



District of Columbia Government  
Advisory Neighborhood Commission 6A  
Agenda for December 2, 2021



**First (1<sup>st</sup>) Thursday at 7:00 pm**

*Virtual Meeting via Zoom*

**Call-in Number: 1 301 715 8592**

**Webinar ID (access code): 811 8749 4599**

**For those attending via Zoom: <https://us06web.zoom.us/j/81187494599>**

**One tap mobile: +13126266799,,81187494599#**

**Public Meeting - All are welcome.**

**7:00 pm Call to order, Adopt Agenda**

**7:02 pm New Business**

**Suggested Motion:** ANC6A send a letter to all DC Councilmembers in response to the Redistricting Subcommittee's map proposal and report. (Alcorn)

**7:30 pm Community Comment**

**7:45 pm Adjourn**



District of Columbia Government  
Advisory Neighborhood Commission 6A  
PO Box 15020  
Washington, DC 20003



December XX, 2021

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Re: ANC 6A's Comments and Recommendations regarding the Ward Redistricting Amendment Act of 2021

Dear Councilmembers,

At a regularly scheduled and properly noticed meeting<sup>1</sup> on December 2, 2021, our Commission voted X-X-X to send the following comments and recommendations regarding the Ward Redistricting Amendment Act of 2021 ("Proposed Map").

We appreciate the difficult and thankless work of the Subcommittee, reiterate our support for all District residents, no matter their ward boundaries, and reject the divisive, classist, and racist language that has characterized some of the redistricting discussions. We recognize that the Council is required by law to draw new boundaries and must do so in a way that does not have the purpose and intent of diluting the voting strength of minority residents. We also appreciate that the Subcommittee took "seriously the requirement to keep communities of interest together, to preserve their electoral voice" as "the primary impact of changing ward boundaries is on voting representation" — "which councilmember, State Board of Education member, or Advisory Neighborhood Commissioner a resident can vote for."<sup>2</sup>

Nevertheless, while the Subcommittee's proposal attempted to meet the six guiding redistricting principles,<sup>3</sup> ANC 6A opposes the Proposed Map in its current form; the Proposed Map fails to meet the needs of our ANC 6A constituents (and what we understand are the purported needs of many of our current ANC 6B and Ward 7 neighbors). The Proposed Map:

- (1) Reassigns about 7,500 Capitol Hill residents to Ward 7, separating them from the rest of that ward by the Anacostia River. In doing so, the Proposed Map removes over 6,400

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<sup>1</sup> ANC 6A meetings are advertised electronically on, anc- 6a@googlegroups.com, and newhilleast@groups.io, at [www.anc6a.org](http://www.anc6a.org), on Twitter (@ANC6A) and through print advertisements in the Hill Rag.

<sup>2</sup> [Subcommittee on Redistricting Report on B24-371, "Ward Redistricting Amendment Act of 2021"](#) ("Subcommittee's Report").

<sup>3</sup> See [Subcommittee's Report](#) outlining equal representation; racially equitable; compact and contiguous; communities of interest kept together; whole census tracts; and ward continuity and stability as guiding principles for the Subcommittee's redistricting efforts.

Capitol Hill residents from ANC 6B and oddly splits ANC 6A08 between Wards 6 and 7; as proposed, 1,178 of the residents of ANC 6A08 would remain in Ward 6, yet 1,181 residents of that single member district will be moved to Ward 7.

(2) Draws an arbitrary line through the middle of 15<sup>th</sup> Street, ignoring any natural boundary.

As a result, the Proposed Map fails our constituents by creating a geographically nonsensical area, ignoring the identifiable neighborhood of Capitol Hill, and making an unnecessary change by adding 1,865 residents of Kingman Park back into Ward 6 at the expense of 1,181 current Ward 6 residents from ANC 6A.

We, therefore, recommend that the Council amend the Proposed Map to:

- (1) Retain all parts of ANC 6A within Ward 6; and
- (2) Return ANC 7D01 (Kingman Park) to Ward 7 (maintaining the Ward 6/7 boundary established following the 2000 Census), if it is mathematically impossible to configure the Ward 6 map otherwise.

A. The Proposed Map Fails to Meet the Redistricting Principles with respect to ANC 6A Constituents and Many of Our Neighbors in ANCs 6B and 7D01 as Capitol Hill is a Community of Interest that Should Not Be Divided.

First and foremost, the Proposed Map does not meet the needs of our ANC 6A constituents, and our Ward 6 and 7 neighbors throughout Capitol Hill, as it fails to respect the Capitol Hill neighborhood as a community of interest. Just as the Proposed Map keeps all of the Southwest Waterfront neighborhood and all of the Navy Yard neighborhood as cohesive neighborhoods within their respective new wards, the map adopted by the Council should treat Capitol Hill as one. “Capitol Hill is a ‘city within the city’” with true boundaries that create a cohesive neighborhood.<sup>4</sup> It was for these reasons that we submitted a letter outlining our concerns to the

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<sup>4</sup> [District Elements Volume II Chapter 15 April 8 2011.pdf \(dc.gov\)](#). As this Commission has pointed out previously, the D.C. Office of Planning states that: “Capitol Hill is ‘bounded on the west by Central Washington and on the south by the Anacostia Waterfront. ... The community has well defined physical boundaries that enhance its sense of identity. Its neighborhoods are united by history, architectural tradition and relatively consistent urban form, including a system of grid and diagonal streets that has remained faithful to the 1791 L’Enfant Plan for Washington. Much of the community has the feel of a small historic town, with block upon block of attractive late 19th century and early 20th century row houses, well-maintained public spaces, historic schoolhouses and corner stores, rear yard alleys, and traditional neighborhood shopping districts. The community’s attractive housing stock, living history, low scale, and proximity to the U.S. Capitol make “the Hill” one of the District’s most celebrated and attractive communities.” See [ANC 6A 2021 Redistricting Letter](#) referencing [District Elements Volume II Chapter 15 April 8 2011.pdf \(dc.gov\)](#).

As previously outlined by this Commission, a map that keeps Capitol Hill — from the Capitol Building to the Anacostia River — intact, within one ward respects the public policy considerations of neighborhood cohesiveness, natural geography, and political geography in furtherance of administrative efficiency. Such a map values the real, well-defined natural barrier of the Anacostia River, and by extension, the unpopulated, federal reservation that houses RFK Stadium, and its vast parking lots. Such a map also values the fabric of the entire Capitol Hill neighborhood. The present, existing Ward 6 boundaries encompass this neighborhood in a geographically compact

Subcommittee. As it turns out, this ANC was the only Advisory Neighborhood Commission to officially submit a map.

The Subcommittee Report states that it could not support ANC 6A's proposal to keep the Capitol Hill community intact within Ward 6 and keep the Southwest Waterfront and Navy Yard communities intact, moving them into Ward 8, as its proposal "would significantly dilute the minority vote power in Ward 8." As volunteer Commissioners without staff, we admit that we are neither data experts, nor that our proposal was the only proposal that could or should be followed. In fact, we encouraged the Subcommittee to simply adopt our map *or something similar* to unify and maintain the Capitol Hill element.

Unfortunately, the natural result of the Subcommittee's decision not to redraw all the wards across the city (but instead is focused only on primarily shifting Ward 6's increased population into the lesser populated Wards 7 and 8) is that between 17,000-18,000 of Ward 6 residents, who, according to the 2020 Census, are 67% white, will be moved into the primarily black Wards of 7 and 8. Based on the data in the mapping tool, ANC 6A's proposal increased the number of white residents in a re-drawn Ward 8 by 14,453; the proportion of the minority (non-white) resident population for Ward 8 would have still been at about 80% (or 70% black).<sup>5</sup> We had hoped that this proposed significant percentage of majority minority voters would have the impact of not diluting an already strong minority population. We are also hopeful that the Council's laudable efforts to improve voter accessibility will bear fruit and increase voter participation for current Ward 8 residents.

We feel the Subcommittee's pain in this regard as the Proposed Map is being summarially criticized (even by us herein), and we, like you, need to take a now tempered and practical new look at the situation and the implications of each map version. We, therefore, recommend that the Council amend the Proposed Map as described below (or something similar). In doing so, we continue to recognize that we do not have access to the full suite of data tools and information the Council has and it is not our intent to divide communities or dilute minority voting.

#### B. All of ANC 6A Should Remain in Ward 6.

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and contiguous area (with the exception of the Kingman Park area that was annexed to Ward 7 in 2000). An arbitrary north-south dividing line along 15<sup>th</sup> Street severs this unified, continuous residential area that is tightly knit, indistinguishable on scale or quality on either side, and geographically divided from Ward 7 by the Anacostia River and Interstate 295/Anacostia Freeway.

<sup>5</sup> In contrast, ANC 6A's proposal attempted to keep some diversity within Ward 6 — more diversity than was proposed by [all three Discussion Maps](#); white residents would have made up about 56% of Ward 6 with minority (non-white) residents making almost 45% of the total residents in the newly drawn ward. This proposal would have actually increased the total percentage of minority (non-white) residents in the ward (an increase of about 1%) in comparison to the current census data, which showed that in 2020 white residents make up 57% of Ward 6 with minority (non-white) residents making up 43% of the ward.

This Commission very much appreciates that the Proposed Map retains much of ANC 6A within Ward 6. However, the Proposed Map did not go far enough, and in fact, does harm to our constituents. According to the Subcommittee's report:

“The Subcommittee heard from many Hill East residents in opposition to moving the Ward 7 border to 15<sup>th</sup> Street, and many argued that all of Hill East should stay in Ward 6. ... Most of Capitol Hill has been in Ward 6 since the beginning of Home Rule in 1975. There is little economic activity on Capitol Hill east of 8th Street, outside of the H Street NE corridor, though some retail, restaurants, and other economic activity have been growing eastward. Many residents travel west for work, entertainment, school, and shopping.”<sup>6</sup>

Yet, the Proposed Map cuts ANC 6A08 residents off from the rest of ANC 6 by creating an arbitrary line up 15<sup>th</sup> Street NE/SE (referred herein as “15<sup>th</sup> Street”). Like Kingman Park since the 2000 Census, these residents will be “like an island apart from the rest of the ward.”<sup>7</sup>

1. The Proposed Map's Boundaries are Not Geographically Sensible.

Frankly, there is no logic in a border between wards drawn up 15<sup>th</sup> Street. This arbitrary line ignores any natural boundary, thereby creating a geographically nonsensical boundary.<sup>8</sup> 15<sup>th</sup> Street is not a natural east-west dividing line. It does not provide a divide between police districts, school districts, or zip code. 15<sup>th</sup> Street is not a busy multi-lane thoroughfare, but rather a one lane, one-way street. There is no difference between the east and west sides of 15<sup>th</sup> Street — both sides are overwhelmingly residential, with similar architecture. Nor does this arbitrary line respect the boundaries established by the Capitol Hill Historic District, which draws the eastern boundary on the west side of 14th Street.

2. The Proposed Map's Boundary up 15th Street unnecessarily divides a Census Tract.

With Respect to ANC 6A08, the arbitrary line drawn up the middle of 15<sup>th</sup> Street in the Proposed Map bisects Census Tract 80.02.<sup>9</sup> This is yet another reason that the map should be amended to keep all of ANC 6A, including all of ANC 6A08, within Ward 6

3. The Proposed Map incorrectly includes 15<sup>th</sup> Street to the Anacostia River within “Hill East.”

As discussed above, despite the fact that “identifiable neighborhoods should stay intact and not be divided among legislative districts to the extent possible,”<sup>10</sup> the Proposed Map flatly ignores

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<sup>6</sup> [Subcommittee's Report](#).

<sup>7</sup> [Subcommittee's Report](#).

<sup>8</sup> The Proposed Map fails to meet the redistricting principle that requires that “boundaries need to be geographically sensible.” See [Subcommittee's Report](#) for redistricting principles.

<sup>9</sup> The Proposed Map fails to meet the redistricting principle that requires that “[a]s much as possible, Census tracts should remain whole to make data collection more accurate and understandable.” See [Subcommittee's Report](#) for redistricting principles.

<sup>10</sup> [Subcommittee's Report](#).

an identifiable neighborhood — Capitol Hill. The Subcommittee tries to justify this decision by explaining that “the District has long recognized that within the larger Capitol Hill area, there are identifiable neighborhoods, including Hill East, Kingman Park, and H Street NE” and by, therefore, proposing that the Kingman Park area be reunited with the Rosedale area within Ward 6 and that all of “Hill East” should be moved to Ward 7.<sup>11</sup> Yet, in doing so, the Subcommittee recognizes a non-identifiable, separate neighborhood from 15th Street to the Anacostia River — calling it “Hill East.”

This area is actually not recognized by that name. The District Government’s view of what defines “Hill East” is simply the redevelopment area east of 19th Street, *a.k.a.* “Reservation 13”<sup>12</sup> — a much smaller area than what is being proposed for Ward 7. Yet, Urban Turf’s definition of “Hill East” is the SE part of Capitol Hill bounded by 14th and 19th Streets SE and Independence Ave SE and the SE Freeway SE — again, a much smaller area than what is being proposed for Ward 7.<sup>13</sup> Of note, neither of these definitions include areas within ANC 6A.

The Subcommittee does recognize that “there is little agreement on the exact borders of Hill East,” but regardless of what the area between 15<sup>th</sup> Street and the Anacostia River is called, residents “disagree that the neighborhood is meaningfully different from the greater Capitol Hill.”<sup>14</sup> While this Commission would much rather that all of Capitol Hill remain in Ward 6 (for the reasons described above), ANC 6A recognizes that this may be an impossible task without a variance.<sup>15</sup> Nevertheless, if “Hill East” is a neighborhood that should be kept intact, the Subcommittee has overreached with the boundaries it has drawn. Therefore, if the Council seeks utilize the Office of Planning’s recognition of an “identifiable neighborhood” within Capitol Hill, like H Street and Rosedale, the map should be redrawn to at least more closely reflect “Hill East” and the Council should not include any portion of ANC 6A in Ward 7.

### C. ANC 7D01 (Kingman Park) Should Remain in Ward 7.

This Commission recommended that the Subcommittee should propose a map that would “reunite the geography of ANC single member district 7D01 (Kingman Park, Kingman Park Historic District) with Ward 6 after its 20 year hiatus following redistricting to Ward 7 following

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<sup>11</sup> [Subcommittee's Report](#).

<sup>12</sup> [Hill East Neighborhood](#).

<sup>13</sup> [Hill East: Capitol Hill's Lesser Known Neighbor](#).

<sup>14</sup> [Subcommittee's Report](#).

<sup>15</sup> “Deviations from exact equivalence are allowed to accommodate policy objectives such as preserving communities of interest or drawing districts that are geographically compact.” [Subcommittee's Report](#). According to D.C. Code §1–1011.01(f), “No redistricting plan or proposed amendment to a redistricting plan shall result in district populations with a deviation range more than 10% or a relative deviation greater than plus-or-minus 5%, unless the deviation results from the limitations of census geography *or from the promotion of a rational public policy, including but not limited to respect for the political geography of the District, the natural geography of the District, neighborhood cohesiveness, or the development of compact and contiguous districts.*” [DC Code](#) (emphasis added).

the 2000 Census.”<sup>16</sup> We very much appreciate that the Proposed Map expands Ward 6 to include the part of Kingman Park that was annexed into Ward 7 in 2000. However, our recommendation for the Proposed Map to take this route was to promote the greater redistricting principle of keeping the Capitol Hill community of interest together in an attempt to make the wards racially equitable. Therefore, the Proposed Map’s expansion of Ward 6 to include ANC 7D01 (Kingman Park) (without maintaining the entire Capitol Hill community of interest) fails to meet the needs of our ANC 6A constituents (and what we understand are the purported needs of many of our current ANC 6B and Ward 7 neighbors). For the reasons discussed below, we understand that there may be good reasons to keep Kingman Park in Ward 7.

1. The Proposed Map Makes Unnecessary Radical Change for Some of Our Constituents.

According to the Subcommittee’s report, “given the volatility of the pandemic, [the Subcommittee endeavored to] make boundary changes guided by federal and local law but avoid unnecessary radical change.”<sup>17</sup> Yet, the Proposed Map makes an unnecessary radical change. This Commission respects that, given the extreme growth of Ward 6, some changes needed to be made to the ward. However, the changes proposed divide a community of interest and, in doing so, adopted some changes proposed by this Commission, at the expense of other Capitol Hill residents.

The Council should not make this reunification at the expense of 18,296 residents of ANC 6A, including those 1,181 current Ward 6 residents from ANC 6A08, or the 6,416 current Ward 6 residents from ANC 6B. Given the Subcommittee’s desire not to make radical change because of the pandemic, the Proposed Map fails as reunifying Kingman Park within Ward 6 (if the rest of the Capitol Hill cannot be retained within Ward 6) is just simply radical.

2. Many Ward 7 Constituents Do Not Support Reunification.

The Proposed Map has prompted strong reaction from Ward 7 residents over potential redistricting of Kingman Park.<sup>18</sup> While there may be many residents of Ward 7 who support reunification of ANC 7D01 with Ward 6, there are many, including perhaps the most important Ward 7 Resident — Councilmember and former D.C. Vincent C. Gray — who do not.

In June 11, 2011 testimony to the Redistricting Subcommittee, then-ANC 7D01 Commissioner Lisa White said, “We still think in Kingman Park we should be redistricted back to Ward 6... it is

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<sup>16</sup> Specifically, we encouraged the Subcommittee to propose a redistricting plan that honored “the principles of neighborhood cohesiveness and respect for natural and political boundaries by keeping Capitol Hill intact ... [,] extending the eastern portion of the Ward 6 boundary to the Anacostia River, reuniting Kingman Park, the RFK Campus, and the new Hill East development (both currently in Ward 7) to their adjacent neighbors.” [ANC 6A 2021 Redistricting Letter](#).

<sup>17</sup> [Subcommittee's Report](#).

<sup>18</sup> There is no known consensus of the boundaries of “Kingman Park.” For the purposes of this letter, Kingman Park is the geographic area covered by ANC SMD 7D01, which has been considered by many as the “Kingman Park ANC SMD” for nearly two decades. The non-Ward 5 portion of the Kingman Park Historic District overlays ANC SMD 7D01.



in the best interest that Kingman Park be redistricted back to Ward 6.” And this Commission has heard from present Kingman Park residents that this is still the case. In a letter dated November 28, 2021 to DC Councilmember Elissa Silverman, the Kingman Park Civic Association asserts, “the Kingman Park Civic Association agrees with the DC Redistricting Sub-Committee that the Kingman Park neighborhood (currently in Ward 7) should be returned in its entirety to Ward 6 as recommended by the sub-committee.”<sup>19</sup> Similarly, several Ward 7 residents, present at a November 30, 2021 Zoom meeting hosted by ANC 7D01 Commissioner Tamara Blair, expressed support for Kingman Park to be redistricted to Ward 6.<sup>20</sup>

Yet, this Commission has also heard from present Kingman Park residents and Ward 7 community leaders that they would like to remain in Ward 7. In a letter dated November 29, 2021 to Council Chairman Phil Mendelson, Councilmember Gray states, “I and other Ward 7 residents support the goal of uniting Kingman Park in one ward. The most logical and effective way to do that is to unite Kingman Park in Ward 7.”<sup>21</sup> A Tweet posted on November 19, 2021 posted by the Ward 7 Democrats, states: “We, the Ward 7 (W7) Dems, W7 State Board of Education rep, leaders of the W7 ANCs (7B, 7C, 7D, 7E, 7F) & leaders of the W7 Civic Associations, support resorting and unifying the Kingman Park Community in W7.”<sup>22</sup>

3. We respect that there may be good reasons to keep RFK and Reservation 13 in Ward 7. This Commission stands by the fact that, with respect to the development at RFK and Reservation 13, the interests shared by Capitol Hill residents on the east and west sides of 15<sup>th</sup> — just by nature of proximity and geography — are more similar than the interests shared by our neighbors east of the river and therefore there are good arguments with respect to political geography to redistrict these areas into Ward 6.<sup>23</sup> As just one example, the District’s “No Parking During Stadium Events” signage extends westward all the way to 13th Street, as an indication of the wide ranging impact RFK has had, and any future development will have, on residents all the

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<sup>19</sup> This letter was emailed to ANC 6A Commissioners Sondra Phillips-Gilbert and Brian Alcorn.

<sup>20</sup> Other residents and some Ward 7 community, civic and elected leaders present at the Zoom meeting asserted that Kingman Park should remain in Ward 7.

<sup>21</sup> See

<https://www.scribd.com/document/543581999/Letter-to-Mendelson-on-Final-SubCommittee-Redistricting-Map>.

<sup>22</sup> See <https://twitter.com/ward7democrats/status/1461790225588498446?s=21>.

<sup>23</sup> Dividing the wards up 15<sup>th</sup> Street (or another boundary on the east end of Capitol Hill) will not change how the neighbors on either side of the border view these developments, but will change how Capitol residents east and west of border will be represented in these matters. For example, the present Ward 7 Councilmember’s views about the redevelopment of RFK Stadium are already at odds with those residents who currently reside in ANC 6A. See [ANC 6A Letter Endorsing Councilmember Charles Allen’s opposition to a new NFL stadium on the current RFK site](#). For those Capitol Hill residents west of the Ward 6/7 board, their voices will not be given much weight by Ward 7 decision makers; it can be incredibly challenging for residents to receive meaningful engagement of a Councilmember and their staff if residents live outside of the Councilmember’s ward. [ANC 6A 2021 Redistricting Letter](#). For those Capitol Hill residents who are to be redistricted into Ward 7, living as an island apart from the rest of Ward 7, our present constituents’ voices may be drowned out in a manner that the Kingman Park portion of Ward 7 experienced over the past 20 years. Thus, as these plans advance and remain under the direct purview of Ward 7 leaders, ANC 6A constituents and all of the residents of Capitol Hill have a legitimate concern about the representation they will receive in these matters thanks to the Proposed Map.



way to Lincoln Park. Yet, we understand that there may be good reasons to keep RFK and Reservation 13 in Ward 7.

According to the Subcommittee's report:

Reservation 13 "is beginning to see significant economic development. The Subcommittee believes this development will hasten the shifting of the economic center of the Hill eastward. Over the past 15 years, there have been two new grocery stores built east of 13th Street, there's a new food hall at 14th Street and Pennsylvania Avenue SE, the Reservation 13 development will deliver thousands of new homes and tens of thousands of square feet of retail, and the currently vacant RFK Stadium is also likely to be redeveloped over the next decade. The Subcommittee is concerned about removing the Reservation 13 development, one of the largest development projects in the city, from Ward 7. ... With Ward 7 retaining Reservation 13 ..., [Ward 7] would also contain significant new economic development projects, allowing [the ward] to continue to grow at a faster rate over the next decade, hopefully keeping pace with the rest of the city's growth."<sup>24</sup>

Additionally, most (if not all) residents of Capitol Hill will be impacted by development at RFK and Reservation 13. Constituents from across ANC 6A and 6B are already focused on the impacts the redevelopment plans will have on our neighborhood, in terms of additional traffic, people, disruptions, and opportunities. These plans will impact Capitol Hill neighbors equally whether they live on either side of 15<sup>th</sup> Street (and beyond). Yet, residents of ANC 7D01 and 6B09 and 6B10 will be most directly impacted. Retaining ANC 7D01 in and moving ANC 6B09-10 in Ward 7 will "allow the residents closest to those developments to vote for the political representation for those developments."<sup>25</sup>

D. ANC 6A's Recommendation for the Council: Respect the Natural Geography of Capitol Hill as much as possible.

While we are hesitant to propose any specific maps, we recommend the Council should at least amend the Proposed Map to create a Ward 6/7 border that more reasonably respects natural geography.

A. Proposal 1: East Capitol Street as a Natural Geographical Boundary.

One such amendment could at least create a Ward 6/7 border at East Capitol Street. This Commission supports the Subcommittee's initial proposal to do so as "East Capitol is a boundary for many public services such as public elementary schools, police, and the ANC," and is, therefore, a much more natural boundary.

