**January 27, 2022**

**Redistricting Question, Concerns & Recommendations**

**Speaker #1**

**Joy Burgess**

**4323 Edgewater Circle Drive**

**Jacksonville, FL 32257**

**Council District 6**

**Questions:**

What strategies were used to educate residents about the redistricting process and their role in these second questions?

How were local residents included in the decision making as it pertains to the mapping process?

Are the proposed maps subject to legal challenge based on racial packing in districts 7, 8, 9 & 10?

**Concern:**

Lack of engagement with the citizens of the community, and how this information and the totality to the process has been made available.

**Recommendations:**

Utilize district demographical data from the Supervisor of Elections to the data that was used to create the proposed district maps, this is useful in showing how the proposed maps alter the demographics in each voting district.

Process should be consistent with the federal government in applying the definition of race and how so that a consistent definition is applied to the districts.

Create an executive summary to allow all of us to really understand what has happened to us, and the impact that it has on us for the next 10 years.

Create a citizen ad-hoc committee which would allow citizens to be involved in the redistricting process.

**Speaker #2**

**Eric Parker**

**2720 Garris Lane**

**Jacksonville, FL 32226**

**Council District 2**

**Concern:**

The council favored the incumbents when drawing the maps.

Noted that District 2 crosses the river and request the committee to use natural borders.

Referencing the areas of East Arlington and Arlington having more in common with the Beaches than Oceanway.

**Speaker #3**

**Greg Winters**

**Concern:**

The community of Marietta is divided among three districts 8, 9 and 12. Requesting that the committee not split neighborhoods.

**Speaker #4**

**Sam Cooley**

**Concerns:**

Districts 9 and 10 are not compact and appear to be partisan gerrymandering.

Neighborhoods being unnecessarily split.

Proposed maps appear to maintain existing partisan gerrymandering.

Communities of interests are not being properly represented.

**Speaker #5**

**Cole Gabriel**

**Concerns:**

Lack of information available and relevant to public comment, readable draft maps were not made available during the redistricting committee meetings and meetings were conducted where public comment was not permitted.

Map boundary lines were drawn prioritizing incumbents of both council and school board members living along district boundaries.

Black residents are being unfairly and perhaps illegally packed into minority districts where their voting power is being reduced.

An executive summary is needed detailing the process and methodology of the data collected and what studies were performed and what impact of citizen input from redistricting meeting was considered.

Draft legislation to change the redistricting process to be led and approved by an independent committee.

**Speaker #6**

**Thomas Martin**

**Concerns:**

Map of district 14 including Argyle reaching all the way to Riverside should be reassessed with starting points west to Cecil airport then– along the county boundary to 103rd street to the and then back to the city line to 103rd Street.

Districts need to me more compact according to the legal requirement under the City Charter.

**Speaker #7**

**Daniel Henry**

**8150 Point Meadows Drive, Apt #1411**

**Jacksonville, FL 32256**

**Council District 11**

**Concerns:**

City using the outdated definition of races, therefore creating a dynamic that if someone marked mixed race on the census, they may identify themselves as either Hispanic or Black; the outdated definition overstates the white population creating an unfair representation in certain districts.

What functional analysis was completed to determine the percentage that would be required in certain community of interest in order to allow voters to elect candidates of their choice?

**Speaker #8**

**Nancy Stats**

**Concern:**

Fair representation among all races in the districts.

**Question:**

What changes can be made to the current maps to improve the voting effectiveness not only in districts 7,8, 9 and 10 but in all districts?

**Speaker #9**

**Jane Kosut**

Referred to the Supervisor of Elections District Demographic Profile Report; asked that the committee use the latest report compared to the proposed map data which should show and lessening or strengthening of voting advantage by party’s race.

**Question**

Proposed redistricting maps subject to legal challenge based on racial packing of districts 7,8, and 9?

**Speaker #10**

**Tyra Smude**

**Concern:**

Districts to the west of the river are not logical in shape as they are in districts to the south and east.

**Recommendation:**

Criteria defined and presented to citizens in a clearer format for understanding.

