



## CITY OF DANBURY

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### **MEETING NOTICE**

**Who:** City Council – Ad Hoc Committee

**When:** **7 P.M. – Thursday, March 23, 2023**

**Where:** 3C, 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor Conference Room  
City Hall, 155 Deer Hill Avenue

**Purpose:** Reapportionment (2022) **Meeting # 3**

*\*Agenda Item on file in the Legislative Assistant's Office*

#### **Committee Members & Department Representatives:**

Jack Knapp, Chair  
Nancy Cammisa, Councilwoman  
Ben Chianese, Councilman  
Corporation Counsel Representative  
Registrar of Voters Representative

**Noticed:** Mayor's Office

**Posted:** Town Clerk                      Information Board                      City Website Calendar

**DRAFT - CITY COUNCIL SPECIAL MEETING**

**March 9, 2023 - 7:30 P.M.**

Honorable Mayor, Dean Esposito, called the meeting to order at 7:35 p.m.

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE & PRAYER**

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Sean Hatch. Councilman DiGilio led all in prayer.

**ROLL CALL**

**COUNCIL MEMBERS PRESENT:** Buzaid, Eriquez, Cavo, Knapp, Levy, DiGilio, Rotello, Esposito, Esposito III, Fox, Palma, Masi, Henry, Britton, Santos, Perkins, Chianese, Cammisa.

**COUNCIL MEMBERS ABSENT:** Visconti, Halas, Molinaro

**PRESENT: 18, ABSENT: 3**

**ALSO PRESENT:** Bob Yamin, Corporation Counsel; Les Pinter, Deputy Corporation Counsel; and Elisa Etcheto, Legislative Assistant.

**COMMITTEES**

The Mayor announced the following:

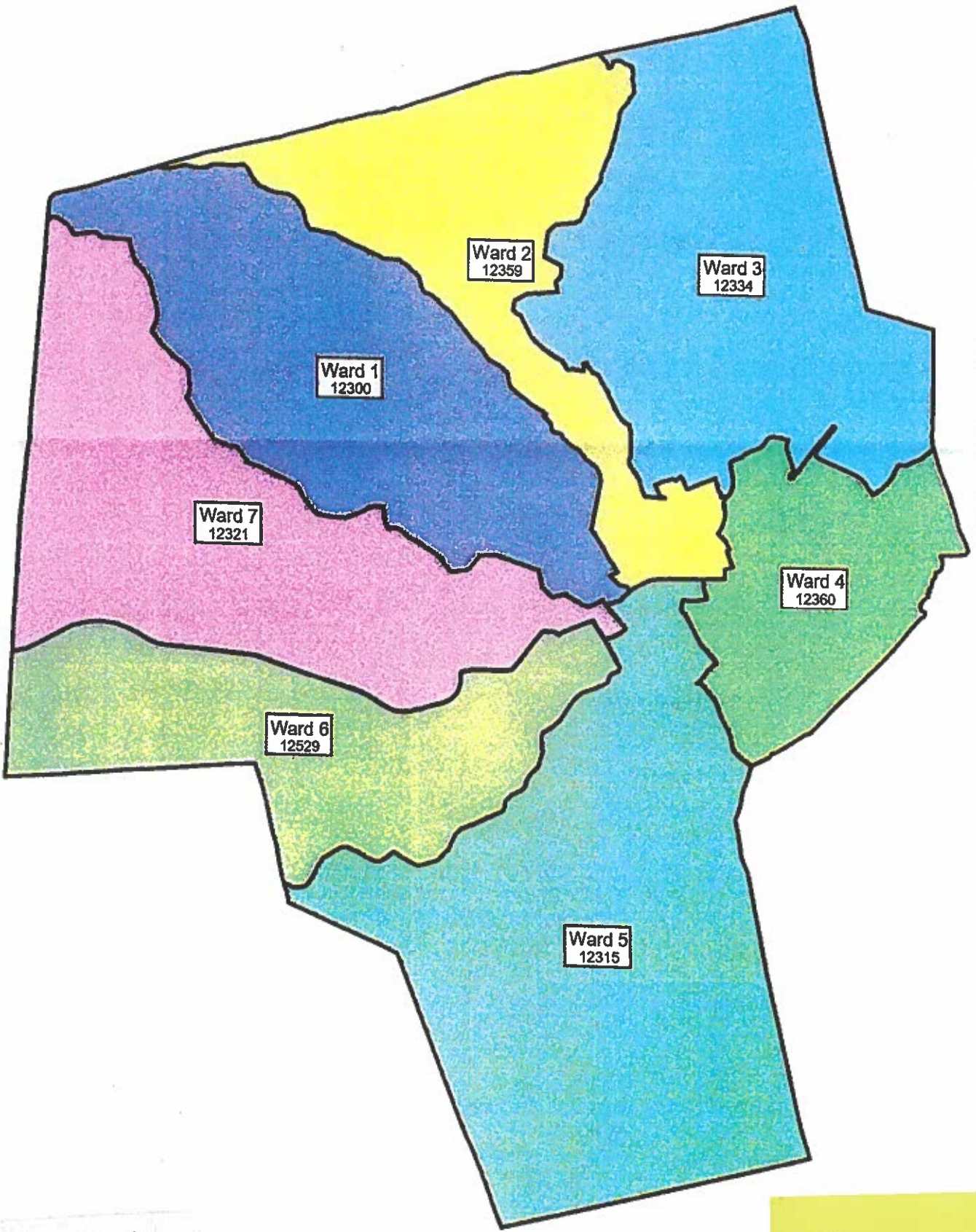
Assignment Changes to Ad Hoc Committees:

