

MINUTES

2021 New Castle County Redistricting Commission

July 12, 2021

I. Welcome and Introductions

- Nellie Hill, Clerk of New Castle County Council, called the meeting to order at 6:05 p.m, introduced herself, Michael Migliore, Counsel to Council, and Tara Finnigan, Deputy Clerk of Council.
- Nellie Hill initiated Introductions and took Roll Call of Commission members.
 - Commission members present were: District 1—Paul Jones, District 2—Robert Valihura, District 3—Katherine Beard, District 4—Justen Wright, District 5—Constance Merlet, District 6—Keith Thompson, District 7—Michael Shaw, District 8—Terrance Wright, District 9—Charles Stirk, District 10—Theodore Blunt, District 11—Patricia Abernethy, District 12—James Hudson, At-Large—Vincent D’Anna.
 - Others Present: Nellie Hill—Clerk of Council, Michael Migliore: Counsel to Council, Anthony Albence-- State of Delaware Elections Commissioner, Chris Ramos—State of Delaware Department of Elections IT Director
- It was asked and decided that the commission contact list would be updated and distributed to commission members by the next meeting.

II. Election of Commission Chair

- Terrance Wright made a motion nominating Theodore Blunt as Commission Chair, it was seconded by Justen Wright, and all were in favor.
- Nellie Hill turned the meeting over to Chairman Blunt.

III. Discussion re: Procedural Rules for Commission Business

- Chairman Blunt admitted into the record proposed Rules of Procedure, with the addition of Rule 2.3, which states “All speakers must sign in before the Commission meeting starts and be recognized by the Chair.” (Procedural Rules attached)
- Discussion on the procedural rules, at which time Chairman Blunt removed Rule 1.5 from the motion for discussion at a future meeting.
- James Hudson, Representative District 12, made a motion to accept the Procedural Rules as submitted, except for Rule 1.5, which was removed, it was seconded, and the motion carried with 13 in favor:
 - 13 yes: District 1—Paul Jones, District 2—Robert Valihura, District 3—Katherine Beard, District 4—Justen Wright, District 5—Constance Merlet, District 6—Keith Thompson, District 7—Michael Shaw, District 8—Terrance Wright, District 9—Charles Stirk, District 10—Vincent D’Anna, District 11—Patricia Abernethy, District 12—James Hudson, Chair—Theodore Blunt

IV. Overview of Commission Charge & Redistricting Procedures

- Chairman Blunt suggested that, due to time constraints, the overview of the commission charge and redistricting procedures take place at the next meeting. There was no objection and the matter was moved to the next agenda.
- Chairman Blunt suggested that the redistricting timeline be added to the and discussed at the next agenda. There was no objection and this matter will appear on the next agenda.

- Chairman Blunt suggested that review of current New Castle County Council district maps be added to the next agenda, which would include the numerical number of the districts as adopted in 2001. There was no objection and this matter will appear on the next agenda.
- Terrance Wright requested a large copy of the current overall New Castle County map showing district lines with adopted 2001 population data.
- Anthony Albence and Chris Ramos, Delaware Department of Elections, gave an overview of the role of the Department of Elections and the type of assistance and information the department can provide.
- Discussion regarding the delivery of census data took place, with the understanding that the data is projected to be delivered on April 16, 2021.

V. Set Meeting Schedule

- The next meeting of the redistricting commission was scheduled for July 28, 2021 in person in the 1st Floor Council Chambers of the City/County Building, 800 N. French Street, Wilmington, DE 19801.
- There will be the ability for Commission members and the public to participate via Zoom.

VI. Public Comment

- Ken Woods, Council member, District 1.
- Robert Hicks, member of the public, Salem Woods, District 11

VII. Adjournment

- Michael Shaw made a motion to adjourn the meeting, it was seconded by James Hudson, and all were in favor. The meeting adjourned at 6:18pm.