquel Abel.

1 MS. ABEL: (No audible response.)

2 CLERK: You have a quorum.

3 CHAIRMAN HENDEL: All right. Thank you. And I'm told that  
4 the Minutes from the September 23<sup>rd</sup> meeting are still being transcribed  
5 so we will approve those at next week's meeting, in addition to the  
6 Minutes from today's meeting.

7 So, on to Item 3, is the Call to the Audience. And I don't  
8 see anyone, so, we can go ahead and skip that. If people come, we  
9 could try to have a Call to the Audience at the end. But for now,  
10 we'll skip that, and move straight on to Item 4.

11 Discussion and Possible Action Regarding our Recommendation  
12 to the Mayor and Council. So, just kind of building off of last week.  
13 So, the, the goal for today is to get a letter - get the pieces for a  
14 letter finalized and make our recommendation.

15 Then the Staff has generously agreed to actually write the,  
16 the letter for us. And then we will convene again a week from today  
17 to vote on the letter, the final draft of the letter and sign it and  
18 then we'll be all done.

19 You know, in theory, if something comes up and we need more  
20 meetings, that's not - we, we don't have to rule that out right now.  
21 But that is the current road map and we'll see if we can stick to  
22 that.

23 So, I guess I'll just open it up for discussion if anyone  
24 has, you know, thoughts on what the contours of the letter should be.  
25 At, at last week's meeting, we talked about, you know, starting the



1 process earlier, maybe even as early as 2026. We're thinking maybe  
2 better to do it in an even-numbered year so it's not an election year.  
3 So, there'd be, you know, less potential for people to see it as kind  
4 of trying to move things around right before the election.

5 We, you know, we learned that there was a lawsuit back  
6 in, what was it, the '70's? About something related to that. So,  
7 starting two years in advance could be a good idea.

8 And we discussed having community education and listening  
9 sessions, things like that. So, we've all now had a week to think  
10 about it and ponder the different ideas. So, I'll just open it up  
11 for discussion and see what people think.

12 MR. RHODES: I did miss last week's meeting. Is there any  
13 way you can give me just kind of a general rundown of the, of the  
14 points that we came to?

15 CHAIRMAN HENDEL: Yes. I'm having a little trouble with my  
16 mic here. But, yeah, no problem. Let's see. Trying to remember. We  
17 don't, we don't have the Minutes but I'll, just off the top of my  
18 head, and please feel free to chime in if I miss anything here.

19 But we talked about, we got a history lesson. Did you,  
20 did you - I think we received that via e-mail. So, we got like a nice  
21 history lesson where we learned about all the way back to like to the  
22 '30's about -

23 (Inaudible comment.)

24 CHAIRMAN HENDEL: Sorry? Yeah. It was really interesting  
25 and we learned about, you know, the wards used to be, you know, just a

1 few thousand people per ward. And now we have, you know, ten times  
2 as many people in each ward. There have been redistricting decisions  
3 many times, I forgot the number. But generally it hasn't shifted too  
4 much, like Ward 1 has been on the west side for the whole time. But  
5 there, there has been significant shifts.

6           Let's see. We learned about, like I mentioned, there was  
7 a lawsuit where people thought that they, that they were being - that  
8 the redistricting proposal was gonna kind of disenfranchise a lot of  
9 people from the primary election that was upcoming. And so, what was  
10 the outcome?

11           They, they reversed that and said that - something about  
12 voting age population. Does anyone remember that? It was, it was  
13 like they, they wanted to do it based on the number of registered  
14 voters. But instead, the Judge ruled, I think that it had to be based  
15 on the number of just people, not necessarily if they were registered.

16           And then we looked at the map of registered versus, versus  
17 just people and there were some prese- -- some wards that had lower  
18 rates of registered voters.

19           So, that was one thought we had as possibly considering  
20 that in our recommendation. But there's - I'm not sure we came to a  
21 solid conclusion on that, but just something that we noted.

22           Let's see. We, we discussed kind of timelines, right?  
23 And that's what I mentioned before about maybe starting in an even-  
24 numbered year. To be clear, no decisions were made. We didn't vote  
25 on anything. This was just kind of brainstorming and some level of

1 consensus, but we can certainly hash that out today if people have  
2 different thoughts.

3           We thought about having, you know, like each City Council  
4 Member could appoint a couple of people so it's not just, you know,  
5 seven people. And then they would go out into the community and have  
6 kind of like - again, we haven't hashed out any details here, but some  
7 sort of combination of community education to explain the concept of  
8 packing and rough proportionality, things like that.

9           But then also have listening sessions where they, you know,  
10 hear what the community values because there's kind of - different  
11 people use the word "dilution" and "packing" differently.

12           Like if you're thinking of it on a, on a local neighborhood  
13 scale, you know, moving people out of one ward into another could be  
14 seen as like diluting the vote of that group by splitting them among  
15 two wards instead of having them maintain a base of power in one ward.

16           But then, on the other hand, if you look at it from a  
17 citywide perspective, you know, having three majority minority wards  
18 would be, you know, reducing the amount of packing instead of  
19 increasing it - and reducing the amount of dilution, rather. So, both  
20 sides kind of use that term to mean sort of opposite things.

21           So, this is one of the things that could be discussed in  
22 these communities sessions like, you know, how many people are  
23 thinking of it in terms of neighborhood power and how many people  
24 are thinking of it in terms of citywide power. And just kind of,  
25 you know, education and, and listening about that, those two different

1 kind of perspectives and scales. What else did you we talk about?

2 Feel like there was a little bit more but that was the basic gist.

3 (Inaudible comment.)

4 CHAIRMAN HENDEL: Thank you. So, I think the decisions we  
5 need to make today are when to start. I think - it seems like we all  
6 agree that it should start a lot earlier. This, this year and in  
7 2022, we started just a few months before the deadline and, you know,  
8 please speak up if you feel differently, but I think it seems like we  
9 all agree that that's not enough time.

10 And it should be - last time, we actually suggested in our  
11 letter that it should start - I forget the wording. I think it was  
12 "as early and legally allowed", which I think could have been any  
13 time, really. And we were talking about maybe starting in January of  
14 the redistricting year.

15 Obviously, that didn't happen and we, we started in August.  
16 But we can reiterate and strengthen that piece of our recommendation  
17 this time. And just kind of laying out any possible contours of the  
18 process, you know, as far as community education, listening sessions,  
19 how many people the Council, each Council Member could appoint.

20 To be clear, we don't - this is all just a recommendation.  
21 They can and will and do what they want, but I think they value our  
22 opinion. So, also remember this is four years from now, or if we  
23 start early, you know a bit sooner than that. But things could change  
24 between now and then, so, there will be new information that we don't  
25 necessarily know right now as far as not only population shifts, but

1 some members of the Council could be different in four years, so, hard  
2 to know what that'll look like. So, I think that's kind of the goal  
3 for today.

4 So, maybe we should just - I don't want to talk too much,  
5 right? If anyone has ideas on their mind, please speak up. But one,  
6 one thing we should hash out is like when to start, when to recommend  
7 they start.

8 Would it be, you know, say, January 2026, or we also talked  
9 about maybe like not, not a Redistricting Advisory Committee that runs  
10 for two years. That might be kind of long, but maybe a, a different  
11 body that meets annually, or every six months, or every quarter,  
12 whatever it may be.

