



COUNTY OF SANTA BARBARA
CITIZENS INDEPENDENT REDISTRICTING COMMISSION

Summary of Proceedings
2020 Citizens Independent Redistricting Commission

Date: **Monday, February 22, 2021**
Time: **6:31 PM – 9:15 PM**
Place: **Remote Virtual Participation Only**

Recordings of the Commission Meetings, Agendas, Supplemental Materials and Minutes of the Citizens Independent Redistricting Commission are available on the internet at:
www.countyofsb.org/redistricting.sbc

BOARD ACTION SHOWN IN CAPS

1. Commission Convened

Roll Call

Commissioners Present: Bradley, Bray, Hudley, McClintock, Morris, Ochoa, Olmedo, Turley, Twibell

Commissioners Absent: Rios

2. Receive and file letter of resignation by Commissioner Laura “Lollie” Katz, First District.

MOTION TO RECEIVE AND FILE THE RESIGNATION LETTER OF COMMISSIONER KATZ.

MOTION CARRIED: 9 AYES 1 ABSENT

3. Commission applicant interviews.

COMMISSIONER MORRIS GAVE AN OVERVIEW OF THE INTERVIEW PROCESS, INDICATED THE SAME FIVE (5) QUESTIONS WILL BE ASKED AS IN THE PREVIOUS INTERVIEWS, AND THERE IS A 3 MINUTE MAXIMUM TIME LIMIT TO ANSWER EACH QUESTION. NEW CANDIDATES TO BE INTERVIEWED ARE CHERYL TROSKY AND JAMES SCORSO.

THE FOLLOWING APPLICANTS FROM THE EXISTING CANDIDATE POOL WERE ALSO INVITED TO INTERVIEW AS FOLLOWS:

CLAUDIA KNUDSON (PREVIOUSLY INTERVIEWED DECEMBER 9, 2020): DUE TO PRIOR COMMITMENTS, MS. KNUDSON ASKED THAT HER NAME BE REMOVED FOR CONSIDERATION TONIGHT, HOWEVER, SHE IS INTERESTED IN BEING INVOLVED IN THE PROCESS, AND WANTS TO REMAIN IN THE CANDIDATE POOL FOR FUTURE CONSIDERATION.

DR. DANIEL MONTELLO (PREVIOUSLY INTERVIEWED DECEMBER 8, 2020) DECLINED TO BE INTERVIEWED.

QUESTION #1 – ASKED BY COMMISSIONER TWIBELL (DISTRICT 1):

- WHY DO YOU WANT TO SERVE ON THE REDISTRICTING COMMISSION?

QUESTION #2 – ASKED BY COMMISSIONER MCCLINTOCK (DISTRICT 2):

- GIVEN THE COMMISSION’S INITIAL FIVE MEMBERS, AND WHAT YOU KNOW ABOUT THEIR BACKGROUNDS AND SKILL SETS, COULD YOU HIGHLIGHT ELEMENTS OF YOUR PERSONAL BACKGROUND, EXPERIENCE, SKILLS, AND KNOWLEDGE OF SANTA BARBARA COUNTY THAT YOU THINK WILL ADD TO THE OVERALL DIVERSITY OF THE COMMISSION?

QUESTION #3 – ASKED BY COMMISSIONER HUDLEY (DISTRICT 3):

- HOW WOULD YOU HELP THE COMMISSION TO DRAW LINES THAT PROMOTE “COMMUNITIES OF INTEREST?”

QUESTION #4 – ASKED BY COMMISSIONER BRAY (DISTRICT 4):

- COULD YOU DESCRIBE A PROJECT OR OTHER EXPERIENCE IN WHICH YOU HAD TO COLLABORATE WITH A GROUP OF INDIVIDUALS IN ORDER TO REACH A COMMON GOAL? WHEN YOU DISAGREED WITH OTHERS, HOW DID YOU HANDLE THOSE DISAGREEMENTS?

