

Public Comment – City Council Redistricting Commission January 12, 2021 Meeting

Bob Anderson, Sherman Oaks Homeowners Association

Agenda Items 4 (rules & constraints) and 5 (future agenda items)

I look forward to the upcoming presentations on rules and constraints as critical parts of the redistricting process. But the Commission cannot forget that lessons learned from prior redistricting are also critical to getting it right this time around.

In 2001 redistricting, the Sherman Oaks Community was split between Council Districts 2 and 5. In 2011 redistricting, we asked that our community be made whole again, and it was. However, to accomplish this, Sherman Oaks was gerrymandered into Council District 4 and isolated from all our adjacent communities of interest on the north, south, east, and west.

The Sherman Oaks Homeowners Association critically reviewed what did and should have happened in 2011 and documented our findings and recommendations in a detailed letter that I submitted to the Commission on December 17th which is posted on the Commission website under the Agenda tab. We urge the commission to read our letter as it explains how Sherman Oaks and the entire San Fernando Valley were denied their fair share in 2011.

The lesson learned in 2011 redistricting is simple. Sherman Oaks and Encino should have been together in one single over-the-Sepulveda-Pass Council District 5. If done fairly, this district would have had a 62 percent Valley majority population. The Valley might even have been able to elect our own councilmember.

This is what we ask the 2021 Commission to do – merge Sherman Oaks and Encino into Council District 5. Census data is not yet available, so we cannot recommend exact boundaries for the district. But we will! And our letter explains what could happen.

Thank you for your consideration.