13 There's one other thing I remembered just now. We talked  
14 about not having it be the official Redistricting Advisory Committee -

15 DR. ALVAREZ: That's my question.

16 CHAIRMAN HENDEL: Yeah. Because we - there's restrictions  
17 on what we can do as far as communicating with the public, and even  
18 with ourselves, you know, all the quorum rules and stuff. And then we  
19 have Call to the Audience, like we're not supposed really respond, or  
20 answer to, to them, to what they say.

21 But I think, you know, we might want to have a body that is  
22 allowed and encouraged to actively communicate back and forth with the  
23 public. And so that probably shouldn't be the RAC. So, (inaudible)

24 DR. ALVAREZ: There was, there was a, a, a question I had.

25 I, I listed from what you said, and I recall four things will go into

1 our letter. But one of them, I was unclear. First is that we will  
2 say that we're not recommending any redistricting.

3 CHAIRMAN HENDEL: Yes.

4 DR. ALVAREZ: That it's not necessary and we agree with  
5 Council that it's not needed to do that. Second, it was the starting  
6 2026. The third one is that, exactly the point you just made that  
7 maybe a task force is the one that is charged '26, '27, for two years  
8 to do community education, community listening, community study.

9 And the fourth one was to resource whatever City department  
10 or office is going to lead that task force so that they have a budget  
11 for study, for speakers, for community sessions, and someone to  
12 support that work administratively. So, those were the four points.

13 What I was not clear was, was the task force, which we can  
14 talk about hopefully about the composition, then at some point it  
15 ends. And in '28, the, the R-A- -- RAC gets reappointed, but is  
16 appointed earlier, also in the year as sort of a continuance.

17 Okay. So, that would be actually five then. No  
18 redistricting, 2026, task force, transition to RAC in '28, and  
19 then the resourcing request.

20 CHAIRMAN HENDEL: Thank you so much for that list. I  
21 totally agree, and that's a helpful way of framing it. So, one of  
22 those, the first one, we - is I think the one thing we've actually  
23 voted on so far, not last week, but the week before, which was that  
24 we will not be recommending redistricting per the recommendation of  
25 the City Attorney and the City Council.

1           So, I think we don't need to vote again on that. We can,  
2 we can just - that, that should probably be like the beginning of the  
3 letter. So, I'm, I'm glad you brought that up. That should probably  
4 be the first paragraph.

5           So, then, let's just go through the rest of that list, I  
6 guess. But first - yeah, any other -

7           MR. JARAMILLO: Yeah. I'd like to maybe possibly add the,  
8 the data base and the population of each ward at the time, and then  
9 anticipation of, of growth. You know, we don't know how much, but  
10 there is gonna be growth, and hopefully they, they take that into  
11 consideration as well, provided that a prior - so, the folks can have  
12 something to work with.

13          DR. ALVAREZ: That's right.

14          MR. JARAMILLO: Yeah.

15          DR. ALVAREZ: We talked about some sort of public portal -

16          MR. JARAMILLO: Yeah. Outreach.

17          DR. ALVAREZ: - of updated - that, that data tracking to  
18 the extent that the public can see -

19          CHAIRMAN HENDEL: Uh-huh.

20          DR. ALVAREZ: - some trends, not, not granular. I guess  
21 that's not possible.

22          CHAIRMAN HENDEL: Uh-huh.

23          MR. JARAMILLO: To include maps as well.

24          DR. ALVAREZ: Maps?

25          MR. JARAMILLO: I think -

1 CHAIRMAN HENDEL: Yeah.

2 MR. JARAMILLO: - to have a visual to make the connection  
3 as well.

4 CHAIRMAN HENDEL: Uh-huh.

5 MR. JARAMILLO: Thank you.

6 CHAIRMAN HENDEL: Yeah. Yeah. I don't know how feasible  
7 it is to make a tool that - where the public could kind of create  
8 their own maps. But I remember in the history lesson that we got last  
9 time, we learned that a member of the public had come up with his own  
10 map that would have done the same - that would have accomplished the  
11 same reduction in the MPD with only one-seventh as much population  
12 moving around.

13 And then, and then, we learned that that was a former City  
14 Council Member and that may be how he kind of knew how to do that and  
15 how he had the tools for it. It would be nice if we could have a  
16 system where people who weren't in the exclusive club of current and  
17 former City Council Members could, could come up with that.

18 I don't, I don't know what the resources required would be  
19 for that. It might be to build some kind of website, like create your  
20 own districts kind of thing might be, might be a tall order. But we  
21 could, we could put that in the letter if we want to, or something  
22 approaching that.

23 Maybe not a full like drag and drop tool, but just some,  
24 some form of public information so that people are capable of thinking  
25 through their own ideas. I mean we can put anything we want in this



1 letter, right? So, it can't hurt to ask, and then they can decide if  
2 it's reasonable.

3 MR. JARAMILLO: I think it's, it's also crucial that we  
4 get youths involved, you know, and, and at least some - they have some  
5 kind of input or say-so, or even on the decision-making, it would be  
6 nice to have somebody younger.

7 You know, you might want to put it out to the, to the  
8 colleges and high schools to see if there's any takers, any volunteers  
9 that would like to participate in something like this.

10 CHAIRMAN HENDEL: Yeah. I like that idea. Let's see.  
11 Every- -- I guess everyone who has ideas like this, please write them  
12 down because I'm not gonna be able to remember every single comment  
13 that's made. So, like that one, make a little list, jot it down  
14 somewhere so that when we start having our votes, we can remember  
15 to address each point.

16 So, I guess one thing to work on next could be the  
17 timeline, right? I think I liked Dr. Alvarez's idea of starting in  
18 2026, but then come 2028, the task force ends and the - well, I know  
19 that's not exactly what you said, but one way of doing that is the  
20 task force could end and the RAC would begin. I suppose they could  
21 both run and parallel to.

22 I haven't really thought much about that, but to me, I  
23 think the RAC should probably start more towards the beginning of the  
24 year, because that's when you get official public hearings and City  
25 notifications of, you know, it just gets more on the radar, right?

1           Like the task force will be operating in a somewhat outside  
2 of the typical like City Board infrastructure. So, people might start  
3 kind of tuning in more once the RAC officially begins.

4           So, maybe like January would be my suggestion. And, of  
5 course, they wouldn't have to meet weekly. If you start in January,  
6 you could probably meet maybe monthly or something like that for, for  
7 a while.

8           So, how do people feel about that timeline? Like a task  
9 force for 2026 and 2027. Then the task force is assigned to write up  
10 all their conclusions and findings by the end of 2027, and present  
11 that to both Mayor and Council, and the RAC which would start in  
12 January, something like that? Just brainstorming here.

13           MR. RHODES: Yeah. I think that's a really good idea.  
14 I agree that the - I do agree that the task force should be run like  
15 separately from the RAC so they could be able to operate outside of  
16 normal RAC limits. And I do think we should start earlier like  
17 January. I think the earlier the better. Yeah.

18           CHAIRMAN HENDEL: Yeah. Thank you. I agree. Yeah.

19           MR. JARAMILLO: We, we had also mentioned maybe the  
20 possibility of reaching out to neighborhood associations.

21           CHAIRMAN HENDEL: Yeah.

22           MR. JARAMILLO: We could have some input from them as well.

23           CHAIRMAN HENDEL: Absolutely. Yeah. Let's write these  
24 down.

1 MR. RHODES: Yeah. I think that should be something  
2 that the proposed task force is in charge of, going to neighborhood  
3 associations. Like I said, possibly going to high schools, colleges,  
4 like that, getting the youth involved. And then obviously collecting  
5 data and information.