**Speaker #11**

**Suzanne Barker**

**Concerns:**

Incumbents have an unfair advantage when redistricting maps were drawn. Some parity needs to be there so there could be competition, where it wouldn't be a given one way or another that one would be Republican or Democrat.

Noted that other cities and counties in Florida use an independent panel to handle redistricting.

**Speaker #12**

**Bill Lewis**

**Concern:**

Logical and compact districts are required under the city charter, neither of which were adhered to in this redistricting process.

**Speaker #13**

**Megan Moxhet - Did not speak**

**Speaker #14**

**Michael Anderson**

**Concerns:**

Neighborhoods being split and are not logical and compact.

Referenced District 11 and the boundary lines running along San Marco to the south and then to Old St. Augustine Rd., these neighborhoods and communities do not have anything in common.

**Speaker #15**

**Sherie McKenzie**

**Concerns:**

Lack of information available regarding upcoming redistricting meetings.

Salamander or packing appears to happen in some districts; referencing District 9, residents of Sherwood Forest have nothing in common with residents living south of 103rd Street where she resides.

**Speaker #16**

**Michelle Hollie**

**Concerns:**

Voices of the residents are not being heard and maps are being recycled.

Lack of engagement and availability to participate in the redistricting process.

**Questions:**

What were the guiding principles and input when you created this pass?

Were the proposed maps drawn for partisan gerrymandering?

Was there any attempt to undo the shapes of the districts that had already existed?

**February 3, 2022**

**Redistricting Question, Concerns & Recommendations**

**Speaker #1**

**Gloria Einstein**

**Concern:**

Proposed redistricting maps have been drawn to protect incumbents and have not allowed for competitiveness for candidacy.

**Recommendation:**

Allowing the maps as proposed to be approved would be a disservice to the citizens of Jacksonville and the maps should be revised to reflect competitive districts.

**Speaker #2**

**Pat Wojciechowski**

**Concern:**

The committee’s decision to use the total population count for redistricting to include people under the age of 18 and those incarcerated rather than only using the voting age population.

**Recommendations:**

Incarcerated individuals should not be counted in areas where prisons exist because they unfairly swell the population counts for those districts.

Voting age population should only be counted to ensure that population parity between council districts.

**Speaker #3**

**Ted Hornoi-Centerwall**

**Recommendations:**

Hold a special committee on redistricting and create an executive summary that reflects the process and make available to the average citizen.

Rather than count the people in the districts, count the potential voting age population. This is more realistic and defensible option.

Create an Ad Hoc Task Force with the purpose of having a much healthier approach to redistricting by involving citizens, school board members, City Council, community activists, etc.

**Speaker #4**

**Eric Parker**

**2720 Garris Lane**

**Jacksonville, FL 32226**

**Council District 2**

**Questions:**

Are these meetings adhering to the Sunshine Law?

Will the public comments during the public hearings be taken into consideration by the special committee?

Why were the redistricting meetings conducted before the proposed district lines were drawn instead of after they were drawn?

Why are the redistricting meetings conducted at 6:00pm to 7:30pm when some of the public can attend and previous meetings were conducted at 3:00pm to 5:00pm making it more difficult for the public to attend?

**Concern:**

Conflict of interest needs be addressed regarding Council District 2. The spouse of the ECA for the Chairman of the Redistricting Committee is one of the Republican candidates that has filed to run in the district. The connection between the candidate and the proposed redistricting map, specifically the lines south of the St. Johns River need to be questioned.

**Recommendation:**

All questions and concerns need to be considered by legal counsel.

**Speaker #5**

**Daniel Henry**

**8150 Point Meadows Drive, Apt #1411**

**Jacksonville, FL 32256**

**Council District 11**

**Questions:**

Regarding the definitions of race, the City of Jacksonville did not use the OMB definition and standards and how it is categorized, why not?

Referencing communities of interest, was there a functional analysis or report to defend the presumptions that were made in the member-to-member meetings as to how many voters or people and districts are needed to elect a person that looks like them?

**Speaker #6**

**Alexander Watkins**

**4950 Richard Street**

**Jacksonville, FL 32207**

**Council District 5**

**Concern:**

Potential racial packing primarily in council districts 7, 8, 9 & 10 and communities of interest are not being taken into consideration when districts are drawn.