1. Reapportionment: Remove Visconti, Add Chianese.
2. Audit: Remove Visconti, Add Chianese.

New Ad Hoc Committee Assignment:

1. Education Budget: Levy, Chair; Fox, Molinaro, Chianese, Cammisa

Mayor Extended All Other Committees.



Proposal  
A

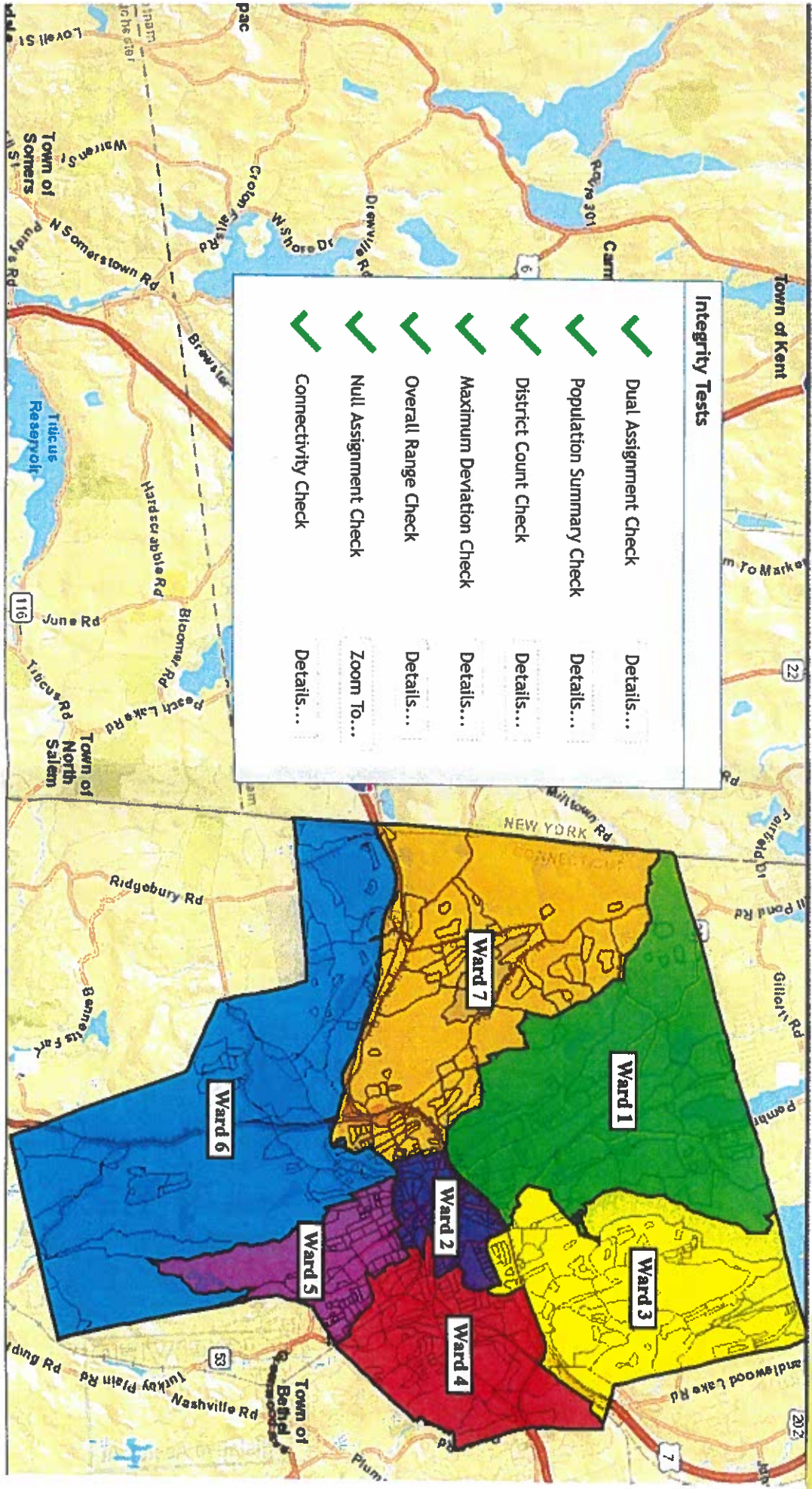
ite Review Share

Integrity Check Reports Clear All Open Plan Refresh  
Analysis Reports Map Notes Plan Comparison/Merge

Active Plan  
Compared Plan  
Differences

**Integrity Tests**

- ✓ Dual Assignment Check [Details...](#)
- ✓ Population Summary Check [Details...](#)
- ✓ District Count Check [Details...](#)
- ✓ Maximum Deviation Check [Details...](#)
- ✓ Overall Range Check [Details...](#)
- ✓ Null Assignment Check [Zoom To...](#)
- ✓ Connectivity Check [Details...](#)



Proposal B

*Proposal B*

### Population Summary Report

| Ward No. | TOTAL Population | Target Population | Target Deviation (%) | Non-Hispanic white | Hispanic | Non-Hispanic black | Non-Hispanic Asian | Non-Hispanic Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander | Non-Hispanic some other race |       |
|----------|------------------|-------------------|----------------------|--------------------|----------|--------------------|--------------------|---|------------------------------|-------|
| 1        | 12,271           | 12,360            | -89                  | -0.72              | 7,013    | 2,658              | 1,131              | 818   | 13                           | 512   |
| 2        | 12,468           | 12,360            | 108                  | 0.87               | 2,352    | 7,228              | 766                | 599   | 5                            | 1,340 |
| 3        | 12,369           | 12,360            | 9                    | 0.07               | 7,470    | 2,309              | 829                | 1,001   | 4                            | 631   |
| 4        | 12,374           | 12,360            | 14                   | 0.11               | 4,197    | 4,527              | 865                | 1,068   | 0                            | 1,507 |
| 5        | 12,246           | 12,360            | -114                 | -0.92              | 3,791    | 5,416              | 992                | 584   | 1                            | 1,270 |
| 6        | 12,314           | 12,360            | -46                  | -0.37              | 6,921    | 2,722              | 914                | 978   | 2                            | 644   |
| 7        | 12,476           | 12,360            | 116                  | 0.94               | 6,219    | 3,830              | 782                | 719   | 15                           | 773   |

|  |               |
|--|---------------|
| <b>TOTAL Population:</b>               | <b>86,518</b> |
| Mean Target Population:                | 12,360        |
| Mean Deviation:                        | 71            |
| Mean Percent Deviation:                | 0.57          |
| Largest Positive Deviation:            | 116           |
| Largest Negative Deviation:            | -114          |
| Overall Range in Deviation:            | 230           |
| Overall Range in Deviation Percentage: | 1.86          |

CITY COUNCIL MEETING  
February 7, 2023 - 7:30 P.M.

