

# A RESOLUTION

NO. \_\_\_\_\_

## AMENDING RESOLUTION NO. 5375-04-2021 AND ESTABLISHING AMENDED PROCEDURES FOR REDRAWING DISTRICT BOUNDARIES

**WHEREAS** the City Council on August 4, 2020, adopted Resolution No. 5259-08-2020, appointing a Redistricting Task Force (Task Force) and charging the Task Force with responsibility for advising the Council about the criteria and procedures by which the Council should redraw its district boundaries after the U.S. Bureau of the Census has published block-level population data from the 2020 census; and

**WHEREAS** the Task Force completed its assigned work and presented its final report to the City Council at the Council's regular work session on March 2, 2021; and

**WHEREAS** the City Council on April 6, 2021, adopted Resolution No. 5375-04-2021, accepted the Task Force's findings and recommendations as set forth in the final report and, accordingly, to use the recommended criteria and procedures in redrawing its district boundaries; and

**WHEREAS** the City Council also expressed wishes to engage Task Force members in the redistricting process, even after the Task Force had accomplished its purpose and ceased to exist, and, contemporaneous with this Resolution, the City Council is considering a Resolution Reactivating the Redistricting Task Force and Charging It with Responsibility for Evaluating Proposed District Maps, Conducting a Public Hearing on Such Maps, and Selecting an Initial District Map for Consideration by the City Council (Resolution No. 21-1767); and

**WHEREAS** the City Council wishes to amend Resolution No. 5375-04-2021 to set forth amended procedures for redrawing district boundaries that incorporate the work of the reactivated and reappointed Task Force, as set forth in Resolution No. 21-1767.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF FORT WORTH, TEXAS**, as follows:

1. That the process of redrawing Council district boundaries as set forth in Resolution No. 5375-04-2021, Sections (1)(b)(3)-(6) shall be hereby deleted and replaced in its entirety as follows (a blackline of the changes is attached hereto as Exhibit "A", made a part hereof for all purposes):
  - (3) Evaluation of Proposed District Maps: The Task Force shall evaluate proposed district maps produced by residents, the City Council, and staff and shall conduct a public hearing on such maps. The Task Force shall perform this evaluation during the months of October, November, and December, 2021.
  - (4) Selection of initial map as starting point for further mapping: The Task Force shall designate one of the maps submitted to the Task Force by the residents, City Council, and City staff, to serve as the starting point for further map drawing deliberations. The Task Force shall formally submit its selected initial map to the City Council no later than January 4, 2022.

- (4) Rationale for proposed changes to initial map: After the City Council has accepted from the Task Force an initial map as the starting point for map drawing deliberations, all changes to the initial map made by the Council shall be accompanied by a statement explaining the rationale for each such change and the impact of such proposed change on all of the redistricting criteria established by the Council.
- (5) Redistricting as a single agenda item: All map drawing meetings of the City Council shall be conducted as separate meetings with no other items on the meeting agenda and at least ten (10) days public notice shall be given in advance of each such meeting.
- (6) Public hearings
  - A quorum of the City Council shall conduct at least five public hearings, including:
    - (a) One public hearing during the month of January 2022, after the Council has received the initial map from the Task Force but before the Council considers any changes to that map.
    - (b) Four public hearings during the month of February 2022, after the City Council has produced a proposed map but before adopting the proposed map. Each of the four February public hearings is to occur in an area comprised of two existing Council districts, e.g., Districts 2 and 9, Districts 3 and 6, Districts 4 and 7, and Districts 5 and 8 (these pairings are provided by way of example only, and are not intended to be the definitive list of Council District pairings for the public hearings).
- (7) Transparency: The City Council shall conduct all deliberations about redistricting in official meetings, subject to all provisions of the Texas Open Meetings Act. The communications about map drawing among City Council members shall occur in such meetings, with any relevant computer screen visible to the Council and public observers.

2. That except as modified by this Resolution, all of the terms and conditions of Resolution No. 5375-04-2021 remain in full force and effect.

Adopted this 19<sup>th</sup> day of October, 2021.

