

Good Day Commissioners and Mr. Tounget,

I apologize in advance if the following request is inappropriate due to timing or content.

If the iteration of the map presented for November 13-14 public comment remains essentially unchanged from the work produced at the end of your 11/4 meeting, is it possible or even permissible for the Commission to give its rationale for some decisions? I am, in this case, specifically referring to District 5.

Throughout the many meetings since September 28 the commission had expressed recognition of, and action toward, a goal of keeping the South Austin Combined Neighborhood intact. As the process continued, the commission increasingly took a position that the northern boundary should be at, or not too far north of, Ben White Blvd. Midway through the the November 4 meeting, there seemed a sudden need to "tweak" Districts 2 and 3 (which earlier seemed to meet necessary requirements, or very nearly so). The resulting cutting and patching based on a previously unacted upon plan resulted in the SACN being split into three districts and a new, narrow District 5 stretching from the mouth of Barton Creek at Lady Bird Lake to the Onion Creek neighborhood and the southern city limits.

Residents of the affected area who have been following the process are somewhat perplexed. Perhaps, if rules will allow, an explanation of the Commission's reasoning beyond a VRA rationale will clarify matters and perhaps make future public input from those residents more germane and productive. As always, please accept my gratitude for your service and your consideration.

Sincerely,
Ken Craig
Voting Pct. 447