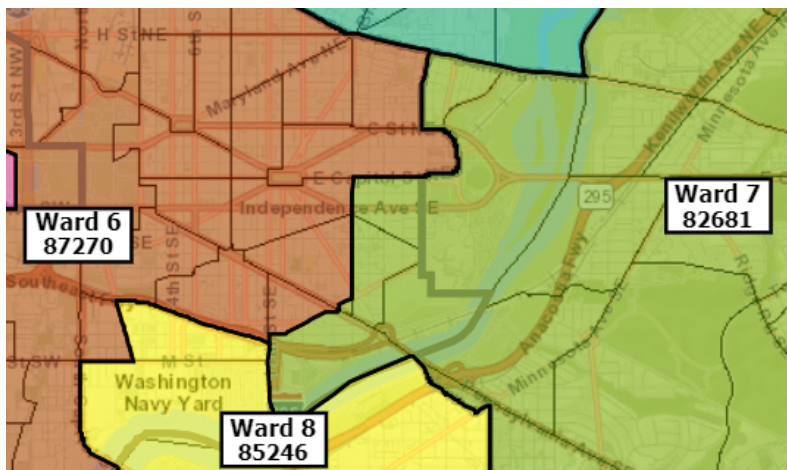
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<sup>24</sup> [Subcommittee's Report.](#)

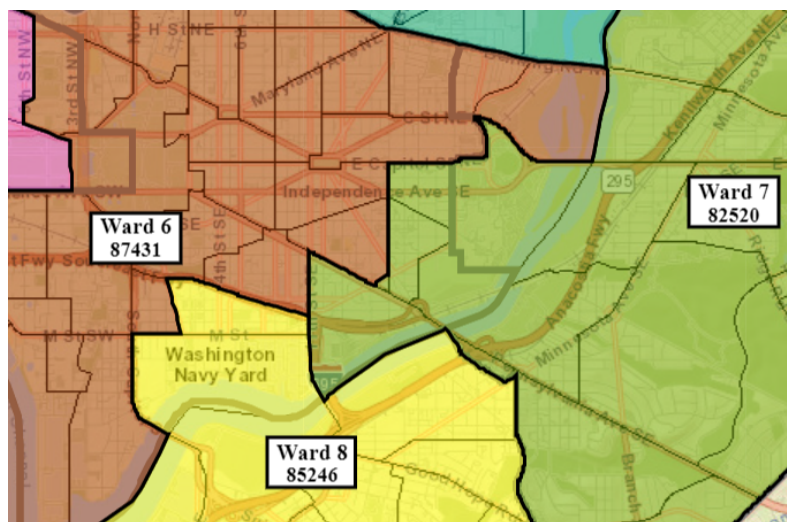
<sup>25</sup> [Subcommittee's Report.](#)

Below are two such proposals for creating the Ward 6/7 border at East Capitol Street, though we are fairly certain that these are not the only options that would respect this natural boundary.

This map, which utilizes East Capitol, rather than C Street NE as the southern border, is based on the Proposed Map, but removes ANC 7D01 from Ward 6 and returns the Portion of ANC 6A08 that was removed from Ward 6 in the Proposed Map.



Alternatively, this map, which also utilizes East Capitol as the southern border, is based on the Proposed Map, retaining ANC 7D01 within Ward 6, returns all of ANC 6A08 in Ward 6, and adds the triangle bordered by 11th, Potomac & Pennsylvania SE to Ward 7.



What could be more natural and durable than a well-defined, enduring, and historical boundary imposed by DC's four quadrants? The District's four quadrants, and the natural boundaries they create which, date back to 1791, remain highly relevant and are regularly referenced as the District's political- (perhaps even social- and economic-), service-based-, geographic-, and directional- boundaries. These boundaries are even used by the District to collect and aggregate various data. The street also demarcates Zip Codes 20002, used in Northeast DC addresses and 20003, used in Southeast DC addresses on Capitol Hill. Therefore, East Capitol Street, which is, of course, the boulevard that serves to demarcate the NE and SE quadrants of DC, serves as a natural boundary.

This proposal does not assist with all aspects of political geography as Reservation 13 and RFK may need to retain their Ward 7 designation; not all Capitol Hill residents will have a say in the redevelopment that will impact them since not all residents of this cohesive neighborhood will have the same Councilmember and will be divided among many different ANCs.

However, a proposal that divides Ward 6 and 7 at East Capitol Street (rather than 15<sup>th</sup> Street) will allow most Capitol Hill residents who attend Maury Elementary School, Miner Elementary School, Eliot-Hine Middle School, and a comprehensive high school, such as Eastern High School, to share the same State Board of Education member. Unfortunately, an arbitrary 15th Street border for Wards 6/7 means that a different State Board of Education member would represent Maury/Miner and Eliot-Hine/Eastern; the Ward 6 Public Schools Parent Organization (W6PSPO) have relayed to this Commission that having one Councilmember focused on all of these schools is more beneficial to the students and their families than having two councilmembers representing families at different stages of their students' careers.

Councilmember Silverman expressed concern at our November 2021 ANC 6A meeting that few Ward 6 presently attend Eastern High School. However, this ignores that Ward 6 attendance at these schools is growing rapidly.

As recently as the 2019-2020 school year, attendance of Ward 6 students at Maury Elementary has grown to make up 92% of the total student population; 61% at Miner, 31% at Eliot-Hine; and 29% at Eastern.<sup>26</sup> Over the last six school years, there has been almost a 20 percentage point increase<sup>27</sup> in Ward 6 students at Maury and Miner Elementary Schools:

Ward 6 Enrollment	SY 2014-2015	SY 2019-2020	Increase
Maury ES	81% of total population	92% of total population	Approx. 12 percentage point over 6 school years
Miner ES	55% of total population	61% of total population	6 percentage point over 6 school years

Additionally, over the last three school years, there has been a steady increase of Ward 6 students who are matriculating at Eliot-Hine Middle School.<sup>28</sup> In fact, between the 2017-2018 and 2018-2019 school years, the total number of Ward 6 students who enrolled at Eliot-Hine doubled from 30 students (making up 15% of the total population) to 61 students (making up 27% of the total population). Comparing the number of Ward 6 students at Eliot-Hine between the

<sup>26</sup> OSSE Audited Student Enrollment Data by Ward, SY14-15 to SY19-20. The most recent data available to this Commission is from the 2019-2020 school year. However, this Commission has been informed that in both the 2020-2021 and 2021-2022 school year, the Eliot-Hine Ward 6 student population has been growing as more and more Maury Elementary School students are matriculating within the feeder pattern thanks in large part to the stability and strength of the leadership team that was established in the 2018-2019 school year.

<sup>27</sup> OSSE Audited Student Enrollment Data by Ward, SY14-15 to SY19-20.

<sup>28</sup> OSSE Audited Student Enrollment Data by Ward, SY14-15 to SY19-20.

2017-2017 and 2019-2020 school years only shows a larger growth -- an increase of over 50 students or a 16 percentage point increase over those two years.

Ward 6 Enrollment	SY 2017-2018	SY 2018-2019	SY 2019-2020
Eliot-Hine MS	30 Ward 6 Students 15% of total population	61 Ward 6 Students 27% of total population	81 Ward 6 Students 31% of total population
		12 percentage point increase from prior year	4 percentage point increase from prior year 16 percentage point increase over 2 years

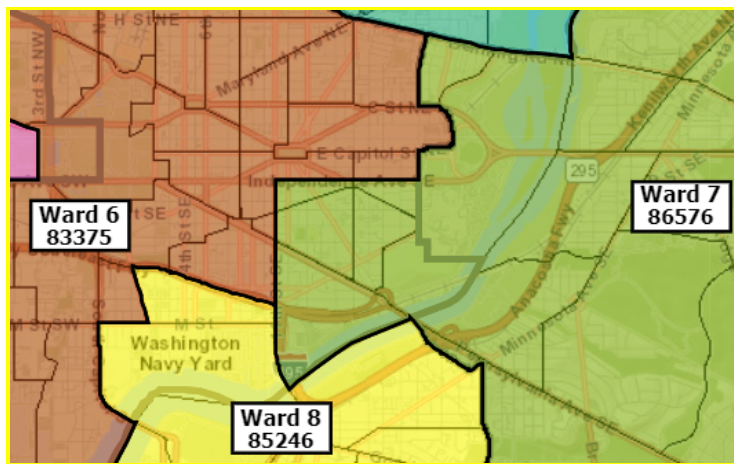
This growth at both the elementary and middle school is in large part owed to the commitment of present Ward 6 parents to improve these schools and their partnerships with ANC 6A and the Ward 6 councilmember and is a sure sign that more and more Ward 6 students will matriculate at Ward 6 middle and senior high schools in the years to come. Current Ward 6 parents have relayed to this Commission that they are concerned that severing Eliot-Hine MS and Eastern HS from its Ward 6 feeder pattern schools would add administrative burdens including duplication of effort as residents would seek support for repairs and improvements through multiple councilmember offices. In addition, our Commission has long For these reasons, this Commission would support a map that better serves our constituents by utilizing East Capitol as a more natural border.

**B. Proposal 2: Respect Independence Avenue SE as a Natural Geographical Boundary**

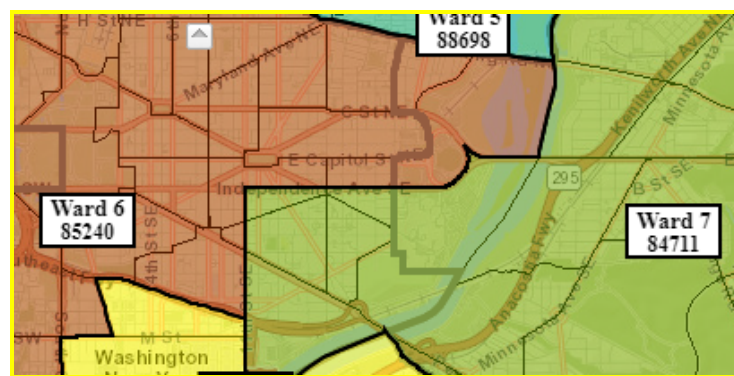
Another amendment option would be to create a Ward 6/7 border at Independence Ave. While this does not provide the historical demarcation that East Capitol provides, Independence Ave is a much more natural geographical boundary than 15<sup>th</sup> Street. For example, Independence Avenue is a major commuter route, connecting Ward 6 and 7 via the 295 bridge. A southern border at Independence Avenue (rather than C Street) still allows most Capitol Hill residents who attend Maury Elementary School, Miner Elementary School, Eliot-Hine Middle School, and a comprehensive high school, such as Eastern High School, to share the same State Board of Education member.

Below are three such proposals, though we are certain that these are not the only option for creating the Ward 6/7 border at Independence.

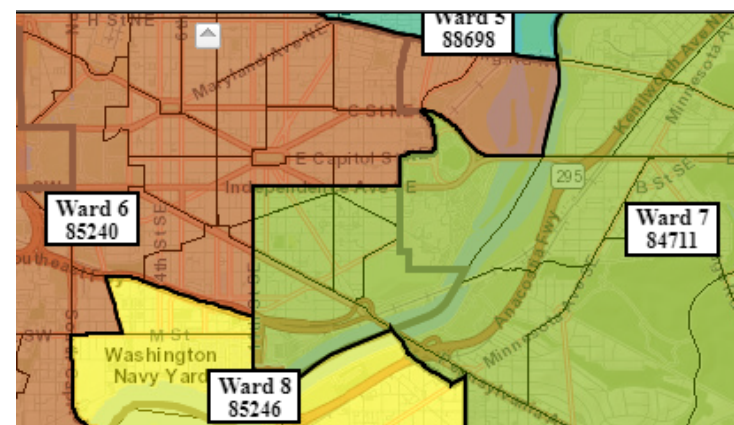
This map, which utilizes Independence as its southern border, rather than C Street NE as the southern border, is based on ANC 6B's Proposed Map 3,<sup>29</sup> but removes ANC 7D01 from Ward 6 and returns RFK Stadium to Ward 7.



This map, which utilizes Independence as its southern border, is ANC 6B's Proposed Map 3.<sup>30</sup>



This map, which utilizes Independence as its southern border, is ANC 6B's Proposed Map 3,<sup>31</sup> but removes RFK from Ward 6.



<sup>29</sup> <https://coreyholman.com/wp-content/uploads/2021/11/6B-Resolution-For-Vote-on-December-1.pdf>

<sup>30</sup> <https://coreyholman.com/wp-content/uploads/2021/11/6B-Resolution-For-Vote-on-December-1.pdf>

<sup>31</sup> <https://coreyholman.com/wp-content/uploads/2021/11/6B-Resolution-For-Vote-on-December-1.pdf>

C. Conclusion.

We are grateful for the time and effort of the Subcommittee and their staff in reviewing the more than 220 maps submitted by the public and participation in numerous hearings and Commission meetings. We encourage the Council to consider the above options and any additional creative solutions, including maps that vary from the 5% variance in population principle, in order to best meet the needs of DC residents. We also wish to recognize substantial potential growth of residents in Reservation 13 as well as potential undercounting of residents that should help to grow the population of Ward 7, which might help to justify such a variance. In short, we do not envy the decisions ahead of you and hope that you can seek to create a map that best meets the needs of as many residents as possible and increases their involvement in Commission and Ward level activities.

Thank you for giving great weight to the recommendations of ANC 6A. Should you wish to discuss this letter with the Commission, please feel free to reach out to me at [6A04@anc.dc.gov](mailto:6A04@anc.dc.gov).

On Behalf of the Commission,

Amber Gove  
Chair, Advisory Neighborhood Commission 6A



**COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA**  
**COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE, SUBCOMMITTEE ON REDISTRICTING**  
**SUBCOMMITTEE REPORT**

1350 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW, Washington, D.C. 20004

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**TO:** All Councilmembers  
**FROM:** Councilmember Elissa Silverman  
Chairperson, Committee of the Whole, Subcommittee on Redistricting  
**DATE:** November 19, 2021  
**SUBJECT:** Report on B24-371, “Ward Redistricting Amendment Act of 2021”

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The Committee of the Whole, Subcommittee on Redistricting, to which B24-371, “Ward Redistricting Amendment Act of 2021,” was referred, reports **favorably** on the bill as amended and recommends approval by the Committee of the Whole.

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**EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

By law, every 10 years the District of Columbia needs to rebalance its population among its eight election wards so all are roughly equal in size, within a legally permissible range. The District’s official 2020 Census count was 689,545, which means every ward population must be between 81,883 and 90,503 residents. Currently, three wards fall outside of the mandated population boundaries: Wards 6, 7, and 8. Therefore, these three wards must be redrawn to ensure residents have equal representation in local government, and other wards may be impacted due to cascading effects and other considerations.

At the beginning of Council Period 24, Chairman Phil Mendelson created a Subcommittee on Redistricting within the Council's Committee of the Whole to lead the efforts to redraw ward boundaries and, in a separate bill, boundaries of Advisory Neighborhood Commissions (ANCs) and single-member districts. The committee is composed of three at-large councilmembers, Elissa Silverman (I), Anita Bonds (D), and Christina Henderson (I), and is chaired by Silverman. The Subcommittee's first task is to rebalance the District's eight wards so new boundaries can be in place for the 2022 June primary elections; when that work is completed, the committee will then help steer the redrawing of the ANCs so those boundaries can be in place for the 2022 November general election. This report explains the ward redistricting process and recommendations put forth by the Subcommittee, including a map with new ward boundaries.

The key question before the Subcommittee was how to grow Wards 7 and 8, which are geographically separated by the natural boundary of the Anacostia River from the rest of the District (with the exception of a small part of Ward 7 which spans the Anacostia) while shrinking the population of Ward 6. How to connect and blend communities across a river presented a major challenge, but there were other historical, economic, and social issues that confronted the Subcommittee as well. Wards 7 and 8 consist of neighborhoods that remain predominantly Black, whereas Ward 6 has changed over the last two decades from a racial mix of predominantly white and Black neighborhoods to those neighborhoods that are now predominantly white. Likewise, the explosion of population growth in Ward 6 is correlated to economic development and investment of public dollars into NoMa, the Southwest Waterfront/Wharf and Navy Yard, drawing affluent, largely white residents, whereas Wards 7 and 8 have had a much tougher and slower timeline with economic investment of both private and public dollars, and population growth reflects that. Race and economic opportunity are often intertwined; Ward 8 houses many of the city's lowest-income families, and Ward 7 has the second-lowest average household income by ward.

Though the fundamental duty of redistricting is to rebalance the population to ensure every resident has an equal voice in government, any new political boundaries must be drawn in a way that does not dilute the voting strength of minority residents. The Subcommittee considered this principle carefully as it examined how to blend neighborhoods of varying racial and economic composition, recognize and define communities of interest, and respect the District's natural and political geography. Which brings up another challenging question: What defines a neighborhood, and where does it begin and end? The Subcommittee grappled with how to think about communities of interest; this was particularly at issue in Ward 6 where the perceived contours of Capitol Hill were wide-ranging.

Through innovative public engagement, including virtual Zoom hearings, meetings with neighborhood and interest groups across the city, and online software that allowed residents to draw their own maps, the Subcommittee started to focus in on several likely scenarios for ward boundary adjustments. Three D.C. resident-drawn maps that the Subcommittee chose to put out for community discussion offered differing options around these scenarios, as well as contemplated other boundary changes. In general, many residents who came forward with opinions to the Subcommittee asked to keep the status quo around their home, and if their ward boundary was changed in one of the three discussion maps, they often said they supported the map that did not alter their ward. There were exceptions, however: A number of residents in the Shaw/Mount Vernon neighborhoods asked to be put in one ward, preferably Ward 2. Further, all three discussion

maps changed the boundary for Wards 1 and 2 near U Street, and the Subcommittee was later inundated with testimony and emails to reject any alteration.

The Subcommittee's recommendations reflect its effort to weigh testimony from the public, examine map proposals from residents, and solicit the opinions of Council colleagues both on and off the Subcommittee. The Subcommittee's final map proposal balances the legal requirement of equal representation with a strong interest in advancing the economic and racial diversity of the District's wards, while keeping communities of interest intact. Importantly, the Subcommittee believes this map also preserves the voting strength of Black residents east of the Anacostia River. The key changes are described below:

- Ward 8 grows contiguously across the Anacostia River into Navy Yard and neighboring townhomes that border the Southeast Freeway. The western part of Ward 8 spans the newly built Frederick Douglass Bridge to the 11<sup>th</sup> Street Bridge, giving easy pedestrian and bicycle access as well as car travel to both sides of the river. It creates a Ward 8 with more racial diversity, though in the Subcommittee's view the addition of white residents does not dilute the voting strength of Ward 8's existing Black residents, as the report will later describe. Additionally, this allows western Ward 8 to have representation of an Advisory Neighborhood Commission.
- Ward 7 grows contiguously further west across the Anacostia River, with Reservation 13's ongoing mixed-use development as a future economic anchor. West of the river, Ward 7 spans the Pennsylvania Avenue/Sousa Bridge to the East Capitol Street/Whitney Young Bridge, extending up to C Street NE. The western boundary is largely 15<sup>th</sup> Street, and it jags southwest on Potomac Avenue SE near the Orange line Metro station. This proposal again promotes racial diversity but again, in the Subcommittee's view, does not dilute the voting strength of existing Black residents in Ward 7. Additionally, the Subcommittee believes the west of the river Ward 7 population could allow the creation of a standalone ANC area.
- Ward 6 reduces population on its western boundary by transferring residents in four Census tracts in the Shaw/Mount Vernon neighborhoods to Ward 2. Residents asked for this area to be united under one ward, and many expressed a preference for Ward 2. Ward 6's population also shrinks as a result of Ward 8's growth into Navy Yard and Ward 7's further growth westward. The Subcommittee sought to further racial diversity in Ward 6 by reuniting the Rosedale area with Kingman Park, which used to be in Ward 6. The Rosedale and Kingman Park census tracts constitute the only predominantly Black neighborhoods on Capitol Hill, and the Subcommittee believed it was important to listen to resident voices who wanted to reunite these communities of interest in Ward 6.

Finally, the Subcommittee appreciates how fraught redistricting can be for residents. Change is sometimes not easy, especially when it is a change that is imposed upon residents and not requested. That is why the Subcommittee made an early and intentional decision to freeze

current parking zones; this initially was the biggest expressed reason why many residents feared a change of ward boundaries. As has been noted many times, ward boundaries do not change public school boundaries, police districts and patrol service areas, or nearly any other government services. After redistricting is completed, we will still have the same neighbors, patronize the same local businesses, and remain bound together in a common interest as District residents.

The Subcommittee wishes to thank the hundreds of District residents who participated in this process, with special thanks to Ward 7 resident Keith Hasan-Towery, Ward 6 ANC Commissioner Corey Holman, and Ward 5 resident Geoffrey Hatchard for creating the three maps for public discussion.

## **I. BACKGROUND, NEED, PURPOSE, AND EFFECT**

Redistricting, or re-apportionment of legislative wards based on updated population numbers, is a requirement of both federal and local law. The fundamental legal requirement is to give each ward a substantially equal population, so that residents in all areas may participate in District politics on equal terms. The following paragraphs provide an overview of the legal principles governing redistricting.

### **Legal Principles**

*One Person, One Vote.* The overriding mandate of redistricting is to ensure equal representation, often embodied in the principle of “one person, one vote.” The Equal Protection Clause of the Fourteenth Amendment forms the basis of the one-person, one-vote principle.<sup>1</sup> This principle holds that whenever voters in different districts elect the members of a representative body, the districts must have substantially equal populations. If unequal populations were permitted, they would effectively give greater voting power to the residents of the smaller districts, while depriving residents of the larger districts of the full impact of their votes.<sup>2</sup>

Yet the Equal Protection Clause does not require districts to have exactly equal populations. Deviations from exact equivalence are allowed to accommodate policy objectives such as preserving communities of interest or drawing districts that are geographically compact. Apportionment is presumed to comply with the one-person, one-vote principle when the population of every district is substantially equal, meaning within a range of 5 percent more or less than the average district population (with less than a 10 percent difference between the largest and smallest district populations). Conversely, apportionment is presumed to violate the one-person, one-vote principle when district populations fall outside this range.<sup>3</sup>

The Subcommittee believes it is in the best interest of the District to present a redistricting plan that presumptively complies with the one-person, one-vote principle. Accordingly, the

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<sup>1</sup> *Baker v. Carr*, 369 U.S. 186, 228 (1962).

<sup>2</sup> *Reynolds v. Sims*, 377 U.S. 533, 579 (1964).

<sup>3</sup> *Evenwel v. Abbott*, 578 U.S. ---, 136 S. Ct. 1120, 1124 (2016). As mentioned below under “District Law”, District law requires all ward populations to be plus or minus 5 percent of the average ward population, unless a larger deviation results from limitations of census data or from the promotion of a rational public policy. D.C. Official Code § 1-1011.01(f).

Subcommittee has treated this five percent threshold range as its main requirement for the population of each ward.

*Racial Gerrymanders.* The Equal Protection Clause also may be violated by racial gerrymanders, in which boundaries are drawn to advantage one racial group over another. Racial demographics may be considered as one of many factors informing apportionment. But if race becomes the predominant factor driving apportionment, a court will strictly scrutinize the plan to determine whether it is narrowly tailored to promote a compelling state interest.<sup>4</sup> A racial gerrymander may violate the Equal Protection Clause even if it is done to benefit racial minority groups, like Black and Latino residents.<sup>5</sup>

*Voting Rights Act.* Section 2 of the Voting Rights Act of 1965 prohibits the adoption of a redistricting plan that has the effect of diluting the voting power of racial or language minority groups, where such groups are politically cohesive and there is proof of racially polarized voting patterns.<sup>6</sup> Dilution may take the form of “cracking,” in which a large group of minority residents are dispersed among several districts so that they cannot play a decisive role in any of the districts.<sup>7</sup> Dilution may also occur through “packing,” where minority residents are concentrated into a single district so that they cannot influence electoral outcomes in other districts.<sup>8</sup>

*District Law.* District law governs this redistricting process and incorporates key concepts from constitutional and federal law.

