

SEATTLE REDISTRICTING COMMISSION
ADDITIONAL CITYWIDE PUBLIC FORUM #1 MINUTES

Tuesday, August 9, 2022

12:00 PM – 1:30 PM

Zoom Meeting

Approved on September 6, 2022 with approved changes

Commissioners Present: Eliseo EJ Juárez, Patience Malaba, Commission Chair Greg Nickels, Rory O’Sullivan, Neelima Shah

Commissioners Absent: N/A

Commission Staff and Guests: Logan Drummond: Department of Neighborhoods, Elsa Batres-Boni: Department of Neighborhoods, Dennis Higgins: Districting GIS Consultant, Mary Ullrich: Districting GIS Consultant

(Transcriber’s Note: Seattle Redistricting Commission meeting minutes are not an exact transcript and represent key points and the basis of discussion. The recording of the meeting is available upon request.)

Meeting Minutes:

I. Call to Order

- This Seattle Redistricting Commission meeting was held virtually through Zoom with an option to meet in person at the L280 Boards and Commissions Room on the L2 floor at Seattle City Hall. This meeting was open to the public and was advertised through appropriate channels. The meeting was called to order at 12:02 PM once the Redistricting Commissioners had quorum.

II. Welcome & Housekeeping

- Reading of the agenda, welcome and land acknowledgement

III. Agenda Review and approval

- There were no further questions or concerns from the Commissioners on today’s agenda for the 8.09.22 public forum meeting and motioned for approval by Commissioner Shah and seconded by Commissioner Malaba. The agenda was passed unanimously with five votes.
- Minutes of 08.02.22 will be re-sent and reviewed and approved in the next meeting.

IV. Acknowledgment of Received Comments and Disclosures

- Commissioners acknowledged that they received and reviewed received comments. Commission Chair Greg Nickels disclosed that he was contacted by Washington State Senator Reuven Carlyle, Commissioner Eliseo Juárez was also contacted by the Senator who had concerns and questions about the draft map published on August 3, 2022.

V. Review of Adjustments and Cleanup Work of Final Draft

- Mary Ullrich gave the Commissioners an overview of the slight changes that she had made to the draft map with the commission's approval to cleanup some of the boundary lines, all of these alterations were miniscule changes to the population in any one district.
- Commissioner O'Sullivan motioned to accept the changes that Mary and KC GIS Center have made to the map and that those changes are consistent with the guidance from the Redistricting Commission at the 8.02.2022 Draft Mapping Retreat. Commissioner Shah seconded this motion, and the motion passed unanimously with five votes.

VI. Recap of Process, Goals, and Requirements

- Commission Chair Nickels gave the public an overview of where we are currently at in the process of redistricting – hearing public comment within ten days of the draft map being published online.

VII. Public Comment

- **Ron Davis** - "I am Ron Davis as we said I'm on the boards of the Roosevelt neighborhood association and the university ymca uh Seattle subway and future wise but uh Roosevelt and university ymca are probably the most relevant to this discussion and i live in d4 first i want to thank the commission i feel like you really listen to the voices of workers and peoples of people of color and renters uh people who have and continue to be frankly trampled on by so much of our political process this map that you guys have mooted here really shows you're serious about riding those wrongs so thank you um I'm also concerned that there are those who would work to undo some of this um whether intentionally or not uh you know one of our richest and longest privileged neighborhoods is uh is dealing with some frustrations about this map and I in my opinion trying to drown out these voices and reassert its power so I certainly don't have a problem with magnolia remaining intact but I do want to note for the commission that I do not believe this should happen at the expense of communities that have been historically have historically suffered from underrepresentation uh so either way just to be more specific I think it's really critical that you keep the Yesler terrace beacon hill and cid areas together and in district 2 and our downtown and south lake union renter communities together and in district 7. now i can say that commissioner as a member of district 4 it also remains critical that you keep d4 north of the Montlake cut which you've done in your map here and keep our renter-centric neighborhoods both the u-district and Roosevelt together which thankfully you've done together here as well um I do want to add one uh you can do even better uh and i don't say that as a complainer I'm very grateful to see the work you've done so far but i do think you can do a little better the rjs coalition and some of your own maps did just this up in d4 moving meridian and green lake into d4 uh with their shared walk sheds of Roosevelt and Wallingford uh with a trade-off uh I believe moving um uh I'm totally blanking now on the neighborhood but up north into d5 um Wedgewood thank you anyway so I do recommend that that's the only change i recommend and just please please hold the line on these uh really positive changes you've made for these unrepresented communities thank you so much."
- **Chris Woodward** - "My name is Chris Woodward I'm the community development director for the alliance for pioneer square providing comments today to highlight pioneer square's community priorities the 2022 redistricting process to begin with thank you for the ongoing opportunities to participate in this process the alliance believes that the commission can support pioneer square's redistricting priorities while also identifying areas of compromise elsewhere the pioneer square's pioneer square communities redistricting priorities are keeping

pioneer square in one district and placing us in district seven our priorities can be achieved by adjusting the most recent draft map presented by the commission specifically uh in the most recent draft map the commission has demonstrated flexibility in accounting for district 7's need to contract by including more of magnolia in district 6. the commission should consider further expanding district 6 into southeast magnolia to ensure pioneer square is located in district 7. aligning pioneer square district 7 will ensure our neighborhoods urban environment driven needs and challenges similar to other districts uh other neighborhoods in district seven such as downtown Belltown uptown are fully supported at the sales city council thank you so much."

