

2011 Decennial Supervisorial Redistricting
County of Los Angeles
April 27, 2011 Roosevelt Park Senior Center
First District Community Outreach Meeting Minutes

1. Welcome and Introductions

Self-introductions were made.

- **Commissioner Louisa Ollague, representing the First District welcomed all in attendance and encouraged input from community members on the redistricting process.**
- **Mr. Frank Cheng, Chief Executive Office (CEO), welcomed all in attendance which included members of the community, Boundary Review Members, staff from the Chief Executive Office, County Counsel, and Executive Office.**

2. Purpose of Meeting

- **Every 10 years after the Census count, the Board of Supervisors oversees a redistricting process to assure as equal representation as possible for all residents within each supervisorial district. This meeting is to inform community members about the redistricting process, why it is important and how redistricting may affect their community.**
- **In addition to providing the community with information about the redistricting process, the Board-appointed Boundary Review Committee also wants to solicit input from the community.**

3. What is Redistricting and Why is it Important?

a. What are the Key Objectives?

Mr. Cheng reported the following statistics:

- **At the latest Census count, the County of Los Angeles has 9.8 million people, making it the most populous county in the United States.**
- **Its current Budget is \$23.3 Billion dollars.**
- **It has approximately 100,000 employees, making it the largest local employer.**

- There are 88 incorporated Cities within the County of Los Angeles and between 120 and 140 individual unincorporated areas. Municipal services are by-in-large provided by each City, with the County providing certain regional services. However, within the unincorporated areas, the County is both the municipal government as well as its regional government. Well over half of the cities contract with the County for services that can be more conveniently provided by the County.
- The Board is also responsible for public policy and funding decisions that impact the lives of County residents, such as public hospitals and health care centers, law enforcement (Sheriff, District Attorney), restaurant inspections, social services (Children and Family Services), water quality, County roads, parks and libraries, and a host of major cultural resources.
- Every ten years, the United States attempts to count every person in the country through a process called the Decennial Census. It is mandated by Article I, Section 2 of the U.S. Constitution. The latest Census was conducted on April 1, 2010, and provides a snapshot of how many people there are and where they live.

He reported under the “Total Population Comparison: 2000 to 2010”

- The 2001 Benchmark Plan was based on the population count from the 2000 Census indicating the population of the 5 Districts based on the lines that were in affect before they redistricted. The total deviation among the 5 Districts was 6.45%, indicating how the Districts had grown out of balance over the decade.
- The Plan adopted in 2001 brought the deviation down to 1.40% by approving certain boundary adjustments.
- Under the 2011 Benchmark Plan (boundary lines from 2001, but using 2010 Census figures), there is a total deviation of 9.97%.

Once we know how many people there are and where they live in the County of Los Angeles, we need to attempt to divide the population as evenly as possible into five supervisorial districts for the County of Los Angeles. Adjusting the boundaries is called “redistricting.”

- Some of you may remember voting for redistricting in the statewide election one or two years ago, which is for the California redistricting. The California redistricting process is for the State’s Congressional districts, Senate districts, Assembly districts, and the Board of Equalization districts.

b. What are the Legal Aspects of Redistricting?

Ms. Nancy Takade, County Counsel reported the following:

- **“One Person, One Vote” under the 14th Amendment of the U.S. Constitution talks about the equality of representation which for our purposes means making everyone’s vote count. The proposed redistricting plans must comply with requirements of the 14th Amendment to the United States Constitution and with the mandate of the federal Voting Rights Act of 1965. That is the main message for redistricting not only from a legal level but from a policy level as well. These community meetings will be taking place across the County, in each Supervisorial District in an effort to reach out and inform residents about the redistricting process.**
- **In addition to federal law, there are other laws governing redistricting. There is also the California Election Code, which controls the timeline for the redistricting process. Finally, the County Charter, our local constitution, provides that the County of Los Angeles shall have a Board of Supervisors consisting of five members and five districts. Additionally, there are court decisions which interpret these laws. It should be noted that in order to change the number of districts, a vote by the people is required to change the number of supervisorial districts. Furthermore, a 2/3 vote by the Board of Supervisors is required to change the Supervisorial District lines.**
- **Achieving a perfect balance among the five districts may not be possible in reality due the numerous factors involved with redistricting, such as; geography, compactness, respect for political consideration and ethnic backgrounds, city lines etc...**
- **At the end of the process there will be two public hearings to consider the recommendation of the Boundary Review Committee. This is another opportunity for the public to provide input.**

4. How Will the Process Unfold?

Mr. Cheng explained the Total Population Comparison chart, indicating population count for each district before and after the 2001 redistricting process using 2000 Census data, and the current population distribution for each district using the 2010 Census data. Mr. Cheng indicated that there were two corrections for the current population count – 2nd District’s population should be 1,944,948 instead of 1,944,977, and 4th District’s population should be 1,919,949 instead of 1,919,920.

Mr. Cheng also reported the following:

- Board of Supervisors established the Boundary Review Committee in November 2010 to solicit public input and recommend a redistricting plan to the Board. The Committee is made up of two members and two alternates nominated by each Supervisor.
- A Public Access Plan was established to ensure wide participation by the public for this process.
- The 2011 redistricting timeline, referencing the handout given to the public.

