

## Anthony Mejia

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**From:** Stephen Nelson [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Thursday, December 14, 2023 11:20 AM  
**To:** CityClerk  
**Subject:** Support for Introduction of MAP 102(c)  
**Attachments:** 385550434\_2790450737778701\_1681612976153491036\_n.jpg



Honorable Mayor Quintanilla and City Council-

On behalf of the Northern Sphere HOA's (e.g. Genesis and several others), we support the addition of Map 102(c). For obvious reasons that are unique to our location within Palm Desert, that differs from the other 80% of the city. One last time to ensure you understand our position and live in our shoes for a change.

Community of Interest:

1. Our children attend PSUSD schools and we are part of PSUSD Trustee Area 1 - Madonna Gerrall.
2. Our Property Taxes - PSUSD are routed to PSUSD; 80% of the city goes to DSUSD
3. We pay a higher property tax compared to the more well established homes in the south.
4. We have a high percentage of LGBT citizens and under the law is defined as a protected class.

In summary, our community of interest basis is multi-faceted. Our children, our shared financial position as it relates to our property tax, and last but not least we have a concentrated amount of LGBT citizens who call the northern sphere of Palm Desert home.

We ask that you maintain and respect our community as your planning commission decided to build it and moreover we call this area of Palm Desert home. To split the north in two would cause division among one community and would be irresponsible. Furthermore, the proposed growth cannot be accurately determined in 2023. Most of these communities haven't even broken ground and nobody on the council can predict within the next 2 to 5 years what will happen, nor do they have any buildout schedules from said developers. This should be handled by the people of the north when the time comes, not before, not 7 years out, not by this council, it should be handled by the people within the district at the prescribed time in consultation with the current councilperson from the north, its citizens and the city council recommending bifurcation due to growth and/or population.

We only ask of the council what the southern parts of the city have enjoyed for many decades to date. Have a person that lives in our neighborhood and lives the daily experience to represent us on the council. Because Councilwoman Harnick and Mayor Kelly, are very well known in the southern part of town, its residents are familiar with them, have relationships, and conversely, they have a working knowledge of the specific nature of the issue because they share those concerns with their fellow citizens, all of which is OK.

The northern sphere and eastern sphere of Palm Desert simply want their own versions of Councilwoman Harnick and Mayor Kelly who live the daily life of those areas and share their citizens' concerns and have them represent the issues on the council. Just because we are respectively the North and East areas of the city we should not be criticized for having an identity. We are where we chose to call home but make no mistake, we are proud to be citizens of the heartbeat of Coachella Valley, The one and only Palm Desert.