**Recommendations:**

Ensure that every citizen of the city has equal representation to adequately vote for people that will represent them and have no majority or personal interests.

Fair representation of black and brown people in the community.

**Speaker #7**

**Michael Anderson**

**Questions:**

Regarding the redistricting process, how is the City of Jacksonville involving young people in the process?

What statistics and data are available by age group, specifically regarding District 11?

**Concern:**

Proposed redistricting maps are keeping minorities in the northern part of the city.

**Recommendation:**

Proposed maps need to be logical and compact.

**Speaker #8**

**Judy Sheklin**

**Concern:**

The public was largely excluded from the beginning of the redistricting process.

**Questions:**

What criteria was used to draw the maps to equalize the population between districts?

Regarding districts 7, 8, 9 & 10 having the highest population of black voters whereas district 12 only has 67,000 to 68,000 total population versus the other nine districts that have 72,000 to 74,000 total population.

Will there be the availability of electronic/video communication for the public to submit and participate in the future redistricting cycles?

**Recommendations:**

Noted that other localities around the country citizen groups are creating redistricting plans and maps and have been received much more positively.

Referenced the previous meeting at Ed White High School and a previous question that was asked and was not answered. “Whether the proposed maps have shifted the voting advantage of either political party in any district or in the at large districts?”

**Speaker #9**

**Elizabeth Sams**

**Question:**

How will the proposed maps change the influence of racial minorities or political parties?

What is the plan to inform the citizens once the proposed maps are approved?

**Recommendations:**

Review the District Demographic Analysis Report provided by the Supervisor of Elections and compare that to the proposed maps to see what has changed in the districts.

Create a more inclusive and fairer process and consider best practices like other local governments utilizing independent bodies to conduct the redistricting process.

**Speaker #10**

**LaShonda Holloway**

**Concern:**

Districts 7, 8, 9 & 10 are racially packed and undermine the ability of black voters in citywide politics.

**Questions:**

Regarding race, the City of Jacksonville did not use the federal definition of race, why?

District 8 has a 70 % African American population, whereas District 12 has a 33% African American population, why not consider increasing District 12 with more of a minority population?

**Recommendation:**

Competitive districts are needed in the city.

**Speaker #11**

**Joy Burgess**

**4323 Edgewater Circle Drive**

**Jacksonville, FL 32257**

**Council District 6**

**Concern:**

Citizens being left out of the redistricting process and the availability of the information.

**Recommendations:**

An executive summary is needed that can be referred to when preparing for the next redistricting process.

Create a citizen Ad Hoc Task Force representing the diversity in the City not just racial and ethnic diversity, but age and gender, etc. and begin to plan for the next 10-year redistricting process.

Consider having an independent redistricting commission of citizens to allow for equitable districts.

**Speaker #12**

**Tim Vergens**

**Concerns:**

One of the goals that was mentioned of redistricting was to protect incumbents rather than voters being represented by Council representatives that represent the communities.

Regarding the goal of compactness, districts are not compact in nature, rather squiggly and stripy.

In reference to the legality and importance of intent and gerrymandering, deliberately ignoring or deliberately not doing the necessary analysis to make sure that you are properly representing your citizens is intentionally discriminating.

**February 10, 2022**

**Redistricting Question, Concerns & Recommendations**

**Speaker #1**

**Janie Jones**

**3806 Hammock Bluff Drive**

**Jacksonville, FL 32226**

**Concern:**

The proposed boundary line changes in District 2 suggest racially packing and splitting of neighborhoods; specifically, the Yellow Bluff Landing neighborhood being reassigned to District 7. This neighborhood does not share the same common interests as the neighborhoods west of I-95 where the bulk of District 7 lies.

**Recommendation:**

Restore this section of the corridor to District 2 to comply with law and create compact, contiguous districts which reflect community shared interests.

**Speaker #2**

**Mike Ludwick**

**13490 Gran Day Pkwy, APT 212**

**Jacksonville, FL 32258**

**Concern:**

City Council members have conflicts of interest as elected officials in the redistricting process.

**Recommendation:**

Reject the proposed maps drawn for partisan gerrymandering and utilize an independent consultant to facilitate the redistricting process and start over.