ATTEST:

By: \_\_\_\_\_

Ronald P. Gonzales, Interim City Secretary

**Exhibit “A”**  
**Blackline of Changes to Resolution No. 5375-04-2021**

**A RESOLUTION**

**NO. 5375-04-2021**

**ACCEPTING THE FINAL REPORT OF THE REDISTRICTING TASK FORCE  
AND ESTABLISHING CRITERIA AND PROCEDURES  
FOR REDRAWING DISTRICT BOUNDARIES**

**WHEREAS** the City Council on August 4, 2020, adopted Resolution No. 5259-08-2020, appointing a Redistricting Task Force (Task Force) and charging the Task Force with responsibility for advising the Council about the criteria and procedures by which the Council should redraw its district boundaries after the U.S. Bureau of the Census has published block-level population data from the 2020 census; and

**WHEREAS** the Task Force has completed its assigned work and presented its final report to the City Council at the Council’s regular work session on March 2, 2021; and

**WHEREAS** the Task Force’s final report consists of the presentation titled “Final Report of the Redistricting Task Force,” dated March 2, 2021, and attached hereto as Exhibit A; and

**WHEREAS** the City Council wishes to accept the Task Force’s findings and recommendations as set forth in the final report and, accordingly, to use certain criteria and procedures as described in this resolution to redraw its district boundaries; and

**WHEREAS** the City Council wishes to engage Task Force members in the redistricting process, even after the Task Force has accomplished its purpose and ceased to exist as a formal entity;

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF FORT WORTH, TEXAS,** as follows:

1. That the City Council accepts the final report of the Redistricting Task Force and declares its intent to use the following criteria and procedures in redrawing its district boundaries.

a. Criteria

(1) High-priority criteria, not in any order of priority

- (a) Approximately equal size: The populations of all districts shall be approximately equal. In no event shall the population of the largest district be more than ten percent greater than the population of the smallest district.
- (b) Legal compliance: The redrawing of district boundaries shall comply with the U.S. Constitution, the Voting Rights Act, the Texas Constitution, and other applicable laws to avoid impermissible packing, fragmentation, or retrogression in the ability of minorities to participate in the electoral process.
- (c) Minority opportunity districts: The City shall create minority opportunity districts, to the extent possible and in compliance with federal law, to reflect the City's growing diversity. Such districts are intended to create opportunities for fair representation rather than to promote electoral outcomes. Electability is a function of many factors, including candidate qualifications, appeal to voters, voting-age population, voter registration, and voter participation as well as demographic characteristics.
- (d) Communities of interest: The City shall contain communities of interest in single districts, where feasible, with community of interest defined as a local population with shared socio-economic characteristics and political institutions that would benefit from unified representation. Communities of interest may include neighborhoods, groups of neighborhoods, school attendance zones, and similar geographic areas.
- (e) Contiguous territory: To the extent feasible, each district shall consist of contiguous territory.

(2) Lower-priority criteria, not in any order of priority

- (a) Compactness: Each district shall be geographically compact, with the goal of attaining a Polsby-Popper ratio greater than or equal to 0.050. If any proposed district yields a compactness score that is less than 0.050, then a detailed justification must be stated.
- (b) Identifiable geographic boundaries: District boundaries shall consist of easily identifiable geographic features, such as streams, railroad tracks, and major thoroughfares to the extent feasible. To the extent possible, dwelling units that are located on opposite sides of the same residential street shall be assigned to the same district.
- (c) Voting precincts: Districts shall consist of whole voting precincts, where feasible.

- (d) Census blocks and block groups: To the extent possible, districts shall consist of whole census blocks.
  - (e) Places of residence: In redrawing district boundaries, the City shall not consider the place of residence of any incumbent or potential candidate.
- b. Procedures: The process of redrawing Council district boundaries shall promote public participation and transparency as follows.
- (1) Registration for communities of interest: The City Council requests the City Manager to establish a registration process whereby interested residents might self-identify communities of interest and the geographic boundaries of such communities. This process shall be voluntary and advisory in nature and should occur during the months of April through September 2021, before redistricting begins.
  - (2) Resident-produced redistricting plans: The City Council requests the City Manager through appropriate staff to provide redistricting software training for interested residents during the months of April through September 2021, to assist residents in preparing redistricting plans during the months of October and November 2021, to analyze such plans submitted by residents, and to brief the Council about the merits of such plans, including the extent to which they meet the City Council's adopted criteria.
    - (a) No later than the end of April 2021, City staff shall publish a catalog of training resources, including a schedule of classes in which staff will train interested residents on the use of ESRI redistricting software.
    - (b) Residents will be able to download the redistricting software and use it on their private computers. City staff will specify hardware and software requirements for using this software on private computers.
    - (c) Residents will also be able to use the redistricting software on public computers at designated libraries and community centers and at other suitable locations.
    - (d) No demographic data available in the redistricting software shall refer to the party affiliations of registered voters.
    - (e) After City staff assesses the extent to which each resident-produced plan meets the City Council's adopted criteria, staff shall discuss its findings directly with the residents who produced each such plan.
  - ~~(3) Selection of initial map as starting point for further mapping: The City Council shall designate one of the maps submitted to the Council by City staff, or by residents and resident groups, to serve as the starting point for further map drawing deliberations.~~
  - ~~(4) Rationale for proposed changes to initial map: After the City Council has selected an initial map as the starting point for map drawing deliberations, all changes to the initial map shall include a statement explaining the~~