6 DR. ALVAREZ: Madam Clerk, I also think in the letter,  
7 in the intro, there should be an acknowledgment of some of the, the  
8 points we've made from last week. There were many, but at least the  
9 one about there seemed to be some confusion and the use of certain  
10 terminology.

11 And rather than tell people, "You're wrong," kind of  
12 explore the different ways in which words like "dilution", "packing"  
13 can be perceived as a form of empowerment. Just an acknowledgment in  
14 the general intro of the memo that should say that we have considered  
15 both the experience of 2022 and the, the sentiments of the public of  
16 loyalty and trust about the communities.

17 But at the same time, larger considerations of political  
18 analysis really of minorities that reflect citywide, statewide and  
19 even national standards related to representation, rough  
20 proportionality.

21 So, I'm just using all these words so that they get on the  
22 record for the City Clerk to be able to write an intro paragraph that  
23 says it's based on those - that sentiment that we're recommending this  
24 process of, of education inclusive in this, yeah.

1           CHAIRMAN HENDEL: And I think before we go too far, I want  
2 to ask the City Staff to please jump in if anything we're saying  
3 sounds like it would be a problem. Like, "Oh. You know you can't  
4 start in January," or, "You can't have a task force that does or  
5 that." I, I don't know. Any kind of rules that we may be unaware  
6 of, please don't hesitate to jump in.

7           MS. MESICH: Mr. Chair? Task forces, and I see Mr.  
8 Rankin's hand is up, task forces are still public meetings, and so  
9 there will be some constraints. But they won't be - I think you're  
10 asking for the type of public meeting where they can have back and  
11 forth with the public on getting their ideas and their input.

12           The other thing I wanted to tell you is that we will write,  
13 and I don't want to say, "We will write," but we'll compose the  
14 introductory paragraph based on what you just said, and submit it  
15 to you for your edits and approval.

16           CHAIRMAN HENDEL: Thank you.

17           MS. MESICH: Thank you.

18           CHAIRMAN HENDEL: And let's call on Mr. Rankin. He has his  
19 hand up.

20           MR. RANKIN: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Yes, just to follow up  
21 on what the City Clerk was saying. The issue with a task force versus  
22 a formal board, committee and commission, the limitations flow from  
23 the Arizona Statutes on Open Meeting Laws.

24           And if the task force in question is - serves to be  
25 advisory to the Mayor and Council, and make recommendations to the

1 Mayor and Council, and if they're appointed by the Mayor and Council,  
2 the fact that they're called a task force versus a commission, or a  
3 committee, or a board, wouldn't change the fact that the Open Meeting  
4 Laws would apply to them.

5           So, but a couple of things can be done to accomplish what  
6 I think is, is the recommendation that's forming here at the table.  
7 There can be a task force that is not subject to open meeting.

8           So, for example, the City Manager can put together a task  
9 force that's just recommen- -- provides recommendations to the Manager  
10 as opposed to the Mayor and Council. And the Manager appoints the  
11 members of that task force. And then Open Meeting Laws wouldn't  
12 always apply.

13           But at the same time, what I think the recommendation that  
14 I'm hearing really is, you still want the task force to have meetings  
15 that are open to the public, that's the whole point, right? To get  
16 the public input and the public feedback.

17           But you would want the task force meetings to be structured  
18 a little more loosely such that there's back and forth. It's more  
19 like a, a town hall type of back and forth experience. So, I think  
20 the goals of what you're suggesting with respect to the task force are  
21 achievable.

22           As far as the dates you're talking about, the, the - either  
23 of the next RAC, or a task force that is formed based on the  
24 recommendations, could begin well in advance of the potential  
25 redistricting year, which as you all know, is 2028.

1           The code, as it currently reads, contemplates that it  
2 wouldn't be any earlier than the same year. So, January, for example,  
3 of 2028 for the 2028 RAC to start. But don't (inaudible) on that  
4 because the code can be changed.

5           So, for example, you know, if you - if the, the 2024 RAC,  
6 if you all make a recommendation that would require a change to the  
7 code, that's fine because the Mayor and Council can change the code.

8           What they can't change is the Charter. But the, the  
9 structure of the, the Redistricting Committee itself is, is dictated  
10 by the Code far more so than the Charter. So, don't limit yourself in  
11 your recommendations, but just understand that some of them might also  
12 require code changes if they're adopted.

13           CHAIRMAN HENDEL: Thank you very much. That's very  
14 helpful. So, it sounds like we would not even have to change the code  
15 if we started the RAC in January 2028. If we want to go earlier than  
16 that, we would have to change the code, but that's not such a big  
17 deal. And the task force could be anytime we want.

18           I guess, I guess we should talk about like who would  
19 appoint people to the task force. It sounds like if the Mayor and  
20 Council make the appointments, then, then that would cause some  
21 restrictions on having a town hall style meeting with the public.

22           Whereas, if the City Manager appoints the entire task  
23 force, then you wouldn't have that restriction. But then it's  
24 possible that you'd have less variety in the people that were chosen.  
25 I, I don't know. But, you know, if you have seven people choosing,

1 then you have, you know that you have people from each ward whose  
2 interests are represented. Not to say that the City Manager wouldn't,  
3 wouldn't do that but it's just he would have to intentionally endeavor  
4 to do that. It wouldn't just kind of happen automatically.

5           So, I guess that's something that we should consider. So,  
6 do we - so, it sounds like having the City Council appoint the task  
7 force is not really an option because then that sort defeats the  
8 purpose of the task force.

9           DR. ALVAREZ: I, I can see both sides. I, I, I like the  
10 idea of the City Manager appointing a citizens' task force. City  
11 Manager has oversight that is - overrides some of the political  
12 divisions, meaning service, for example, to the city service  
13 orientation of, you know, streets and housing, codes, all of those  
14 things, right? Are, are, are managed.

15           I can see that being an advantage in isolating the task  
16 force from a little bit of the, of the political - not that we are  
17 (inaudible) beholdng to whoever appointed us. But there is that  
18 perception, I think perhaps in the public that, and that may be  
19 helpful.

20           We can just say that the Manager should do it in a way that  
21 is the broadest possible representation of the city and stakeholders.  
22 But I, I can see that as an advantage.

23           MR. RHODES: Yeah. I, I agree with that. I think it's, I  
24 think it would be smart to, to kind of mold this task force in the, in  
25 the way that Mr. Rankin was saying. A group that is picked by the

1 City Manager and kind of (inaudible) to the Manager and then reports  
2 back to the Manager, and the Manager reports to the Council, I think  
3 that would be helpful, very useful. So, I think that's how we should  
4 kind of look to, to create this task force in that (inaudible)

5 CHAIRMAN HENDEL: So, are there any alternatives? It  
6 sounds like maybe this is our only choice. I guess if we can ask Mr.  
7 Rankin a question. As far as setting up these kind of town hall style  
8 meetings where we can go back and forth with the public, sounds like  
9 having the City Council directly appoint people is not really an  
10 option. Having the City Manager appoint people is an option. Are  
11 there any other alternatives, or is that kind of the only choice?

12 MR. RANKIN: I, I think those are the choices. The, the  
13 fact is that the, the limiting factor is when you create an official  
14 public body, which is one created by the Mayor and Council that  
15 reports to the Mayor and Council.

16 Then not only do you have the, the quorum requirements and  
17 the notice requirements, but you have your agenda requirements like  
18 you're all experiencing here, right? And so what happens there is if  
19 you have a meeting, and then you're eliciting comments from the  
20 public, and somebody brings up something that's not on the agenda,  
21 then the committee itself, or the board can't respond to it 'cause  
22 it's not on the agenda. And that would be a violation of the Open  
23 Meeting Law.

