



STAFF REPORT

Office of the City Manager

DATE: February 1, 2022

TO: Honorable Mayor and City Council

FROM: Dominic Lazzaretto, City Manager
By: Michael Bruckner, Deputy City Manager

SUBJECT: PUBLIC HEARING TO RECEIVE INPUT FROM THE COMMUNITY AND TAKE POSSIBLE ACTION ON DRAFT MAPS REGARDING THE REDRAWING OF CITY COUNCIL ELECTION DISTRICT BOUNDARIES
Recommendation: Receive Public Input and Provide Direction

SUMMARY

As a result of the 2020 Census, the City of Arcadia is required to review new population data and to rebalance its City Council election districts. Per the Election's Code, the City Council is required to adopt a new district map or, if appropriate, readopt the existing district map by Ordinance following a series of public hearings.

City Council districts must be "substantially equal in population". The districts are also required to comply with the United States Constitution, the California Constitution, the Federal Voting Rights Act of 1965, and the California Fair Maps Act. On June 15, 2021, the City entered into a contract with National Demographic Corporation ("NDC") to provide Demographer Services for this effort.

This public hearing is the third in a series of at least four public meetings to receive input from the Arcadia community regarding the redrawing of City Council district boundaries. NDC has reviewed the 19 maps submitted by the public by the January 15, 2022, deadline and posted on the City's redistricting page at ArcadiaCA.gov/redistricting to determine which maps meet the standards and statutory requirements established by the relevant legal authorities and can be considered by the City Council. Thirteen maps and one community of interest are being proposed for consideration. It is recommended that the City Council conduct a public hearing to review the draft maps submitted by the Arcadia community and provide direction on a final map for introduction at a public hearing on March 15, 2022.

BACKGROUND

On July 21, 2017, the City Council adopted Resolution No. 7179, declaring the City's intent to transition from at-large to district-based elections. After holding a series of required public hearings, on October 17, 2017, the City Council adopted Ordinance No. 2350 establishing by-district elections, defining district boundaries, and scheduling elections within the districts. Two subsequent elections have been held using the district format, with all four seated Council Members (with one City Council vacancy) now representing specific districts of the community (Attachment "A").

Cities that use district voting systems are required to update their adopted district boundaries in conjunction with each decennial Census to ensure that the districts remain numerically and demographically balanced. As a result of the 2020 Census, the City of Arcadia is required to review new population data and to rebalance its districts.

The canvassing for the 2020 Census was completed last year; however, as previously reported to the City Council, the US Census Bureau announced that delivery of the final data to all states would be delayed due to the COVID-19 pandemic. The City's demographer, NDC, received the data from state in October 2021, which was presented at the Community Workshop on Redistricting on November 10, 2021, and posted on the City's redistricting webpage. In addition, at the Community Workshop, the City also announced the availability of its redistricting mapping tool, which allows the public to submit draft maps for communities of interest and City Council districts. The deadline to submit draft maps for City Council consideration was January 15, 2022.

Under the State's Fair Maps Act, the City must hold at least four public hearings for the community to provide input regarding the composition of the districts. The first public hearing was held on August 17, 2021. Under the Fair Maps Act, a Community Workshop can be held in-lieu of a public hearing, and the City conducted that workshop on November 10, 2021. This hearing is the third public hearing and the final public hearing is tentatively scheduled for March 15, 2022. Further, the Fair Maps Act requires that the new district maps be adopted at least 174 days prior to the election. The next regularly scheduled municipal election is November 8, 2022, which requires the City to adopt maps no later than April 17, 2022. Assuming that there are no further delays, the City will have sufficient time to complete the redistricting process.

It should also be noted that if the City Council is unable to adopt a draft map by the April 17, 2022, deadline, per the Fair Maps Act, the City is required to immediately petition the Court for an order to adopt City Council district boundaries. If the City does not petition the Court within five days after the deadline, any resident of the City may file that petition and will be entitled to reasonable attorney's fees and costs from the City. The Court is also authorized to appoint a special master to assist with creating new draft maps, and they must conduct one or more public hearings before the can Court adopt City Council district boundaries in accordance with the appropriate statutory criteria. All costs for the

special master are the responsibility of the City. The City Council district boundaries adopted by the Court shall become effective immediately in the same manner as if the Court's order were enacted by a resolution or ordinance of the City Council.

