ELECTION BOARD

The Election Board met on September 22, 2011 at 2:00 p.m. with Mr. Garfinkel presiding. Members present were Ms. Johnson, Mrs. Legates, Dr. Matthews, Ms. Boyer (arrived at 2:09 p.m.), and Mrs. McDowell. Members of Council present were Council President Leary and Mr. Anderson (arrived at 2:22 p.m.).

AGENDA ADDITIONS/DELETIONS

Ms. Johnson moved for approval of the agenda, seconded by Mrs. Legates and unanimously carried.

REAPPORTIONMENT OF COUNCIL DISTRICT BOUNDARIES BASED ON 2010 CENSUS DATA

Mrs. Traci McDowell, City Clerk, provided members with a revised proposed Council district map which reflected changes to Districts 2 and 3 in the Reed Street area ***(Attachment #1)***. She explained that the maps were created by Ms. Janelle Cornwell, Planner II, who serves as the City's liaison with the Census Bureau and the Delaware Population Consortium. Mrs. McDowell stated that the proposed map was developed to redefine the City Council district areas utilizing 2010 census data. She reminded members that the City is also mandated, in accordance with the 1988 consent decree (case of the Central Delaware Branch of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP) and Cecil Wilson v. the City of Dover) to maintain a black majority district with a 65% black population. Mrs. McDowell indicated that the Fourth Council District, as proposed, exceeds this mandate and has a 70% black population. In addition, she noted that the proposed districts were created without excessively impacting existing district boundaries.

Ms. Cornwell noted that the major distinctions between the current and proposed council district boundaries were the proposed shift of the Edgehill neighborhood from its current location in District 3 to District 2, the expansion of District 4 southward along The Green, and the westward extension of the northern portion of District 3 across the highway to McKee Road.

At the request of Dr. Matthews, Ms. Cornwell explained that the proposed district lines were developed by utilizing information regarding the total population within the City's 905 census blocks, which are based on race and voting age. Staff determined which census blocks were needed to ensure that the 65% majority minority voting population requirement of the consent decree was met.

In response to Mr. Garfinkel, Ms. Cornwell indicated that District 3 was expanded to include the area west of Pear Street and between William and Mary Streets based on the overall attempt to create four (4) approximately equal districts (with a target population of 9,012).

Referring to a triangular area located west of Pear Street, Dr. Matthews suggested that the 11 people who reside in this block remain in District 4 to help reduce voter confusion, since the 11 people would not have a significant effect on the population or minority numbers for either of the districts. Responding, Ms. Cornwell indicated that such a change could affect the target percentage of the consent decree, depending on the population and race of the residents. Clarifying, Mrs. McDowell explained that if the 11 people were placed in District 4 and they are not African American, it would dilute the percentage of the minority population in District 4.

Mr. Garfinkel noted that the two (2) guiding principles used to develop district lines during previous reapportionments included commonality of interests and natural and manmade barriers. Responding, Ms. Cornwell stated that staff attempted to avoid splitting subdivisions and followed census blocks when setting district boundaries.

In response to Dr. Matthews' concerns regarding notification of residents who would be affected by a district change, Mrs. McDowell assured members that several notifications would be sent directly to voters to notify them of their Council district residence and their election polling place. In addition, she stated that a polling place locator would be included on the City's website. Mrs. McDowell added that if the redistricting were approved, information would be placed in local newspapers, included on the City's Facebook page, and disseminated by the City's Public Affairs Coordinator as Election Day approaches. Mrs. McDowell stated that it was hoped that, in the near future, residents would have the ability to access information including their Council District, Council representatives, and contact information via the City's website. With regard to students residing at Delaware State University, she noted that if students declare residency, they can become registered voters within District 4 when obtaining a Delaware driver's license.

Mrs. Legates questioned if the plaintiffs (NAACP and Mr. Cecil Wilson) had been notified of the proposed redistricting. Mrs. McDowell noted that Mr. Wilson was notified and present and stated that the proposed redistricting was preliminary and staff was presenting the information to the Election Board for their review and comments at this time.

Ms. Cornwell noted that there was a difference of less than 1% in the percentage of total population between all districts in the proposed redistricting.

Responding to Mr. Garfinkel, Ms. Cornwell explained that the changes proposed for the north end of the City were made to provide nearly equal population in Districts 1, 3, and 4 and if the current District 4 remained unchanged in this area, the majority minority population in this district would have been diluted. This portion of the area contains 312 people; therefore, placing it in District 1 rather than District 3 would result in a total population of 9,245 for District 1 (with 25.6% of the overall population) and 8,764 in District 3 (24.3% of the overall population).

