

**RESOLUTION**

**BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF EL PASO:**

That the Mayor be authorized to sign and submit an advisory letter to the U.S. District Court of the Western District of Texas, San Antonio Division, in the pending state redistricting litigation, *Perez, et al. v. State of Texas, et al.*, Civil Action No. 11-CV-360-OLG-JES-XR, regarding the City's position on any court interim plan affecting U.S. Congressional District Number 16.

APPROVED this 31<sup>st</sup> day of January 2012.



CITY OF EL PASO

John F. Cook  
John F. Cook  
Mayor

Richarda Duffy Mornsen  
Richarda Duffy Mornsen  
City Clerk

APPROVED AS TO FORM:  
Sylvia Borunda Firth  
Sylvia Borunda Firth  
City Attorney



*El Paso, Texas*  
*The International City*

JOHN F. COOK  
MAYOR

January 31, 2012

United States District Court  
Western District of Texas, San Antonio Division  
U.S. District Clerk's Office  
655 E. Cesar E. Chavez Blvd., Room G65  
San Antonio, Texas 78206

***Re: Shannon Perez, et al. v. State of Texas, et al., Civil Action No. 11-CV-360-OLG-JES-XR***  
***[Lead Case]***

Advisory Letter from the City of El Paso, Texas regarding any court interim plan affecting U.S. Congressional District Number 16

To the Honorable Judges of the Court:

Following the U.S. Supreme Court's decision to vacate the court-ordered interim plans for the U.S. Congressional districts in Texas, the U.S. District Court in San Antonio and the parties participating in the redistricting litigation again face the challenge of drawing interim maps for use in the 2012 election cycle that comply with the Constitution and the Voting Rights Act as well as take into account the various interests of communities in Texas.

The elected officials of the City of Paso, Texas expect that the Court and the parties will work diligently and expeditiously to draft new interim plans. In doing so, on behalf of the El Paso City Council, I strongly urge that the parties involved respect the well-defined community of interest that exists in the El Paso region, by maintaining the entire jurisdictional limits of the City of El Paso within U.S. Congressional District No. 16 and by retaining the portions of Fort Bliss that fall within the current congressional boundary.

As the westernmost part of Texas, the El Paso region shares a unique and rich culture and history that is distinct from other parts of Texas. Our community has a strong interest in remaining intact, particularly as we move forward in our continued efforts to advocate on and support the growth of Fort Bliss, an area for which the City provides essential infrastructure services. Our military post is a critical component in our efforts to spur on a robust regional economy. The Department of Defense has recently announced changes to military operations and personnel reductions, which will likely include a new round of Base Realignment and Closure (BRAC). At this critical juncture, we implore the Court and the parties refrain from fracturing Fort Bliss from the City of El Paso, which was one of its strongest advocates when Fort Bliss faced potential closure and reductions during BRAC in 2005.

In sum, the City of El Paso would favor any interim plan for the Congressional districts which both preserves the entire City of El Paso as our community of interest and includes our adjacent Fort Bliss community within the same, and also protects the interests of minority voters in Texas for the upcoming election cycle.

We respectfully request that this letter be made a part of the record in the pending case.

Respectfully submitted,

  
John F. Cook  
Mayor, City of El Paso, Texas

cc:

The Honorable Veronica Escobar  
County Judge  
El Paso County Courthouse  
500 E. San Antonio, Suite 301  
El Paso, Texas 79901

The Honorable Silvestre Reyes  
U.S. Congressman, 16th District  
310 N. Mesa, Ste. 400  
El Paso, Texas 79901

The Honorable Francisco "Quico" Canseco  
U.S. Congressman, 23rd District  
6363 DeZavala Road Ste. 105  
San Antonio, Texas 78249

The Honorable Dee Margo  
State Representative, District 78  
6006 N. Mesa, Ste. 503  
El Paso, Texas 79912

The Honorable Marisa Marquez  
State Representative, District 77  
1444 Montana, Ste. 100  
El Paso, Texas 79902

The Honorable Joe Pickett  
State Representative, District 79  
1790 Lee Trevino, #307  
El Paso, Texas 79936

The Honorable Naomi R. Gonzalez  
State Representative, District 76  
6044 Gateway East, Ste. 818  
El Paso, Texas 79905

The Honorable Inocente Quintanilla  
State Representative, District 75  
120 North Horizon, Ste. A-112  
El Paso, Texas 79927

The Honorable José R. Rodriguez  
State Senator, District 29  
100 North Ochoa, Ste. A  
El Paso, Texas 79901

Texas Latino Redistricting Task Force  
c/o Nina Perales, Esq.  
Mexican American Legal Defense  
and Education Fund  
110 Broadway, Ste. 300  
San Antonio, Texas 78205

League of United Latin American  
Citizens (LULAC)  
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