- **Katie Stultz** - "Thank you all so much for having me here today my name is Katie Stultz i used to her pronouns I'm joining today as a member of the redistricting justice for Seattle coalition um which you've heard from throughout the process we're a coalition of organizations really working to call for an equitable and accessible redistricting process I'm also a lifelong resident of king county in Seattle since 2008 and i have a background in political and social justice organizing across Seattle for the last decade i have really seen the difference that the district-based elections have made for representation across the city of Seattle and i really see this process of redistricting as one step in that process of creating a more representative democracy for the city uh in my comments today i first want to just overwhelmingly applaud uh the leadership of this commission uh you all have sat and listened to the comments uh across the city of Seattle for the past five months um and really our coalition that's made up of people of color working class people renters young people and representatives from other historically divided communities in Seattle have been gathering input and showing up for the past five months for these public forums the map and the draft map pass really showed from our belief a commitment to listening to those voices um also notably districts one and two were held at the end of May providing districts six and seven with nearly two more months to organize for their comments um so we really appreciate that this commission listened to the voices that have come throughout the entire process and really not just the tail end my other comments are in the in the city of Seattle that has had rapid gentrification rapid income inequity and a devastating housing crisis it's critical that our district districts maximize the opportunity for truly representative leadership and really right the wrongs of the systemic history of dividing communities of color in Seattle in this process I'd like to lift up really an understanding of the difference between historical communities and historically divided communities in Seattle i think there's a key difference and i hope that this commission does not compromise um across those a couple of key points that i would like to lift up that we asked the commission um to not compromise on in the final map is really keeping yester terrace beacon hill and the Chinatown international district together in district 2 keeping district 4 north of the Montlake cut and not splitting the u district and keeping downtown and south lake union rented communities together in district 7. overall, we applaud the commission for your draft map and for listening to the voices again of historically divided communities in Seattle and we appreciate all of your work and your leadership thank you."
- **Andrew Hong** - "My name is Andrew Hong I'm the statewide coordinator of the redistricting justice for washington coalition and I'm here on behalf of myself as a district 2 resident and also with the coalition to thank the commission for their final draft map the final draft map that y'all passed last week uh you know works to directly implement a lot of our coalition's key priorities that have been informed through months of uh pub community engagement especially in our

most historically marginalized neighborhoods in Seattle and it successfully keeps um communities of interest especially in historically red line south Seattle and central district together it protects renters especially in the downtown south lake union west lake corridor in district 7 um and it also works to keep the u-district and other renter communities in district 4 together and so um as a on behalf of the coalition again thank you and we really we push that the commission stand firm behind this map um which respects communities of interest in an equitable way and pass this final draft map come November with very little changes um you know in particular i also want to add in uh we thank the commission for respecting uh the beacon hill neighborhood by not dividing beacon hill uh between districts one and two and keeping it fully intact in district two and additionally moving uh Yesler terrace into district two undoing that division from the current map uh as requested by multiple leaders from the black and also immigrant communities in district 2 and Yesler terrace as well as keeping the Chinatown international district together in district 2. um again there's a few minor changes we would love to see uh the only differences between the rjs coalition map proposal that we've sent in and the final draft map proposal um but overall uh we really we appreciate the final draft map and we push the commission to uh keep with the current boundaries as much as possible uh within the next three months um and yeah that is all I have thank you."

- **Detra Segar** - "My name is Detra Segar and I represent the east lake community council beastly community feels so strongly about staying together and in district 4 that we drew a map for you which you should all have at this point we've also asked for community feedback and that has been very forthcoming so you should hear a lot from people in district currently in east district 4 and in east lake when Seattle created the maps for the initial move to district representation east lake was split in a way that is similar to what your current draft shows thankfully it was amended and the neighborhood was kept tall Eastlake has been a strong and cohesive community for decades we have an active community council a dynamic mix of residential and commercial we have renters and property owners businesses of every size and a lakefront that is within walking distance of every resident we also have the most wonderful mix of interesting people east life had some of the first floating homes and even in their new sophisticated modern version they add a uniqueness to our neighborhood you should note that the floating homes are located above your suggested split of the community and below it Eastlake um was has always been the home of some iconic places and I'm never surprised by how many people in east lake know about 14 carats and the zoo both of which sit at the corner of Lynn and east lake avenue just south of there is east lake coffee and cafe mort's and Patrick's fly shop another set of iconic east lake places these businesses are Eastlake and splitting them at Lynn street would do nothing for to it would achieve nothing and be of great damage and harm to east lake as a whole finding ways to keep a well-established community together is important as jane Jacobs proclaimed it is what makes a city work both economically and socially we want the result of our combined effort to keep Eastlake a unique and strong community in district 4 for years to come I ask you to review our proposed map and implement it for the good of our community thank you."
- **Janice Travin** - "My name is Janice Travin I'm a community organizer and I've been a resident of both Queen Anne and magnolia over the past 35 years I've served on numerous advisory committees for the city for the port and most recently for sound transit 3 all focused on the magnolia and queen and impacts of policy i do appreciate all of your work and the seriousness

