



**CITY OF OAKLAND  
REDISTRICTING COMMISSION  
(SPECIAL MEETING)**

**Meeting Minutes**

**Wednesday, July 28, 2021**  
Via Teleconference

Redistricting Commissioners: Benjie Achtenberg, Amber Blackwell, Daniel Chesmore (Alternate), Gloria Crowell, Lilibeth Gangas, Shirley Gee, Stephanie Goode, Masoud Hamidi, Paul Marshall, Tracy Richmond McKnight, Diana Miller, Tejal Shah, Bharat Singh (Alternate) Jan Stevens, and Mary Velasco.

Commission website: [www.oaklandca.gov/redistricting](http://www.oaklandca.gov/redistricting)

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**1. Roll Call and Determination of Quorum**

Quorum was determined and the meeting started at 5:00 pm.

Commissioners present: Benjie Achtenberg (arrived at 5:04 pm), Amber Blackwell, Lilibeth Gangas, Shirley Gee, Stephanie Goode, Masoud Hamidi (arrived at 5:08 pm), Tracy Richmond McKnight, Diana Miller, Tejal Shah, Jan Stevens, and Mary Velasco

Commissioners excused: Gloria Crowell.

Commissioners absent: none.

Alternate Commissioners present: Bharat Singh.

Alternate Commissioners absent: Daniel Chesmore.

City staff present: Richard J. Luna, Corey Alvin.

City Attorney staff present: Mitesh Bhakta.

**2. Communities of Interest and a Legal Overview of Redistricting**

The Commission received a training from Angelo Ancheta, a former California Citizens Redistricting Commissioner, on redistricting laws, criteria and regulations that govern the Commission's work. Mr. Ancheta also provided a training on strategies to identify and collect testimony regarding communities of interest.

Commissioners engaged in a question-answer session with Mr. Ancheta.

There was no motion on this item.

There were no public comments on this item.

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**3. Open Forum**

There were no public comments on this item.

**4. Disclosure Requirements by Commissioners**

Commissioner Diana Miller announced that she provided public comments at the City Council meeting on July 26, 2021, recommending the public visit the Commission's website and participate in its meetings.

There were no public comments on this item.

**5. Approval of Meeting Minutes**

The Commission reviewed the draft meeting minutes. A motion was made by Shirley Gee, seconded by Stephanie Goode, to approve the minutes for the meeting of July 14, 2021. The motion passed with 12 ayes (Achtenberg, Blackwell, Gangas, Gee, Goode, Hamidi, Marshall, McKnight, Miller, Shah, Stevens, Velasco) and one excused (Crowell).

There were no public comments for this item.

**6. Public Hearing & Townhall Meeting Schedule**

Chair Tracy Richmond McKnight opened the discussion asking the Commissioners if they would like to amend or add dates to their adopted public hearing schedule. Commissioners engaged in a discussion involving turnaround times to produce draft district maps, increasing outreach efforts to make the public more aware about the current public hearing schedule, how the Commission could conduct in-person workshops in the fall, and the need for clear instructions in how Commissioners could capture and receive testimony during in-person workshops or engagements with the public. Commissioners also explored potential dates to hold in-person workshops and the possibility to partner with organizations that hold weekend meetings, such as the Black Cultural Zone, to gain a wider audience and receive additional public testimony.

A motion was made by Lilibeth Gangas, seconded by Diana Miller, to schedule workshops for October 24, 2021 and November 7, 2021. City staff recommended that the Commission not set dates as official motions since the workshops are non-Commission meetings, and recommended the Commission provide direction to City staff on criteria for scheduling workshops. The motion was later withdrawn after discussion.

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A second motion was made by Lilibeth Gangas, seconded by Diana Miller, to direct staff to schedule three weekend workshops, with at least one in-person workshop. A friendly amendment made by Tracy Richmond McKnight was accepted to schedule the workshops after September 23, 2021. The motion passed with 12 ayes (Achtenberg, Blackwell, Gangas, Gee, Goode, Hamidi, Marshall, McKnight, Miller, Shah, Stevens, Velasco) and one excused (Crowell).

There were no public comments on this item.

**7. Outreach Consultant Proposed Scope of Work**

Alternate Commissioner Bharat Singh presented the Ad Hoc Committee's proposed outreach consultant scope of work. Commissioners discussed the importance for the future consultant to achieve as many tasks identified in the scope of work. City staff presented the process for how a consultant can be selected and brought under contract to work with the Commission.

A motion was made by Tracy Richmond McKnight, seconded by Diana Miller, to extend the meeting 9:00 pm. The motion passed with 12 ayes (Achtenberg, Blackwell, Gangas, Gee, Goode, Hamidi, Marshall, McKnight, Miller, Shah, Stevens, Velasco) and one excused (Crowell).

Commissioners further discussed the proposed scope of work and the need to make final edits prior to submitting to City staff and the on-call contractors.

A second motion was made by Tejal Shah, seconded by Amber Blackwell, to approve the proposed consultant scope of work with the understanding that the Ad Hoc Committee may make final adjustments as needed. A friendly amendment made by Stephanie Goode was accepted for the Ad Hoc Committee to submit the final scope of work to City staff after the Committee makes its final edits. The motion passed with 12 ayes (Achtenberg, Blackwell, Gangas, Gee, Goode, Hamidi, Marshall, McKnight, Miller, Shah, Stevens, Velasco) and one excused (Crowell).

There were no public comments on this item.

**8. Ad Hoc Committee Reports**

Commissioners first discussed the Presentation and Engagement Calendar as submitted in the agenda packet. The discussion focused on the need to capture all activities so the Commission can identify any gaps in its outreach efforts. City staff agreed to add in dates for upcoming City Council and Oakland Unified School Board meetings so Commissioners can volunteer to speak during open forum.

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Commissioners then reviewed the proposed Communications and Media Toolkit as submitted by the Communications Ad Hoc Committee. City staff clarified that the newsletter announcements were new additions and that the Commission had previously seen or approved the proposed social media posts, flyers, and presentation documents.

Co-Vice Chair Tejal Shah was excused from the meeting at 8:10 pm.

A motion was made by Shirley Gee, seconded by Jan Stevens, to approve the Communications and Media Toolkit. The motion passed with 11 ayes (Achtenberg, Blackwell, Gangas, Gee, Goode, Hamidi, Marshall, McKnight, Miller, Stevens, Velasco) and two excused (Crowell, Shah).

There were no public comments on this item.

**9. Agenda Requests for Future Meetings**

City staff stated the next agenda would include an update on the consultant selection process, and that the next meeting was the first public hearing scheduled by the Commission.

There were no public comments on this item.

**10. Adjournment**

The meeting adjourned at 8:17 pm.