Stephen Nelson  
President  
Board of Directors

Genesis at Millennium

Mobile/Text: [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

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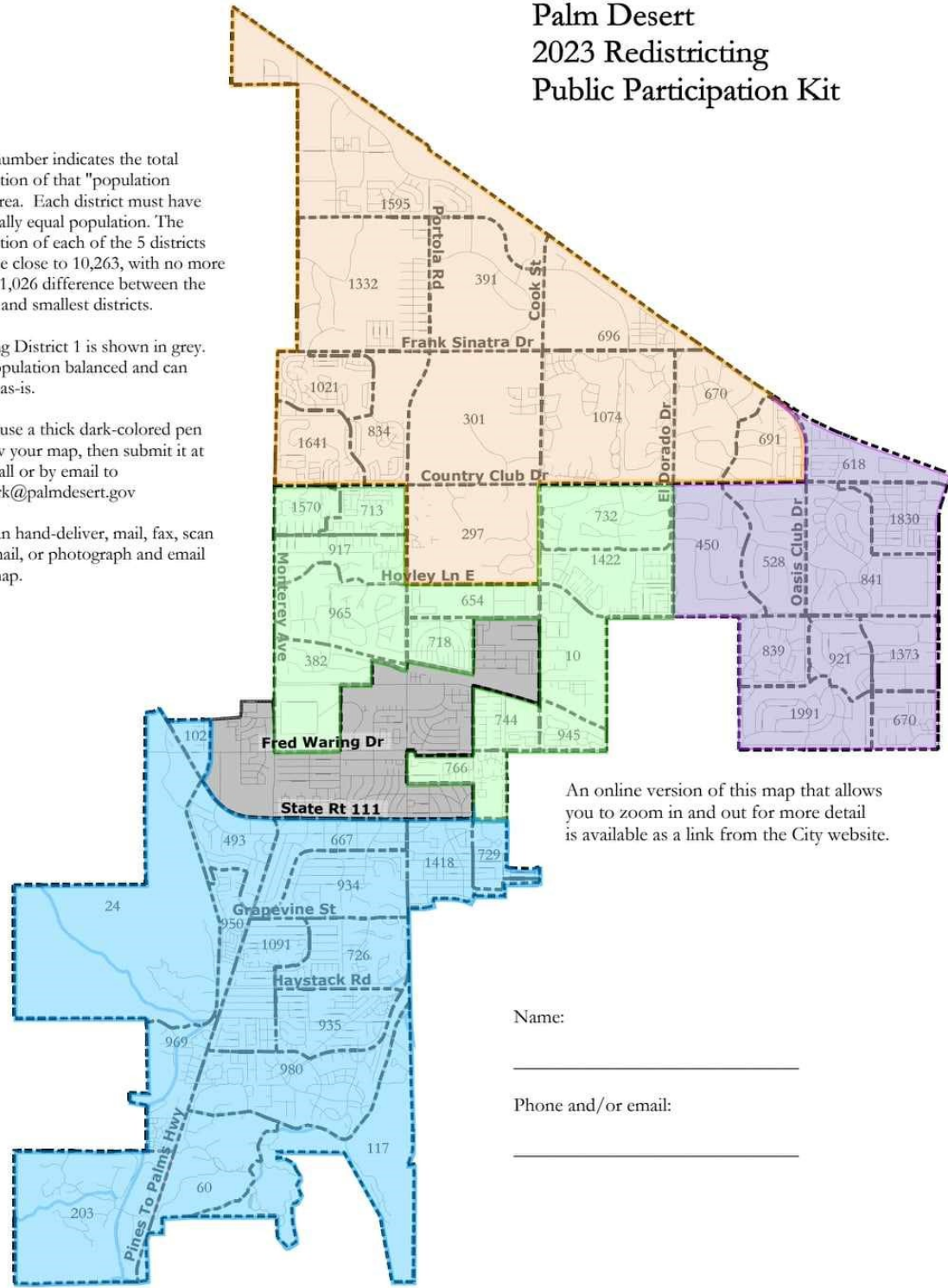
# Palm Desert 2023 Redistricting Public Participation Kit

Each number indicates the total population of that "population unit" area. Each district must have essentially equal population. The population of each of the 5 districts must be close to 10,263, with no more than a 1,026 difference between the largest and smallest districts.

Existing District 1 is shown in grey. It is population balanced and can be left as-is.

Please use a thick dark-colored pen to draw your map, then submit it at City Hall or by email to [cityclerk@palmdesert.gov](mailto:cityclerk@palmdesert.gov)

You can hand-deliver, mail, fax, scan and email, or photograph and email your map.



An online version of this map that allows you to zoom in and out for more detail is available as a link from the City website.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone and/or email: \_\_\_\_\_

2021 CALIPER



December 13, 2023

Re: Redistricting Comments in support of approval of a revision to Map 102

Madame Mayor and City Council,

I am a resident of the Genesis Development located on the northeast corner of Portola and Gerald Ford. I respectfully request that a revised Map 102 be considered along with Map 109 and that Council ultimately approves a revised Map 102. The reasons for my request are based on the following comments, observations, and impacts to the quality of life that we experience in the northern sphere and will continue to experience into the foreseeable future.

One of the primary reasons that the Council voted to proceed solely with Map 109 is that, based on direct input from the City's demographer, Map 102 could not be modified to keep a particular HOA intact and adhere to fundamental redistricting protocols. But as discussed at the recent community outreach meeting I attended at the iHub, the City's demographer confirmed that Map 102 could be modified to keep the HOA intact and be consistent with the requirements for balancing population along with other requirements. Since the feedback provided to the Council during the recent Council Meeting was incorrect, and the Council voted to proceed with only Map 109 based on the demographer's incorrect feedback, it is prudent that a revised Map 102 be re-considered for approval. As an outcome of the public engagement meeting at the iHub, the City's demographer conveyed that the request of northern sphere residents to include a revised version of Map 102 would be reported back to the City staff and the Council.

