

City of Topeka Redistricting Commission Minutes – August 11, 2022

CYRUS K. HOLLIDAY BUILDING, Topeka, Kansas, Thursday, August 11, 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), Vicki Arnett (District 6) and Jeff Wagaman (District 7) - 4. Absent: Commissioners Teresa Leslie-Canty (District 3), John Nave (District 4), Marcus Clark (District 5) and Bill Hill (District 8) - 4. Commissioner Michelle Hoferer (District 9) presided -1.

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, the MINUTES of the August 4, 2022, meeting was presented.

Commissioner Wagaman moved to approve the minutes. The motion seconded by Commissioner Arnett carried unanimously on voice vote. (5-0-0)

CITY OF TOPEKA GROWTH PRODUCTIONS:

Dan Warner, City of Topeka Planning Division Director, provided an overview of the areas of the city with anticipated growth that may have an impact on future population.

Commissioner Porter inquired on growth in the downtown area.

Commissioner Pederzani inquired about growth in north Topeka not included on the maps. Specifically the Meyer's Subdivision as well as development on the north side of Hwy 24 near Furman Road.

Commissioner Arnett asked if there was potential growth in District 6.

In response, Dan Warner, City of Topeka Planning Division Director, reported the following:

- There has been no major growth in the downtown area in approximately 10 years.
- Meyer's Subdivision was more than likely created prior to 1970 which is way it was not included on the map.
- He would report back to the Commission regarding development along Hwy 24 and Furman Road.
- District 6 is almost 100% developed with no plans for housing developments and or rehabs that he is aware of.

Commissioner Nave entered the room.

Commissioner Wagaman referenced infrastructure (streets, water and sewer) that is already in place in District 7. He asked when development is planned and the projected number of people per household.

Dan Warner, City of Topeka Planning Division Director, stated he would anticipate growth south of Wanamaker Road within 10 years that would include 2-3 people per household for suburban areas. He noted multi-family units would be 1-2 people per home and some of the buildable lots may be duplex lots.

Commissioner Clark entered the room.

DISCUSS AND REVIEW OF PROPOSED DISTRICT MAPS:

Tom Vogue, Data Analyst, City Technical Support Group, provided an overview of the five precinct changes resulting in Plan A; the eight precinct changes resulting in Plan B; and highlighted Plan C (Attachment No. 1) as proposed by Commissioner Arnett.

Commissioner Porter asked Commissioner Arnett to provide perspective on her proposed changes outlined in Plan C.

Commission Arnett thanked City Staff for their assistance. She stated her proposal

enhances representation of NIAs by increasing council district representation from five to six.

Commissioner Pederzani thanked Commissioner Arnett for her proposal and stated she looks forward to input from NIAs as well as the Citizens Advisory Council (CAC). She expressed concern with the changes having an effect on NIAs applying for grant funding and limiting improvements to one council district instead of benefiting several council districts.

Commission Chair Hoferer asked how many NIAs are established in the city.

Latoya Burnett, City of Topeka Senior Community Engagement Coordinator, reported there are a total of 21 NIAs located within the city. She expressed the importance of capturing the voice of the NIAs as it relates to changing NIA boundaries.

Commissioner Arnett clarified her proposal would not change NIA boundaries as this factor was her guiding principle for her Plan C proposal.

Commissioner Nave inquired on the boundaries of Neighborhood Associations (NAs) compared to Neighborhood Improvement Associations (NIAs) and noted both have different grant criteria. He expressed the importance of creating balance within all areas that need improvements.

LaToya Burnett, Senior Community Engagement Coordinator, stated she was not familiar with the city's NA boundaries and grant criteria.

Commissioner Pederzani expressed the importance of making certain the most at-risk areas of the city have an opportunity to provide input on all map proposals.

Commissioner Porter stated they must make sure grant funding opportunities remain in place for NIAs.

Commissioner Wagaman asked which council districts have NIAs and what type of project improvements NIAs could apply for through grant funding.

Latoya Burnett, Senior Community Engagement Coordinator, confirmed that grant opportunities would not be effected as long as NIA boundaries do not change; all council districts except districts 7, 8 and 9 have NIAs located within its boundaries; and NIAs can apply for grant funding for infrastructure and park improvements as well as community engagement projects and events.