that you're bringing to this important effort for the public good um one question that i had and i will re-listen to this at the beginning commissioner nickels you said that there were two requirements uh following geographical boundaries and census tracts uh when i looked at what the city requirements were in the city amended city charter there are actually three shells one of them is that new boundaries shall follow existing district boundaries to the extent possible uh that new boundaries shall follow recognized waterways and the geographical boundaries and shall uh preserve Seattle communities and neighborhoods so for that reason i support your map commissioner nickels that keeps magnolia and Queen Anne together uh here's some real life impact over the past number of years I've encouraged people to run for office and I've been encouraged to run for office the current draft map would ensure that nobody from magnolia would have a snowball's chance of ever getting elected either in district 6 or district 7 for the next 10 years our impact on the city would be seriously seriously diluted um i would also like to invite all of you to please come to magnolia i will give you a personal covert safe guided tour of our whole community so that you can understand how arbitrary and destructive the current draft is to the magnolia peninsula uh we have serious infrastructure needs that need to be addressed over the next few years I'm sure that you in west Seattle could appreciate that we have we are connected by three bridges to the rest of the city and we want to be connected just in our community so keep magnolia and Queen Anne together in district 7, thank you."

- **Ann Goos** - "I am Ann Goos I'm a third generation Seattleite ran the 2004 Seattle school levy campaign deeply committed to this city i live in magnolia and I'm on the board of the magnolia chamber i want to applaud the opportunity to provide comment and it's going to sound a lot like Janet's. One of the most deep concerns that we have with the map is if we are accurate splitting magnolia village by using the 34th avenue west and west McGraw you have split the western part of magnolia village um so that some of those businesses will be in the sixth and some of those businesses will be in the seventh i think we all recognize i would hope in this city that magnolia village is an important iconic part of the magnolia community i hope that can be fixed at a bare minimum secondly i do hope similar to what Janet said you have split our public schools you have split the library from the other uh public assets you have split magnolia boulevard and the parks you have split the very things that make magnolia a great community i know that there are some communities who feel like somehow we as neighborhoods don't all have the opportunity to provide these comments and to be treated fairly i would argue every neighborhood in Seattle should be treated with the respect as well as the understanding of how important community is to this city the amount of splitting you have done of important assets to our community does not keep us whole and it certainly doesn't follow the geographic boundaries it does not follow the boundaries that we have come to know and so we look forward to working with you and boy i want to join the tour with Janet the chamber would love to have you do a walk through the community so you can see first-hand some of the areas that you have split into two separate districts we applaud your efforts we thank you very much for all that you've been doing and we look forward very much to working with you in the months ahead thank you."
- **Lai King** - "My name is Lai King i am joining today uh my family used to live in uh district two for like the longest time but now uh we live in Puyallup um I'm joining as a member of redistricting justice for Seattle coalition um we're a coalition of organizations working to call for an open transparent and community engage redistricting process statewide and locally my organizations

islander health board of washington but in the past five months we have lifted up we're working to lift voices of people of color working class people renters and other marginalized populations in the redistricting process and I want to applaud the commission for their for the current map because historically a lot of these communities have been uh well nobody really listened to them until your guys's current map and in short i just want to say uh keep Yesler terrace beacon hill and the Chinatown international district together in d2 uh keep d4 north of Montlake cut and don't split new district and also keep downtown and south lake union communities together in d7 and yeah that's mine nice short and simple thank you."