First, the population of each ward must not deviate more than plus-or-minus 5 percent from the average ward population, “unless the deviation results from the limitations of census geography or from the promotion of a rational public policy, including but not limited to respect for the political geography of the District, the natural geography of the District, neighborhood cohesiveness, or the development of compact and contiguous districts.”<sup>9</sup> The Subcommittee interprets this statute as a declaration of additional redistricting principles that should be considered in the District, even when an apportionment plan proposes ward boundaries within the range.

Next, a redistricting plan cannot have “the purpose and effect of diluting the voting strength of minority citizens.”<sup>10</sup> This requirement has been interpreted as an equivalent of Section 2 of the Voting Rights Act.<sup>11</sup>

Finally, District law requires the ward redistricting process to use concepts and data from the U.S. Census Bureau. Ward boundaries “shall conform to the greatest extent possible” with census tract boundaries. Further, the decennial census report is the exclusive source of population

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<sup>4</sup> *Miller v. Johnson*, 515 U.S. 900, 920 (1995).

<sup>5</sup> *E.g., Bush v. Vera*, 517 U.S. 952 (1996).

<sup>6</sup> 52 U.S.C. § 10301 (formerly codified at 42 U.S.C. § 1973); *Growe v. Emison*, 507 U.S. 25, 39-40 (1993); see also *Kingman Park Civic Ass’n v. Williams*, 348 F.3d 1033 (D.C. Cir. 2003) (unsuccessful Voting Rights Act challenge to ward boundaries adopted in 2001).

<sup>7</sup> See *Voinovich v. Quilter*, 507 U.S. 146 (1993).

<sup>8</sup> See *Bartlett v. Strickland*, 556 U.S. 1 (2009).

<sup>9</sup> D.C. Official Code § 1-1011.01(f).

<sup>10</sup> D.C. Official Code § 1-1011.01(g).

<sup>11</sup> *Kingman Park Civic Ass’n v. Williams*, 924 A.2d 979, 986-87 (D.C. 2007).

data for use in apportionment of election wards.<sup>12</sup> Because the Census Bureau's 2020 report was delayed by about six months, the Council extended the deadline for ward redistricting until December 31, 2021.<sup>13</sup>

The Subcommittee also embraced other best practice guidelines for federal and local redistricting, including drawing compact and contiguous districts that maintain communities of interest.

### **Impact of Redistricting on Residents and Government Services**

The primary impact of changing ward boundaries is on voting representation. Living in one ward versus another changes which councilmember, State Board of Education member, or Advisory Neighborhood Commissioner a resident can vote for. This is why the Subcommittee takes seriously the requirement to keep communities of interest together, to preserve their electoral voice.

Generally, the District does not tie city services to ward boundaries. Trash collection, school boundaries, police districts, affordable housing, and economic development programs are not based on wards. The District does try to sometimes ensure a certain service is provided equally across wards; for instance, District law requires at least one compost drop-off location in each ward. The location of some of such sites may be required to move due to redistricting, but it will not affect the provision of the services.

One of the few places the Subcommittee could find where District funds are explicitly allocated by ward is with street maintenance, where each ward is allocated a capital budget of about \$74 million. However, the Subcommittee does not believe redistricting will meaningfully impact this budget or the conditions of the District's roadways.

Additionally, the District's residential parking permit (RPP) program is based on wards, meaning redistricting could affect residents' parking privileges. However, the subcommittee print effectively freezes the current parking boundaries by specifically keeping redistricted areas within the RPP zone to which they now belong. This is addressed in more detail later in the report.

### **Previous Ward Boundaries**

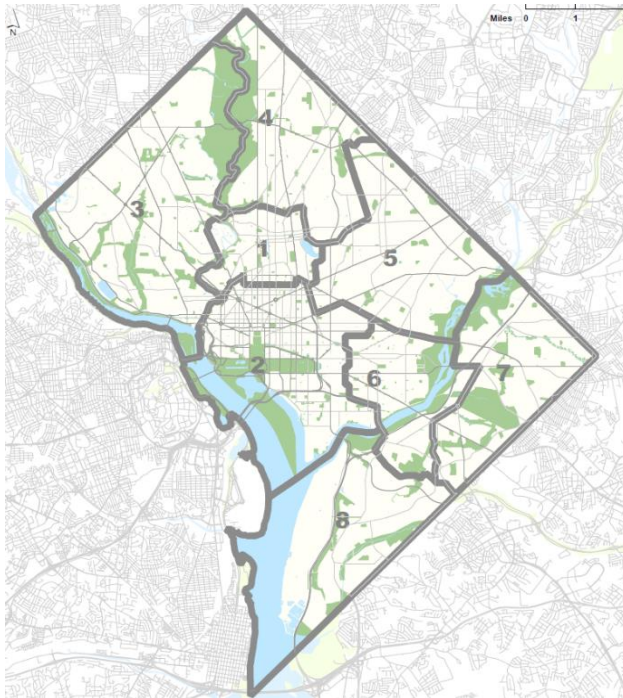
As part of its preparations, the Subcommittee tried to find the ward maps from 1976 to the present. But as far as the Subcommittee can tell, most of the previous maps are currently not available online. Working with the District of Columbia Archives, the Subcommittee was able to assemble, for the first time, all previous ward maps, including the original wards from the start of Home Rule in 1975, and the rebalanced ward maps from 1982, 1992, 2002, and 2012. The maps show how every ward has adjusted its boundaries over time, although the core of each ward has stayed largely the same since 1975.

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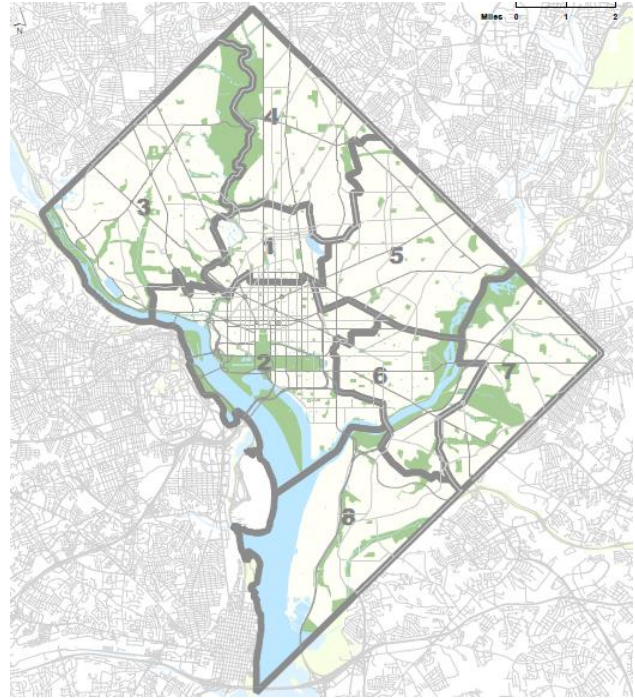
<sup>12</sup> D.C. Official Code § 1-1011.01(d), (e).

<sup>13</sup> Ward Redistricting Deadline Extension Emergency Act of 2021, approved November 2, 2021 (Enrolled version of Bill 24-487).

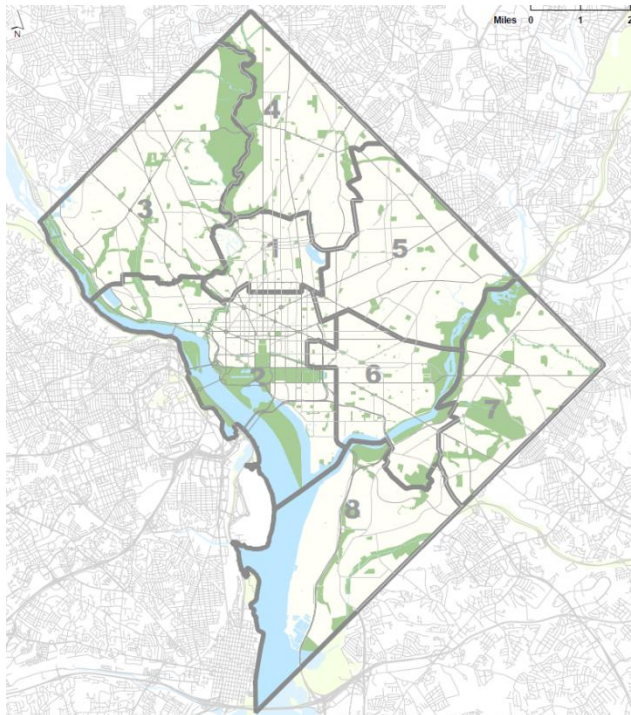




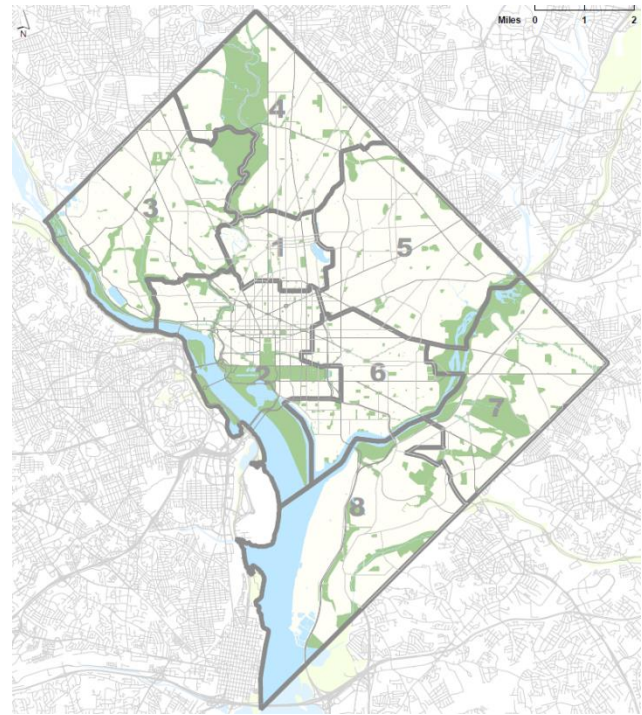
*1975 Ward Boundaries*



*1982 Ward Boundaries*

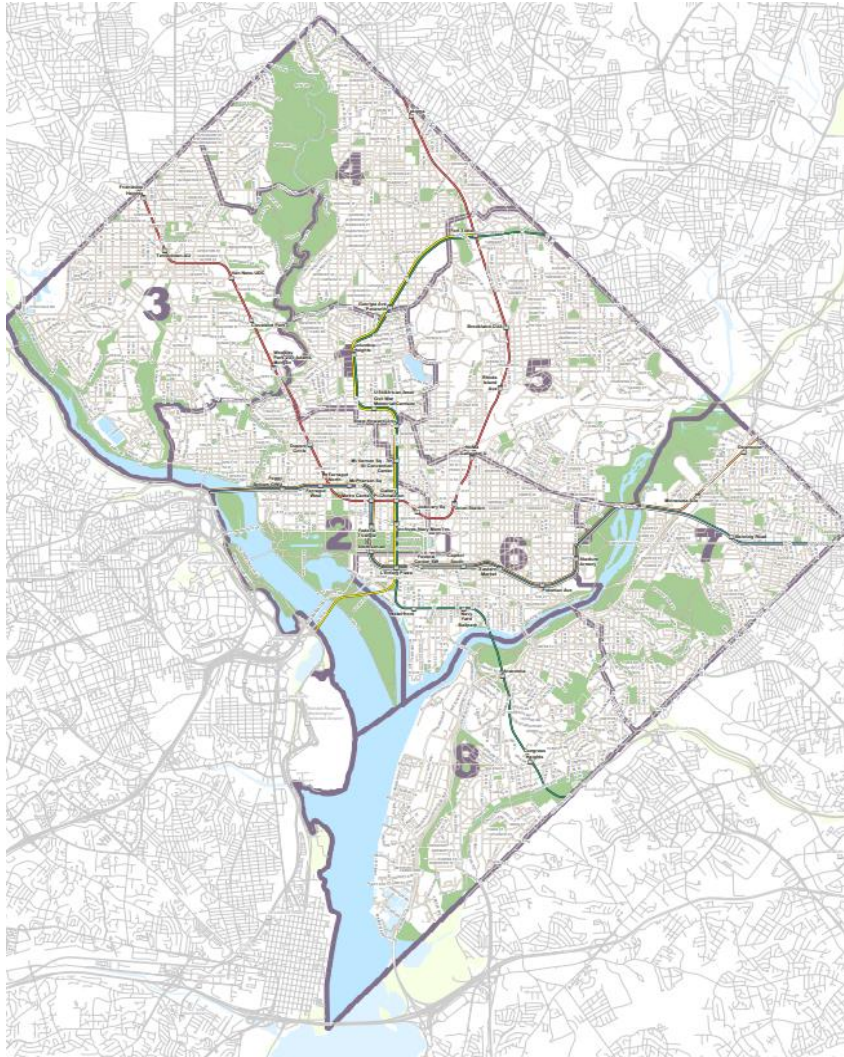


*1992 Ward Boundaries*



*2002 Ward Boundaries*





*Current Ward Boundaries*

## 2020 Census Results

This year, the results of the decennial Census were significantly delayed. The data are often released in the spring, allowing states time to redistrict by the fall. However, for many reasons, the data were not officially released until September of 2021.

The 2020 Census results showed that the District did grow considerably between 2010 and 2020, although not as much as had been expected. The 2020 Census found the District to have grown from 601,723 residents in 2010 to 689,545 residents in 2020, a growth rate of 14.6 percent over the past decade. This growth rate is faster than that of all but six states.<sup>14</sup> However, previous estimates had already placed the District population over 700,000 residents. In early 2018, the Mayor celebrated

the 700,000<sup>th</sup> resident being born.<sup>15</sup>

It isn't clear if the previous estimates were incorrect, or the 2020 Census undercounted residents. However, there is evidence that the District saw significant undercounting in the Census. According to a recent study, the District saw the highest undercount of any state, at more than 2 percent.<sup>16</sup> The Office of Planning testified before the Subcommittee that it is analyzing the Census data and considering officially appealing the District's population. Such an appeal, though, would

<sup>14</sup> U.S. Census Bureau, "2020 Census: Percent Change in Resident Population for the 50 States, the District of Columbia, and Puerto Rico: 2010 to 2020," April 27, 2021, available at <https://www.census.gov/library/visualizations/2021/dec/2020-percent-change-map.html>

<sup>15</sup> Press Release, "Mayor Bowser Celebrates 700,000 District Residents," February 23, 2018, available at <https://dc.gov/release/mayor-bowser-celebrates-700000-district-residents>.

<sup>16</sup> Urban Institute, "Simulating the 2020 Census," November 2021, available at <https://www.urban.org/sites/default/files/publication/104961/simulating-the-2020-census.pdf>

likely not be resolved until 2023. In the meantime, by law, the District must use the existing Census data for redistricting.

While the District grew by almost 15 percent over the previous decade, not all demographic groups saw the same increase. The District continued to lose Black residents, as the Black population fell by about 19,000 residents over the decade. At the same time, the District's non-Hispanic white population grew by almost 25 percent. At the current rates, the District is likely to be plurality white within in the next several years.

The District's Asian and Hispanic populations also grew significantly during the decade, growing by about 60 percent and 40 percent, respectively. And, mirroring a national trend, many more District residents are choosing to identify as "Two or More Races" or "Some Other Race." District residents choosing to identify as Two or More Races grew by more than 130 percent, an astounding change over just a decade. While investigating this trend is outside of the purview of the Subcommittee, the Subcommittee encourages the Office of Planning to continue to research it.

**Table 1. Population by Race and Hispanic or Latino Origin, for All Ages and for 18 Years and Over, for the District of Columbia: 2010 & 2020**

	2010		2020		Change, 2010 to 2020	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
<b>Total population</b>	<b>601,723</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>689,545</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>87,822</b>	<b>14.6</b>
Hispanic or Latino (of any race)	54,749	9.1	77,652	11.3	22,903	41.8
Not Hispanic or Latino	546,974	90.9	611,893	88.7	64,919	11.9
One Race	534,324	88.8	582,408	84.5	48,084	9.0
White	209,464	34.8	261,771	38.0	52,307	25.0
Black or African American	301,053	50.0	282,066	40.9	-18,987	-6.3
American Indian and Alaska Native	1,322	0.2	1,277	0.2	-45	-3.4
Asian	20,818	3.5	33,192	4.8	12,374	59.4
Native Hawaiian & Pacific Islander	216	0.0	349	0.1	133	61.6
Some Other Race	1,451	0.2	3,753	0.5	2,302	158.6
Two or More Races	12,650	2.1	29,485	4.3	16,835	133.1

At the ward level, growth was uneven. Ward 6 added the most residents, with a 42 percent growth over the past decade. This is not surprising, considering that much of the recent development in the District has happened in Ward 6: the Wharf, Navy Yard, H Street NE, and NoMa. The Navy Yard neighborhood alone added almost as many residents as all of Wards 7 and 8, combined. Ward 5 also saw significant growth, due to developments in Union Market, Eckington, and Ft. Lincoln.

However, several wards saw much slower growth. Wards 2, 7, and 8 all grew by less than seven percent, or by less than half the rate of the city average.

<b>Table 2. District of Columbia 2010 &amp; 2020 Ward Population and Change</b>				
	<b>Population</b>		<b>Change, 2010 to 2020</b>	
	<b>2010</b>	<b>2020</b>	<b>Number</b>	<b>Percent</b>
<b>District of Columbia</b>	<b>601,723</b>	<b>689,545</b>	<b>87,822</b>	<b>14.6</b>
Ward 1	74,462	85,285	10,823	14.5
Ward 2	76,645	81,904	5,259	6.9
Ward 3	78,887	85,301	6,414	8.1
Ward 4	75,773	84,660	8,887	11.7
Ward 5	74,308	89,425	15,117	20.3
Ward 6	76,238	108,202	31,964	41.9
Ward 7	71,748	76,255	4,507	6.3
Ward 8	73,662	78,513	4,851	6.6

The Office of Planning produced a very helpful map showing the population change over the past decade, by Census tract, which is included in the attachments.

<b>Table 3. District of Columbia 2020 Census Ward Data Summary for Redistricting</b>		
	<b>2020 Census Total Population</b>	<b>Within/Above/Below Acceptable Range</b>
District-wide	689,545	-
Ward 1	85,285	Within Range
Ward 2	81,904	Within Range
Ward 3	85,301	Within Range
Ward 4	84,660	Within Range
Ward 5	89,425	Within Range
Ward 6	108,202	Above Range by 17,699
Ward 7	76,255	Below Range by 5,628
Ward 8	78,513	Below Range by 3,370
Note: Based on the District's redistricting criteria, each ward must be within +/- 5 percent of the average population of the District. Given the 2020 Census total District population of <b>689,545</b> , the average population is <b>86,193</b> . Thus, each ward population must be within +/- <b>4,310</b> of the average or between <b>81,883 and 90,503</b> .		

The disparate growth rates between the wards means that, while the eight wards all started the decade relatively close in population, there was a significant difference between the ward

populations by 2020. Ward 6 is now far above the acceptable range, as defined by the five percent population deviation, while Wards 7 and 8 are below the allowable threshold.

Therefore, to meet the five percent population deviation thresholds and ensure equal representation, the Subcommittee's overriding goal is to reduce the Ward 6 population, while increasing the Ward 7 and Ward 8 population.

## **Subcommittee Process**

The Subcommittee chose to pursue a radically different process from previous redistricting efforts, with an emphasis on seeking resident feedback on key decisions. The Subcommittee held far more public hearings, heard testimony from many more witnesses, collaborated with the Office of Planning to make an online mapping program available to the public, and released three "discussion maps" created by District residents from the mapping program in advance of a vote. This process has been significantly more transparent than any previous redistricting effort in the District.

### *Hearings*

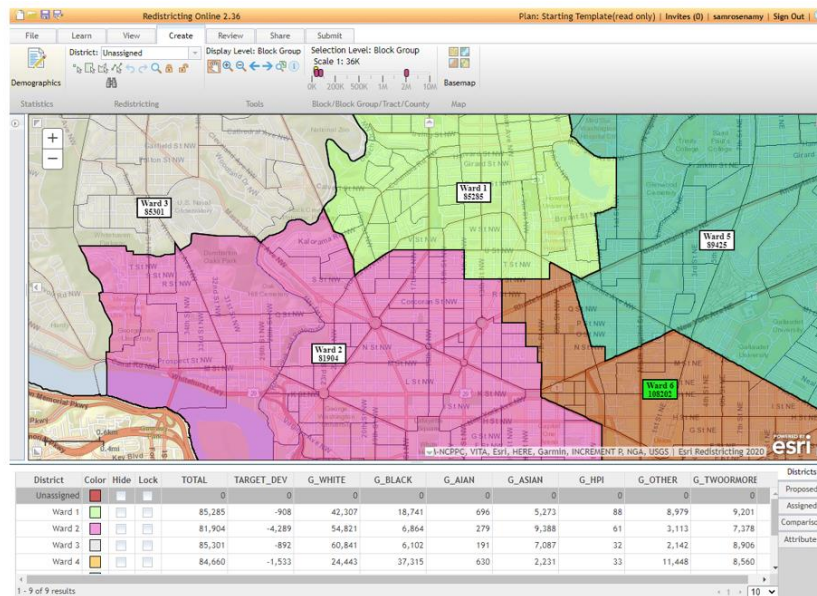
Because of the COVID-19 pandemic, the Subcommittee realized early on that public engagement needed to be different than in years past, since in-person hearings were not possible. This poses a challenge, since many residents interact with the Council through in-person events, or may not have access to the internet. The Subcommittee decided to address this issue through extensive community outreach, described below. However, virtual hearings do allow for more people to attend Council hearings. A typical in-person hearing requires residents to spend long stretches of time in the John A. Wilson Building, which can be difficult if people have professional or family commitments. Virtual hearings allow people to participate while at work or home, and make it much easier to come in and out of hearings as needed.

As a result, the Subcommittee decided to significantly increase the number of hearings, as compared to previous redistricting efforts. In the end, the Subcommittee held three city-wide focused hearings, including one in May before the Census data was released, and eight ward-specific hearings, one for each ward. While the Subcommittee would have preferred to hold in-person hearings as well, the number of hearings, spanning different days of the week and times of day, allowed the Subcommittee to hear from a much larger number of public witnesses compared to previous Council redistrictings. In the end, more than 150 people testified at the 11 hearings for a total of 40 hours of testimony, and many residents also sent in written testimony. This robust hearing process has provided the Subcommittee with an extensive record from which to create its final proposal.



## Mapping Website

The Subcommittee believed from the start that the 2021 redistricting effort must be qualitatively different from previous redistricting processes and should be updated to include modern technology. The hallmark of this effort is the redistricting mapping website, <https://dcredistricting.esriemcs.com/redistricting/>, released in conjunction with the District's Office of Planning. The website, powered by ESRI mapping software, allows residents to use the



2020 Census data to see the existing ward boundaries, draw new boundaries that meet the five percent deviation requirements, share maps, and submit maps to the Subcommittee for consideration. Providing a public mapping tool like this was a top priority of the Subcommittee, and the website was invaluable during the process. No previous Council redistricting committee had ever used a tool such as this.<sup>17</sup> The website allowed residents to supplement their testimony

with actual maps and data, to show how different ideas could work. The Subcommittee received more than 200 maps submitted by residents, and many other residents used the website to test out ideas, mobilize neighbors, and to see the Subcommittee's proposals. The Subcommittee itself used the website extensively throughout the process. The Subcommittee again thanks the Office of Planning for its assistance in procuring the mapping website, managing the website itself, and conducting public trainings to help residents understand how to use the website. The Subcommittee strongly encourages future redistricting committees use a similar public mapping tool, to help residents participate in the process. The Subcommittee will also use the website for its ANC redistricting activities in the spring.

## Community Outreach

The pandemic made public participation in the redistricting process significantly more challenging. The Subcommittee could not hold in-person public hearings, and community groups were not holding in-person events either. While the virtual hearings did attract more witnesses

<sup>17</sup> The Subcommittee does want to recognize the nonprofit organization Greater Greater Washington, which in 2011 released its own public mapping tool, to allow residents to draw their own maps. Its mapping website was immensely popular, and clearly showed the value in providing such a tool. It is entirely possible the Subcommittee might not have released a public mapping website if not for the earlier work of Greater Greater Washington, for which the Subcommittee is grateful.



and the press did cover the redistricting process, the Subcommittee was still concerned it might not be able to reach residents less civically connected or less connected to the internet.