24 And so, that's where it gets kind of, you know, restricted  
25 in a way. At the same time, a formal board and committee can have a



1 pretty broad-ranging public, you know, public hearing or public  
2 comment and can at least receive all the information. It's just that  
3 back and forth that gets, gets to be hard.

4 CHAIRMAN HENDEL: Okay. Thank you. Is there a precedent  
5 for this? I mean I'm, I'm sure there is, you know, some kind of joint  
6 city education, slash, listening sessions kind of back and forth? Has  
7 that happened recently with some other topic besides redistricting?

8 MR. RANKIN: I, I can think of a few examples, you know,  
9 the City Manager's Office for a long time has, has had a task force on  
10 certain real estate and development issues, and it, it isn't reported,  
11 it doesn't report to the Mayor and Council, but it does provide  
12 information to the City Manager.

13 Also, when the City goes through the revision of its  
14 General Plan which will be coming to the voters in a few years as  
15 well, that's the overall General Plan for the City of Tucson about  
16 where development should occur, and where infrastructure is needed,  
17 and general policies that the, the City tries to follow.

18 Then there is a very aggressive public outreach and  
19 engagement period in advance of that that's conducted by Staff rather  
20 than by, you know, appointed individual members that would be a board  
21 and committee, because that type of back and forth interaction would  
22 be next to impossible if it was subject to Open Meeting Law.

23 CHAIRMAN HENDEL: Okay. So, is that another alternative  
24 then is to just have Staff do this, right? Like I think I'm hearing  
25 that's an alt- -- that's a potential alternative to the City Manager

1 appointing a task force would be for each City Council Member's Staff  
2 to do this, and then they would - I'm not sure exactly how that would  
3 be structured, but it sounds like that's another possible option.

4 MR. RANKIN: Individual Council offices and Council Members  
5 are always free to do their own, you know, town halls and, and get  
6 information. And they, they frequently do that in connection with,  
7 you know, issues of, of (inaudible) community interest.

8 CHAIRMAN HENDEL: Okay. Yeah. And since our, our letter  
9 here is just a recommendation to Mayor and Council, we could just  
10 recommend that they do that. Yeah.

11 MS. ABEL: But we were talking about the task force  
12 handling the education part of it. And does that mean that the City  
13 Council Staff would also be then handling the education portion of the  
14 task force?

15 CHAIRMAN HENDEL: I, I suppose it would, yeah. I believe  
16 that is within the capabilities of the, the City Staff, correct? Is  
17 that - I don't know if that would be like a Council Member by Council  
18 Member thing, or if, if the - yeah.

19 DR. ALVAREZ: Thank you.

20 CHAIRMAN HENDEL: Go ahead. Oh, did you have your hand up?

21 DR. ALVAREZ: Thank you.

22 MR. RANKIN: I wasn't sure if you were talking to me or  
23 not.

24 CHAIRMAN HENDEL: Okay.

1 MR. RANKIN: Yeah. The way I would envision that is one  
2 thing that's really important if there's gonna be public education is  
3 you want it to be consistent, right? So, you wouldn't want sort of a  
4 different education occurring in Ward 2 versus Ward 4.

5 So, what I would suggest to you all is as part of your  
6 recommendation, focus on what it is that you want to be accomplished  
7 more so than how mechanically it's done.

8 So, in other words, you want there to be a process that  
9 begins in 2026 that includes public education, public feedback, etc.  
10 to include, you know, involving the youth and high schools and  
11 college, and what, what other components.

12 And, but without some of the strict limita- (inaudible)  
13 Open Meeting Law, whether that be by a manager task force or  
14 individual Council office, town halls or City Staff-led public  
15 education. That way you're leaving it open. You're, you're saying,  
16 "This is what we want to occur. Now you guys go figure out how to do  
17 it."

18 MS. GALLEGO: Yeah.

19 CHAIRMAN HENDEL: I agree. Thank you for that. I think  
20 that is a better solution because the, the Mayor and Council will know  
21 the best way to accomplish that at the time. And we're - that's gonna  
22 be a better process than us just kind of asking Mr. Rankin a million  
23 questions, and trying to hash it out right here. So, -

24 MS. GALLEGO: Uh-huh.

25 CHAIRMAN HENDEL: - thank you very much.

1 DR. ALVAREZ: I like that.

2 CHAIRMAN HENDEL: Yeah.

3 MR. JARAMILLO: One, one of the things that I recommended  
4 was having the neighborhood associations involved, and the, the reason  
5 being is they always have a Staff Member there. And it could be  
6 presented as an informational item which is part of their agenda.  
7 And that'll, I think that will cover trying to accomplish (inaudible).

8 CHAIRMAN HENDEL: And I also want to make sure that  
9 whatever reports or findings are generated be made available to the  
10 RAC -

11 DR. ALVAREZ: Uh-huh.

12 CHAIRMAN HENDEL: - you know, as soon as that starts  
13 ideally in January.

14 MS. GALLEGO: As part of our recommendation, is there any  
15 recommendation from us to secure funding for the type of project? I  
16 mean I'm not talking like, like dollars, but saying like something  
17 like we want to make sure that there's, we allocate funding.

18 CHAIRMAN HENDEL: I guess my thought is that that would  
19 depend on the method that the Mayor and Council choose if they, like  
20 if they need to hire a consultant or if they just want to get people  
21 to, to do it as a volunteer capacity like we're all doing.

22 I guess my thought is that if we take Mr. Rankin's advice  
23 and just kind of tell them what we want to see happen and let them  
24 figure out how to do it, that would probably be included in that.

25 I'm open to -

1 DR. ALVAREZ: I think we should have as part of our letter  
2 just one or two sentences that says - and, and this process needs to  
3 be properly funded so that it can, it can have the development of, you  
4 know, materials and Staff time to create slide decks (sic), arrange  
5 the - you know, I think it goes without saying, but on the other hand,  
6 sometimes I think we miss opportunities when a, a broad education  
7 campaign requires some resources to get people to a meeting. To maybe  
8 get a facilitator sometime, yeah. So, not - we're not talking - we  
9 don't have to tell them how much, or -

10 CHAIRMAN HENDEL: Yeah.

11 DR. ALVAREZ: - when or how. But a statement that speaks  
12 about, and this should be funded properly to accomplish this  
13 educational listening and - yeah. I think it's a beautiful thing.

14 CHAIRMAN HENDEL: Vanessa, how do you, how do you feel  
15 about that idea?

16 MS. GALLEGO: Oh, yeah, that's, that's great. I totally  
17 support that. Thank you.

18 CHAIRMAN HENDEL: I agree as well, yeah. Just kind of  
19 emphasize that there should be proper funding, but not necessarily  
20 dictate like exactly how to set that.

21 MS. GALLEGO: When it's (inaudible) funding or proper  
22 investment is we know that whichever way, this is the broader  
23 investment our community to be educated on this, right?

24 CHAIRMAN HENDEL: Yeah. No, I like the word "investment".  
25 That's, that's good. So, a question for Staff, like do I, do I need

1 to make a motion, or does someone need to make a motion that lists all  
2 these things we want in the letter as one giant motion at the end  
3 here? Or what's the cleanest way to do this?

