



October 24, 2021

To the City of San Jose Redistricting Commission:

Thank you for your active engagement during the October 21st commission meeting and staying up so late.

The maps presented by Greg Rippa and Richard Ajilouny appeared sincere and not politically motivated. However, the special interest map, unfortunately divides neighborhoods across the city.

We appreciated the question from commissioners to the interest group: Have they actually contacted neighborhood associations? WGNA has not been contacted by this special interest group, however, they claim to speak for our neighborhood.

The presenter for the special interest group stated that the Willow Glen Neighborhood is currently split between three council districts. That statement is not accurate. Willow Glen is predominately in D6 with a portion in D9 that was removed without community feedback, as documented in our original [letter](#) from October 9, 2021. Additionally, during public comment, a speaker spoke against this map and went on to define it as gerrymandering which seems to be an accurate representation.

Alternatively, the C3 map was formed from commission feedback regarding the need to be less disruptive to neighborhoods. This map is a marked improvement from previous consultant maps. WGNA offered a slight tweak on the C3 map in our [letter dated October 19th](#). District lines should be based on "connector streets" (which carry more vehicle traffic) and not residential streets.

Boundary lines on connector streets such as Husted Ave would be preferred as it is already an existing boundary line and could simply be extended west from Booksin Ave depending upon the population needed to balance the districts. The two northern blocks between Leigh-Curtner-Meridian could stay in D9, as the area west of Dumbarton Ave is part of the Doerr Neighborhood and the proposed boundary does not utilize a connector street.

The real time map drawing with comments and suggestions from the commissioners was insightful. WGNA does not support the suggestion from the D9 commissioner under map C3, which would remove approximately 7,800 of our Willow Glen neighbors and push them into the

Cambrian district. Willow Glen is a documented community of interest, as opposed to the area south of Highway 85 in D9 that was proposed to move to D10.

Regarding the C4 map, it lacks natural boundaries, contains odd peninsulas, and divides neighborhoods thus WGNA cannot support. AB849 states district boundaries should be easy to identify and understand by residents and utilize natural or artificial barriers. Furthermore, AB849 encourages maps to be drawn that encourage geographical compactness. Neither C4 or the special interest map do this and appear unrecognizable.

Thank you for your continued service and please consider our [original letter](#) and the desire to reunite our neighborhood or at least a step in that direction along Husted Ave.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, consisting of several loops and a long trailing line.

De Anna Mirzadegan
President
Willow Glen Neighborhood Association
www.wgna.net