Commissioner Arnett confirmed grants are based on the condition of the neighborhood not the boundaries.

Commissioner Pederzani encouraged Commission members to communicate with their district NIA representatives about the redistricting process and the importance of public input.

Commissioner Nave asked the Commission to proceed with caution as it relates to the dynamics of NIA representation.

Commissioner Porter requested Plan C have clear NIA boundaries to help citizens better understand the proposed changes.

Commissioner Nave requested the names of each NIA be included on the maps.

Commissioner Wagaman encouraged the Commission to promote the redistricting process, including the information available online. He stated he looks forward to receiving input from downtown residents and businesses.

Commissioner Pederzani noted the Plan B proposal would result in District 2 representing the most NIAs with the most infrastructure needs.

Commissioner Nave stated he believes downtown is the core of a strong community and noted they are starting to see a change in Topeka's downtown and he believes as a Commission, they need to support those efforts as in relates to cohesive neighborhood association boundaries as well as council district boundaries.

Commissioner Porter stated she would have changes to submit based on the overall community outlook. She spoke in opposition of splitting downtown between two council districts.

Commissioner Nave encouraged citizens to provide input on the process.

Commissioner Arnett inquired on the process moving forward and asked if they could utilize an interactive map to help them make final decisions.

Mary Feighny, Deputy City Attorney, stated after the public hearing was conducted the Commission could schedule an additional meeting to consider all proposals and take action. She stated a final report must be submitted to the Governing Body by September 30, 2022.

Tom Vogue, Data Analyst, City Technical Support Group, confirmed he could navigate the interactive map application to help them visualize and draft final recommendations.

CITY COMMUNICATIONS UPDATE:

Gretchen Spiker, City of Topeka Communications Director, provided an overview of the communications push to promote public input including media releases as well as the use of all City social media platforms. She noted she has not received any requests for media interviews.

Commission Chair Hoferer requested the Mayor and/or Deputy Mayor announce the August 18, 2022 public hearing at the next Governing Body meeting.

Commissioner Wagaman requested the City send a reminder to media outlets.

Commissioner Hoferer asked who would contact the NIAs.

Director Spiker stated she would notify the City's Community Engagement Division and request that they send a reminder to the NIAs.

Commissioner Porter suggested each Commissioner reach out to their respective NIAs and encourage them to participate in the public hearing.

Commissioner Pederzani asked if all information would be posted on the City's website.

Mary Feighny, Deputy City Attorney, confirmed the information has been posted on the City's website.

AUGUST 18, 2022 PUBLIC INPUT PROCESS:

Mary Feighny, Deputy City Attorney distributed a proposed public input process for the August 18, 2022 Public Hearing.

Commissioner Nave suggested to allow for one, 2-minute extension, per person.

Commissioner Arnett asked if Commissioners could ask questions during the public hearing proceedings.

Mary Feighny, Deputy City Attorney, stated the extension of time could be granted at the discretion of the Chairperson as well as members of the Commission asking and/or responding to questions.

Brenda Younger, City Clerk, stated at the request of Commissioner Nave, large maps would be on display during the public hearing for participants to view.

Tom Vogue, Data Analyst, City Technical Support Group, stated he would provide an explanation of all map proposals at the public hearing.

The Commission agreed by unanimous consent to the following. (7-0-0)

- Limit comments to four (4) minutes. If the person requests additional time, one extension may be granted by the chairperson, not to exceed 2 minutes.
- Each person shall step up to the microphone and shall state his or her name for the record.
- All remarks shall be addressed to the Commission as a whole and not to any individual member.

Commissioner Clark requested they designate a person who has sole responsibility of communicating with NIAs about the public hearing, to ensure as a Commission, they have notified all NIAs.

Commissioner Pederzani volunteered to contact all NIA representatives.

Commissioner Wagaman suggested they schedule a meeting on September 1, 2022 following the public hearing.

