

City of Alexandria, Virginia

Oral(i)

4-9-02

MEMORANDUM

DATE: APRIL 9, 2002

TO: THE HONORABLE MAYOR AND MEMBERS OF CITY COUNCIL

FROM: PHILIP SUNDERLAND, CITY MANAGER
IGNACIO PESSOA, CITY ATTORNEY *PS*

SUBJECT: SCHOOL REDISTRICTING *BP*

At the community meeting on this subject last week, a number of information requests were made by members of the public which would facilitate an evaluation of the optional redistricting schemes that were presented to you during the work session on February 13. We are in the process of gathering that information, and will place it on the City's web page as soon as we can.

In addition to these information requests, comments at the public meeting contained two other requests dealing with election district scenarios. The first request was that a nine-district scenario be developed, which would entail the City being divided into nine separate school election districts, with one member elected from each. The second request was that analysis be given to the creation of a majority-minority district, in which the minority population aged 18 and above would be over 60 or 65 percent of the voting age population. This might result in four or more election districts, depending upon the geographical dispersion of voting age minorities in the City.

We are bringing these two requests for different election district scenarios to you because, at the conclusion of our work session on February 13, there was not any direction from Council to study scenarios other than the "three district/three member" basic scenario for which a number of options were presented at the work session. We are, therefore, seeking your guidance as to whether staff, together with outside consultants, should proceed with an analysis of the "nine district" and "majority-minority" scenarios outlined above.

We should note that both of these new scenarios will require some, if not substantial, redrawing of current precinct lines. This is because the average single district size in the "nine district" scenario, and the "majority-minority" district in that scenario, will necessarily be of a size that does not coincide with existing precinct boundaries. Thus, the options provided for these two different scenarios, if ultimately adopted, would also include the redrawing of precinct lines. This of course would require the concurrence, cooperation and assistance of the Electoral Board.

We would like to discuss this matter at tonight's meeting so that staff can receive some direction from you.

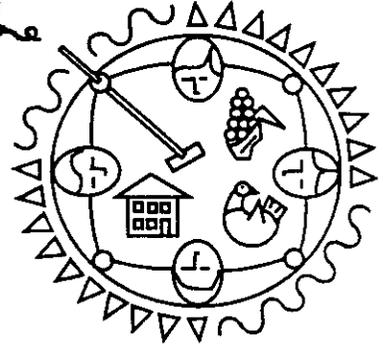
cc: Chair and Members of the Electoral Board
Tom Parkins, Registrar of Voters
Michele Evans, Assistant City Manager

Received by CC

Oral (i)

future

4-9-02



March 19, 2002

Mr. Phil Sunderland
City Manager
P.O. Box 178
Alexandria, VA 22313

Dear Mr. Sunderland:

Due to the population shift discovered as a result of the most recent Census, the City of Alexandria is examining various proposals to alter the current school board boundaries for the upcoming elections. The Tenants' and Workers' Support Committee (TWSC) is interested in this process because many of our members have children within Alexandria schools. As you know, members of the TWSC come mainly from the Latino and Black population. We therefore are interested in maximizing the voting power of our members. Specifically, we are looking to create a district, at least 45% of whom come from the Latino or Black population.

We are requesting that the City provide us with options, considering the objective of creating district(s) with a population at least 45% Latinos and Blacks. Specifically, the TWSC would like to receive maps that examine the following:

- 1) Creating nine roughly equivalent districts whereby each school board representative would represent a particular district.
- 2) Dividing the City into four roughly equivalent districts

Sincerely,


Jon Liss
Director

cc: Mayor and City Council



COMITE DE APOYO DE INQUILINOS Y TRABAJADORES • TENANTS' AND WORKERS' SUPPORT COMMITTEE

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Received by CC, Sent to CM

~~PF 4/9/02~~

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Steven L. Rosenberg
Senior Assistant City Attorney
301 King Street, Suite 1300
Alexandria, VA 22314

April 10, 2002

RE: School Board Redistricting

I attended the presentation on April 3, 2002. That gave me insight into other citizens concerns and a clearer view of what streets fall within the proposed new districts.

My children are currently at T.C. Williams and Hammond. I am a Past PTA President of John Adams Elementary School. While President, most of the John Adams families voted in District C while I voted in District B. This was an advantage. I could contact six elected board members with interests in our school issues. But beyond that I called and was well received by all board members when the issues we needed clarification on or representation on related to the committees they chaired.

The elected board members serve all the students. This is a harder concept for elementary school parents and PTAs than it is for parents and PTAs at the secondary school level. The issues are sometimes single school in orientation but more often the issues are broad based if not universal. I oppose nine separate voting districts.

I highly recommend Proposed School District Option 3. Each District in this plan contains a mix of schools and neighborhoods. Each District contains traditionally stronger and weaker PTAs. Each District contains elementary and secondary schools. The population and racial breakdowns are realistic.

Thank you for the opportunity to give input.

CC: City Council and School Board Members

