

Greene, Larry (City Council)

From: Degraffenreidt, Aaron (City Council)
Sent: Thursday, October 12, 2023 10:53 AM
To: Greene, Larry (City Council)
Subject: FW: Council redistricting process - request for community input

Please include this testimony for the bill file for the redistricting legislation.

Thank You!

Aaron

From: Greene, Derrick D. (City Council) <Derrick.Greene@baltimorecity.gov>
Sent: Thursday, October 5, 2023 1:53 PM
To: Anderson, Lawrence R. (City Council) <Lawrence.Anderson@baltimorecity.gov>; Degraffenreidt, Aaron (City Council) <A.Degraffenreidt@baltimorecity.gov>; Greene, Derrick D. (City Council) <Derrick.Greene@baltimorecity.gov>; Haslam, Jeneffer (City Council) <Jeneffer.Haslam@baltimorecity.gov>; Lockamy, Dexter (City Council) <dexter.lockamy@baltimorecity.gov>; Mosby, Nick (City Council) <Nick.Mosby@baltimorecity.gov>; Stoneburg, Brandon (City Council) <brandon.stoneburg@baltimorecity.gov>
Subject: FW: Council redistricting process - request for community input

Good afternoon,

FYI, please see below.

DG



Derrick D. Greene

Director of Government & Community Affairs

100 Holliday St, Suite 400
Baltimore, Maryland 21202
Office: 410-396-4804
Cell: 443.286.6964

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From: Jennifer Jarvis <jajbookbinder@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, October 5, 2023 1:42 PM
To: E Agueda <emily.agueda@gmail.com>
Cc: Torrence, James (City Council) <James.Torrence@baltimorecity.gov>; Ramos, Odette (City Council) <Odette.Ramos@baltimorecity.gov>; craig <ryetales@yahoo.com>; District 7 Staff <District7Staff@baltimorecity.gov>; Lynch, Lia (Mayor's Office) <Lia.Lynch@baltimorecity.gov>; City Council President

<CouncilPresident@Baltimorecity.gov>; James, Marvin (Mayor's Office) <Marvin.James@baltimorecity.gov>; Jill DiMauro <jilldimauro@gmail.com>; lgwilson4959 <lgwilson4959@gmail.com>; Jaclyn Paul (MCA President) <president@medfieldmd.org>; e <designsfromtheedge@yahoo.com>

Subject: Re: Council redistricting process - request for community input

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Dear Councilman Torrence,

FYI, please find below a copy of my written testimony that I submitted for the public hearings. I have another meeting to attend at the school so I cannot attend tonight; I will likely be able to attend the hearing on the 10th.

Best wishes,

Jennifer

Dear Council President Mosby, Mayor Scott and City Council representatives:

Heathbrook is a small neighborhood in North Baltimore which straddles the eastern corner of precinct 27-047 and the northwestern corner of precinct 13-002. Currently our neighborhood contains the boundary line between the 7th and 14th Council Districts, and the Mayor's proposed redistricting map would move precinct 27-047 to District 6. I am writing to you in opposition to this change.

Heathbrook works closely with our neighbors in the surrounding communities of Hoes Heights, Medfield and Rolden to improve the lives of our residents, and it's already challenging to navigate which Council rep, Councilwoman Ramos or Councilman Torrence, is responsible for any particular issue that comes up. We have worked hard to develop a good relationship with Councilman Torrence's office, and moving this precinct from District 7 to District 6 will set us back on several ongoing issues that his office is helping us address. Furthermore, we fear our residents would not get adequate representation if we are politically lumped in with larger nearby neighborhoods in the 6th district like Roland Park. While they are our neighbors, we have more in common and work more closely with Hoes Heights, Medfield and Rolden; it would be much easier to advocate for our collective needs if at the very least the current boundaries are maintained.

I realize one of the goals of redistricting is to ensure that each Council District has roughly the same population. Precinct 27-047 has a population of 1,780. When I look at the interactive map of the new boundaries, I see that a few council districts are around or slightly above 43K, so keeping our precinct in District 7 would not kick those numbers much higher than a redistricted District 2, for example. Therefore, I see no benefit to moving precinct 27-047 to District 6.

Baltimore City Council has enough on its plate that it is in your interest to empower community associations to be the most effective they can be in managing and communicating the needs of their residents. Council President Mosby and Mayor Scott should want our labor to be as productive as possible, and the way this precinct move would further hamstringing our advocacy efforts should be obvious. We are small neighborhoods and we need to work together with minimal obstacles to meet our common goals; please don't make this unpaid work, which sits on top of many other obligations and claims to our time, more difficult than it needs to be.

Sincerely,

Jennifer A. Jarvis

President, Heathbrook Community Organization
4326 Evans Chapel Rd.
Baltimore, MD 21211
heathbrookcommunity@gmail.com

On Wed, Oct 4, 2023 at 12:03 PM E Agueda <emily.agueda@gmail.com> wrote:

Thank you!