DISCUSSION

Based on the 2020 Census and State of California adjustment factors, the City's population is 56,780. As a result, each City Council district should ideally contain 11,356 people, with a legally acceptable deviation of less than 10% from the largest district by population to the smallest district by population (Harris v. Arizona Independent Redistricting Commission). The current City Council districts have a population deviation of 16.58% (the total percentage difference between the largest and smallest deviation 9.61% + 6.97%), no longer meeting the statutory requirements for adoption. The table below shows the current population and demographic factors by existing districts:

City of Arcadia - 2020 Census Data Total Population Statistics							
District	CA Adjusted Pop.	Deviation	% Deviation	% Hispanic Origin	% NH White	% NH Black	% NH Asian
1	11,330	-26	-0.23%	13.56%	18.60%	1.68%	64.95%
2	10,265	-1091	-9.61%	14.71%	25.20%	1.96%	56.43%
3	12,148	792	6.97%	17.05%	15.06%	2.86%	63.26%
4	11,890	534	4.70%	8.27%	14.10%	1.49%	74.52%
5	11,148	-208	-1.83%	11.98%	16.04%	1.15%	69.09%
		Total Deviation	16.58%				

The purpose of this public hearing is to receive public input on the draft maps submitted, and for the City Council to discuss and provide direction on a final map for adoption. The City has conducted extensive public outreach to solicit feedback from the Arcadia community on communities of interest and draft maps through its traditional public outreach tools. The public hearing notice was published in the Arcadia Weekly newspaper on January 20, 2022. In addition, the public mapping tool at districtr.org/tag/arcadia2021 is linked on the City's redistricting webpage and provides easy access for the public to submit draft maps.

The City's demographer, NDC, has reviewed the 19 drafts maps and 2 community of interest map submitted by the public by the January 15, 2022, deadline and posted on the City's redistricting webpage at ArcadiaCA.gov/redistricting. Of the 19 maps submitted, 13 are being proposed as several maps were duplicate submissions and a few were not population balanced and are, therefore, being excluded from discussion (Attachment "B"). In addition, 2 community of interest maps were submitted by the deadline; however, only 1 map contained a community of interest that was within the corporate boundaries of the City (Attachment "C"). It should be noted that draft maps must be publicly available and posted on the City's website for at least seven days before it can be considered by the City Council for adoption at a public hearing. If a change is made to a map at this public

hearing or any subsequent meeting, the revised map must be posted at least seven days before it is adopted by ordinance.

Each of the remaining 13 maps have been evaluated by NDC to determine that they meet the standards and statutory requirements established by the relevant legal authorities (i.e., Federal Voting Rights Act, Fair Maps Act, etc.) and can be considered by the City Council. The submitted maps, along with their corresponding demographic analysis, were posted on the City's redistricting page on Tuesday, January 25, 2022, and are included with this report. An interactive view of proposed maps can be found at <https://tinyurl.com/arcadiadraftmaps>. The maps that met the legal standards were labeled by number in the order in which they were received. Maps that did not meet legal standards are not included with this report.

At staff's request, NDC was asked to prepare draft maps that are consistent with the City's current boundaries with minimal changes and meet all of the necessary statutory requirements for adoption. NDC reviewed the maps that were submitted and concluded that Maps 101 and 103 that were submitted by the public are maps that they would have drawn pursuant to the City's request.

At the conclusion of the public hearing, staff will be asking the City Council for input on which maps should be considered further and whether additional public meetings or hearings would be desired prior to the public hearing for adoption that is scheduled for March 15, 2022. In addition, if the City Council has any additional maps that they would like to have considered, this meeting would be an ideal time to bring forward such concepts for discussion.

ENVIRONMENTAL ANALYSIS

The proposed actions do not constitute a project under the California Environmental Quality Act ("CEQA"), based on Section 15061(b)(3) of the CEQA Guidelines, as it can be seen with certainty that they will have no impact on the environment. Thus, these matters are exempt under CEQA.

PUBLIC NOTICE

The public hearing notice was published in the Arcadia Weekly newspaper on January 20, 2022.

FISCAL IMPACT

There is no impact to the General Fund as a result of this public hearing. The cost of the entire redistricting process has been included in the FY 2021-22 operating budget and choosing different districts will have no direct impact on City costs. Failure to adopt new districts prior to the April 17, 2022, deadline may result in legal and court costs.

