



DESERT HEALTHCARE DISTRICT
DESERT HEALTHCARE DISTRICT
SPECIAL MEETING OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS
MEETING MINUTES
June 19, 2018

Directors Present	District Staff Present	Absent
President Zendle, MD Vice-President/Secretary Carole Rogers, RN Treasurer Mark Matthews Director Kay Hazen Director Jennifer Wortham, DrPH	Herb K. Schultz, CEO Lisa Houston, COO Chris Christensen, CFO Donna Craig, Senior Program Officer Alejandro Espinoza, Program Officer and Outreach Director Will Dean, Communications and Marketing Director Andrea S. Hayles, Clerk of the Board <u>Legal Counsel</u> Jeff Scott	

AGENDA ITEMS	DISCUSSION	ACTION
A. Call to Order Roll Call	President Zendle called the meeting to order at 6:02 p.m. The Clerk of the Board called the roll with all Directors present.	
B. Pledge of Allegiance	President Zendle waived the Pledge of Alliance due to the lack of a flag and apologized to any persons that may be offended.	
C. Public Comment	President Zendle called for public comment for any items not listed on the agenda. No public comment.	
D. Approval of Agenda	President Zendle asked for a motion to approve the agenda.	#18-73 MOTION WAS MADE by Director Matthews and seconded by Director Hazen to approve the agenda. Motion passed unanimously.
E. Public Hearing – Discussion regarding draft maps for change from at-large to zone-based elections – elections code 10010(a)(2)	President Zendle opened the meeting explaining the current District boundaries and the new boundaries should the Expansion pass on the November 2018 ballot. Dr. Justin Levitt, Ph.D., Vice President, National Demographic	



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	<p>Corporation provided an overview of the prior Public Hearings in April and May and the final map selections on June 26. Dr. Levitt described the Traditional Districting Criteria, and the District's website address of the Draft Maps. A description and overview of the Green, Orange, Purple, Yellow, and Kaplan 1 Maps were presented with map layer boundaries. The Election Sequencing, Re-election Impacts, and Proposed Election Sequence by Plan were also reviewed.</p>	
<p>Public Comment</p>	<p>Alexis Ortega, LGBTQ Center, explained her op-ed in the Desert Sun emphasizing zones to maximize the Latino voter block and thus far the Purple Map includes Cathedral City, Thousand Palms, and other unincorporated areas. Ms. Ortega's op-ed can be read in its entirety in the Desert Sun June 15 article titled <i>More representation at the Desert Healthcare District is better for everyone.</i></p> <p>Barrett Newkirk, Communications and Marketing Manager, Building Healthy Communities, explained his letter submitted to the Board via email to adopt the Purple Map for the strongest minority Latino voting blocks in area Cathedral City. The corresponding letter is attached.</p> <p>Michael Harrington, Rancho Mirage Resident, supports the</p>	



