



BOSTON CITY COUNCIL

Committee on Civil Rights and Immigrant Advancement

Ruthzee Louijeune, *Chair*

REPORT OF COMMITTEE CHAIR

May 24, 2023

Dear Councilors:

The Committee on Civil Rights and Immigrant Advancement was referred the following docket for consideration:

Docket #0942, Ordinance Amending City Council Electoral Districts.

This matter was sponsored by Councilor Ruthzee Louijeune, and referred to the Committee on Civil Rights and Immigrant Advancement on May 17, 2023.

Summary

Docket #0942 is an Ordinance amending City Council electoral districts. This docket was one of four filed on May 17, 2023, about which the Committee held hearings to draw a new map, and was used as the starting point for Council deliberations.

The districts delineated by Docket #0942 as filed included the following:

District One: consisting of precincts numbered one through fourteen of Ward One; precincts one through eight of Ward Two; and precincts numbered one through four, six, eleven and thirteen of Ward Three;

District Two: consisting of precincts numbered seven, eight, twelve, fourteen through sixteen of Ward Three; precincts one through three, and six of Ward Four; precincts one, thirteen and fourteen of Ward Five; precincts one through twelve of Ward Six; precincts one through six of Ward Seven;

District Three: consisting of precinct numbered fifteen of Ward One; precincts seven through ten of Ward Seven; precincts one, two, and six of Ward Eight; precinct one of Ward Nine; precincts three and five through ten of Ward Thirteen; precincts one, three, four, and six through nine of Ward Fifteen; precincts one through twelve of Ward Sixteen;

District Four: consisting of precincts numbered one through fourteen of Ward Fourteen; precincts two and five of Ward Fifteen; precincts one through fourteen of Ward Seventeen; precincts one and two of Ward Eighteen;

District Five: consisting of precincts numbered three through twenty three of Ward Eighteen; precincts ten through thirteen of Ward Nineteen; precincts two, four, eight and nine of Ward

Twenty;

District Six: consisting of precincts numbered six through nine of Ward Ten; precincts four through ten of Ward Eleven; precincts one through nine of Ward Nineteen; one, three, five through seven, and ten through twenty one of Ward Twenty;

District Seven: consisting of precincts numbered four, five, eight, nine, and eleven of Ward Four; precincts three through five of Ward Eight; precincts two through seven of Ward Nine; precincts one through three of Ward Eleven; precincts one through nine of Ward Twelve; precincts one, two, and four of Ward Thirteen;

District Eight: consisting of precincts numbered five, nine, ten and seventeen of Ward Three; precincts seven, ten, and twelve of Ward Four; precincts two through twelve, and fifteen of Ward Five; precincts one through five of Ward Ten; precincts one and two of Ward Twenty One;

District Nine: consisting of precincts numbered three through sixteen of Ward Twenty One; and precincts one through thirteen of Ward Twenty Two.

Information Received at Hearings

On May 8, 2023, Judge Patti Saris of the United States District Court for the District of Massachusetts granted Plaintiff's Motion for Preliminary Injunction in Case No. 1:22-cv-12048: Rasheed Walters, et al vs. Boston City Council, et al. By granting the Plaintiffs' motion, Judge Saris enjoined the map as approved by the City Council on November 2, 2022 and thereby prevented the City from conducting the 2023 election for district council seats using that map. On May 10, 2023, the City of Boston Law Department filed a letter with the City Council that explained the ruling and its resulting requirement the City Council pass another map.

The Committee held hearings on this Docket on Friday, May 19, 2023, Monday, May 22, 2023, and Tuesday, May 23, 2023. Dockets #0935-0937 were added to these hearings which were filed by Councilor Liz Breadon and referred to the Committee on May 17, 2023. These Dockets include documents related to redistricting litigation, minutes of the Committee on Redistricting, and redistricting archival records. During these hearings members of the Council used the map filed by the Chair as a starting point. Using the redistricting tool "Districtr", Councilors were able to see the "starting point" map and then make suggestions and move precincts in and out of districts in real-time.

Members of the public were invited to testify during public testimony periods at each of the three hearings in-person and virtually. The community was also invited to submit written and video testimony to the record.

Summary of Amendments

Based on Council deliberations during the hearing and public testimony, the following changes were made to the docket as filed:

- 03-15 and 03-16 moved from District 2 to District 3
- 09-01, 08-01, and 07-07 moved from District 3 to District 2
- 04-06 moved from District 2 to District 8
- 04-07 moved from District 8 to District 7
- 19-12 and 18-07 moved from District 5 to District 4
- 18-02 moved from District 4 to District 5

- 20-01 moved from District 6 to District 5
- 17-13 moved from District 4 to District 3
- 14-14 moved from District 4 to District 5
- 15-01 moved from District 3 to District 4

Committee Chair Recommended Action

As Chair of the Committee on Civil Rights and Immigrant Advancement, I recommend moving the listed docket from the Committee to the full Council for discussion and formal action. At that time, my recommendation to the full Council will be that these matters **OUGHT TO PASS IN A NEW DRAFT.**

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'R. Louijeune', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Ruthzee Louijeune, Chair
Committee on Civil Rights and Immigrant Advancement