To reach these residents, the Subcommittee used several methods of community outreach. First, the Subcommittee did extensive outreach to Advisory Neighborhood Commissions, political groups, civic organizations, and neighborhood groups. Subcommittee chair Silverman, members Bonds and Henderson, as well as Councilmember Silverman's staff attended dozens of meetings for these groups, including every ANC in Ward 6 that was likely to be transferred to another ward, some multiple times.

Second, the Subcommittee contracted with two organizations to distribute approximately 15,000 flyers to residents of neighborhoods that were likely to change wards, such as Rosedale, Southwest, Navy Yard, and Fairlawn. These flyers generated additional testimony and comments from residents, such that the Subcommittee wishes it could have done more, but it had limited funds to use for flyering. The Subcommittee strongly recommends that future Councils provide the next redistricting committee with a budget for outreach during the 2030 redistricting process. The Subcommittee thanks Chairman Mendelson for appropriating \$10,000 to the Subcommittee for community outreach efforts.

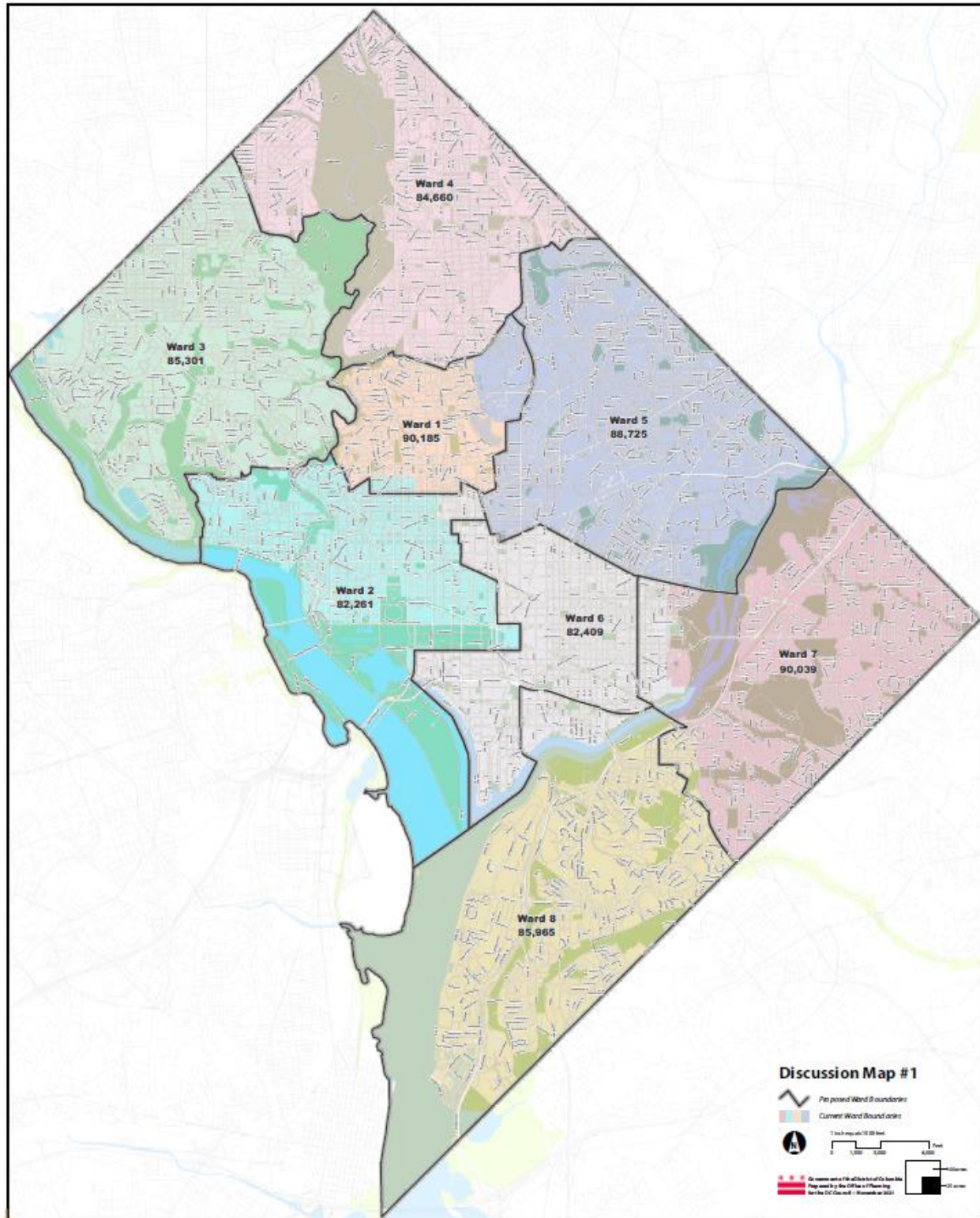
Third, the Subcommittee placed ads in several community newspapers, alerting residents of potential changes to ward boundaries through redistricting. This includes the Washington City Paper, Hill Rag, East of the River, and the Washington Informer.

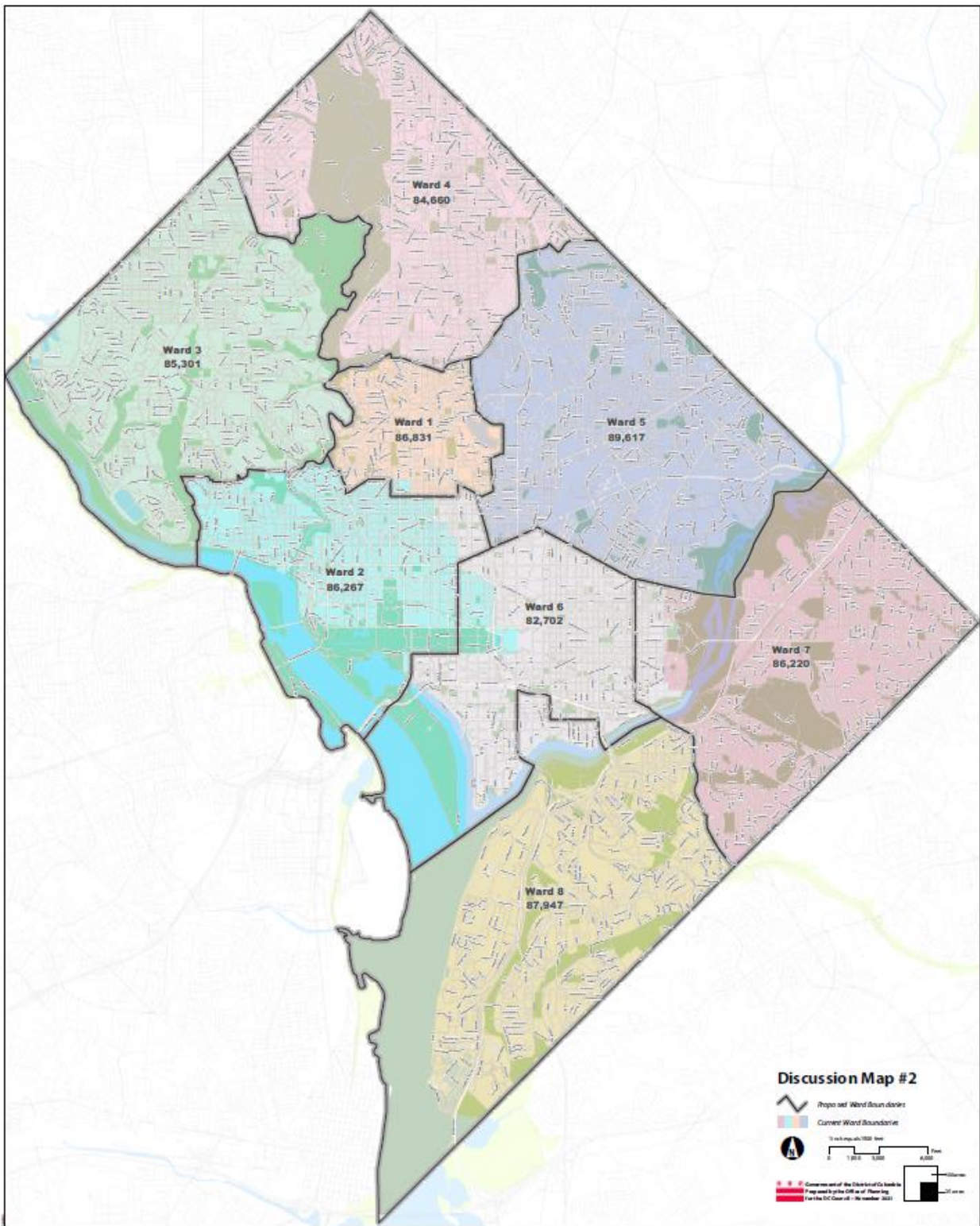
### *Discussion Maps*

From the beginning of the 2020 redistricting process, the Subcommittee has prioritized transparency and openness. A key feature of this priority was releasing to the public, well in advance of any Subcommittee action, discussion maps to help focus the public debate. No previous Council redistricting committee had released proposals to the public in advance, making this a significant change in process for the District.

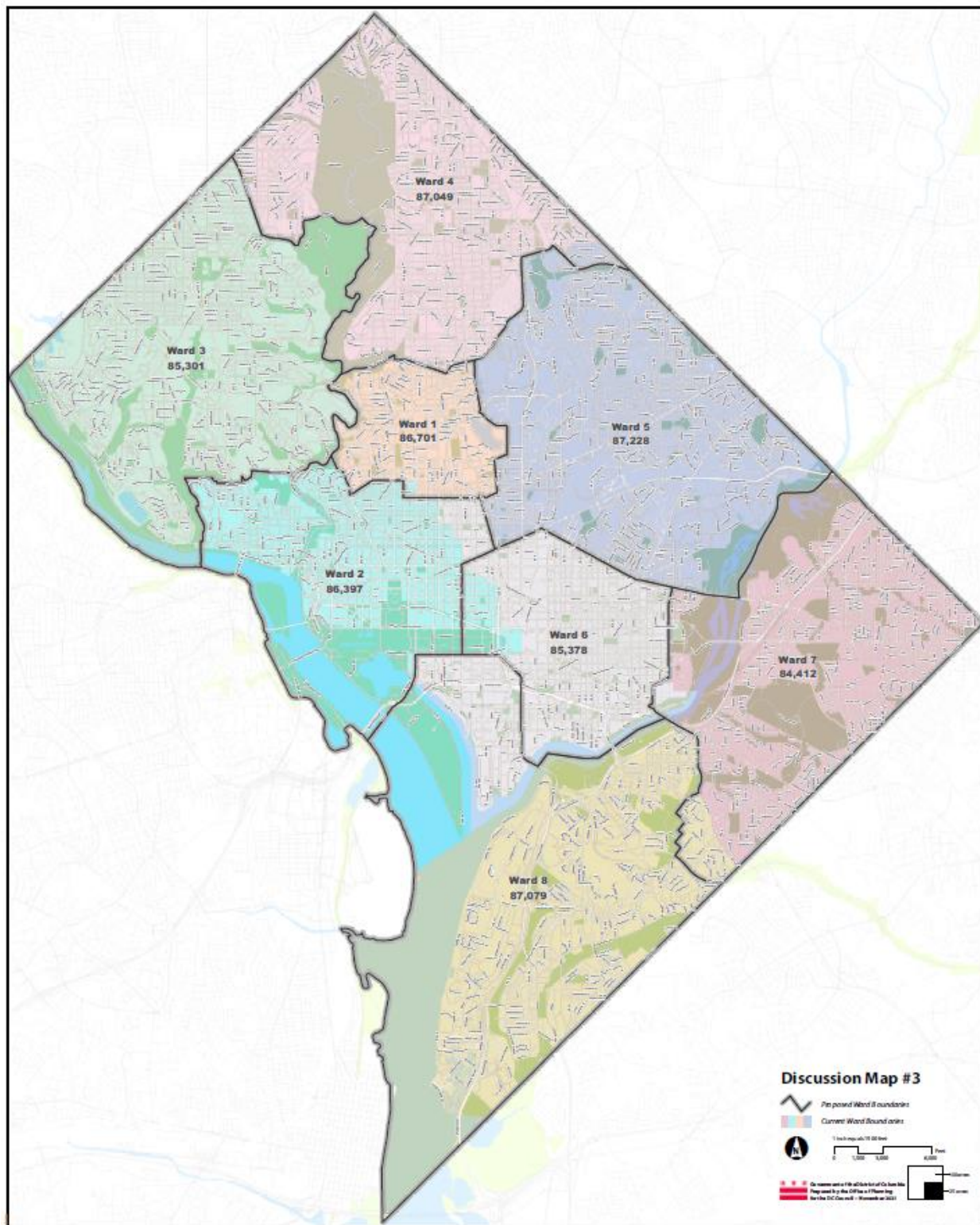
On November 1<sup>st</sup>, the Subcommittee released three discussion maps. The three maps were chosen from among the 130 submitted to the Subcommittee at that time by D.C. residents. Each map contained multiple options for rebalancing wards; the Subcommittee used the maps to solicit input on the multiple decisions made within each map. The Subcommittee selected the three maps because they each represented decisions that met the legal requirements of redistricting, generally adhered to the Subcommittee's redistricting principles (described below), and seemed likely to receive support from the members of the Council.

Map 1 was created by Ward 7 resident Keith Hasan-Towery. It extended Ward 8 across the Anacostia River to include all of Navy Yard, grew Ward 7 into the bordering Hill East currently in Ward 6 and Fairlawn currently in Ward 8, transferred a portion of the Shaw neighborhood from Ward 6 to Ward 2, and unified the southern part of the U Street corridor into Ward 1.









Map 2 was created by Commissioner Corey Holman of ANC 6B. Map 2 transferred the majority but not all of Navy Yard to Ward 8, extended the Ward 7 boundary west of the Anacostia River to 15th Street SE and NE, transferred the Shaw neighborhood from Ward 6 to Ward 2, and shifted the Ward 6 western border to 7th Street NW.

Map 3 was created by Ward 5 resident Geoffrey Hatchard. Map 3 incorporated the entire Southwest quadrant into Ward 8, grew Ward 7 south into bordering northeastern Ward 8, transferred the Shaw neighborhood from Ward 6 to Ward 2, moved more of the Lamond-Riggs neighborhood into Ward 4, and shifted the Ward 6 western border to 7th Street NW.

The discussion maps were highly successful in generating additional attention to redistricting in the District, and in generating additional feedback to the Subcommittee. Hundreds of District residents wrote to, called, and testified before the Subcommittee in response to the discussion maps and the changes in each map. The final proposal put forward by the Subcommittee is greatly informed by the public response to the three discussion maps. The Subcommittee extends its gratitude to the three mapmakers for submitting their maps and allowing the Subcommittee to use them as discussion maps. Each readily agreed, even though it meant additional public scrutiny of their maps.

## Redistricting Principles

The Subcommittee identified six principles of redistricting to guide its mapmaking process. These principles are not to be confused with the legal imperatives discussed earlier in the report, although several legal standards are reflected in the six principles. The principles are:

- **Equal Representation:** The North Star of redistricting comes from the constitutional principle of one person, one vote. Legislative districts must be roughly equal in size, plus or minus five percent of the average.
- **Racially Equitable:** According to D.C. law, redrawn legislative boundaries cannot dilute “the voting strength of minority citizens.”
- **Compact and Contiguous:** Boundaries need to be geographically sensible.
- **Communities of Interest Kept Together:** Identifiable neighborhoods should stay intact and not be divided among legislative districts to the extent possible.
- **Whole Census Tracts:** As much as possible, Census tracts should remain whole to make data collection more accurate and understandable.
- **Ward Continuity and Stability:** Given the volatility of the pandemic, make boundary changes guided by federal and local law but avoid unnecessary radical change.

Of all these principles, the first, equal representation, is the most important, and a legal imperative. The other five principles may flow from District law or good policy, but the Subcommittee must, first and foremost, rebalance the ward populations. In doing so, the Subcommittee may be forced to go against one of the other five redistricting principles. For instance, there may be no way to create relatively similar size wards without dividing communities of interest or splitting Census tracts. Similarly, the principles may contradict each other. For

example, Census tracts are not drawn to reflect neighborhoods, so it may not be possible to preserve communities of interest while also keeping Census tracts whole. However, the Subcommittee will endeavor to follow the six principles as much as is possible.

To better understand how racial equity affects redistricting, the Subcommittee worked closely with the Council’s Office of Racial Equity (CORE). However, the required Racial Equity Impact Analysis (REIA) will be issued with the Committee of the Whole report, in accordance with the practices of the CORE office to only issue a REIA at the final committee stage.

## Subcommittee Print

Following this extensive public engagement process, and using the six redistricting principles and the feedback from the three discussion maps, the Subcommittee created its subcommittee print. The Subcommittee’s print strives for balancing the ward populations while increasing economic

Table 4. Subcommittee Print Total Population Summary			
Existing Wards		Subcommittee Print Map	
	Population	Population	Difference from existing
Ward 1	85,285	86,278	993
Ward 2	81,904	89,411	7,507
Ward 3	85,301	85,301	-
Ward 4	84,660	84,660	-
Ward 5	89,425	88,698	-727
Ward 6	108,202	87,954	-20,248
Ward 7	76,255	81,997	5,742
Ward 8	78,513	85,246	6,733

and racial diversity in the wards, but without diluting minority voting power or creating islands of small numbers of residents separated from the rest of their ward.

## SPECIFIC BOUNDARY ADJUSTMENTS BY WARD

**Ward 1:** Absorb the Armed Forces Retirement Home and medical center from Ward 5, and extend southern border three blocks east along S Street NW

**Ward 2:** Accept the Ward 6 Census tracts comprising Shaw; move western border south of Massachusetts Avenue NW to 5<sup>th</sup> Street NW

**Ward 3:** No change

**Ward 4:** No change

**Ward 5:** Transfer Armed Forces Retirement Home to Ward 1



**Ward 6:** Transfer the Shaw Census tracts into Ward 2; transfer most of Navy Yard to Ward 8; change border with Ward 7 to be C Street NE to the north, to 15<sup>th</sup> Street NE, down to Potomac Ave SE, to 11<sup>th</sup> Street SE, returning Kingman Park to Ward 6

**Ward 7:** Change the border with Ward 6 to be C Street NE to the north, to 15<sup>th</sup> Street NE, down to Potomac Ave SE, to 11<sup>th</sup> Street SE, returning Kingman Park to Ward 6

**Ward 8:** Accept Navy Yard from Ward 6

### **Rationale for Changes**

The map in the Subcommittee print distributes population in a way that meets the equal representation requirement and safeguards the voting strength of Black residents, while embracing the best practice guidelines of compact and contiguous wards given a sizable physical constraint: Ward 7 or Ward 8 must grow, and either one or both must grow by crossing the Anacostia River. As well, Ward 6 needs to reduce population, and given it also borders the Anacostia River, a reasonable approach is to partially redistribute population among these three wards.

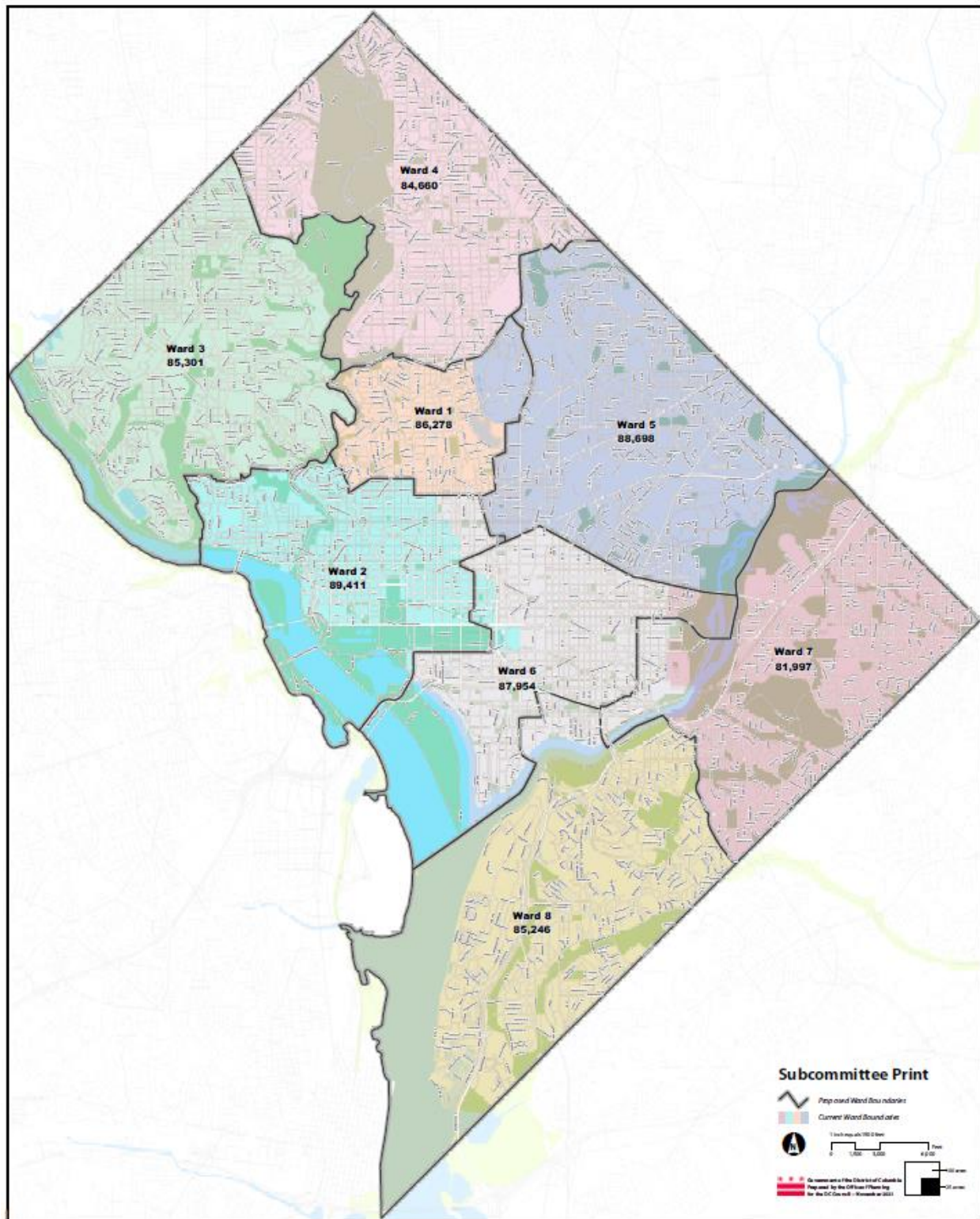
#### *Ward 8*

A significant decision facing the Subcommittee was how to grow the population of Ward 8. A decision was made not to grow the ward north into Ward 7 neighborhoods, because that would continue to keep the communities of Ward 8 isolated from the western side of the District, limit immediate economic growth, and not give the ward additional racial diversity. Therefore, that left the Subcommittee with options to grow the population across the Anacostia River. Two choices were identified: growing Ward 8 into Navy Yard, or into Southwest.<sup>18</sup> Both options would add enough residents to Ward 8 to bring it above the five percent population deviation threshold, both are defined neighborhoods, both are reasonably contiguous to Ward 8, and both reduce the population of Ward 6, which helps rebalance that ward's population.

The Subcommittee's print chooses to expand Ward 8 across the Anacostia River to contain most of the Navy Yard community. This extension adds approximately 6,700 residents to Ward 8, which is sufficient to create a stand-alone Advisory Neighborhood Commission in the portion of Ward 8 west of the river. Navy Yard is clearly a well-defined community, with relatively clear borders: South Capitol Street to the west, the highway to the north and east, and the Anacostia River to the south. The Subcommittee recommends leaving in Ward 6 Census tract 72.02, bounded by South Capitol, the Southeast Freeway, New Jersey Avenue SE, and M Street SE, to better balance the population between Wards 6 and 8, and to avoid diluting the voting strength of voters who live east of the river.

