

LOS ANGELES CITY COUNCIL REDISTRICTING COMMISSION
Minutes of the Special Meeting of December 10, 2020

Members Present:	Fred Ali (Chair)	Rocky Delgadillo	Paloma Perez-McEvoy
	Edward Anderson	Sonja Diaz	Richard Polanco
	Elissa Barrett	Andrew Garsten	Michele Prichard
	Charisse Bremond	David Hyun	Liz Saldivar
	Maria Brenes	Richard Katz	Valerie Lynne Shaw
	Cecilia Cabello	Nam Le	Michele Siqueiros
	Denis Cagna	Carlos Moreno	Michael Woo

Meeting called to order at 3:00 PM.

Roll Call

The Commission took member roll call.

Multiple Agenda Item Comments

The Commission took public comment.

Items Noticed for Public Hearing

Item No. (1) Discussion and election of a Los Angeles City Council Redistricting Commission (Commission) Chairperson and discussion of a Commission leadership structure

The Commission held discussion of a Commission leadership structure and the election for a permanent Chairperson for the Commission. Temporary Chair Fred Ali noted that he would like to organize the Commission with a Chair and two Vice Chairs, with one Vice Chair for outreach efforts, and the other Vice Chair for data and mapping. After discussion, Fred Ali was voted as permanent Chairperson for the Commission.

Item No. (2) Discussion and adoption of the 2021 Commission Regular Meeting Schedule

The Commission discussed the 2021 Commission Regular Meeting Schedule. Oscar Ixco of the Office of the Chief Legislative Analyst explained that the proposed timeslot of 6pm to 8pm was established based on the Council's vote to require that Commission meetings be held in evenings, to allow for the maximum public participation. After polling the Commissioners, the consensus preference of Tuesday evenings was established. Therefore, regular meetings would occur on the following Tuesday evenings: January 12, 2021; February 9, 2021; March 9, 2021; April 13, 2021; May 11, 2021; and June 8, 2021. The Commission voted to approve the schedule.

Item No. (3) Discussion and adoption of the Commission Executive Director Job Description, instruction to the Chief Legislative Analyst to conduct the recruitment, and discussion and action on the creation of a Commission Ad Hoc Committee on the recruitment for an Executive Director

The Commission took up discussion of the Executive Director position. Oscar Ixco discussed the recruitment process, including how the position description and requirements were drafted. The Commission voted to approve the job description for the position. Chair Ali suggested the establishment of an Ad Hoc Committee on the recruitment for an Executive Director.

Item No. (4) Discussion on Ex Parte Communication Disclosure rules and discussion and action on the creation of a Commission Ad Hoc Committee on Ex Parte Communication

The Commission discussed Ex Parte Communication Disclosure rules. Harit Trevidi of the City Attorney gave a presentation on the parameters surrounding ex parte communication and best disclosure practices. After December 7, 2020, any member of a redistricting commission must disclose communication with an elected official regarding redistricting at their commission's next hearing. The Commissioner would need to disclose the date, location, and discussion topics of such communication. Chair Ali suggested the establishment of an Ad Hoc Committee on Ex Parte Communication.

Item No. (5) Discussion on the City Council redistricting process

John Wickham (CLA) discussed the City Council redistricting process. Mr. Wickham noted that the Census geography data, a preliminary source of Census information, is expected to be available in January 2021. As well, the Commission would expect to receive the state-level data in April 2021, a month later than expected. The Census Bureau also does not expect to be able to deliver their statutory data to Congress before the end of 2020, and expects to have it ready at some point in January 2021.

Mr. Wickham discussed the 2011 Redistricting Commission timeline. From September to November 2011, the Commission established the organization structure of the Commission, including the hiring of an Executive Director. In December 2011 to January 2012, the Commission held public hearings to obtain community input; these hearings did not include any specific Census, but helped the Commission understand the needs of the community at large. In January 2012, the Commission drew draft maps. These maps were made public for community input, and public meetings were heard. In February 2012, the Commission established final draft map proposals, and the maps were delivered to Council in early March.

The Commission held discussion on how to best follow the example left by the 2011 Redistricting Commission considering the additional complications of the COVID pandemic. Commissioners noted that community input could be provided through virtual meetings, but those can be fraught with technical issues. Mr. Wickham noted that the Commission would not be able to take a collective bus tour, an activity taken up by the last Commission. With regard to undercount, Mr. Wickham noted that 20 years ago the Council commissioned a study to report on the undercount in the Census; this study was a valuable resource in drawing maps during that process, and the current Commission could consider a similar study. Commissioner Perez-McEvoy expressed an interest in receiving a report from the City Attorney to assure the Commission that any maps they suggest would pass legal scrutiny.

Commissioners suggested that Justin Levitt of Loyola School of Law, a redistricting expert, be invited to speak before the Commission. Chair Ali noted that he has had discussions with Mr. Levitt, who has expressed an interest in speaking before the Commission.

Item No. (6) Discussion of future agenda items

The Commission discussed future agenda items. These include a robust presentation regarding the legal constraints of the process, ex parte communications, presentations from organizations working in communities of color, and the need for a set of guiding principles for the Commission's work, which may require a special meeting due to time constraints. Chair Ali noted that he will work with staff to identify a date for this special meeting.

Meeting adjourned.