



STAFF REPORT

DATE: October 19, 2021

TO: Kent Cagle, City Manager

FROM: Traci Briggs, City Attorney

SUBJECT: Adopting guidelines for submitting redistricting proposals and providing comments

BACKGROUND AND FINDINGS:

The law firm of Bickerstaff Heath Delgado Acosta has been engaged to assist the City in redistricting its city council districts following the 2020 Census. On October 5, 2021, Gunnar Sequist with the Bickerstaff firm presented the Initial Assessment. At that time, Mr. Sequist discussed the process for developing plans, as well as accepting plans from the public. The importance of adopting guidelines for any plan submitted and public comments was also discussed.

The attached resolution would adopt guidelines for plans and comments. The principles include:

- Plans must be written and legible
- Plans must show total population and voting age population for African-Americans, Hispanics, Asians, and Anglo-Other for each proposed district based on the 2020 Census data
- The entire City must be included in submitted redistricting plans
- Plans must comply with the criteria adopted by the City Council for the redistricting process
- Comments must be submitted in writing and be legible
- Those submitting comments or proposals must provide their name, address and phone number, and an email address if available
- All comments must be received by the City Council by the close of the public hearing

THE ALTERNATIVES CONSIDERED:

The City Council may decline to adopt the guidelines for proposals and comments, or the City Council may adopt the guidelines.

Which alternative is recommended? Why?

Staff recommends adopting the guidelines as recommended by Bickerstaff. The guidelines will ensure the comments and proposals are of maximum assistance to the City Council.

CONFORMITY TO CITY POLICY:

This item complies with city policy.

FINANCIAL IMPACT:

What is the amount of the expenditure in the current fiscal year? For future years?

There is not fiscal impact associated with this item.

Is this a one-time or recurring expenditure?

N/A

Is this expenditure budgeted?

N/A

If not, where will the money come from?

N/A

Is there a sufficient amount in the budgeted line-item for this expenditure?

N/A

RECOMMENDATION:

Staff recommends that the City Council adopt the guidelines for redistricting plans and comments for the 2021 redistricting process.

DEPARTMENTAL CLEARANCES:

ATTACHED SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS:

Resolution