

HPD ICRC Commissioners

From: Jeffery Bowen [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, July 28, 2021 4:41 PM
To: HPD ICRC Commissioners
Subject: Fwd: District 8 Redistricting Meeting

*** External Email - Exercise Caution ***

Sorry, just can not get my fingers to work right today.
Let's try once again.

Jeffery L. Bowen

----- Forwarded message -----

From: Jeffery Bowen [REDACTED]
Date: Wed, Jul 28, 2021 at 4:37 PM
Subject: Fwd: District 8 Redistricting Meeting
To: <icrc.commissioners@austintexas.com>

Thanks Matt - fat fingers I guess on missing the I.
Attached is the email sent out regarding the overview of last night's meeting.
Will send out the CORRECT address to the list and hope like hell there will be more participation.
Thanks again.
Jeffery L. Bowen

----- Forwarded message -----

From: Jeffery Bowen [REDACTED]
Date: Tue, Jul 27, 2021 at 10:42 PM
Subject: District 8 Redistricting Meeting
To: <icrc.commissioners@austintexas.gov>, Ora Houston [REDACTED] >

Evening,

I wanted to take a few moments to report on the District 8 Redistricting Commission meeting at Lady Bird Wildflower Center.

First, I would like to thank those that showed up for the meeting, roughly 15 individuals.
Also thank the Redistricting Commission members for giving their time this evening for this meeting and process. The Commissioners had a couple of members that were not able to be at their presentation.

I had to go to get an idea of what was going on with this process so far.

The Chair, Christina Puentes and Vice Chair, Luis Gonzales spoke about the Independent Commission, history of the process, time frame and the public input into the process.
Districts to be determined and approved by NOVEMBER 1, 2021.

Yes, that soon.

For reference, the numbers presented by the presenters were and are:

During the last process in 2010 the population was 790,390, according to Census information.

For 2020, the population is 995,484, per the Census and the numbers to be used.

The division of districts will be roughly 100,000 per. District 8 had the lowest number of population of all the districts under the "FIRST" Districting. Within the margins.

Now we all know that since the Census, the number is over 1 million.

The Commission presented a color coded map indicating the areas with losses and gains of population. Losses in the center core. Increases on the outer edge.

The commission "SHOULD" present that information prior to public meetings in order for public review. The map was very interesting especially for those of us dealing with transit issues, school districts and other such issues.

You asked why I wrote that. The commissioners are on this email in the "TO". Everyone else has been BCC as I usually do. I think the commissioners need to read this report.

They provided an exercise on District 8. Some of the attendees apparently took it to heart and had numerous suggestions. I had two comments. Yea I know, only two? Wait, I had comments.

Only a couple of the commissioners walked around to talk to the group.

Could have been more interaction by the rest of the Commissioners, in my opinion.

There was a comment period. Only three individuals spoke.

Very valid points presented. Including the "LACK of PUBLICITY" for this event.

Now for my comments:

1. Suggested the final date be pushed back for additional community input.

As many of us know, most public input doesn't come until the item is "NIPPING at THEIR BUTTS".

The Council is great at pushing items down the road. Shall I name a few? Sorry I digress.

What is it going to hurt if the final district map doesn't come out till February 1?

I know the politics of this. "BRAVO SIERRIA"

2. What was the number of public at the two prior meetings?

Lack of communication regarding these meetings.

The Chair and Vice Chair noted the issue and stated the "City" was supposed to support the Independent Commission with contact information. Like that was going to happen. Again, I digress.

There was a discussion on how some of us found out about the meeting. Explained the email from Mrs. Houston and another from Southwood they received from Sara Caldron, a commissioner. Not present at the meeting.

Next meeting is this Saturday in District 4

Saturday, July 31, 2-4pm

Gus Garcia Rec. Center

1201 Rundberg Ln. 78753

This is important and your input into the process is needed.

Former Councilwoman Houston comments were correct.

“This is a unique opportunity for ANC members to fundamentally impact the political process of Austin City politics! If you can, please take this opportunity to attend these hearings and share your concerns, opinions and ideas!”

The public showing tonight was more than sad. These Commissioners’ are Volunteers in this process. The email goes to “ALL of THEM”. Be a part of the process.

Be Safe

Jeffery L. Bowen

CAUTION: This email was received at the City of Austin, from an EXTERNAL source. Please use caution when clicking links or opening attachments. If you believe this to be a malicious and/or phishing email, please forward this email to cybersecurity@austintexas.gov.