

City of Topeka Redistricting Commission Minutes – August 4, 2022

CYRUS K. HOLLIDAY BUILDING, Topeka, Kansas, Thursday, August 4, 2022. The Redistricting Commission of the City of Topeka met in special session at 5:00 P.M. with the following Commissioners present: Commissioner Jessica Porter (District 1), Laura Pederzani (District 2), John Nave (District 4), Vicki Arnett (District 6), Jeff Wagaman (District 7), Bill Hill (District 8), Michelle Hoferer (District 9); and Commissioner Teresa Leslie-Canty (District 3) participated remotely. -8. Absent: Commissioner Marcus Clark (District 5) -1. Brenda Younger, City Clerk, presided.

Public comment could be submitted via email to cclerk@topeka.org or delivered in-person or mailed to the Office of the City Clerk located at 215 SE 7th Street, Room 166, Topeka, Kansas, 66603. All meetings are open to the public, televised and available for viewing online at <https://www.topeka.org/citycouncil/redistricting-commission/> or at <https://www.facebook.com/cityoftopeka/>.

AFTER THE MEETING WAS CALLED TO ORDER, a brief personal introduction was provided by each Commission member.

NOMINATION of Chairperson:

Brenda Younger, City Clerk, asked for nominations from the floor for the position of chairperson. She stated members may self-nominate and no “second” to the nomination was required.

Commissioner Nave nominated Commissioner Hoferer to serve as Chairperson.

Commissioner Hoferer accepted the nomination.

Upon hearing no other nominations, the City Clerk closed nominations.

Following no objection by Commission members, Commissioner Hoferer was nominated

to serve as Commission Chairperson by unanimous consent. (8-0-0)

COUNCIL DISTRICT BOUNDARY PROCEDURE:

Mary Feighny, Deputy City Attorney, provided an overview of Topeka Municipal Code Section 2.205.020(c) the procedures the Commission shall follow and adhere to for revising and reestablishing district boundary lines:

1. Each district must contain 1/9 of the population of Topeka or approximately 14,000 people, subject to a 2.5% variance, based on the 2020 census. Each district should have 14,064 people with a variation of plus or minus 352.
2. Maintain a reasonably compact area in each district and avoid when possible any noncontiguous zones or any unusually exaggerated extension of district lines.
3. Follow election precinct lines as established by the Shawnee County Election Commissioner that are described in terms of wards and precincts contained in each district.
4. Maintain, as much as possible, the integrity of broadly cohesive areas of interest.
5. Avoid redrawing boundaries that result in a council member residing outside his/her district.
6. Avoid use of number of registered voters by party or other partisan data.

DISTRICT MAP PRESENTATION:

Tom Vogue, Data Management Supervisor, City Technical Support Group, provided an overview of the 2022 Redistricting Commission Map (*Attachment No. 1*) as well as Plan A (*Attachment No. 2*) and Plan B (*Attachment No. 3*) Map scenarios. He noted each map includes the wards, precincts and population of each district. He reported Districts 1, 2, 8 and 9 fail to meet the 14,000 population requirement and Plan A would have the least disruption to current district boundaries.

Commissioner Wagaman asked if they are required to use 2020 Census numbers as the benchmark for boundary changes or if they could factor in the homeless population and noted up

to 10% of the population is considered mobile. He referenced Plan A and questioned if it would be possible to shift the districts slightly to the southwest to balance population numbers.

Commissioner Porter questioned if Plan A would be preferable as it relates to keeping the integrity of the area intact.

Tom Vogue reported city boundaries could not be moved; in reference to Plan A, the Commission could move the boundaries of Districts 1, 3 and 6; and Plan A is less disruptive to district boundaries.

Commissioner Nave spoke to the history of drafting the current redistricting map that was approved in 2012, and noted at that time, he was opposed to how it was drafted and still is. He stated he supports a more uniform map proposal in order to balance representation and supports a plan that is the least disruptive to district boundaries.

Commissioner Porter referenced Plan B and expressed concern with the amount of changes being proposed in District 1. She questioned why a portion of downtown would be relocated within the Oakland area (District 2).

Tom Vogue reported District 2 needs to gain approximately 1,000 people to meet the population requirement.

Commissioner Wagaman expressed the importance of public input on the process and questioned if a communication plan has been created for the distribution of different map scenarios.