QUESTION #5 – ASKED BY COMMISSIONER OCHOA (DISTRICT 4):

- HOW DO YOU THINK THE COMMISSION SHOULD ADDRESS THE PROBLEM OF PUBLIC EDUCATION AND OUTREACH ON REDISTRICTING TO HELP ENCOURAGE BROAD PARTICIPATION IN THE COMMISSION’S WORK? WHAT ARE SOME IDEAS YOU HAVE FOR THE COMMISSION TO SOLICIT PUBLIC INPUT ON THE REDISTRICTING PROCESS, AND METHODS OF PUBLIC OUTREACH TO ENSURE TRANSPARENCY?

THE COMMISSIONERS INTERVIEWED APPLICANT CHERYL TROSKY.

THE COMMISSIONERS INTERVIEWED APPLICANT JAMES SCORSO.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

LEE HELLER, HEARD REGARDING THE WELL-QUALIFIED CANDIDATES, AND COMMENTED ABOUT TEAMWORK AND REPUBLICAN REPRESENTATION.

BOBBI MCGINNIS, SANTA BARBARA GOP REPUBLICAN PARTY CHAIR, HEARD REGARDING THE IMPORTANCE OF REPUBLICAN REPRESENTATION, AND WOULD SUPPORT THE SELECTION OF EITHER CANDIDATE.

SPENCER BRANDT, DISTRICT 3, HEARD IN SUPPORT OF CHERYL TROSKY.

CHRISTIAN ALONSO, DISTRICT 1, HEARD REGARDING THE WELL-QUALIFIED

CANDIDATES AND PARTY REPRESENTATION.

PEGGY WILSON, DISTRICT 1, HEARD REGARDING REPUBLICAN REPRESENTATION AND IN SUPPORT OF CHERYL TROSKY.

DAR RINGLING, HEARD REGARDING THE STRENGTHS OF BOTH CANDIDATES.

CLAUDIA KNUDSON, HEARD IN SUPPORT OF CHERYL TROSKY.

DEIDRE HEATH, HEARD IN SUPPORT OF CHERYL TROSKY.

4. Discussion, deliberation, and possible action regarding the commissioner appointment for the First District and administer oath of office.

COMMISSION DISCUSSION:

THE COMMISSIONERS DISCUSSED THE STRENGTHS, EXPERTISE AND OUTREACH APPROACH SUGGESTIONS FROM THE CANDIDATES.

MOTION TO APPOINT CHERYL TROSKY TO THE DISTRICT 1 VACANT SEAT.

COMMISSIONER TURLEY INQUIRED ABOUT PUBLIC COMMENTS PREVIOUSLY MADE REGARDING MS. TROSKY. MR. CHURCHWELL STATED THE COMMISSION HAS THE OPTION TO ALLOW MS. TROSKY TO RESPOND. COMMISSIONER MORRIS GAVE MS. TROSKY THE OPTION TO RESPOND. AT MS. TROSKY'S REQUEST, COMMISSIONER TURLEY READ AN EXCERPT FROM THE COMMENT.

MS. TROSKY COMMENTED ABOUT THE EVENTS MISSED, AND HAS DEEP COMPASSION FOR THE RACISM AND POLICE BRUTALITY ISSUES WE FACE TODAY. SHE STATED IN NO WAY SHOULD THAT REFLECT ON HER SERVICE TO THE COMMISSION, AND SHE'S COMMITTED TO HELPING THOSE WHO ARE DISADVANTAGED AND LESS FORTUNATE.

MOTION CARRIED: 9 AYES 1 ABSENT

JACQUELYN ALEXANDER, SANTA BARBARA COUNTY CLERK'S OFFICE, ADMINISTERED THE OATH OF OFFICE THE CHERYL TROSKY.

5. Public Comment

The Public Comment period is reserved for comments on items not on the Agenda and for matters within the subject matter jurisdiction of the Citizens Independent Redistricting Commission. The Commission may adopt reasonable regulations, including time limits, on public comments. The Commission may not discuss or take action on any matter raised during the public comment section, except to decide whether to place a matter on the agenda of a future meeting.

