

**CITY OF BRIDGEPORT
COMMISSION ON REDISTRICTING
SPECIAL MEETING
APRIL 24, 2023**

ATTENDANCE: Jeanette Herron, Co-chair; Tyler Mack; Rosalina Roman-Christy; Anthony G. Minutolo; Michael Garrett; Marc Delmonico

STAFF: Thomas Gaudett, Deputy Chief of Staff; Kim Brace, Consultant

OTHER: Council Member(s): Maria Pereira, Rolanda Smith, Rev. Mary McBride-Lee, Scott Burns, Jorge Cruz & Maria Valle; James Maye, Associate City Attorney; Anthony Paoletto; Mark Anastasi, City Attorney; Constance Vickers; Atty. Bruce Levin

CALL TO ORDER

Co-chair Herron called the meeting to order at 5:04 P.M. There was a quorum present.

INTRODUCTION OF COMMISSION MEMBERS.

Mr. Gaudett introduced the commission members for those present.

ELECTION OF CO-CHAIRPERSONS.

Ms. Herron and Mr. DelMonico were nominated for co-chair positions.

****COUNCIL MEMBER ROMAN-CHRISTY MOVED TO CLOSE THE NOMINATIONS FOR CO-CHAIRPERSON.**

**** COUNCIL MEMBER HERRON SECONDED THE MOTION.**

**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

**** MR. MINUTOLO MOVED TO APPROVE THE NOMINATIONS FOR CO-CHAIR.**

**** COUNCIL MEMBER ROMAN-CHRISTY SECONDED THE MOTION.**

**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

ADOPTION OF ROBERT’S RULES OF ORDER.

**** MR. DELMONICO MOVED TO ADOPT ROBERT’S RULES OF ORDER FOR THIS AND ALL FUTURE MEETINGS OF THIS COMMISSION.**

**** MR. MINUTOLO SECONDED THE MOTION.**

**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

INTRODUCTION OF COMMISSION SUPPORT STAFF

CITY ATTORNEY OFFICE ASSIGNED STAFF.

REDISTRICTING CONSULTANT KIMBALL “KIM” BRACE OF ELECTION DATA SERVICES.

**CITY ATTORNEY PRESENTATION CONCERNING CITY CHARTER CHAPTER 5, §2
REAPPORTIONMENT PROCEDURE AND DISTRICTING AND THE ROLE OF THE
REDISTRICTING COMMISSION IN VIEW OF RESOLUTION NO. 32-22 ADOPTED
ON OR ABOUT MARCH 6, 2023.**

Atty. Anastasi introduced the staff present. A letter was sent out with two pages attached which included the relevant provisions of the Bridgeport City Charter. Two other pages were included in a resolution the City Council adopted on March 16, 2023. He reviewed the pages for those present.

The first two pages were Chapter 5, Section 2 of the Bridgeport Charter. Atty. Anastasi mentioned the lawsuit that was filed by Council Member Pereira and the City Clerk Lydia Martinez against the Council. Council Member Pereira and the City Clerk Lydia Martinez were both represented in that suit by Atty. Jonathan Klein. The question centered on what year the census was completed and what the deadline was that the City Council was obligated to complete its work before the power reverted to/was transferred to this Commission. Atty. Anastasi outlined further details regarding the disputes and their background. He read a resolution that had been passed regarding this for those present. He noted that the work that the Commission would be doing would need to be done off the 2010 census maps, not off the maps adopted by the City Council.

- ** COUNCIL MEMBER MACK MOVED TO ADOPT RESOLUTION 04-24-2023-A.**
- ** COUNCIL MEMBER ROMAN-CHRISTY SECONDED THE MOTION.**
- ** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

Discussion followed regarding how to deal with members of the public who wished to speak. It was suggested that members of the Commission yield the floor to members of the public who wish to speak. Further discussion followed. Council Member Roman-Christy suggested that only the Commissioners speak at this meeting since it was an organizational and orientation meeting.

BRIEFING / ORIENTATION BY REDISTRICTING CONSULTANT KIM BRACE.

- ** COUNCIL MEMBER ROMAN-CHRISTY MOVED TO ALLOW MR. BRACE TO SPEAK.**
- ** COUNCIL MEMBER MACK SECONDED THE MOTION.**
- ** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

Mr. Brace came forward to discuss this item. There were issues regarding getting the documents in color. He provided information regarding his background. He also provided information from the Census Bureau which he reviewed for those present. This included the information regarding ethnicity/race that was asked in the census. Further review of the information followed. This information was a basic summary of the overall city-wide population and what the 2020 census provided to us. He reviewed the amount of citizens that the Census Bureau said was in the City-wide population which was slightly different from what the State had released. Further discussion followed regarding population numbers. They will be trying to draw the districts in the range of 14,100 to 15,600 to be acceptable by the courts. He noted that their current plan was the old plan, adopted in 2012, utilizing the new population numbers. He provided further information regarding the census and district numbers.

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Atty. Anastasi said he needed to be at the BOE at 6:30 P.M. and would need to leave early as a result. He requested that they hold questions and move on to item 7 as a result. He noted that any meetings of any public body pursuant to the FOI that occur earlier than 30 days after a meeting schedule is filed with the City Clerk will be special meetings and the significance of that is only items that are on the agenda at a special meeting can be addressed. He suggested that they have an initial meeting on Tuesday to help prepare an agenda. Further discussion followed regarding when to schedule the meeting.

Council Member Roman-Christy asked why Hispanics were listed differently in the census and what that meant.

Mr. Brace explained what it meant and how it factored into the provided data.

ADOPTION OF THE COMMISSION'S MEETING SCHEDULE.

Atty. Anastasi suggested that there be a Public Hearing on both the front and back end of the meetings. Further discussion followed regarding the meeting scheduling.

**** COUNCIL MEMBER MACK MOVED TO HOLD A PUBLIC HEARING ON MAY 2, 2023, AT 6:00 P.M IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBERS.**

**** COUNCIL MEMBER ROMAN-CHRISTY SECONDED THE MOTION.**

**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

SUCH OTHER ORGANIZATIONAL MATTERS AS MAY BE REASONABLE AND APPROPRIATE.

**** COUNCIL MEMBER ROMAN-CHRISTY MOVED TO ADJOURN.**

**** COUNCIL MEMBER MACK SECONDED THE MOTION.**

**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

The meeting adjourned at 6:05 P.M.

Respectfully Submitted

Ian A. Soltes

Telesco Secretarial Services