In response to Dr. Matthews, Ms. Cornwell indicated that it was not possible to split a census block.

Mr. Cecil Wilson relayed appreciation to staff for their work in developing a plan for the reapportionment of Council district boundaries. He stated that he was only recently made aware of the City's consideration of this matter, noting that he had contacted the national office of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP), which has a redistricting department. Mr. Wilson noted that the NAACP was not on a City notification list to receive information on this matter. He indicated that he was not representing the NAACP at this time; however, due to the nature of the consent decree, he felt that the local and national branches of the NAACP should have been notified, as well as the City Solicitor. Mr. Wilson expressed opposition to the concept of gerrymandering as well as his approval of the 70% minority population in District 4. He stated that he has always urged members of Council to hold district meetings and explained the importance of such meetings when considering matters such as redistricting. In addition, he

requested that the City become involved with the NAACP on both the national and local levels, possibly by calling and offering to make a presentation regarding the proposed changes. Mr. Wilson suggested that the City maintain an awareness of the plaintiffs in the consent decree and the citizens affected by it. He encouraged Council members to reach out to constituents by informing them of the issues, disseminating information, and holding public hearings, etc.

In response to Mr. Wilson, Ms. Cornwell indicated that Geographical Information System (GIS) software, which is a product of the Environmental Systems Research Institute (ESRI), includes a redistricting tool which was implemented to create the Council district boundaries. Mr. Mark Nowak, GIS Manager, stated that he believed that Kent County and the City of Philadelphia have used this program for redistricting.

Mrs. Legates suggested that a City election liaison be charged with ensuring that election information is provided to Delaware State University students.

Dr. Matthews indicated that she has direct contact with the President of Delaware State University and, as a representative of the Election Board, she would share the information and attempt to get the political science and history departments involved. However, she felt that the City should do a better job of making the issues and candidates known to the campus and students and suggested the possibility of providing a polling place near the University.

Council President Leary suggested that the proposed reapportionment of Council district boundaries be shared as suggested by Mr. Wilson prior to the matter being scheduled for City Council's consideration.

Dr. Matthews moved to accept the reapportionment of Council district boundaries based on the 2010 Census Data, as presented by staff *(Attachment #1)* and that it be referred to the Legislative, Finance, and Administration Committee for their review and recommendation to City Council. The motion was seconded by Ms. Johnson and unanimously carried.

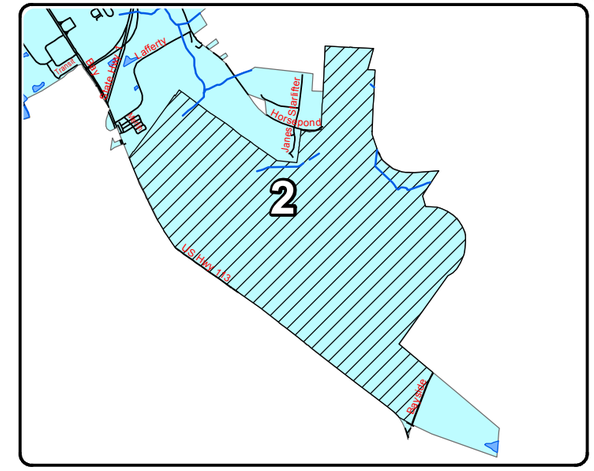
By unanimous consent, the meeting adjourned at 2:42 P.M.

William Garfinkel
Chairman

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Attachment
Attachment #1 - Revised Proposed Council District Map - Council District Boundaries based on the 2010 Census Data

City of Dover
Proposed Council Districts



Legend

- Dover Boundary
- Dover Streets
- District 1
- District 2
- District 3
- District 4

Council District	Population	Percent
District 1	8933	24.8%
District 2	8980	24.9%
District 3	9076	25.2%
District 4	9058	25.1%
Total	36047	100%

Council District	Population Black/African American	Percent Black/African American	Population All Other Races	Percent All Other Races
District 1	3106	34.8%	5827	65.2%
District 2	2996	33.4%	5984	66.6%
District 3	3866	42.6%	5210	57.4%
District 4	6344	70.0%	2714	29.9%
Total	16312	45.3%	19735	54.7%

ATTACHMENT #1
Election Board Meeting of September 22, 2011

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1 in = 3,000 ft

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