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	<p>Purple Map that provides a voice and stated that Palm Desert and Rancho Mirage are different from those areas. Mr. Harrington explained the disparities in his neighborhood and other areas further adding that the Board should self-identify to determine if it matches the Valley composition.</p> <p>Deiter Crawford, Desert Highland Gateway Estates Resident, explained the Black and Hispanic communities in the Orange map creates a division and he prefers to keep Desert Highland Gateway Estates in Palm Springs as opposed to lumping into another city. Kaplan 1 is the least favored map that would dilute the neighborhood removing them from Palm Springs.</p> <p>Erick Lemus, CA Partnership, Cathedral City Resident, explained that with the current health access the District is moving in a positive direction. Community members are relatable and civically engaging the public.</p> <p>Sergio Espericueta, shared his experience in Cathedral City with the past process of redistricting and the Board's consideration of the entire population.</p> <p>Evelt Perezgil, Cathedral City Resident, described the Purple Map that keeps certain portions of Cathedral City with two seats</p>	
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	<p>up for the election that are in the Purple Map area.</p> <p>Herb K. Schultz, CEO, read public comments received via email from the following persons:</p> <p>Salim Alama, Oasis del Sol Neighborhood – Thank you so much for your excellent presentation at this morning's One-PS meeting. I represent the Oasis del Sol neighborhood (Alejo to Tachevah and Sunrise to Farrell). I strongly recommend you go with the Kaplan 1 Map. It keeps most of Palm Springs together and would be a great way to have strong PS representation.</p> <p>Daniel Barber, President, Los Compadres Neighborhood Organization – Nice to see you again at eh ONE-PS meeting this morning. I do have some concerns and saw some inaccuracies on the maps that was presented at the meeting.</p> <p>1. As mentioned at the meeting, Neighborhoods should not be split by the different zones. Most of the residents in neighborhoods are very similar and familiar with their borders etc. By keeping these borders, it will be easy for most residents to comprehend. On the Green, Orange, Purple, and Kaplan Maps the Los Compadres Neighborhood would be split. I'm not sure about the Yellow Map because the street between the pink and green</p>	
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	<p>zones on this map are unclear. Also, on this map what is the significance of the zig-zag lines within the green zones?</p> <p>2. On the Purple Kaplan 1 Maps, there is a labeling mistake where Gene Autry Trail is labeled, San Joaquin Dr. San Joaquin is a small street within the Los Compadres Neighborhood of only two blocks.</p> <p>Marc Acker, Palm Springs Resident – Maybe there is some value using Palm Springs Unified School District boundaries for the Desert Healthcare District boundaries since there are many similarities between the two. I like the Orange map it will keep communities intact that have similar lifestyles. Keeping Desert Hot Springs intact is important.</p> <p>Terry Reeser, Mountain Gate Community – As a representative of the Mountain Gate community I would favor the Orange map.</p> <p>Paula Auburn Sunrise-Vista Chino neighborhood Coalition – Excellent information today at the ONE-PS meeting! Thank you so much for making the handout binders - very helpful information and succinctly presented. I plan to attend the June 19 public meeting or send in an email with my thoughts and to encourage neighbors to do likewise. Our HOA board meeting is Saturday June 16.</p>	
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	<p>understand the Health Care District has three primary sources of funds: a portion of our property tax, Tenet lease payments, and contributions. These funds are then returned to the community as grants for services. I am curious to know how much income is if from the property tax source. I find nothing on the web site with this information.</p> <p>Breanna Sewell, Desert Hot Springs Resident – I support the "Orange Map." Desert Hot Springs has a lot of common interest as Garnet and Desert Edge. Most of the time, folks who live in Garnet or Desert Edge will refer to themselves as residents of DHS since they use DHS services and shopping, including health services. The orange map also gives Cathedral City the best opportunity to have fair representation. This would give areas C & E opportunities for Palm Springs elected to run. I do NOT think it would be beneficial to cut DHS into two zones, like purple map or yellow map because DHS may not have ANY legit representation if someone from Palm Springs won in section B or someone from unincorporated areas won in section A. Desert Hot Springs has a low voter turnout and low financial backing for candidates which would cause DHS to not have representation if put up against someone else from Palm Springs with financial backing</p>	