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<sup>18</sup> The Subcommittee recognizes that there are almost 7,000 residents who live in the southwest quadrant of the city, but on the east side of the Anacostia River. For the sake of brevity in this section of the report, "Southwest" refers to the neighborhood bounded by the Southwest Freeway, South Capitol Street, and the two rivers.



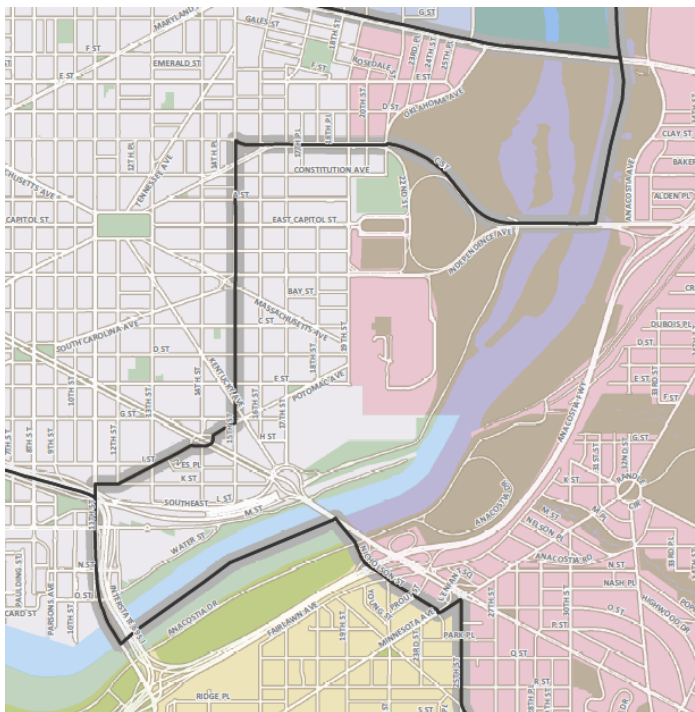
Navy Yard is the preferable option for expanding Ward 8, as it has a population that is not so large that it dilutes the voting power of the existing Ward 8 residents or requires other changes to Ward 8's borders, but it is large enough to host a full stand-alone Advisory Neighborhood Commission in Navy Yard. There is significant connectivity with the newly opened Frederick Douglass bridge, the 11<sup>th</sup> Street bridge, and the Southeast Freeway. Navy Yard is also on the Green Line for Metro, one stop away from Ward 8, and several bus lines connect Navy Yard to Ward 8 over the 11<sup>th</sup> Street Bridge. Navy Yard would also add significant economic activity to Ward 8, with a vibrant commercial area and the Nationals baseball stadium. Additionally, the median income for Navy Yard residents is quadruple that of Ward 8's median income, according to the 2015-2019 American Community Survey data, providing economic diversity to Ward 8.

The Navy Yard neighborhood is majority white, with almost 70 percent of its population identifying as non-Hispanic white. While adding Navy Yard to Ward 8 would about double the white population of Ward 8, non-Hispanic white residents would still only represent about nine percent of the population of the new Ward 8. Reviewing voter turnout from previous elections, it is likely that Navy Yard would represent about ten percent of the Democratic primary votes for the new Ward 8.<sup>19</sup> The Subcommittee believes adding Navy Yard to Ward 8 is therefore a meaningful increase in diversity for the ward, but not so significant to dilute the voting power of the existing Ward 8 residents.

### *Ward 7*

Currently, Ward 7 crosses the river to include part of the Kingman Park neighborhood, along with Reservation 13 and the District's jail and detention facilities. In the subcommittee print, Ward 7 adds more residents by extending its border on the western side of the river to 15<sup>th</sup> Street, bounded by C Street NE to the north and the Anacostia River and 11<sup>th</sup> Street Bridge to the south. This adds the area referred to as Hill East to Ward 7, while returning the part of the Kingman Park neighborhood in Ward 7 back to Ward 6.

This expansion adds about 5,700 residents to Ward 7, growing the portion of Ward 7 west of the river to 10,000 people, allowing for the newly expanded section of Ward 7 west of the Anacostia



*Close-up of the new Ward 6 and 7 borders. The current Ward 6 is in white, and the current Ward 7 is in pink. The black line shows the proposed boundary.*

<sup>19</sup> In analyzing vote histories for this report, the Subcommittee uses Democratic primary results. Democrats make up the vast majority of registered voters in the District, over 75 percent. In primaries, Democratic votes make up over 96 percent of voters, often because other parties sometimes don't run candidates for some seats. For Mayor and ward councilmember elections, the Democratic primary is the election that determines representation.

River to have a stand-alone Advisory Neighborhood Commission. This was a significant priority for the Subcommittee, as it heard testimony from residents of the Kingman Park section of Ward 7 that they feel like an island apart from the rest of the ward. There are only about 1,800 residents in that part of Ward 7, currently barely enough to support even an ANC single member district.

In response to the Subcommittee discussion maps, all of which made changes to the border of Ward 6 and 7, the Subcommittee heard from many Hill East residents in opposition to moving the Ward 7 border to 15<sup>th</sup> Street, and many argued that all of Hill East should stay in Ward 6. The Subcommittee is sympathetic to their arguments. Most of Capitol Hill has been in Ward 6 since the beginning of Home Rule in 1975. There is little economic activity on Capitol Hill east of 8<sup>th</sup> Street, outside of the H Street NE corridor, though some retail, restaurants, and other economic activity have been growing eastward. Many residents travel west for work, entertainment, school, and shopping.

However, as stated previously, the Subcommittee is bound by the equal representation requirement. Ward 7 is legally mandated to grow by at least 5,600 residents. And it can only grow in one of three ways: south into Ward 8, westward beyond Kingman Park and Reservation 13 into Ward 6, or crossing the Anacostia River east into Ward 5. Growing south into Ward 8 keep Ward 7 geographically isolated, would likely divide historic Black communities such as Anacostia, and would not diversify Ward 7 either economically or demographically. Residents of Fairlawn, Anacostia, and Knox Hill testified to the Subcommittee not to choose this option. Growing into Ward 5 faced strong opposition from residents in Ft. Lincoln, Carver-Langston, and the Arboretum. As well, the northeastern areas of Ward 5 do not have connectivity to Ward 7; residents would need to drive on the Interstate to Maryland and reenter D.C. to get to Deanwood and other neighborhoods in Ward 7. As well, there is less opportunity to create racial and economic diversity in the ward with this approach.

Therefore, the Subcommittee recommends growing Ward 7 further westward from Reservation 13, with the northern border with Ward 6 being C Street NE, for several reasons. First, the District has long recognized that within the larger Capitol Hill area, there are identifiable neighborhoods, including Hill East, Kingman Park, and H Street NE. This is reflected in things such as city planning documents, ANC boundaries, Fire and Emergency Medical Service districts, health planning neighborhoods, real property tax assessment neighborhoods, and more. The Subcommittee recognizes that there is little agreement on the exact borders of Hill East, and residents may also disagree that the neighborhood is meaningfully different from the greater Capitol Hill. But there is general agreement that Kingman Park and Rosedale have relatively clear borders, and both stop at C Street NE.

This proposal is a compromise given feedback from Council colleagues. Initially, the Subcommittee put together a map that created a Ward 6/7 border at East Capitol Street, uniting the majority Black neighborhoods of Rosedale and Kingman Park in Ward 6. East Capitol is a boundary for many public services such as public elementary schools, police, and the ANC. The western boundary pushed to 13<sup>th</sup> and 14<sup>th</sup> Streets SE, which went beyond what had appeared in discussion maps. Colleagues both on and off the Subcommittee expressed reluctance to push further west than any of the discussion maps, so the proposal was revised to make 15<sup>th</sup> Street the western boundary and push the northern boundary to C Street NE.

This proposal has many merits. There is a clear north-south dividing line along C Street NE, which is used, for instance, as the dividing line between the 1<sup>st</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> police districts. The Subcommittee received testimony, including from some commissioners in ANC 6A and 6B, that the Hill's neighborhoods are more divided north-south, and encouraged the Subcommittee to consider drawing the border to reflect that divide.

Moving the border to generally be C Street NE and 15<sup>th</sup> Street adds sufficient population to Ward 7 to bring it above the five percent population threshold. It also avoids removing the only remaining majority Black neighborhoods of Rosedale and Kingman Park from Ward 6. In 1970, 17 of the 20 or so Census tracts on Capitol Hill were majority Black, most by 90 percent or more. By 2020, just two were majority Black: Rosedale and Kingman Park. The Subcommittee made an intentional decision to keep these longstanding African American tracts attached to Ward 6 and Capitol Hill.

The Census tracts to the south of C Street NE encompass most if not all of Hill East, and have seen significant gentrification over the past few decades. Additionally, this neighborhood abuts Reservation 13, which is beginning to see significant economic development. The Subcommittee believes this development will hasten the shifting of the economic center of the Hill eastward. Over the past 15 years, there have been two new grocery stores built east of 13<sup>th</sup> Street, there's a new food hall at 14<sup>th</sup> Street and Pennsylvania Avenue SE, the Reservation 13 development will deliver thousands of new homes and tens of thousands of square feet of retail, and the currently vacant RFK Stadium is also likely to be redeveloped over the next decade. The Subcommittee is concerned about removing the Reservation 13 development, one of the largest development projects in the city, from Ward 7. Instead, adding Hill East to Ward 7, which currently contains both Reservation 13 and RFK Stadium, allows the residents closest to those developments to vote for the political representation for those developments.

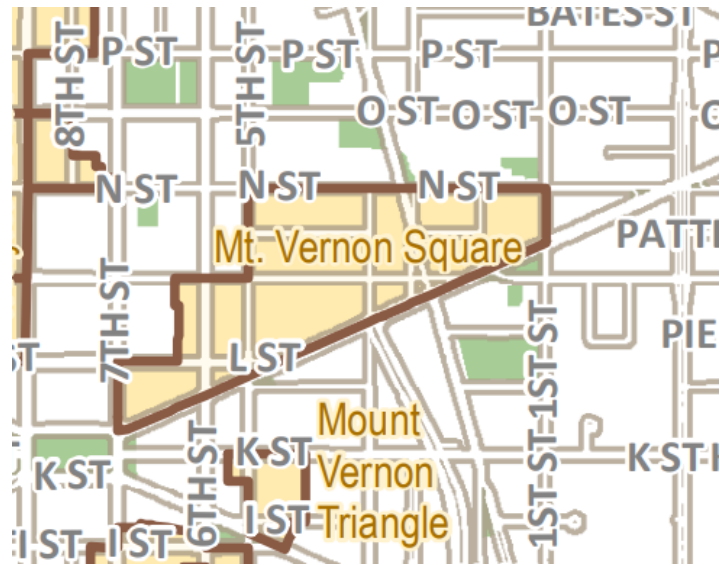
With Ward 7 retaining Reservation 13 and Ward 8 gaining Navy Yard, both wards would also contain significant new economic development projects, allowing both wards to continue to grow at a faster rate over the next decade, hopefully keeping pace with the rest of the city's growth.

#### *Ward 6*

In addition to the changes to Ward 6 described above, in the Subcommittee Print Ward 6 also rebalances by transferring a portion of the Shaw area north of New York Ave NW mostly to Ward 2. The Shaw neighborhood had been a part of Ward 2 from 1975 until 2011, when the Council transferred a majority of it into Ward 6. The Subcommittee cannot find any evidence in the official record of the 2011 redistricting to support this move. Some residents at the time had provided testimony asking to reunite the Mount Vernon Square Historic District, as in 2002 a portion of it had been moved from Ward 2 to Ward 6. However, this historic district is just a small portion of the larger Shaw neighborhood that was transferred to Ward 6 in 2011. Therefore, since Ward 6 must lose population now, since there is little to no evidentiary record for the move in 2011, and since the Subcommittee received almost unanimous support from Shaw residents asking to be returned to Ward 2, the Subcommittee recommends transferring the approximately 10,000 residents from Ward 6 to Ward 2.



As part of this move, the Subcommittee recommends keeping the Mount Vernon Square Historic District united in one ward. This requires also moving the small area bounded by New Jersey Ave NW, N Street NW, 1<sup>st</sup> Street NW, and New York Ave NW from Ward 6 to Ward 2. This requires splitting the Census tract, the rest of which is in Ward 5. Each of the three discussion maps proposed reuniting the Census tract and moving this small part of the Mount Vernon Square Historic District from Ward 6 back to Ward 5. However, the Subcommittee has received many requests from residents of this area to stay a part of whichever ward contains the rest of the historic district.



*The Mount Vernon Square Historic District Boundaries*

Therefore, the Subcommittee recommends moving this square to Ward 2 with the rest of Shaw, even though it does break a Census tract. The area contains only about 200 residents, and will not meaningfully affect the statistics of the larger Census tract.

#### *Ward 5*

Part of the Census tract containing the Armed Forces Retirement Home is transferred from Ward 5 to Ward 1. The federal government is planning on developing the southern part of this campus, to add thousands of residential units and large amounts of commercial office space. The development that will occur there more directly impacts Ward 1's Park View neighborhood, the closest residential neighborhood, than any Ward 5 neighborhood.<sup>20</sup> Placing it in Ward 1 gives the neighboring Ward 1 ANC more of an opportunity to provide input on the development. The Ward 1 Park View neighborhood also has a larger Black population than any other area abutting the development site, so transferring the retirement home site to Ward 1 would align the development with the neighborhood minority community.

#### *Ward 4*

The subcommittee print makes no changes to the Ward 4 borders.

#### *Ward 3*

The subcommittee print makes no changes to the Ward 3 borders.

#### *Ward 2*

<sup>20</sup> There is a residential area in Ward 5 to the southeast of the AFRH, but it is relatively small and is oriented away from AFRH; its entrance is on Michigan Ave NE about a half mile drive from the southern border of the AFRH.



In the Subcommittee proposal, Ward 2 accepts the transfer of Shaw, which adds about 10,000 residents to the ward. However, accepting Shaw without making any other changes both makes Ward 2 too large and Ward 6 too small. To keep Wards 2 and 6 within population range, the Subcommittee recommends shifting the Ward 6 border south of Massachusetts Avenue NW west to 5th Street NW, from 2nd Street NW. The western border of Ward 6 has changed every 10 years, starting in 1975 at 2<sup>nd</sup> Street NE, and gradually moving westward. At one point, in 2002, Ward 6 stretched as far west as 9<sup>th</sup> Street NW.

Several of the discussion maps released by the Subcommittee brought the Ward 6 boundary to 7<sup>th</sup> Street NW, which allows for Ward 6 to have a clear, straight western border, as New York Avenue NW goes southwest, hits Mount Vernon Square at 7<sup>th</sup> Street NW, and drops straight down 7<sup>th</sup> Street to the National Mall. However, the Subcommittee heard testimony from residents of Penn Quarter that drawing the line at 7<sup>th</sup> Street NW would divide the historic Chinatown neighborhood on H Street NW, and that residents living closest to the arena wanted to be a part of Ward 2.

In response to this testimony, the subcommittee print puts the Ward 6 border at 5<sup>th</sup> Street NW, going south until it hits Indiana Avenue NW, continuing until 7<sup>th</sup> Street NW meets the Mall. (5<sup>th</sup> Street NW stops at Indiana Avenue NW, requiring the line to continue down 7<sup>th</sup> Street NW to the Mall.) This leaves Chinatown and the Capitol One Arena in Ward 2, while transferring enough residents from Ward 2 to Ward 6 to bring both wards in line with the population targets.

### *Ward 1*

In addition to accepting the transfer from Ward 5 described above, there is a minor change to the southern Ward 1 border. The subcommittee print creates a clearer border between Wards 1 and 2 by extending the border straight eastward along S Street NW, to New Jersey Avenue NW. The change creates a more obvious border between the two wards and allows residents on both sides of Florida Avenue NW a better say in the economic activities along the corridor, while minimally affecting the statistics of the larger Census tract.

<b>Table 5. Subcommittee Print Demographic Summary</b>					
	<b>Total Population</b>	<b>Non-Hispanic White</b>	<b>Non-Hispanic Black</b>	<b>Hispanic</b>	<b>Other<sup>21</sup></b>
<b>Ward 1</b>	86,278	40,664	19,399	17,343	8,872
<b>Ward 2</b>	89,411	55,323	10,710	9,737	13,641
<b>Ward 3</b>	85,301	59,008	6,744	8,293	11,256
<b>Ward 4</b>	84,660	22,737	37,647	18,646	5,630
<b>Ward 5</b>	88,698	20,638	51,454	10,352	6,254
<b>Ward 6</b>	87,954	49,629	22,914	6,260	9,151
<b>Ward 7</b>	81,997	6,102	69,005	3,940	2,950
<b>Ward 8</b>	85,246	7,670	71,292	3,081	3,203

#### *Options Considered but Not in The Subcommittee Print*

The following list describes alternatives that the Subcommittee has considered but does not recommend in the Subcommittee Print.

- **Unify U Street**

- Early in the process, the Subcommittee heard from some residents of the U Street corridor that it was difficult having the street essentially split between two wards, and thus between multiple Advisory Neighborhood Commissions. Between 14<sup>th</sup> Street NW and 18<sup>th</sup> Street NW, U Street is split down the middle, with the northern half in Ward 1 and the southern half in Ward 2. Residents to the north were frustrated that it was difficult weighing in on issues affecting U Street, since they technically did not have jurisdiction over the southern half of the street. Therefore, all three of the discussion maps released by the Subcommittee had a variation of unifying U Street into one ward. One map brought the border for Ward 1 to 18<sup>th</sup> and S Streets NW, another to 16<sup>th</sup> and S Streets NW, and another to 15<sup>th</sup> and S Streets NW. These changes would also help unite several split Census tracts in the area. The Subcommittee will also note that the corridor had historically been in Ward 1, from 1976 until 2001, when the border was shifted to its current configuration. However, the Subcommittee heard extensive testimony from residents of the affected neighborhood to the south of U Street NW, almost uniformly asking to stay in

<sup>21</sup> Other includes non-Hispanic Asian, non-Hispanic Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander, non-Hispanic American Indian/ Alaskan Native, Non-Hispanic some other race, and Non-Hispanic two or more minority races. The Subcommittee included only four demographic categories in the chart above due to space constraints, but the larger tables in the Data Appendix include the other demographic groups listed above.

Ward 2. Many residents testified that they identified more with the Dupont Circle neighborhood to their south than with the U Street corridor to their north. Some residents also testified to the neighborhood's strong history of LGBTQ community and representation, and were concerned that the three maps could divide this community. Because of this testimony, and because neither Ward 1 nor Ward 2 need to adjust their borders to be within the five percent population deviation threshold, the Subcommittee does not recommend unifying the U Street corridor in one ward at this time.

- **Transfer Foxhall from Ward 3 to Ward 2**

- The Subcommittee received testimony from Foxhall residents about shifting their neighborhood from Ward 3 to Ward 2. This neighborhood, composed of Census tract 8.02, could be considered a relatively cohesive unit, and could potentially be transferred in whole without splitting any communities of interest. Further, Foxhall residents argued they identified with and were more affected by the Georgetown neighborhood to their east in Ward 2, than with the rest of Ward 3 to their north. Additionally, Foxhall was in Ward 2 from 1992 through 2002. However, this neighborhood has more than 3,300 residents, and adding it to Ward 2, along with the approximately 11,000 residents of Shaw being shifted to Ward 2 from Ward 6, would put Ward 2 above the 5 percent threshold. Therefore, the Subcommittee could not propose transferring Foxhall back to Ward 2. Further, the Subcommittee received testimony that Foxhall residents strongly oppose any proposal that would split their neighborhood among two wards. Accordingly, the Subcommittee does not recommend transferring any portion of Foxhall from Ward 3 to Ward 2.

- **Transfer Chevy Chase, Barnaby Woods, and Hawthorne from Ward 4 to Ward 3**

- The Subcommittee received testimony from several witnesses who urged the Council to restore the boundary between Ward 3 and Ward 4 in Rock Creek, where it had been prior to 2001. These witnesses observed that redistricting principles include respect for political and natural geographic boundaries between cohesive neighborhoods, which aptly describes Rock Creek Park. These witnesses also argued that the principle of neighborhood cohesiveness is undermined by the existing ward boundary through Chevy Chase. They argued that Barnaby Woods and Hawthorne share more common interests with other neighborhoods to the west of Rock Creek Park. Yet the Subcommittee also heard from other residents who are content to reside in the portion of Ward 4 that is west of the park and who believe that the multi-ward ANC 3/4G effectively allows all residents to participate in issues common to Chevy Chase, Barnaby Woods, and Hawthorne. The Subcommittee detects no consensus within the affected neighborhoods on the merits of changing wards. Both Ward 3 and Ward 4 have populations within the required range and are surrounded on all sides by other wards within the required population range. Thus, a significant change in the existing ward boundary would reverberate across other parts of the District, as generally has been illustrated in at least a dozen citizen-submitted maps that have proposed moving the boundary to Rock Creek. The Subcommittee considered more modest changes such as unifying Census tracts 14.01 and 14.02 by transferring to Ward 3 the area bounded Broad Branch

Road, Northampton Street, Utah Avenue, and 27<sup>th</sup> Street; however, this change would both fail to address the central criticism of the existing boundary and may not be supported by residents. In the absence of either a neighborhood consensus or a need to change this boundary to balance ward populations, the Subcommittee recommends no change to the existing boundary between Ward 3 and Ward 4.

- **Extend Ward 7 South into Ward 8**

- There are essentially three ways for Ward 7 to expand to add residents: extend across the river into Ward 6, extend across the river into Ward 7, or expand into Ward 8. Some maps submitted to the Council included this final option. The advantage of doing that is to avoid having to expand Ward 7 across the Anacostia River, which could divide communities of interest. However, in expanding to the south, many maps also divide long-standing African American communities, such as either Fairlawn or Anacostia. Additionally, pushing Ward 7 south into Ward 8 could require Ward 8 to then push more into Ward 6 across the river, potentially diluting the voting power of existing Ward 8 residents. For these reasons, the Subcommittee does not recommend extending Ward 7 south to Ward 8.

- **Extend Ward 7 West into Ward 5**

- One of the three options for expanding Ward 7 to meet its population requirement is to push Ward 7 west into Ward 5. The most common options in maps submitted by residents featured Ward 7 growing either into Ft. Lincoln in the north or the Carver-Langston neighborhood to the south. This would provide Ward 7 with neighborhoods contiguous to the existing parts of the ward, albeit across the river. It could also help add more commercial areas to Ward 7. However, the Subcommittee is concerned with this option for several reasons. First, this option could be criticized as “packing” African American residents into a single ward, potentially diluting their electoral voice. Second, there is very little connectivity between Ward 7 and Ward 5. For Ft. Lincoln, there is no connection with Ward 7; residents of Ward 7 would have to travel outside of the District, into Maryland, and back into the District in order to visit the other part of their ward. Thus Ward 7 would not be contiguous with Ft. Lincoln. For Carver-Langston, there is only Benning Road NE to the south. This lack of connectivity would make it difficult to fully integrate the new neighborhoods into the existing Ward 7. Additionally, the Subcommittee received strong opposition from residents of both Ft. Lincoln and Carver-Langston from any such proposal, arguing that any proposal removing them from Ward 5 would split existing communities, both of which are longstanding African-American communities. And finally, Ward 5 does not need to lose residents to meet the equal representation requirement, meaning any expansion into Ward 5 would not help Ward 6 reduce its population, which is necessary to meet the population targets. For these reasons, the Subcommittee does not recommend any expansion of Ward 7 into Ward 5.

