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BALTIMORE CITY COUNCIL COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

Mission Statement

On behalf of the Citizens of Baltimore City, the mission of the Committee of the Whole is to meet, discuss and study matters that have particular interest to the City as a whole and to its citizens.

**The Honorable Nick J. Mosby
Chairman**

PUBLIC HEARING

**FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 29, 2023
9:30 AM**

CLARENCES 'DU' BURNS COUNCIL CHAMBERS

RECONVENING HEARING

Council Bill 23-0428

Mayor's Redistricting Plan

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John Bullock – Vice Chair
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Antonio Glover
Odette Ramos
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Isaac “Yitzy” Schleifer
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Committee of the Whole

All Council members/mmc 9 22 23

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Staff: Deontre Hayes (410-396-1260)

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Sharon Green Middleton, Vice Chair
Isaac “Yitzy” Schleifer
Robert Stokes
Danielle McCray

Staff: Marguerite Currin (443-984-3485)



BILL SYNOPSIS

Committee: Committee of the Whole

Bill: 23-0428

Mayor's Redistricting Plan

HEARING RECONVENING

Sponsor: President Mosby at the request of the Administration (Office of the Mayor)

Introduced: September 18, 2023

Purpose:

For the purpose of establishing the boundaries of the Council Districts for the election of members of the Baltimore City Council

Effective: On the date it is enacted.

Agency Reports

Law Department	None as of this writing
Department of Finance	Does Not Oppose
Office of the Mayor	None as of this writing
Board of Elections	None as of this writing

Analysis

Current Law

Baltimore City Charter, Article 3, Section 7 – **Council Districts** - outlines the rules, regulations, and mandates for redistricting.

§ 7. Council districts.

(a) **Criteria for redistricting.** The City shall be divided by ordinance into districts for the election of members of the City Council. The criteria in redistricting shall be equality of population, contiguous territory, compactness, natural boundaries, existing council district lines, and the standards established by the Supreme Court of the United States.

(b) **Redistricting plan.** Following each census of the United States the Mayor shall prepare a plan for council redistricting. The Mayor shall present the plan to the City Council not later than the first day of February of the first municipal election year following the census.

After the Mayor's plan is presented to the City Council, the Council may adopt it or amend it or the City Council may adopt another plan. If no plan has been adopted by the City Council within sixty days after the Mayor's plan is presented, the Mayor's plan shall take effect as the redistricting ordinance.

(c) {Vacant}

(d) **Incumbent's residency.** No member of the City Council shall be required to vacate that office by reason of a change of boundary lines of that member's council district made during that member's term, as long as that member remains a resident of Baltimore City.

(e) **Residency duration for next election.** For elections following the adoption of redistricting plans, members of the City Council shall have been residents of the districts they have been chosen to represent since the preceding July 1.



Background

The Committee of the Whole held a hearing on Tuesday, September 26, 2023. Following are the hearing notes from the hearing:

Major Speakers

Marvin James, Mayor's Office
Sara Paraniyam, Planning Department
Anthony Fairfax, Census Channel LLC
Angela Zanti, President, Morrell Park Community Association
James Prost, Bolton Hill Community

Major Issues Discussed

1. President Mosby, Chairman, informed the attendees how the hearing would be conducted and gave opening remarks; some were:
 - Redistricting takes place on both the State and Local levels every ten (10) years.
 - And urged the citizens and council members to take a good look at the new MAP.
2. The representative from the Mayor's Office gave a PowerPoint Presentation. **A copy is on file.**
 - The Presentation included the following topics:
 - Overview/Background
 - The Process
 - Focus Areas
 - Drafting of the MAP
 - Key Challenges
 - Significant Changes, and
 - Proposed MAP
3. Committee/council members asked questions, made comments, and stated concerns. Some highlights of same were:
 - Comments were given regarding the role and responsibilities of the Board of Elections
 - Comments and concerns about the "Issue of splitting precincts; being moved or split."
 - Was any of the data from the last redistricting used in the Mayor's decision-making?
 - Was any of the present things used such as development that are happening within districts in your decision-making? If not, is this a variable that can be included?
 - Stakeholder Engagement Process
 - What role did stakeholders play in getting the MAP produced?
 - How did you come up with and/or what data was used to come up with the MAP?
 - Concern – **13th District**
 - Deleting portions of the 13th district and picking up other districts such as district 1 and district 3 – is of concern.
 - Why the changes?
 - Why not pull from districts 2 or 14?
 - Concern – **Sixty (60) day requirement – Clarification needed.**
 - To Law Department – the council wanted an opinion from your Department regarding the law if the Mayor vetoes the bill after the Council finishes with it/passes it.
 - What happens to the 60-day window? Please clarify!

