



# THE PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY GOVERNMENT

(301) 952-3700  
County Council

## 2021 Redistricting Commission

Virtual Meeting  
Monday, August 2, 2021  
Minutes

### **Members Present**

Dr. Charlene M. Dukes  
David C. Harrington

### **Member Absent**

Rev. James J. Robinson, Chair

### **Council Staff**

Robert J. Williams, Jr.  
William M. Hunt  
Raj A. Kumar, Esq.  
Karen T. Zavakos, Esq.  
Donna J. Brown  
Charlotte D. Aheart

### **Consultants**

#### **& Consultant's Staff**

Dr. Nathaniel Persily, Esq.  
Zahavah Levine  
Rosalyn E. Pugh, Esq.

### **MNCPPC Staff**

Robert Gelner

#### **1. Welcome and Opening Remarks – Commission Member/Dr. Dukes**

The meeting was called to order at 3:03 p.m. on Monday, August 2, 2021, by the Redistricting Commission Member, Dr. Charlene M. Dukes in the absence of the Chair, Pastor James J. Robinson.

#### **2. Review and Approval of Minutes – July 26, 2021**

The Commission reviewed and approved the Meeting Minutes, as written, from July 26, 2021.

**3. Proposal from Staff to Amend the Redistricting Schedule to Add Additional Public Meetings**

Staff attorney, Raj Kumar, indicated that the Census data is expected to be released on August 20, 2021. As such, there is a need for two additional meeting dates to be added to the schedule to provide additional time for the consultants to prepare a proposed map. Upon favorable motion by Commissioner Dukes, the Commission voted to amend its meeting schedule to add August 23rd and August 30th as additional dates.

**4. Next Steps — Direction to Consultant and Staff to Prepare Preliminary Draft Plan and Report for the Commission. — Questions and Answers**

Staff attorney, Raj Kumar explained that the next steps would be for the Commission to give staff direction on preparing the preliminary draft plan and report based on information received to date, including public comments and testimony from the two public hearings. The draft plan and report will be presented to the Commission on August 16<sup>th</sup>, at which time it is anticipated that the Commission will supply feedback on the draft or further direction to staff to modify the draft. Mr. Kumar indicated that a motion was needed to give staff direction to prepare a preliminary draft plan and report consideration by the Commission at the August 16<sup>th</sup> meeting. Mr. Kumar also indicated that the Commission would have additional time to finalize the draft plan and report in accordance with the official Census date on August 23rd and August 30<sup>th</sup>. Mr. Kumar emphasized that on August 16<sup>th</sup>, the Commission should be positioned to direct the Consultant to prepare a proposed map or maps that they want to see in the final plan and report because the statutory deadline to submit a final plan and report to the Council is September 1, 2021.

Commissioner Harrington indicated that he would like to know how the communication would be handled between August 16<sup>th</sup> and August 23<sup>rd</sup>. Mr. Kumar indicated that on August 16<sup>th</sup>, the Commission will be presented with a draft preliminary plan and report but not necessarily any final proposed map or maps because the Census data will not be available until approximately August 20<sup>th</sup>. Mr. Kumar also indicated that the draft is intended to serve as a format for the final plan and report. Mr. Kumar further indicated that communication between meetings will be one-on-one with each Commissioner and the Consultant not as a full body.

Dr. Persily emphasized the need to complete the plan and report as much as possible before the map is finalized. He indicated that the collection of the materials submitted to date will form the basis of the report and the most significant part would be discussing what would the final map look like. He also indicated that he is hopeful that the Census data will be released by August 20<sup>th</sup> and depending on the principles that are governing this plan, he will be likely be able to create a draft map prior to the August 23<sup>rd</sup> meeting or during that meeting with the Commissioners. Dr. Persily recommended that the Commission should think of the August 23rd meeting as finalizing the plan or map and the August 30th meeting should be viewed as finalizing the report that will accompany the plan. Dr. Persily indicated that if the Commission would like to consider other principles beyond what they previously adopted, they should inform him of any other principles before the August 23<sup>rd</sup> meeting.

Commissioner Dukes provided a summary of the main points discussed in this meeting. To recap, she indicated that once the Census data is released and Dr. Persily gets that data, further discussions and amendments to any previously proposed plans will be likely be required at the meeting on August 23<sup>rd</sup>. Commissioner Dukes emphasized that on August 16<sup>th</sup>, the Commission will need to put forth a framework of the type of map or maps that the Commission wants to pursue. Commissioner Dukes reiterated that Dr. Persily indicated that he would speak to each Commissioner one-on-one so that he can either further explain the draft map or maps or receive further input regarding the development of the maps. She also reiterated that if the Census data is delivered as promised, the Commission will be positioned to finalize the plan and report on August 30<sup>th</sup> for a timely transmittal to the County Council on September 1, 2021.

Commissioner Dukes indicated that Mr. Kumar will ensure that the Commission adheres to their responsibilities as stewards of the public trust in this process. Mr. Kumar indicated that there are principles in place that the Commission has already voted on, and that the Consultant may use those adopted principles to create the map or maps for the Commission to consider.

**5. Next Public Meeting – Monday, August 16, 2021 at 3:00 p.m.**

Commissioner Dukes announced the next scheduled meeting will be held on August 16, 2021 at 3:00 p.m.

**6. Adjourn**

The meeting was adjourned at 3:34 p.m.