

November 29, 2023

Mr. Anthony Mejia
City Clerk
City of Palm Desert
73-510 Fred Waring Dr
Palm Desert, CA 92260

Re: Map 102B with modifications (e.g. Map 102c)

Mr. Mejia:

After you announced the decision of the city council to introduce a singular map (i.e. Map 109) to the public as the “focus map” I was shocked to witness the AD-HOC decision to amend the publicized process to advance 2-3 maps¹, only to advance a singular Map 109, which ironically received the most opposition from the public.

At the request of the Mayor, I have sat with the proposed decision and gave it deep and careful reflection. During that process I further reviewed all maps and the census blocks. I found Map 102b with minor adjustments to be the best option. The adjustments are as follows: placing Hidden Palms HOA (as a whole) within District 3, removing it from District 2. To balance that move add the block that includes JW Marriott, Marriott Desert Springs Villas, and Porto del Sol into District 5 (see next page). As a result, I called you on Friday, November 16 and requested a review of these changes to determine if they were viable. I received a response from you on Tuesday, November 21 confirming the changes would result in a population balanced map, in addition to addressing the majority opinion of the council which will not split **ANY** HOA’s and/or neighborhoods, and more importantly only has 8% population deviation².

The comments made by Mayor Kelly and Councilwoman Harnick to use the Mid-Valley Channel as a key item to identify a community of interest is important, but I’d like to offer an alternative position. The mid-valley channel is a major piece of infrastructure for Palm Desert and many other desert cities as multi-jurisdictional portion the valley’s infrastructure but it’s not unique to Palm Desert. The most important and tangible example of a community of interest and one that binds everyone together are Palm Desert’s young citizens. All young residents North of Frank Sinatra per the Palm Springs

¹ <https://redistrictpd.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/11/PH3-Redistricting-11-16-2023.pdf>

² Confirmed by demographer via City Clerk

Unified School District School Boundaries³ attend PSUSD schools which differ than most of their peers in the city. Our children, the young citizens of The City of Palm Desert should be the highest priority to show a community of interest. What else would be more important to define a community of interest?

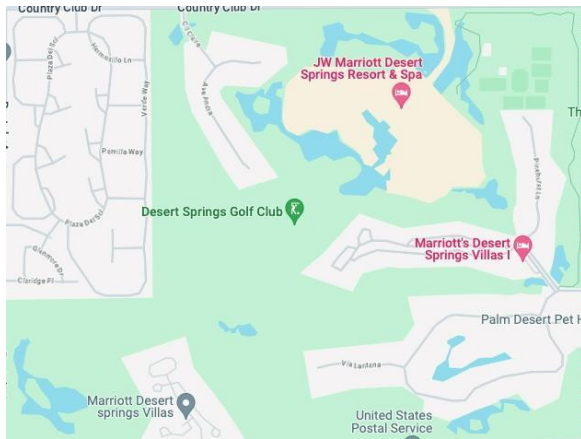
Therefore, I respectfully request this letter be added to the public record. I'll also send a separate request to the City Council directly advising of the recent development about the alternative map and requesting the modified map (e.g. Map 102c) to be added as an additional focus map and more importantly as a confirmed viable option to allow the public to offer comment on which already has significant public support.

Regards,

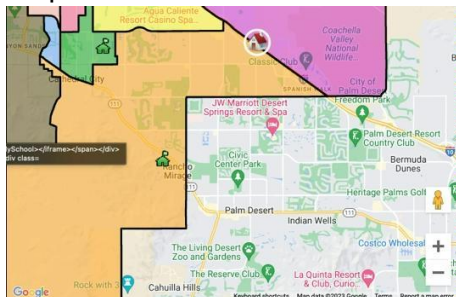
Stephen Nelson

Block to add to District 5 on Map 102c:

Add Blue Section to District 3 on Map102c:



Map of PSUSD Palm Desert Boundaries



³ <https://www.myschoollocation.com/palmspringsusd/>