



*BRANDON M. SCOTT*  
*Mayor*  
*250 City Hall, 100 North Holliday Street*  
*Baltimore, Maryland 21202*

November 6, 2023

The Honorable Nick J. Mosby, Council President  
Baltimore City Council  
Attn: Natawna Austin, Executive Secretary  
Room 409, City Hall  
100 Holliday Street  
Baltimore, MD 21202

**Re: City Council Bill 23-0428 - Mayor's Redistricting Plan**

Dear Honorable President Mosby:

I am writing to you today due to remaining concerns I have with City Council Bill 23-0428 as passed on October 19, 2023. As you are aware, Article III, § 7 of the Baltimore City Charter requires the redistricting map to consider equality of population, contiguous territory, compactness, natural boundaries, existing council district lines, and the standards established by the Supreme Court of the United States.

As our staff have discussed, we proposed changes to your map that would have represented a compromise map. Those changes we proposed were:

- Adding a portion of precinct 9-006 to District 3 as a ghost precinct
- Working collaboratively to increase the population of District 3 as its proposed population is below 5% of the median population
- Adding precincts 16-001 and 16-005 to District 7 to reconnect communities
- Adding precinct 25-017 to District 9 to add an anchor institution to District 9
- Adding precincts 21-005 and 23-005 to District 10 to add anchor institutions to District 10.

Since we failed to reach an agreement on these amendments to your map, after careful consideration, I have chosen to veto City Council Bill 23-0428 pursuant to Article IV, Section 5 of the Baltimore City Charter. I have not come to this decision lightly. When we began this process,

I made it clear that I wanted to ensure that each district had similar populations, including demographic makeup, and that each district also had within it an anchor institution.

I had worked diligently with my staff as well as with the Law Department and Department of Planning to ensure that the map that I proposed would be able to pass all of the requirements as laid out in the Baltimore City Charter. Unfortunately, the amendments to CCB 23-0428 do not quite meet the same standards I had set forth to meet.

First, each district is required to have an equality of population. The map that I introduced had a nearly even distribution of population across each district and did not include much variance regardless of whether a district was located within the downtown corridor or in southwest Baltimore. While we must ensure our downtown areas are thriving, we cannot ignore our middle neighborhoods. This includes ensuring that residents in areas with higher levels of historic disinvestment have proper representation.

Second, while not mandated by the Baltimore City Charter, I tasked my Administration with producing a map that ensured that each district contained an anchor institution. The successes of our districts, much like the successes of our individual neighborhoods, oftentimes rely upon not only government entities, but on the surrounding organizations and institutions for success. As we know, anchor institutions are of great benefit to communities because they can help to raise the overall quality of life within an area by creating jobs, improving affordable housing options, and providing additional benefits that the government itself cannot provide alone.

Third, the process for the presentation of amendments on October 19, 2023 was hurried when passed, but we encountered delays when attempting to work together. While there were two public engagement opportunities scheduled in advance of this voting session, it was unclear how decisions were made based upon the feedback provided by members of the public.

It is for the above reasons, and our failure to reach an agreement on a compromise map, that I am moving forward with utilizing my authority to veto City Council Bill 23-0428 pursuant to Article IV, Section 5 of the Baltimore City Charter.

In Service,



Brandon M. Scott

*Mayor*

*City of Baltimore*