Honorable Mayor, Dean Esposito, called the meeting to order at 7:35 p.m.

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE & PRAYER**

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Sean Hatch. Councilman DiGilio led all in prayer.

**ROLL CALL:**

**COUNCIL MEMBERS PRESENT:** Buzaid, Eriquez, Knapp, Levy, DiGilio, Rotello, Henry, Britton, Perkins, Esposito, Esposito III, Fox, Chianese, Cavo, Visconti, Halas, Masi, Palma, Santos, Cammisa and Molinaro.

**COUNCIL MEMBERS ABSENT:**

**PRESENT: 21, ABSENT: 0**

**ALSO PRESENT:** Les Pinter, Deputy Corporation Counsel; Ray Yamin, Outside Counsel; and Elisa Etcheto, Legislative Assistant.

**PUBLIC INPUT:**

Robert Taborsak, Resident, 110 Hayestown Road, spoke on item #14.

Marlene Silva, Resident, 34 Austin Street, spoke on item #14.

Margaret Henderson, Resident, 19 Grove Place, spoke on item #14.

Heather Lorenz, Resident, 46 Rolf Drive, spoke on item #14.

William Sweeney, Resident, 19 Ironwood Drive, spoke on item #14.

Larry Riefberg, Resident, 6 Ervie Drive, spoke on the following items: 1-6, and 14.

Ken Gucker, Resident, 89 Padanaram Road, spoke on item #14.

Glenda Armstrong, Resident, 224 Franklin Street, spoke on item #14.

**Mayor Esposito requested Council extend public comment with no objections.**

Kate Johnson, Resident, 132 Great Plain Road, spoke on item #14.

Elvis Novas, Resident, 4 Stetson Place, spoke on item #14.

Wes Johnson, Resident, 65 Britannia Drive, spoke on item #14.

Ernesto Rodriguez, Resident, 23 George Street, spoke on item #7.

**A motion was made by Councilman Santos to further extend public speaking.**

Motion was invalid. Corporation Counsel explained that the Charter only allows the Mayor to extend Public Speaking.

14. REPORT - Ad Hoc- Reapportionment

*A motion was made by Councilman Knapp, seconded by Councilman DiGilio, to recommit this item, #14 on reapportionment, back to Ad Hoc.* The motion carried unanimously.

The Mayor renamed the standing committee with Councilman Knapp in the chair, along with Councilwoman Cammisa and Councilman Visconti.

Councilmen Rotello and Perkins spoke in support of recommitting the item.

Mr. Pinter confirmed that discussion should be focused on the motion of recommitment.

15. REPORT - Planning & Engineering – Application for Ext. of Water Main - 21 Old Sherman Turnpike

**\*CONSENTED** - as received.

**DEPARTMENT REPORTS - Police, Fire, Health & Human Services, Public Works, Permit Center, U.N.I.T., Elderly Services, Public Library, Tax Assessor**

*A motion was made by Councilman DiGilio, and was seconded by Councilman Perkins, to waive the reading of the departmental reports as all Members have copies and copies are on file in the Legislative Assistant's Office; and also, include the acceptance of the reports as presented.* The motion carried unanimously.

Mayor Extended All Committees.

**ADJOURNMENT**

*A motion was made by Councilman Rotello, seconded by Councilman Visconti, to adjourn.* The motion carried unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 9:02p.m.

Copies of Agenda Items are available in the Legislative Assistant's Office.

Respectfully submitted,

Christina Martinez  
Recording Secretary

Attest,  
Elisa Etcheto, Legislative Assistant

# CITY COUNCIL MEETING

**February 7, 2023**

The meeting will be called to order at 7:30 P.M.

## PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE & PRAYER

## ROLL CALL

Buzaid, Cavo, Eriquez, Knapp, Levy, DiGilio, Rotello, Visconti, Esposito, Halas, Esposito III, Fox, Masi, Palma, Henry, Britton, Santos, Perkins, Chianese, Cammisa and Molinaro

\_\_\_\_\_ **PRESENT** \_\_\_\_\_ **ABSENT**

## PUBLIC SPEAKING

**MINUTES** - Minutes of the Council Meeting held January 4, 2023

## CONSENT CALENDAR

### AGENDA

1. COMMUNICATION - Police Department Promotion – Anthony Mistretta to Sergeant
2. COMMUNICATION - Police Department Appointments – Perry, Kolenovic to Certified Police Officers
3. COMMUNICATION - Police Department Appointments – Magrino, Viertel, Orengo, Perdomo, Mistretta to Entry Level Police Officers
4. COMMUNICATION - Appointment to Government Entity – Planning Commission
5. COMMUNICATION - Appointment to Government Entity – Environmental Impact Commission
6. COMMUNICATION - Appointment to Government Entity – Zoning Board of Appeals
7. COMMUNICATION - Lease and Purchase of Property – 98 Elm Street
8. COMMUNICATION - MOU with Portuguese Cultural Center – Office of Emergency Management
9. RESOLUTION - CT DECD Urban Development Projects Grant – Richter House Improvements
10. RESOLUTION - CT Health Foundation Trusted Messengers to Support Health Care Coverage Grant
11. RESOLUTION - Flood Management Feasibility Study – Upper Reaches of the Still River
12. REPORT, ORDINANCE & RESOLUTION - Bond: Water System Assets - Upgrades & Improvements
13. REPORT - Ad Hoc - Lease Renewal/Agreement – 33 Hayestown Road to Danbury Fish & Game Association
14. REPORT - Ad Hoc- Reapportionment
15. REPORT - Planning & Engineering – Application for Ext. of Water Main - 21 Old Sherman Turnpike

**DEPARTMENT REPORTS** - Police, Fire, Health & Human Services, Public Works, Permit Center, U.N.I.T., Elderly Services, Public Library, Tax Assessor

## ADJOURNMENT

Copies of Agenda Items are available in the Legislative Assistant's Office and on the City's website.



**~AD HOC REPORT~**  
**Reapportionment (2022) Meeting #2**  
**Wednesday, January 25, 2023**

Chairman Knapp called the meeting to order at 6:30p.m. on Wednesday, January 25, 2023. Present was Committee Members Nancy Cammisa and Fred Visconti. From the City were Les Pinter, Deputy Corporation Counsel, Joseph Mortelliti, Outside Counsel; and Joan Bielizna, Registrar of Voters; Ex-Officio members; Emile Buzaid, Duane Perkins, Joh Esposito III, Vinny DiGilio, Ben Chianese, Joe Britton, Paul Rotello, Warren Levy, Irving Fox, and Jay Eriquez. Also in attendance were several residents and unidentified individuals.

Mr. Pinter and Mr. Mortelliti gave an overview of the reapportionment process and the results of the Reapportionment Advisory Committee (R.A.C.). The Committee was not able to recommend a plan to the Council. As a result, the City Council is tasked with preparing and approving a plan. This ad hoc committee was appointed to create that plan and present it to the City Council with final approval by March 1<sup>st</sup>.

Mr. Knapp gave an overview of the ad hoc process and noted Proposal A presented by Mr. Chianese at the January 17, 2023 meeting. He discussed Proposal B's intent of adding more representation to downtown. He confirmed that every ward in Proposal B is within 1% of the targeted population (12,360) and that guidelines presented by the state were followed. He identified an integrity test that was used to make sure that all criteria were met and he noted that as much as possible natural boundaries, including Interstate 84, were used to create ward borders, however, he noted that thoroughfares could not be used for the downtown districts due to population numbers.

Mr. Chianese presented Proposal A and noted that the intent was to make the least amount of change possible to each ward by using statistical figures. The plan also took into account the changes made to the state districts.

Mr. Esposito III inquired about the integrity test that is provided by the mapping system and its results for both proposals.

Mr. Rotello asked about the need for the mayor's approval of the reapportionment ordinance and asked about census blocks and boundaries. He also asked about the system's ability to record logins on the mapping site.

