



NOTICE OF SPECIAL MEETING AGENDA
LANCASTER CITY COUNCIL
MUNICIPAL CENTER CITY COUNCIL CHAMBERS

211 N. HENRY STREET, LANCASTER, TEXAS

Monday, October 3, 2011 – 7:00 P.M.



CALL TO ORDER

1. Receive a presentation from Bickerstaff Heath Delgado Acosta LLP and conduct a Public Hearing on the proposed City Council redistricting plan [Illustrative Plan 1].

Recibir una presentación de Bickerstaff Heath Delgado Acosta LLP y llevar a cabo una audiencia pública sobre la propuesta de redistribución de distritos del Consejo de la Ciudad [Plan Indicativo 1].

2. Discuss the proposed City Council redistricting plan [Illustrative Plan 1] and provide direction to Bickerstaff Heath Delgado Acosta LLP regarding the proposed plan, if any.

Discutir la propuesta de plan de redistribución del Consejo de la Ciudad [Plan Indicativo 1] y proporcionar orientación a Bickerstaff Heath Delgado Acosta LLP en relación con el plan propuesto, en su caso.

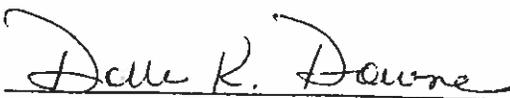
ADJOURNMENT

EXECUTIVE SESSION: The Council reserves the right to convene into executive session on any posted agenda item pursuant to Section 551.071(2) of the TEXAS GOVERNMENT CODE to seek legal advice concerning such subject.

ACCESSIBILITY STATEMENT: The Municipal Center is wheelchair-accessible. For sign interpretive services, call the City Secretary's office, 972-218-1311, or TDD 1-800-735-2989, at least 72 hours prior to the meeting. Reasonable accommodation will be made to assist your needs.

Certificate

I hereby certify the above Notice of Meeting was posted at the Lancaster City Hall on September 29, 2011 @ 5:00 p.m. and copies thereof were hand delivered to the Mayor, Mayor Pro-Tempore, Deputy Mayor Pro-Tempore and Council members.



Dolle K. Downe, TRMC
City Secretary

LANCASTER CITY COUNCIL
Agenda Communication for
October 3, 2011

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AG11-001

Receive a presentation from Bickerstaff Heath Delgado Acosta LLP and conduct a Public Hearing on the proposed City Council redistricting plan (Illustrative Plan 1).

This request supports the City Council 2011-2012 Policy Agenda.

Goal: Civic Engagement

Background

At the September 12, 2011 Council meeting, Bickerstaff presented a proposed draft Council redistricting plan based on input from individual councilmembers, 2010 Census data and legal requirements for redistricting. Following the presentation, Council took action to accept the draft redistricting plan, as presented, as the Illustrative Plan to be considered for public comment and set a public hearing for October 3, 2011.

Considerations

- **Operational** – Bickerstaff will make a brief presentation on the Illustrative Plan 1. This is the same plan Council adopted on September 12 for public comment. There will be a sign-up sheet and comment forms for those desiring to speak. Written comments may be submitted instead of or in addition to oral comments. Bickerstaff will facilitate the public hearing, calling the speakers forward, etc. Speakers are limited to three minutes of oral presentation. The public hearing will be transcribed by a court reporter and will become part of the permanent and public record of the City.

The public hearing is for the sole purpose of receiving public suggestions and comments on redistricting. In general, City Council should not respond to questions at the public hearing. It is permissible and helpful to the facilitator (Bickerstaff) if a councilmember wishes to respond to a factual question that arises, such as the location of a street.

- **Legal** - As part of the redistricting process, a public hearing to receive public comment on the proposed redistricting plan (Illustrative Plan 1) is required.

- **Financial** – There is no financial impact to the City with regard to conducting the public hearing.
- **Public Information** – A notice of public hearing was published in the City's newspaper of record, *Focus Daily News*, in both English and Spanish, on two consecutive Thursdays (September 22 and 29, 2011). Information regarding redistricting was updated on the City's website on September 16 to include the Illustrative Plan, the public hearing notice and other details regarding the process for public comment, as well as the adopted criteria and guidelines for submission of a redistricting plan. In addition, a letter inviting input regarding the Illustrative Plan was mailed to board and commission members, homeowners associations, and the Civic Leadership class. An email with information similar to the letter was sent to the Lancaster ISD trustees, all Lancaster PTA board members, Cedar Valley College, the Lancaster Chamber of Commerce, and the Ministerial Alliance. The link to redistricting information was included in Lancaster Live on two consecutive Fridays.

