

A Resolution

NO. 4106-07-2012

ADOPTING A SINGLE-MEMBER CITY COUNCIL DISTRICT PLAN

WHEREAS, the City Council of the City of Fort Worth is composed of a mayor elected at-large and representatives elected from eight single-member districts, as required by Chapter IV, Section 3 of The Charter of the City of Fort Worth Texas; and

WHEREAS, the last Single-Member City Council District Plan was established in 2002, based upon the 2000 census; and

WHEREAS, between 2000 and 2010, the population of the City of Fort Worth increased by 202,374 residents, an increase of thirty-eight and six-tenths percent (38.6%); and

WHEREAS, this growth was not evenly distributed across the City of Fort Worth; and

WHEREAS, it is necessary to redraw boundary lines for single-member districts to adjust for the growth and shifts in population among the districts; and

WHEREAS, the City Council has certain redistricting responsibilities under federal law, including but not limited to, the Fourteenth and Fifteenth Amendments to the United States Constitution and the Voting Rights Act, 42 U.S.C.A. section 1973, et seq.; and

WHEREAS, on June 14, 2011, the City Council adopted Resolution No. 3998-06-2011 (Establishing Criteria for Use in Redistricting of Single-Member City Council Districts) which established the following criteria to be used in the redistricting process:

- Districts should be relatively equal in total population according to the 2010 census;
- Plan should not fragment or pack geographically compact minority communities;
- Plan should be narrowly tailored to avoid retrogression in the position of racial and language minorities in accordance with Section 5 of the Voting Rights Act;
- Single-member districts should be compact and contiguous;
- Where possible, districts should be divided using easily identifiable geographic boundaries;
- Where possible, communities of interest should be contained in a single district and attempts should be made to avoid splitting neighborhoods unless requested by neighborhood representatives;
- Where possible, each single-member district should encompass areas located inside Loop 820 and outside Loop 820;
- To the extent possible, single-member districts should be composed of whole voting precincts;
- Where possible, single-member districts should be comprised of whole census block groups or blocks; and
- Consideration may be given to the preservation of incumbent-constituent relations; and



WHEREAS, the redistricting process was divided into two phases: Phase I, a determination of the number of single-member districts, and Phase II, the establishment of new single-member district boundary lines; and

WHEREAS, Phase I of the redistricting process involved a series of eight public workshops during the month of August, 2011, which were held in various sectors of the City of Fort Worth, with a meeting specifically held for the Spanish-speaking community, for the purpose of gathering public comments on whether the number of single-member districts should be expanded or remain at eight; and

WHEREAS, between June and September, 2011, staff gave presentations to community organizations and City commissions for the purpose of gathering public comments on whether the number of single-member districts should be expanded or remain at eight; and

WHEREAS, on October 18, 2011, the City Council held a public hearing on whether to increase the number of single-member districts; and

WHEREAS, on November 15, 2011, the City Council, after receiving comments from interested residents, adopted Resolution No. 4044-11-2011 (Concerning the Number of Single-Member City Council Districts) whereby the City Council reaffirmed and amended the established criteria for redistricting by replacing the phrase "**where possible**" with the phrase "**when appropriate**" in the factors to be considered in drawing single-member districts; and

WHEREAS, the approval of Resolution No. 4044-11-2011 (Concerning the Number of Single-Member City Council Districts) retained the current configuration of eight single-member districts and a mayor elected at-large, which concluded Phase I of the redistricting process; and

WHEREAS, during Phase IIA of the redistricting process, residents were afforded the opportunity to submit proposed redistricting plans using mapping software free to the public and available on the City's website; and

WHEREAS, Phase IIA of the redistricting process involved a second series of eight public workshops across the City during the month of February, 2012, with a meeting specifically held for the Spanish-speaking community, for the purpose of gathering public comments on district boundary lines and providing training on the mapping software; and

WHEREAS, between January and April, 2012, staff gave presentations to community organizations and City commissions for the purpose of gathering public comments on district boundary lines; and

WHEREAS, residents submitted ten redistricting plans, two of which were later withdrawn, including Lebo/North Fort Worth Alliance Four District and Florez/United Hispanic Council Plan 12A; and

WHEREAS, during Phase IIB, staff reviewed each redistricting plan for compliance with the criteria set forth in Resolution No. 3998-06-2011, as amended by Resolution No. 4044-11-2011, and determined that the Goodman, Boren/Conlin, Florez/United Hispanic Council Plans 12A and 12B, Lowy/Hillwood, Lebo/North Fort Worth Alliance Three District, and Blair/Stop Six Sunrise Edition Neighborhood Association plans failed to comply with the established criteria for redistricting because each of these plans split five or more neighborhoods, in violation of the criterion to avoid splitting neighborhoods when appropriate; and



WHEREAS, during Phase IIB, staff additionally determined that the following plans were not preferred for the following reasons:

- Edmonds plan – meets the criteria adopted by the City Council; however, it split the Lake Worth Alliance between two districts which is at odds with the Lake Worth Vision Plan adopted in 2011; moved neighborhoods from districts they have been in since 1982; and
- Florez/United Hispanic Council – Plan 12C meets the criteria adopted by the City Council; however, it split the Downtown sector into three districts and moved a neighborhood from the district it has been in since 1982; and

WHEREAS, during Phase IIB, a third series of five public workshops, with a meeting specifically for the Spanish-speaking community, and additional community meetings were held across the City for the purpose of soliciting public input regarding the resident-submitted redistricting plans and the draft plan submitted by staff; and

WHEREAS, the City Council has held public hearings over the course of three evening City Council meetings and engaged in deliberations regarding a redistricting plan, debating the merits of the various proposed plans;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF FORT WORTH, TEXAS, THAT:

Section 1. The redistricting plan dated July 17, 2012, attached hereto as Exhibit A, is hereby adopted as the Fort Worth Single-Member City Council District Plan for the purpose of electing members of the City Council.

