

**DISTRICTING COMMISSION**  
**Saturday, February 11, 2012, 9:00 A.M.**  
**Mission Valley Police Substation**  
**9011 Escobar Drive**  
**El Paso, Texas 79907**

***Members Present: 7***

*John Karlsruher, Vice-Chair Francisco X. Dominguez, Gilbert A. Mendez, Jr., David Thackston (9:15 a.m.), Rodolfo Troncoso, James L. Graham, Alisa Jorgensen*

***Members Absent: 2***

*Chair Gene Finke, Oscar Silva*

***Planning and Economic Development Staff:***

*David Coronado, Executive Secretary, Lead Planner; Todd Taylor, Planner; Mariano Soto, Planner, GIS; Marissa Monroy, Economic Development Coordinator; Donna Martinez, Secretary*

***Other Staff Present:***

*Marie Taylor, Assistant City Attorney, City Attorney's Office*

**1. Call to Order**

Vice-Chair Dominguez called the meeting to order at 9:10 a.m.

**2. Establish Quorum**

Quorum established.

**3. Staff Presentation on Alternative Districting Plans**

**SPANISH TRANSLATION SERVICES**

Prior to the presentation on alternative districting plans, Mr. Coronado announced Spanish translation services were available for members of the public.

Mr. Coronado gave a PowerPoint presentation and explained Commissioners voted to present three, of the 11 proposed maps, to the public for comment. Mr. Coronado then elaborated on the proposed boundary lines and precinct changes for each of the three maps, Plan A, Plan B and Plan C.

#### 4. Discussion and Action on:

- a. Schedule for community meetings to receive comments on proposed plans.

Mr. Coronado proposed two possible venues for the Thursday, February 16, 2012, Districting Commission public meeting in District 5:

1. Pebble Hills Regional Command Center
2. El Paso Eastside Senior Citizen Center

#### **MOTION:**

Motion made by Commissioner Thackston that we add an additional meeting in District 5 at the Pebble Hills Command Station on the 16<sup>th</sup>.

Commissioner Graham questioned the need for the meeting.

Commissioner Karlsruher felt the idea of the public meetings was to listen. He felt that it was important to gather the comments.

Ms. Dueñes explained that she had recently attended a Neighborhood Association Summit meeting; the meeting was to inform the public of the proposed boundary lines for District 5. She asked if District 5 included the Hueco Tanks area.

Mr. Coronado stated that the current eastern boundary line for District 5 followed Montana Avenue and Zaragoza. Anything beyond that would be the County of El Paso.

No further discussion. Commissioner Jorgensen seconded the motion.

#### **MOTION:**

Motion made by Commissioner Thackston, seconded by Commissioner Jorgensen and **UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED TO ADD AN ADDITIONAL MEETING AT THE PEBBLE HILLS REGIONAL COMMAND CENTER.**

#### 5. Call for Public Comment

Mr. Coronado explained a sign in sheet was available for those who wished to ask questions of Staff and/or Commissioners. Additionally, for those who did not want to speak, but would like to leave their comments, public comment sheets were also available.

#### **PUBLIC COMMENT SPEAKERS**

1. Ms. Ana Dueñes, District 3 resident representing the El Paso Lower Valley Neighborhood Association, asked what Mr. Coronado meant by Precincts.

Mr. Coronado explained that he was talking about voter Precinct boundary lines that are drawn by the County of El Paso.

Ms. Dueñes explained that residents in the Thomas Manor neighborhood, between Precincts 42 and 43, have two City Council Representatives, District 3 and District 7. She stated that residents in the Cedar Grove and Thomas Manor neighborhoods feel that they are not being represented.

Mr. Mancera asked Ms. Dueñes which of the proposed Plan maps her Neighborhood Association preferred.

Mr. Coronado showed Plans A, B and C and noted that they had not changed from the current boundaries in Ms. Dueñes' neighborhood. He also explained that Commissioners are prohibited from splitting the voter Precincts which currently split the Thomas Manor neighborhood.

Ms. Dueñes explained that there is confusion with people in that area about which Precinct to vote in and which Representatives to take concerns/issues to; they feel they are being left out.

2. Mr. Ray Mancera, representing LULAC, asked Staff to clarify was it a neighborhood or Precinct that was split, as stated by Ms. Dueñes.

Mr. Coronado responded it was a neighborhood that was split by two Precincts.

Mr. Mancera asked Staff to explain how Precinct 87 has 3,398 voters; Precinct 87 is located near the Airport in an industrial/commercial area.

Mr. Coronado explained that number was determined by the Census. The Census assigns counts by area, in this case, Census Tract 9800 (the largest unit), then we have block groups, then blocks.

Mr. Mancera asked Staff to seriously look at the population of Precinct 87; he will speak with Mr. Javier Chacon, County Elections Administrator, regarding that Precinct.

Mr. Coronado responded that only the Precinct lines are from the County. Staff then imported them into our GIS system and correlated them with the Census Tracts, Census Block Groups and Census Blocks. Finally, Staff assigned counts to the voter Precincts which gives the totals for each one.

## 6. Adjournment

### **MOTION:**

*Motion made by Commissioner Karlsruher, seconded by Commissioner Graham and UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED TO ADJOURN THE MEETING AT 10:00 A.M*