



## **MINUTES**

**CUYAHOGA COUNTY DISTRICTING COMMISSION MEETING  
WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 25, 2021  
CUYAHOGA COUNTY ADMINISTRATIVE HEADQUARTERS  
2079 EAST NINTH STREET  
C. ELLEN CONNALLY COUNCIL CHAMBERS – 4<sup>TH</sup> FLOOR  
5:30 PM**

### **1. CALL TO ORDER**

**Chairman Frost called the meeting to order at 5:38 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 Jones, Schron, Simon, Miller and Baker were also in attendance.**

### **3. PUBLIC COMMENT**

**Peter Petto, League of Women Voters, of Greater Cleveland, addressed the Commission and stated when using the mapping software available to him the percentage deviation is calculated using the midpoint between the largest and smallest district as the base for computing the percentages and not the target population, and asked if that's reasonable or has some basis in practice or Law.**

**The Honorable Jack Schron, Cuyahoga County Councilmember addressed the Commission and stated he is pleased and supportive of the new maps being presented today and referenced Districts 6 and 9 as they follow the same logic of minimal impact and keep the communities together supporting their Mayfield and neighborhood Orange Schools. With Census data changes being so small this year, he respectfully asked the Commission to exercise courage in their authority to**

make only the minimal changes as shown on the revised maps. Mr. Schron thanked them and wished them the best of luck.

The Honorable Sunny Simon, Cuyahoga County Council member, addressed the Commission regarding District 11 and stated she is fully supportive of the revised option as it equitably addresses any minimal change that must occur; stated its fair and maintains the communities intact and the representation; and said there's no evidence or compelling reason the map should be totally drawn again.

The Honorable Dale Miller, Cuyahoga County Councilmember, addressed the Commission and thanked them for taking on such a challenging service; stated he strongly believes voters should choose candidates not the other way around; recommended the Commission get within the 10 percent maximum population deviation between districts but not much lower. He stated that being too fine on population creates problems with compactness disruption and preserving communities of interest; referenced the population range in the new Map 2 and commented that it is possible to meet population requirements without the kind of disruption entailed in swapping Rocky River and Brook Park; and commends the strategy used.

The Honorable Nan Baker, Cuyahoga County Councilmember, addressed the Commission and thanked them for listening to her concerns, keeping what's there intact and allowing Westshore to flourish as it has done and continue the cooperation that over the years they have been able to perform.

Lou addressed the commission and stated she is proud of the process taking place; advised that dramatic changes need to be made to break down barriers and asked the Commission to work together to resolve long term issues and help the communities who are suffering.

Mr. Frost suggested the Commission vote to waive the Attorney-Client privilege and make the legal opinion, submitted by the Law Department, public so individuals can see what the Commission is relying on to assist them in their deliberations, as it relates to transparency.

A motion was made by Ms. Murphy, seconded by Ms. Morgan, and approved by unanimous vote to waive the privilege and release the legal opinion to the public.

#### 4. ITEMS OF CONSIDERATION

##### a) Overview

Mr. Jeff Rusnak, President and Chief Executive Officer, for R Strategy Group, LLC, addressed the Commission and provided an overview of the presentation topics being presented.

##### b) Response to Questions and Comments through August 24<sup>th</sup>

Mr. Rusnak provided responses to questions posed at the August 23<sup>rd</sup> Districting Commission meeting relating to fulfilling requests for updates; adding League of Women Voter power points to the Website; a request to submit a map online;

responding to comments received online as it relates to comments made by Councilmember Simon; the first District in Rocky River; and comments made by Councilmembers Jones, Baker and Simon and the Commission directly.

c) Presentation and Discussion of Revised Map Options

**Mr. Matt Cassidy, Lead Strategic Consultant at TargetSmart Communications, addressed the Commission and provided revisions to the initial map proposals as it relates to minimal disruption, with a -3.86% - 6.0% range of deviation for a total range of 9.86%, resulting in 26,460 residents or 2.09% of Cuyahoga County's population being placed into a new district, which is 85% less than the most disruptive map presented at the August 23<sup>rd</sup> Commission meeting; constituency disruption; minority-majority districts; and compactness.**

**District 1 does not change from the current map – Deviation is 6.00% (total range 6,896)**

**District 2 has a minimal change from the current map – Deviation is -3.16% (total range - 3,638)**

**District 3 retains 96% of the constituents – Deviation is -3.07% (total range - 3,534)**

**Districts 4 did not change – Deviation 2.64% (total range – 3,030)**

**District 5 did not change – Deviation 3.88% (total range - 4,463)**

**District 6 lost some population – Deviation 5.16% (total range - 5,928)**

**District 7 incremental changes – Deviation -3.86% (total range - 4,434)**

**District 8 largely the same – Deviation -3.80% (total range - 4,367)**

**District 9 under 95% the same – Deviation -3.60% (total range - 4,141)**

**District 10 over 98% the same as it was previously – Deviation -3.60% (total range - 4,401)**

**District 11 completely intact – Deviation -3.65% (total range - 4,202)**

**Commission members asked questions of Mr. Cassidy relating to the clarification on the number of districts in Cleveland; asked about the possibility of splitting Cleveland into 4 districts; asked how many precincts were changed overall as a result of the estimates in districts 9, 8 and 7; and requested that a list of the precincts be made available to the Commission, Councilmembers and the website as an appendix to this presentation.**

d) Decision Points

**Mr. Rusnak addressed the Commission and asked if the members have any new decision points; feedback based on what was presented; additional information needed to assist them with making informed decisions.**

**Discussion ensued.**

e) Update on Outreach

**Ms. Destinee Henton, representing R Strategy Group, LLC, addressed the Commission and reported that Elected Officials; Political parties and groups; Faith Leaders; Good Government organizations; Unions; CDC's Nonprofits; Community Leaders and Business groups were contacted via email and direct calls.**

**Discussion ensued.**

f) Update on Website

**Mr. Jeff Rusnak addressed the Commission and reported that the URL was simplified to make it more accessible and easier to find; added the 2020 Census Data as an Excel document; added press releases and the Ideastream article to the Media Center; and added new highlights to the Homepage showcasing map options; 2020 Census data; and map submissions.**

**Discussion ensued.**

5. MISCELLANEOUS BUSINESS

**There was no miscellaneous business.**

6. ADJOURNMENT

**With no further business to discuss and on a motion by Ms. Morgan with a second by Ms. Murphy, the meeting was adjourned at 7:02 p.m., without objection.**