



**AGENDA**  
**CUYAHOGA COUNTY DISTRICTING COMMISSION MEETING**  
**MONDAY, AUGUST 23, 2021**  
**CUYAHOGA COUNTY ADMINISTRATIVE HEADQUARTERS**  
**2079 EAST NINTH STREET**  
**C. ELLEN CONNALLY COUNCIL CHAMBERS – 4<sup>TH</sup> FLOOR**  
**3:00 PM**

- 1. CALL TO ORDER**
- 2. ROLL CALL**
- 3. APPROVAL OF THE AUGUST 17<sup>th</sup> and AUGUST 19, 2021, MEETING MINUTES**
- 4. PUBLIC COMMENT**
- 5. ITEMS OF CONSIDERATION**
  - a) Responses to the questions and comments through August 22<sup>nd</sup>
  - b) Presentation and discussion of map proposals
  - c) Population deviation discussion and recommendations
  - d) Communities of interests
  - e) Decision points
- 6. MISCELLANEOUS BUSINESS**
- 7. ADJOURNMENT**

*\*Complimentary parking for the public is available in the attached garage at 900 Prospect. A skywalk extends from the garage to provide additional entry to the Council Chambers from the 5th floor parking level of the garage. Please see the Clerk to obtain a complimentary parking pass.*

*\*\*Council Chambers is equipped with a hearing assistance system. If needed, please see the Clerk to obtain a receiver.*



## **MINUTES**

CUYAHOGA COUNTY DISTRICTING COMMISSION MEETING  
TUESDAY, AUGUST 17, 2021  
CUYAHOGA COUNTY ADMINISTRATIVE HEADQUARTERS  
2079 EAST NINTH STREET  
C. ELLEN CONNALLY COUNCIL CHAMBERS – 4<sup>TH</sup> 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 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 23<sup>rd</sup>; 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. Additionally, 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, the process for drawing maps, 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 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 the public comment received.

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 19<sup>th</sup> Commission Meeting:

Monday, August 23<sup>rd</sup> @ 3:00 PM

Wednesday, August 25<sup>th</sup> @ 5:00pm

Thursday, August 26<sup>th</sup> @ 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.



MINUTES  
CUYAHOGA COUNTY DISTRICTING COMMISSION MEETING  
THURSDAY, AUGUST 19, 2021  
CUYAHOGA COUNTY ADMINISTRATIVE HEADQUARTERS  
2079 EAST NINTH STREET  
C. ELLEN CONNALLY COUNCIL CHAMBERS – 4<sup>TH</sup> FLOOR  
3:00 PM

1. CALL TO ORDER

**Chairman Frost called the meeting to order at 3:05 p.m.**

2. ROLL CALL

**Mr. Frost asked Clerk Richardson to call the roll. Commission members Frost, Koesel, Lumpkin, Morgan and Murphy were in attendance and a quorum was determined. Councilmembers Sweeney, Miller, Schron, Baker and Jones were also in attendance.**

3. PUBLIC COMMENT

**The Honorable Martin Sweeney, Cuyahoga County Councilmember, thanked the Commission for their work and offered his assistance if Commission members need any additional support.**

4. ITEMS OF CONSIDERATION

- a) Presentation from R Strategy Group, LLC on the following topics:

**Mr. Mike Thomas, Of Counsel for R Strategy Group, LLC, provided an overview of the presentation topics and introduced the presenters. Discussion ensued.**

- Responses to Qs from 8/17 (Michael Muller)

**Mr. Michael Muller, President of Muller Public Strategies, provided responses to questions posed at the August 17<sup>th</sup> Districting Commission meeting relating to community factors; interactive exchanges with the public; undercounted and at-risk populations; utilizing data developed by Ohio University; standards for packing and/or diluting minority communities; and distinctions between the new and old Council districting maps. Discussion ensued.**

**Commission members asked questions of Mr. Muller pertaining to the item, which he answered accordingly.**

- Website design and update (Mike Thomas)

**Mr. Thomas gave an update on the website design, roadmap, public comment submission as well as provided the link to the Districting Commission webpage. Discussion ensued.**

**Commission members asked questions of Mr. Thomas pertaining to the item, which he answered accordingly.**

- Status of Regional meetings (Destinee Henton)
  - Dates/times
  - Locations
  - Technology

**Ms. Destinee Henton, representing R Strategy Group, LLC, addressed the Commission regarding the status of regional meetings and provided the following proposed meeting schedule:**

- 1. Monday, August 23<sup>rd</sup> at 3:00 p.m. in Council Chambers at the Cuyahoga County Headquarters**
- 2. Wednesday, August 25<sup>th</sup> at 5:30 p.m. in Council Chambers at the Cuyahoga County Headquarters**
- 3. Thursday, August 26<sup>th</sup> at 3:00 p.m. in Council Chambers at the Cuyahoga County Headquarters. Discussion ensued.**

**Commission members asked questions of Ms. Henton pertaining to the item, which she answered accordingly.**

**Mr. Joseph Nanni, Chief of Staff for County Council, addressed the Commission regarding the seating capacity of Council Chambers and additional technology that can be utilized for future meetings. Discussion ensued.**

- Data availability and update (Matt Cassidy)

**Mr. Matt Cassidy, Lead Strategic Consultant at TargetSmart Communications, addressed the Commission regarding the 2020 Census data availability. Discussion ensued.**

**Commission members asked questions of Mr. Cassidy pertaining to the item, which he answered accordingly.**

- Current map with population deviation (Matt Cassidy)

**Mr. Cassidy addressed the Commission regarding the current Council districting map and provided information regarding population deviation and statutory requirements relating to criteria for drawing the new districting map. Discussion ensued.**

**Commission members asked questions of Mr. Cassidy pertaining to the item, which answered accordingly.**

- Decision points for the Commission (Michael Muller)

**Mr. Muller addressed the Commission regarding critiquing the current districting map, population deviation of districts, communities of interest and ideas to incorporate relating to future decision points for the Commission. Discussion ensued.**

**Commission members asked questions of Mr. Muller pertaining to the item, which he answered accordingly.**

- b) Consideration of Public Forum Comments

**There were no additional public comments given.**

#### 5. MISCELLANEOUS BUSINESS

**There was no miscellaneous business.**

#### 6. 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 4:16 p.m., without objection.**