**Speaker #3**

**Daniel Henry**

**8150 Point Meadows Drive, Apt #1411**

**Jacksonville, FL 32256**

**Council District 11**

**Question:**

Referencing the Florida Legislature and their ability to conduct a formal functional analysis, why has the City of Jacksonville been unable perform such an analysis to determine the percentage required in certain communities of interest in order to allow voters to elect candidates of their choice?

**Speaker #4**

**Rosemary McCoy**

**1418 Manotak Point Drive, Unit 105**

**Jacksonville, FL 32210**

**Concerns:**

The City of Jacksonville has never conducted a functional analysis to ensure the proposed redistricting plan complies with Section 2 of the Voting Rights Act.

Referenced a letter sent to the City with a detailed report revealing consistent patterns of racially polarized voting between black and white voters.

Racial packing in Districts 7, 8, 9 & 10 and School Board Districts 4 & 5.

**Recommendation:**

Request the Rules Committee and City Council to analyze the data presented to them and, as necessary, redraw the currently proposed neighborhood seat plan such that Black voters are properly and lawfully represented in the final plan.

**Speaker #5**

**Eric Parker**

**2720 Garris Lane**

**Jacksonville, FL 32226**

**Council District 2**

**Concern:**

Communities of shared interests, the residents that reside on New Berlin Road in District 2 have more in common with the residents east and west as opposed to the residents north and south of the St. Johns River.

**Speaker #6**

**Lanelle Phillimon**

**10377 Sequoya Drive**

**Jacksonville, FL 32257**

**Concerns:**

The lack of access to the redistricting process to give comments and feedback at committee and member-to-member meetings since they were conducted during the day while most people are working.

The 2020 census data was not used to draw new maps as opposed to taking the existing district map lines and adjusting them to mathematically accommodate the goals.

**Recommendation:**

Listen to the comments that the concerned citizens have spoken about as elected representatives address the needs of all residents ensuring that each voter has equal representation and value in their district.

**Speaker #7**

**Alexander Watkins**

**4950 Richard Street**

**Jacksonville, FL 32207**

**Council District 5**

**Concern:**

Address racial packing in districts 7, 8, 9 & 10 and limiting the impact of Black voters citywide.

**Recommendations:**

Listen to the concerns and comments of the citizens regarding racial packing. Engage with the community to understand the intricate and delicate nature of this issue before finalizing the redistricting plan.

Ensure that every citizen of the city has equal representation to adequately vote for people that will represent them and have no majority or personal interests.

**Speaker #8**

**Sharmin Smith**

**828 14th Avenue South**

**Jacksonville, FL 32250**

**Recommendations:**

Reject the proposed gerrymandered districts and redraw new districts within federal guidelines.

Consider the possibility of adding redistricting as a referendum on the ballot in the next election.

**February 17, 2022**

**Redistricting Question, Concerns & Recommendations**

**Speaker #1**

**Rodney L. Hurst, Sr.**

**5863 Cover Pine Court**

**Jacksonville, FL**

**Concern:**

After consolidation and annexation, commitments were made to the Black community that assured voters would be equally and properly represented.

**Recommendation:**

The commitment to minority access districts should be maintained and promises of consolidation should be kept.

**Speaker #2**

**Anthony Brown**

**Jacksonville, FL**

**Concerns:**

The communities of Moncrief, Durkeeville and New Town are being ignored and neglected.

**Recommendations:**

Provided a list of demands for the Moncrief, Durkeeville and New Town areas regarding the following areas of concerns:

* Infrastructure issues related to sidewalks, noise reduction, beautification, Neighborhood Bill of Rights, and new funding needs.
* Neighborhood Bill of Rights and addendums
* New Funding for community programs and projects for Black owned business and Teen Programs.

**Speaker #3**

**Carnell Oliver**

**8527 Oak Leaf Road**

**Jacksonville, FL 32208**

**Concerns:**

There hasn’t been enough progression with redistricting since the last redistricting and the proposed maps are status quo. There needs to be change associated with the redistricting process.

Address racial packing in districts 7, 8, 9, & 10.

