

HPD ICRC Commissioners

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Sent: Wednesday, July 28, 2021 10:14 AM
To: HPD ICRC Commissioners
Cc: David Richards; George Korbel
Subject: Concerns about Public hearings

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ICRC Offices and Commissioners I want to take this opportunity to express concern about the possibility of the canceling of in person Hearing in Council Districts.

- To begin while the Senior Staff is telling you that there are no locations available for in person hearings. Well, The City Council on Monday held its 1st in person meeting in months. So some groups can meet if they want to in person!
- According to the Travis County Health Dept. **72.5 of all people in the county over 12 have one shot and 62.9% have two vaccine shots.** Seeing your hearings do not attach children 2-12 those stats about vaccination should cover your participants. We believe the current surge is of the unvaccinated and should not shut down the required activities of the ICRC that are already on a tight schedule.
- **According to Charter Section 3 (K) (7) " there shall be at least one...public hearing before the commission votes on the preliminary redistricting plan in each of the existing 10 districts." We do not think this language cannot be any clearer . The ICRC must hold a hearing in every existing Council District before voting on any plan!**
- We are concerned that the hearing that would be cancelled from now on would be the 4-minority district hearing, which are working hard to get attendance for.
- We are particular that action to cancel this Saturday's hearing in District 4 would at this late date would be disrupted to the effort to get at attendance to all the Minority hearings
- You must know that KXAN the NBC affiliate that is carrying the Olympics ran a notice before the games in its news about both last nights and Saturday's Hearing.
- You are finally doing a good job of getting out notice of these Hearings and getting meaning participation we think it would be damaging to the credibility of the ICRC ,especially in the Minority community to effectively cancel their hearings.
- We are aware you wish to make future hearings available on Zoom. We laud you for this. However, many in the community that we represent are on the wrong side of the digital divide and will never cross it to do these hearings because there not enough time to get them there.
- You do not have to have City facilities . Churches and facilities can help, and the City support staff can be made available as they were last night at the Wildflower Center if the Senior Staff is serious in facilitating the ICRC accomplishing its duties.
- **We are committed to the success of the ICRC and will do anything we can to assist you that you request.**
- **However, we believe for the reasons laid out that you must hold you last Hearing in the City Council Districts in a combination of live and Zoom.**
- Peck Young

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