- **Extending Ward 6 across the Anacostia River to have three wards east of the Anacostia River**

- Many public maps submitted to the Council have a variation of Ward 6 extending east across the Anacostia River, to have three wards representing residents east of the river. The argument is that this would provide these residents with even more representation, by having three councilmembers represent the residents east of the Anacostia. However, while the Subcommittee understands and appreciates the intentions, the Subcommittee believes this option could be criticized as “cracking” the neighborhoods and diluting their electoral voice. (Cracking is the term for breaking up neighborhoods and dividing them across multiple political jurisdictions, to weaken their electoral power.) Dilution is a serious concern in Wards 7 and 8 because the two wards historically have seen lower turnout in elections. It is difficult, if not impossible, to draw a map that respects neighborhood boundaries and moves enough residents into Ward 6 to significantly affect an election there, while leaving enough residents in Wards 7 and 8 to ensure representation there. This is not a theoretical concern. From 1975 through 2001, Ward 6 represented both Capitol Hill and the Anacostia and Fairlawn neighborhoods. But during those decades, Ward 6 was always represented by a member who lived on the West side of the Anacostia River. Today, the Subcommittee is concerned that any portion of the Anacostia or Fairlawn community added to Ward 6 would be easily drowned out by the existing voters of Ward 6. The Subcommittee has not found a map that avoids this problem, and therefore is not recommending having three wards represent residents east of the river.
- **Extending Ward 7 West to 11<sup>th</sup> Street in Ward 6**
  - Following the release of the Subcommittee’s three discussion maps, some residents testified before the Subcommittee that it should extend Ward 7 farther than 15<sup>th</sup> Street, to 11<sup>th</sup> Street. The argument was that this would allow for more of a cohesive community in Ward 7 and West of the Anacostia River. However, moving the Ward 7 boundary all the way to 11<sup>th</sup> Street would add about another 13,000 residents to Ward 7, both making Ward 7 far too large and Ward 6 too small. Moving the border that far west would therefore necessitate a significant number of other changes, such as pushing the Ward 8 border much farther north. Finally, the Subcommittee is not convinced moving the border to 11<sup>th</sup> Street necessarily changes any of the objections to putting the border at 15<sup>th</sup> Street. For these reasons, the Subcommittee did not move the Ward 7 border to 11<sup>th</sup> Street.
- **Transfer the Southwest Neighborhood to Ward 8**
  - One of the Subcommittee discussion maps, along with many resident-submitted maps, include having Ward 8 absorb all of the Southwest neighborhood West of the Anacostia River. There is a clear logic to this move, as the Southwest neighborhood has very clearly identifiable borders, including either the mall or the highway to its north, the river to the west, and South Capitol Street to the east. Further, the Subcommittee received extensive, and almost unanimous, testimony that the Southwest neighborhood should be considered a single community of interest, and should not be divided, whichever ward it becomes a part of. Additionally, Southwest had been a part of Ward 2 from 1975 through 2001, and might not have as deep of a connection to Ward 6. However,



Southwest is a relatively large neighborhood, which makes it difficult to transfer between wards. As of the 2020 Census, Southwest had more than 16,000 residents. Therefore, transferring Southwest from Ward 6 to Ward 8 comes with two problems: it makes Ward 6 too small (assuming Shaw is transferred to Ward 2) and makes Ward 8 too big. Ward 6 could add residents by pushing its eastern border back to the Anacostia River, and leaving Ward 7 solely on the eastern side of the river. But this would require Ward 7 to grow into Ward 8 to add at least 10,000 residents. This would require either removing both the largely African American communities of Fairlawn and Anacostia from Ward 8, which is the economic heart of Ward 8 and which residents there expressly advocated against moving, or pushing the southeast border of Ward 7 and 8 south to the Suitland Parkway, breaking a border between the two wards that has stayed largely the same for almost 50 years. Also, there is only one connection over the river between Southwest and the current Ward 8; no public transportation currently directly connects Southwest with Ward 8, without going through another ward first. And finally, transferring all of Southwest to Ward 8, and removing at least 10,000 existing residents from Ward 8, raises concerns for the Subcommittee that it would significantly dilute the voting power of the Ward 8 residents who live east of the river. Of the residents of this new Ward 8 (existing Ward 8, plus Southwest, and minus about 10,000 existing residents) who voted in the 2020 Democratic primary, more than 25 percent lived in Southwest. To put it another way, it could be expected that at least 25 percent of votes in the new Ward 8 would be in Southwest, which is both significantly richer and whiter than the existing Ward 8. The Subcommittee is greatly concerned that this could affect representation in Ward 8, and that it could dilute the voting power of African American residents east of the river. Therefore, the Subcommittee cannot recommend transferring the Southwest neighborhood to Ward 8.

- **ANC 6A map**

- Only one Advisory Neighborhood Commission, ANC 6A, officially submitted a map to the Subcommittee. The ANC, which represents the northeast corner of Ward 6, submitted a map, titled “Adjustments to Map 3 (Langston to W6)” and sent a letter to the Council urging the Subcommittee adopt the map or something similar. The map’s main features are transferring all of Southwest and Navy Yard to Ward 8, from Ward 6; expanding Ward 7 south into Ward 8; transferring the Langston neighborhood from Ward 5 to Ward 6; and extending the Ward 6 eastern border back to the Anacostia River, pushing Ward 7 entirely back to the east side of the river. The Subcommittee commends ANC 6A for enthusiastically participating in the redistricting process, both by submitting its map and having multiple commissioners appear before the Subcommittee at multiple hearings. No other ANC participated in redistricting as much as ANC 6A. However, the Subcommittee cannot recommend the map submitted by ANC 6A. It seeks to reunite Kingman Park and Reservation 13 with Ward 6, which is a laudable goal. However, it does so by splitting multiple other communities of color in the District, including Carver-Langston in the north and Anacostia to the south. Further, the map would significantly dilute the

minority vote power in Ward 8. The Subcommittee estimates about 40 percent of the Democratic primary votes would come from the new Ward 8 neighborhoods west of the river, giving those neighborhoods more sway than almost any other neighborhood east of the river in Ward 8. And finally, the plan makes Ward 7 less diverse, both economically and racially. It moves Reservation 13, one of the most significant economic development projects in Ward 7, back to Ward 6, and removes two of the three highest income Census tracts from Ward 7. Ward 7, under this plan, would be less wealthy and less diverse. For these reasons, the Subcommittee cannot recommend this map.

### *Parking*

Throughout the redistricting cycle, the Subcommittee heard from many residents that they were concerned about parking. While it may seem like an incongruous issue to the high-minded issue of preserving democratic ideals, the District is a relatively rare jurisdiction that uses its legislative districts as its parking zones for residential parking permits. This means that whenever the District redraws the ward boundaries, which is a recurring constitutional necessity, the parking zones change too. This therefore makes redistricting even more difficult, as residents may argue against ward boundary changes because it could impact their parking privileges.

From the beginning of the process, the Subcommittee has known this was likely to be an issue, and early on made it clear that the subcommittee print would include legislative language to effectively freeze the current parking zones. In other words, no matter how the wards change, the parking zones would stay the same. The Council did something similar in the 2011 redistricting legislation, allowing the residents of Kingman Park that were transferred to Ward 7 to keep their Ward 6 parking privileges.

The subcommittee print includes language indefinitely preserving the current parking zones in the areas that are being redistricted and that are designated for residential permit parking. This will allow the Council time to consider a larger revision to the residential parking permit program.

### *State Board of Education Candidate Residency*

During this process, a constituent pointed out to the Subcommittee that candidates for the State Board of Education, by law, must reside in their ward for one year before their election. With redistricting, some candidates may find themselves unable to meet this requirement, if they happen to live in an area that is redistricted from one area to another. This one-year requirement does not apply to other elected officials in the District. Under D.C. Official Code § 1-1001.08(b)(1)(A), a ward councilmember must continuously reside in the District (not necessarily their ward) for 90 days before the election. Therefore, the subcommittee print recommends revising the residency requirement applicable to State Board of Education members to mirror the requirement for councilmembers, while also stating that Board members must reside within the school election wards they represent. Whether candidates are sufficiently tied to the wards they hope to represent

is a proper question for voters to decide. Finally, the subcommittee print changes “or” to “and”, consistent with the apparent intent of this list of qualifications for Board members.

## **II. LEGISLATIVE CHRONOLOGY**

May 24, 2021	The Subcommittee on Redistricting held a public roundtable on redistricting and the District of Columbia.
July 13, 2021	B24-371, the “Ward Redistricting Amendment Act of 2021,” was introduced by Councilmember Silverman, Councilmember Henderson, and Councilmember Bonds.
August 10, 2021	B24-371 was referred to the Committee of the Whole with comments from the Subcommittee on Redistricting.
August 13, 2021	Notice of intent to act on B24-371 was published in the <i>D.C. Register</i> .
September 3, 2021	Notice of public hearing on B24-371 was published in the <i>D.C. Register</i> .
September 24, 2021	Revised notice of public hearing on B24-371 was published in the <i>D.C. Register</i> .
September 29, 2021	The Subcommittee on Redistricting held a public hearing on B24-371.
October 18, 2021	The Subcommittee on Redistricting held a roundtable on B24-371 focusing on Ward 8.
October 20, 2021	The Subcommittee on Redistricting held a roundtable on B24-371 focusing on Ward 5.
October 22, 2021	Notices of a second public hearing and eight roundtables were published in the <i>D.C. Register</i> .
October 22, 2021	The Subcommittee on Redistricting held a roundtable on B24-371 focusing on Ward 3.
October 23, 2021	The Subcommittee on Redistricting held a roundtable on B24-371 focusing on Ward 7.
October 25, 2021	The Subcommittee on Redistricting held a roundtable on B24-371 focusing on Ward 2.
October 28, 2021	The Subcommittee on Redistricting held a roundtable on B24-371 focusing on Ward 4.

October 29, 2021      The Subcommittee on Redistricting held a roundtable on B24-371 focusing on Ward 1.

November 3, 2021      The Subcommittee on Redistricting held a roundtable on B24-371 focusing on Ward 6.

November 5, 2021      The Subcommittee on Redistricting held a second public hearing on B24-371.

November 19, 2021      Consideration and vote on B24-371 by the Subcommittee on Redistricting.

### **III. POSITION OF THE EXECUTIVE**

Although the executive declined to express a position on B24-371, the Subcommittee received testimony from Andrew Trueblood, Director of the DC Office of Planning, on OP's efforts to support the redistricting process. OP hosted the online redistricting tool on its website and developed written materials as a reference manual for users. Over a two-week period, OP staff led a series of training sessions for Council staff and 75 interested residents. OP also made relevant census data public and easily accessible on its website. As of the November 5 hearing at which Director Trueblood testified, District residents used the online redistricting tool to create 1,141 user accounts and submit 164 maps.

With great appreciation, the Subcommittee recognizes the contributions of OP and its staff, particularly Dr. Joy Phillips and Mr. Dennis Waardenburg, to the redistricting process. OP has been a strong partner in the Subcommittee's efforts to make the ward redistricting process more transparent and accessible.

### **IV. COMMENTS OF ADVISORY NEIGHBORHOOD COMMISSIONS**

Many ANC commissioners testified in their capacity as individuals on B24-371. Their testimony is summarized in Section V, Hearing Record and Summary of Testimony.

This section summarizes resolutions and other official comments adopted by ANCs.

#### *ANC 2B*

By a 5-2 vote, ANC 2B approved a resolution (available on LIMS as ANC 24-61) requesting the Council leave the Ward 1 and Ward 2 border unchanged along U Street. The resolution states that the current border reflects the long established and widely recognized northern line of the Dupont Circle neighborhood, which is the traditional home of the District's LGBTQ community.

### ANC 2F

The Council received from ANC 2F a formal written comment (available on LIMS as ANC 24-11) requesting the inclusion of at least one representative of each ANC to be appointed to each task force formed to redistrict ANC areas and single-member districts.

### ANC 3D

The Council received from ANC 3D a formal comment (available on LIMS as ANC 24-54) requesting that the Council acknowledge LGBTQ+ residents as protected minority citizens and a community of interest for purposes of redistricting. Noting that District law prohibits the adoption of a redistricting plan that “has the purpose and effect of diluting the voting strength of minority citizens,” ANC 3D urges that the term “minority citizens” should be understood to include LGBTQ+ residents because they are a protected class for purposes of the Civil Rights Act. Further, ANC 3D asserts that the group of LGBTQ+ residents meet criteria set forth in the Voting Rights Act, in light of the group’s history of suffering from official discrimination; polarized voting patterns based on group membership; socioeconomic discrimination in education, employment, and health; overt or subtle appeals against the group in political campaigns; the group’s cohesiveness as a voting bloc; and the degree to which elected officials are unresponsive to the group’s concerns.<sup>22</sup> “Put simply, the Council has a responsibility to protect its LGBTQ+ constituents by accounting for their status as a distinct community of interest through redistricting where practicable.”

The Subcommittee agrees that an LGBTQ+ neighborhood should be recognized as a community of interest. Although LGBTQ+ people reside in every neighborhood, the Dupont Circle neighborhood is well known as a hub for the LGBTQ+ community. Based on testimony and comments received, the Subcommittee has decided to maintain the existing ward boundary between Wards 1 and 2 along U Street, NW, keeping the North Dupont area in Ward 2 along with the LGBTQ+ community around Dupont Circle.

The Subcommittee notes, however, the limitations of decennial census data, which is by law the exclusive data used for redistricting. The 2020 Census questionnaire did not attempt to identify LGBTQ+ respondents, although it asked whether cohabitating individuals belonged to an opposite-sex or same-sex couple. Other Census Bureau datasets, such as those based on the American Community Survey or the Household Pulse Survey, estimate the number of LGBTQ+ individuals, but this survey-based data lacks the geographic precision of the decennial census and is not intended for use in redistricting. As a result, the Subcommittee relied on testimony and other forms of public comment to define the LGBTQ+ community of interest in the Dupont Circle area.

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<sup>22</sup> The Voting Rights Act prohibits redistricting plans that discriminate “on the basis of race, color, or membership in a language minority group,” but it does not prohibit discrimination on other bases. U.S. Dep’t of Justice, *Guidance under Section 2 of the Voting Rights Act, 52 U.S.C. 10301, for redistricting and methods of electing government bodies* (September 1, 2021), available: <https://www.justice.gov/opa/press-release/file/1429486/download>.



With respect to the redistricting of ANC areas and single-member districts, ANC 3D urged equitable representation of LGBTQ+ residents, students, and incarcerated individuals (see also ANC 24-3).

#### *ANC 6A*

The Commission sent a letter to the Subcommittee, opposing any map that doesn't do the following:

- Include ANC single-member districts 6A07, 6A08, 6B09, and 6B10;
- Unite Kingman Park in one ward;
- Contemplate adding part of Census tract 89.04 to Ward 6;
- Keep Southwest and Navy Yard intact and move them to Ward 8.

The Commission's letter also stated its support for discussion map 3.

#### *ANC 7D*

The Commission voted to support discussion map 2, as it unites the Kingman Park neighborhood.

### **V. HEARING RECORD AND SUMMARY OF TESTIMONY**

The Subcommittee held a total of eleven public hearings and roundtables on B24-371, including eight ward-based roundtables.

#### **First City-Wide Public Hearing**

The Subcommittee on Redistricting held a public hearing on B24-371 on Wednesday, September 29, 2021, at 11:00 a.m. A video recording of the public hearing is available at [http://dc.granicus.com/MediaPlayer.php?view\\_id=22&clip\\_id=6729](http://dc.granicus.com/MediaPlayer.php?view_id=22&clip_id=6729). The hearing record remained open until 5:00p.m on November 12, 2021. The public witnesses' testimonies are summarized below.

#### **Public Witnesses**

*Corey Holman, Commissioner, ANC 6B06*

Commissioner Holman noted that it was not his intention to tell the subcommittee how to draw the lines, but rather focused his testimony on asking a series of questions to gauge the goals of the subcommittee. The first item that Commissioner Holman sought clarity on was if the subcommittee aspired to have roughly equal populations across all wards, or if the goal was to simply satisfy the legal minimums. He added that it was his preference to have equal populations no matter the consequences. The second concept Commissioner Holman discussed was whether the subcommittee had any thoughts about small populations on either side of natural boundaries,

noting that he felt it was the Council's obligation to ensure that small populations across boundaries were significant enough to have representation. With regards to parking, Commissioner Holman urged the Council to freeze the parking lines and let the Committee on Transportation and Environment's RPP parking study funded by the FY2022 BSA work through the legislative process. Commissioner Holman concluded his testimony by articulating his proposed redrawn map.

*Zachary Israel, Commissioner, ANC 4D04*

Commissioner Israel's testimony focused on the redistricting process for ANC boundaries, emphasizing four criteria that the Council should consider: geographical contiguity, geographical compactness, neighborhoods and communities of interest, and easily identifiable boundaries. Additionally, Commissioner Israel asked the subcommittee to avoid having ANCs split various neighborhoods within the District. He also noted his preference that each Commission be structured with between 8-10 commissioners, to ensure that the workload can be evenly managed. In response to a rumor the Council could increase the size of each SMD from 2,000 people to a larger number that would allow the current total number of 296 SMDs to remain constant for the upcoming decade, Commissioner Israel stressed that the current composition of each SMD with 2,000 residents is a good balance and urged the Council to maintain the status quo in that regard. Lastly, Commissioner Israel articulated his position against having incumbent Advisory Neighborhood Commissioners and their immediate family members serving on task forces for either the ward or ANC redistricting processes.

*Matt LaFortune, public witness*

Mr. LaFortune urged the Council to maintain compact and cohesive wards. He asserted that the Council must maintain communities of interest within the wards to foster neighborhood collective action.

*Antoinette Harper, President, The Federal City Alumnae Chapter of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Incorporated*

Ms. Harper expressed concern over the potential for voter dilution among minoritized communities, specifically communities in Wards 7 and 8. Ms. Harper discussed the importance of compactness, contiguity, and political and geological boundaries. With regards to compactness, Ms. Harper expressed that there are various methods that can be used to measure the compactness of a district. With that being the case, she asks the Council which method would it use? Ms. Harper continued her testimony by explaining the differences between racial, political, and prison gerrymandering, expressing her concerns that coincide with each process. Finally, Ms. Harper pleaded with the subcommittee to avoid drawing the lines in a manner that would further increase racially isolated wards.

*Nolan Treadway, public witness*

Mr. Treadway discussed previous issues surrounding the redrawing of ANC lines, and he subsequently asked the Council to be mindful of these problems during this redistricting process.

*Christopher Williams, Editor-in-chief, Southwest Voice: The People's Paper*

Mr. Williams argued that Southwest has had poor political representation for a long time. He expressed concern over the displacement of Black residents in Southwest. He further asserted that Wards 7 and 8 need to grow largely in part due to the prejudiced way the city has previously drawn political districts.

*David Stephen, Political and Legislative Director, Metropolitan Washington Council*

Mr. Stephen expressed gratitude for the potential of the redistricting process being fair, transparent, and resident driven. He urged the Council to keep in mind the political empowerment of working-class and low-income residents in the city who live in underserved communities.

*Gail Fast, public witness*

During her testimony, Ms. Fast articulated that geographic continuity is one of the factors the Council must consider when determining redistricting. As a resident of Southwest, Ms. Fast argued against splitting the community along M Street. However, should Southwest need to be redistricted, Ms. Fast is in favor of redistricting the entire Southwest together instead of splitting it in half.

*Sondra Phillips-Gilbert, Commissioner, ANC 6A07*

As a member of the Rosedale community, Commissioner Phillips-Gilbert recounted how Rosedale faced threats of being placed into Ward 7 during a previous redistricting process. She expressed her dissatisfaction with that potential plan and urged the Council to keep Rosedale in Ward 6. She recommended that the Council examine the areas of Ward 6 that experienced the greatest population growth, and to redistrict those areas if necessary. Commissioner Phillips-Gilbert also made known her fear that wealthier residents in Ward 6 would get to remain, while impoverished, less well-off communities would have to be placed in other Wards.

*Mary Alice Levine, Finance Secretary, Ward 3 Democratic Committee*

Ms. Levine expressed her displeasure regarding the absence of an independent redistricting commission and argued that members of the Council should not be a part of the process of redrawing ward and ANC lines. With an emphasis on fairness, Ms. Levine urged the Council to appoint non-stakeholders to the ANC redistricting task forces. Additionally, Ms. Levine asked the Council to have an independent body oversee the redistricting process in 2031.

*Francis Campbell, public witness*

While Mr. Campbell expressed strong opposition to the label of “Hill East”, he argued that the community should remain in Ward 6.

*Pierre Hines, Commissioner, ANC 5C03*

Commissioner Hines argued that Fort Lincoln should remain in Ward 5. He urged the Council to keep the current Ward 5 boundaries intact.

*Shirley Rivens Smith, Chair, North Woodridge*

Ms. Smith discussed housing inequity and expressed concern regarding the seemingly lack of affordable housing in the District. She further articulated how her neighborhood had changed since the previous redistricting process.

*Alexander Padro, public witness*

Mr. Padro expressed support for Shaw returning to Ward 2. He claimed that many of his neighbors hadn't even realized that they were no longer residents of Ward 2.

*Marian Douglas-Ungaro, public witness*

Ms. Douglas-Ungaro expressed concerns regarding racial equity and highlighted the displacement of Black residents as an issue that needed to be addressed.

*Paul Johnson, Commissioner, ANC 4C07*

Commissioner Johnson urged the Council to be aware of the potential dilution of political power for Black families and youth.

*Hugh Allen, public witness*

Mr. Allen recommended that the Council convene a working group in 2022 to initiate research and review the best practices of nonpartisan redistricting commissions. Based on this research and review, Mr. Allen would like the working group to develop a report with recommendations to be submitted to the Council, who would subsequently establish a permanent nonpartisan redistricting commission for carrying out the District's decennial redistricting process for ward and ANC boundaries in 2030. Mr. Allen argued that a nonpartisan redistricting commission would enhance transparency and maintain integrity.

### **Public Roundtable Focusing on Ward 8**

The Subcommittee on Redistricting held a public roundtable on B24-371 on Monday, October 18, 2021, at 6:30p.m. A video recording of the public roundtable is available at [http://dc.granicus.com/MediaPlayer.php?view\\_id=22&clip\\_id=6768](http://dc.granicus.com/MediaPlayer.php?view_id=22&clip_id=6768) . The hearing record remained open until 5:00p.m on November 12, 2021. The public witnesses' testimonies are summarized below.

## **Public Witnesses**

*Salim Adofo, Commissioner, ANC 8C*

Commissioner Adofo articulated that the voting power of Black and Latino residents in Wards 7 and 8 would remain after the redistricting process. He also argued that the redistricting process would have no impact on the economic development of communities in Wards 7 and 8.

*Brittany G. Cummings, Commissioner, ANC 8E06*

Commissioner Cummings noted her preference that changes made to Ward 8 be fair, equitable, and considerate of the current population. She then went on to express a concern that adding affluent areas of current Ward 6 into Ward 8 could accelerate gentrification east of the river. Commissioner Cummings advocated for an equitable distribution of community necessities across the new ward, which would mean adding grocery stores, retail, and other services east of the river. She also argued the necessity of affordable housing in the future newly redrawn Ward 8 and asked the Council to ensure that the redistricting process be as transparent as possible.

*Jamila White, Commissioner, ANC 8A*

Commissioner White expressed the sentiment that redistricting presents an opportunity for the Ward to be reimaged. She argued that the process should be centered around equity, access, and inclusion.

*Brian Thompson, Commissioner, ANC 8A03*

Commissioner Thompson began his testimony by noting that he submitted two draft map proposals for the Subcommittee's reference. By submitting maps, Commissioner Thompson hoped that the city's economic prosperity could be united with the diversity of its residents. Commissioner Thompson's "Navy Yard" map plan balances demographic and economic populations east and west of the Anacostia River in a manner that he feels reflects the sizable Ward 6 and 8 populations at 1 and 2 standard deviations above and below the AMI. The "DC Wharf" plan submitted by Commissioner Thompson followed a similar approach to balancing the economic and demographic disparities of city representation for residents located east and west of the river. A core goal of his design was enhancing demographic engagement across a natural topographical boundary by having residents of wards 6, 7, and 8 become mutually engaged in communicating with city government.

*Troy Prestwood, President, Ward 8 Democrats*

Mr. Prestwood emphasized that redistricting must be done in order to follow the law. He endorsed the concept of Ward 8 expanding into current Ward 6 west of the river.



