



MINUTES

CUYAHOGA COUNTY DISTRICTING COMMISSION MEETING
TUESDAY, AUGUST 17, 2021
CUYAHOGA COUNTY ADMINISTRATIVE HEADQUARTERS
2079 EAST NINTH STREET
C. ELLEN CONNALLY COUNCIL CHAMBERS – 4TH FLOOR
3:00 PM

1. CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Frost called the meeting to order at 3:06 p.m.

2. ROLL CALL

Mr. Frost asked Clerk Richardson to call the role. Commission members Frost, Koesel, Lumpkin, Morgan and Murphy were in attendance and a quorum was determined. Councilmembers Miller and Stephens were also in attendance.

3. APPROVAL OF THE AUGUST 5, 2021, MEETING MINUTES

Chairman Frost requested that a minor change be made to reflect that Mr. Frost ~~Mr. Koesel~~ asked if Mr. Lumpkin would be willing to be nominated to serve as Chair. A motion was made by Ms. Murphy, seconded by Mr. Koesel and approved by majority vote to approve the minutes as presented from the August 5, 2021, meeting, with Ms. Murphy abstaining.

4. PUBLIC COMMENT

Lisa Cech, League of Women Voters, addressed the commission regarding the Commission keeping the principle of diverse members who reflect the County's diverse population fair as they make minor adjustments to District lines; factor in political and ethnic equity, geographic compactness, communities of interest and competitiveness as it relates to Census data; stated that League representatives plan to attend all meetings and will report on the deliberations and progress to their members; urged the commission to scrupulously observe the letter and the

spirit of all open meetings and open records statutes; stated that at a future meeting the League will request to submit a sample map of their own design with an explanation of its features and rationale to assist the Commission in their deliberations.

5. ITEMS OF CONSIDERATION

a) Introduction of the R Strategy Group's team

Chairman Frost gave a brief background of the procurement process utilized by Council to select a consultant to assist in the Districting process and stated that the selection of the vendor was approved. Mr. Frost introduced Mr. Jeff Rusnak, President and Chief Executive Officer, of R. Strategy Group and welcomed him to the Podium.

Mr. Jeff Rusnak addressed the Commission and provided an overview of the services and the support his Team will be providing to the Commission and the Community.

Mr. Rusnak introduced Team members Kathy Berta, Vice President; Mike Thomas, Counsel, Calla Bonanno, Senior Associate, Destinee Henton, Consultant; Minister Marcus Gould, Consultant; Ifeolu A.C. Claytor, Consultant, Tom Bonier, Chief Executive Officer of Target Smart; Matt Cassidy, Lead Strategic Consultant and Michael Muller, President of Muller Public Strategies.

b) Overview of federal census data

Mr. Muller addressed the Commission regarding the data that will be used to prepare maps; provided an overview related to preliminary population balancing; demographics; redistricting basics; principles for creating district boundaries; 2011 timeline, criteria and outcomes; 2021 compressed timeline, process, key dates; decision points for the Commission and the next steps associated with map drawing.

Mr. Rusnak stated that in terms of outreach and engagement their Team is committed to an open, transparent, accountable and robust process; believes there is a strong need to make sure and ensure there are multiple and convenient opportunities for the public to participate and provide their input; proposed that the Commission convene 3 public meetings on a regional basis on the East, West and South side during the week of August 23rd; commented that it's possible the regional meetings could be part of the 2 existing meetings taking place next week, in addition to the extra meeting being added.

Mr. Rusnak commented that the goal is to conduct outreach to stakeholders, organizations, and individuals to make sure they are included in the meetings, and to encourage and solicit input into the Maps and process. Mr. Rusnak also stated they are in the process of building a comprehensive District Commission website that will be a hub for all information related to the process. The site will provide an overview, information about the Commission members and include the process for drawing maps, and legal requirements. Data analysis and maps that are

presented will also be housed there. The site will also include a media center and a place for public comment and input.

Commission members asked questions of Mr. Rusnak and his Team pertaining to the presentation, which they answered accordingly.

c) Consideration of Public Forum Comments

Lou addressed the Commission regarding factoring in health and homelessness inequities and recognition of the LGBTQ population.

Linda Mayer, League of Women Voters, addressed the Commission regarding public engagement, obtaining feedback from Commission members, the undercount of Census data received in certain areas and the importance of having bi-partisan or non-partisan representation in County Council.

Peter Petto, League of Women Voters, Bay Village, addressed the commission regarding the redistricting process and community input via the website.

Mr. Frost asked Commission members if they had any comments regarding public comment given.

Discussion ensued.

The Commission recommended the following proposed tentative schedule for meetings to take place at 3 regional locations, which will be determined and finalized at the Thursday, August 19th Commission Meeting:

Monday, August 23rd @ 3:00 PM

Wednesday, August 25th @ 5:00pm

Thursday, August 26th @ 3:00 pm

6. MISCELLANEOUS BUSINESS

There was no miscellaneous business

7. ADJOURNMENT

With no further business to discuss and on a motion by Mr. Lumpkin with a second by Ms. Morgan, the meeting was adjourned at 4:22 p.m., without objection.