

Mr. Tounget:

As president of Austin's oldest neighborhood association, the South River City Citizens (SRCC), I am writing to tell you that our Executive Committee has voted to oppose the preliminary district map created by ICRC for two primary reasons:

1. It divides up the neighborhoods in the 78704 zip code which comprise a "community of interest" under the 10-One Charter Amendment. SRCC has concerns on important issues in common with other neighborhoods in 78704 but the preliminary map groups some of them with Downtown neighborhoods all the way up to 51st Street and the others with far East Austin neighborhoods. Neither of these districts are shaped to allow the 78704 neighborhoods to maintain their long-term and effective alliances.

2. It specifically sub-divides our long-standing neighborhood association in two by placing 421 in District 9 while placing 420, 422 and 433 in District 3. Our neighborhood association was established over 40 years ago and has tirelessly fought to represent our entire neighborhood. It is bad enough to not be represented with the neighborhoods with which you share a true "community of interest," but to have your individual neighborhood divided makes it impossible for us to be represented effectively.

SRCC's northern boundary is Lady Bird Lake; our western boundary is Congress Ave. Our southern boundary is Ben White and eastern boundary is Parker Lane / IH 35. Unless it is impossible to create a minority district without 422 & 433, we want to keep our neighborhood boundaries intact. At our general membership meeting on October 7th this resolution will be presented and we expect overwhelming support of the resolution.

RESOLUTION:

SRCC opposes a voting district map that divides portions of 78704 zip code. A map that excludes 422 and 433 splits our our neighborhood in half with the result that our constituents would not be effectively represented. We are a 'community of interest' sharing strong ties and shared concerns with communities south of the river more than those north of the river. SRCC boundaries should be respected and our residents should be grouped in a district including all of 78704 neighborhoods.

Sincerely,

Marc Davis
President, South River City Citizens Neighborhood Association