

Rodriguez, Lisa

From: HPD ICRC Commissioners
Sent: Tuesday, August 17, 2021 9:22 AM
To: HPD ICRC Commissioners DL
Subject: FW: Meeting on August 18, 2021, Item 3A

From: Stefan Haag <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Tuesday, August 17, 2021 2:21:27 PM (UTC+00:00) Monrovia, Reykjavik
To: HPD ICRC Commissioners <ICRC.Commissioners@austintexas.gov>
Subject: Meeting on August 18, 2021, Item 3A

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Dear Commissioners,

I was wondering why the briefing on the 2020 Census is being conducted by Dr. Valencia, the Austin City Demographer, rather than your legal counsel or your mapper. The independence of the commission is greatly influenced by the source of the commission's information. Your legal counsel was the legal counsel to the first ICRC and is familiar with the current districts, their boundaries, and relevant information concerning the boundaries for the districts. Also, your mapper should have the capability to brief you on the population of each district after the 2020 census as well as the VTDs that are included in the districts.

The same argument could be made concerning your briefing on the open meetings and open records acts and your responsibilities under those acts. Being briefed by the City Attorney is similar to my concerns about the briefing by the City Demographer. The City of Austin should not be providing legal advice to the commission. On September 4, 2021, the action by Governor Abbott that delayed the requirement to complete the training expires, and you are required to complete the training. Although the online training doesn't take long to complete, it should be done quickly and the certificate of completion provided to Christine.

I also think that Christine needs to be aware that communications between citizens and the commission should be available as a backup to a meeting, ensuring that the process is open and transparent.

Sincerely,
Stefan Haag
Resident of SMD 8

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