THE PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY GOVERNMENT

(301) 952-3700
County Council

2021 Redistricting Commission

Virtual Meeting
Monday, August 23, 2021
Minutes

Members Present
Rev. James J. Robinson, Chair
Dr. Charlene M. Dukes
David C. Harrington

Council Staff
Robert J. Williams, Jr.
William M. Hunt
Colette R. Gresham, Esq.
Raj A. Kumar, Esq.
Karen T. Zavakos, Esq.
Kathleen H. Canning, Esq.
Donna J. Brown
Charlotte D. Aheart

Consultants
& Consultant's Staff
Dr. Nathaniel Persily, Esq.
Zahavah Levine
Rosalyn E. Pugh, Esq.

MNCPPC Staff
James Cannistra
Robert Gelner

1. **Welcome and Opening Remarks – Chair Robinson**

The meeting was called to order at 3:02 p.m.

2. **Review and Approval of Minutes – August 16, 2021**

The Commission reviewed and approved the Meeting Minutes, as written, from August 16, 2021.

3. Presentation of the Final Draft of the 2021 Redistricting Plan

Dr. Nathaniel Persily, consultant to the Commission, provided an update of the final 2020 census data. Dr. Persily indicated that the proposed draft plan from August 16, 2021, may be finalized in accordance with the official census data because it was aligned with the final review of the census data numbers. Dr. Persily further indicated that the proposed draft plan will not likely be affected by the adjusted prison population count because the plan has a population deviation of 4.5%, which will allow for any increase in district population when the adjusted prison population data is released by the State.

Dr. Persily stated that the decision to create a least change plan subject to a 4.5% population deviation will satisfy the constitutional mandate of one person, one vote.

4. Next Steps – Direction to Staff to Prepare Final 2021 Plan and Report

Staff attorney, Mr. Kumar, indicated that the Commission was positioned to move forward to direct staff to finalize the plan and report for final action on August 30, 2021. Chair Robinson made the motion to direct staff to prepare the Final 2021 Plan and Report. The motion carried 3-0.

5. Questions and Answers

Chair Robinson asked about whether the final draft plan affects municipal boundaries. Dr. Persily indicated that the final draft plan does not affect municipal boundaries. Commissioner Harrington said that they were trying to preserve subdivisions in municipalities. For example, Collington Station raised a lot of questions about the possibility of being moved out of Bowie. This recommendation does not appear in the final draft plan.

Dr. Persily indicated that under the final draft plan district boundaries were shifted that: (1) unified most of Glenn Dale, (2) moved 2 precincts in an unincorporated Adelphi area into District 2, and (3) moved the two precincts, and not splitting them, from District Heights into District 7. Commissioner Harrington indicated that the Commission has done everything to keep neighborhoods in-tact. Regarding Glenn Dale, Dr. Persily provided that most of Glenn Dale is in one District now, with only a very small portion in District 3, but it is more fully unified than before.

Chair Robinson asked about earlier considerations about population shifts in District 8 and District 9. Dr. Persily indicated that those changes were not required because the districts were the 4.5% deviation and population shifts were not needed to maintain one person, one vote.

Staff attorney, Mr. Kumar, indicated that in 2011, the County Council moved Collington Station into Bowie and that supported the current opposition from Collington Station not to be moved again. Mr. Kumar also indicated that changes were made to District 8 and District 9 in 2011, which would support not making further changes at this time.

Commissioner Dukes asked Mr. Kumar whether the most recent proposal from Mr. Bradley Heard had been posted on the Commission's webpage. Mr. Kumar indicated that proposals from Mr. Heard has not been posted because those proposals were discussed at public meetings and that Mr. Heard testified at the public hearings about his proposals. Mr. Kumar indicated that proposals from Mr. Heard could be posted on the webpage with the appropriate qualifiers prior to the next public meeting on August 30. Mr. Kumar indicated that proposals from Mr. Heard were not adequately explained and were contrary to guiding principles of the Commission, including not consistent with a least change plan.

Mr. Kumar also indicated he spoke to Mr. Heard and that he indicated that he is proposing an entirely "new" map to redraw all 9 districts based on the total increase of the County's population. In essence, Mr. Heard divided the total increase in County population from 2010 by 9 (for each district) and apportioned those numbers to each district.

Mr. Kumar further indicated that it may be necessary to qualify any posting of proposals from Mr. Heard because they are currently not adequately explained for the public to understand what they are viewing. Commissioner Dukes indicated that it would be in the interest of transparency to post the proposal or proposals from Mr. Heard so that the public is aware of what the Commission considered and how those plans compared to the guiding principles of the Commission.

Chair Robinson indicated that the Commission gained valuable insight from the proposals submitted by Mr. Heard, but he did not want Mr. Heard to orchestrate the direction of Commission. Commissioner Harrington indicated that it is very important that any proposal from Mr. Heard that is posed on the webpage should be explained. Commissioner Harrington also indicated that proposal from Mr. Heard focused on keeping assets concentrated, which was contrary to a least disruptive plan to keep people together as much as possible in their community.

6. **Next and Final Public Meeting – Monday, August 30, 2021 at 2:30 p.m.**

Chairman Robinson announced the next scheduled meeting will be held on August 30, 2021 at 2:30 p.m.

7. **Adjourn**

The meeting was adjourned at 3:29 p.m.