

From: [REDACTED]
To: [CouncilMeeting Comments](#)
Subject: Item 15b: Districting
Date: Thursday, September 14, 2023 8:52:02 AM



I have expressed my concerns with this concept many times, but am going to do my best to stay engaged. I'm a pretty simple guy, I try to focus on the fundamentals, and define those issues worth fighting for. In my opinion, this issue is the hill to die on. I find myself in a unique position, I either engage in a process that is an extreme detriment to our community, or actively ignore and leave it in the hands of a council that I've lost trust in. I chose to attend the first community workshop to better understand how to give my input. For the most part staff's presentation was tame and did a good job in laying out the landscape of this extremely convoluted process. The one tidbit I was frustrated with was the notion that District 1 is fixed and cannot be changed. I asked for clarification during the comment period and was given answers relating to ethnicity percentages, etc. I appreciated Anthony's candid response.

As these hearings progress, I had several questions for the Council:

1. Are drawing 5 districts or 4?
2. Does the council have discretion to adjust District 1?
3. The staff report for today's agenda lists 6 criteria listed in order of priority. What kind of risk is incurred if that prioritization isn't perfect?

Like many complex state and federal laws there is the letter of the law and the spirit of the law. To me this process is one of give and take, and this council need not be fearful of risk when it comes to doing the right thing for the community. District 1 is a joke especially on its eastern edge, separated by a federal waterway one could easily assert it is not geographically contiguous. I hope that we are truly given the opportunity to holistically look at the city and draw 5-districts that make sense for the community and not be bludgeoned by risk or enter into divisive conversations of race and ethnicity.

-Ryan Stendell

[REDACTED]

Palm Desert, CA