Brenda Younger, City Clerk, reported all agendas, minutes, meeting videos and supplemental information will be posted on the City web site each week.

Commissioner Wagaman requested Staff communicate across all media outlets how citizens can access redistricting map scenarios and other information to allow the Commission to

gather as much public input as possible.

Gretchen Spiker, City Communications Director, stated Staff would help spread the word about the process through social media pages and press releases as well as any other ideas the Commission may have.

Commission Chair Hoferer stated she concurs with Commissioner Wagaman and directed Staff to promote the process as much as possible

Commissioner Pederzani encouraged Commissioners to reach out to their district NIAs as much as possible and noted they must take into account NIAs make up a large portion of the populations.

Commission Chair Hoferer questioned if Staff has the ability to reach NIAs.

Brenda Younger, City Clerk, reported the City's Community Engagement Division has the ability to communicate with NIAs across the city.

Commissioner Porter asked if as Commissioners they are restricted on the use of personal social media outlets.

Mary Feighny, Deputy City Attorney, reported there are no restrictions as it relates to the use of Facebook pages, twitter accounts etc., to broadcast what has been presented to the Commission including dates and times of meetings.

Commissioner Wagaman suggested the communication plan include contacting the Topeka Capital Journal and other media outlets, City of Topeka Facebook page and twitter account, etc., to encourage citizens to attend the August 18, 2022 public input session.

Commissioner Porter questioned how public input would be relayed to Commissioners.

Commission Chair Hoferer suggested all input be directed through the City Clerk's office.

Brenda Younger, City Clerk, confirmed all input could be compiled and distributed by the City Clerk's office.

Discussion ensued on the differences between Plan A and Plan B map scenarios. Commissioners concurred on the following items as they consider reestablishing district boundaries:

- Larger font maps as it relates to street names and population counts specifically in the areas of proposed change.
- Include landmarks on the map for the purpose of understanding where on the map changes are taking place.
- Requested a copy of the map scenarios that were presented in 2012 to better understand historical data.
- Consider 2020 City of Topeka Neighborhood Health maps as well as infrastructure needs as part of the process so they are not overloading any one certain district.
- Consider NIA maps as part of the process.
- An overview of city growth projections be provided by Staff as it relates to the deviation of boundaries to include recent housing subdivision maps that may influence population growth.
- Encourage and invite the public to submit their own map proposals.

Mary Feighny stated she would request Staff attend a future meeting to provide the requested information.

Commissioners Hoferer, Porter, Nave and Arnett spoke in support of Plan A as it is the least disruptive to neighborhoods.

Commissioner Wagaman stated it would be premature for him to express a plan preference prior to receiving public input.

Commissioner Hill stated the drive for boundary changes was based on the 2020 Census data; therefore, in terms of process, are they allowed to deviate from the data they were provided to consider.

Commissioner Pederzani stated she concurs with Commission Hill. She encouraged the Commission to be cognizant with their data driven decisions and move forward with caution.

Mary Feighny, Deputy City Attorney, requested all requests be funneled through the Commission Chairperson.

The Commission agreed by unanimous consent. (8-0-0)

Commission Chair Hoferer suggested Commissioners drive the areas of proposed change to better understand the cohesiveness of neighborhoods.

Tom Vogue stated he would create an online virtual map to allow for the drafting of different map scenarios to be created that would impose NIAs, familiar landmarks, Neighborhood Health Maps as well as areas of growth that may influence future population growth.

APPROVAL of April 11, 2022 as the next Commission meeting date; and April 18, 2022 as the Public Hearing date.

The Commission approved the dates by unanimous consent. (8-0-0)

Commissioner Wagaman thanked City Staff for providing map options to consider and reminded Commissioners that they too have the option to submit their own map proposals.

Commissioner Porter requested all press releases, graphics and social media information released by City Communications be forwarded to the Chairperson so she can distribute it to the Commission as a whole.