LEE HELLER, HEARD AND ASKED FOR A MOMENT OF SILENCE IN MEMORY OF THE

500,000 AMERICAN LIVES LOST TO COVID-19.

SPENCER BRANDT, HEARD REGARDING CONCERNS ABOUT NDC.

ANDY CALDWELL, HEARD REGARDING CONCERNS ABOUT THE SELECTION OF STRUMWASSER & WOOCHEER FOR LEGAL SERVICES AND IN SUPPORT OF NIELSEN MERKSAMER.

WRITTEN COMMENT:

ANDY CALDWELL, WROTE REGARDING STRUMWASSER & WOOCHEER'S INVOLVEMENT WITH SUPERVISOR FARR

ANDY CALDWELL, WROTE TO MONA MIYASATO REGARDING CIRC ORDINANCE VIOLATIONS RELATED TO THE HIRING OF STRUMWASSER & WOOCHEER, AND THE BYLAW PROVISION RELATED TO FILLING COMMISSION VACANCY WITHIN 10 DAYS.

MR. CHURCHWELL GAVE AN OVERVIEW OF THE STATUS OF THE LEGAL SERVICES CONTRACT, AND STATED THE CONCERNS ABOUT STRUMWASSER AND WOOCHEER ARE BEING THOROUGHLY RESEARCHED BY THE COUNTY AND FINDINGS WILL BE PRESENTED TO THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS. PUBLIC COMMENTS REGARDING THIS CONTRACT SHOULD BE SUBMITTED DIRECTLY TO THE COUNTY.

MS. ANDERSON STATED THE LEGAL SERVICES CONTRACT WILL BE HEARD AT THE MARCH 9, 2021, BOARD OF SUPERVISORS MEETING.

6. Discussion and decision of staff's recommendation to continue Interim Chair and Vice Chair for this meeting or nomination and selection of Chair and Vice Chair.

COMMISSIONER MCCLINTOCK NOMINATED COMMISSIONER MORRIS AS THE PERMANENT CHAIR, AND COMMISSIONER TURLEY AS THE PERMANENT VICE CHAIR. MRS. TILTON OPENED THE NOMINATIONS FOR CHAIR.

COMMISSIONER MCCLINTOCK NOMINATED COMMISSIONER MORRIS FOR CHAIR.

NO FURTHER NOMINATIONS FOR CHAIR.

COMMISSIONER MORRIS WAS APPOINTED AS CHAIR.

COMMISSIONER MORRIS OPENED NOMINATIONS FOR VICE CHAIR.

COMMISSIONER MCCLINTOCK NOMINATED COMMISSIONER TURLEY FOR VICE CHAIR.

COMMISSION TWIBELL NOMINATED COMMISSIONER BRADLEY FOR VICE CHAIR.

COMMISSIONER MORRIS CLOSED THE NOMINATIONS.

MRS. TILTON EXPLAINED THAT THE FIRST NOMINEE TO REACH 7 YES VOTES WILL RECEIVE THE NOMINATION. IF THE FIRST NOMINEE RECEIVES 7 VOTES, THERE IS NO NEED TO CONTINUE THE VOTE.

MOTION TO NOMINATE COMMISSIONER TURLEY FOR VICE CHAIR.

MOTION CARRIED: 9 AYES 1 NOES 1 ABSENT

7. Approval of Minutes of February 1 and 3, 2021.

MOTION TO ADOPT AND APPROVE THE MINUTES OF FEBRUARY 1 AND 3, 2021.

MOTION CARRIED: 9 AYES 1 ABSTAIN 1 ABSENT

8. Disclosure of ex parte communications.

COMMISSIONER BRADLEY REPORTED AN ONLINE ZOOM SESSION ON FEBRUARY 5, WITH NDC STAFF, DOUG JOHNSON, DANIEL PHILLIPS, SHALICE TILTON, AND JEFF TILTON, REGARDING HIS FEBRUARY 3 EMAIL ABOUT VARIOUS OUTREACH ACTIVITIES AND POSSIBLE USE OF OTHER COUNTY TEMPLATES.