Does this represent the extent of meetings for public testimony? I believe early info mentioned three meetings could be held.

Emily Agueda
m. 443.739.6875

On Oct 4, 2023, at 11:53 AM, Torrence, James (City Council) <James.Torrence@baltimorecity.gov> wrote:

Hi All:

You can participate in the following ways:

Thursday, October 5th Town hall:

WebEx

Link: <https://bmore.webex.com/bmore/j.php?MTID=m3c7faac2176268f35862cb7e9b6c9fbd>

Dial-in: +1-408-418-9388, Access code: 2343 728 9320, Password: jrNSTwJm738

Tuesday, October 10th Town hall:

WebEx

Link: <https://bmore.webex.com/bmore/j.php?MTID=m12fa62b466992cc720c51e4c2f4ca375>

Dial-in: +1-408-418-9388, Access code: 2348 335 1275, Password: PPqWx95Cgw6

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From: Jennifer Jarvis <jjbookbinder@gmail.com>

Sent: Wednesday, October 4, 2023 11:07:56 AM

To: Ramos, Odette (City Council) <Odette.Ramos@baltimorecity.gov>

Cc: craig <ryetales@yahoo.com>; Torrence, James (City Council) <James.Torrence@baltimorecity.gov>;

District 7 Staff <District7Staff@baltimorecity.gov>; Lynch, Lia (Mayor's Office)

<Lia.Lynch@baltimorecity.gov>; City Council President <CouncilPresident@Baltimorecity.gov>; James,

Marvin (Mayor's Office) <Marvin.James@baltimorecity.gov>; Jill DiMauro <jilldimauro@gmail.com>;

Emily Agueda <emily.agueda@gmail.com>; lgwilson4959 <lgwilson4959@gmail.com>; Jaclyn Paul

(MCA President) <president@medfieldmd.org>; e <designsfromtheedge@yahoo.com>

Subject: Re: Council redistricting process - request for community input

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That's good news, thank you. I see that the hearing has been scheduled, but no agenda has been made available yet. When registering to testify, I don't immediately see this issue in the drop-down list of bills; will this be added sometime today or tomorrow, or should I just select "other/not listed"?

On Tue, Oct 3, 2023, 3:24 PM Ramos, Odette (City Council) <Odette.Ramos@baltimorecity.gov> wrote:

Good afternoon everyone

I am so grateful for your detailed responses and your interest in this process.

There will be a public hearing on Thursday, October 5th at 5pm that will be virtual. As soon as the details are posted I will send them you. Please mark your calendars so that you can share your perspective.

The Committee of the Whole is the committee that is working on this issue.

Your testimony can also be written and it can be uploaded here.

<https://www.baltimorecitycouncil.com/testify>

The next opportunity is potentially Oct 11.

Thanks!

Odette Ramos

Baltimore City Councilwoman

District 14

Office: 410-396-4814

Mobile: 443-801-8137

Odette.ramos@baltimorecity.gov

From: craig Huntley <ryetales@yahoo.com>

Sent: Tuesday, October 3, 2023 3:11 PM

To: Ramos, Odette (City Council) <Odette.Ramos@baltimorecity.gov>; Jennifer Jarvis <jaijbookbinder@gmail.com>

Cc: Torrence, James (City Council) <James.Torrence@baltimorecity.gov>; District 7 Staff <District7Staff@baltimorecity.gov>; Lynch, Lia (Mayor's Office) <Lia.Lynch@baltimorecity.gov>; City Council President <CouncilPresident@Baltimorecity.gov>; James, Marvin (Mayor's Office) <Marvin.James@baltimorecity.gov>; Jill DiMauro <jilldimauro@gmail.com>; Emily Agueda <emily.agueda@gmail.com>; lgwilson4959 <lgwilson4959@gmail.com>; Jaclyn Paul (MCA President) <president@medfieldmd.org>; e <designsfromtheedge@yahoo.com>

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I'd like to second what Jennifer has said as well as point out that the interactive district tool shows the district average with a +/- of 5%. I think keeping all districts within the range is more equitable and reasonable way to size the districts. It gives additional flexibility to take into account neighborhood boundaries.

Craig Huntley

1017 Roland Heights Ave.

On Monday, October 2, 2023 at 10:52:44 AM EDT, Jennifer Jarvis <jaijbookbinder@gmail.com> wrote:

Thank you for responding, Councilwoman. When I look at the interactive map, I see that a few council districts are around or slightly above 43K, so keeping our precinct in district 7 would not kick those numbers much higher than District 2, for example.

I do have faith that you, Councilman Torrence and Councilwoman Middleton will do your best to represent us wherever we go, but it is also the nature of our society that larger, wealthier and more influential neighborhoods like Roland Park expect more from their representatives; I have only to ask my parents, who live in Roland Park, how frequently elected leaders attend Roland Park Civic League

meetings, for example, compared to Heathbrook meetings. This is how our system works, and you all are doing your best to survive, thrive and make change where possible, just as I have to do the best that I can to make Heathbrook matter to my elected leaders.