- **Bruce Carter** - "I'm Bruce Carter I'm a 50-year resident of Seattle I'm here speaking on behalf of the magnolia community council and first I'd like to thank all of you for your service and I acknowledge that you've received a wide variety of opinions on this important issue but the magnolia community council opposes the current map being considered by the commission and favors the map previously proposed by the commission's chair of mayor nickels the draft map breaks three of the commission's controlling rules in dealing with magnolia the enabling legislation requires that the district boundaries should to the extent possible follow existing boundaries recognize waterways and geographic boundaries and preserve Seattle communities and neighborhoods the proof that the proposed divisions in the magnolia community are unnecessary was presented in the map previously proposed by commission chair nickels that map continues the long-standing close relationship of common concern between magnolia and queen anne consistent with long-standing tradition we have for many years been linked and combined with queen anne in federal county and city elections reviewing recent articles in the newspaper it appears that people are presenting the commission with a lot of interest which are not consistent with the guiding principles they're important concerns but they're not in the charter as guiding principles current map is similar to uh situations in other areas which are being litigated and in our judgment the failure to follow the rules when there is proof of a feasible solution that keeps queen anne and magnolia together would not withstand a court challenge thank you."
- **Joanna Cullen** - "I just wanted to thank you for listening for the listening that the commission has done and for the maps so far actually the draft map um and if there are changes that are otherwise necessary I want the um since you've heard a lot of testimony from district 3 in the central district in the central area and district 2 and the cid um I would hope that you will that if there are other changes that those communities that you've listened to and who have been here participating that you won't put aside that testimony if you need to tweak please consider the areas that need to be tweaked but do not change what you've done in those areas and I thank you very much."
- **Dania Evans** - "This is Dania Evans um I'm a Seattle native and community leader and activist I just want I'm here to speak on behalf I'm from district four the u-district of the dell over washington I just want to thank the redistricting commission and for the hard work that they put in and I'm just here to ask that I'm a little nervous I've never spoken or testified. It's time to ask that the final map be approved I just wanted to I thought it was really something that I just love is that the basis that what they stand for which I think is important that we remember to keep communities of interest communities of colors and other marginalized communities together and that we prioritize people that have been that have been left out in the past I think that's really important and looking at the final map when it's being approved. I ask the changes to

adopt the rjs coalition map and approve the commission final draft map with just the very little changes to keep Yesler beacon hill and Chinatown international district together district two keep district four north of walt lake cut and don't split up the u-district please keeping downtown and south lake union and renter communities together in district seven and yes and I thank you for the opportunity to share today and look forward to the continued engagement throughout the process thank you for letting me speak.”

- **Carol Burton** - “My name is carol burton I'm a resident of magnolia um moved down here from Alaska in 1992. I'd like to thank you for your time and doing this work it's thankless work and you're not going to please everybody by a long shot and my comments are that's we knew at the start that district 7 had to shrink it was the largest district it had the most growth and so it would be logical to first look at places where you could cut district 7. Now I know human beings are not logical animals so that didn't happen uh what you did was you added to district seven you added in the half of south lake union that is currently south of union is split between seven and three you added in that and the east lake community which is currently in another district um you did take the half of pioneer square and put them in two which i don't have any problem with that um but adding to it just complicated matters because the nature of district seven is that there are a few places where you can move the boundaries in the same way as one and two geography is not in your favor because you've got water all around i mean you can't go over to Vashon or Bainbridge to add people um so what you did um was you added to that and it was further problems and then you added down you had downtown included which meant that you had to split somewhere and I do realize that commissioner shah and knew that the only place she could split was up in the north and the west because you've got water everywhere else and what you have done is split magnolia from queen anne and these are two communities that historically have worked together and are still working together on issues for example light rail smith cove park that affects both of us um we've done that for a long time we do not have that same historic connection with balance and in fact in the past people in ballot have said we don't want anything to do with you or queen anne we're on our own um so you know the other thing is as Ann has pointed out you split the village now magnolia village is the historic and has been for a long time business district but it's much more than that it's a gathering place for people it is the heart of the community and you really are splitting communities by making McGraw and 34th the dividing line and as part of that as an assign this I'm just saying Perkins lane makes no sense at all right thank you.”
- **David Murray** - “My name is David Murray I live in the eastern side of magnolia a resident within district seven uh living with within one of the fastest growing areas of the city uh that being the northwest side of magnolia or northeast side I'm sorry my side of the street is proposed to remain in district 7 whereas the other side of the street is now proposed to be in district six so I'm kind of wondering who will represent the residents on my street will likely be probably neither city council member because they're pointing to other city council members to address any concern that we might have and I imagine this type of issue might be true along the entire meandering path proposed through our diverse community of magnolia our eastern magnolia neighborhood is a range of pricey three-story town houses ranging from 750 square feet to 7 1750 uh square feet 750 to 1750 just to say that one more time six-figure households uh arranging two quads and duplex owners and renters who may be making just a portion of their blocked neighbors we are promoting a comp plan increase in density within our area because

we're going to be within walking distance of planned uh light rail communities the magnolia community council has declared in 2016 the desire for more affordable and dense housing within the village area magnolia as has been mentioned by others as well as the area which I live I promote commissioner Gregory nickels' plan which keeps magnolia together it does some work to bring some diverse representation to dense downtown I also promote a commissioner patience Malaba's plan but that kind of splits the district six and seven at discovery park the current plan is just not representing the people that I know the neighbors that I live with in any way I hear many comments of citizens appreciating keeping their districts together yet we're in magnolia here we're hard working and community active residents and I would like to suggest our community of magnolia and our people who associate with each other on a daily basis are diverse people and we're being vilified the city count the current council district 7 is currently diverse and it's more diverse than district 6. the proposed realignment actually makes district 6 even wider so I ask you to go back and really look at what you're doing and why you're doing it because it's just not serving the people that I know and people I live near in any way thank you."

