

Public Testimony provided to the 2021-2022 Ward Boundaries Task Force

As of 2/15/2022

Kristen Zacheis, Feb 15, 2022 at 11:51 AM, from <kristen.zacheis@gmail.com>

To the Annapolis Ward Boundaries and Redistricting Task Force,

I live on Bertina A Nick Way, just off of Clay Street and have lived here for 3 years. I just read the article in the Sunday Capital Gazette regarding the Redistricting that will split up this community. I am outraged! As I watch the people try their hardest to thrive and have a voice, I see the many outside factors that try to leave us behind. It's bad enough that so many citizens of Annapolis are against the Clay Street community!! I see it in Facebook posts, many of which are implicitly and explicitly racist! This wonderful community of people need government support in sticking together, with one voice. That will not happen if the lines are drawn to divide and conquer.

Sincerely,

Kristen McDermott

Julie Benson, Feb 13, 2022, at 10:15 PM, from oakcitygirl@gmail.com, 168 Acton Road

I feel than plan B is the best for my neighborhood as it keeps us together. Plan A splits or small neighborhood in half, plan C takes us out of ward 1. I'd like to stay in Elly Tierney's ward as she is wonderful, I trust her and I voted for her.

Robert Worden, Feb 14, 2022, at 5:01 PM, from wordenannapolis@aol.com, 30 Murray Ave.

I support Map C for Ward 1 boundary. Maps A and B break up the Clay Street neighborhood into two wards and I believe this is not a good plan.

Alderwoman Elly Tierney, Feb. 12, 2022, at 11 AM, from aldtierney@annapolis.gov,

I'd like to keep Truxton Heights intact.

Alderman Ross Arnett, Jan 21, 2022, 10:24 AM, from aldarnett@annapolis.gov

Move Eastport Terrace and or Harbor House into Ward 8 and send what is needed to Ward 7 from the Warren Drive part of Ward 8.

Alexandra Weller, January 20, 2022, 9:41 AM, from ajweller57@hotmail.com, 18 Silverwood Circle

Unfortunately all of the discussion could not be heard during the meeting. Can participants in future meetings have microphones so that all comments can be heard please?

Scott Gibson, Dec. 24, 2021, 12:03 PM, scott.t.gibson@gmail.com, 113 Williams Drive

Section 2 of the Voting Rights Act mandates that no "standard, practice, or procedure shall be imposed or applied by any State or political subdivision to deny or abridge the

right of any citizen of the United States to vote on account of race or color." In the context of redistricting, federal law provides that majority-minority districts can be created to prevent the dilution of minorities' voting strength in compliance with the Voting Rights Act of 1965 ("Voting Rights Act").

According to recent figures from the US Census Bureau, Annapolis's Hispanic/Latinx population has grown to be the second largest racial/ethnic group in the city. (Source: <https://www.census.gov/quickfacts/fact/table/annapoliscitymaryland/PST045219>) Despite one out of 5 Annapolitans being Hispanic/Latinx, Marc Rodriguez remains the only Hispanic/Latino ever elected alderman. The underrepresentation of the Hispanic/Latinx population on the City Council suggests that there may be forces (even if unintentional) working against their full participation in local government.

In *Thornburg v. Gingles*, the Supreme Court established three criteria that must be met to prove claims of vote dilution under Section 2 of the Voting Rights Act:

- The minority group must be able to demonstrate that it is sufficiently large and geographically compact to constitute a majority in a district;
- The minority group must demonstrate political cohesion; and
- "The minority must be able to demonstrate that the white majority votes sufficiently as a bloc to enable it usually to defeat the minority's preferred candidate."

As part of our efforts to build One Annapolis, I would encourage the Redistricting Task Force to evaluate – applying the criteria laid out in *Thornburg v. Gingles* - whether the City can and should create a majority Hispanic/Latinx ward to: (1) ensure that Annapolis's Hispanic/Latinx population's voting strength is not diluted by being spread across multiple wards and (2) increase the diversity of our City Council.

The drawing of ward lines will determine the distribution of political power in Annapolis for the next decade. I encourage you to view your task through the lens of equity and take up this issue. Thank you.

Alderwoman Rhonda Pindell-Charles, Dec 22, 2021, 8:01 PM, from aldpindellcharles@annapolis.gov

(Paraphrasing) Requested that no changes be made to Ward 3 boundaries

Alderwoman Sheila Finlayson, verbally to the Task Force, January 18, 2022, 5 PM

(Paraphrasing) Requested that the Bates community remain in Ward 4

Public Hearing on 12/21/2021

- Ms. Janet Katz, 143 Spa Dr, **Annapolis**, MD, inquired about who is counted in the census
- Mr. Todd Powell, 221 Pindell Ave. Annapolis, MD 21401, spoke to the committee about the ward lines
- Ms. Beryl Downs, 650 Greenbrier Lane Annapolis, MD 21401, inquired about the effect of the Newtowne 20 development rebuild
- Mr. Mike Dye, 1315 Hawkins LN Annapolis, MD 21401, inquired about the increase in the population of Ward Two.

- Alderwoman Tierney inquired about the effects of the Covid 19 pandemic on the census count.
- Ms. Ginger Deluca, 725 Coybay Dr, Annapolis, MD 21401, inquired about the Wiley Bates Legacy Center and why it was in Ward Four.
- Alderwoman Pindell-Charles discussed the demographics and sections of Ward Three.



Hilary Raftovich <hrraftovich@annapolis.gov>

Redistribucion

1 message

Sosima Morgia <sosima67@gmail.com>
To: hrraftovich@annapolis.gov

Wed, Feb 16, 2022 at 6:39 PM

Soy Sosima Morgan, tengo más de 5 años viviendo en Annapolis. Una Ciudad que me dio la bienvenida y donde siempre he vivido y trabajado junto a mi familia. Como muchos otros latinos que aportamos tanto con nuestro trabajo y nuestra cultura al crecimiento de esta ciudad, hoy en la distritación quiero pedir porque se reconozca que nuestra comunidad está creciendo, como lo refleja el resultado del último Censo 2020. Que se reconozca que la ciudad de Annapolis tiene un barrio (Ward 3) que es latino en su mayoría y por eso es necesaria la redistribución de nuestros distritos. Necesitamos espacios latinos, necesitamos quienes nos representen y defiendan nuestros derechos.

Sosima Morgan.



Hilary Raftovich <hrraftovich@annapolis.gov>

(no subject)

1 message

madefrancobo@gmail.com <madefrancobo@gmail.com>

Wed, Feb 16, 2022 at 7:07 PM

To: hrraftovich@annapolis.gov

Buenas tardes. Soy Maria Franco y mi país de origen es Venezuela. Cómo latina que soy, hoy celebro que Annapolis tenga una Comunidad latina que se pudo contar por el Censo 2020. Nosotros como habitantes de esta Ciudad pedimos se nos reconozca nuestro aporte económico y cultural a esta Ciudad. Por eso hoy quisiera en la oportunidad, pedir por la redistribucion de nuestra Ciudad, con el fin de que logremos ser reconocidos y representados en nuestro derecho a elegir.

Enviado desde mi iPhone