

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?

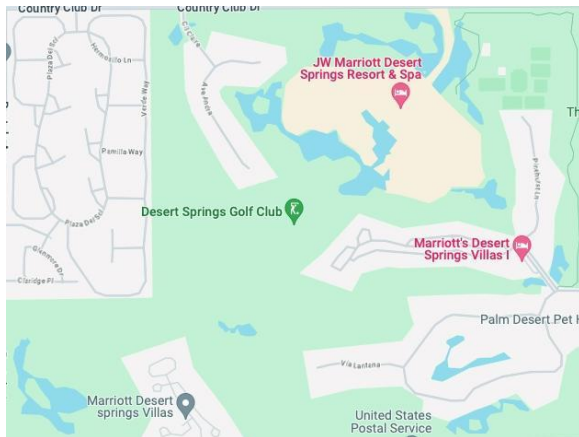
Therefore, I respectfully request this letter be added to the public record. I'll also send a separate request to the City Council directly advising of the recent development about the alternative map and requesting the modified map (e.g. Map 102c) to be added as an additional focus map and more importantly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

Regards,

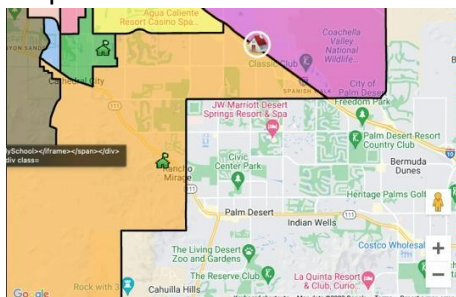
Stephen Nelson

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

Palm Desert
2023 Redistricting
Public Participation Kit

102C
REVISION

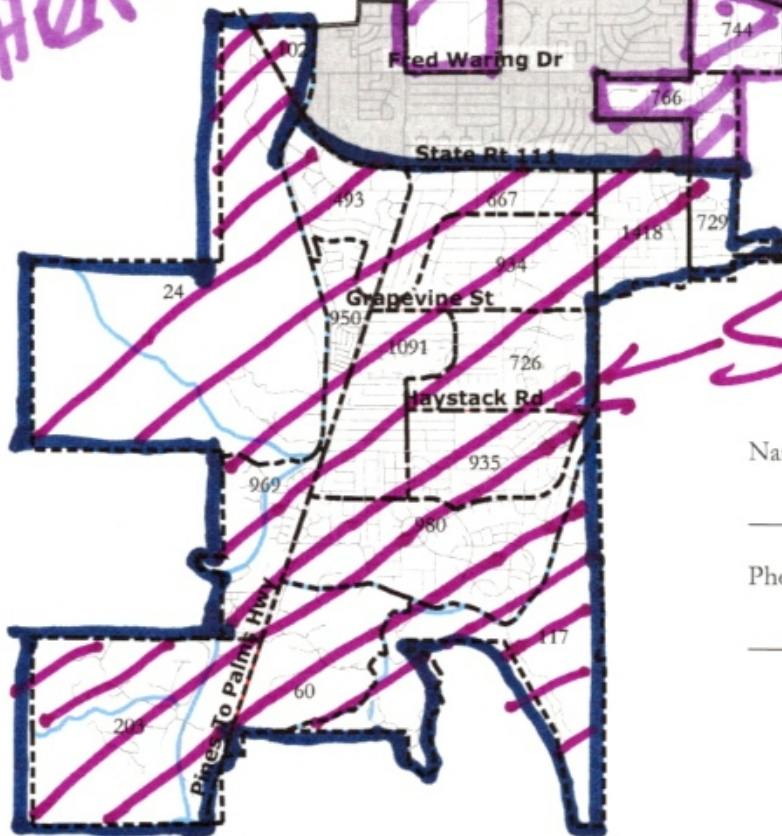
Each number indicates the total population of that "population unit" area. Each district must have essentially equal population. The population of each of the 5 districts must be close to 10,263, with no more than a 1,026 difference between the largest and smallest districts.

Existing District 1 is shown in grey. It is population balanced and can be left as-is.

Please use a thick dark-colored pen to draw your map, then submit it at City Hall or by email to cityclerk@palmdesert.gov

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

UPPER
CENTRAL



An online version of this map that allows you to zoom in and out for more detail is available as a link from the City website.

EAST

SOUTH

Name:

Stephen Nelson

Phone and/or email:

SnelsonCA@
ICloud.
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.