- **Theresa Huey** - "My name is Theresa Huey I am joined today as an interested resident in district 2 in the hillman neighborhood I'm also joining as a newer member of the redistricting justice for Seattle coalition a coalition of organizations working to call for an open transparent and community engaged redistricting process statewide and locally our coalition has been working over the past five months to lift up the voices of people of color working class people renters and other marginalized populations in the redistricting process our coalition applauds the commission for the draft map and for listening to the voices of historically divided communities in Seattle I propose adopting the rjs coalition map and approve the 8-2 commission draft final map the final draft map I'm nervous too with very little changes specifically keep Yesler terrace you can heal and the Chinatown international district together in my district 2 keep district 4 north of the Montlake cut and don't split the new district keep downtown and south lake junior renter communities together in district seven and there's some slight changes rjs coalition would like to see to the draft map move green lake and meridian and district four keep all of inner bay as possible in district 7 in the magnolia area thank you very much for the opportunity to share today and i look forward to continued engagement throughout the process have a good day you too thank you."
- **Lorna Murray** - "my name is Lorna Murray I'm a resident of Magnuson park and I'm an active participant uh hyper locally and uh you know in my immediate residential community as well as a slew of on a slew of broader community neighborhood councils and committees throughout my district and i have a background in organizing and um and advocacy behind education and um educate educational justice and access to the arts and other social justice issues but i wanted to um it was important to me to come and talk to the commission today and before i thank you for the most recent map i do want to acknowledge on the fear and the pain that the people who are opposed to that map um are expressing today i understand that and i and i know some of those people and i care about them and it saddens me to um to hear to hear these things and i don't blame them for being scared after all i mean look what uh separating that district in the first place did to districts two and seven i mean yeah so anyhow um i do want to thank you for that map i and for listening to the voices of the people who haven't been heard as much in the city and trying to reunite those neighborhoods and i hope that there can be some sort of compromise on the you know on the other neighborhoods that are affected to

minimize that of course with that said i do support the map that redistricting redistrict justice for washington submitted and in addition to the changes in districts two and seven i wanted to thank you for not moving not carving magnus and park out of district four and putting it into district five a lot of people here have had some anxiety around that um because it would uh pretty much effectively uh our residents would not have a voice at the schools that that were geozone to go to and with the limited transportation the stores that they're able to shop at and for those who do have transportation they wouldn't even have a say in the roads that we drove on and also Magnuson park generates about 30 million dollars per year in revenue and i think that it would be really complicated to carve out the park and put it in a different district yeah i also think that it would devastate years of community bridge building and headway that we've made um and that we've already you know been undertaking with uh between park residents and our broader community neighbors um you know we're working to overcome a lot of the hallmarks of the isolation felt when there's such a huge difference in socioeconomic factors that's it that's all I got great thank you."

- **Sanders Lauter** - "My name is Sanders Lauter and I live in district seven I support the current draft map as agreed upon by the commissioners it meets the requirement of being compact contiguous and not gerrymandered it meets the population requirements while trying to follow waterways and keep neighborhoods together while feasible with 55 of Seattle being renters me being one of them keeping downtown and sou together is important to the future of the city I want to commend commissioner Shah for making a great map and commissioner nickels to his attention to detail ensuring the area inside of Perkins lane west did not end up in a district thank you."
- **Jude Ahmed** - "My name is Jude Ahmed I am testifying on behalf sorry of the advocacy and civic engagement department at the urban league of metropolitan Seattle um we are a non-profit that serves black and underserved communities in the greater Seattle area i am also joining as a member of the redistricting justice for Seattle coalition a coalition of organizations working for open transparent and community engaged redistricting processes statewide and also locally i want to begin by stating that Seattle neighborhoods have historically not been treated equal with the well-being and representation of communities of color always on the chopping block fears about neighborhoods being split are real and so I can emphasize with the folks on the call that want to make sure that their communities are kept together but I also want to make sure that we acknowledge that these fears have already been realized by the communities of color who were left out of the creation of the original city council districts and those districts were drawn and the effort towards districts was spearheaded by north Seattle residents it's clear as day to us that investment and attention to our historic communities of color often only come with gentrification but before that it's crucial that we make sure that we have representatives and that districts are drawn to ensure that our voting power representation and funding is open and on the table fighting for representation and acknowledgement has been the burden of communities of color that many politically enfranchised areas of the city cannot fathom so with that said we're really pleased to see that the map incorporated feedback from the coalition which we've been involved with since its very early inception and we want to see our priorities maintained namely keeping communities of interest communities of color and other marginalized communities together and prioritizing these communities over special interests and politicians thus we ask to ensure that the commission as you tweak and adjust this map

keep Yesler terrace beacon hill in the Chinatown international district together in district 2. this is a very strong priority for the urban league of metropolitan Seattle and in addition to do so um ensure that the uh other districts are drawn in ways that still prioritize representation for communities of color um i also want to support the coalition values of keeping the district 4 north of the motley cut keeping you district together and keeping the downtown and southland union renter communities together in district 7. Thank you for your time and good luck with the continuance of this process thank you."

