

Commissioners,

In your districting efforts of Sept. 28th, you divided the Precincts that make up the neighborhoods of Shady Hollow into two different Districts. Precinct 309, appropriately, was put into District 5 in Far South Austin, while you placed Precinct 315, even further South, into District 8. I pointed out in my oral remarks at the end of your meeting that you were inadvertently splitting Shady Hollow, and all commissioners except Commissioner Haag seemed to agree with my rationale that 315 should be moved to District 5 to unify the contiguous precincts that make up Shady Hollow. At that time he stated that he still believed that there was a direct road connection between District 8 and Precinct 315 via Precinct 302 . Such is not the case.

Precinct 315 should be moved to District 5, then, for the following reasons:

- It is an integral and contiguous part of the Shady Hollow neighborhood, while it is not contiguous to any part of District 8. In fact, you have to drive through Precinct 309 on Brodie Ln. to get to 315. Precinct 309 contains the original Shady Hollow, Shady Hollow Lane and the Shady Hollow Community Center. Both the north and south ends (FM 1626) of Brodie Ln. accesses into Shady Hollow lie within District 5. (Precinct 315 is also contiguous to Precinct 408 in District 5).

- Your commission has used Brodie Ln. as the north-south boundary between Districts 5 & 8 from Sunset Valley all the way down to 315. Since the majority of 315 lies east of Brodie Ln., it should also be combined into District 5. District 5 is currently 3000 under the desired population target, and precinct 315 is coincidentally just a bit over 3000 persons.

- Note that even the OHAN board did not include Shady Hollow (309 or 315) in their desired District map. Neither did the OHAN map proposal from Dan Page include any of Shady Hollow precincts as part of his neighborhoods of common interest. While Commissioner Haag told me that Shady Hollow is on the OHAN member neighborhoods list, the OHAN imputed membership is quite a bit larger in aggregate population than the size limit for the City Council Districts you are tasked to draw. Again, the OHAN submitted map did not include Precinct 315, so it is fair to conclude that it was not a priority of theirs.

One additional observation: your 10 district map also includes all of Precinct 302 in District 8, though the largest part of Precinct 302 lies outside the Austin City Limits. This erroneous illustration gives the impression that District 8 extends south and east underneath Shady Hollow. That portion of Precinct 302 is open countryside and lies outside the city limits. Only the northern and western edge of precinct 302 is in Austin city limits and should be reflected on your map. It is also the only part of 302 contiguous or connected by road to District 8. Ultimately, this is a precinct that should be divided.

Respectfully,

Mike Rodriguez
District 5, Precinct 406