Information regarding redistricting, the notice of public hearing in English and Spanish, and the Illustrative Plan were posted on the City bulletin board (where agendas are posted) on September 16. A large map of the Illustrative Plan for viewing was placed in the lobby at City Hall on September 16 as well.

General information regarding redistricting and the Initial Assessment conducted by Bickerstaff has been available on the City's website since September 1.

Options/Alternatives

The public hearing is required.

Recommendation

Staff recommends conducting and closing the public hearing following citizen comments regarding the proposed redistricting plan (Illustrative Plan 1) and placing the item on the October 10, 2011 agenda for action.

Attachments

- Public Hearing Guidelines
- Illustrative Plan 1

Prepared and submitted by:
Dolle K. Downe, City Secretary



CITY OF LANCASTER PUBLIC HEARING

Guidelines on Providing Oral Comments at Public Hearings on Redistricting.

1. Prior to the hearing, all individuals or representatives of organizations intending to offer oral comments should indicate their desire to do so on the sign-up sheet. This sheet will be used to call speakers.
2. The Mayor will convene the hearing, after which, the City's redistricting consultant will preside.
3. The hearing will be transcribed by a court reporter and will become part of the permanent and public record of the City Council.
4. Speakers are limited to three (3) minutes of oral presentation.
5. **EVEN IF COMMENTS ARE MADE ORALLY, COMMENTS MUST BE SUBMITTED IN WRITING, IDENTIFYING THE PERSON SUBMITTING THE COMMENT (name, address, phone number, email address). Written comments may be submitted instead of or in addition to oral comments. Written comments or written supplementation of oral comments will be considered if received by City Council before the end of the public hearing.**
6. A comment summary form is provided as a convenience for commenters. Although the summary form can serve as a means by which commenters submit their written comments, the form is not intended to discourage making oral comments.
7. ***The public hearing is for the sole purpose of receiving public suggestions and comments on the redistricting of the City Council. No questions will be taken from the public by the City Council during the hearing, and the City Council will not respond to questions at the public hearing.***
8. The following redistricting plan Criteria, adopted by the City Council, will be used in drawing councilmember districts, and any plans proposed must follow the Criteria:
 1. Where possible, easily identifiable geographic boundaries should be followed.
 2. Communities of interest should be maintained in a single district, where possible, and attempts should be made to avoid splitting neighborhoods.
 3. To the extent possible, districts should be composed of whole voting precincts. Where this is not possible or practicable, districts should be drawn in a way that permits the creation of practical voting precincts and that ensures that adequate facilities for polling places exist in each voting precinct.

4. Although it is recognized that existing districts will have to be altered to reflect new population distribution, any districting plan should, to the extent possible, be based on existing districts.
 5. Districts must be configured so that they are relatively equal in total population according to the 2010 federal census. In no event should the total deviation between the largest and the smallest district exceed ten percent.
 6. The districts should be compact and composed of contiguous territory. Compactness may contain a functional, as well as a geographical dimension.
 7. Consideration may be given to the preservation of incumbent-constituency relations by recognition of the residence of incumbents and their history in representing certain areas.
 8. The plan should be narrowly tailored to avoid retrogression in the position of racial minorities and language minorities as defined in the Voting Rights Act with respect to their effective exercise of the electoral franchise.
 9. The plan should not fragment a geographically compact minority community or pack minority voters in the presence of polarized voting so as to create liability under Section 2 of the Voting Rights Act, 42 U.S.C. § 1973.
10. The following information would be helpful to the City Council in your comments:
- a. How do the district boundaries proposed in the redistricting Illustrative Plan(s) now under consideration impact areas of common interest, such as economic, political, cultural, racial, school or ethnic communities or neighborhoods?
 - b. Do the district boundaries proposed in the redistricting Illustrative Plan(s) provide minority voters an equal opportunity to elect the candidate of their choice in the proposed district? If not, why not? Please be specific.
 - c. What other information should the City Council consider in making its decision in adopting a new redistricting plan?

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AG11-002

Discuss the proposed City Council redistricting plan (Illustrative Plan 1) and provide direction to Bickerstaff Heath Delgado Acosta LLP regarding the proposed plan, if any.

This request supports the City Council 2011-2012 Policy Agenda.

Goal: Civic Engagement

This agenda item will give City Council an opportunity to discuss the input received from the public hearing on the Illustrative Plan and direct Bickerstaff regarding the proposed plan, if desired.

Council may consider formal adoption of the Illustrative Plan 1 at the next regular Council meeting on October 10, 2011.

Prepared and submitted by:
Dolle K. Downe, City Secretary

Date: September 27, 2011