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	<p>and large voter turnout. I also don't believe that zones should be drawn to accommodate current board members. Zones should be drawn to accommodate the community, not the elected.</p> <p>David Freedman – Hi Herb, Many thanks for your informative presentation at the ONE-PS meeting this morning. As you know, one of the goals for the transition to a district-based electoral system that the Palm Springs City Council adopted at its May 16 meeting as part of its Statement of Principles is to keep organized neighborhoods intact, to the extent practical, As Palm Springs organized neighborhoods are communities of interest as defined under US Supreme Court precedent (see e.g. <i>Shaw v. Reno</i>, 509 U.S. 630, 642, 647, 651 (1993); <i>Bush v. Vera</i>, 517 U.S. 952, 958, 966, 977 (1996)), the goal adopted by the Palm Springs City Council should also apply to the Desert Healthcare District as part of its redistricting process.</p> <p>Although I have not done a comprehensive review of the proposed maps, I did notice certain divisions of organized neighborhoods in all but the Purple Map. Here are a few examples:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• The Green Map divides the Indian Canyons Neighborhood (where I	
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	<p>live). We follow the boundaries of the Indian Canyons Golf Resort North Course and allottee land, as set out in our Neighborhood Organization Bylaws:</p> <p>The Indian Canyons neighborhood boundaries are East Sierra Way, South Caliente Drive, East Via Estrella, South Toledo Avenue, East Murray Canyon Drive, the east side of the center line of South Sierra Madre Drive, East Santiago Way, South Calle Palo Fierro to East Avenida Granada, and the east side of the center line of South Calle Palo Fierro to East Sierra Way.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• The Green Map also divides the Canyon Corridor, Movie Colony East and Sunmor neighborhoods.• The Orange Map divides the Historic Tennis Club and Tahquitz River Estates neighborhoods.• The Yellow Map divides the Gene Autry, Movie Colony East, Oasis del Sol, Sonora Sunrise and Tahquitz River Estates neighborhoods.	
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	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• The Kaplan Map divides the Upper West Side and Whitewater Club neighborhoods. <p>Although I understand that Palm Springs will need to be divided into two or three zones to maintain population balance, it should be possible to bring the divided neighborhoods together once the Desert Healthcare District Board reaches consensus on one of the maps, as in most cases that would require only a small population adjustment.</p> <p>As I will not be able to attend either of the either of the upcoming public hearings because of previous commitments, I would appreciate it if you could forward my comments to NDC. They should already have the Palm Springs Neighborhood Map through their work for palm Springs, but if not, it is available on the City website at http://www.palmsprings-ca.gov/residents/neighborhoods.</p> <p>Paul Crippan, ONE-PS TRENO Rep – Good Morning Herb:</p> <p>I want to thank you for your presentation at ONE-PS monthly meeting of which I am attending on behalf of my neighborhood, Tahquitz River Estates Neighborhood (TRENO).</p> <p>I am not sure if you knew that TRENO is one of the larger PS</p>	
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	<p>neighborhood (600 homes plus business/hotels and resorts). We were formed as one of the first 9 chartered neighborhoods. We have provided leadership, support and of course Lisa Middleton who was a member of our board and resides in our neighborhood.</p> <p>Our monthly meeting was the same day of your presentation and I was able to do a brief presentation and discussion on the 5 proposed NDC maps. We felt the best one that suits our City of Palm Springs and neighborhood is the yellow map. The yellow map does split our neighborhood into 2 zones (B&D) but we felt it would give our neighbors greater representation. We did not have any recommended changes nor additional suggestions.</p> <p>Eric and I will give you a call this morning to touch base and to see how we can best support your efforts. We just want to go on record that TRENO's Board of Advisors voted to adopt NDC's yellow map. We would appreciate if you would at your June 19th meeting to notify your Board of Directors of our unanimous decision.</p> <p>Larry Buchanan, Desert Hot Springs Resident – The population numbers for Desert Hot Springs are incorrect, you need to look at them. I am part of the DHS historical society an</p>	
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	<p>during my research for a grant, I know we have more than 25,938 residents. Can you please check your numbers again?</p>	
	<p>Vice-President Rogers, Desert Hot Springs Resident, inquired with Deiter Crawford concerning grouping the Desert Highland Gateway Neighborhood with the Orange Map. Mr. Crawford explained the Desert Highland Gateway neighborhood, the socio-economic areas, and the historical and traditional attributes of the Desert Highland Gateway residents since the 1950's. There are also over 40 businesses that employ persons in that area.</p> <p>President Zendle closed the public comments section. Vice-President Rogers expressed that she is open to any of the areas that the public has commented that is compatible with their communities. Vice-President Rogers is looking forward to the future and obtaining qualified candidates on the Board and possibly mentoring them.</p> <p>Director Matthews complimented the work of NDC and the testimony of the public comments.</p> <p>President Zendle emphasized the purpose of the zones to represent the entire Healthcare District not simply the zones they occupy. Maximizing the goals of the California Voter Rights Act and the minority</p>	