PALM DESERT

PUBLIC COMMENT CARD

Name (Optional): CHRISTEL PROKAY

City of Residence (Optional): PALM DESERT

Phone (Optional): [REDACTED]

Email (Optional): [REDACTED]

Comment: Yes on Mar 109



PALM DESERT

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): ERIKA 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>
--	--

[<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

Anthony Mejia

From: Linda Joy Salas <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Friday, December 8, 2023 2:14 PM
To: CityClerk
Subject: Want 102/103C Map



From the maps submitted to Palm Desert City Council, the ones that met the criteria were 102b, 103b and 109.

102b and 103b were established by a resident, and a majority of the public comments supported these maps. However, the council chose to submit map 109 without giving the public a chance to choose. The reason stated was that it broke up one gated community.

Another Palm Desert resident worked around it by submitting a corrected version of 102b or 103b labeling it with a C.

When the majority of the voters approve something, the council is obligated to take that into consideration.

I vote for 102/103C and would like that to be noted for the record.

Linda Joy Salas (CalBRE: [REDACTED])
[REDACTED]

Anthony Mejia

From: Dennis Steele [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, December 9, 2023 9:51 AM
To: CityClerk
Subject: Map 102



Hi,

Earlier in the mapping process, I supported Maps 102 and/or 103. I'm now aware that the council moved to only present Map109 despite the popularity of maps 102/103.

I understand there was an issue with the boundary dividing up a particular development, however that has been remedied with Map 102C recently presented to the council.

I'm writing this to lend my support to map 102C as it is the map that creates districts more in line with the purpose of district voting.

<https://redistrictpd.org/draft-maps/>

Thank you,
Dennis Steele

Anthony Mejia

From: Dori Smith [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, December 9, 2023 10:33 AM
To: CityClerk
Subject: Comments on Re-Districting

Please forward this to the City Council members; it's about the maps in consideration for re-districting.

The City Council made a commitment to consider at least two maps but suddenly voted to ONLY consider one, map 109.

109 has many concerning issues according to the CA Voting Rights Act. If you look at how North Palm Desert is divided, it separates the school district that sends students to PSUSD. The issues in North Palm Desert vary widely from the rest of the city. They have more wind and sand, the potential for rail service that will be installed there, and businesses that create taxes for the city but don't serve the needs of the North PD community. Also, the size of the districts doesn't seem to follow the rules for compactness.

Also, it is VERY concerning that the demographer, when asked whether 102b could be corrected, said "no." Yet, Steven Nelson redrew the map, changed the dividing line, and met all the criteria.

AND, 102c follows all guidelines, doesn't divide the school district, and is favored by the majority who attended both focus-group sessions.

ONCE AGAIN, City council members are dragging their feet on this issue and not following what the guidelines are for redistricting! From past actions and votes, it seems clear to residents of Palm Desert that most of the City Council does not want to move to five-district voting and are using the maps as a way to keep delaying.

This must stop! The City Council must consider more than one map, continue to seriously consider input from residents, and move swiftly to 5 voting districts.

Dorea Smith, [REDACTED], Palm Desert

Anthony Mejia

From: FAITH C MCINNIS [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, December 10, 2023 5:36 PM
To: CityClerk
Subject: 5 Districts



As a voting resident of Palm Desert, I see that 102c looks the most likely map to meet the needs of our PD citizens.

Please pass my input along. Thanks,
Faith McInnis

[REDACTED]
Palm Desert, CA 92260

Anthony Mejia

Subject: RE: Yes on Map 109

From: Maria Torres [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, December 7, 2023 4:27 PM
To: CouncilMeeting Comments <CouncilMeetingComments@palmdesert.gov>
Subject: Yes on Map 109

Hello

We are writing in support of advancing Map 109. This districting map is fair and makes the most sense for all residents.

Thank you,

Eglert Gutierrez & Maria Torres

Anthony Mejia

Subject: RE: Strongly support map109!!

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

From: Peck, Mary A. [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, December 7, 2023 7:06 AM
To: CouncilMeeting Comments <CouncilMeetingComments@palmdesert.gov>
Subject: Strongly support map109!!

Sent from my iPhone

Anthony Mejia

From: info@redistrictpd.org
Sent: Saturday, December 9, 2023 10:06 AM
To: CityClerk; [REDACTED]
Subject: Palm Desert Redistricting - New submission from Contact Us



Name

Barbara Spencer

Email

[REDACTED]

Message

In looking at Map 109 Renumbered, as well as other maps, I find the 109 Renumbered more cohesive for the entire Palm Desert area. Other maps show jumbling and breaking up of areas and disorganized in appearance. I prefer the Council to strongly consider May 109 Renumbered.