- **Harold Hyllseth** - "Hello commissioners my name is Harold Hyllseth and i am the policy and advocacy manager for the chief Seattle club i am providing public comment today to highlight my organization's priorities moving forward in the 2022 redistricting process and wanted to start again by thanking the commission for leading a transparent equitable and accessible process thus far my community has two equally important priorities during the redistricting process keeping pioneer square in one district and keeping pioneer square in district seven though through work with other pioneer square stakeholders and community leaders we have determined these priorities can be achieved while also satisfying the commission's rule for redrawing districts the commission has demonstrated in their draft map presented on august 2nd that there is flexibility on how district 6 and district 7 can be adjusted to adjust for district 7's required contraction and size the commission should consider further expanding district 6 into district 7 to 15th avenue west and the magnolia bridge and fully include pioneer square in d7 a map of this proposed change has been previously provided to the commission from the downtown Seattle association chief Seattle club believes pioneer square should be placed in d7 as our neighborhood features similar challenges and needs as those neighborhoods located in the commission's proposed map our members and all residents of pioneer square would be the most direct benefactors to staying in d7 we believe that the commission can value our priorities and identify areas of compromise to ensure our neighborhood's needs and challenges are represented at the Seattle city council level thank you for your time and best of luck moving forward thank you."
- **Joseph Lachman** - "I am the policy manager at asian counseling and referral service in Seattle and also here as part of the redistricting justice for Seattle coalition want to say thank you so much to the commissioners for taking time to speak with members of our coalition and for your interest in our incorporating our feedback uh we urge still that uh consideration of the map proposal that rjs has sent to the commission but are also we also enthusiastically support many of the decisions with regard to the august 2nd commission draft map just with the small number of changes i'm just making sure still that yesler terrace beacon hill and the cid are kept together in district 2 on not splitting the district apart from district four and keeping downtown and south lake union renters communities together in district seven um however overall, we are still i'm incredibly and supportive of the proposal that the commission has put forth already and i'm grateful for the opportunity uh to provide our feedback to the commission and to receive just the opportunities to engage with y'all and with that that's the end of my comments thank you very much."
- **Sean Haney** - "My name is Sean Haney i'm also with redistricting justice Seattle here i'm a student living in district four at the moment my priorities that i want to share with the commission are to make sure this map is advantageous as possible to renters in the city i feel like for a long time renters have been underheard and underserved by the political forces in

Seattle so um in service of that i agree a lot with how the map looks now some priorities for me are to keep the downtown and south lake union rental communities together in district seven and also keep district four north of the Montlake cut in order to preserve the renters in the u district and Roosevelt um i know that there's been some discussion about changing district 7 and also moving district 4 down. I realize that it's impossible to create a map that reaches realizes everyone's priorities equally but i think that uh this map should be kept pretty close to how it is now and making sure that it always is keeping renting communities together thank you."

- **Zach Warwiciks** - "I am a renter in the east lake neighborhood and i am also a member of the east lake community council uh east lake is one of Seattle's most historic neighborhoods but also happens to sit right smack dab in the middle of the city uh kind of a forgotten hidden place right there on the other side of the freeway we do not have a community center we have no access to a gas station no ev charging no bike infrastructure no large bird no regular grocery store so we are already a community that deals with a lot of we don't have uh access to and we are a wrap our neighborhood is rapidly replacing our single-family homes with multi-unit buildings going from one home to uh 10 15 homes on the same lot and we're just getting more and more renters like myself moving into the neighborhood and it's rapidly changing if divided now it'll be near impossible to reunite it as we grow faster than the rest of the city uh so uh we'll be it'll be with the size with our size splitting us down the middle it'll be very easy to ignore us um you know the renters of each lake who will be moving in within the next 18 to 30 months we'll never see a candidate in our neighborhood there simply won't be enough votes to care on either side uh eastlake has a history of finding innovative solutions to housing issues since the gold rush since the founding of the city uh the floating homes used to be the worst housing in the city they went out there because there was the housing was too expensive in the city and that's where they floated the logs out and then when those became the premier housing in the city we went from single-family homes and put up those eight plexes that went in the uh in the late 80s uh that have now dotted around the neighborhoods and then when the zoning changed again we went to co-living spaces micro apartments these one homes into 30 on the same lot uh and we're proud of it we always are proud of finding innovative solutions to it and our neighborhood has always changed because of it and uh even now you know with the dry docks and the fishing companies we have a unique situation in Seattle where we have a vibrant community of temporary neighbors who live in rvs and motor homes while the ships and the boats are in town so i know there's issues other parts of the city we just we kind of embrace our neighbors uh in the uh in the uh in the rvs and the motorhomes this line actually divides those neighbors right down the middle of that of that lot um we're a very small neighborhood as this we're talking about three or four blocks that we're trying to move a line you know and again we're just advocating to be kept together it's a very very small neighborhood uh ever although everyone testifying today seems to give have legit concerns and we're not trying to prioritize anyone over the other but just to hear the voice of the neighborhood who often doesn't get uh the attention or the voice that we have just basically uh due to the geography so i see i've got uh my time thank you very much to the commission you guys are doing very good work and i very much appreciate the genuine effort you're putting into making sure the community voices are heard all up and down the city from all the ways across i know a lot of work thank you very much for what you're doing."