Commissioner Nave moved to adjourn the meeting. The motion seconded by Commissioner Pederzani carried unanimously by voice vote. (8-0-0)

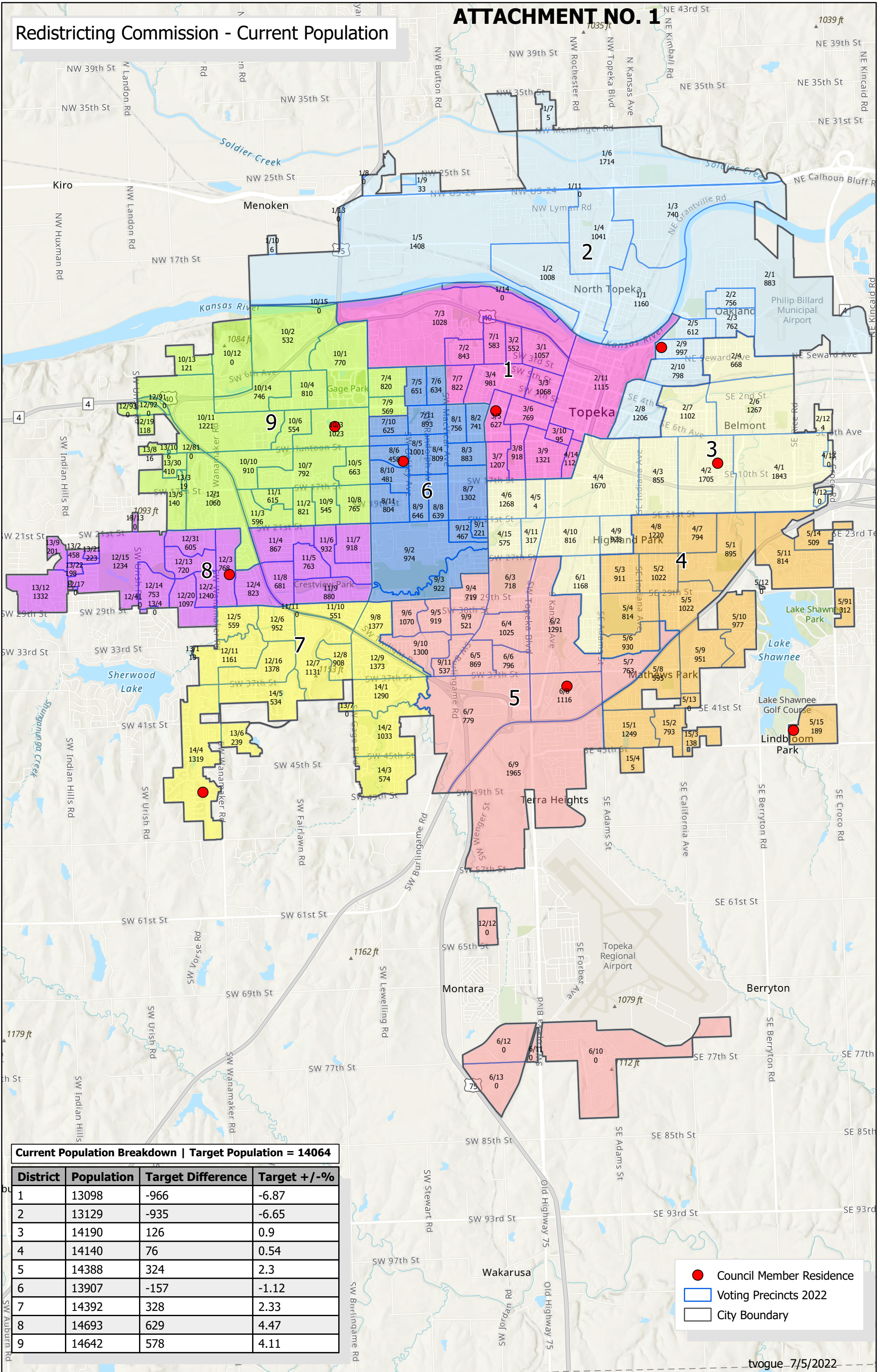
NO FURTHER BUSINESS appearing the meeting adjourned at 6:07 p.m.

