

COUNCIL PRESENT: Bruner, Dunagan, Wangemann, Hamrick, Figueras

STAFF PRESENT: Jordan

BOARD OF EDUCATION MEMBERS PRESENT: Mitchell, Diaz

The Newtown Florist Club, Inc. in partnership with Northeast Georgia Black Leadership Council-Gainesville sponsored a community meeting to discuss the Redistricting Project. Rev. Rose Johnson Mackey facilitated the meeting.

Rev. Mackey began with introductions and acknowledgements. She shared her thoughts about the importance of community involvement and acknowledged the City had been transparent throughout the process thus far.

### **Redistricting Project**

City Clerk Denise Jordan provided a general overview of redistricting. She discussed what had happened to date which briefly addressed the following:

- The creation of the Project Team
- The goals for the Redistricting Project
- Federal/State requirements and other allowable considerations
- The 2010 Census data for the existing ward boundaries

Mrs. Jordan generally discussed the process of redrawing ward boundaries and presented the proposed map (PROP2RE) as prepared by the Legislative and Congressional Reapportionment Office. She discussed the changes to each ward. She commented on the statistical data resulting from the 2010 Census. She also discussed the changes to the statistical data when the proposed map was applied noting the results revealed more evenly distributed population among the five wards.

Mrs. Jordan commented on the ability for municipalities to use Home Rule Powers to amend ward boundaries. She stated the existing ward map would be used for the November 8<sup>th</sup> Election.

Someone asked about the Board of Education's position regarding the proposed map. Mrs. Jordan stated the Board of Education had been involved in the meetings and was considering the map. They had also worked to create another map option on August 4<sup>th</sup>. Mrs. Jordan stated the map was incomplete at the close of that meeting.

Board of Education Chairman Willie Mitchell stated they had not endorsed a map yet.

### **Hypothetical Scenarios**

Rev. Mackey presented several hypothetical scenarios in hopes of determining how they would affect the ability of minorities to be elected in future elections. The scenarios specifically addressed the outcome of future elections considering at-large voting compared to district voting.

City Clerk Denise Jordan indicated the results for future elections were contingent upon voter turnout. Historically, voter turnout has been low (approximately 25%). This makes it difficult to predict what will happen in the future.

**Recommendations for Action**

There were no recommendations for action; however, the following questions were presented which required a follow-up response:

1. In terms of statistical data, what was gained in terms of minority statistics by allowing Ward 3 to cross Jesse Jewell Parkway?
2. What are the minority statistics for Amberleigh Subdivision?
3. What are the minority statistics for Robinhood Trail?
4. Where are the 971 white residents in Ward 3?
5. Is Ward 4 majority-minority Hispanic? If yes, does the proposed map need to be changed?

**Closing Remarks**

City Clerk Denise Jordan shared general information about the November 8<sup>th</sup> Election then thanked the sponsors and the community for the opportunity to share information about the Redistricting Project.

**ADJOURNMENT: 7:30 PM**

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Ruth H. Bruner, Mayor

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Denise O. Jordan, City Clerk