

**MINUTES OF THE CITY COUNCIL
OF THE CITY OF LOS ALAMITOS**

SPECIAL MEETING – June 18, 2018

1. CALL TO ORDER

The City Council met in Regular Session at 5:03 p.m. Monday, June 18, 2018, in the Council Chamber, 3191 Katella Avenue, Mayor Edgar presiding.

2. ROLL CALL

Present: Council Members: Chirco, Hasselbrink, Murphy,
Mayor Pro Tem Kusumoto, Mayor Edgar

Absent: Council Members: None

Present: Staff: Bret Plumlee, City Manager
Sean Connolly, Police Captain
Michael Daudt, City Attorney
Eric Nunez, Police Chief
Windmera Quintanar, CMC, City Clerk

3. PUBLIC HEARING

A. Third Public Hearing of Five – Transition to District Based City Council Elections (City Clerk)

The purpose of this public hearing was to receive input from the City Council and public regarding draft maps and election sequencing for a district-based election system.

City Clerk Quintanar gave an overview of the Staff report and introduced Dr. Levitt, demographer from NDC. Dr. Levitt gave a PowerPoint presentation and answered questions from the City Council.

Mayor Edgar opened the Public Hearing for comments.

Joel Block, Rossmoor resident, requested transparency, outreach, and to keep Apartment Row together. He indicated Apartment Row had specific zoning, common socioeconomic status, and concerns, such as parking, and breaking it up would subject the City to a lawsuit. He questioned the variances and stated support for El Ouardani Map 4, as the variances were under 7% and kept Apartment Row together.

Barbara Farrell, resident, stated concern the variances were off and believed the El Ouradani Maps were even. She thanked the demographer for working with the residents and stated it was difficult to work with the census blocks and have continuous lines for the districts. She stated support for Apartment Row having two representatives. She pointed out the

El Ouradani Maps were created by residents from three different neighborhoods. She urged Council to support for El Ouradani Map 3 or 4 as they filled the intent of the law.

Phillip Sauvé, resident, stated support for El Ouradani Map 3 and 4 as they met the criteria of the California Voting Rights Act. He stated Apartment Row was unique and different from the other districts, with a less affluent population, higher concentration of minority people, and had 19% renters.

Mayor Edgar closed the Public Hearing for comments.

Council Member Chirco spoke regarding the following topics:

- Concern for voter registration turn out (a factor considered for communities of interest) in Districts 3 and 4 of the El Ouradani maps
- El Ouradani maps contained a significant portion of the population that has historically not voted or had Council candidates
- Concern there would be no candidates from those Districts
- Support for considering all maps

Council Member Murphy spoke regarding the following topics:

- Concern for possible lack of candidates
- Importance of keeping new Dutch, Carrier Row, and east end of Apartment Row since they have common traffic concerns
- Area 4 of the Green map deserved consideration for the unique problems it faces as a whole

Council Member Hasselbrink spoke regarding the following topics:

- Support for keeping the neighborhoods together as much as possible
- Support for the Green map keeping Carrier Row and New Dutch Haven together for their unique issues with the Joint Forces Training Base (Base) and Race track
- Opposition to breaking up neighborhoods and lack of smooth transitions in El Ouradani Map 4, Yellow, and Tan map
- Support for Green, Purple, and El Ouradani Map 3
- Concern for possible lack of candidates
- The commitment of resources and time necessary to run for Council.

Mayor Pro Tem Kusumoto spoke regarding the following topics:

- concern for isolated pockets being separate from the district
- Purple map appeared contiguous for the neighborhoods
- Tan, Yellow, and El Ouradani Maps 3 and 4 grouped unrelated maps together
- Support for Strawther map that kept neighborhoods together
- Requested and received clarification regarding 45% of the population in Apartment Row and the difficulty in equally dividing the census blocks to maintain population balance in the districts

Mayor Edgar Spoke regarding the following topics:

- Support for the Green map and how the voter turnout would be balanced with renters and homeowners
- Last two Council candidates from Apartment Row, Ken Stephens and Gerri Mejia, were elected
- Stated the transition was forced by legal action and did not believe it was necessary in the small geographic city
- Thanked residents for submitting maps
- Support for combining homeowners and renters in districts
- Difficulty in finding candidates to run for Council
- Support for the Green map and specific concerns Carrier Row faces in regards to the Base and Race track

Dr. Levitt advised there were no new requests for maps and he urged the public to continue to work with them.

Mayor Edgar opened the Public Hearing for comments.

Larry Strawther, Rossmoor resident, stated the difficulty in working with census blocks. He advised he had drafted his maps based on the specific issues facing the City, traffic on Farquhar, on Los Alamitos Blvd. and at the High School. He put importance on the volunteer base. He reiterated the census blocks made it difficult.

Dr. Levitt clarified one block contained 429 people and this process was not designed for a City of Los Alamitos' size. He stated creation of the blocks was a very technical process and they could not be divided.

Mayor Edgar stated this was not an ideal process and stressed the point the City needed to work together to achieve goals. He stated support for a law to overturn this process.

John Underwood, resident, stated concern over this process. He requested public comment follow Council comments so the public can have a better understanding. He requested the City consider candidates from each district voted on by the City at large.

Dr. Levitt advised California Voting Rights Act only provided safe harbor protection for by-district elections. He stated from-district elections was not a safe harbor direction.


Mayor Edgar closed the Public Hearing for comment.

Dr. Levitt advised the draft maps had to be published by July 7th and requested residents submit their maps by June 29th to allow plenty of time to review and work together.

City Council and Staff briefly discussed possibilities for sequencing. Mayor Edgar requested a four-district map with a directly elected Mayor. Dr. Levitt advised he would work with staff.


5. ADJOURNMENT

The City Council adjourned at 5:59 p.m.



Troy D. Edgar, Mayor

Attest:



Windmera Quintanar, CMC, City Clerk