Barbara Spencer

Anthony Mejia

From: Illene Lackman [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, December 12, 2023 12:49 PM
To: CityClerk
Subject: Want Map 102



Hi,

I just became aware of the fact that the council has selected map 109 and it looks like it won't address the issues that those of us in the north Palm Desert Area are concerned about.

Please register my vote for Map 102. It is the clearest and most precise division of the area mapped.

Illene Lackman
North Palm Desert resident

The City Council made a commitment to consider at least two maps but suddenly voted to ONLY consider one, map 109.

109 has many concerning issues according to the CA Voting Rights Act. If you look at how North Palm Desert is divided, it separates the school district that sends students to PSUSD. The issues in North Palm Desert vary widely from the rest of the city. They have more wind and sand, the potential for rail service that will be installed there, and businesses that create taxes for the city but don't serve the needs of the North PD community. Also, the size of the districts doesn't seem to follow the rules for compactness.

Also, it is VERY concerning that the demographer, when asked whether 102b could be corrected, said "no." Yet, Steven Nelson redrew the map, changed the dividing line, and met all the criteria.

AND, 102c follows all guidelines, doesn't divide the school district, and is favored by the majority who attended both focus-group sessions.

ONCE AGAIN, City council members are dragging their feet on this issue and not following what the guidelines are for redistricting! From past actions and votes, it seems clear to residents of Palm Desert that most of the City Council does not want to move to five-district voting and are using the maps as a way to keep delaying.

This must stop! The City Council must consider more than one map, continue to seriously consider input from residents, and move swiftly to 5 voting districts.

Dorea Smith, [REDACTED], Palm Desert

Palm Desert City Council:

I have been following and attending the meetings pertaining to redistricting. It seems a bit underhanded as to how the map was chosen. Refusing to follow the set dates for how this was going forward, refusing to accept 102b, being told 102b could not be revised, refusing to second a motion to take 102b into consideration, and rushing to get the map four of the council members want does not sit well with me or with many of the Palm Desert residents.

We thought that 2-3 maps would be chosen, there would be time to evaluate them and give feedback, and follow the timeline originally published seems to be the city council's slap in the face since most of them did not want to go to 5 districts to begin with and were willing to spend our tax money to continue fighting a lawsuit that they would lose again.

I thought you were elected to represent the voters. I also find it interesting, for lack of a better word, that when you look at 109 and where the council members reside, it seems to favor Councilman Trubee.

The overwhelming feedback has been in favor of 102b from the two meetings I attended. Then out of the blue, votes for 109 with no reasons have suddenly appeared. Where were these people previously and what is their rationale? 109 does not follow the established guidelines and will not be able to be installed. Not to mention the needs and concerns of the North Palm Desert residents. I am here to support them as I would hope you would do, too. For your information, I reside in District 1. Please put 102b/102c back on the table. We have to move to five districts so that it will make representation fair, just, and right.

Debbie Green



Anthony Mejia

Subject: RE: YES on Map 109 !

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

From: Bruce Poynter [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, December 13, 2023 10:29 AM
To: CouncilMeeting Comments <CouncilMeetingComments@palmdesert.gov>
Subject: YES on Map 109 !

Hi All.

My Vote is for YES on redistricting Map 109.

Thank You

Bruce Poynter
[REDACTED]
Palm Desert, California
[REDACTED]

Anthony Mejia

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, December 13, 2023 3:34 PM
To: CityClerk
Subject: Public Hearing on Redistricting



To the Members of the Palm Desert City Council at the Council Meeting on December 14, 2023:

Honorable City Council Members:

I wish to make the following statements regarding the Redistricting proposals:

- (1) Redistricting Map #109 should not be considered as, from what I understand, it separates the School District and sends children who live in Palm Desert to schools in Palm Springs! To me, that is unconscionable, and it sends a message to those children that they don't belong with other children in Palm Desert.
- (2) Redistricting Map #102b mistakenly divides a Gated Community which is also unacceptable; however, it was not permitted to be corrected.
- (3) Redistricting Map #102c follows all the guidelines, doesn't divide the School District or the Gated Community, but it hasn't been presented to the public.
- (4) I believe that Redistricting Map #102c should be considered as an alternative to the other maps and needs to be presented to the public.