DR. JOHNSON ANNOUNCED THAT THE GOOGLE SHEET TO BE USED FOR COMMISSIONERS TO REPORT EX PARTE COMMUNICATIONS WILL BE SENT TO COMMISSIONERS NEXT WEEK.

COMMISSIONER MORRIS ANNOUNCED THERE WILL BE NO CLOSED SESSION TONIGHT. MR. CHURCHWELL REFERENCED A DEMAND LETTER RECEIVED FROM THE CALIFORNIA HISPANIC CHAMBER OF COMMERCE AND SANTA BARBARA COUNTY REPUBLICAN PARTY, THERE WAS NOTHING NEW TO REPORT, AND NO NEED FOR CLOSED SESSION.

9. Conference with Legal Counsel—Anticipated Litigation
Significant exposure to litigation pursuant to paragraph (2) of subdivision (d) of Section 54956.9. A point has been reached where, in the opinion of the legislative body of the local agency on the advice of its legal counsel, based on existing facts and circumstances, there is a significant exposure to litigation against the local agency.

Number of cases: One

10. Announcement of any reportable action taken in closed session.

NO CLOSED SESSION – NOTHING TO REPORT.

11. Discussion, deliberation, and possible action on adopting the First Amended and Restated Bylaws revising Section 11 to allow 30 days to fill a vacancy.

MRS. TILTON STATED THIS REVISION IS TO CHANGE THE TIME TO FILL A VACANCY FROM 10 TO 30 DAYS.

COMMISSIONER TWIBELL INQUIRED ABOUT ARTICLE IV, SECTION 3 CHANGING THE

NUMBER OF COMMISSIONERS FROM SEVEN (7) TO SIX (6). MRS. TILTON CLARIFIED THE CHANGE WAS MADE DURING THE FIRST MEETING.

COMMISSIONER TURLEY EXPRESSED CONCERN ABOUT THE CHANGE TO 30 DAYS, IN CASE A VACANCY OCCURS LATE IN THE PROCESS (SEPTEMBER OR NOVEMBER), THE VACANCY MAY NOT BE FILLED WHEN THE MAPS ARE DRAWN. COMMISSIONER MORRIS COMMENTED THAT THE CHANGE ALLOWS THE COMMISSION 30 DAYS TO FILL THE VACANCY, BUT THAT IT CAN BE FILLED SOONER.

MOTION TO ACCEPT THE AMENDMENT TO ALLOW 30 DAYS TO FILL A VACANCY.

MOTION CARRIED: 10 AYES 1 ABSENT

12. Discuss census data release, public hearing timeline, outreach requirements, mapping criteria.

DR. JOHNSON GAVE A PRESENTATION AND STATUS UPDATE, AND STATED SOME OF THE COUNTS HAVE BEEN PUSHED BACK DUE TO COVID-19. TOTAL POPULATION COUNTS NOW ESTIMATED TO BE AVAILABLE BY SEPTEMBER 30, AND CALIFORNIA'S PRISONER-ADJUSTED DATA COULD BE AVAILABLE AS LATE AT OCTOBER 30. THE DELAYS DO NOT AFFECT THE COMMISSION'S ABILITY TO MOVE FORWARD AND HOLD HEARINGS, ETC.

MRS. TILTON PRESENTED INFORMATION ON THE CURRENT TIMELINE REQUIREMENTS, DESCRIBED THE TWO SETS OF RULES – ORDINANCE AND CALIFORNIA ELECTION CODE -- AND EXPLAINED THAT IN SOME CASES, THEY MAY OVERLAP.

