



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

**Meeting Minutes**

**Wednesday, June 9, 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 5:17 pm.

Commissioners present: Amber Blackwell, Gloria Crowell, Lilibeth Gangas, Shirley Gee, Stephanie Goode, Tracy Richmond McKnight, Diana Miller, Tejal Shah, Jan Stevens, and Mary Velasco (arrived at 6:49 pm).

Commissioners excused: Benjie Achtenberg, Paul Marshall.

Commissioners absent: Masoud Hamidi.

Alternate Commissioners excused: Bharat Singh

Alternate Commissioners absent: Daniel Chesmore.

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

City Attorney staff present: Mitesh Bhakta.

**2. Open Forum**

There were no public comments on this item.

**3. Disclosure Requirements by Commissioners**

Chair Stephanie Goode stated she sent written communications to City Council Offices as related to the Commission's request for additional funding through the city's budget adoption process.

There were no public comments on this item.

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**4. Approval of Meeting Minutes**

The Commission reviewed the draft meeting minutes. A motion was made by Tejal Shah, seconded by Amber Blackwell, to approve the minutes for the meeting of April 14, 2021. The motion passed with 9 ayes (Blackwell, Crowell, Gangas, Gee, Goode, McKnight, Miller, Shah, Stevens), one not present (Velasco) two excused (Achtenberg, Marshall) and one absent (Hamidi).

There were no public comments for this item.

**5. Redistricting Budget Update**

Chair Stephanie Goode stated that City Council President Nikki Fortunato Bas included the Redistricting Commission's additional budget request in her list of funding priorities that were presented to the City Council. Chair Goode also stated she sent follow up emails to the City Council Offices with information on how the additional funds would be used. Additionally, Chair Goode stated she would provide public comments on the Commission's request at the City Council meeting on June 17, 2021.

City staff member Richard J. Luna stated in anticipation of the additional funds being awarded, that staff is searching for an existing outreach contract that could be utilized for this work, which would help expedite the contracting process.

There were no public comments on this item.

**6. Consultant Update**

City staff member Corey Alvin announced staff met with Redistricting Partners to plan the consultant's work and review the Commission's training schedule. Mr. Alvin stated he would be the main point of contact for working with the consultants in ensuring deliverables are being met.

Paul Mitchell from Redistricting Partners introduced the consultant team comprised of Kimi Shigetani, Chris Chaffee and Sophia Garcia. Mr. Mitchell provided an overview of the trainings the Commission would begin to receive starting in July and the work Redistricting Partners would coordinate with city staff.

Commissioners asked clarifying questions related to the timing of the trainings, receipt of the Census data and how delays would impact the on-going outreach and engagement work, including planned hearings in August for the Commission to start receiving communities of interest testimony.

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Commissioners also discussed outreach assistance from Redistricting Partners. It was clarified that Redistricting Partners serves as the technical consultant and could provide outreach best practices, and that if the budget was approved, staff would seek a separate consultant to assist more with implementing outreach and engagement work.

Public comments were provided by the following speakers:  
Gail Wallace

**7. Online Survey**

Chair Stephanie Goode stated the topic of discussion was to consider editing the current online survey or creating new surveys for specific target groups.

City staff member Richard J. Luna provided an overview of how the survey has evolved and recommended limiting the number of survey questions to ensure full participation in submitting information. Staff also recommended the Commissioners watch upcoming State Redistricting Commission meetings targeted around communities of interest, which could assist in helping inform edits to the City's online survey.

It was stated the online survey discussion item would be continued to the next meeting agenda to allow the Commissioners not present to provide comments or recommendations.

There were no public comments on this item.

**8. Ad Hoc Committee Updates**

On behalf of the Community Outreach Ad Hoc Committee, Commissioner Diana Miller presented a draft outreach plan which included directing people to the website, creating a video, a calendar of events, a flyer/postcard to distribute, inquiries into in-person outreach activities, inquiries into text and call banking, conducting train-the-trainer sessions, and identifying target dates where multiple groups can share redistricting information during the same timeframe. It was stated the goal was to direct residents to the August 11, 2021 meeting to receive testimony on communities of interest, and then begin townhall meetings with the proposed maps in October.

The Commissioners discussed how the delay in receiving Census data could impact their outreach efforts and completing work by the deadline. Paul Mitchell, on behalf of Redistricting Partners, stated it was conceivable to get participation in the compressed timeline and acknowledged that additional time could help in receiving more input. City staff member Richard J. Luna stated staff was working on an analysis for the

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Commission to consider should the December 31, 2021 deadline not be met, and that the analysis would be presented at a future meeting.

On behalf of the Communications Ad Hoc Committee, Chair Stephanie Goode stated the committee was working on a general postcard/flyer and newsletter messaging, provided updates to the Commission's social media accounts, and that the committee continues to develop website content.

City staff member Richard J. Luna stated if the Commission is interested, staff can develop a schedule of existing City of Oakland Board and Commission meetings where Commissioners could volunteer to provide public comments about redistricting at those meetings.

Commissioners also discussed the Digital Media Ad Hoc Committee. It was announced by Chair Stephanie Goode that the Digital Media Ad Hoc Committee would be absorbed and combined with the Communications Ad Hoc Committee since the work assigned to each group is closely aligned.

On behalf of the Community-Based Organizations Ad Hoc Committee, Commissioner Lilibeth Gangas stated she was contacting groups that had larger coalitions, such as Oakland Rising, and was working to further develop lines of communication with organizations in East Oakland.

On behalf of the Faith-Based Organizations Ad Hoc Committee, city staff members Richard J. Luna and Corey Alvin presented a proposed postcard that would be sent to faith-based organizations in Oakland. Staff recommended working with the committee members to finalize the postcard.

On behalf of the Government Meetings/Townhalls Ad Hoc Committee, Commissioner Shirley Gee stated members began presenting at City Council District 6 and 7 Townhalls and also presented a draft engagement calendar that could capture outreach activities by all Commissioners. It was recommended Commissioners submit their engagement activities so it can be added to the calendar and tracked appropriately. Commissioners also discussed best tips and recommendations when presenting at townhall meetings.

City staff member Richard J. Luna presented a document and next steps for completing a video project with the assistance of KTOP, the City's video production staff.

Public comments were provided by the following speakers:  
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**9. Agenda Requests for Future Meetings**

Chair Stephanie Goode stated the next agenda will include an update to the Commission's budget request.

City staff stated the Commission would receive a presentation from Redistricting Partners, the Commission's consultant team, at the next meeting.

Chair Stephanie Goode stated a need to discuss key Commission dates at the next meeting.

There were no public comments provided on this item.

**10. Adjournment**

The meeting adjourned at 7:28 pm.