**Recommendation:**

Employ an independent authority to redraw the maps and correct the racial packing in districts 7, 8, 9, & 10.

**Speaker #4**

**Jessica Ransome**

**9037 Devon Pines Drive**

**Jacksonville, FL 32211**

**Concerns:**

The committee is not taking the citizen’s input and feedback into consideration that has been given during the public hearings. Reiterated the concerns and recommendations presented at prior meetings.

Overall process and transparency of redistricting.

Lack of availability and engagement by the citizens in the process.

Boundary line recommendation changes provided by citizens.

Racial packing in districts 7, 8, 9, & 10.

Citizens expressed concerns and made several regarding the redistricting process.

The disparity between how the City of Jacksonville defines definition of race versus the 2020 US census data definition has led to the city overcounting the White population.

Not using a functional analysis that examines the data behind the reasons the proposed boundary lines were drawn.

The proposed maps are drawn to protect incumbents and are not incompliance with law as they are not logical and compact.

The maps do not represent the people of Jacksonville, they were drawn to protect the promise of both sides of partisanship of the aisle at the expense of our neighborhoods and communities.

**Recommendation:**

Request that the maps be redrawn to protect the equality and representation of citizens in all communities.

**Speaker #5**

**Joy Burgess**

**4323 Edgewater Circle Drive**

**Jacksonville, FL 32257**

**Council District 6**

**Concerns:**

Lack of citizen engagement and availability of information regarding the redistricting process.

Districts 7, 8, 9, & 10 are racially packed and undermine the ability of Black voters in citywide politics.

**Recommendations:**

Create a citizen Ad Hoc Committee to provide an executive summary as a reference tool for what is needed when planning for the next 10-year redistricting process.

Provide a functional analysis or report with data supporting the reasoning for the new district lines.

Consider having an independent consultant address redistricting in 2030.

Utilize an independent consultant to address redistricting in 2030.

Redraw the maps and address racial packing in districts 7, 8, 9 & 10 and the splitting of neighborhoods.

**Speaker #6**

**Alejandra Grenada**

**Concern:**

The proposed maps suggest that that minority populations are underrepresented and overpacking districts 7, 8, 9 & 10 and beyond what is necessary to have an ability to elect a preferable candidate, and this is in violation of Section 2 of the Voting Rights Act.

**Recommendations:**

Conduct a localized analysis of racial Black voting and effectiveness thresholds and avoid local city council districts in a manner that faces voters of color and districts based on their race.

Listen to the comments that the concerned citizens have expressed as elected representatives address the needs of all residents ensuring that each voter has equal representation and value in their district.

**Speaker #7**

**Therese Gamble**

**12920 Haverford Road North**

**Jacksonville, FL 32218**

**Concerns:**

Opposed to using total population and requested that the committee use voting age population for redistricting. Due to the Covid pandemic, the 2020 Census did not count everyone, especially in the minority community.

Racial packing in districts 7, 8, 9 & 10 and limiting the impact of Black voters citywide.

Address racial packing in districts 7, 8, 9 & 10.

**Recommendations:**

Use voting age population instead of total population when redistricting and redraw the maps and change the way the City has conducted the redistricting process.

**Speaker #8**

**Perez McClain**

**1198 West 12th Street**

**Jacksonville, FL**

**Concerns:**

The abundancy of abandoned properties in the area; the owners of the homes generally do not live in the area therefore are not keeping up with maintenance, and causing a nuisance and creating an eyesore for the community

**Recommendation:**

The City formalize an ordinance to prohibit that these homes in the area do not sit vacant and are used/rented or sold at a reasonable price to the citizens in minority communities.

**Speaker #9**

**Alexander Watkins**

**4950 Richard Street**

**Jacksonville, FL 32207**

**Council District 5**

**Concerns:**

Racial packing in districts 7, 8, 9 & 10.

**Recommendations:**

Redraw or redesign the maps to address racial packing.

