

District Elections/ Council Agenda January 24, 2022/ Agenda Item #11

RUSSELL RUIZ [ruizsblaw@cox.net]

Sent: Thursday, January 20, 2022 5:43 PM

To: Wade Nomura; Natalia Alarcon; Gregg Carty; Al Clark; Roy Lee

Cc: Dave Durlinger; coastal view [news@coastalview.com]; Public Comment; Jim Reginato [j.reggie@yahoo.com]

1/24/22 CC
#11****EXTERNAL EMAIL****

CAUTION: This email originated from outside the City of Carpinteria. DO NOT OPEN attachments or CLICK on links unless you are sure they are safe. Remember, reputable vendors, banks, etc. will not ask you to disclose passwords or other sensitive information.

Honorable Members of the City Council:

These Comments are to the three Proposed Maps. As you know I have spent a lot of time on this and I came to this with substantial experience with the local District Election process and the California Voting Rights Act ("CVRA"). My last Map submitted is posted on the website under DistrictR titled Ruiz Update Census Map 12/14/21 ID: 94334. My Map is most like Draft Plan B.

I know it is not a popular subject but any of you who follow the Law in the media know that the Federal Department of Justice ("DOJ") recently sued the State of Texas over their re-Districting Plan. The substance of the Complaint is related to the issue of "dilution". Dilution is a Mapping approach that dilutes the influence of protected minority voters. Since the last Census Texas experienced a significant increase in Latino and Black residents. The DOJ Complaint alleges that Texas intentionally drew its Map so as to dilute the influence of those new minority voters by mixing their neighborhoods with predominately White areas. My Comments here are exclusively to the issue of dilution.

As I stated in my Memo to you last month, we have two distinct Latino Communities of Interest, one on the West end of town and one above the freeway, on the East end of town. Under the CVRA these must be protected with Districts that will allow them to elect Latino candidates if that is what the voters in those Districts want, or we will get into trouble with the Proponents here.

My Comment to Draft Plan A is to District 3. My Map is similar to District 1 on Draft Plan A, but my Map encompasses the highly Latino neighborhoods below the freeway down to about Aliso School. Draft Plan A combines those neighborhoods with the Beach area along Sandyland. The neighborhoods along West Carpinteria Ave. and the neighborhoods along the Beach have absolutely nothing in common. The residences along Sandyland are some of the most high value properties in our City. There are condos for sale down there for \$4,000,000. That area has nothing in common with the low end condos along the West end of Carpinteria Ave. That is the definition of dilution. This proposal mixes a low income Latino neighborhood with some of the wealthiest White neighborhoods in our City. That is not going to pass muster.

Since it is most like my proposed Map I do not have any Comments to Draft Plan B. Our Consultant likes to use the term "Safe Harbor". Plan B is a very Safe Harbor.

Draft Plan C has the same problem as Plan A in District 3, it mixes low income, high Latino neighborhoods with some of the highest value "Whitest" neighborhoods in our City along the Beach. I find the configuration of District 5 odd but after some work and using my magnifying glass, I see that the area below the freeway is largely uninhabited and the Latino neighborhoods above the freeway are intact. It appears that the Western boundary of District 5 is Dump Rd.? Could you please confirm that at the hearing.

I strongly encourage you to start to consider the issue of the Order of Elections. It is one of the most important steps in the process and should not be left for last minute consideration at the last hearing in March. Assuming for this discussion that you approve Plan B, I would strongly recommend that you have on this year's ballot Districts 2, 3, and 4. If you do so, next year all 5 Districts will be represented. The 3 Council Members elected in November, Ms. Alarcon would represent District 1 and the Mayor would represent District 5.

Respectfully submitted,

Russell Ruiz