## **Public Roundtable Focusing on Ward 5**

The Subcommittee on Redistricting held a public roundtable on B24-371 on Wednesday, October 20, 2021, at 10:30a.m. A video recording of the public roundtable is available at [http://dc.granicus.com/MediaPlayer.php?view\\_id=22&clip\\_id=6783](http://dc.granicus.com/MediaPlayer.php?view_id=22&clip_id=6783) . The hearing record remained open until 5:00p.m on November 12, 2021. The public witnesses' testimonies are summarized below.

### **Public Witnesses**

*Gordon-Andrew Fletcher, Commissioner, ANC 5A08*

Commissioner Fletcher expressed his fondness of Ward 5's diversity and proclaimed that the diversity is the Ward's strength. He argued that redistricting efforts must consider the consequences any changes may have on the racial and economic inequity in the Ward. Therefore, Commissioner Fletcher supports redistricting plans that designate two ANC Commissioners to serve the residents of Fort Lincoln.

*Marcia Lee, public witness*

Ms. Lee argued that Fort Lincoln should remain in Ward 5 due to the neighborhood having a better relationship with its current ward. She asserted that Fort Lincoln becoming a part of Ward 7 would negatively impact property values and added that current Fort Lincoln residents would have to travel too far for services in Ward 7.

*Pierre Hines, Commissioner, ANC 5C03*

Commissioner Hines emphasized the point that Ward 5 does not need to change. He further argued that Fort Lincoln should remain in Ward 5.

*Geoffrey Hatchard, public witness*

Mr. Hatchard discussed his submitted map. He further described his efforts to make as little changes as possible to the existing map, to keep wards compact and contiguous, and to avoid splitting Census Tracts.

*Jeremiah Montague Jr, Commissioner, ANC 5C07*

Commissioner Montague noted potential future development in Ward 5 that the Census data does not reflect. He articulated his belief that the Anacostia River would cease being a natural barrier to equity as a result of the redistricting process.

## **Public Roundtable Focusing on Ward 3**

The Subcommittee on Redistricting held a public roundtable on B24-371 on Friday, October 22, 2021, at 2:00p.m. A video recording of the public roundtable is available at

[http://dc.granicus.com/MediaPlayer.php?view\\_id=22&clip\\_id=6787](http://dc.granicus.com/MediaPlayer.php?view_id=22&clip_id=6787) . The hearing record remained open until 5:00p.m on November 12, 2021. The public witnesses' testimonies are summarized below.

## **Public Witnesses**

*Randy Speck, Commissioner, ANC 3/4G03*

Commissioner Speck noted his involvement in the 2000 redistricting process when parts of the ward boundaries between Wards 3 and 4 were redrawn. Because of that process, Commissioner Speck pointed out that his SMD is the only SMD in the District that includes residents from two wards. While there was some trepidation in 2001 when the ward boundaries were redrawn, he proclaimed that the shift has worked extraordinarily well. Two benefits have been particularly evident in the opinion of Commissioner Speck. First, he noted that connections with Ward 4 have been strengthened as they have identified shared interests. Second, Commissioner Speck and his constituents have appreciated having two councilmembers who could assist and guide them on projects that affect both wards. In sum, despite early reservations, Commissioner Speck maintained the current ward configuration have worked well. He argued that the Council should retain the current boundaries between Ward 3 and Ward 4 in the Chevy Chase, Barnaby Woods, and Hawthorne neighborhoods.

*Bob Ward, Chair, Cleveland Park Smart Growth*

Mr. Ward argued that the distribution of ANCs across the ward should be guided by a corridor-centric framing. He noted that the current ANC map reflects this, at least generally speaking. There are also the examples that Mr. Ward argued go out of their way to snub the corridor-centric view of neighborhoods. Mr. Ward pointed out that there are six ANCs in Ward 3: one with 10 commissioners, one with 9, two with seven and two with five. With such a large disparity of districts, Mr. Ward argued that adjustments can be made. Should the population size of SMDs be increased, he maintained that reorganization of the ANC and SMD boundaries will necessitate changes across the ward and city anyway.

*Phil Thomas, public witness*

Mr. Thomas recommended that the subcommittee be an unbiased party when redrawing ward boundaries. He also argued that no current ANC Commissioner should be allowed to sit on the Ward Task Forces that will be tasked with redrawing the ANC lines.

## **Public Roundtable Focusing on Ward 7**

The Subcommittee on Redistricting held a public roundtable on B24-371 on Saturday, October 23, 2021, at 1:00p.m. A video recording of the public roundtable is available at [http://dc.granicus.com/MediaPlayer.php?view\\_id=22&clip\\_id=6788](http://dc.granicus.com/MediaPlayer.php?view_id=22&clip_id=6788) . The hearing record remained open until 5:00p.m on November 12, 2021. The public witnesses' testimonies are summarized below.

## **Public Witnesses**

*Delia Houseal, Commissioner, ANC 7E*

Commissioner Houseal proposed a set of three core principles or values that she believed would ensure fair representation for Ward 7 residents while maintaining and creating communities of interest. The first principle is equity. She articulated her belief in there being a disproportionate distribution of access to basic resources and amenities, thus highlighting the need for the Council to finalize boundaries that would promote the fair and equitable distribution of resources and assets throughout each ward. Second, Commissioner Houseal urged the Council to finalize boundaries that would empower and include communities that are traditionally marginalized and disenfranchised. The third principle is diversity. Commissioner Houseal noted that the District represents a diverse melting pot of individuals from various races, ethnicities, and social strata, however, she also argued that many of the wards lack diversity and are in many ways robbed of the opportunity to capitalize on the strengths that diversity brings.

*Sherice Muhammad, public witness*

Ms. Muhammad articulated a two-facet mission that she hoped redistricting could accomplish: one, to strategically rebalance our population by reviewing further plausible shifts into Wards 5 (Langston Golf Course, National Arboretum, Fort Lincoln), Ward 6 (Rosedale, further into Kingman Park), and Ward 8 (Fairlawn, Anacostia); and two, assist the constituents of Ward 7 to make improvements so that they are able to enjoy the amenities that other city residents are enjoying.

*Keith Hasan-Towery, public witness*

Mr. Hasan-Towery discussed the ways Ward 7 has changed during the previous 3 redistricting cycles. He then demonstrated a map proposal he created that would expand Ward 7 into what is currently Ward 6 and articulated the choices he made when completing the map.

*Brian Thompson, Commissioner, ANC 8A*

Commissioner Thompson emphasized the concept of maintaining natural boundaries. He expressed a preference for Wards 6 and 8 to have jurisdiction on both sides of the river.

*Dorothy Douglas, Commissioner, ANC 7D*

Commissioner Douglas recounted the time when the District didn't have wards and noted that things seemed to be more equal when that was the case. She also expressed a concern regarding equity in the city.

*Villareal Johnson, Hillcrest Community Civic Association*

Mr. Johnson emphasized the importance of equity during the redistricting process. He argued that increasing the populations of Wards 7 and 8, and subsequently having more voters in the wards, would politically empower both parts of the city.

*Tamara Blair, Commissioner, ANC7D01*

Commissioner Blair asked that every effort be made to not divide neighborhoods like Kingman Park which consists of Census Tracts 79.03 and 79.01. Since Ward 7 expanded into Census Tract 79.03 (Kingman Park) in 2011, Commissioner Blair argued that it makes sense to reunite the neighborhood by expanding to include Census Tract 79.01 which is technically the western boundary of Kingman Park as a whole. Census Tract 79.03 (SMD 7D01 portion of Kingman Park) is unique because it is separated from the majority of Ward 7 by the natural boundary of the Anacostia River. In essence, Commissioner Blair articulated that her community felt twice divided - separated by the river and separated by the Ward 7 boundary (redrawn in 2011) from the other half of Kingman Park. She asked that the Council add Census Tracts 79.01, 68.01, and 68.02 to Ward 7, and also asked that Kingman Park be reunited.

*Thomas Houston, Executive Director, Medici Road*

Mr. Houston focused his testimony solely on the data, and purposefully disregarded the future electoral consequences that redistricting could have on a Councilmember's political career. He argued that the redistricting conversation should focus on education, public health, public safety, housing, and economic development.

*Joel Castón, Commissioner, ANC 7F*

Commissioner Castón advocated that residents in the District jail should have a political voice after the Council finishes the citywide redistricting process. When the Council begins the ANC redistricting phase of the process, Commissioner Castón expressed that he would like to see residents in the jail be able to seek elected office.

*Wendell Felder, Chair, Ward 7 Democrats*

In a series of recommendations, Mr. Felder asked that the Council be intentional about what neighborhoods are being added into Ward 7. Further, Mr. Felder asked the Council to not dilute marginalized communities of color who may already have low-voter turnout. Finally, Mr. Felder encouraged the committee to consider including Ward 5 as a part of Ward 7's redistricting boundaries.

*Eboni-Rose Thompson, Ward 7 Representative, State Board of Education*

Ms. Thompson urged the Council to prioritize community during the redistricting process. She argued that Ward 7 should expand into current Ward 6 with 15th street serving as a boundary.

Ms. Thompson also indicated her preference of Ward 7 gaining portions of Ward 5, specifically the Carver-Langston community.

*Angela London, public witness*

Ms. London noted her residency in Ward 7 and expressed concern for the neglect and disregard she felt the ward receives. She asked the Council to make decisions based solely on the math.

*Tyrell Holcomb, Commissioner, ANC 7F*

Commissioner Holcomb emphasized the need for an awareness around equity as the District engages in the redistricting process. He also argued that the redistricting process presents an opportunity for more schools to be integrated into Ward 7 as the ward increases in size.

*Barbara Morgan, public witness*

Ms. Morgan urged the Council to extend Ward 7 further into Ward 6. She also expressed interest in greater economic development for Ward 7.

*David Retland, Chairman, Marshall Heights Community Development Corporation, Inc.*

Mr. Retland maintained that 2021 redistricting effort must address and correct the four following disparities: economics, demographics, housing, and density, in addition to projected population growth. He also recommended a) Establishing a Task Force to address the many challenges posed by redistricting; b) Supporting the funding of a 90-day Redistricting, Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Study to help guide decisions and the future direction of the Council; and c) Supporting all legal remedies to ensure that Wards 7 and 8 and all underserved communities are not disenfranchised in the redistricting process.

*Julie Rones, The Law Office of Julie E. Rones, PLLC*

Ms. Rones emphasized the need for maintaining communities and interest and avoiding political dilution during the redistricting process. She requested that the Council expand Ward 7 west of the river.

*Ambrose Lane, Jr., Health Alliance Network*

Mr. Lane expressed opposition to Ward 7 potentially being expanded to reach the Fort Lincoln community in Ward 5. He argued that such a move would create an unnecessary island. In addition, Mr. Lane endorsed the idea of Ward 7 expanding into Hill East and the Heckinger Mall area.

## **Public Roundtable Focusing on Ward 2**

The Subcommittee on Redistricting held a public roundtable on B24-371 on Monday, October 25, 2021, at 2:00p.m. A video recording of the public roundtable is available at

[http://dc.granicus.com/MediaPlayer.php?view\\_id=22&clip\\_id=6828](http://dc.granicus.com/MediaPlayer.php?view_id=22&clip_id=6828) . The hearing record remained open until 5:00p.m on November 12, 2021. The public witnesses' testimonies are summarized below.

## **Public Witnesses**

*Donald Friedman, President, Sheridan-Kalorama Neighborhood Council*

Mr. Friedman testified in favor of Sheridan-Kalorama remaining within Ward 2 and of ANC 2D remaining in its present two-member form.

*Donna Hays, Vice-President, Sheridan-Kalorama Neighborhood Council*

Ms. Hays expressed a preference of the Sheridan-Kalorama neighborhood remaining in Ward 2.

*Marie Drissel, public witness*

Ms. Drissel requested that Sheridan-Kalorama remain in Ward 2, and that the ANC remain a two-member ANC.

*Virginia Lee, public witness*

Ms. Lee articulated her belief that boundaries should reflect compactness, contiguity and fairness. She also noted her expectation that the redistricting process for the District be equitable, and further explained that this is in alignment with DC's Racial Equity Achieves Results Act 2020. Ms. Lee expressed a preference for the lines to not be drawn in a way that further increases racially isolated wards.

*Juan Ulloa, public witness*

Mr. Ulloa argued that the western border of Ward 7 can be expanded into the immediately adjacent neighborhoods in Ward 6. In addition, he maintained that the northwest border of Ward 8 can expand north into the immediately adjacent neighborhoods in Ward 6. By his calculations, these changes would place all eight wards within the allowable population range.

## **Public Roundtable Focusing on Ward 4**

The Subcommittee on Redistricting held a public roundtable on B24-371 on Thursday, October 28, 2021, at 10:00a.m. A video recording of the public roundtable is available at [http://dc.granicus.com/MediaPlayer.php?view\\_id=22&clip\\_id=6829](http://dc.granicus.com/MediaPlayer.php?view_id=22&clip_id=6829) . The hearing record remained open until 5:00p.m on November 12, 2021. The public witnesses' testimonies are summarized below.



## **Public Witnesses**

*Randy Speck, Commissioner, ANC 3/4G*

Despite early reservations, Commissioner Speck argued that the current ward configuration has worked well. He advocated that the Council retain the current boundaries between Ward 3 and Ward 4 in the Chevy Chase, Barnaby Woods, and Hawthorne neighborhoods.

*Selerya Moore, Social Action Chair, Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc. Washington DC Alumnae and Federal City Alumnae Chapters*

Ms. Moore recommended that Ward 4 maintain the current boundaries and ANC lines, further recommending there not be any changes to Ward 4.

*Zachary Israel, Commissioner, ANC 4D*

Commissioner Israel argued that Ward 4's population in the redistricting process should not change, due to his prediction that the population would eventually exceed 86,193, the average ward population target. While Commissioner Israel proposed no changes to the residential boundaries, he articulated that he felt the remaining large swaths of Rock Creek Park currently located in Ward 3 should be moved to Ward 4.

*Paul Johnson, Commissioner, ANC 4C*

Commissioner Johnson expressed pleasure surrounding sentiments of avoiding the dilution of Black and Latino voting power in the ward. He also emphasized the need for a transparent redistricting process.

*Gavin Baker, public witness*

Mr. Baker recommended that the Council consider moving tract 95.08 from Ward 5 to Ward 4 as it would leave both wards within the legal population limits. He proposed this for two reasons. First, he felt it would align the ward boundaries with the neighborhood and the citizens association. In addition, that neighborhood boundary also would reflect a natural boundary, which is Fort Circle Park.

*Evan Yeats, Commissioner, ANC 4B*

Commissioner Yeats noted the potential for population growth and Ward 4 and emphasized the need for the new Commissions and Commissioners to have the extra support that would be needed.

*Carolyn Cook, public witness*

Ms. Cook argued that residents of Ward 4 who live west of Rock Creek Park lack adequate political representation as they cannot vote in Ward 3 affairs. She requested that communities of Ward 4 that are west of the park be returned to Ward 3.

### **Public Roundtable Focusing on Ward 1**

The Subcommittee on Redistricting held a public roundtable on B24-371 on Friday, October 29, 2021, at 2:00p.m. A video recording of the public roundtable is available at [http://dc.granicus.com/MediaPlayer.php?view\\_id=22&clip\\_id=6830](http://dc.granicus.com/MediaPlayer.php?view_id=22&clip_id=6830) . The hearing record remained open until 5:00p.m on November 12, 2021. The public witnesses' testimonies are summarized below.

#### **Public Witnesses**

*Peter Wood, Commissioner, ANC 1C*

Commissioner Wood urged the Council to consider potential adjustments. He argued that census tracts 42.01 and 43 should be unified in the same Ward as it would reduce the number of divided census tracts, further improve the geographic compactness of Wards 1 and 2, and would help prevent stagnant population growth of Ward 1 compared to other Wards.

*Meg Roggensack, Commissioner, ANC 2B*

Commissioner Roggensack argued that the possibility of her ANC shifting to Ward 1 would be detrimental the communities economic, political, and cultural cohesion.

*Frank Chauvin, public witness*

Mr. Chauvin discussed the history and importance of the U Street corridor.

*Michael Wray, Commissioner, ANC 1A*

Commissioner Wray supported the idea of the Armed Forces Retirement Home shifting from Ward 5 to Ward 1.

*Stanley Mayes, public witness*

Mr. Mayes articulated the neighborhood cohesion of U Street and recounted the history of the community being split.

### **Public Roundtable Focusing on Ward 6**

The Subcommittee on Redistricting held a public roundtable on B24-371 on Wednesday, November 3, 2021, at 10:00a.m. A video recording of the public roundtable is available at [http://dc.granicus.com/MediaPlayer.php?view\\_id=22&clip\\_id=6832](http://dc.granicus.com/MediaPlayer.php?view_id=22&clip_id=6832) and [http://dc.granicus.com/MediaPlayer.php?view\\_id=22&clip\\_id=6833](http://dc.granicus.com/MediaPlayer.php?view_id=22&clip_id=6833) . The hearing record

remained open until 5:00p.m on November 12, 2021. The public witnesses' testimonies are summarized below.

## **Public Witnesses**

*Corey Holman, Commissioner, ANC 6B*

Commissioner Holman recommended that the Council should draw the boundary for Ward 7 at 15th Street NE/SE only in Ward 6 and move the 2300 block of Pennsylvania Ave SE to Ward 8. In addition, Commissioner Holman suggested that the subcommittee draw the boundary for Ward 8 to include Southeast Ward 6 south of M Street SE, and the high-density zoned blocks north of M Street SE bounded by South Capitol Street, the Southeast Freeway, and 3rd Street SE. Ward 8 should also include the Grays on the 2300 Block of Pennsylvania Ave SE.

*Denise Krepp, Commissioner, ANC 6B*

Commissioner Krepp expressed dissatisfaction with the idea of drawing a boundary along 15<sup>th</sup> street due to her belief that a neighborhood would be divided. She urged the Council not to draw the boundary on 15<sup>th</sup> street and suggested using 19<sup>th</sup> street as an alternative.

*Alison Horn, Commissioner, ANC 6B*

Commissioner Horn acknowledged the reality that after redrawing political boundaries, the physical homes of residents wouldn't be moving. She expressed gratitude that parking zones would potentially be frozen in their current form, and further urged the Council to keep ANC boundaries in mind when drawing the Ward boundaries.

*Matt LaFortune, public witness*

Mr. LaFortune recommended that the Shaw neighborhood be reunited with Ward 2 and that the border should be drawn along New York Avenue and 7<sup>th</sup> St. NW. With regards to Ward 7, Mr. LaFortune asked the subcommittee to prioritize drawing concise wards with borders that can be clearly explained and that do not isolate residents due to natural boundaries. When discussing Ward 8, he articulated that by including the census tracts with multifamily housing in Navy Yard within Ward 8, the map does not unnecessarily dilute voting power of east of the river residents while providing enough population for a Navy Yard ANC.

*Iris Bond-Gill, member, Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc., Washington DC Alumnae and Federal City Alumnae Chapters*

Ms. Bond-Gill presented a series of proposals specific to Ward 6. Since the Washington Convention Center currently sits in Ward 6, Ms. Bond-Gill recommended that it and the adjacent community be moved to Ward 2. In addition, she recommended that Ward 6's Kingman Park neighborhood, the RFK Stadium, and the community adjacent to it should be redistributed to Ward 7. Finally, Ms. Bond-Gill argued that Ward 8's boundaries should be extended to include

the following areas in Ward 6: Buzzard Point, Fort McNair and the Washington Navy Yard community.

*Sondra Phillips-Gilbert, Commissioner, ANC 6A*

Commissioner Phillips-Gilbert urged the Council to keep the Rosedale community in Ward 6. She also asked the Council to ensure that fragile undeserved Black communities in Ward 6 such as Rosedale, remain an integral part of the Ward 6 community and not be pushed into other wards where many Black communities are already underserved and struggling to maintain the basic cost of living and quality of life.

*Brian Alcorn, Commissioner, ANC 6A*

Commissioner Alcorn argued that it is not in the interest or benefit of the community to sever parts of the Hill East, Rosedale, and parts of Kingman Park from Ward 6.

*Fredrica Kramer, Commissioner, ANC 6D05*

Commissioner Kramer urged the Council not to split up Southwest during the redistricting process. She also cautioned that shifting the boundaries of Southwest and making it a part of Ward 8 might dilute some of the strength of the minority electorate in Ward 8, thus violating the principle of "...[maintaining] the voting strength of minority citizens."

*Brian Thompson, Commissioner, ANC 8A*

Commissioner Thompson expressed his support for keeping Southwest unified. He asserted that discussion map #3 makes the most sense in that it keeps residents with long-standing ties to their communities in their current ward.

*John Thornburgh, public witness*

Mr. Thornburgh noted that many of his neighbors in Shaw had a preference to be placed back into Ward 2. While Mr. Thornburgh did not personally profess a preference for a particular Ward, he did advocate for more cohesive treatment of the Shaw community.

*Gail Fast, public witness*

Ms. Fast urged the subcommittee to keep the Southwest community together, regardless of any changes to ward boundaries. Ms. Fast further expressed a preference for Southwest to remain in Ward 6.

*Georgine Wallace, President, Friends of the SW Library*

Ms. Wallace articulated that her preference to remain in Ward 6 stems from the fact that many of the contacts she utilizes for her community work are Ward 6 specific. She asserted that it would

take time for her to build new relationships with the ward liaisons of different agencies if she were to become a member of another ward.

*Vinh Ly, President, Board of Directors, Harbour Square Owners, Inc.*

Mr. Ly argued that maintaining Southwest in Ward 6 and keeping the Southwest community intact is critical. He further articulated that keeping the Southwest community whole during the redistricting process would preserve the relationships that function as a critical conduit between grassroots community leaders and District agencies and elected decision makers.

*Andy Litsky, Commissioner, ANC 6D*

Commissioner Litsky advocated to keep Southwest in Ward 6. In addition, Commissioner Litsky expressed his endorsement of keeping Southwest whole.

*Charles Hicks, Board Member, Waterside Towers Tenants Association*

Mr. Hicks noted that residents of Southwest have worked hard to stay together as a community. He expressed support for discussion map #2.

*Brynn Barnett, public witness*

Ms. Barnett recounted efforts of the Capitol Hill community rallying to stay together ten years ago. She expressed hope that the redistricting process would keep as many communities and neighbors intact as possible.

*Villareal Johnson, BBCP Leadership, LLC*

Mr. Johnson emphasized the disparity of populations and voters that the Census data has revealed. While Mr. Johnson acknowledged that he did not have the answers, he urged the Council to think about equity and how to possibly address the lack of voters and voter turnout in Wards 7 and 8.

*Maddison Veliz, public witness*

Ms. Veliz expressed her opposition to the Ward boundaries shifting in a manner that would affect her home. She noted her investment in Ward 6's small businesses, in addition to her family being in Ward 6 as reasons for her opposition.

*Tamara Blair, Commissioner, ANC 7D*

Commissioner Blair expressed her belief that one-third of Kingman Park is essentially an island adjacent to no other residential communities. She argued that the Council has the opportunity to correct this by expanding Ward 7.

*Sydelle Moore, Commissioner, ANC 5D*

Commissioner Moore expressed strong opposition to the idea of including ANC 5D into Ward 7. She argued that such a move would negatively impact racial equity in the District.

*Pleasant Mann, public witness*

Mr. Mann noted that Shaw had previously been a part of Ward 2 dating back to Home Rule. He advocated against the Council splitting the Census Tracts within the Shaw neighborhood.

*Benisse Lester, public witness*

Ms. Lester requested that Southwest be kept intact during the redistricting process. She also requested that current ward parking privileges be maintained.

*Chander Jayaraman, public witness*

Mr. Jayaraman expressed a preference for discussion map #3 due to his belief that the map kept Southwest compact. While he preferred map #3, he articulated edits that he believed to be helpful in enhancing the map, including keeping Rosedale and Kingman Park together.

*John Ten Hoeve, public witness*

Mr. Ten Hoeve suggested that the Council maintain current parking zones on a long-term basis. He expressed a preference for Hill East to remain in Ward 6 due to the work he has participated in that is ward specific. However, Mr. Ten Hoeve noted that should the subcommittee decide to redistrict Hill East into Ward 7, he would like to see the boundary be drawn even farther, possibly up to 11<sup>th</sup> street.

