

PUBLIC HEARING
Reapportionment
July 17, 2023

Call To Order:

Mr. DiGilio called the Public Hearing to order at 6:08p.m.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Mr. Jim Maloney led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Roll Call:

COUNCIL MEMBERS PRESENT: Buzaid, Levy, DiGilio, Rotello, Visconti, Esposito, Fox, Henry, Britton, Perkins, Chianese.

COUNCIL MEMBERS ABSENT: Putnam, Eriquez, Esposito III, Masi, Palma, Merchan, Cammisa, Tomchik

PRESENT: 11, ABSENT: 8, VACANCY: 2

ALSO PRESENT: Bob Yamin, Corporation Counsel; Les Pinter, Deputy Corporation Counsel; Dan Casagrande, Outside Counsel; Joseph Mortelleti, Outside Counsel; MaryAnn Doran, Registrar of Voters, Joan Bielizna, Registrar of Voters.

Notice:

Councilman DiGilio read the Legal Notice, published in paper & on New Times website.

Speakers:

Mr. Casagrande (outside counsel), was asked to provide an update regarding the new plan proposed by Dr. Morrison at the July 5th Committee of the Whole meeting. He explained two new concerns to consider; the first being able to meet the Secretary of State election deadlines. The Secretary of State office confirmed enforcement action could be taken against the city if a plan is not submitted by the deadline; they did note that if the council approves the new plan for the 2025 election, there would be no need for enforcement. The second being the pending legal complaint that could move forward if the new plan is adopted for the 2025 election with the existing plan being used for the 2023 election. He noted that if legal action is pursued there are grounds for the city to have a successful outcome. He reiterated that the two actions available are for the new plan to be adopted for the 2023 election or to adopt the new plan effective for the 2025 election.

Larry Riefberg, Resident, spoke against the process and expressed his concern regarding the new plan.

Councilman Putnam arrived at 6:14pm. **PRESENT: 12, ABSENT: 7, VACANCY: 2**

John Paul Codelli, Resident, urged the council to act on a plan.

Mary Ann Doran & Joan Bielizna, Registrar of Voters, discussed the Secretary of State Election Laws and deadline. They agreed that maps and district information could not be completed and verified by the July 18th deadline. They urged that the new plan go into effect for the 2025 election.

Councilwoman Cammissa arrived at 6:42pm. **PRESENT: 13, ABSENT: 6, VACANCY: 2**

Charlie Setaro, Resident, expressed his concerns regarding the process.

Ken Gucker, Resident, discussed his concern over time to review changing boundaries of the wards in the new plan, and asked for more opportunities for public speaking.

Councilman Eriquez arrived at 6:44pm. **PRESENT: 14, ABSENT: 5, VACANCY: 2**

A motion was made by Councilman Rotello, seconded by Councilman Levy, to close the public hearing. The motion carried unanimously.

ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made by Councilman Levy, seconded by Councilman Buzaid, to adjourn. The motion carried unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 6:50p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Elisa Etcheto, Legislative Assistant

Attest: Vinny DiGilio, City Council President