



**CITY OF OAKLAND  
REDISTRICTING COMMISSION  
(REGULAR MEETING)**

**Meeting Minutes**

**Wednesday, April 14, 2021**  
Via Teleconference

Redistricting Commissioners: Benjie Achtenberg, Amber Blackwell, Daniel Chesmore (Alternate), Gloria Crowell, Lilibeth Gangas, Shirley Gee, Stephanie Goode, Masoud Hamidi, Paul Marshall, Tracy Richmond McKnight, Diana Miller, Tejal Shah, Jan Stevens, and Mary Velasco.

Commission website: [www.oaklandca.gov/redistricting](http://www.oaklandca.gov/redistricting)

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**1. Roll Call and Determination of Quorum**

Quorum was determined and the meeting started at 5:06 pm.

Commissioners present: Benjie Achtenberg, Amber Blackwell, Gloria Crowell (arrived at 5:11 pm), Lilibeth Gangas, Shirley Gee, Stephanie Goode, Masoud Hamidi (arrived at 5:36 pm), Paul Marshall, Tracy Richmond McKnight, Diana Miller, Jan Stevens, and Mary Velasco.

Commissioners excused: Tejal Shah.

Commissioners absent: None.

Alternate Commissioners present: Daniel Chesmore.

Alternate Commissioners absent: None.

City staff present: Richard J. Luna, Corey Alvin.

City Attorney staff present: Mitesh Bhakta.

**2. Chair and Co-Vice Chair Rotation Announced**

The new leadership team for the Commission comprising of Chair Stephanie Goode and Co-Vice Chairs Tracy Richmond McKnight and Diana Miller were recognized. Chair Goode thanked former Chairs Benjie Achtenberg and Shirley Gee for their leadership in serving the Commission.

**3. Open Forum**

Comments were provided by the following speakers:  
Bharat Singh

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**4. Disclosure Requirements by Commissioners**

There were no disclosures by Commissioners.

There were no public comments on this item.

**5. Approval of Meeting Minutes**

The Commission reviewed the draft meeting minutes. A motion was made by Shirley Gee, seconded by Benjie Achtenberg, to approve the minutes for the meeting of March 10, 2021. The motion passed with 11 ayes (Achtenberg, Blackwell, Crowell, Gangas, Gee, Goode, Marshall, McKnight, Miller, Stevens, Velasco), one not present (Hamidi) and one excused (Shah).

There were no public comments for this item.

**6. Alternate Commissioner Vacancy**

City staff member Richard J. Luna presented a report on behalf of the Alternate Commissioner Ad Hoc Committee. Staff stated the Committee was in agreement in their top choice of Bharat Singh and recommended Mr. Singh be approved by the Commission as the new Alternate Commissioner. Commissioners invited Mr. Singh to address the Commission and speak to his background and qualifications. City staff reported on which districts were represented in the applicant pool and how the district representation would change should Mr. Singh be approved.

A motion was made by Shirley Gee, seconded by Tracy Richmond McKnight to approve Bharat Singh as the new Alternate Commissioner on the Commission. The motion passed with 11 ayes (Achtenberg, Blackwell, Crowell, Gangas, Gee, Goode, Marshall, McKnight, Miller, Stevens, Velasco), one not present (Hamidi) and one excused (Shah).

There were no public comments for this item.

**7. Redistricting Budget**

City staff member Richard J. Luna presented an overview of the City's budget assigned to support redistricting work, including the timeline for the City Council to adopt the new Fiscal Year 2021-23 biennial budget by June 30, 2021. City staff responded to questions asked by the Commissioners related to the budget process, scenarios for potential funding needs, the type of work that is charged to the redistricting budget, clarifying that staff time is not charged to the redistricting project budget, the need to have the consultants

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provide input on the redistricting budget, paths for requesting additional funding, low and no-cost assistance for the Commission, and a listing of city events.

A motion was made by Lilibeth Gangas, seconded by Gloria Crowell, to continue the budget discussion item to the May Commission meeting, and include information on the Mayor's proposed budget. The motion passed with 12 ayes (Achtenberg, Blackwell, Crowell, Gangas, Gee, Goode, Hamidi, Marshall, McKnight, Miller, Stevens, Velasco), and one excused (Shah).

There were no public comments for this item.

**8. Ad Hoc Committee Updates**

On behalf of the Community-Based Organizations Ad Hoc Committee, Commissioner Lilibeth Gangas stated the group started contacting organizations that it had contact information for, and that they were adding organizations to address gaps in outreach. As Commissioners were contacting organizations, they were adjusting the messaging as needed. Additionally, the Committee is identifying events or meetings that could provide outreach opportunities for the Commission.

On behalf of the Faith-Based Organizations Ad Hoc Committee, Commissioner Tracy Richmond McKnight stated the committee met twice and is working to build a more inclusive list of organizations. The Committee is also working to identify events with large numbers of organizations present. Commissioner Gloria Crowell volunteered to assist the Ad Hoc Committee in their work. Alternate Commissioner Daniel Chesmore stated the importance of collaboration between all outreach efforts in scheduling future events.

On behalf of the Government Meetings/Townhalls Ad Hoc Committee, Commissioner Shirley Gee stated the Committee received some responses from the elected members' offices. A question the Committee received is how much time the Commissioners need to present at the meetings. Additionally, the majority of townhalls were scheduled as needed, and not on a set schedule. Commissioners were encouraged to speak under Open Forum at School Board and City Council meetings to share redistricting information. Commissioner Mary Velasco provided a description of the Mayor's Townhall format and stated more coordination would be required prior to scheduling the Mayor's Townhall meeting on redistricting.

On behalf of the Communications Ad Hoc Committee, Commissioner Masoud Hamidi stated the website's frequently asked questions and survey were both updated. Chair Stephanie Goode stated the Committee recommended the Commission establish its own social media accounts with proposed social media posts included for review.

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Commissioner Lilibeth Gangas inquired about a social media strategy and recommended engaging with an outside consultant or another agency in managing that work. On behalf of the Outreach Ad Hoc Committee, Commissioner Diana Miller stated the Committee provided feedback on the online survey including a question on defining an individual's community of interest and a volunteer sign up section.

Commissioner Jan Stevens was excused from the meeting at 6:36 pm.

There were no public comments on this item.

**9. Agenda Requests for Future Meetings**

Chair Stephanie Goode stated per the previous motion, the budget discussion item would continue to the next meeting agenda. Commissioner Shirley Gee requested an item related to the anti-Asian hate climate and how that could impact the Commission's work. Commissioner Lilibeth Gangas requested the Ad Hoc Committees continue to report on the populations the Commission's potential engagement partners service so the Commissioners can identify gaps in the populations not serviced. Commissioner Gangas also requested a long-term communications strategy be presented.

Public comments were provided by the following speakers:

Anastasiia V. Pea  
Gail Wallace

**10. Adjournment**

The meeting adjourned at 7:02 pm.