Baltimore City has enough entrenched issues that it is in City Council's interest to empower community associations to be the most effective they can be in managing and communicating the needs of their residents; the Mayor and Council President Mosby should want our labor to be as productive as possible, and the way this precinct move would further hamstring our advocacy should be obvious. We are small, in Heathbrook's case, micro neighborhoods and we need to work together with minimal obstacles to meet our common goals; please don't make this unpaid work, which sits on top of many other obligations and claims to our time, more difficult than it needs to be.

all my best,

Jennifer

On Sun, Oct 1, 2023 at 5:55 PM Ramos, Odette (City Council) <Odette.Ramos@baltimorecity.gov> wrote:

Thanks very much for your detailed email

There is likely to be a public hearing in the evening this week or next where residents can come to express their thoughts on the map.

In the meantime you have cc'd all of the right people so that your feedback is heard.

Please note that the districts are made with several criteria:

- A. Can't redistrict current members out of their districts
- B. Have to have an average of 41,000 people in the district
- C. Have diversity in the district.
- D. Should be compact meaning not crossing another district to get to the other side of the district if possible.

In looking at the interactive map here:

<https://experience.arcgis.com/experience/5ef5ef6ed2804072b83981c9769d1cce/>

You can see that Councilman Torrence's district would be hard to incorporate that precinct again because that would mean he would have too many people. Your testimony will be enhanced by looking at the interactive map.

I will say that just in case the boundaries stay the same, Councilwoman Middleton is an excellent councilperson and will ensure the work that Councilman Torrence started is finished. While she represents most of Roland Park (as do I south of Coldspring), she is aware of the historic nature of Hoe's Heights and will ensure an equitable approach to her work.

Ideally, however, splitting neighborhoods into three districts is not ideal, and we know the Mayor tried to avoid this as much as possible.

Thanks

Odette Ramos

Baltimore City Councilwoman

District 14

Office: 410-396-4814

Mobile: 443-801-8137

Odette.ramos@baltimorecity.gov

www.odetteramos.com

From: Jennifer Jarvis <jajbookbinder@gmail.com>

Sent: Thursday, September 28, 2023 8:03 PM

To: Ramos, Odette (City Council) <Odette.Ramos@baltimorecity.gov>; Torrence, James (City Council) <James.Torrence@baltimorecity.gov>; District 7 Staff <District7Staff@baltimorecity.gov>; Lynch, Lia (Mayor's Office) <Lia.Lynch@baltimorecity.gov>; City Council President <CouncilPresident@Baltimorecity.gov>; James, Marvin (Mayor's Office) <Marvin.James@baltimorecity.gov>

Cc: craig <ryetales@yahoo.com>; Jill DiMauro <jilldimauro@gmail.com>; Emily Agueda <emily.agueda@gmail.com>; lgwilson4959 <lgwilson4959@gmail.com>; Jaclyn Paul (MCA President) <president@medfieldmd.org>

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Dear Council President Mosby, Mayor Scott, Councilman Torrence and Councilwoman Ramos,

Lydia Wilson, President of the Hoes Heights Improvement Association, and I are reaching out on behalf of the Heathbrook and Hoes Heights communities of North Baltimore regarding the proposed City Council redistricting map. It seems like there might not be much time to get our voices added to the conversation, but we hope you'll take the time to hear our concerns.

Heathbrook and Hoes Heights are geographically and historically connected, as we are bounded on all 4 sides by the same busy roads; we therefore work together to advocate for our collective needs with our City Council representatives. Parts of both Heathbrook and Hoes Heights currently straddle the 7th and 14th Districts, and it's already challenging to navigate which office is responsible for a particular issue we're having. But the proposed changes would be an even worse situation for us; they take part of Heathbrook and Hoes Heights out of the 7th district and put them into the 6th, while other parts remain in the 14th. We have worked hard to develop a good relationship with Councilman Torrence's office, and this disruption will set us back on current ongoing issues that his office is helping us address. Furthermore, we fear our residents would not get adequate representation if we are politically lumped in with larger nearby neighborhoods in the 6th district like Roland Park. While they are our neighbors, we have more in common and work more closely with Medfield and Rolden, and it would be much easier to advocate for our needs if we were under a single council district, or at the very least if the current boundaries are maintained.

We have copied Jaclyn Paul, President of the Medfield Community Association, on this email; the MCA has expressed similar concerns about the proposed changes. Can you please let us know where you stand on these issues and what the next steps are in getting community concerns addressed in this process? There doesn't seem to be any justifiable reason for this change, other than straightening out a squiggly line on the map, while there are very clear reasons not to make these changes.

Sincerely,

Jennifer Jarvis - President, Heathbrook Community Organization

Lydia Wilson - President, Hoes Heights Improvement Association