

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

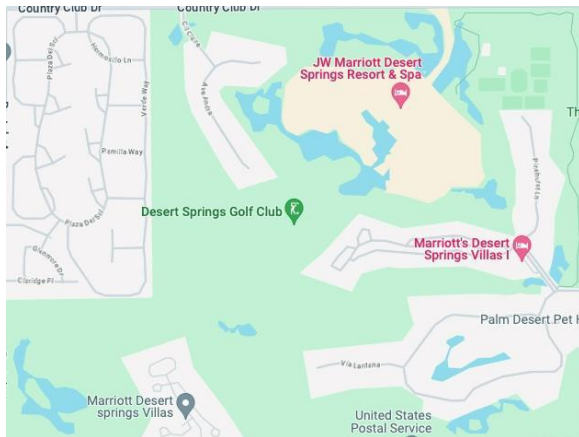
Unified School District School Boundaries³ attend PSUSD schools which differ than most of their peers in the city. Our children, the young citizens of The City of Palm Desert should be the highest priority to show a community of interest. What else would be more important to define a community of interest?

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

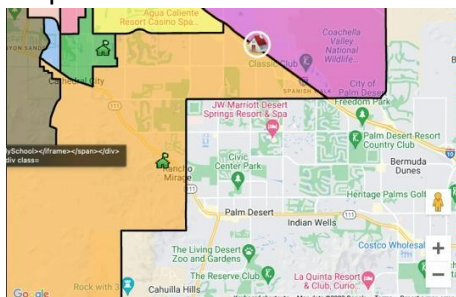
Block to add to District 5 on Map 102c:



Add Blue Section to District 3 on Map102c:



Map of PSUSD Palm Desert Boundaries



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

From: info@redistrictpd.org
To: [CityClerk:](#) [REDACTED]
Subject: Palm Desert Redistricting - New submission from Contact Us
Date: Saturday, December 2, 2023 7:08:24 PM



Name

Nick Latkovic

Email

[REDACTED]

Message

Being a corporate nomad and living in 14 various cities across the US, North, South East and West, all of which had "Districts", I heartily disagree with this notion, Our city is well run and operated by current council. However, knowing that ship already sailed - Map 109 or 104 works for me. Council Members Kelley and Harnek were eloquent in the arguments at the recent council meeting and I fully agree with them.

Prepare for fiefdoms unfortunately with the biggest bully getting the funding for their highest giver's agendas.

From: [REDACTED]
To: [CityClerk](#)
Subject: Redistricting
Date: Monday, December 4, 2023 8:56:41 PM

Please vote for map 102!

Thank you,
Roberta Kay,
Palm Desert

Sent from my iPad

From: [REDACTED]
To: [CouncilMeeting Comments](#)
Cc: [CityClerk](#)
Subject: Vote "Yes" on Map 109
Date: Wednesday, December 6, 2023 4:03:48 PM



I am a long-time, year-round resident of Palm Desert, CA. I am writing to request that you vote for Map 109 for redistricting of Palm Desert at your next meeting on Dec. 16, 2023. As a resident of Palm Desert Greens, I am advocating for Map 109 as it was prepared and analyzed by the City Demographer and is based on population growth projected statistics. Map 109 is the most balanced and fair redistricting proposal.

I would like to request the Palm Desert City Clerk to place my name and email address on the permanent list for emails about city news and redistricting news.

Thank you.

Dr. Jo Anne Grunow

[REDACTED]
Palm Desert, CA. 92260

Cell: [REDACTED]

Anthony Mejia

Subject: RE: Redistricting

From: Donna McIntosh [REDACTED]

Sent: Wednesday, December 6, 2023 2:38 PM

To: CouncilMeeting Comments <CouncilMeetingComments@palmdesert.gov>

Subject: Redistricting

I'm letting you know I support and vote for Map 109.