(SEAL)

Brenda Younger
City Clerk

Redistricting Commission - Current Population

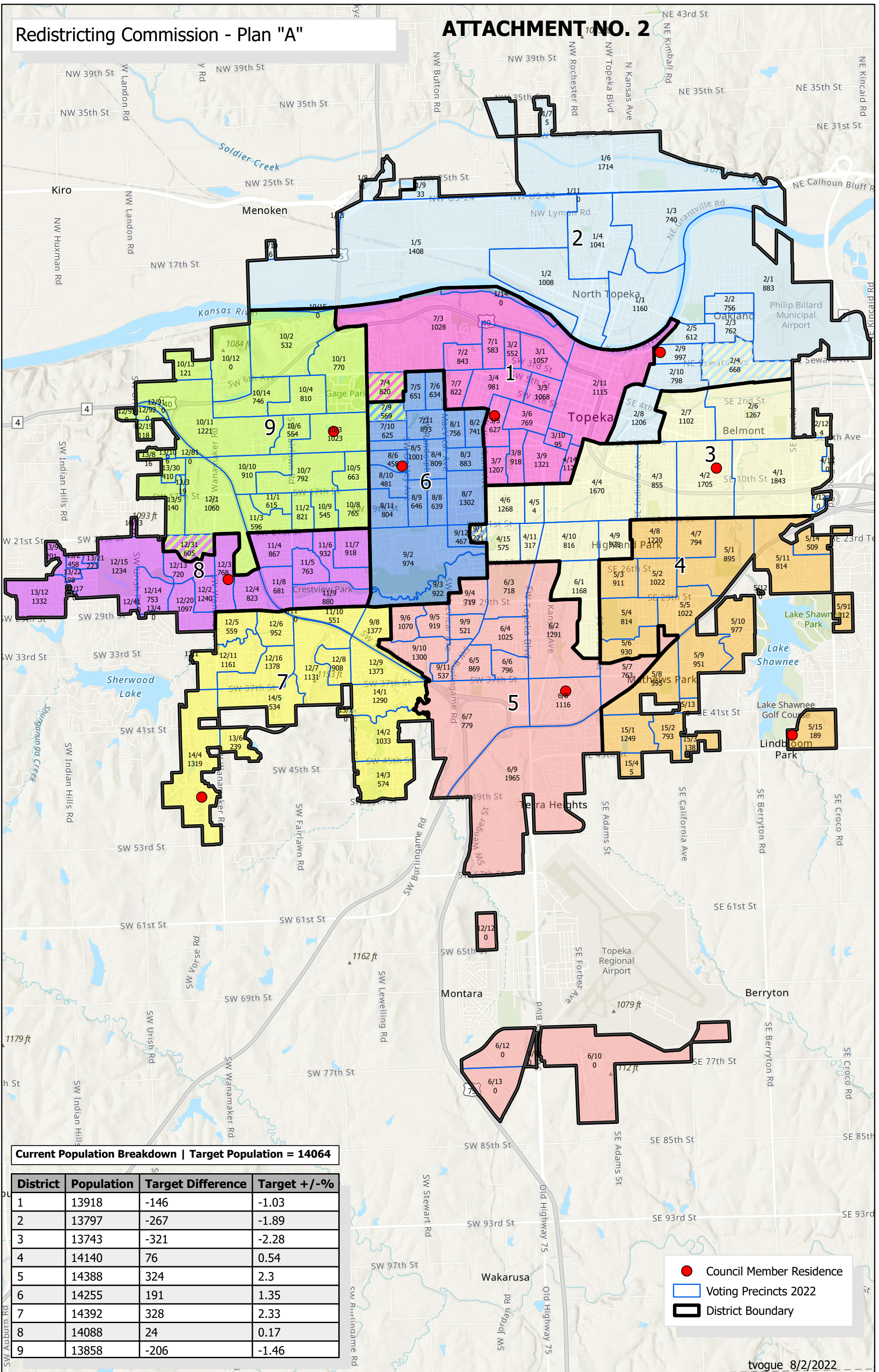
ATTACHMENT NO. 1



Current Population Breakdown | Target Population = 14064

District	Population	Target Difference	Target +/- %
1	13098	-966	-6.87
2	13129	-935	-6.65
3	14190	126	0.9
4	14140	76	0.54
5	14388	324	2.3
6	13907	-157	-1.12
7	14392	328	2.33
8	14693	629	4.47
9	14642	578	4.11