Irrespective of the belief that all neighborhoods in the City are essentially the same and Council representation is evenly distributed, the facts are that the issues that residents in the northern sphere encounter are uniquely different than the residents living south of Country Club. The reason is due to frequent wind and associated substantial sand accumulation, worsening traffic congestion, frequent street closures and detours due to construction and unmitigated noise and vibration from the frequent trains traversing along Interstate 10. Unfortunately, it has become apparent that some residents that reside in districts that will not be impacted if Map 102 is approved believe sand accumulation and its impact on property values and associated quality of life has been addressed and mitigated which is simply not true and as such, northern sphere residents deserve representation since the blowing sand impacts are unique and occur almost exclusively in north Palm Desert.

I have heard fellow residents say that the status quo of how the City is managed and how the City Council has been structured has always worked in the past so why change the way the residents are represented by the Council? The fact is that the city demographics have and will continue to change. Some residents appear to be opposed to change even though both maps 102 and 109 will not impact those living in the southern districts of the City. It seems disingenuous to be against a district boundary that will allow north Palm Desert residents to have their own identity and community of interest and direct Council representation as other residents currently enjoy when the proposed boundaries will not impact the current alignment of Council districts in areas other than the northern sphere.

Map 109 most likely does not meet the requirements of the California Voting Rights Act because it dilutes a unique community of interest by breaking the northern sphere into two districts that include

boundaries to a significant southern border (as in proposed Council District 5 on Map 109) and a broader eastern border for District 3 (as shown on Map 109). Council has opined that breaking the northern sphere into two Districts (3 and 5 on Map 109) will account for and distribute future growth and will reduce the need to rezone the districts in the future. I respectfully disagree with this premise because virtually all the future growth in the City will occur in the northern sphere, north of County Club and almost solely in District 3 as proposed on Map 109. The proposed northern District 5 as shown on Map 102, which is the map preferred by most northern sphere residents (based on input during community outreach meetings), will see most of the future growth, more than any of the four other proposed districts. This reality is a substantial reason why the northern sphere district should be kept intact and have a Councilmember assigned to a northern district.

In closing, my observation is that the City has requested input on the redistricting process and other topics (northern sphere passive park) and I truly appreciate the outreach but resident feedback doesn't necessarily factor into decisions made by City Departments or the City Council. A prime example is that it was reported to residents that the Council will narrow the list of maps to two or three for consideration. That clearly did not happen. This has an appearance of asking for public input as being insincere and phony. Since most residents that reside in the northern sphere provided input that their preferred District Map is Map 102, I believe it only fair and justified that Map 102 (with the demographer confirmed alignment revisions) be considered and ultimately approved because northern sphere residents like myself want the same level of representation that southern districts have had historically and a council member that lives in the northern sphere community of interest that can help address issues we encounter in the northern sphere.

Thank you for considering keeping the northern sphere intact and the approval of a revision of Map 102.

Michael J Stafford

[REDACTED]  
Palm Desert, CA 92211  
[REDACTED]

**Anthony Mejia**

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**Subject:** RE: Yes on map 109

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**From:** Cathy Forrister [REDACTED]

**Sent:** Thursday, December 14, 2023 9:57 AM

**To:** CouncilMeeting Comments <[CouncilMeetingComments@palmdesert.gov](mailto:CouncilMeetingComments@palmdesert.gov)>

**Subject:** Yes on map 109

Honorable City Council:

At the last council meeting you asked for public input on the redistricting maps. After review of the maps and listening to public comments, I believe 109 is the best choice. As our city grows, mainly in the north, I feel it will not only have less disruption in future redistricting, but that it's imperative that districts are confirmed now rather than later, so those who are interested in running can know if their district is up for voting and to start the process.

Yes on map 109

Sincerely,  
Cathy Forrister  
Palm Desert