Thank you

Donna McIntosh

Anthony Mejia

Subject: RE: Yes on Map 109

-----Original Message-----

From: Doris Stephens [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, December 6, 2023 2:41 PM
To: CouncilMeeting Comments <CouncilMeetingComments@palmdesert.gov>
Subject: Yes on Map 109

Dear Palm Desert Council:
Please add my support for Map 109. It makes the most sense. To split communities is not the way to go.
Best regards,
Doris Stephens
[REDACTED]
Palm Desert, CA 92260

Sent from my iPad

Anthony Mejia

Subject: RE: Yes on Map 109"

From: Martha McCool [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, December 6, 2023 2:58 PM
To: CouncilMeeting Comments <CouncilMeetingComments@palmdesert.gov>
Subject: Yes on Map 109"
Importance: High

Yes on Map 109"
Martha McCool & Kenneth McCool

Anthony Mejia

Subject: RE: Yes on Map 109

From: Craig Otte [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, December 6, 2023 2:37 PM
To: CouncilMeeting Comments <CouncilMeetingComments@palmdesert.gov>
Subject: Yes on Map 109

To whom it may concern:

Although I don't think the city of Palm Desert should be split up at all, the compromise would be to strongly consider Map 109. City Councilwoman Quintanilla should not hold a government leadership position and will hopefully be removed in the next election. She has done nothing but create havoc since she has been in "office"

A concerned citizen,

Craig Otte

Anthony Mejia

Subject: RE: YES on Map 109

From: Bob Mazur [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, December 6, 2023 2:09 PM
To: CouncilMeeting Comments <CouncilMeetingComments@palmdesert.gov>
Subject: YES on Map 109

Dear Council Members:

Your proposed map is fair and makes the most sense if we have to move to 5 districts. It logically defines North Palm Desert as two districts with community of interest: older, more established neighborhoods in same district and placing the newer developments with largely new residents in another district.

Your proposed Map 109 is actually brilliant.

The alternative plans are not well thought out, not logical, and would divide neighborhoods with shared interests.

Thank you for your consideration.

Robert and Lisa Mazur
[REDACTED]
Vicinity of Country Club & Monterey Avenues

[Sent from AT&T Yahoo Mail on Android](#)

Anthony Mejia

Subject: RE: Map 109

-----Original Message-----

From: Kathy Paxton [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, December 6, 2023 1:06 PM
To: CouncilMeeting Comments <CouncilMeetingComments@palmdesert.gov>
Subject: Map 109

Please approve map 109 for redistricting of the City of Palm Desert.

Thank you
Kathy Paxton
Sent from my iPhone

Anthony Mejia

Subject: RE: districting new plans !!!

From: [REDACTED]

Sent: Wednesday, December 6, 2023 1:04 PM

To: CouncilMeeting Comments <CouncilMeetingComments@palmdesert.gov>

Subject: districting new plans !!!

after looking over plans---PLEASE consider # 109. That particular one seems very fair and a good choice for voters in Palm Desert. Thank-you, Claire J. Price

Anthony Mejia

Subject: RE: Vote map 109

From: Mike Morsch [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, December 6, 2023 12:43 PM
To: CouncilMeeting Comments <CouncilMeetingComments@palmdesert.gov>
Subject: Vote map 109

Redistricting the city of Palm Desert was for me a very difficult process as I prefer 5 at large city council members to represent us rather than one for each district.

I did submit a map and after review of the other maps I have evaluated map # 109 over mine to be more inclusive to the future needs of possibly redrawing districts again in a few years due to the population growth in the north end of the city down the road after the next census takes place.

I encourage the City Council and residents to adopt map 109 for the betterment of Palm Desert.

Thank You,

Mike Morsch

Palm Desert Greens

Republican Club

President

[REDACTED]

Sent from [Mail](#) for Windows

Anthony Mejia

Subject: RE: Adopting a Redistricting Map

From: Ruth Hill [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, December 6, 2023 12:24 PM
To: CouncilMeeting Comments <CouncilMeetingComments@palmdesert.gov>
Subject: Adopting a Redistricting Map

Dear Councilmen,
This is to register my support for advancing Map 109 for redistricting.

The suggestion to split an HOA community in half is unacceptable. It fosters dissension in the HOA community and insults Palm Desert councilmen and residents who want a fair and equitable district line.

I am also against Map 102 which does not split the HOA community.

Thank you in advance for your consideration and adoption of Map 109 for redistricting.

--

Ruth A Hill RN BSN MAT CHPN

[REDACTED]
Palm Desert, CA 92260
[REDACTED]

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Anthony Mejia

Subject: RE: Palm Desert Redistricting

-----Original Message-----

From: Brenda Campbell [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, December 6, 2023 11:54 AM
To: CouncilMeeting Comments <CouncilMeetingComments@palmdesert.gov>
Subject: Palm Desert Redistricting

YES on Map 109. This map makes the most sense.