Ms. Bielizna expressed her concern over Proposal B, and supports Proposal A so that representation will cover a wider area in each ward

Mr. Esposito III explained that he supports more representation for the city's downtown area (from 2 to 4).

Mr. Perkins supports a "pie" distribution of the wards so that ward representation covers more area and is concerned about the affect of Proposal B on the community.

Mr. Britton asked about the individuals who had input on the map for Proposal B. Mr. Knapp named Mike Safranek, Vinny DiGilio, John Priola and the Republican caucus as having reviewed the proposed map. He said the process took place in person and began in December and finished in January. Mr. Esposito III asked about the individuals who had input on the map for Proposal A. Mr. Chianese named himself and Duane Perkins, and said the process took place from August to September.

Mr. Digilio discussed the Reapportionment Advisory Commission's inability to appoint a fifth member which resulted in no final plan because a majority vote was not reached; the result is that the Council created the current ad hoc which has now been presented with Proposal A and Proposal B. He noted that the fundamental difference between the two proposals is downtown representation. He noted the recent City's Plan of Conversation also created specific plans for various parts of the city based on the different needs in various parts of the city. He expressed his support for Proposal B.

Mr. Rotello made note of various discussion that took place during the Reapportionment Advisory Commission's process and expressed concerns with the creation of the maps for the proposals, and time constraints.

Mr. Levy expressed his concern over comments that economic and racial classification were used to create the proposals. He discussed the outdated nature of the "pie" concept used in the past for ward reapportionment, noting that major growth has occurred in the city's inner-city (downtown).

Mr. Britton discussed ward representation and federal laws and rulings that discuss reapportionment of voting wards.

Mr. Esposito III pointed out that there will continue to be seven at-large council members that represent the entire city and discussed a possible effect on wait times at the polls.

Mr. Chianese clarified that the number of voters in each ward are not factored into the redistricting, it is based on total population. He discussed how representation of a wider area in the city encourages greater involvement, and he asked for more data from Proposal B.

Mr. Britton asked counsel about the legal ramifications of jumps in minority populations in Ward 2 and 5 with Proposal B. Mr. Mortelliti indicated that he would need to do further research on majority and minority laws. Mr. Pinter discussed the benefits of talking through this process to gain an understanding of how the proposals were created.

Mr. Rotello asked for more statistics to make an informed decision.

Mr. Levy clarified his stance on a "pie" map configuration, noting that there are bursts of population growth in pockets of the city.

Mr. Perkins reiterated his concerns with the development of Proposal B.

Mr. Visconti asked about the state statutes of not meeting the deadline, Mr. Mortelliti indicated that the State Supreme Court could potentially decide on what happens with voting districts, and explained that it would be a Charter violation. Mr. Pinter explained that there is no precedent of violating the Charter regarding reapportionment in our city. Mr. Visconti asked about legal challenges to a plan that receives approval of the Council. Mr. Mortilleti reiterated that legal precedent would need to be reviewed.

**A motion was made by Councilman Visconti to vote on Plan (Proposal) A. There was no second. Motion Failed.**

**A motion was made by Councilwoman Cammisa, and seconded by Councilman Knapp, to approve Plan (Proposal) B for the 2022 Reapportionment as presented." 2 Yes Votes (Knapp, Cammisa), 1 No Vote (Visconti). Motion Passed.**

**A motion was made by Councilman Visconti, and seconded by Councilwoman Cammisa, to adjourn. The motion passed unanimously.**

**The meeting adjourned at 8:26 p.m.**

Respectfully submitted,  
Jack Knapp, Chair  
Nancy Cammisa  
Fred Visconti, Jr.

14-2

**~AD HOC REPORT~**  
**Reapportionment (2022) Meeting #1**  
**Tuesday, January 17, 2023**

Chairman Knapp called the meeting to order at 6:30p.m. on Tuesday, January 17, 2023. Present was Committee Member Nancy Cammisa, absent was Committee Member Fred Visconti. From the City were Les Pinter, Deputy Corporation Counsel; Ex-Officio members; Ben Chianese, Farley Santos, Joe Britton, Paul Rotello, Warren Levy, and Irving Fox. Also in attendance were residents; Roberto Alves, Larry Riefberg, Ken Gucker and Al Robinson.

