

Public Comment – City Council Redistricting Commission January 21, 2021 Meeting

Bob Anderson, Sherman Oaks Homeowners Association (SOHA)
Agenda Items 1 (level-setting rules) and 2 (future agenda items)

First, I want to thank Commissioners for their commitment and efforts. SOHA appreciates how hard this is and hopes you find our comments respectful and helpful.

We understand the importance of level-setting principles and shared values. At the last meeting, Chair Ali noted their potential to help resolve future conflict. We agree. Because Sherman Oaks and the Valley did not get a fair share in 2011 redistricting, we offer “fair and equitable balancing of San Fernando Valley district populations” as an overarching value for your consideration, and possibly as a future agenda item.

In 2001 redistricting, the average population of the Valley’s five full districts (CDs 2, 3, 6, 7, and 12) was fairly balanced to the citywide district average. But in 2011, the average population of the Valley’s five full districts was unfairly 2.3 percent higher than the citywide average – about 28,000 residents higher.

This squeezed 28,000 Valley residents out of CDs 4 and 5 – the Valley’s two over-the-Sepulveda-Pass districts. Had Valley district populations been fairly and equitably balanced, the Valley could have had the single over-the-Pass 62-percent Valley-majority district that it deserves.

On December 17th, SOHA submitted a letter to the Commission that fully explains how the Valley was shortchanged in 2011. The letter recommends goals for 2021 to ensure that Sherman Oaks and the Valley get our fair and equitable share. Our letter is on your website and we hope all Commissioners read it.

Thank you.