*Alex Lopez, Commissioner, ANC 6E*

Commissioner Lopez implored the Council to avoid redistricting the Ward 6 “stovepipe” in Shaw back to Ward 2, or to any other ward in this redistricting cycle. In addition, Commissioner Lopez argued that it should be the policy of the Council to not redistrict the same area twice in two decennial cycles and claimed that this rule is justified based on voting rights and representation.

*Alexander Padro, Executive Director, Shaw Main Streets*

Mr. Padro expressed his support for Shaw returning to Ward 2. He also articulated challenges that stem from all of Shaw not being in a single ward.



*Gary Peterson, public witness*

Mr. Peterson acknowledged the difficulty in clearly defining what exactly constitutes the Capitol Hill neighborhood. He also expressed concern over the historic district within Capitol Hill being divided during the redistricting process.

*Nancy Yacoub, public witness*

Ms. Yacoub argued that discussion maps #1 and #2 are not agreeable for residents who live on 15<sup>th</sup> Street NE. She articulated her displeasure regarding proposals that would divide her community.

*Francis Campbell, public witness*

Mr. Campbell expressed strong objections to the use of the term “Hill East”. He argued that Capitol Hill ought to remain in Ward 6.

*Nathan Schuh, public witness*

Mr. Schuh asked the Council to respect the Code of the District of Columbia, section § 1–1011.01. He recognized that Ward 6 needs to have revised boundaries but asked that the committee respect the law and follow the census tract boundaries when revising the Ward 6 boundaries "to the greatest extent possible".

*Chris Williams, DC Grassroots Planning Coalition*

Mr. Williams expressed a preference for discussion map #3. He cautioned that voter dilution is a serious issue and argued against examining racial demographics without simultaneously examining socioeconomic status.

*Kenan Jarboe, public witness*

Mr. Jarboe argued that only discussion map #3 met the multi-pronged test for redistricting. He maintained that discussion maps #1 and #2 failed at keeping communities of interest together.

*Andrew Martin, public witness*

Mr. Martin argued in favor of reuniting Kingman Park and bringing the community into Ward 6. He expressed concern that adoption of discussion maps #1 or #2 would create an island along 15<sup>th</sup> Street, and further commented that 15<sup>th</sup> Street doesn't make sense as a boundary due to the absence of a natural boundary.

*Lynnettra Artis, public witness*

Ms. Artis argued against the Southwest community being placed into Ward 8. She maintained that the voting blocks of Southwest do not align with the politics of Ward 8, so to merge the two would be ineffective.

*Marita Starr, public witness*

Ms. Starr articulated current parking challenges her family faces and argued that the challenges would grow more intense if she were to become a resident of Ward 7. She also discussed the possibility of being shut out of conversations regarding development happening blocks from her residence if she were to become a resident of Ward 7.

*Mattie Sharpless, public witness*

Ms. Sharpless emphasized the diversity of the Southwest community and articulated the cohesiveness of the neighborhood.

*David H. Ehrlich, public witness*

Mr. Ehrlich articulated his belief that Southwest as it currently exists, is a very tightly knit, heterogeneous community. He implored the Council to use what he deemed as wisdom and common sense to leave as much of the Southwest community intact as possible.

### **Final City-Wide Public Hearing**

The Subcommittee on Redistricting held a public hearing on B24-371 on Friday, November 5, 2021, at 12:00p.m. A video recording of the public hearing is available at [http://dc.granicus.com/MediaPlayer.php?view\\_id=22&clip\\_id=6848](http://dc.granicus.com/MediaPlayer.php?view_id=22&clip_id=6848) and [http://dc.granicus.com/MediaPlayer.php?view\\_id=22&clip\\_id=6849](http://dc.granicus.com/MediaPlayer.php?view_id=22&clip_id=6849). The hearing record remained open until 5:00p.m on November 12, 2021. The public witnesses' testimonies are summarized below.

### **Government Witness**

*Andrew Trueblood, Director, Office of Planning*

Director Trueblood reaffirmed that the Office of Planning has established a web-based tool that enables government officials, advocates, and residents to develop and share redistricting plans. He subsequently mentioned the training for the tool that was also offered by the Office of Planning. Director Trueblood then reported there was significant public participation throughout this process: 1,141 user accounts have been created on the redistricting tool, 75 people have been trained, and 164 ward redistricting plans have been submitted.

## **Public Witnesses**

*Corey Holman, Commissioner, ANC 6B*

Commissioner Holman responded to the three discussion maps released by the subcommittee. 1) He argued that Map 2 with a few tweaks makes the most sense for the populations across natural boundaries, dilutes the voting power of Black Ward 7 and Ward 8 residents the least, ensures Wards 2, 6, 7, and 8 are within 2 percent of the average population, and keeps neighborhoods intact. 2) If the subcommittee were to adopt Map 1, Commissioner Holman recommended ensuring Census Tract 71 is left whole. 3) If the subcommittee were to adopt Map 3, he maintained that major changes to the border of Ward 6 and 7 should be considered, arguing that the status quo is simply not working for the residents of Kingman Park or the DC Jail and presumably will not work for Reservation 13 as the Park Kennedy and Ethel are leased up and filled and phase 2 disposition begins.

*Keith Hasan-Towery, At Large Committeeman, Ward 7 Democrats*

Mr. Hasan-Towery articulated the ways in which he felt new Wards 7 and 8 residents could help advocate for issues east of the river and challenged notions that maintain a resident's quality of life would change if their ward boundary shifted. Mr. Hasan-Towery advocated for 15<sup>th</sup> street to be the new boundary for Ward 7 as it wouldn't divide any neighborhoods.

*Matt LaFortune, 2nd Vice President, Ward 6 Democrats*

Mr. LaFortune clarified that the Ward 6 Democrats will not be taking a position on redistricting. In his personal capacity, he urged the committee to draw lines that are clear and concise, and further emphasized his preference for a map that could be easily communicated.

*Sondra Phillips-Gilbert, Commissioner, ANC 6A*

Commissioner Phillips-Gilbert cautioned that removing the Rosedale community from Ward 6 would decrease the overall of Black population of the ward. She went on to argue that the removal of Rosedale from Ward 6 would lead to further segregation and would dilute the community's political voice.

*Sydelle Moore, Commissioner, ANC 5D*

Commissioner Moore urged the subcommittee to focus on racial equity during the redistricting process. She also emphasized the importance of community cohesion during the process and articulated that a redistricting plan could potentially affect a community's ability to advocate for public services.

*Ebony Payne, public witness*

Ms. Payne asked the Council to continue allowing Ward 7 residents to park in Ward 6. She also expressed her preference to extend the Ward 7 boundary from the Anacostia River to 15th St. NE,

and from Benning Rd. to Pennsylvania Ave. She finally plead the Council to unite the Kingman Park neighborhood so that the entire neighborhood is included into Ward 7. Ms. Payne articulated that this would help the community advocate for issues that affect the western side of the Anacostia River.

*Diana Hibbs, public witness*

Ms. Hibbs argued that the previous splitting of Kingman Park had a disastrous effect on the residents of the community that were put in Ward 7. She felt that this could be corrected by extending Ward 7 all the way from the Anacostia River to 15th Street, and from Benning Road to Pennsylvania Avenue. This would reunite the Kingman Park community and allow the community to join forces with Hill East, forming one single member district west of the river.

*Katherine Myer, public witness*

Ms. Meyer argued that redistricting should not be a process of identifying communities with a strong emotional bond, but rather a process of identifying residents and businesses that share a similar need. She later voiced frustration at the notion of U Street not being a “real neighborhood”.

*Pierre Hines, Commissioner, ANC 5C*

Commissioner Hines argued that redrawing ward boundaries to include economic development would not necessarily help impoverished, economically devastated communities. He proposed that communities should be focused on building new development instead of looking to redraw the lines as a means of increasing the economic vibrancy of a given ward.

*Jacqueline Manning, Commissioner, ANC 5C*

Commissioner Manning expressed concern over developers dictating the changes that need to happen in the District. She also expressed the need and urgency for economic revitalization in Wards 7 and 8.

*Patricia Stamper, Secretary, Deanwood Citizens Association*

Ms. Stamper testified to ensure that the Deanwood Neighborhood would reside within one Advisory Neighborhood Commission (ANC) Currently, the Deanwood Community resides within ANC 7C and ANC 7D and is represented by five Advisory Neighborhood Commissioners. However, Ms. Stamper articulated that a majority of the neighborhood resides within ANC 7C; therefore, she requested that the subcommittee ensure that the entire Deanwood neighborhood is placed within Advisory Neighborhood Commission 7C.

*Villareal Johnson, Vice President, Hillcrest Community Civic Association*

Mr. Johnson articulated his preference of discussion map #1. In addition, Mr. Johnson expressed concerns about the potential boundaries splitting neighborhoods and communities of interest in Ward 7 and warned the subcommittee about the ramifications of such a move.

*Mike Silverstein, Commissioner, ANC 2B*

Commissioner Silverstein expressed concern over losing one or two of his community's ANC seats due to redistricting. He argued that North Dupont should be considered a community of interest, and therefore should not be divided.

*Kyle Mulhall, Commissioner, ANC 2B*

Commissioner Mulhall expressed disappointment with the proposed Dupont boundaries as demonstrated in the discussion maps. Commissioner Mulhall also articulated concerns over the potential dilution of LGBTQ political power in the Dupont Circle community.

*Brynn Barnett, public witness*

Ms. Barnett urged the Council to not split communities during the redistricting process. She maintained that the number of her ward was not a crucial matter to her but emphasized that keeping communities of interest in the same ward should be the goal.

*Phyllis Klein, President, Dupont Circle Conservancy*

Ms. Klein expressed a preference of discussion map #3 with a few additions. She articulated her fondness of various communities of interest working together.

*Nick DelleDonne, Dupont East Civic Action Association*

Mr. DelleDonne argued that it would be to the city's disadvantage if the decision was made to divide Dupont Circle. He rejected any proposal that would split the Dupont community and maintained that the city should seek to expand Dupont before it sought to divide it.

*Susan Volman, President, Dupont Circle Citizens Association*

Ms. Volman opposed the idea of redistricting a portion of northeast Dupont Circle neighborhood from Ward 2 to Ward 1. She further argued that the potential change would have a negative effect on the principles of "keeping communities of interest together" and "ward continuity and stability."

*Michael Shankle, Commissioner, ANC 2C*

Commissioner Shankle expressed concern over two of the three proposed discussion maps (map #2 and #3). He articulated his displeasure with the maps splitting the Pen Quarter and Chinatown neighborhoods.

*John Means, public witness*

Mr. Means articulated his belief that the redistricting process is a way in which communities could be brought together. He warned that moving boundaries could potentially cause communities of interest to be split, specifically in the Dupont Circle community.

*Howard Marks, Board Member, The Residences at Gallery Place*

Mr. Marks explained how shocked he was to learn that two of the three proposed redistricting maps (2 and 3) cut the Chinatown Historical District in half. He argued that this would be sending the wrong message to Asian-Americans who he deemed are increasingly under attack, and further endorsed Discussion Map #2.

*Travis Swanson, Commissioner, ANC 7B*

Commissioner Swanson expressed concern over his belief that discussion maps #2 and #3 would unnecessarily move the border between Wards 7 and 8. He argued that the potential move could undermine years of work in the area, in addition to the extensive community investment.

*William Herbig, Commissioner, ANC 2B*

Commissioner Herbig argued that the concept of a “neighborhood” is a self-perceived, self-defined concept. He advocated that Dupont Circle is a community of interest due to its historic and contemporary LGBTQ activism and shared culture.

*Carolyn Cook, public witness*

Ms. Cook advocated that the Hawthorne and Barnaby Woods communities should be included in decisions that would impact the upper Connecticut Avenue corridor. She further expressed concern regarding Ward 4 residents west of the park being shut out of decisions that would impact neighboring communities within the Ward 3 boundary.

*Barry Karas, public witness*

Mr. Karas suggested that having more community input during the redistricting process would have been ideal. He expressed fear of losing community spirit if his neighborhood was to be carved out during the redistricting process.



*Vincent Van, Commissioner, ANC 7C*

Commissioner Van expressed discontent over previous comments that suggested new boundaries would act as walls. Commissioner Van recommended that the Council examine racial equity as it completes the redistricting process.

*Reid May, public witness*

Mr. May articulated his belief that change is necessary to foster a more inclusive city. He expressed supported for extending Ward 7 west of the river, establishing a new boundary at 15<sup>th</sup> street NE between the Benning Road and Barney Circle.

*Gerry Widdicombe, Director of Economic Development, DowntownDC Business Improvement District*

Mr. Widdicombe requested that the entire DowntownDC BID be included in Ward Two during the current redistricting plans. This would allow the BID to work with Councilmember Pinto on a variety of issues.

*Brian Thompson, Commissioner, ANC 8A*

Commissioner Thompson emphasized the point that keeping the entire Southwest community in a single Ward would be ideal. He clarified his position that redistricting should be focused on the one person-one vote principle and expressed concern over residents choosing to discuss neighborhood branding as opposed to voter equity. In addition, Commissioner Thompson vocalized fear of the District becoming more segregated in the next decade.

*Eric Langenbacher, President, Burleith Citizens Association*

Mr. Langenbacher expressed a preference for Burleith to remain in Ward 2. He claimed that Burleith is deeply impacted by Georgetown University, and therefore argued that the community should stay in the same ward as the university.

*Richard Busch, public witness*

Mr. Busch urged the Council to keep Dupont Circle a cohesive neighborhood. He also advocated that the north Dupont community remain in the same ward that it is presently a part of.

*Tom Coumaris, public witness*

Mr. Coumaris expressed interest in uniting the U Street business corridor, which he articulated could be done by extending Ward 2 to Florida Avenue. Mr. Coumaris argued that the move would solve Ward 1's over-population and Ward 2's under-population, subsequently following redistricting guidelines for cohesiveness and community as well.

*Peter Wood, Commissioner, ANC 1C*

Commissioner Wood emphasized his belief that neighborhoods are never fixed entities. He expressed a preference to move Ward 1's boundaries further south.

*Fredrica Kramer, Commissioner, ANC 6D*

Commissioner Kramer asserted just how critical she believed the concept of communities of interest was. She then endorsed the idea of Ward 8 extending into Navy Yard.

*Celina Gerbic, public witness*

Ms. Gerbic argued that because Wards 1 and 2 are within the legal population range, there should be no changes to their boundaries. She emphasized the need to focus on Wards 6, 7, and 8.

*Monika Nemeth, Chair, ANC Rainbow Caucus*

Ms. Nemeth articulated her belief that Dupont Circle is the heart of the District's gay community and urged the subcommittee to avoid splitting the neighborhood.

*Shawn Nelson, public witness*

Mr. Nelson asserted his preference to remain in Ward 5. He argued that The Arboretum neighborhood does not have to be redistricted into Ward 7 to address the population growth in Ward 6, and further noted that the three draft maps released by the subcommittee show that it can be done.

*Geoffrey Hatchard, public witness*

Mr. Hatchard urged residents to examine the discussion maps holistically, instead of simply focusing on their respective houses or neighborhoods. Additionally, Mr. Hatchard acknowledged many residents' preference of uniform representation via a single ANC or councilmember, but also proposed that split representation could also have advantages.

*Frank Chauvin, public witness*

Mr. Chauvin argued that the redistricting process is ample time for the Council to make necessary changes to U Street. He expressed a preference for discussion map #1, including the proposal to extend U Street into Ward 1.

*Cathy Braxton, public witness*

Ms. Braxton expressed concerns regarding the perceived lack of racial equity in Wards 1 and 2. She also advocated against the subcommittee splitting any Census Tracts.

*Brian Alcorn, Commissioner, ANC 6A*

Commissioner Alcorn emphasized his belief in the interconnectedness of the ward and ANC redistricting processes. He also articulated displeasure with the idea of his residence and his constituents' residences becoming a part of Ward 7.

*Sharece Crawford, At Large Committeewoman, DC Democratic Party*

Ms. Crawford argued that the redistricting process presented an opportunity to bridge the digital, educational, and economic divide within the District. She further emphasized the point that communities are not physically moving and asserted that the political boundaries are shifting. Therefore, she maintained that residents would not be at risk of losing neighbors regardless of where the lines are drawn.

*Amy Caspari, public witness*

Ms. Caspari suggested that Council examine the city map more closely and argued that 13<sup>th</sup> street would serve as a better potential ward border than 15<sup>th</sup> street.

*Francis Campbell, public witness*

Mr. Campbell emphasized his preference of Hill East remaining in Ward 6. He argued that dividing Capitol Hill would present many challenges to the residents, as well as well as potential ANC and SMD challenges.

*John Guggenmos, Commissioner, ANC 2F*

Commissioner Guggenmos argued against splitting the Dupont Circle community. He urged the Council to consider the LGBTQ community in Dupont Circle as a community of interest.

*Loretta Kiron, public witness*

Ms. Kiron argued that as a resident of Ward 4 west of the park, she votes in Ward 4 but spends much of her time in Ward 3. She requested that her neighborhood be redistricted back into Ward 3.

*Paul Johnson, Commissioner, ANC 4C*

Commissioner Johnson expressed opposition to the prospect of moving the Armed Forces Retirement Home from Ward 5 to Ward 1.

*Chander Jayaraman, public witness*

With regards to the eastern boundary of Ward 6, Mr. Jayaraman asserted his preference that the status quo remain. Mr. Jayaraman also indicated that he would welcome change if it meant he and his neighbors would be included in the discussions surrounding Reservation 13.

*Maureen Gehrig Cook, public witness*

Ms. Cook argued that the Barnaby Woods community suffered from “taxation without representation” due to its present occupancy in Ward 3. She urged the Council to place the community back in Ward 3.

*Jamila White, Commissioner, ANC 8A*

Commissioner White expressed support for reuniting Southeast and Southwest communities. She articulated her belief that redistricting presented an opportunity to achieve greater equity and access for Wards 7 and 8.

*Mary Rouse, public witness*

Ms. Rouse urged the Council to reunite the Chevy Chase community. She argued that the initial splitting of Chevy Chase went against redistricting principles and never should have happened.

*Alan Roth, public witness*

Mr. Roth expressed discontent with notions of Ward 1 potentially adding more white, affluent neighborhoods and populations.

*Andrea Rosen, public witness*

Ms. Rosen argued that the Barnaby Woods should be returned to Ward 3. She noted that the initial move from Ward 3 to Ward 4 contradicted federal guidelines for redistricting.

## **VI. IMPACT ON EXISTING LAW**

The Subcommittee Print of B24-371 amends section 4 of the Redistricting Procedure Act of 1981, effective March 16, 1982 (D.C. Law 4-87; D.C. Official Code § 1-1041.03), to set forth the metes and bounds of ward boundaries to be used in all elections held after January 1, 2022, notwithstanding section 2(h) of the Boundaries Act of 1975, effective December 16, 1975 (D.C. Law 1-38; D.C. Official Code § 1-1011.01(h)), and notwithstanding any other provision.

The Subcommittee Print of B24-371 amends section 2(h) of the Boundaries Act of 1975, effective December 16, 1975 (D.C. Law 1-38; D.C. Official Code § 1-1011.01(h)), to reference an exception provided in section 4 of the Redistricting Procedure Act of 1981, effective March 16, 1982 (D.C. Law 4-87; D.C. Official Code § 1-1041.03). The inclusion of this reference is intended for clarification, not as a substantive revision to existing law.

The Subcommittee Print of B24-371 amends section 2433.1 and section 9901.1 of Title 18 of the District of Columbia Municipal Regulations to extend the existing Residential Permit Parking Zones, despite changes in ward boundaries resulting from B24-371.

The Subcommittee Print of B24-371 amends Section 402(e)(1)(B) of the State Board of Education Establishment Act of 2007, effective June 12, 2007 (D.C. Law 17-9; D.C. Official Code § 38-2651(e)(1)(C)), to replace the residency requirement applicable to members of the State Board of Education. Instead of a requirement to have lived for 1 year within the ward, the Subcommittee Print requires members to have resided for 90 days in the District—the same residency requirement applicable to all councilmembers.

## **VII. FISCAL IMPACT STATEMENT**

[To be confirmed]

The attached fiscal impact statement issued by the District’s Chief Financial Officer states that funds are sufficient to implement B24-371.

## **VIII. RACIAL EQUITY IMPACT STATEMENT**

A racial equity impact statement is not available at the time of the Subcommittee markup. The Council Office of Racial Equity has advised the Subcommittee that its racial equity impact statement will be finalized by the time when B24-371 is considered by the Committee of the Whole.

The Subcommittee engaged CORE and sought its advice on key elements of the Subcommittee’s redistricting process, including plans for ward-based hearings and distribution of flyers in areas likely to be affected. Subcommittee staff also met with CORE to discuss the legal principles that are central to redistricting, including the “one person, one vote” doctrine and the prohibition on redistricting plans that have the purpose and effect of diluting the electoral power of minority groups.

The Subcommittee looks forward to reviewing CORE’s analysis in the racial equity impact statement on this bill.

## **IX. SECTION-BY-SECTION ANALYSIS**

Each section of the Subcommittee Print is summarized below.

Section 1 contains the long and short titles of the legislation.

Section 2 sets forth the metes and bounds of ward boundaries to be used in all elections held after January 1, 2022, notwithstanding the provisions of D.C. Official Code § 1-1011.01(h) and other provisions of law. A map depicting the Subcommittee Print’s proposed ward boundaries is earlier in this report.

Section 3, for clarification purposes only, amends section 2(h) of the Boundaries Act of 1975, effective December 16, 1975 (D.C. Law 1-38; D.C. Official Code § 1-1011.01(h)), to add a reference to section 4 of the Redistricting Procedure Act of 1981, effective March 16, 1982 (D.C. Law 4-87; D.C. Official Code § 1-1041.03).

Section 4 effectively extends the existing Residential Permit Parking Zones, despite changes in ward boundaries resulting from B24-371. This section states that Residential Permit Parking Zones are the same as ward boundaries, except that the specific residential areas affected by redistricting will remain in the RPP Zones to which they are currently assigned.

Section 5 replaces residency qualifications in the State Board of Education Establishment Act of 2007, including a requirement that ward members of the State Board of Education have lived for at least 1 year in the ward before hold office. This requirement could unfairly preclude candidates from seeking SBOE office if they happen to reside in areas that have been redistricted within a year of their election. (There is no similar 1-year requirement applicable to candidates for ward councilmembers.) Instead, this section requires members to reside in the wards they represent, and it incorporates the residency qualification set forth in D.C. Official Code § 1-1001.08(b)(1)(A), which requires every elected official (including every member of the State Board of Education) to be and remain a bona fide District resident for 90 days before the election.

Section 6 references the fiscal impact statement of the Chief Financial Officer.

Section 7 contains the effective date clause.

## **X. SUBCOMMITTEE ACTION**

The Subcommittee on Redistricting convened on November 19, 2021, at [3:00] p.m. to consider and vote on the Subcommittee Print of B24-371. Chairperson Silverman recognized the presence of a quorum, consisting of herself and Councilmembers Bonds and Henderson.

Chairperson Silverman moved B24-371 and opened the floor for discussion.

### **[Remarks; Amendments]**

Discussion having ended, Chairperson Silverman then moved the proposed Subcommittee Print and report for B24-371, with leave for staff to make technical and conforming amendments.

The Subcommittee members voted as follows:

Chairperson Elissa Silverman  
Councilmember Anita Bonds  
Councilmember Christina Henderson

[ ]  
[ ]  
[ ]

Thus, the Subcommittee Print and accompanying report [passed].

The Subcommittee meeting adjourned at [ ] a.m./p.m.



## **XI. ATTACHMENTS**

1. B24-371 as introduced, with the Secretary's memorandum of referral
2. Fiscal Impact Statement
3. Legal Sufficiency Determination
4. Comparative Print
5. Subcommittee Print
6. Notice of Intent to Act, August 13, 2021
7. Notices of public hearings and roundtables for B24-371
8. Agenda, witness lists, and written testimony for the public hearings and roundtables
9. Maps submitted by the public
10. Map of 2010 to 2020 Population Change by Census Tract