Brenda Campbell

Anthony Mejia

Subject: RE: Map 109

From: Linda Steward [REDACTED]

Sent: Wednesday, December 6, 2023 11:41 AM

To: CouncilMeeting Comments <CouncilMeetingComments@palmdesert.gov>

Subject: Map 109

Yes, on 109!!!

Anthony Mejia

Subject: RE: "Yes on Map 109"

From: Loretta Larson [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, December 6, 2023 4:59 PM
To: CouncilMeeting Comments <CouncilMeetingComments@palmdesert.gov>
Subject: "Yes on Map 109"

"Yes on Map 109"

[Sent from Yahoo Mail for iPhone](#)

Anthony Mejia

From: Stephen Nelson [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, December 7, 2023 1:14 AM
To: CityClerk
Subject: Public Comments - Summary of Public Hearings to date
Attachments: Scan 2.pdf; We sent you safe versions of your files

Importance: High

Mimecast Attachment Protection has deemed this file to be safe, but always exercise caution when opening files.



Anthony-

Please enter the following comment into the record for the city council upcoming meeting next week.

Honorable Mayor Kathleen Kelley and City Council,

I write this letter to you after attending 2 public hearings after you prescribed to advance one map (i.e. 109). You will learn that you were provided incorrect information as it relates to the possibility of other maps which could be viable WITHOUT separating a community of interest, neighborhood, or HOA. After working through the maps in detail, I found the solution where it meets your requirements for the state of California. I ask that you have a representation of Map 102c to display so the public can see it during the public hearing before any further action is taken. As such, for the avoidance of any doubt and to prevent any additional views of impropriety related to the information received from your demographer and the council's decision to only advance 1 map in lieu of 2-3 maps as stated in your publicized milestone document.

To address the future growth matter, and the document showing approved/in-construction status. It would be helpful to provide to the public an estimated construction start and end date to place these projects in to further context so the public has some indication as to when the proposed increase in population might occur. To do it any other way is disingenuous and lends itself to incorrect assumptions. I think you'll find we will be very much well within the acceptable period of redistricting for 2030, which is perfectly acceptable to adjust districts small or large and that change should be left up to a future council and the north district residents to determine what is best for that area at the time it's needed.

To do anything more at this time is an overreach by this council and should be left to a future council that will be within an acceptable range of time to make a more substantive and informed decision based on reasonable assumptions about future growth.

Stephen Nelson
-Palm Desert Resident -(Northern Sphere)

North

102C revision

You can hand-deliver, mail, fax, scan and email, or photograph and email your map.

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那。

Phone and/or email:

Stephen Nelson

ne and/or email: SNEISONCA@

ICLADN.
com

Anthony Mejia

Subject: RE: Redistrict Map for Palm Desert

From: Jackie Curtis [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, December 6, 2023 7:59 PM
To: CityClerk <CityClerk@palmdesert.gov>
Subject: Redistrict Map for Palm Desert

I am a citizen of Palm Desert. I attended the workshop on November 29. I wanted to make sure that my community, Hidden Palms, was not divided. I was told that the council voted for Map 109 and it did not divide Hidden Palms. Another map, Map 102 (c) was discussed and I was told that it did not divide Hidden Palms. After attending the workshop on December 6, I want to say that the moderator, Anthony Mejia, did an excellent job of explaining the maps and how the districts were formed. I support the council's decision for Map 109.

Sent from [Mail](#) for Windows

PALM DESERT REDISTRICTING 2023

PUBLIC COMMENT CARD

The City of Palm Desert is initiating a redistricting process to shift from the current two-district system to a new five-district system. The redistricting process will determine where the new City Council district lines will be drawn. The five new districts will impact how voters elect members of the City Council until the next redistricting process following the 2030 Census.

Name (Optional):

Vince Karlen

City of Residence (Optional):

Phone (Optional):

Email (Optional):

Comment:

Favor map 109. District 5's ~~location~~ location as proposed does a good job of bridging the north and mid areas of Palm Desert ~~the city~~, hopefully therein mitigating some of the damage done by fractionalizing the citizen via redistricting.

Additionally, Map 109 seems to ~~do~~ do to an adequate job of addressing future growth, which is important to minimize ~~the~~ disruption

when there is a new census.