Mr. Pinter provided a brief overview of the reapportionment process and the results of the Reapportionment Advisory Committee (R.A.C.). He noted committee members were Michael Safranek, Duane Perkins, Ben Chianese, and John Priola; a fifth member was not selected. The Committee was not able to recommend a plan to the Council. As a result, the City Council is tasked with preparing and approving a plan. This ad hoc committee was appointed to create that plan and present it to the City Council with final approval by March 1<sup>st</sup>.

Mr. Knapp reviewed the timeline for presenting and approving the plan.

Mr. Chianese discussed a plan that originated during the R.A.C. process (Proposal A). He explained that the goal for each ward should consist of 12,360 individuals with a +/- 10% deviation.

Mr. Rotello asked for clarification of the March 1<sup>st</sup> deadline and asked for the percentage of changes to the ward; Mr. Chianese explained: 1<sup>st</sup> Ward (.15%), 2<sup>nd</sup> Ward (-.93%), 3<sup>rd</sup> Ward (-.03%), 4<sup>th</sup> Ward (-.13%), 5<sup>th</sup> Ward (1.32%), 6<sup>th</sup> Ward (-.53 %), 7<sup>th</sup> Ward (.14%).

Mr. Knapp discussed Proposal B. He explained that this plan creates 2 downtown wards and used as many natural borders as possible with 1 polling location change.

Mr. Britton inquired about the 10% deviation vs. the racial percentage within a ward, Mr. Pinter explained he would need to do additional research before answering.

Mr. Santos commented on his concerns with the percentages and the need to change a voting location and asked for a breakdown of the socioeconomic demographic. Mr. Knapp explained the need to address population growth in the city's downtown area.

Mr. Rotello expressed his concerns with Proposal B with regards to political party representation. Mr. Knapp explained that political representation was not taken into consideration when creating Proposal B, and that it should not be used as a basis for creating any proposal.

Mr. Britton inquired about street changes in Proposal B. Mr. Chianese explained that the software does not offer that option and it would have to be done manually.

Mr. Rotello opposed the need for a new downtown district based on a philosophical outlook.

Mr. Santos discussed the mathematics of Proposal A vs. Proposal B. Mr. Knapp explained that there is a need for better representation in the city's downtown.

Mr. Levy discussed his past experience as Chair of the Reapportionment Committee when he received petitions for the creation of a more focused downtown ward. He explained the need to move forward from the old way of redistricting to fit the needs of the changing population needs and growth.

Mr. Rotello explained the need to balance the wards while also representing the population.

Mr. Britton reiterated his concern with Proposal B and supports the minimal changes in Proposal A.

Mr. Chianese explained his focus on incorporating the State's new district map when creating Proposal A and discussed mileage within each ward.

Mr. Pinter discussed the approaches taken for each plan, and confirmed that these approaches do not make the plans unlawful. He encouraged all participants to take a closer look at the plans and explained that the data questioned during this meeting could be provided to the ad hoc at another meeting.

Mr. Knapp asked for further clarification of the process' timeline and requirements.

Mr. Chianese suggested another meeting so that the plans can be reviewed further.

Mr. Santos inquired about the potential for legal challenges to Proposal B. Mr. Pinter explained that he needs to review the information and discuss it with outside counsel.

Mr. Rotello discussed time constraints.

Mr. Knapp asked that the committee reconvene in one week to confirm the legal validity of the plans.

**A motion was made by Councilman Knapp and seconded by Councilwoman Cammisa, to extend this committee until next Wednesday (January 25, 2023) evening at 6:30pm. The motion passed unanimously.**

**A motion was made by Councilman Knapp, and seconded by Councilwoman Cammisa, to adjourn. The motion passed unanimously.**

**The meeting adjourned at 7:14 p.m.**

Respectfully submitted,  
Jack Knapp, Chair  
Nancy Cammisa