COMMISSIONER OLMEDO INQUIRED IF THE ORDINANCE REQUIRES THE POST DRAFT MAP HEARINGS BE HELD IN EACH DISTRICT. MRS. TILTON STATED THERE IS NOT A REQUIREMENT THAT THE POST DRAFT MAP MEETING BE HELD IN EACH DISTRICT, IT IS THE COMMISSION'S DECISION. MRS. TILTON CLARIFIED THAT , THE LOCATIONS, TIMES AND DAYS OF THE WEEK MUST VARY, TO MEET WORK DIFFERENT WORK SCHEDULES AND PROVIDE OPPORTUNITY FOR AS MUCH PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT AS POSSIBLE.

DR. DANIEL PHILLIPS PRESENTED INFORMATION ABOUT THE MAPPING CRITERIA: EQUAL POPULATION, FEDERAL VOTING RIGHTS ACT, CALIFORNIA VOTING RIGHTS ACT, AND A COMBINED CRITERION: ELECTIONS CODE 21500.

COMMISSIONER TURLEY INQUIRED ABOUT EXAMPLE OF BYPASSING A GROUP DURING THE PROCESS. DR. PHILLIPS GAVE AN EXAMPLE OF A CONTIGUOUS AND NON-COMPACT DISTRICT.

COMMISSIONER BRADLEY ASKED ABOUT THE 10% TOTAL POPULATION DEVIATION, HOW THE MARGINALIZED AND UNDERREPRESENTED POPULATIONS, AND THOSE

WHO ARE DIFFICULT TO COUNT FIGURE INTO THE CALCULATION. DR. PHILLIPS EXPLAINED THE PROCESS, AND STATED THAT THEY ARE BOUND TO USE THE INFORMATION PROVIDED BY THE CENSUS. COMMISSIONER BRADLEY EXPRESSED CONCERNS ABOUT THE HTC ZONES. DR. JOHNSON RECOMMENDED DEFERRING THAT QUESTION UNTIL THE LITIGATION COUNSEL IS IN PLACE.

DR. JOHNSON COMMENTED THAT THE PRESENTATION WILL BE POSTED ON THE WEBSITE.

13. Discuss commission and public training topics and schedule.

DR. JOHNSON GAVE A BRIEF OVERVIEW OF THE BASICS TRAINING SCHEDULE.

14. Outreach discussion and possible action.

DR. JOHNSON PRESENTED INFORMATION ON OUTREACH PLANNING, ACTIVITIES, STEPS AND TASKS

THE MEETING RECESSED AT 8:48 P.M., AND RECONVENED AT 8:53 P.M.

COMMISSIONER MORRIS INTRODUCED GINA DePINTO, COUNTY OF SANTA BARBARA, AND SHE WILL ASSIST THE COMMISSION WITH PUBLIC OUTREACH.

COMMISSIONER BRADLEY INQUIRED ABOUT COMMISSIONERS INDIVIDUAL OUTREACH EFFORTS AND RESPONSIBILITY WITH REGARD TO EX PARTE COMMUNICATIONS, BROWN ACT, ETC., AND SHOULD ACTIVITIES BE RECORDED. DR. JOHNSON REFERRED TO THE GOOGLE DOCUMENT DISCUSSED EARLIER THAT WILL BE USED TO REPORT EX PARTE COMMUNICATIONS. MR. CHURCHWELL REFERENCED THE ORDINANCE AND SUGGESTED MAKING NOTES THAT BRIEFLY SUMMARIZE THE HIGH POINTS OF THE INTERACTION. DR. JOHNSON ALSO RECOMMENDED ENCOURAGING COMMENTS BE SUBMITTED VIA EMAIL.

COMMISSIONER BRAY INQUIRED IF OUTREACH WILL INCLUDE COMMISSIONERS GOING OUT TO THE FARMERS MARKETS, SERVICE CLUBS, ETC., WITH STAFF, OR INDIVIDUALLY. MR JOHNSON COMMENTED THAT IS SOMETHING THE COMMISSIONERS WILL DISCUSS AND DECIDE, AND THE COUNTY HAS EXTREMELY LIMITED STAFF TO SEND OUT TO OUTREACH LOCATIONS.

