

Thursday, July 12, 2018

**Community Engagement Forum
Demuth Park Community Center**

Kyle H. is concerned that districts will be imbalanced due to seasonal population variances, varied economic statuses, lack of participation by minorities, and overwhelming influence of wealthy groups in the community.

An unidentified member of the public spoke in favor of four districts and an at-large mayor rather than five districts and a rotating mayor. He stated the probability and necessity of placing individual district interests over the interest of a City as a whole, noting the Mayor's ability to serve as a moderator.

Kathy Weremuik stated the City has a weak mayoral system wherein the City Manager runs the City and the Mayor operates as a spokesperson.

A resident spoke in favor of five districts with a rotating mayor and that districts should be based on major streets and landmarks.

Kevin Johnson questioned the necessity of a mayor and requested information regarding the legal requirements of the position. He proposed a five member City Council with no mayor and encouraged the public to consider a variety of governmental structures.

Rich F. voiced concerns regarding lack of involvement from minorities in the community and encouraged the City Council to be aware of the implications of a "token" Councilmember.

Phyllis requested clarification of racially polarized voting. She stated she is concerned that the City is capitulating due to a threat of litigation from an outside attorney.

Ron Hanson inquired about the California Voters Rights Act and whether the City of Palm Springs is an official Sanctuary City.

Grace Gardener shared her experience with segregation in local schools. She expressed concern regarding the lack of adequate representation of minorities, and urged residents to make a greater effort to welcome and involve minority groups in their communities. She spoke in favor of five districts, suggesting areas near Victoria Park, South Palm Springs near the wash, Las Compadres near the golf courses, neighborhoods along the mountain, and neighborhoods close to the airport as communities of interest.

Tizoc DeAztlan shared information regarding the City's outreach efforts in the Latino community.

A resident spoke in favor of five districts and suggested the City take precautions against creating orphan streets.

A resident acknowledged the fear and negativity communicated by members of the public and stated that he is excited about participating in the districting process. He suggested implementing satellite offices within districts to help residents feel more comfortable participating and interacting with their representatives.

Ray shared information regarding sociological issues and random survey sampling procedures.