~~rationale for each such change and the impact of such change on all of the redistricting criteria established by the Council.~~

~~(5) Redistricting as a single agenda item: All map drawing meetings of the City Council shall be conducted as separate meetings with no other items on the meeting agenda and at least ten (10) days public notice shall be given in advance of each such meeting.~~

~~(6) Public hearings~~

~~(a) During the month of January 2022, a quorum of the City Council shall conduct at least two in-person, virtual, or hybrid public hearings, including:~~

~~(i) — At least one hearing after the Council has received plans from residents and City staff, but before the Council selects an initial map as a starting point for map drawing deliberations; and~~

~~(ii) — At least one hearing after the Council has selected an initial map but before the Council considers any changes to that map.~~

~~(b) During the month of April 2022, after the City Council has produced a proposed map, a quorum of the Council shall conduct at least four in-person, virtual, or hybrid public hearings before adopting the proposed map. At least one of these public hearings shall be conducted for each of four pairs of existing adjacent districts.~~

~~(7) Transparency: The City Council shall conduct all deliberations about redistricting in official meetings, subject to all provisions of the Texas Open Meetings Act. Any communications about map drawing among City Council members shall occur in such meetings, with any relevant computer screen visible to the Council and public observers.~~

~~(3) Evaluation of Proposed District Maps: The Task Force shall evaluate proposed district maps produced by residents, the City Council, and staff and shall conduct a public hearing on such maps. The Task Force shall perform this evaluation during the months of October, November, and December, 2021.~~

~~(4) Selection of initial map as starting point for further mapping: The Task Force shall designate one of the maps submitted to the Task Force by the residents, City Council, and City staff, to serve as the starting point for further map drawing deliberations. The Task Force shall formally submit its selected initial map to the City Council no later than January 4, 2022.~~

~~(5) Rationale for proposed changes to initial map: After the City Council has accepted from the Task Force an initial map as the starting point for map drawing deliberations, all changes to the initial map made by the Council shall be accompanied by a statement explaining the rationale for each such~~

change and the impact of such proposed change on all of the redistricting criteria established by the Council.

(6) Redistricting as a single agenda item: All map drawing meetings of the City Council shall be conducted as separate meetings with no other items on the meeting agenda and at least ten (10) days public notice shall be given in advance of each such meeting.

(7) Public hearings

A quorum of the City Council shall conduct at least five public hearings, including:

(a) One public hearing during the month of January 2022, after the Council has received the initial map from the Task Force but before the Council considers any changes to that map.

(b) Four public hearings during the month of February 2022, after the City Council has produced a proposed map but before adopting the proposed map. Each of the four February public hearings is to occur in an area comprised of two existing Council districts, e.g., Districts 2 and 9, Districts 3 and 6, Districts 4 and 7, and Districts 5 and 8 (these pairings are provided by way of example only, and are not intended to be the definitive list of Council District pairings for the public hearings).

(8) Transparency: The City Council shall conduct all deliberations about redistricting in official meetings, subject to all provisions of the Texas Open Meetings Act. The communications about map drawing among City Council members shall occur in such meetings, with any relevant computer screen visible to the Council and public observers

2. That the City Council acknowledges the following recommendations by the Redistricting Task Force but defers action on these recommendations pending consideration after the 2021 municipal elections.

a. Plans to be produced by consultant(s): The City shall retain one or more consultants to propose an initial map or maps applying the criteria adopted by the Council, such map or maps to be considered, along with initial maps proposed by City staff and residents or resident groups, as a starting point for further map drawing deliberations.

b. Charter review task force: The City Council shall appoint a charter review task force that would study and make recommendations concerning the advisability of establishing an independent redistricting commission. Upon formation, the charter review task force shall, after providing for full and meaningful public participation, submit its recommendations to the City Council in time for redistricting to proceed on an orderly basis promptly after the 2030 federal census.

3. That the City Council requests the City Manager to arrange a joint work session of the Council and Task Force members for an appropriate date, time, and location after the U.S. Bureau of the Census has published block-level population data from the 2020 census but before the Council has begun the redistricting process.

Adopted this 6<sup>th</sup> day of April, 2021.

ATTEST:

By: \_\_\_\_\_

Mary J. Kayser, City Secretary