COMMISSIONER TWIBELL ASKED IF THE COUNTY COULD REACH OUT TO THE DIFFERENT COMMISSIONS. MS. DePINTO STATED THE COUNTY IS ALREADY USING ITS BUILT IN AUDIENCES AND RESOURCES FOR COUNTY MESSAGING. COMMISSIONER TWIBELL ASKED ABOUT REACHING OUT TO INDIVIDUAL LOCAL COMPANY HR DEPARTMENTS, AND WOULD THE COMMISSION DEVELOP A FLYER FOR POSTING ON WEBSITES, BULLETIN BOARDS, ETC. DR. JOHNSON COMMENTED THE GOAL IS TO DEVELOP STANDARD MATERIALS, AND MS. DePINTO MENTIONED

THE COMMISSION CAN ALSO HIRE A CONSULTANT THAT WOULD WORK WITH THE COUNTY TO ENSURE THE MATERIALS MEET THE COUNTY GUIDELINES AND REQUIREMENTS. DR. JOHNSON COMMENTED THE MATERIALS WILL BE DEVELOPED AND MADE AVAILABLE IN SEVERAL LANGUAGES, AND THE COMMISSION WILL BE PROVIDED SAMPLES TO REVIEW.

COMMISSIONER TWIBELL ASKED IF THERE IS A TAG LINE. MRS. TILTON CONFIRMED THE ORDINANCE STATES “THIS SECTION MAY ALSO BE KNOWN AS ‘YOU DRAW THE LINES – COUNTY OF SANTA BARBARA CITIZENS’ INDEPENDENT REDISTRICTING COMMISSION’.”

PUBLIC COMMENT:

LEE HELLER, HEARD REGARDING SUGGESTION TO HAVE OUTREACH MATERIAL AVAILABLE AT COVID-19 VACCINATION CITES.

COMMISSIONER BRAY INQUIRED IF VANDENBURG AIRFORCE BASE RESIDENTS USE THE BASE AS THEIR HOME OF RECORD FOR COUNT PURPOSES. DR. PHILLIPS STATED IF THE SERVICE MEMBER INDICATED THE BASE ON THEIR CENSUS FORM, THEY ARE CONSIDERED A RESIDENT OF SANTA BARBARA COUNTY, AND DR. JOHNSON CONCURRED. MS. DePINTO ALSO COMMENTED THAT TECHNICALLY, THE COUNT IS WHEREVER THEY LAID THEIR HEAD ON APRIL 1.

15. Discussion and possible action regarding future agenda items.

COMMISSIONER TWIBELL INQUIRED ABOUT THE STATUS OF GIS DATA COLLECTION. DR. PHILLIPS COMMENTED HE HAS RECEIVED A LOT OF DATA FROM THE COUNTY AND INDIVIDUAL CITIES AND WILL PRESENT AT A FUTURE MEETING.

16. Discussion and possible action regarding scheduling future meetings.

COMMISSIONER MORRIS REMINDED EVERYONE OF THE DAY (WEDNESDAY) AND TIME CHANGE TO 6 P.M. FOR THE MARCH 3 AND 17 MEETING, AND THE GOAL TO KEEP THE MEETINGS TO TWO (2) HOURS MAXIMUM.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

ANDY CALDWELL, HEARD REGARDING SUGGESTION FOR NDC TO LOOK AT THE EXISTING COUNTY DISTRICT MAP.

ADJOURNMENT – The next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, March 3, 2021, at 6 p.m.

Agenda Packet Items:

- Item 02 Commissioner Katz Letter of Resignation
- Item 03 Interview Schedule / Questions / Applications
- Item 07 Minutes of February 1 and 3, 2021
- Item 11 First Amended and Restated Bylaws

Item 12 Timeline and SBCIRC Requirements
Item 15 Proposed Future Agenda Items