Thank you.

Faye Chow
[REDACTED]
Palm Desert, CA

Anthony Mejia

Subject: RE: Redistricting Map

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

From: Ellen Kane [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, December 13, 2023 3:26 PM
To: CouncilMeeting Comments <CouncilMeetingComments@palmdesert.gov>
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: Redistricting Map

Dear Members of the City Council,

The purpose of my email is to let you know that I totally support your decision to move forward with Map 109.

This has been a laborious process with all sides weighing in. You are the elected officials who have the responsibility of a final decision on behalf of the City and your efforts and foresite is appreciated.

(Congratulations on winning the Map 109 endorsement from the Desert Sun as well.)

Ellen Kane
[REDACTED]
Palm Desert, CA 92260
[REDACTED]

Anthony Mejia

Subject: RE: YES on Map 109 !

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

From: Bruce Poynter [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, December 13, 2023 10:29 AM
To: CouncilMeeting Comments <CouncilMeetingComments@palmdesert.gov>
Subject: YES on Map 109 !

Hi All.

My Vote is for YES on redistricting Map 109.

Thank You

Bruce Poynter
[REDACTED]
Palm Desert, California
[REDACTED]

Anthony Mejia

From: Stephen Nelson [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, December 14, 2023 11:20 AM
To: CityClerk
Subject: Support for Introduction of MAP 102(c)
Attachments: 385550434_2790450737778701_1681612976153491036_n.jpg



Honorable Mayor Quintanilla and City Council-

On behalf of the Northern Sphere HOA's (e.g. Genesis and several others), we support the addition of Map 102(c). For obvious reasons that are unique to our location within Palm Desert, that differs from the other 80% of the city. One last time to ensure you understand our position and live in our shoes for a change.

Community of Interest:

1. Our children attend PSUSD schools and we are part of PSUSD Trustee Area 1 - Madonna Gerrall.
2. Our Property Taxes - PSUSD are routed to PSUSD; 80% of the city goes to DSUSD
3. We pay a higher property tax compared to the more well established homes in the south.
4. We have a high percentage of LGBT citizens and under the law is defined as a protected class.

In summary, our community of interest basis is multi-faceted. Our children, our shared financial position as it relates to our property tax, and last but not least we have a concentrated amount of LGBT citizens who call the northern sphere of Palm Desert home.

We ask that you maintain and respect our community as your planning commission decided to build it and moreover we call this area of Palm Desert home. To split the north in two would cause division among one community and would be irresponsible. Furthermore, the proposed growth cannot be accurately determined in 2023. Most of these communities haven't even broken ground and nobody on the council can predict within the next 2 to 5 years what will happen, nor do they have any buildout schedules from said developers. This should be handled by the people of the north when the time comes, not before, not 7 years out, not by this council, it should be handled by the people within the district at the prescribed time in consultation with the current councilperson from the north, its citizens and the city council recommending bifurcation due to growth and/or population.

We only ask of the council what the southern parts of the city have enjoyed for many decades to date. Have a person that lives in our neighborhood and lives the daily experience to represent us on the council. Because Councilwoman Harnick and Mayor Kelly, are very well known in the southern part of town, its residents are familiar with them, have relationships, and conversely, they have a working knowledge of the specific nature of the issue because they share those concerns with their fellow citizens, all of which is OK.

The northern sphere and eastern sphere of Palm Desert simply want their own versions of Councilwoman Harnick and Mayor Kelly who live the daily life of those areas and share their citizens' concerns and have them represent the issues on the council. Just because we are respectively the North and East areas of the city we should not be criticized for having an identity. We are where we chose to call home but make no mistake, we are proud to be citizens of the heartbeat of Coachella Valley, The one and only Palm Desert.

