

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

**MINUTES
OCTOBER 27, 2021**

**GENERAL SESSION
SPECIAL MEETING
7:30 p.m. - Council Chamber
Plaza Level**

CALL TO ORDER/ ROLL CALL - COUNCIL

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

Present: Marick, Simonoff, Hupp, Parker, Vargas

PUBLIC HEARING

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

Management Analyst I, Melissa Davis introduced the item, provided the background, and discussed outreach.

City Attorney Markman explained why the City has to go through the process of districting, discussed the current election system, and provided criticisms for districting. He provided a PowerPoint presentation that included the different kinds of election systems; the Federal Voting Rights Act (FVRA) and California Voting Rights Act (CVRA) requirements, CVRA impact, the Santa Monica case, and information about protected classes.

Dr. Justin Levitt, National Demographics Services, provided a PowerPoint that included: the districting process; map adoption deadline; redistributing rules and goals; demographic summary; citizen voting age population (CVAP) for Latino and Asian Americans, other socio-economic demographics; defining neighborhoods; beyond neighborhoods; defining community of interest; public mapping and map review tools; District R; the City's districting webpage; and public hearings.

In response to Council questions, Dr. Levitt stated that districts are drawn by population not by the number of registered voters, explained that there is a higher voter turnout during presidential elections, clarified that the City received the letter from Mr. Shenkman because he believes that the City violated the CVRA because he detected racially polarized voting, noted that the City can choose to re-district before the 2030 census but will need to use 2020 census numbers, mentioned that districts may be under populated if Council believe that growth will occur, and added that any new areas annexed will need to be contiguous.

Mayor Vargas requested some changes to the PowerPoint.

Mayor Vargas opened the public hearing.

Keith Fullington stated that residents should have the opportunity to vote on whether there should be districting or not and asked what will happen if there are two (2) current Council Members in the same district.

Sean Thomas expressed support for districting.

Robert Lauten noted that the districts should include highway 142 to the Chino Hill border.

Heidi Gallegos expressed concern on behalf of the Chamber of Commerce Board stating that local businesses fear that they will lose representation and asked Council to be mindful of the business community.

City Clerk Lillian Harris-Neal and City Manager Gallardo read written public comments.

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

The City Council discussed having workshops to assist residents with the mapping tool and encouraged residents and businesses to use the mapping tools to provide a map.

In response to Council questions, City Attorney Markman stated that having all residents vote for every district wouldn't comply with CVRA because it wouldn't improve the impact that protected classes have in an election, provided an explanation of having Council Members in the same district that are not up for re-election; noted that the FAQ's will be updated to address additional questions; clarified that candidates are required to be a resident to run for Council; explained that according to the FVRA, race can't be the only factor when creating a district; confirmed that precincts will be re-drawn as a result of the districting; and stated that a link to the proposed school district map can be added to the City's website.

MATTERS FROM THE AUDIENCE

None.

ADJOURNMENT

Mayor Vargas adjourned the General Session Special Meeting at 9:53 p.m.

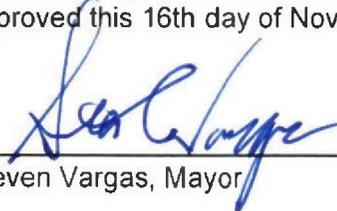
Respectfully submitted,



Lillian Harris-Neal, City Clerk



The foregoing minutes are hereby approved this 16th day of November, 2021



Steven Vargas, Mayor