

I have found what I believe is a violation of the ICRC's charter. As I understand it the commission is prohibited by it's charter to draw maps which would benefit any future city council candidate. Tonight I attended the Austin Neighborhood Councils special meeting on the ICRC maps. As I looked at the current ICRC map; I noticed that my neighborhood; Montopolis, was chipped off of the East Riverside Corridor and placed in a district that included Dove Springs and Del Valle.

When I started asking why Montopolis was separated from the rest of the East Riverside Corridor? Three separate people told me that it was done that way at the insistence of Susana Almanza. And here's the problem; Ms Almanza is planning to run for City Council next November. Care to guess which district she plans to run in?

The ICRC has in effect allowed Ms Almanza to wield her influence to put Montopolis in a district she thinks she can win. That is a violation of the Commission's charter. And I believe all that I've said should be a matter of public record; most likely from the Montopolis meeting of the ICRC.

I think in future meetings the ICRC needs to find out if a speaker who is trying to influence the drawing of map is planning to run for City Council in the next ten years. If that person is planning to run for Council; they should not be allowed to give input in the drawing of the map. Any one who speaks before the ICRC in an attempt to influence the district maps should be required to sign a waiver stating they will not run for City Council office for the next 10 years.

As it stands today with it being common knowledge that Montopolis was chipped out of the East Riverside Corridor at the request of Susana Almanza a future city council candidate; the latest ICRC map was drawn in violation of the ICRC's Charter.

I very much urge the ICRC to put Montopolis where it belongs; with the rest of the East Riverside Corridor. To move Montopolis out of the district at the request of a future candidate is at the very least; an ethics violation.

And once again I strongly urge the ICRC to put something in place that prohibits anyone who is trying to influence the drawing of those districts from running for City Council for the next ten years.

And one more thing; if she hasn't done so ICR Commission member Carmen Llanos needs to fully disclose her well known ties to future City Council candidate Susana Almanza. For her to vote on any map that might help Ms Almanza run for office has to be an ethics violation.

Respectfully  
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