Stephen Nelson
President
Board of Directors

Genesis at Millennium

Mobile/Text: [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

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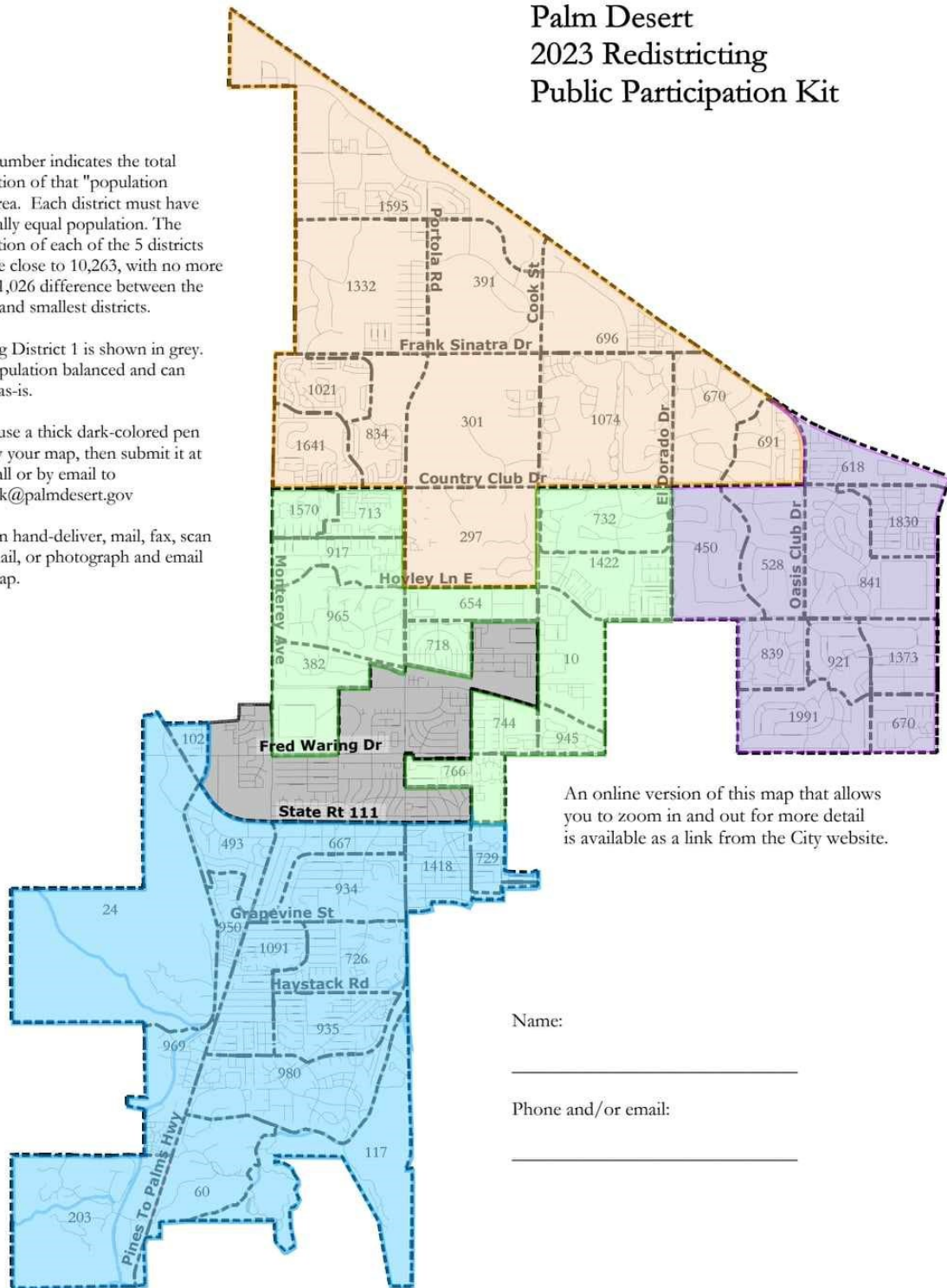
Palm Desert 2023 Redistricting Public Participation Kit

Each number indicates the total population of that "population unit" area. Each district must have essentially equal population. The population of each of the 5 districts must be close to 10,263, with no more than a 1,026 difference between the largest and smallest districts.

Existing District 1 is shown in grey. It is population balanced and can be left as-is.

Please use a thick dark-colored pen to draw your map, then submit it at City Hall or by email to cityclerk@palmdesert.gov

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



An online version of this map that allows you to zoom in and out for more detail is available as a link from the City website.

Name:

Phone and/or email:

2021 CALIPER



Annotate



Bookmark



Anthony Mejia

Subject: RE: Yes on map 109

From: Cathy Forrister [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, December 14, 2023 9:57 AM
To: CouncilMeeting Comments <CouncilMeetingComments@palmdesert.gov>
Subject: Yes on map 109

Honorable City Council:

At the last council meeting you asked for public input on the redistricting maps. After review of the maps and listening to public comments, I believe 109 is the best choice. As our city grows, mainly in the north, I feel it will not only have less disruption in future redistricting, but that it's imperative that districts are confirmed now rather than later, so those who are interested in running can know if their district is up for voting and to start the process.