PUBLIC COMMENT CARD



PALM DESERT

PALM DESERT REDISTRICTING 2023

PUBLIC COMMENT CARD

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Name (Optional): ERIKH SHARP

City of Residence (Optional): PAZLY DESERT

Phone (Optional): [REDACTED]

Email (Optional):

Comment: I LIKE THIS

PUBLIC COMMENT CARD

Name (Optional): Sandra Preston

City of Residence (Optional): Palm Desert

Phone (Optional): _____

Email (Optional):

Comment: I support Map 109



PALM DESERT

Anthony Mejia

From: Michelle Martin [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, December 7, 2023 10:55 AM
To: Anthony Mejia
Subject: Re: Sun City PD not represented?



Sorry one more thing... as a resident of PD, for the record, I do strongly share the sentiment that the Council should very much re-consider, SERIOUSLY, the 102c (or was it 103? I can't remember the number now), which very much appears to resolve ALL the residents concerns. Much more so than 109.

I do also share the frustration expressed, about the council narrowing down their focus to one map, before actually having all the pertinent info available. Seems quite dismissive of residents concerns.

Michelle Martin
Mobile Notary | Loan Signing Agent
[REDACTED]

Sent from my iPhone

On Dec 7, 2023, at 9:15 AM, Anthony Mejia <amejia@palmdesert.gov> wrote:

Ms. Martin:

As I noted at the meeting last night, Sun City is located outside of the City limits and is an unincorporated area of Riverside County. Please let me know if you have any questions.

<p><50yearsresized_32178492-0560-4444-b657-c0c208d02055.png></p>	<p>Anthony Mejia City Clerk 760.776.6304 amejia@palmdesert.gov www.palmdesert.gov 73510 Fred Waring Drive, Palm Desert, CA, 92260</p>
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[<engagepalmdeserte-sig_4155bf6e-1603-4999-b20b-74e732700e43.png>](#)

-----Original Message-----

From: Mmichelle.mmartin [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, December 6, 2023 6:19 PM
To: CityClerk <CityClerk@palmdesert.gov>
Subject: Sun City PD not represented?

I submitted a question weeks ago on the website.
Sun City Palm Desert is in Palm Desert, and has 5,000 homes in it. Why am I not seeing Sun City represented on any of the redistricting maps??

I would appreciate a response, please.

Michelle Martin



Sent from my iPad

Anthony Mejia

From: Gregg Akkerman [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, December 7, 2023 11:35 AM
To: CityClerk
Subject: Comments for 12/14 Council meeting on redistricting



Dear Council Members,

After attending both the November 19 and December 6 redistricting workshops, I find myself in league with many in attendance who would prefer to have more than one “focus” map to consider.

In my opinion, the current focus map, 109, is problematic for several reasons according to the California Voting Rights Act.

First, thousands of people living in a community of interest being the Palm Springs Unified School District north of Frank Sinatra Drive will be split apart.

Second, thousands of people living in the community of interest being the north of Palm Desert will have their voices diluted by being split into two districts and blended with residents located far to the south of them who don’t necessarily share the same living experience.

And last, the proposed district in the southeast ignores the requirement of compactness with a visually obvious sprawl that raises the specter of gerrymandering.

Previously, Council Members asked the demographer if any of the eligible maps besides 109 avoided breaking a gated community and were told no. Another question asked if it was plausible to reverse that problem specifically found on map 102b and again the answer was no.

This assessment proved to be incorrect when Stephen Nelson, a resident of Palm Desert, suggested a revision to map 102b and, according to the City Clerk, that modified map, which I will refer to as 102c, would indeed offer a fully compliant alternative to map 109.

Map 102c, as discussed at the redistricting sessions, does not split any gated communities, does not split the school district, does not break the community of interest in the north end of the city, and does not ignore compactness.

The City Clerk mentioned at a public session that map 102 possibly ignores future growth which might delay by two years the ability for some residents to vote for city council due to potential population balancing after the 2030 census. To his comment I ask, “How many people will be thrown into voting confusion if we adopt districts that can’t withstand a CVRA lawsuit and a judge orders the city to redraw the map at taxpayer expense?” I think the city has spent enough money on patch-work redistricting solutions and this time we need to get it right.

To conclude, since hypothetical map 102c seems compliant with the California Voting Rights Act and now avoids splitting a gated community, I am asking the Council to request a formal rendering of that map and present it to the residents of Palm Desert as a second focus maps.

Gregg Akkerman

Palm Desert resident, Chair of Parks and Recreation Committee