

Monday, July 9, 2018

**Community Engagement Forum
Palm Springs Convention Center**

Thomas Allen Worthy, resident, requested clarification regarding district representation and voiced concerns regarding the possibility that district interests will outweighing focus on crime rates citywide.

A resident from Sunrise Park requested more information regarding demographics and samples of other cities' maps. He requested that a heat map be developed reflecting renter demographics. City Clerk Mejia responded.

A resident requested more information regarding the configuration of demographics and whether they incorporate the City's homeless population. City Clerk Mejia and Councilmembers Middleton and Kors responded.

Michelle Moran inquired about the City's efforts to mitigate personal interests of incumbent Councilmembers during the districting process. Councilmember Middleton responded.

Jan Seamen, Cathedral Canyon Country Club, expressed concern about areas of vacant homes caused by seasonal residents and questioned whether the districting process would account for the areas.

Frank Tyson commented on the minimal coverage by the local newspapers and suggested the City purchase large ads in the future. He spoke in favor of creating seven districts, in opposition of a rotating mayor because of the time commitment associated with the position; and suggested creating multiple districts that touch the downtown core. Councilmember Kors and Councilmember Middleton responded.

Jocelyn Cain inquired about how the tribal and industrial areas will factor into the formation of districts. City Clerk Mejia and Councilmember Middleton responded.

Jerry Cruz, Sunrise Vista Chino Neighborhood Coalition, requested more information about how the population of the Desert Aids Project is accounted for and whether the shopping center across from it would be considered a community of interest. He would like information regarding the impact of planned future development would have on the districting process.

David Austin appreciates the idea of keeping existing neighborhoods intact. He would prefer to have an at-large Mayor and five districts with multiple districts touching the downtown area.

David Brodette explained that a Councilmember representing a district would be challenged to serve the interest of the City as a whole and recommended that an at-large Mayor continue to represent the City and to establish a five member City Council elected by-district.

Paul Hurtser suggested City representatives create a dialogue with OnePS to discuss new and expanding communities.

Les Young commented that it would be difficult to create multiple districts that would touch the downtown area. He suggested that each district should contain significant landmarks to ensure that the districts are equally balanced.

Robert Heimblaugh requested more information about how the districting process will correlate with the potential transition from odd year to even year elections.

Bruce Hoban, Sunrise Park, inquired about Federal laws and traditional districting requirements. He would like to see demographics and fair representation of same sex households across all districts. Councilmember Kors responded.

Joy Meredith Brown, resident and business owner, expressed interest in age and gender demographics. She also expressed optimism that district-based elections will improve the affordability of running for office.

Joseph Schroeder noted that he is a resident of the City of Palm Springs and expressed concern that district-based elections will diminish his ability to affect change in areas outside of this new district.

Kathy Weremuik suggested residents consider environmental factors such as wind and flooding when mapping out districts.

Tim O’Bailey stated Indian Canyon and Chino Cone are part of his community of interest. He voiced concerns regarding the exclusion of landmarks or areas directly outside of City limits, which are important to communities but not included in the formation of districts.

Jeffrey Bernstein inquired about the process involved with making Councilmembers full-time positions and questioned whether Councilmembers would be responsible for issues even if outside their own district, such as cannabis issues, airport issues, etc.