

**BREA CITY COUNCIL  
SUCCESSOR AGENCY TO THE  
BREA REDEVELOPMENT AGENCY  
SPECIAL MEETING**

**MINUTES  
SEPTEMBER 27, 2021**

**GENERAL SESSION  
SPECIAL MEETING  
7:00 p.m. - Council Chamber  
Plaza Level**

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**CALL TO ORDER/ ROLL CALL - COUNCIL**

Mayor Vargas called the General Session Special Meeting to order at 7:00 p.m., all members were present.

Present: Marick, Simonoff, Hupp, Parker, Vargas

**PUBLIC HEARING** - *This portion of the meeting is for matters that legally require an opportunity for public input. Audience participation is encouraged and is limited to 5 minutes per speaker.*

**1. Public Hearing to Receive Input from the Community Regarding the Proposed Transition to By-District City Council Elections**

Consultant, Dr. Justin Levitt from National Demographic Corporation (NDC), presented a PowerPoint that included: the election systems; California Voting Rights Act (CVRA); CVRA impact; districting process; redistricting rules and goals; demographic summary; Latino Citizen Voting Age Population (CVAP); Asian American CVAP; other socio-economics demographics; defining neighborhoods; beyond neighborhoods: defining communities of interest; public mapping and map review tools; simple map drawing tool; simple map drawing tool + excel supplement; District R; Caliper's "maptitude online redistricting; outreach; public hearing & discussion; and contact information.

Council discussed protected classes, racially polarized voting; the Santa Monica lawsuit, at-large voting districts, deadline to comply with the CVRA, converting to 4 Council districts and 1 at-large, outreach, and draft maps.

**Mayor Vargas opened the public hearing.**

Gary Terrazas asked if districting is for the entire City; how are industrial parks divided; and what is the cost of the project going forward.

Sean Thomas stated that the area of the City of Brea where he resides does not have Council representation and expressed support for districting.

Heidi Gallegos expressed concern about the impact districting would have on the business community and asked if the City can change to districts and then back to an at-large Council in

the future.

Sara Barnes-Ramos expressed concern about the lack of outreach, provided suggestions for advertisement, and asked if there is a deadline for the City of Brea to go to districting.

Gary Brattain asked if there is a minimum number of districts that the City of Brea has to have, wanted to know if more Council Members can be added, and asked can City of Brea go back to an at-large Council after splitting to districts.

**Hearing no further testimony, Mayor Vargas closed the public hearing.**

Council Member Simonoff stated that he has represented all citizens of the City.

In response to Council questions, City Attorney Boga and Consultant Justin Levitt stated that the City of Brea is not committed to districting; noted that once the City commits to districting, it can later go back to an at-large Council in the future; clarified that non Brea residents may present a draft map; reiterated the public hearing requirement; and confirmed that information disclosed in previous Closed Session meetings can't be provided to the public at this time.

City Council stated that there are residents who feel that their residential area is not represented, believed that districting divides the community, believed that more hearing are needed, clarified that putting the districting on the ballot does not protect the City from a lawsuit.

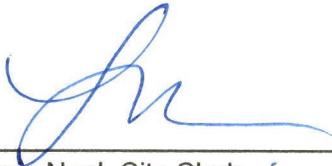
**MATTERS FROM THE AUDIENCE**

None.

**ADJOURNMENT**

**Mayor Vargas adjourned the City Council Special Meeting at 8:47 p.m.**

Respectfully submitted,



Lillian Harris-Neal, City Clerk



The foregoing minutes are hereby approved this 19th day of October, 2021



~~Steven Vargas~~, Mayor **PRO TEM**  
Cecilia Hupp