



City Attorney's Communication #2022-797
June 8, 2022

TO: Mayor and City Commission
FROM: Mark E. Berman, City Attorney
RE: Establishing Election Districts

Per Section 3 of the City's Charter, "decennial redistricting shall be done no less frequently than within the first calendar year following each decennial census."

Accordingly, upon the availability of the 2020 Census data, the City had a redistricting expert, Kurt Spitzer, review the data in relation to all Federal, State and City Charter requirements for voting districts, in order to determine if any redistricting by the City is necessary.

Based upon the Census data reviewed with the main criterion being population, the expert determined that based upon population numbers and all redistricting criteria, redistricting by the City at this time is not necessary nor supported by the data. All such information and components for his analysis are clearly set forth within Mr. Spitzer's redistricting memorandum, so I will not repeat all such information here.

Therefore, as modification of current City election districts at this time is not supported by our data, legally it is my recommendation at this time that the City make a determination to re-establish Districts as currently proposed by the draft Ordinance provided as part of this agenda item. While modification of the City's election districts may take place at any time if requested by the City Commission and supported by facts and all applicable law. In order to timely meet the requirements of the City's Charter I would suggest we proceed to make the required finding at this time. Said action will not preclude redistricting at a later date provided any such proposals meet all applicable laws and requirements.


MARK E. BERMAN

MEB/jrm
l:cor/comsn/2022-797

cc: Gregory P. Harrison, City Manager