



# CITY OF SANTA BARBARA

## INDEPENDENT REDISTRICTING COMMISSION MINUTES

REGULAR MEETING  
JULY 28, 2021  
COUNCIL CHAMBERS, 735 ANACAPA STREET  
CONDUCTED VIA GO TO WEBINAR

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### CALL TO ORDER

Chair Johnson called the meeting to order at approximately 5:00 p.m. and announced that the meeting is being held via teleconference and all members of the Independent Redistricting Commission are participating electronically from various locations.

### PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

### ROLL CALL

Commissioners present: Chair Hon. Melinda A. Johnson (Ret.), Hon. Abraham Khan (Ret.), Hon. Elizabeth Allen White (Ret.).

Commissioners absent: None.

Staff present: Rachel Becerra, Administrative Assistant; Marguerite Mary Leoni, Special Counsel; David Lazarus, Special Counsel; Ariel Calonne, City Attorney; Michelle Sosa-Acosta, Deputy City Attorney; Sara Iza, Senior Planner; Dr. Doug Johnson, National Demographics Corporation; Dr. Daniel Phillips, National Demographics Corporation.

Public Present: None.

All present.

## **GENERAL BUSINESS**

### **A. Changes to the Agenda**

B. Public Comment. Any member of the public may address the Commission for up to two minutes on any subject within its jurisdiction that is not scheduled on this agenda for a public discussion.

C. Approval of the minutes of the Independent Redistricting Commission meetings of June 30, 2021 and July 21, 2021. The Commissioners moved to amend the June 30 minutes by removing a statement that Judge Geck was supportive of modifying the *Banales* settlement agreement. There was no objection to the change. There were no other changes to the June 30 minutes. The June 30 minutes were approved as amended. The July 21 minutes were approved without amendment.

## **NOTICES**

## **INDEPENDENT REDISTRICTING COMMISSION REPORTS**

### **1. Report on Draft Civic Engagement Plan for Redistricting.**

Senior Planner Sara Iza briefly summarized the Draft Civic Engagement Plan and described the timeline for the eight proposed public hearings. Judge Johnson asked whether the Commissioners could attend the hearing. City Attorney Ariel Calonne confirmed that the Commissioners would be able to attend. Mr. Calonne then described how there would be an intentional hiatus between the scheduled training hearing and the beginning of 2022 due to holiday difficulties with the public. Further, Special Counsel Marguerite Leoni added that the training hearing is meant to teach the public what online tools are available for drawing maps. Ms. Leoni also said that the online tools would be similar to those used by the City's demographer, National Demographic Corporation ("NDC"). Judge White asked if community leaders would be actively involved in the public hearings. Dr. Doug Johnson confirmed that community, neighborhood, and grassroots organization leaders would be involved. Dr. Johnson also explained that members of the public would have available both online tools and paper tools for the training hearing.

Judge White then asked for the first public hearing to be postponed from September 13, 2021 to September 20, 2021. Ms. Iza confirmed this change. Judge Johnson then requested for the public hearings to be held in-person when possible. City staff agreed.

Judge Khan mentioned that any flyers or brochures used to communicate with the public should be translated in other languages per the federal Voting Rights Act. Ms. Iza said the City would make sure it knew what translations need to be made. Judge Khan was concerned whether different members of the public would be capable of understanding

hearings, such as the training hearing. Dr. Johnson clarified that Santa Barbara has approximately a population of 38% Latino and a combined 4% Asian-American.

Judge Khan asked about the status of City funding for the redistricting process. Mr. Calonne said he was in contact with the City Administrator regarding funding. Mr. Calonne planned to go to the City Council for funding and does not anticipate any issues.

## 2. Discussion of Future Agendas.

The Final Civic Engagement Plan will be discussed at the August 25, 2021 meeting. After a series of public hearings, the IRC will not be meeting unless specially called.

## **COMMISSION AND STAFF COMMUNICATIONS**

### **ADJOURNMENT**

Chair Johnson adjourned the meeting at 5:33 p.m.

Approved and adopted by the Independent Redistricting Commission of the City of Santa Barbara on August 25, 2021.

SANTA BARBARA INDEPENDENT REDISTRICTING COMMISSION

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HON. MELINDA A. JOHNSON, (RET.) CHAIR