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	<p>Districts to keep the communities of the District together in one zone is the objective. President Zendle expressed concerns about the division of Palm Springs in two zones.</p> <p>Director Matthews moved to approve the Orange and Purple Maps.</p> <p>Director Hazen requested an examination of the Orange and Purple maps to draw the lines to preserve established neighborhood boundaries.</p>	<p>#18-73 MOTION WAS MADE by Director Matthews and seconded by Vice-President Rogers to eliminate the Green, Yellow, and Kaplan 1 maps. Motion passed unanimously.</p> <p>#18-74 MOTION WAS MADE by Director Hazen and seconded by Director Matthews to approve the Purple and Orange Maps to draw the lines and establish the neighborhood boundaries. Motion passed unanimously</p>
<p>F. Adjournment</p>	<p>President Zendle adjourned the meeting at 7:15 p.m.</p>	<p><i>Audio recording available on the website at http://dhcd.org/Agenda-Board-of-Directors</i></p>

ATTEST: Carole Rogers
 Carole Rogers, Vice-President/Secretary
 Desert Healthcare District Board of Directors

Minutes respectfully submitted by Andrea S. Hayles, Clerk of the Board



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June 13, 2018

Dr. Les Zendle, Board President
Desert Healthcare District
1140 N. Indian Canyon Drive
Palm Springs, CA 92262

Dear Dr. Zendle and Members of the Board:

As a coalition of people and organizations working on resident-led efforts for a healthy and economically thriving Coachella Valley, Building Healthy Communities recognizes the importance of having elected representation that truly reflects the community. We are glad the Desert Healthcare District has chosen to adopt its first ever electoral districts, and we appreciate the board's commitment to good governance and the thoughtful preparation of the proposed maps.

We are writing to help ensure that the Board's final choice is as fair as possible, complies with the law, and includes boundaries that protect against the dilution of the Coachella Valley's Latino voting power. By taking into account the following considerations, the Board can feel confident that it is adopting the most equitable and legally sound map possible.

We urge the Board to adopt an electoral districting map that (1) balances pure population numbers between electoral districts to ensure compliance with the federal "one person, one vote" standard, and (2) preserves minority voting blocs by not unnecessarily or illegally packing minority voters into one zone or splitting them into multiple zones.

We remind the Board that taking into account the representation of protected minorities is not gerrymandering or favoritism; it is required by federal law. The federal judiciary established with *Thornburg v. Gingles* (1986) that minority-majority districts must be established when there is evidence of (1) a minority group that is sufficiently large and geographically compact to constitute a majority in its own electoral district; (2) the political cohesiveness of that group; and (3) the historic or prevalent defeat of minority voters' preferred candidates by white majority voters.

Any consideration of potential vote dilution must look at the demographics, history, and political realities of the region. Here in Desert Healthcare District's Coachella Valley territory, we are all aware of distinct communities, including the dense Latino population of areas in Cathedral City, Desert Hot Springs, Thousand Palms, and Sky Valley. History tells us that Latino voters tend to vote together and thus constitute a minority bloc that should not be diluted. This holds true in the Coachella Valley.

Join The Movement!

Help our region thrive and ensure healthcare access for all.



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Based on these considerations, we believe the strongest of the four proposed maps is the one marked "Purple" because it creates the strongest "majority-minority" district (District C) and includes a somewhat strong Latino voting bloc in District A. However, this map can be strengthened to ensure that these voting blocs are preserved as much as possible. We suggest adjusting the boundaries to the extent possible to include Latino neighborhoods from Districts B, D, or E into District C. We also suggest considering whether it's possible to strengthen District A by adding more Latino population (but not to the detriment of District C).

Thank you for considering our input as you make a final decision. We look forward to discussing these maps at the public hearings scheduled for June 19 and June 26. Building Healthy Communities requests that the Desert Healthcare District provide Spanish translation at both meetings.

Sincerely,

Barrett Newkirk
Communications Manager, Building Healthy Communities
On behalf of Building Healthy Communities coalition members

Members of Building Healthy Communities Coachella Valley Strategic Coordinating Council are Beaman Law, Coachella Unincorporated, Lideres Campesinas, the California Institute for Rural Studies, KDI, Pueblo Unido CDC, CV Parents, Raices, and the LGBT Center of the Desert.



Join The Movement!
Help our region thrive and ensure healthcare access for all.



Cathedral City
Office of the Mayor

June 14, 2018

Desert Health Care District
Lisa Houston
Chief Operating Officer
1140 N. Indian Canyon Drive
Palm Springs, CA 92262

Dear Mrs. Houston,

On behalf of the City of Cathedral City, we support your efforts to involve the community during your transition to a five zone-based election system. We appreciate the opportunity to provide input during this important process. Given our efforts to strength our community's connection, direction, and momentum, we favor mapping options which keep as much of our City together as possible.

Consequently, we support the NDC Orange Map, or the Kaplan 1 Map. We believe these districting options will provided the greatest continuity and highest levels of service for our residents.

If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to contact Charlie McClendon at 760-770-0372 or at cmclendon@cathedralcity.gov.

Sincerely,

STANLEY E. HENRY
MAYOR
CITY OF CATHEDRAL CITY