- Council Member Residence
- Voting Precincts 2022
- City Boundary



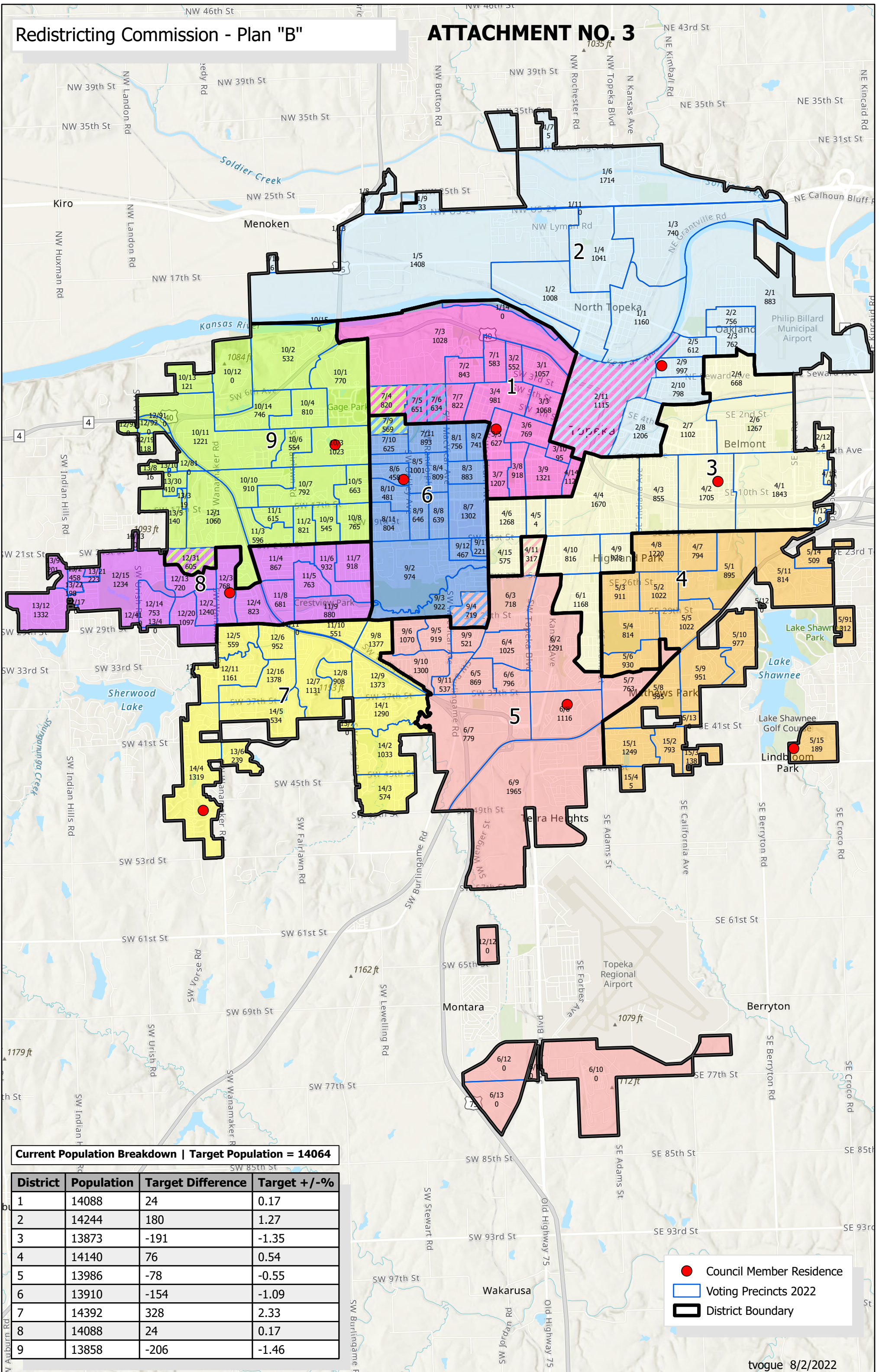
Current Population Breakdown | Target Population = 14064

District	Population	Target Difference	Target +/- %
1	13918	-146	-1.03
2	13797	-267	-1.89
3	13743	-321	-2.28
4	14140	76	0.54
5	14388	324	2.3
6	14255	191	1.35
7	14392	328	2.33
8	14088	24	0.17
9	13858	-206	-1.46

- Council Member Residence
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- District Boundary

Redistricting Commission - Plan "B"

ATTACHMENT NO. 3



Current Population Breakdown | Target Population = 14064

District	Population	Target Difference	Target +/-%
1	14088	24	0.17
2	14244	180	1.27
3	13873	-191	-1.35
4	14140	76	0.54
5	13986	-78	-0.55
6	13910	-154	-1.09
7	14392	328	2.33
8	14088	24	0.17
9	13858	-206	-1.46

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