- **Amy Plantenburg** - “My name is Amy Plantenburg I'm third generation born and raised in Seattle um I've lived in many of the districts in Seattle over my 40 plus years I've been a renter I've been an owner and i have lived with my family in district 7 in magnolia for the last 12 years I'm also currently a trustee on the magnolia community council um additionally i guess I'll mention too that um I'm also a small business owner here in magnolia and my most important job though is a mom to raising my kiddos here in our community and uh that's really the reason that I'm here today is just to express my concerns over this current proposal to split our community um you know i i have been listening to all of the comments here today and really appreciate all the work and thoughtfulness that has gone into this proposal and um really accounting for the needs of our broader Seattle city you know at growing up here i um you know I've had the privilege of watching you know before Microsoft and amazon and you know just being able to watch the rapid changes that have happened over the last several years the one thing i have always appreciated is a sense of community and that's definitely something that we really share here in magnolia especially that opportunity to work across some of our neighborhoods with queen anne as an example as others have expressed today i am as i mentioned concerned over the current proposal and the impact it will have on district seven i believe that we should keep our magnolia community uh intact our neighborhood intact as we work together um as one community district council district excuse me um with queen anne we've shared infrastructure needs and long-standing relationships and by splitting us up my concerns this will have a negative impact on the projects and policies that we've been actively working on in our community you know specifically around some of the infrastructure stuff i hold my breath when i drive over the magnolia bridge with my kiddos in the car so um hoping that that there can be some adjustments made to keep our community together i also support commissioner nickels' map to keep uh magnolia as one in district seven thank you.”
- **Joe Murphy** - “Hi my name is joe murphy I'm an eastlake resident and first and foremost i wanted to acknowledge um the commissioners that are working on this on this task and also the citizens who've given up their lunch today to and probably for many meetings to stay engaged and be focused on the task at hand I've been working with the east lake community council and thank you dietrich and zach for showing up and representing our concerns and i think they've said it very well but i would reiterate that as an already small community that has to organize regularly to kind of speak up for our concerns uh dividing us in half i think would really silence the community um i often see east lake as a sort of the eye in the center of the hurricane because the city is all around us and people frequently don't know we're here but dividing us in half would have a pretty significant impact on the community um i also wanted to make a comment about the overall approach to problem solving you know when i saw this process going on i find it first of all very interesting and rather than kind of showing up and critiquing i was really interested in trying to do it myself and trying to adjust the map and i applaud the commissioners because it's much like a slide puzzle you make one change and i have two problems you fix those two problems now you might have four it's very difficult and one thing i wanted to point out my observations and using dave's redistricting tool which is an amazing tool um that there may be some inherent bias in approach and so uh dietrich and i were taking a look at the map and thought well where do we start we'll start at district one why because it's number one and so maybe the problems will compound as you go around the map following those district numbers um you know what would the map look like if you started with district

seven what would it look like if you started with three or four or picked a random number um so i would i would encourage the commission to think about that you know a lot of the different concerns have been brought up today business districts social communities minority communities historical concerns renters and owners um that that's a lot of different concerns to optimize and so i would encourage maybe creating custom map layers so you can view more clearly the different kinds of communities and prioritize those things um take different approaches and see where things land um i hate to misquote i don't know uh what the maybe the original quote is but it seems like compromise is making everybody equally angry at you i hope that that's not the lived experience that you have with this process i'm also willing to help i find it very fascinating going through this process and you know just to tie back you know i think i would advocate to keep these like together but i understand that there's a lot of concerns at hand i appreciate your time thank you."