Maps need to be redrawn to unpack districts 7, 8, 9 & 10

Conduct a functional analysis as requested at each meeting. Consider the voting age instead of total population and provide an executive summary for future redistricting

**Speaker #10**

**Daniel Henry**

**8150 Point Meadows Drive, Apt #1411**

**Jacksonville, FL 32256**

**Council District 11**

**Question:**

Where is the data analysis to determine the percentage required in certain communities of interest in order to allow voters to elect candidates of their choice? This is the same questions that has been asked and re-asked and has yet to be answered.

**Recommendation:**

Listen to the comments and address the public’s questions when the maps are decided. The concerned citizens have spoken about as elected representatives address the needs of all residents ensuring that each voter has equal representation and value in their district.

**Speaker #11**

**Patrice DiMontague**

**2547 Barry Drive South**

**Jacksonville, FL**

**Recommendation:**

Maps should be drawn to be fair to everyone in all districts. The committee should be thinking about the future of the generations ahead that will be affected by new boundary lines.

**Speaker #12**

**Eric Parker**

**2720 Garris Lane**

**Jacksonville, FL**

**Council District 2**

**Concerns:**

Gerrymandering of districts and protecting the incumbents through the redistricting process.

**Recommendation:**

Asking the committee to abandon their political aspirations and listen to the citizen’s requests for change in districts regarding racial packing, gerrymandering and incumbency protection. The decisions that are made will be the outcome of how Jacksonville will be for the next 10 years.

**Speaker #13**

**Tyra Smude**

**1309 Avondale**

**Jacksonville, FL**

Tyra Smude said she used an online app to look at the districts in detail and is appalled by School Board District 6. She has tried to make suggestions to the committee but never heard anything back from the council members. Who sets the standards for what is compact? Why was there no historical presentation about why the districts are the way they are as promised at the last meeting? The process has been inefficient and doesn’t represent citizen interests.

**Concerns:**

The lack of communication between the citizens and committee regarding the concerns that have been voiced at each of the meetings.

**Question:**

Why hasn’t there been a historical overview of why the districts are drawn the way they are currently? Who determines what is compact for a district?

**Recommendation:**

Creating an Ad Hoc Committee that is efficient and represents citizens interests informing and involving citizens of the redistricting process.

**Speaker #14**

**Velma Roundsville**

**3238 Sedona Trail**

**Jacksonville, FL**

**Recommendation:**

Hire an independent authority for the next redistricting process in 2030. The committee should review the merits of the redistricting process and possible amendments or changes to the charter should be taken into consideration.

**Speaker #15**

**Leola Williams**

**5012 Princely Avenue**

**Jacksonville, FL**

**Concerns:**

The redistricting process needs to be improved and has been a disservice to the citizens.

The public needs to be advised more with information before meetings and the information should be easily accessible.

The proposed maps protect incumbents instead of the City protecting the citizens.

**Recommendation:**

Inform the public early of the redistricting process and allow the citizens to be involved.

**Speaker #16**

**Jennifer Cowart**

**6073 Littlesprings Ct**

**Jacksonville, FL**

**Concerns:**

The committee has a chance to do something transformative to really assess the impact of packing

and fracking in districts and assess the representation of the communities across Duval County.

The prioritization of incumbency and preservation of the status quo, rather than representing the citizens of Jacksonville.

Lack of information available to the citizens regarding the redistricting process.

**Recommendation:**

Provide an executive summary to illustrate the process and solicit engagement from the community and in conjunction with an independent advisory board.

**Speaker #17**

**Sam Coodley**

**340 Nixon Street**

**Jacksonville, FL 32204**

**Concerns:**

Concerned that all speakers are not being heard, Pastor Gundy is in attendance and is being denied the ability to speak at the public hearing due the Chair of the committee moving up the deadline for the speaker cards to be turned in for record.

Racial packing in districts 7, 8, 9, & 10.

The election for the At-large Council District 3 has low turnout due to the voting sites in the minority districts closing early.

**Speaker #18**

**Ben Frazier**

**9646 Watershed Drive South**

**Jacksonville, FL 32220**

**Concerns:**

Proposed redistricting plan is unfair to Black residents; protects incumbency and hurts the ability to impact city politics and dilutes the voting power of the citizens.

**Recommendation:**

Hire an independent consultant and create a new plan that meets constitutional guidelines and constitutional muster. The plan should allow the people to pick the politicians and not the other way around.