- What is the definition of “the Council taking action?” Please clarify.
 - Will the Mayor allow the Council time to override a potential veto? And the time to do its (Council) work?
 - It is important for all of us to be on the same page.
 - Concern: The Council’s ability to take legislation action if needed!
 - This is why another hearing is scheduled for Friday, September 29, 2023!
 - Shape Files
 - We made a request for shape files!
 - The interactive MAP is great, but we would like the MAP in a “shape file.”
 - We need to do a thorough review and would prefer the MAP in a “shape file,” necessary to do our legislative work/duty!
 - Maybe we should make this request a part of the City Charter!
 - To Planning: Talk to us about the kind of software you use, and can we get the shape file from Planning?
4. The representative from Census Channel LLC gave a PowerPoint Presentation. **A copy is on file.**
- Questions/concerns from Committee/Councilmembers – addressed to speaker.”
 - **Compactness** – Can you elaborate on same? What is the definition for it? What standards are you using for compactness?
 - Can you talk more about the definition for compactness and how it relates to the 7th district?
 - Is confused about some of your assumptions!
 - Can you talk about your MAP in the Presentation for the 7th District? What kind of questions you think could be raised by the residents?
 - Comments were made about the importance of being transparent!
 - Population deviation on your MAP – what data are you using and what does the adjustments include?
5. Two (2) people gave public testimony. Some comments and/or concerns expressed were:
- 1st Speaker from 10th District – **Morrell Park**
 - Just seen the MAP yesterday, and is hoping to keep the community in one district, the 10th district
 - Please look into this!
 - 2nd Speaker from 11th District – **Bolton Hill**
 - Do not want the community split between two districts, the 11th and 7th districts!
 - Want the community to remain in the 11th district.
6. The representative from the Mayor’s Office asked of he could receive copies of any Presentations presented and of any changes coming.
7. The councilmember from the 7th District made a request, “can we consider an evening meeting for the public to attend?”
8. President Mosby, Chairman gave closing remarks. Some were:
- I am asking all councilmembers to prioritize the MAP and to work with the community.
 - Requests:
 - Want the shape files!
 - Clarification about the 60-day deadline
 - Clarification about when action is needed on the bill.
 - Need all the information asked for before Friday’s meeting.
 - The councilmember from the 11th District also requested that the responses be in writing and on letterhead.
9. The hearing was called to recess; to reconvene on Friday, September 29, 2023.

Additional Information

Fiscal Note: None

Information Source(s): Notes taken at the September 26,2023 hearing.

Marguerite M. Currin

Analysis by: Marguerite M. Currin

Direct Inquiries to: (443) 984-3485

Analysis Date: September 27, 2023

CITY OF BALTIMORE
COUNCIL BILL 23-0428
(First Reader)

Introduced by: The Council President

At the request of: The Administration (Office of the Mayor)

Introduced and read first time: September 18, 2023

Assigned to: Committee of the Whole

REFERRED TO THE FOLLOWING AGENCIES: City Solicitor, Department of Finance, Office of the Mayor, Board of Elections

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ORDINANCE concerning

2 **Mayor's Redistricting Plan**

3 FOR the purpose of establishing the boundaries of the Council Districts for the election of
4 members of the Baltimore City Council.

5 BY authority of

6 Article III - City Council

7 Section 7

8 Baltimore City Charter

9 **SECTION 1. BE IT ORDAINED BY THE MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL OF BALTIMORE,** That the
10 Council Districts for the election of members of the City Council are as follows:

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS indicate matter added to existing law.
[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.

Council Bill 23-0428

(a) The 1st Council District consists of the following parts of Baltimore City:

<i>Ward</i>	<i>Precinct</i>
01	01
01	02
01	03
01	04
01	05
02	02
02	03
03	03
06	05
26	01
26	02
26	03
26	04
26	05
26	06
26	07
26	08
26	09
26	10
26	11
<u>26</u>	<u>12</u>
26	34

Council Bill 23-0428

(b) The 2nd Council District consists of the following parts of Baltimore City:

<i>Ward</i>	<i>Precinct</i>
<u>26</u>	<u>04</u>
<u>26</u>	<u>05</u>
<u>26</u>	<u>11</u>
26	14
26	15
26	16
26	22
26	23
26	24
26	25
26	26
26	27
26	28
26	29
26	30
26	31
<u>26</u>	<u>34</u>
27	06
27	07
27	08
27	10

Council Bill 23-0428

(c) The 3rd Council District consists of the following parts of Baltimore City:

	<i>Ward</i>	<i>Precinct</i>
3	08	01
4	08	02
5	08	08
6	08	09
7	27	01
8	27	02
9	27	03
10	27	04
11	27	05
12	27	09
13	27	11
14	27	12
15	27	13
16	27	14
17	27	15
18	27	16
19	27	17
20	27	18
21	27	22
22	27	23
23	27	24
24	27	25
25	27	26
26	27	68