- **Scott Shawcroft** - "My name is Scott Shawcroft I'm a resident of district six um and as some of the commissioners may know I've been in previous meetings but i wanted to reiterate some things for the folks that are new here um first i would say that splitting is a holistic endeavor and i think that the commissioner's draft map as of last week does a very good job I've done holistic analysis using city clerk neighborhoods atlas neighborhoods and what we can see so the way that this works is given an area um i count all the people that have been split off the bulk of the other people in that area so the commission's draft for example for city court neighborhoods 2 27,000 people have been split apart um this is actually better than the current map so the current map is 31,000 and I've heard a couple people also suggest commissioner nickels' map and based on this metric there are 32 and a half thousand people split off so in general i'm for the district's current draft atlas neighborhoods is true as well these are larger neighborhoods and magnolia is one of them in the atlas neighborhoods and again the commission's draft map does a better job if folks are interested in this analysis i have made public comments prior with a link to my reports just look for Seattle redistricting for that I've also heard some feedback today about pioneer square being in d7 and people have talked about district six in regards to that but they have not talked about district one and district one in my opinion is the forcing function for putting pioneer square in district 1 as well so that should be considered for those folks who are proposing it i would also like to requests that when new drafts are created could we always also put the days redistricting url for the new draft i saw a pdf of the commission's draft from last week but i could not find the actual days redistricting link so that would be super helpful for running these analyses uh and then going back to magnolia uh i live in Ballard and i also support uh bringing magnolia or many parts of it into Ballard the same district as Ballard also because of sharing a high school between Ballard and magnolia there have been arguments for keeping magnolia with queen anne but they do not share high schools so i think it's important to consider that as well um lastly with my last 20 seconds i would also like to reiterate that i believe these districts are for residents so where people are voting from and i don't think it's as important to consider business districts because i don't believe people are actually living where these businesses are necessarily so please keep in mind that as well thank you."
- **Ruby Holland** - "I've been working on this ad nauseam gosh for months and i am so grateful to elsa and your crew for uh working with us in district three from the very beginning we um wanted to keep our community together and we wanted to keep uh district two together you know over the years we've had gentrification we've had up zoning we've had everything that's

really hard has been hard on our community so what little bit we have we want to stay together i um would like to um i guess acknowledge Theresa Huey's comment and also the urban league's comment and i guess I'm trying to stick with those as possible and i although the commissioners um uh thing is not perfect i think I'm going to roll with that at this point i am on information overload today I've gotten so many emails about this and so much this so much back and forth just too much information so i just hope you all do the best you can to try to keep these communities together everybody's communities together especially the central area and district two Chinatown Yesler and beacon hill should probably be together in district two i mean in district three and I'm excuse me in district two that's all i got to say sorry about that thank you."

- **Martha Tafery** - "I'm Martha Tafery in magnolia and i suppose this is going to come across rather negative but it seems to me that magnolia is being gerrymandered Mr. Davis who was the first speaker talked about magnolias being the earth is the longest privileged neighborhood in the Seattle I would beg to differ i don't live anywhere near the boulevard which i admit has some very pricey homes however i would like to add his name and add my own to Janice and Ann's offering tours of magnolia so that people can actually see what the community is like it's rather difficult when you're connected to the rest of the world by three bridges one of which could use a lot of help anyway I think it's important that the rules are followed and the rules include keeping communities intact and splitting magnolia or as i say gerrymandering magnolia i do not believe is the answer to this registering process thank you."
- **Alex Cooley** - "My name is Alex I'm the president of the Jackson police community council and the president of the central area head neighborhood district council I'm a resident of district three and uh we have been consistently engaging the commission in this process since almost the first meetings and want to express our gratitude for the commission listening to comments of so many in our communities and in our districts uh being incredibly focused on a transparent and collaborative process has been a refreshing experience to say the least we feel as if the commission's proposed map reflects the vast majority of these comments from historically marginalized community members and we are in support of this map it could be better but it is uh quite a large amount of progress since the initial four maps were released i do empathize with other community members particularly magnolia and what the proposed map does to them uh we could be in support of former mayor nickels map uh if that were to be a direction head but our biggest concern of any changes that are made to the proposed map is that the border between district 2 and district 3 on the south side maintained particularly yester terrace the cid the central area and beacon hill cluster along Borin and rainier and i-90 is incredibly important not to change in order to protect these historically marginalized communities i thank you again and hope you all have a wonderful day."

VIII. Next meetings – September 6th

- The next Seattle Redistricting Commission meeting will be on Tuesday September 6, 2022, from 12:00 PM – 1:30 PM.
- There will be two more additional citywide public forums: One will be held in September and the other will be held in October. The exact dates of these forums will be determined at a future meeting.

IX. Adjourn

- Commission Chair Greg Nickels asked if there was a motion to adjourn the meeting. Commissioner Malaba motioned for adjournment, and Commissioner O'Sullivan seconded. The motion for adjournment was approved unanimously with five yes votes.
- The next Seattle Redistricting Commission meeting will be on Tuesday September 6, 2022, from 12:00 PM – 1:30 PM.
- Questions and comments, please send them to Elsa.Batres-Boni@seattle.gov