



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

**Meeting Minutes**

**Wednesday, May 12, 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, Bharat Singh (Alternate) 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 5:05 pm.

Commissioners present: Benjie Achtenberg, Amber Blackwell, Gloria Crowell, Lilibeth Gangas, Shirley Gee, Stephanie Goode, Masoud Hamidi (arrived at 5:25 pm), Paul Marshall, Tracy Richmond McKnight, Diana Miller, Tejal Shah, and Jan Stevens.

Commissioners excused: Mary Velasco.

Commissioners absent: None.

Alternate Commissioners present: Daniel Chesmore and Bharat Singh.

Alternate Commissioners absent: None.

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

City Attorney staff present: Mitesh Bhakta.

**2. Welcome new Alternate Commissioner Bharat Singh**

Chair Stephanie Goode welcomed Alternate Commissioner Bharat Singh to the Redistricting Commission.

**3. Open Forum**

Comments were provided by the following speakers:

Helen Hutchison  
Dean Ito Taylor  
Michael Lok  
Kendra Tran

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**4. Disclosure Requirements by Commissioners**

Commissioner Shirley Gee stated she contacted several Asian organizations to provide comments and participate in the redistricting process.

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 Lilibeth Gangas, seconded by Gloria Crowell, to approve the minutes for the meeting of April 14, 2021. The motion passed with 11 ayes (Achtenberg, Blackwell, Crowell, Gangas, Gee, Goode, Marshall, McKnight, Miller, Shah, Stevens), one not present (Hamidi) and one excused (Velasco).

There were no public comments for this item.

**6. Anti-Asian Hate Educational Video and Discussion**

Chair Stephanie Goode thanked Commissioner Shirley Gee for recommending the video and the timeliness of the discussion in relation to the Commission's work.

Commissioner Shirley Gee stated the goals of this item were to educate the Commissioners and community on Asian hate, bring awareness on how community organizations are responding to recent hate crimes, and encourage communities to work together in addressing these issues. Commissioner Gee stated Asians represent a community of interest and stressed the importance for them to have representation during the redistricting process.

Commissioners discussed the importance of identifying communities of interest and using other data sources, including the City's equity and disparity analyses, to assist the Commission in its work. Commissioners and City staff also recommended members of the public to utilize the Commission's website to submit input on communities of interest.

Public comments were provided by the following speakers:  
Michael Lok

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**7. Redistricting Budget**

The Commission discussed the proposed redistricting budget in the Fiscal Year 2021-23 budget process. A letter on behalf of the Commission was presented in the Agenda packet that if approved, would authorize the Chair to request additional funds for the redistricting work. Commissioners discussed the additional amount they could request, the purpose of those funds, and the need to engage with a local firm to assist in outreach work.

A motion was made by Gloria Crowell, seconded by Tracy Richmond McKnight, to authorize the Chair and Co-Vice Chairs to request an additional \$50,000 that would go toward hiring an outreach consultant and authorization to send the appropriate letter and communications to the City Council. The motion passed with 12 ayes (Achtenberg, Blackwell, Crowell, Gangas, Gee, Goode, Hamidi, Marshall, McKnight, Miller, Shah, Stevens) and one excused (Velasco).

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 recommended reviewing the outreach goals at a future meeting, setting internal deadlines for completing the initial outreach work, and adding the list of outreach partners to the website. City staff stated the list of outreach partners can be added to the website with instructions for how organizations can get added to the list. Commissioners also requested a calendar of events be created and shared on the website. Commissioner Shirley Gee recommended Commissioners request the information be shared with the community-based organization's client and partner list for wider distribution.

On behalf of the Faith-Based Organizations Ad Hoc Committee, Alternate Commissioner Daniel Chesmore stated the committee is working with City staff to issue and mail an informational postcard to faith-based organizations. The postcard would also include a link to either the existing online survey or a new survey specific for faith-based groups. It was requested that the question around the online survey be added to the next agenda.

On behalf of the Government Meetings/Townhalls Ad Hoc Committee, Commissioner Jan Stevens recommended a five-to-ten minute presentation when presenting at the townhall meetings, stated that the committee is working with the Mayor's Office to identify a future townhall meeting date, that the committee is setting up townhall presentations with District 7 City Councilmember Treva Reid, and that the committee completed a presentation with School Board District 1 Director Sam Davis.

Commissioner Tejal Shah was excused from the meeting at 6:26 pm.

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Commissioner Shirley Gee recommended to schedule the presentations at the beginning of a townhall, if possible, and requested a newsletter message be created to share with the various government officials' offices.

On behalf of the Communications Ad Hoc Committee, Commissioner Masoud Hamidi presented the proposed social media toolkit which included the committee's recommendation for a social media handle: @OaklandRedistricts. Chair Stephanie Goode stated the handle was consistent with other City of Oakland social media accounts. The committee also recommended establishing accounts with Twitter, Facebook, Instagram and Nextdoor. City staff stated the accounts would be established and held for future use until a thorough social media policy was created.

Commissioner Gloria Crowell was excused from the meeting at 6:40 pm.

Alternate Commissioner Daniel Chesmore was excused from the meeting at 6:45 pm.

Commissioner Jan Stevens was excused from the meeting at 6:47 pm.

A motion was made by Tracy Richmond McKnight, seconded by Shirley Gee, to approve the proposed social media handle and toolkit, and to authorize the Communications Ad Hoc Committee to establish the social media accounts. The motion passed with nine ayes (Achtenberg, Blackwell, Gangas, Gee, Goode, Hamidi, Marshall, McKnight, Miller) and four excused (Crowell, Shah, Stevens, Velasco).

City staff member Richard J. Luna provided an overview of the proposed presentation slides for consideration and stated a talking points document would accompany the presentation for any Commissioner's use in presenting to the public. Commissioners also discussed translations and communicating with the public in non-English languages, and the need to record a presentation that can be shared for future use.

A second motion was made by Shirley Gee, seconded by Benjie Achtenberg, to approve the proposed Oakland Redistricting Commission presentation and for the Commission and staff to create an accompanying pre-recorded video presentation. The motion passed with nine ayes (Achtenberg, Blackwell, Gangas, Gee, Goode, Hamidi, Marshall, McKnight, Miller) and four excused (Crowell, Shah, Stevens, Velasco).

Public comments were provided by the following speakers:  
Helen Hutchison

**9. Agenda Requests for Future Meetings**

Commissioner Lilibeth Gangas requested a brainstorming session to ensure accessible, inclusive and equitable outreach and engagement strategies.

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Commissioner Tracy Richmond McKnight requested to discuss the online survey and if any changes should be made for faith-based and community-based organizations.

Chair Stephanie Goode requested a budget update item be added to the next agenda.

There were no public comments provided on this item.

**10. Adjournment**

The meeting adjourned at 7:22 pm.