4 MS. MESICH: I think if you give us the list, we'll, like I  
5 said, draft the recommendation, and that's when you will make your  
6 motion. You'll tell us what edits you need and make the motion to  
7 approve (inaudible)

8 CHAIRMAN HENDEL: Okay. So, we don't really need  
9 (inaudible)

10 MS. MESICH: (Inaudible)

11 CHAIRMAN HENDEL: Yeah. So, we don't necessarily need a,  
12 a formal motion today? I mean we, we probably should still have one,  
13 but the motion could just be a bullet point list (inaudible)

14 MS. MESICH: Or it could be to direct the City Clerk to  
15 draft a recommendation based on your bullet point list.

16 CHAIRMAN HENDEL: Got it. Okay. Yeah, that works. So,  
17 what I have so far is have some form of outreach beginning in 2026,  
18 and extending to the end of 2027 that engages in a two-way  
19 communication that includes both community education on the concepts  
20 of dilution and the current percentage of minorities in Tucson, and  
21 all that kind of stuff, as well as the other direction, like listening  
22 to what the public wants and, and prioritizes in a way that does not  
23 violate Open Meeting Law, which may require a City Manager-appointed  
24 task force or City Staff taking that initiative. So, that's kind of  
25 one bullet I have so far.

1 Two would be at the end of 2027, prepare a report that  
2 would be delivered to the RAC, which would start at the beginning of  
3 2028. And then, another bullet point is to ensure that this process  
4 has proper investment. And I'm happy to wordsmith that. That's just  
5 the bullet point I have.

6 And then also ensuring that the neighborhood associations  
7 are notified and actively consulted about this process to ensure that  
8 they have a voice and that they're aware that this is happening and  
9 have every chance to participate. That's all I have so far. But I  
10 haven't been writing down every word. Have I missed anything?

11 MS. ABEL: I think we still need to address then how you're  
12 gonna do the outreach for the areas that don't have neighborhood  
13 associations.

14 CHAIRMAN HENDEL: Good point. Yeah. I mean I guess I  
15 would say that should be left to whoever is running this, whether it  
16 is City Staff or the appointed task force. So, we should just ask  
17 them to make sure they find a way to do that. It's not quite as easy  
18 but it's certainly possible, they can announce it via other channels.

19 DR. ALVAREZ: I think if they use the language that is more  
20 as inclusive as possible, as broad as possible, inclusive of  
21 neighborhood associations, community organizations, and other  
22 stakeholders, something like that, then that gives them the - a  
23 general mandate.

24 CHAIRMAN HENDEL: Yeah. I think the, I think the  
25 neighborhood associations, like there's a newsletter or some direct

1 form of communication that the, excuse me, that the City has with  
2 them. I'm not sure exactly how that works, but - so, we should  
3 specifically ask that they use that channel as well as any other  
4 channels available to them to get it out beyond just the neighborhood  
5 associations. Yeah, very good point. Am I missing anything aside  
6 from those four major points?

7 (Inaudible comment.)

8 CHAIRMAN HENDEL: Sorry?

9 (Inaudible comment.)

10 CHAIRMAN HENDEL: Yeah. I do have the proper investment.

11 DR. ALVAREZ: I think that Mr. Jaramillo's point about the  
12 data base tracking individuals. If we want, we should make that a  
13 separate point of like regardless of whether there's a task force or  
14 not, the City should be directed to make that information updated and  
15 more visible and accessible on, on the City Clerk's web page or  
16 something, something like that. I think it's a stand-by-itself  
17 (inaudible)

18 CHAIRMAN HENDEL: Yeah, I agree. I, I just added that, and  
19 I, I'm not quite sure how to do this, but -

20 DR. ALVAREZ: We don't have to figure out how to do it.

21 CHAIRMAN HENDEL: No, I mean, I mean I'm not quite sure how  
22 to - yeah, you're right. Yeah, we, we don't have to make our jobs  
23 excessively complicated here. But, no, that's a good point.

24 But I think like the central, one of the central problems  
25 we ran into last time in 2022 was that we wanted to do rough



1 proportionality. We tried to do it and discovered that it was  
2 massively disruptive, and would be really, really complicated. So, I  
3 think including in the education some like showing what the maps would  
4 have to look like to achieve that goal, or just, just getting that  
5 idea out there.

6 Like: Hey, look. You might - this sounds like a great  
7 idea. We want to try to do this. It's in the City Code. We, you  
8 know, are going to try to do it, but you know, just be aware.

9 It comes with this cost and, you know, if you guys, if you,  
10 the public, wants to help think of clever ideas, you know, play with  
11 our maps and data tools that we're making available to you, you know,  
12 we'd love your suggestions, and then also just feedback on whether  
13 this is something we want to do.

14 Maybe people would look at the map and say, "You know what?  
15 We've got years to figure this out. Yeah, let's, let's move towards  
16 that. It'll be a bit disruptive, but you know, it achieves a greater  
17 goal." Or maybe people will say, "You know what? There's no clean  
18 way to do this. Let's figure out other possible ways to address  
19 dilution."

20 I, I don't know exactly what people would think. I just  
21 want to make sure that it's clear like what, what we're proposing and  
22 how you would have to achieve that, because I think that blindsided  
23 both the public and us in 2022. I don't think we quite realized how  
24 hard that was gonna be.

1 I'm not even completely sure the Mayor and Council realized  
2 how hard that was gonna be when they put that in the City Code in 2022  
3 right before the RAC started. It's not - I don't really know one way  
4 or the other, but it seems plausible at least that they thought that  
5 would end up being a little bit easier to do than it turned out to be.

6 DR. ALVAREZ: Yeah. I think if the, if, if the Clerk's  
7 draft letter could reference this point that Ed makes about - there's  
8 something a little difficult about the task of the RAC, meaning that  
9 it's, it's a very technical assignment. It's almost like arithmetic,  
10 and that's what happened.

11 If we do the rough proportionality, then you ended up  
12 shooting yourself in the foot because you couldn't then balance the  
13 population equality across the (inaudible) 'cause you were taking  
14 population from one to the other. So, it ended up being one of those  
15 things where it's so technical, but then you have the emotional and  
16 the perception.

17 So, it is because of that reason I think we should make a  
18 reference to the point that it has to be a broad education so that the  
19 public itself understands the benefits of what the goals are of those  
20 Council Mem- -- you know, what the goals that they set out.

21 CHAIRMAN HENDEL: Uh-huh.

22 DR. ALVAREZ: Short of the public embracing those goals,  
23 they will not - they're not likely to then tax themselves, so to  
24 speak, and say, "Okay. I get it. Rough proportionality matters to me  
25 so much that I'm willing then to make this compromise, 'cause I see

1 the value." Short of that, it was a totally dead-end, and we were  
2 cross-speaking.

3 CHAIRMAN HENDEL: (Inaudible)

4 DR. ALVAREZ: And I know that we won't, we won't get into  
5 the polemics of that in the letter, but just to explain for the record  
6 and for those who will be here in '26 and '28, that that's, that's  
7 almost like an impossible dilemma 'cause you have to end up then being  
8 the bad guy. 'Cause mathematically just doesn't - it cannot happen  
9 any other way.

10 CHAIRMAN HENDEL: Yeah. I think, I think we, as a city,  
11 need to decide how much we want to try to do this, right? If we, as  
12 a city, decide this principal of rough proportionality is extremely  
13 important, and we want to do what it takes to get there, then that's  
14 great. Let's do that.

15 If we decide, you know, "Oh. Well, it sounds great in  
16 theory," but it turns out to be, you know, have a major cost, then  
17 maybe we don't want to do. I, I don't know, but I, I want to try to  
18 resolve the tension there.