5. How Can You Get Involved?

Mr. Cheng reported the following:

- The Board of Supervisors has approved a Public Access Plan to promote public participation in the redistricting process and ensure the widest practicable participation and dissemination of pertinent redistricting information.
- Individuals and/or community groups are encouraged to participate in the redistricting process. Meeting schedules, agendas, and minutes will be updated on a regular basis on the redistricting website and will be publicized in media press releases as well as all those who wish to be added to the mailing list.
- Members of the public are encouraged to attend the Boundary Review Committee meetings as well as the community outreach meetings. Information regarding meeting schedules is located on the County's Redistricting website: www.redistricting.lacounty.gov.

The following dates are the scheduled Boundary Review Committee meetings.

- Wednesday, April 20, 2011
 - Board of Supervisors Hearing Room 381B, 3:00 to 6:00
- Wednesday, May 4, 2011
 - Conference Room 739 3:00 – 6:00
- Wednesday, May 18, 2011
 - TBD
- Wednesday, June 1, 2011
 - Board of Supervisors Hearing Room 381B, 3:00 to 6:00
- Meetings in June TBD based on need
- Wednesday, July 13, 2011
 - Board of Supervisors Hearing Room 381B, 3:00 to 6:00

- Please note that the Boundary Review Committee may revise its scheduled meetings as needed. The updated Boundary Review Committee meeting schedule can be found at the County's Redistricting Website: www.redistricting.lacounty.gov
- All meetings are held at the Kenneth Hahn Hall of Administration, 500 West Temple Street, Los Angeles, CA 90012.
- The County of Los Angeles is providing free web-based redistricting software to allow the public to develop and submit redistricting plans for consideration by the Boundary Review Committee, or simply use the software to look up data. The software went live on April 22, 2011. The redistricting mapping application can be found at the County's Redistricting Website: www.redistricting.lacounty.gov
- The County has arranged four webinar training sessions to train the public how to use the redistricting mapping software to create and submit a redistricting plan. The webinar sessions are scheduled for the following dates and times:
 - Tuesday, April 26, 2011, 3 pm to 5 pm
 - Wednesday, April 27, 2011, 7 pm to 9 pm
 - Thursday, April, 28, 2011, 9 am to 11 am
 - Saturday, April 30, 2011, 3 pm to 5 pm

Please note: The last day to submit a proposed redistricting plan is Thursday June 2, 2011 at 5:00 p.m.

6. Public Comment

During the presentation, several members of the public posed questions to the Boundary Review Committee members.

- Member of the public

What is the role of the Boundary Review Committee?

Commissioner Vincent Harris stated that the role of the Boundary Review Committee is to solicit the input of the public and to make a recommendation to the Board of Supervisors for the adoption of a redistricting plan. It is ultimately up to the Board to accept or reject our recommendation and the Board has until November 1, 2011 to adopt a plan. The Boundary Review Committee members are non-partisan.

- Member of the public

Why isn't this being done in other areas?

Commissioner Ollague responded by stating that redistricting is being done at the state and local level, including as part of a county-wide process and is not just limited to the Florence-Firestone community.

- **Member of the Public**

How come Watts is not on the map?

Commissioner Harris stated that the current Supervisorial boundaries split Florence-Firestone between the 1st and 2nd Districts. Since this meeting is for the 1st District, Watts is not labeled on the map. However, there is another community meeting being held in the 2nd District tomorrow.

Opportunity for members of the public to address the Committee.

- Ms. Ivonne Garcia stated that she has lived in the in South Los Angeles for a long time. She would like the Florence-Firestone community to be represented by one Supervisor, preferably in 1st District. Ms. Garcia would like more resources for schools, parks and services for the elderly.
- Mr. Joe Turner simply stated that he does not want the Florence-Firestone community to change, and stated "Leave it the way it is."
- Ms. Inez Simmons has lived in Florence-Firestone for forty years, and is in the 2nd District. She does not have any problems with her current supervisor of the county services in her area. She would like the current districts to be left alone. Ms. Simmons in favor of both Supervisors Molina and Ridley-Thomas. Ms. Simmons would also like to know the diversity within the office of Supervisor's Molina and Ridley-Thomas.
- Mr. Enrique Vega read a letter on behalf of Florence-Firestone Community member Paula Trejo, who was unable to attend. Ms. Trejo has lived in this area for a total of 30 years; she works in the 1st District and lives in the 2nd District, she shops here, and appreciates the many differences between the members of the community. However, Ms. Trejo stated that it is difficult to voice our concerns or requests to two Supervisors. Ms. Trejo is in favor of having the Florence-Firestone community under one Supervisor.
- Mr. Molinez stated that he has lived for many years in this area, and wanted to know if it is a benefit to unite the area. He was unsure what the residents would gain or lose from such an effort.