Council Bill 23-0428

(d) The 4th Council District consists of the following parts of Baltimore City:

<i>Ward</i>	<i>Precinct</i>
09	01
09	02
12	02
27	19
27	20
27	21
27	27
27	28
27	29
27	30
27	31
27	32
27	33
27	34
27	35
27	36
27	37
27	38
27	39
27	40
27	41

(e) The 5th Council District consists of the following parts of Baltimore City:

<i>Ward</i>	<i>Precinct</i>
27	42
27	49
27	50
27	51
27	57
27	59
27	60
27	61
27	62
27	63
27	64
27	65
27	66
27	67
28	01
28	02
28	04
28	05

Council Bill 23-0428

(f) The 6th Council District consists of the following parts of Baltimore City:

<i>Ward</i>	<i>Precinct</i>
15	01
15	02
15	03
15	04
15	08
15	09
15	10
15	22
15	23
15	24
15	25
27	43
27	44
27	45
27	47
27	48
27	52
27	53
27	54
27	55
27	56
27	58
28	03
28	04

Council Bill 23-0428

(g) The 7th Council District consists of the following parts of Baltimore City:

<i>Ward</i>	<i>Precinct</i>
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12	11
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13	03
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13	04
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13	05
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13	06
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13	07
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13	08
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13	09
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13	10
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14	01
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14	04
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14	05
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15	05
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15	06
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15	07
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15	16
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15	17
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15	18
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15	19
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15	20
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15	21
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27	47
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Council Bill 23-0428

(h) The 8th Council District consists of the following parts of Baltimore City:

<i>Ward</i>	<i>Precinct</i>
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16	13
16	14
20	06
20	07
20	08
20	13
25	01
25	02
28	06
28	07
28	08
28	09
28	10
28	11
28	12
28	13
28	14
28	15

Council Bill 23-0428

(i) The 9th Council District consists of the following parts of Baltimore City:

<i>Ward</i>	<i>Precinct</i>
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14	03
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16	01
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16	02
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16	03
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16	04
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16	05
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16	06
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16	07
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16	08
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16	09
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16	10
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16	11
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16	12
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18	01
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18	02
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19	01
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19	02
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19	03
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20	01
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20	02
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20	03
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20	04
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20	05
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20	09
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20	10
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20	11
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25	03
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25	17
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Council Bill 23-0428

(j) The 10th Council District consists of the following parts of Baltimore City:

<i>Ward</i>	<i>Precinct</i>
20	09
20	12
<u>21</u>	<u>01</u>
21	02
21	03
21	04
<u>21</u>	<u>05</u>
<u>23</u>	<u>03</u>
25	03
25	04
25	05
25	06
25	07
25	08
25	09
25	10
25	11
25	12
25	13
25	14
25	15
25	16
25	17

Council Bill 23-0428

(k) The 11th Council District consists of the following parts of Baltimore City:

<i>Ward</i>	<i>Precinct</i>
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04	01
04	02
04	03
11	02
11	03
11	04
11	05
11	06
11	09
14	01
14	02
14	03
14	04
17	01
17	02
21	01
21	05
22	01
22	02
23	01
23	02
23	03
24	01
24	02
24	03
24	04
24	05

Council Bill 23-0428

(l) The 12th Council District consists of the following parts of Baltimore City:

<i>Ward</i>	<i>Precinct</i>
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03	01
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03	02
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03	03
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05	01
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05	02
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07	01
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08	04
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08	05
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08	06
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09	13
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09	14
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09	15
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10	01
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10	02
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10	03
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10	04
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11	01
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11	02
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11	07
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11	08
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12	07
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12	08
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12	09
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12	10
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12	11
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12	12
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Council Bill 23-0428

(m) The 13th Council District consists of the following parts of Baltimore City:

<i>Ward</i>	<i>Precinct</i>
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02	01
02	02
06	01
06	02
06	03
06	04
06	05
07	02
07	03
07	04
08	02
08	03
08	07
08	10
08	11
26	12
26	13
26	17
26	18
26	19
26	20
26	21
26	32
26	33

Council Bill 23-0428

(n) The 14th Council District consists of the following parts of Baltimore City:

<i>Ward</i>	<i>Precinct</i>
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08	04
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09	03
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09	04
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09	05
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09	06
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09	07
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09	09
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09	11
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09	12
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12	01
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12	02
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12	03
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12	04
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12	05
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12	06
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<u>12</u>	<u>07</u>
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12	13
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13	01
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13	02
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13	11
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13	13
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27	46
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27	69
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SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ORDAINED, That all references in this Ordinance to wards and precincts are to the wards and precincts of Baltimore City as they are constituted and of record in the office of the Board of Supervisors of Elections of Baltimore City as of the effective date of this Ordinance.

SECTION 3. AND BE IT FURTHER ORDAINED, That this Ordinance takes effect on the date it is enacted.