

Opposition to Mayor's Proposed Maps in City Council Bill 23-0428

Isaac Leal

October 7<sup>th</sup>, 2023

To City Council,

I wanted to provide an update to the Baltimore City Council regarding my position. I was present at the virtual meeting on October 5<sup>th</sup>, 2023, and testified in my support for a configuration that would maximize the Latinx community's influence. I went through a redistricting software, Dave's Redistricting, and came up with 4 configurations for District 1 that applied to 22 maps. I attached links to these maps in this letter in Dave's Redistricting, along with a link to the shapefiles for the configurations and the maps as a .geojson and Shapefile. Additionally, there will be a Google Drive link to a folder with PNGs, Shapefiles, .geojsons, and demographic data.

To read the maps, the configurations for District 1 are labeled A-D. Each number corresponds to a different situation. 1 is an attempt to keep the districts least-change from the current proposed map while increasing the Latinx population in District 1. 2 is an attempt to create a District 14 that maximizes the Asian-American Pacific Islander (AAPI) population that currently exists around Johns Hopkins University while increasing the Latinx population in District 1. 3 is an attempt to achieve compactness from changes to District 1 by connecting Locust Point with Canton and Fells Point, among other neighborhoods in District 11. 4 is an attempt to configure the neighborhoods in and around Downtown, Mount Vernon, and Bolton Hill within a District 11 that would contain a significant AAPI population, along with District 14 while increasing the Latinx population in District 1. 5 is an attempt to combine 2 and 3, where the AAPI population is increased in District 14 while adjusting the geography by connecting Locust Point with Canton and Fells Point and also increasing the Latinx population in District 1. Due to the geographic constraints of the Northwest Harbor, 6 only applies to configurations C and D, and aims to create a District 14 with an increased AAPI population, a District 12 with an increased AAPI population, while also increasing the Latinx population in District 1.

Maintaining compactness, neighborhood cohesion, population constraints, and community support is exceptionally complicated. These maps are neither ideal nor necessarily representative of the needs of the communities that have expressed concerns. Rather, they are a starting point from what I consider to be a significant issue with representation and community cohesion in Southeast Baltimore. Nonetheless, I hope that the Baltimore City Council and the Mayor's Office are able to take action to improve representation for all communities in Baltimore, and to create a Baltimore that is as prosperous, dynamic, and healthy as it is diverse.

Regards,

Isaac Leal

Note: I was unable to find the shapefile for the original map, so I had to approximate it. If it is not accurate, I sincerely apologize. These maps can be submitted to the Planning Department as well if they would like to take a look.

#### Links

[Google Drive Link](#)

[Original Proposed Map](#)

[Configuration A](#)

[Configuration B](#)

[Configuration C](#)

[Configuration D](#)

[Map A1](#)

[Map B1](#)

[Map C1](#)

[Map D1](#)

[Map A2](#)

[Map B2](#)

[Map C2](#)

[Map D2](#)

[Map A3](#)

[Map B3](#)

[Map C3](#)

[Map D3](#)

[Map A4](#)

[Map B4](#)

[Map C4](#)

[Map D4](#)

[Map A5](#)

[Map B5](#)

[Map C5](#)

[Map D5](#)

[Map C6](#)

[Map D6](#)