

**CITY OF BRIDGEPORT
REDISTRICTING COMMISSION
SPECIAL MEETING
MAY 16, 2023**

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

OTHERS: City Atty. Mark Anastasi; Associate City Atty. James Maye; Kim Brace, Consultant; Anthony Paoletto, Special Projects Manager; Linda Grace, Republican Registrar of Voters; Lydia Martinez, City Clerk; Council Member Maria Pereira, Judge Carmen Lopez

CALL TO ORDER

Co-chair Delmonico called the meeting to order at 6:40. A quorum was present.

Mr. Brace then displayed a map titled Draft 3, along with the over lay from the district lines from 2011 and then indicated where the changes were made at the last meeting.

Council Member Herron asked Mr. Brace to review the variation on the prison population, which he did.

Mr. Brace said that the practice started in New York State and was an attempt to move the prisoners from the prison to their original census block where possible. He said that the State of Connecticut had decided to add the inmates back into the general total population without identification of their racial group or other factors. This has resulted in a total population that will show a variation from the racial break out.

He pointed out that with the improvements in technology, particularly aerial photography, they can now determine the location of the voters in individual precincts, which makes the data much more accurate.

Mr. Delmonico said that his goal coming into the process was to smooth out the lines and reduce the sawtooth areas.

Judge Lopez said that the Charter speaks to having the precincts as equal to one another as possible. She said she would like to review the cases that addresses the 10% variation. Mr. Brace referred her to the “Red Book” published by the National Conference of State Legislatures which he had used as a reference guide.

Atty. Anastasi explained that the consultant was present to advise Commissioners, not the public. Judge Lopez objected. Atty. Anastasi said it was not up to Mr. Brace to provide Judge Lopez with the listing of the case law. Judge Lopez stated that Atty. Anastasi was running the meeting. He said that he was not running the meeting.

Judge Lopez asked whether the Commissioner wanted to know what the law was. She said that she was being told to shut up since she was only a citizen.

Atty. Anastasi said that he expected that the consultant would provide the Commissioners with a report before they vote on the proposal. Atty. Anastasi reiterated that Mr. Brace had been hired as a consultant to the Commission. Judge Lopez said that she knew Atty. Anastasi had hired him. She said that she could not believe that the Commissioners were accepting this information.

Mr. Delmonico asked Mr. Brace if he was a lawyer. Mr. Brace stated that he was not a lawyer.

Mr. Delmonico then asked how he would be expected to provide legal advice to the Commission. Judge Lopez said that she expected him to inform her of the details and pointed out his information source was from a national resource.

Council Member Mack said that Chapter 5, Section 2, second sentence reads as follows: "Such districts shall be established in conformity with provisions of the general law and by making each such district as equal in population to each other such district as possible, taking into consideration senate and assembly district lines and natural boundaries and divisions."

Atty. Anastasi pointed out that this statement included more than just having the districts as equal in population to each other.

Judge Lopez commented that this was business as usual for Bridgeport.

Atty. Anastasi replied that with all due respect, that this was a Commission meeting, not a public hearing. While he had no problem with courteous participation, he reiterated that the consultant was not hired to provide legal research.

Judge Lopez said that Atty. Anastasi had spoken without asking for permission. Atty. Anastasi said that when Mr. Brace's report was available, he was sure it would be made available to the public.

Council Member Roman-Christy pointed out that this exchange was not asking questions and the public should not be speaking.

Mr. Delmonico asked if the Commissioners wanted to make any additional changes. There were no additional comments. Mr. Delmonico said that the co-chairs would confer and announce when the next meeting would be scheduled.

ADJOURNMENT

- ** COUNCIL MEMBER MACK MOVED TO ADJOURN.**
- ** COUNCIL MEMBER ROMAN-CHRISTY SECONDED.**
- ** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

The meeting adjourned at 7:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Telesco Secretarial Services