- **Mr. Joseph Titus was born in Florence-Firestone 83 years ago and has lived his entire life here. Mr. Titus would like to see the community be united and represented by one district, it doesn't matter which supervisor.**
- **Ms. Mary Rose Cortese agrees with Mr. Titus, and would like to see the community be represented by one district.**
- **Mr. William Allen was born and raised in the Florence-Firestone community as well. Mr. Allen does not care which Supervisorial district Florence-Firestone is in, he only cares about knowing who will resolve the problems within the community.**
- **Ms. Corine Recasner has lived here for 60 years and has seen a lot of change occur. She is worried about tax base issues related to smaller cities coming in and annexing themselves to the County and taking their taxes. Ms. Recasner is concerned about the economic deprivation within the community, but is encouraged by the strong presence of the community during this meeting, she emphatically stated, "Let's make this a better place."**
- **Ms. Lourdes Ocampo lives in the 1st District, but works in the 2nd District at Edison Middle school. Ms. Ocampo stated the difficulty of requesting resources from two Supervisors. Ms. Ocampo is in favor of the Florence-Firestone community to be represented by one district.**
- **Mr. Eduardo Carvajal stated that he is a stake holder in Walnut Park. Mr. Carvajal has seen the 1st and 2nd district combine its resources for the Florence-Firestone community; however he is in favor of having one district for Florence- Firestone. It doesn't matter which one district, just as long as we get all the needs and services we need here. Mr. Carvajal believes that Supervisor Molina has done a good job here, and would like to see Florence-Firestone and Walnut Park joined.**
- **Ms. Luz Maria Hernandez has lived here for nearly 40 years; she shops here and feels that there should be only one district and one Supervisor for the Florence-Firestone community. Ms. Hernandez doesn't want to hear the same message when she calls the Board offices and they tell her that she must call another office. Ms. Hernandez wants the community to be united.**

- **Mr. Juan Limon stated that he has lived in Walnut Park for 10 years. Mr. Limon feels that both Supervisors Molina and Supervisor Ridley-Thomas are doing a good job, and if they weren't we would have heard more complaints by now. Many people want one district, however Mr. Limon reminded the community members that the U.S. Census occurs every 10 years, as such; any changes made, the community must live with for ten years. Mr. Limon wants to keep things the way they are right now.**
- **Ms. Bertha Segura stated that she has lived here for 36 years. Ms. Segura hears that other community members are talking about dividing the district; Ms. Segura is not in favor of dividing the district, because if you find out something is not right it is complicated to address concerns to two district offices. Ms. Segura is in favor of having the Florence-Firestone community represented by one district.**
- **Ms. Margarita Sandoval –has lived here for 40 years, and also agrees that it should be one district. Everything in my district is well controlled. Ms. Sandoval used to see a lot of gang activity, but there is a much stronger police presence now. Ms. Sandoval feels that if the community was under one district, things would be even better. Ms. Sandoval is in favor of having the Florence-Firestone community represented by the First District.**
- **Mr. Irv Sitkoff stated that over the years, and many of the community members might remember a time, when the Supervisors did not get along as they do now. Mr. Sitkoff feels that things are going well now and improvements have been made. Mr. Sitkoff feels that both the First and Second district have done a good job, but feels that having one district would be better for the community. Mr. Sitkoff does not care which district it is as long as it's one district.**
- **Mr. Jose L. Gutierrez stated that he has been living here since 1972. Mr. Gutierrez is in favor of having the Florence-Firestone under one district. Mr. Gutierrez is a teacher and has worked with African Americans and Latinos, but doesn't think in terms of race. Mr. Gutierrez feels that we are all humans and have to work together to make the community better. However, there has been a shift in demographics in the Second District from African American to Latino. Mr. Gutierrez asked if Supervisor Ridley-Thomas would give the same access to resources.**

- Ms. Delores Jones-Cotledge stated that she has lived in the area for 30 years. Ms. Jones-Cotledge has worked with several different organizations. The Florence-Firestone community currently has two Supervisors. Ms. Jones-Cotledge feels that this is an advantage because the community is receiving the combined efforts and resources of two districts. Additionally, the two Supervisors have different outlooks, one is focused more on the economy and the other focused on jobs and the working class. Ms. Jones-Cotledge feels that it should remain with the two districts.

Commissioner Alma Martinez asked members of the community to raise their hands if in their opinion, the current boundaries should remain the same, i.e. keep Florence-Firestone split between the First and Second District.

- County staff counted 30 hands in favor of keeping the boundaries the way they currently are.

Commissioner Alma Martinez asked members of the community to raise their hands if in their opinion, the current boundaries should be changed to have Florence-Firestone under one district.

- County staff counted 18 hands in favor having Florence-Firestone under one district.

List of Attendees from the County

1st District – Commissioner Steve Reyes, Commissioner Alma Martinez, Commissioner Louisa Ollague, Commissioner Sean A. Andrade,

2nd District – Commissioner Vincent Harris

3rd District – Maria Chong-Castillo, Deputy

Chief Executive Office – Frank Cheng

County Counsel – Nancy Takade, Truc Moore

Executive Office – Narek Artonian, Mireya Rivera, Twila Peoples Kerr

Parks and Recreation – Sofia Gavia, Charlotte Perkins