19 Like there's a - that, you know, we have this list of goals  
20 in our, in our binder. And most of them are fairly easy to achieve.  
21 Well, not easy, but it's like a clear path to achieving it. And then  
22 there's just this one that's, that was recently changed to be ranked  
23 as a higher priority because of the changes right before this, this  
24 Committee to the language. But still, no acknowledgment of how  
25 difficult that is.

1 I think they, they changed it - they changed the language  
2 to, to prioritize rough proportionality higher than minimizing  
3 disruption. But like there wasn't - is that what we want to do  
4 as a city? Like do we want to (inaudible). Like the people might  
5 care about minimizing disruption, right?

6 So, like let's, let's do this all out in the open and make  
7 sure that we as a city are aligned on the, the goal here. I, I don't,  
8 I don't want it be just, you know, last time people were yelling at us  
9 because we were trying to like ram things through quickly under their  
10 nose, and things like that.

11 And I think the goal of this whole thing, you know,  
12 starting two years early is to precisely prevent that complaint and  
13 make it all very transparent. So, I think we need to -

14 DR. ALVAREZ: To that point, Ed, I think the other issue we  
15 brought up is speaking to transgression. All of the other ones have  
16 metrics, but when it come to rough proportionality, we remain in the  
17 rhetorical. Like (inaudible) to have rough proportionality, which is  
18 like, "Uhh, yeah. Like what is that?" The other ones have a metric.  
19 "Oh, the numbers should be equal. The 10%," you know, all of that.

20 Rough proportionality, it should be explicitly stated that  
21 what that means is that the city of Tucson should have three districts  
22 that are majority minority.

23 CHAIRMAN HENDEL: Yeah. Well, and -

24 DR. ALVAREZ: If, if that's metric, then that becomes a  
25 metric that people - I think the vagueness of the concepts is what led

1 us into like what are we really saying here? And people didn't  
2 understand that language. It's, it's sort of legalistic language,  
3 rough proportionality is like -

4 CHAIRMAN HENDEL: Yeah. And the, and the other ones don't  
5 all have metrics either, like what does "minimizing disruption" mean,  
6 right? We have a judgment of minimizing the number of people who are  
7 furious, right? But that's not like a number, right? We just have a  
8 sense of it.

9 But I don't know. I'm, I'm nervous about this becoming a  
10 situation where it's like, here's one goal, and we just want to plow  
11 through and regardless of disruption. Like I, I, I don't think we -

12 You could say we, we - well, let me put this way. You  
13 could say that we - we, we want to somewhat deprioritize the  
14 minimization of disruption as a principal of like disrupting ward  
15 boundaries. That's something we as a city could certainly choose to  
16 deprioritize.

17 But if you think of disruption in a sense of like community  
18 outrage, you know, that's probably not something we should  
19 deprioritize in my opinion. And to be clear, that's not the - a  
20 change that was made is not saying ignore people being mad. That's  
21 not what it says.

22 It said: Deprioritize, relatively speaking, the importance  
23 of mini- -- minimizing the disruption of existing ward boundaries.  
24 So, that's fine except that that actually correlates really strongly  
25 with people being angry. So, that's where it gets tricky.

1           And hopefully this process over the, you know, this three-  
2 year period that we're talking about here could, could help clarify  
3 what the, what the city really wants its goals to be, and what the  
4 people kind of have the stomach for.

5           MR. JARAMILLO: One, one thing that I'd like to recommend  
6 to be part of the, the, the agenda there is, is to include the history  
7 that we were given earlier this, this month. I think it's important  
8 that the people know the history of it (inaudible) why we're doing  
9 this, and how it was in the past and to what we're wanting to  
10 accomplish today. Thank you.

11           CHAIRMAN HENDEL: I like that idea. Adding it to the list.

12           DR. ALVAREZ: The thing that a reference in our letter to  
13 the, the education process, we're calling education, community  
14 education process, part of the goal should be to really unpack  
15 the meaning of all these words at a level that the community can  
16 understand it.

17           Because when you read number two, City Policy Objectives  
18 says, for example, this is just an example. Maintain, establish  
19 recognizable ward boundaries with a minimum of disruption, comma,  
20 except as may be necessary to achieve the other factors and  
21 objectives. But it's already deprioritized -

22           CHAIRMAN HENDEL: Right.

23           DR. ALVAREZ: - if it impedes the preference to. On the  
24 other hand, -

25           CHAIRMAN HENDEL: As I was referring to.

1 DR. ALVAREZ: Yeah.

2 CHAIRMAN HENDEL: Yeah.

3 DR. ALVAREZ: On the other hand, maintaining, establish and  
4 recognizable wards boundaries, and I, I think I've been on the record  
5 already like three times saying this. I understood that there were  
6 some recognizable ward boundaries that were too much for a community  
7 to stomach, that had to do with major landmarks, like a freeway, or  
8 a park or something like that. That's an important notion of  
9 recognizable. Do I recognize myself in that ward? No, you're not.

10 On the other hand, when that same language used to say  
11 we're not really talking about the landmarks that are offensive to  
12 you, the freeway, the park, the rail - the train tracks, we're talking  
13 about that street versus that street that (inaudible)

14 People were then coming back and saying, "Wow. Look at you  
15 violating your own rules." And we were like, "Uhh, no. It's still  
16 very recognizable as your ward. We just are, you know, three streets  
17 over." So, I think that (inaudible) it's both a learning of the RAC  
18 and of the process that a community has the right to say "no".

19 If you're asking us to be recognizable, then that means,  
20 you know, the Rodeo Grounds have to be on 5, you know? Don't put them  
21 on 1, you know? But if we're talking about that street versus that  
22 street versus that precinct at that level of micro geography, then,  
23 then the, the message is clear. Then we have to then deprioritize  
24 that in the benefit of the other.

1           And again, how to you actually get to a place where people  
2 have been involved enough to discuss these terms with these nuances  
3 before the decision is made so that at a minimum you can point to the  
4 discussions and say, "Remember when we talked about that. Remember  
5 when this was explained."

6           But I think on the other side, there's a learning that  
7 recognizable has to be recognizable to the people who live there.  
8 But that doesn't mean it's absolute. And I think that was what made  
9 this process so - we didn't have time to have those conversations  
10 because what that requires is total democratic deliberation. It's  
11 like you're not ever gonna agree on it 100%. But there are guidelines  
12 there, but if you have to push it in a compressed time, then it's  
13 impossible.

14           So, we said all of that last week, and I'm just bringing  
15 it back to maybe reflect on the record a sentence or two in the letter  
16 that says, "These are the types of dilemmas that have to be pieced out  
17 through a longer process of, what, 30, you know, 24, 35 months.

18           CHAIRMAN HENDEL: Dr. Alvarez, could you remind me of the  
19 five - the, the, the outline you had for what we need in our letter?  
20 I want to see which ones I'm missing here.

21           DR. ALVAREZ: For redistricting?

22           CHAIRMAN HENDEL: Yes.

23           DR. ALVAREZ: 2026 task force. '26 to - and '27. 2028,  
24 start early RAC. The next one was about investment or resourcing or



1 budgeting that process. And the last one I had was some sort of  
2 accessible data base tracking individuals.

3 CHAIRMAN HENDEL: Okay. Thank you very much. One other  
4 thing I'd like to include is the actual - the rough proportionality  
5 principal states that, you know, the, the number of wards that are  
6 majority minority should be roughly proportional to the, to the  
7 percent of Tucson's voting age population that is minority. And that  
8 number was not included in our initial binder.

