

Tuesday, July 10, 2018

**Community Engagement Forum
James O. Jessie Desert Highland Unity Center**

Darryl Baum spoke in favor of keeping existing neighborhoods together and suggested dividing the business districts strategically.

Joy Meredith Brown, resident and business owner, encouraged members of the public to provide as much detail as possible when discussing communities of interest.

William Smith suggested including representation for the LGBTQ Community and stated interest in seeing demographics on same sex households.

A resident requested clarification on the position of a rotating mayor. City Clerk Mejia responded.

Tobias Wolff, CVRA Working Group Member, provided an explanation of mayoral power as a member of the City Council and as a managerial role in the governmental process.

Shawna expressed concerns over the use of certain language in the City's presentation. She stated the word "only" implies segregation versus inclusiveness and suggested editing the document.

A resident inquired about the phasing of the districting process and requested information regarding outreach to seniors and residents without computer access. Councilmember Middleton and City Clerk Mejia responded.

A resident encouraged the City to ensure that persons without computer access can remain engaged and informed about the districting process. She spoke on the importance of recognizing that minorities live throughout the community.

A resident voiced concern that he does not have enough information to identify his community of interest, noting that he is unsure whether it is more appropriate to be linked with similar communities or communities reflecting different demographics.

Monique Smith, Desert Highland Community Center, stated she would like to see the existing community kept together and expressed that she feels the community is being forced to self-segregate. She is concerned that neighborhoods with more influence will outweigh the opinions of minority neighborhoods.

Olah Roberts urged the City to facilitate another Community Engagement Forum in the Desert Highland Community to allow residents ample time to process the amount of information they have received, and form educated feedback.

Alexis Soto, CVRA Working Group Member, responded to comments and offered to meet with residents who could benefit from a more personal and in-depth explanation.

Steve Moses, CVRA Working Group Member, acknowledged concerns and reiterated the strength and value of individual voices in district elections. He offered to participate in another Community Engagement Forum.

Tobias Wolff, CVRA Working Group Member, encouraged members of the community to engage and offered to participate in further communication.

Wayne Gilchrist inquired about the phasing of the districting process and requested an explanation as to why communities were not given more time to process the information. Councilmember Kors responded.

Pastor Croon inquired about district influence on the Desert Highland Community's stigma and the potential of businesses expanding to the North end of town.

Kim Humphries inquired about the local tribe's influence on the formation of districts.

Joy Meredith Brown spoke in favor of districts reducing the financial barriers of campaigning.

Ernie Strobin inquired about mitigation of and protection against gerrymandering. City Clerk Mejia responded.

Sid Craig encouraged residents to be more involved with the City's Boards and Commissions.

Deiter Crawford voiced concerns regarding the scheduled meeting times excluding working class residents. He also requested information regarding outreach efforts geared toward the Latino community, stating African Americans may have several interests in common with Latinos. He spoke in favor of a district that includes African Americans and Latinos.

Tizoc DeAztlan, Diversity Consultant, provided information regarding the City's outreach to the Latino Community.