Section 2. The City Attorney is directed to submit the Fort Worth Single-Member City Council District Plan, as shown on Exhibit A, to the United States Department of Justice for pre-clearance under the procedures for administration of Section 5 of the Voting Rights Act, as amended.

Section 3. The Fort Worth Single-Member City Council District Plan, as shown on Exhibit A, shall be implemented for the general election of the City Council to be held in May, 2013, and for each subsequent City election, until the City Council shall again establish new single-member district boundaries in accordance with Chapter IV, Section 3 of The Charter of the City of Fort Worth, Texas.

Adopted this 24th day of July, 2012.



Betsy Price, Mayor



APPROVED AS TO FORM AND LEGALITY



Sarah J. Fullenwider, City Attorney



ATTEST:



Mary J. Kayser, City Secretary



July 17, 2012

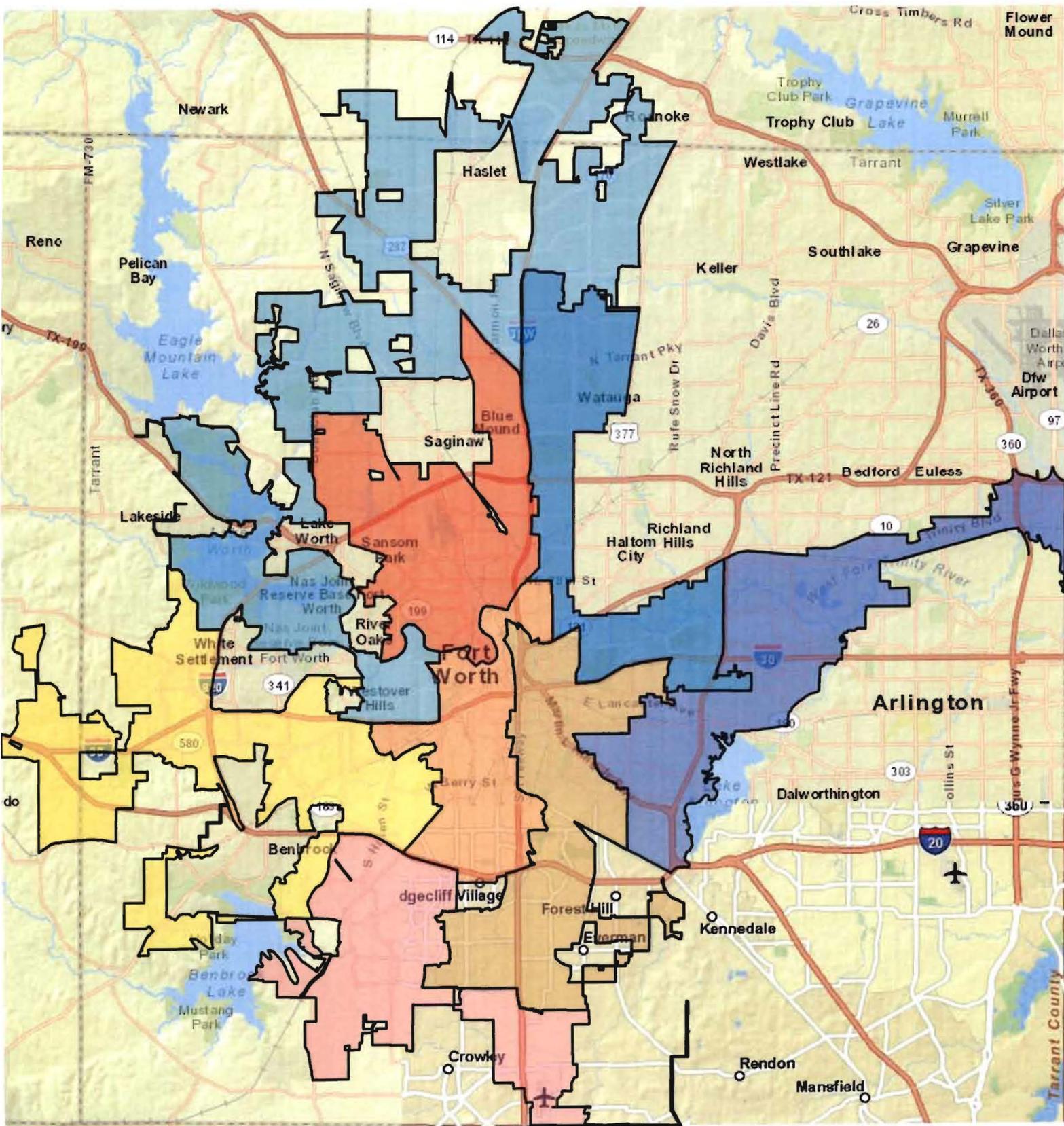


Exhibit A