9 And there was even some misunderstanding of what that  
10 number was at our previous meeting. It was, you know, it's - Tucson  
11 is not a majority minority city at this time. It could become, it  
12 could become that in the - maybe by 2028, although I would be  
13 surprised. That would be a pretty major shift, but at some point,  
14 that could certainly happen.

15 But the principal of rough proportionality is specifically  
16 tied to that exact number. And so, I think every time we talk about  
17 rough proportionality, that number should be attached so that the  
18 public like knows what the proportion should be, right?

19 It should be - it's 42.2% right now. That could change in  
20 the coming years, but what that means is that 42% of our wards should  
21 be majority - is that roughly 42% of our wards should be majority  
22 minority. Of course, we only have six, so, you can't have the numbers  
23 be that precise.

24 But, you know, what that means is that we should have two  
25 or three, and we have two. So, we're like under-shooting. So, that

1 would, you know, you could make a third majority minority ward. I  
2 just want to make sure that number is included in the public outreach  
3 so people can like figure out what rough proportionality actually  
4 means.

5           Okay. So, are there - I think we have a pretty good list  
6 of what we want in the letter. Are there any other things that are on  
7 anyone's mind? Okay. So, we're getting close to time to make a  
8 motion here. I'm not quite ready to do that because I do want to  
9 just go through the bullets again and make sure we're on the same  
10 page.

11           Let me just read my list real quick, and people can please  
12 chime in if they, if they have - if you kind of disagree with the sort  
13 of consensus that we've been having here or if you want to change  
14 anything like that.

15           So, one, I have find a way to do this without violating  
16 Open Meeting Law, whether that's the City Staff doing town halls, of  
17 if it's City Manager-appointed task force doing town halls, making  
18 sure that we can do a back and forth. So, I'll call that number one.

19           Number two. Like I said, I don't really have these in a  
20 clear order, but notify all the neighborhood associations, as well as  
21 every effort possible to include people that are not in neighborhood  
22 associations, but just try to make this as inclusive of, of a process  
23 as possible. So, I'll call that number two.

24           Number three. Start, start this - yeah, this, this is sort  
25 of out of order. Maybe number one should be this, but start in 2026

1 and end at the end of 2027. Just trying to figure out the proper  
2 order here on the fly.

3           Number four would be make your findings available to the  
4 RAC which should, which number five, should start in January 2028, if  
5 possible. Number six, let's say, is make sure that we invest properly  
6 in this, this initiative from 2026 to 2027. I guess that should go  
7 higher in the order since it relates not to the RAC but to the pre-RAC  
8 Committee, so, shifting the order around.

9           Number seven. Include a discussion of what would actually  
10 be - no. Number seven should be include the minority - the current  
11 voting age minority percent. Whenever you talk about rough  
12 proportionality, include that number to make it clear what the goal  
13 should be.

14           Number eight is when, kind in addition to that, when you're  
15 talking about rough proportionality, make it clear what it would take  
16 to achieve that goal. Maybe put a sample map in there that would show  
17 like the number of people that would need to be moved, something like  
18 that, so that people have a sense of the, you know, both the goal -  
19 the, the principal of rough proportionality, the numbers behind it of  
20 what it would take to get there, and then the maps to show what it  
21 would actually look like to achieve that goal.

22           So, now if we have those three items as a package, we have,  
23 I would say, a pretty clear picture of, of what that is, what it would  
24 entail, and now we can rationally evaluate the prioritization there.

1           Number nine is to include maps and data, which we don't  
2 have a super clear guideline for what exactly that should look like.  
3 We could try to flush that out or we could just tell the Mayor and  
4 Council to do the best they can. Yeah?

5           MR. JARAMILLO: Include the history (inaudible)

6           CHAIRMAN HENDEL: That was number ten, yes. Include  
7 the history of - yeah, the kind of - the lesson we got last week.  
8 I guess to me that's a bit distinct from - well, you're right. I mean  
9 that is some of the maps, but I, I was thinking for the public data.  
10 It would be some way of playing with the current map.

11          MR. JARAMILLO: (Inaudible)

12          CHAIRMAN HENDEL: Right.

13          MR. JARAMILLO: (Inaudible)

14          CHAIRMAN HENDEL: Yeah. Yeah, I was, I was actually trying  
15 to do this myself with the data we had given to us with those Excel  
16 sheets we got. Trying to see if I could create like a little build  
17 your own map kind of tool. I didn't really have time to flush it out.

18                 I do think it is possible. It gets a bit tricky in terms  
19 of when you're splitting precincts, right, like the data we have.  
20 And, and at least that spreadsheet is the whole precinct. So, if the  
21 precinct is split between two wards, at least from that data, there's  
22 no clear way to, to divvy that up.

23                 However, the City software obviously is capable of handling  
24 that. I don't know how difficult it would be to make that info  
25 available. But it'd be great if we could say, "Look. Here's what it

1 would take to achieve rough proportionality. Let's crowd source this.

2 Do you guys have any other like good ways to do it," right?

3           Because last time, the way we did it was just asking Staff  
4 to come up with ways, and they did a really great job. But, you know,  
5 maybe if we're asking the public to decide how much to prioritize  
6 this, it might be good to give them the tools to, to play with it  
7 themselves.

8           So, I think we should put that in as a kind of optional  
9 suggestion, right, if that turns out to be too heavy of a data lift  
10 to build that. You know, that's, that's understandable, but you know,  
11 if you - if the City decided they wanted to like have someone work on  
12 that as a project for a couple of months, I think it's probably  
13 doable.

14           So, that's the ten things on my list. I guess number zero  
15 is no redistricting this year. So, 11 things. So, any thoughts on  
16 any of that or the order or anything?

17           MR. RHODES: Yeah. I think that's a great list. I, I'd  
18 just suggest that we make some sort of proposal, and it could possibly  
19 be added into the bullet point of reaching out to and communicating  
20 better with neighborhood associations.

21           Trying to make an effort to reach out to the youth,  
22 particularly college students. I, I would say high school students,  
23 but I don't think it's very likely that any (inaudible) many high  
24 school students would get involved. But I do think there's a, a base

1 with college students, and I think it could be very helpful and  
2 advantageous moving on.

3 CHAIRMAN HENDEL: Absolutely. Good point. I forgot to  
4 write that one down, but I totally agree. So, I'll include that in  
5 number three, which is notifying the neighborhood associations, but  
6 also any other possible channels to be as inclusive as possible.  
7 And then we'll say also reach out to the youth at the University, and  
8 elsewhere.

9 Yeah, 'cause I could see some, some students like getting,  
10 getting, you know, into the, into the tool and building some maps.  
11 Maybe doing even like some kind of senior thesis type of thing on  
12 that kind of - that would be fun. All right. So, we have a list of  
13 11 things.

14 So, let's see. Seems like we're - yeah, last, last call  
15 for any, any different thoughts on any of that, or you know, I, I  
16 don't want to just say it and assume that we all completely agree with  
17 every word I'm saying here. So, this would be a good time if you feel  
18 differently on any of that.

19 MR. RHODES: Yeah. I think we should move forward with  
20 that.

21 CHAIRMAN HENDEL: Yeah. Okay. So, Staff, what is the best  
22 way to convert this list into a letter that you've written? I hope  
23 it's - it looks like it's transcribing everything I'm saying. But  
24 should I read it again in a proper order now that we've decided or  
25 do you kind of have what you need?

1 MS. MESICH: Mr. Chair, that's up to you. If you want to  
2 read it over in the proper order, we'll have it transcribed one more  
3 time. We will use the transcript to determine the order and some of  
4 the wording that is recommended to be included.

