

October 18, 2022

MEMORANDUM

TO: Honorable City Council Members

FROM: The Honorable Terrance Freeman, Council President

SUBJECT: Special Committee on Redistricting

In accordance with the Middle District of Florida's Federal Court Order, Jacksonville Branch of the NAACP, et. al, v. City of Jacksonville, et. al., Case No. 3:22-cv-493-MMH-LLL (October 12, 2022) as President of the Jacksonville City Council, I hereby create the 2022 Special Committee on Redistricting.

Background:

Pursuant to Council Rule 2,103, the 2022 Special Committee on Redistricting (the "Committee") is being appointed.

Charter Sections 5.02 and 13.03 impose upon the Council the duty and responsibility of redistricting the Council districts and the School Board districts. The Council is obligated to ensure that all districts are as nearly equal in population and are arranged in a logical and compact geographical pattern as possible to achieve compliance with federal and state laws. The geographical arrangement and territorial boundaries must take into consideration other factors, particularly compactness and contiguity, so that residents of the City and their varied economic, social and ethnic interests and objectives are adequately represented in the configuration of Council and the School Board districts. Redistricting legislation with a place holder map will be introduced at the October 25, 2022 City Council meeting. This legislation will have the bill number of 2022-800.

Charge:

a) Obtain Legally Permissible Considerations for Redistricting in Accordance with State, Federal and Case Law

The Committee will receive guidance about what is required by local, state, and federal law, as well as the Court's October 12, 2022, Order, to draw constitutional and legally defensible districts. Based on that advice the Committee will identify criteria to guide the process of drawing new district maps.

b) Preparation of Plan to be Submitted to Council

The Committee shall prepare a map consistent with the legal guidance. The final map will be considered by Council at a Special Council Meeting scheduled for Friday November 4, 2022.

I look forward to receiving the Committee's work product as they complete their duties.

Members:

Council President Terrance Freeman, Chair
Council Member Aaron Bowman, Co-Vice Chair
Council Member Rory Diamond, Co-Vice Chair
Council Member Nick Howland
Council Member Sam Newby
Council Member Ju'Coby Pittman
Council Member Randy White

Deadline:

The Committee shall meet over the next few weeks and is tasked to submit its map to the full Council at the Council Meeting scheduled for Friday November 4, 2022.

Thank you to each of the Council Members and the staff who make the commitment to serve on this important committee.

cc: Council Members and Staff
Margaret "Peggy" Sidman, Director/Council Secretary
Merriane Lahmeur, Chief, Legislative Services Division
Yvonne Mitchell, Chief, Administrative Services Division
Jeff Clements, Chief, Research Division
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