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COUNCIL MEMBER BOWMAN NOTICED MEETING MINUTES COUNCIL DISTRICT 3 REDISTRICTING

**THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 2, 2021
3:00 p.m.
DON DAVIS ROOM, 1ST FLOOR, CITY HALL**

Attendance: Council Members Aaron Bowman, Rory Diamond, Al Ferraro, Kevin Carrico, Joyce Morgan; School Board Member Kelly Coker

Also: Bill Killingsworth – Planning and Development Department; Paige Johnston – Office of General Counsel; Jeff Clements and Colleen Hampsey – Council Research Division; Carol Brock and Chet Aikens - ECAs; Maritza Sanchez and Barbara Hobson– Legislative Services Division

Meeting convened: 3:02 p.m.

Council Member Bowman convened the meeting and thanked his fellow council members for attending today. Mr. Bowman said that Planning and Development Department Director Bill Killingsworth has met with several council members representing districts south/east of the St. Johns River to help develop this first redistricting map proposal, and will likely meet with others as well to get their input. Mr. Bowman said he will decide after this meeting if the full Special Committee meeting scheduled for next week is timely or if it can be rescheduled.

Bill Killingsworth presented a first draft of a map of the districts south and east of the St. Johns River and described how the existing districts were adjusted to get to this first proposal. He also presented two alternative plans based on comments provided by Council Members Becton and Ferraro.

Council Member Carrico described his objection to the proposed revisions to his District 4 that replace a large amount of traditional single-family residential neighborhoods with multi-family apartments and disrupt the core constituencies of his district. Mr.

Killingsworth said he would try another version that takes those considerations into account.

Council Member Ferraro said that he hears from his constituents that current Districts 2 (the portion south of the St. Johns River) and 3 have a lot in common and have similar issues. Council Member Diamond said he has no objection to districts crossing the river and prefers the current structure of District 2 rather than splitting the district into separate districts north and south of the river. Mr. Ferraro said he also does not object to the river crossing, but is concerned about how the Oceanway area relates to the Black Hammock Island area. Council Member Bowman said he is not generally impressed with how the first proposal deals with his district on the eastern and northern sides, but understands that it makes logical sense given where the population overload exists. Mr. Diamond said that his district's constituents will be thrilled to be kept together in a Beaches-centric district with only a small crossing over the Intracoastal Waterway to the west. He thinks the Councilman Becton proposal is more disruptive to the current districts than the Planning Department's initial proposal.

Council Member Morgan said she would prefer to keep more of the Regency Square area in District 1 rather than having it shift to District 2. She suggested an extension of District 1 to the south to Atlantic Boulevard through a mostly commercial area which should not change the population balance very much. School Board member Kelly Coker said the Regency Square Library is important as a community meeting place. She agreed with earlier comments about the Black Hammock Island area being a defined community of interest that should be kept intact. Council Member Ferraro said the two halves of his district are very unique, but together they make a reasonable district. Council Member Diamond said that if the northern portion of current District 2 is connected to the northern portion of adjacent District 7, then the Black Hammock Island community would be in a district with downtown Jacksonville, which are completely dissimilar. Mr. Killingsworth said that current Districts 1, 4 and 11 all need to lose population. He said it could be possible to make the Beaches District 13 extend northward rather than westward, crossing the St. Johns River Ferry to incorporate the Black Hammock Island area rather than crossing the Intracoastal Waterway south of the river as it currently does.

Council Member Carrico said he would rather have the Deerwood area than the Baymeadows area in District 4. If the Council Member Becton proposed map is adopted then he would not have a high school in his district, which may be important to the School Board member covering that area. Mr. Ferraro agreed with the importance of having a high school and/or library in the district as community meeting places that meet community needs.

Mr. Killingsworth summarized his takeaways from today's meeting. He will produce a new map that: 1) keeps the Regency Square area in District 1; 2) takes the Baymeadows area out of District 4 and replaces it with the Deerwood area; and 3) returns a river crossing to District 2 as it currently exists to see how that affects the other districts on the south/east side of the river. He will have a new map with these

changes for the next meeting and will meet with the council members representing districts on the north/west side of the river to do the same process this group did today for their side of the river. Chairman Bowman said he will delay the full Special Committee meeting currently scheduled for next week if that area council member meeting hasn't been accomplished by then and produced a revised proposal ready for discussion by the full group.

Meeting adjourned 3:39 p.m.

Jeff Clements, Council Research Division

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Posted 9.7.21 5:00 p.m.