5 CHAIRMAN HENDEL: Okay. I will say it all again because  
6 we've, we've kind of tweaked the order and added a couple, couple  
7 bits. Just give me one moment to decide if this order makes sense  
8 'cause I was just making that up as I went. So, in the meantime, if  
9 anyone has thoughts on that, please don't hesitate.

10 And we can, you can use your judgment on the order, like if  
11 you find that the paragraphs flow better by switching this. I don't  
12 think this order is really critical.

13 I think the only piece of the order that seems important is  
14 to have the very beginning talking about how we're not gonna do  
15 redistricting this year because that's the single most important piece  
16 of information that they would need to, to glean as far as their  
17 immediate next steps. Okay.

18 (Inaudible comment.)

19 CHAIRMAN HENDEL: Okay. I'm just gonna flip two items in  
20 the order and, and, again, this, this order is not super critical.  
21 Okay. So, I'm gonna speak right into the mic and so, hopefully this  
22 will be nicely transcribed. And, and we, we don't need this to be a  
23 motion. This is just us telling you our consensus. And then next  
24 week we'll do the motion?

1 MS. MESICH: We don't require a motion. However, if you're  
2 more comfortable doing that after you go through the list, you can ask  
3 for a motion to approve the list as you just stated it, and we will  
4 use that to create the recommendation.

5 CHAIRMAN HENDEL: I guess we should do that. Why not?  
6 Just to - that, that won't be too cumbersome. All right. I'm gonna  
7 go ahead and read the list. So, here's the list of items we would  
8 like to include in our recommendation to Mayor and Council.

9 Number one. We will not be recommending any redistricting  
10 this year, per the recommendation of the City Attorney because we have  
11 confirmed that the MPD is comfortably below the 10% threshold.

12 Number two. We recommend creating either a task force  
13 appointed by the City Manager or a series of town halls run by the  
14 City Staff that will - with the goal of having a back and forth with  
15 the community such that we can do education on topics including rough  
16 proportionality and dilution and other related topics as well as  
17 listening sessions so that we can both educate the public and hear  
18 what they want to prioritize at the same time.

19 This is preferable to starting the Redistricting Advisory  
20 Committee early because the Redistricting Advisory Committee is  
21 limited by certain principals of Open Meeting Law that make a back  
22 and forth essentially impossible.

23 Number three. We strongly suggest that this process begin  
24 well in advance of the 2028 redistricting, specifically 2026. We  
25 propose that this task force, or series of town halls begin in 2026



1 and go through the end of 2027, so there's plenty of time. No one  
2 feels rushed.

3           Number four. I'm gonna change the order here. Number  
4 four. Make the findings of this task force, or series of town halls  
5 available to the Redistricting Advisory by the end of 2027.

6           And we, number five. We recommend that the Redistricting  
7 Advisory Committee be started in January of 2028, so that there's  
8 plenty of time for them to make their deliberations using the - all  
9 the tools at our current disposal as well as the findings from the  
10 task force and the town halls.

11           Number six. Thank you. During the process of the task  
12 force and/or town halls, please notify all the neighborhood  
13 associations via the normal channels of communication that the City  
14 has with neighborhood associations.

15           Additionally, strive to be as inclusive as possible with  
16 the outreach and participation of these, these education and listening  
17 sessions, being mindful to try to include people who are not in  
18 neighborhood associations. And also striving to include the youth,  
19 for example, at the University.

20           Number seven. Please ensure that this effort is, has a  
21 proper investment and funding.

22           Number eight. When engaging in community education about  
23 the principal of rough proportionality and dilution, please include  
24 the current voting age minority percentage in the city of Tucson

1 because the rough proportionality principal is specifically based  
2 on that one single number.

3 And we want to make sure that number, which is currently  
4 42.2%, but may, may well change in 2026, 2027, 2028. We want to  
5 make sure that updated number is included in the materials that are  
6 presented to the public.

7 Number nine, which is sort of adding on to the previous  
8 one, include a discussion of what it would actually take to achieve  
9 rough proportionality, namely a map of - or a couple of sample maps of  
10 how we could get there. And please include a figure showing the  
11 number of people that were - that would need to be moved from one ward  
12 to another in order to achieve rough proportionality.

13 The goal here is to make it clear what it would take to  
14 achieve this goal and so the public can be adequately informed on, you  
15 know, the - what it would take to get there and, and how to prioritize  
16 accordingly. Number, I think, nine?

17 FEMALE SPEAKER: Ten.

18 CHAIRMAN HENDEL: Ten? Thank you. We recommend including  
19 public information, including - okay. Hang on. So, we want to inc- -  
20 - let me, let me go back to - so, number ten. Please include the  
21 history lesson that we received at the meeting last week in the public  
22 materials.

23 I think it's fantastic information and it would be great if  
24 that were available to the public, not only for context but also to,

1 to get a sense of what, you know, what this could look like, what the  
2 maps could look like going forward.

3           Number eleven. And I believe this is the final one. If at  
4 all possible, please include a public tool and data for people to try  
5 to make their own maps, or at least get a sense of which precincts  
6 have which minority percentages so that they can kind of play with it  
7 themselves, and figure out, you know, "Oh. If we - if my precinct  
8 moves, you know, what would that - would that help us achieve rough  
9 proportionality? Would it, would it make the dilution even worse,"  
10 etc.?

11           Ideally, this would include a tool that allows people to  
12 kind of create their own maps via a web application. But, you know,  
13 if that's, if that proves to be too logistically complicated because  
14 of precincts being split or other matters, you know, just get as close  
15 as that - as close to that as possible.

16           Just make sure that the public has as much data as we're  
17 able to provide and, and they're able to be, you know, properly  
18 equipped to make suggestions in the community listening sessions.  
19 Okay. That's it.

20           So, I would like to propose that someone please make a  
21 motion to include those 11 items in our letter to Mayor and Council.  
22 Someone can just say, "So, moved."

23           MR. RHODES: So moved.

24           CHAIRMAN HENDEL: Thank you. We have a motion on the  
25 table. Do we have a second?

1 MS. GALLEGO: Second.

2 CHAIRMAN HENDEL: All right. Any discussion? Okay. All  
3 in favor?

4 (Affirmative.)

5 CHAIRMAN HENDEL: All opposed?

6 (No response.)

7 CHAIRMAN HENDEL: Motion passes. Thank you very much  
8 everybody. All right. And let's see. There's still no one for Call  
9 to the Audience, so, we can skip that again. Future agenda items.  
10 We - do we need a Call to the Audience next time? I would say it's  
11 kind of little bit too late.

12 MR. JARAMILLO: (Inaudible)

13 CHAIRMAN HENDEL: You want to include it? Okay. It's fine  
14 with me. Yeah, doesn't hurt. But, you know, it could potentially be  
15 too late to make major changes if the, if the community has  
16 significant feedback which seems not extremely likely, but certainly  
17 possible.

18 Future agenda items aside from Call to the Audience, it's  
19 just one thing which is review the letter and make the changes we  
20 need, if any, and officially vote to ratify the letter. And then I  
21 guess we need to sign it. So, that will be our, our only item after  
22 the Call to the Audience.

23 With that, I will call the meeting to adjournment.

24 Thank you all very much. Thank you so much.

25 (Meeting was adjourned.)

I hereby certify that, to the best of my ability the foregoing is a true and accurate transcription of the original tape-recorded conversation in the case reference on page 1 above.

Transcription Completed: 10/07/2024

/s/ Kathleen R. Krassow  
KATHLEEN R. KRASSOW - Owner  
M&M Typing Service