Yes on map 109

Sincerely,
Cathy Forrister
Palm Desert

December 13, 2023

Re: Redistricting Comments in support of approval of a revision to Map 102

Madame Mayor and City Council,

I am a resident of the Genesis Development located on the northeast corner of Portola and Gerald Ford. I respectfully request that a revised Map 102 be considered along with Map 109 and that Council ultimately approves a revised Map 102. The reasons for my request are based on the following comments, observations, and impacts to the quality of life that we experience in the northern sphere and will continue to experience into the foreseeable future.

One of the primary reasons that the Council voted to proceed solely with Map 109 is that, based on direct input from the City's demographer, Map 102 could not be modified to keep a particular HOA intact and adhere to fundamental redistricting protocols. But as discussed at the recent community outreach meeting I attended at the iHub, the City's demographer confirmed that Map 102 could be modified to keep the HOA intact and be consistent with the requirements for balancing population along with other requirements. Since the feedback provided to the Council during the recent Council Meeting was incorrect, and the Council voted to proceed with only Map 109 based on the demographer's incorrect feedback, it is prudent that a revised Map 102 be re-considered for approval. As an outcome of the public engagement meeting at the iHub, the City's demographer conveyed that the request of northern sphere residents to include a revised version of Map 102 would be reported back to the City staff and the Council.

Irrespective of the belief that all neighborhoods in the City are essentially the same and Council representation is evenly distributed, the facts are that the issues that residents in the northern sphere encounter are uniquely different than the residents living south of Country Club. The reason is due to frequent wind and associated substantial sand accumulation, worsening traffic congestion, frequent street closures and detours due to construction and unmitigated noise and vibration from the frequent trains traversing along Interstate 10. Unfortunately, it has become apparent that some residents that reside in districts that will not be impacted if Map 102 is approved believe sand accumulation and its impact on property values and associated quality of life has been addressed and mitigated which is simply not true and as such, northern sphere residents deserve representation since the blowing sand impacts are unique and occur almost exclusively in north Palm Desert.

I have heard fellow residents say that the status quo of how the City is managed and how the City Council has been structured has always worked in the past so why change the way the residents are represented by the Council? The fact is that the city demographics have and will continue to change. Some residents appear to be opposed to change even though both maps 102 and 109 will not impact those living in the southern districts of the City. It seems disingenuous to be against a district boundary that will allow north Palm Desert residents to have their own identity and community of interest and direct Council representation as other residents currently enjoy when the proposed boundaries will not impact the current alignment of Council districts in areas other than the northern sphere.

Map 109 most likely does not meet the requirements of the California Voting Rights Act because it dilutes a unique community of interest by breaking the northern sphere into two districts that include

boundaries to a significant southern border (as in proposed Council District 5 on Map 109) and a broader eastern border for District 3 (as shown on Map 109). Council has opined that breaking the northern sphere into two Districts (3 and 5 on Map 109) will account for and distribute future growth and will reduce the need to rezone the districts in the future. I respectfully disagree with this premise because virtually all the future growth in the City will occur in the northern sphere, north of County Club and almost solely in District 3 as proposed on Map 109. The proposed northern District 5 as shown on Map 102, which is the map preferred by most northern sphere residents (based on input during community outreach meetings), will see most of the future growth, more than any of the four other proposed districts. This reality is a substantial reason why the northern sphere district should be kept intact and have a Councilmember assigned to a northern district.

In closing, my observation is that the City has requested input on the redistricting process and other topics (northern sphere passive park) and I truly appreciate the outreach but resident feedback doesn't necessarily factor into decisions made by City Departments or the City Council. A prime example is that it was reported to residents that the Council will narrow the list of maps to two or three for consideration. That clearly did not happen. This has an appearance of asking for public input as being insincere and phony. Since most residents that reside in the northern sphere provided input that their preferred District Map is Map 102, I believe it only fair and justified that Map 102 (with the demographer confirmed alignment revisions) be considered and ultimately approved because northern sphere residents like myself want the same level of representation that southern districts have had historically and a council member that lives in the northern sphere community of interest that can help address issues we encounter in the northern sphere.

Thank you for considering keeping the northern sphere intact and the approval of a revision of Map 102.

Michael J Stafford

[REDACTED]

Palm Desert, CA 92211

[REDACTED]