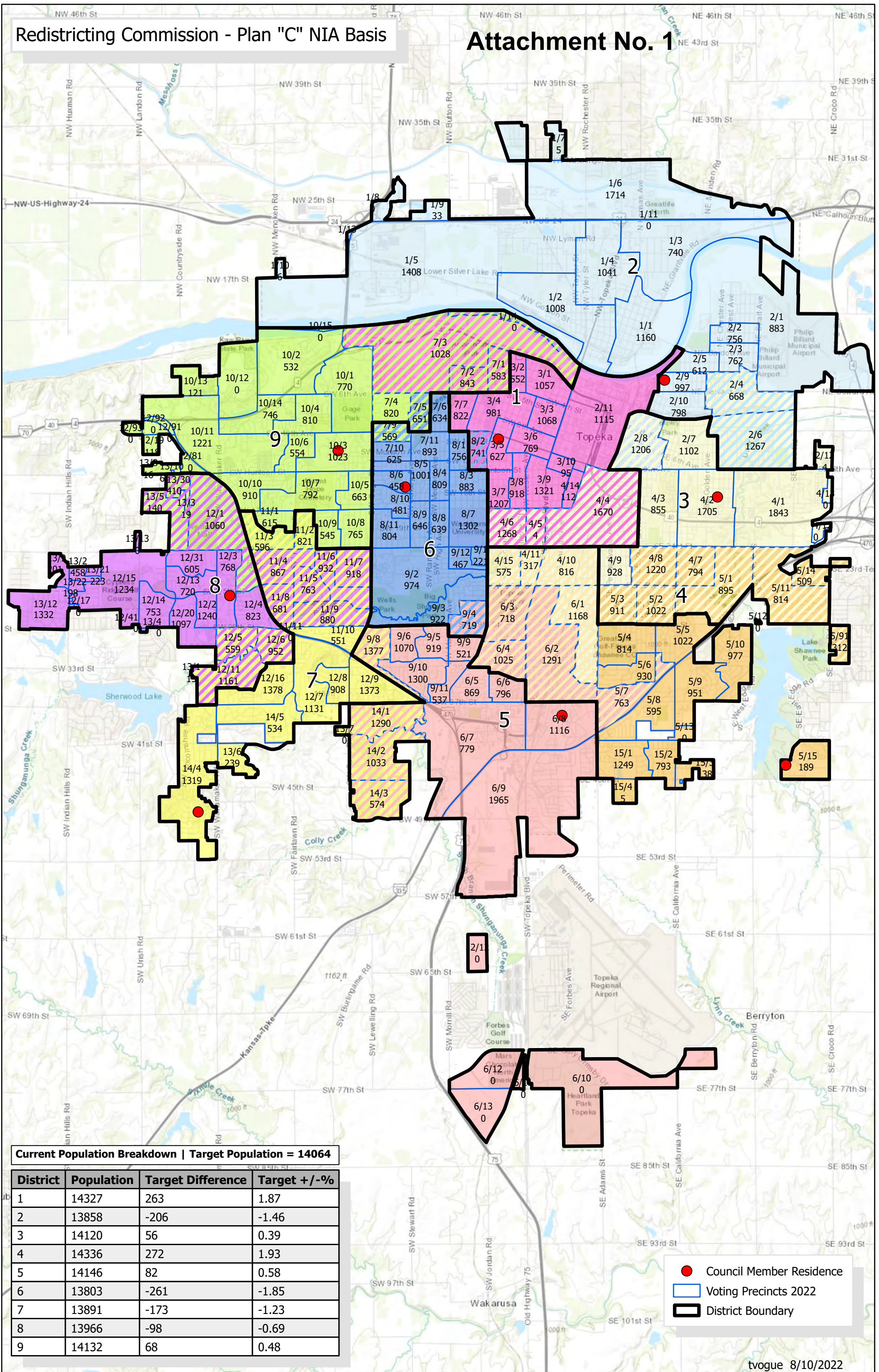
The Commission agreed by unanimous consent (7-0-0) to schedule a meeting on September 1, 2022, at the Cyrus K. Holliday Building, First Floor Conference Room, located at 620 SE Madison Street, from 5:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.

Commissioner Nave moved to adjourn the meeting. The motion seconded by Commissioner Wagaman carried unanimously by voice vote. (7-0-0)

NO FURTHER BUSINESS appearing the meeting adjourned at 6:22 p.m.

(SEAL)

Brenda Younger
City Clerk



Current Population Breakdown | Target Population = 14064

District	Population	Target Difference	Target +/- %
1	14327	263	1.87
2	13858	-206	-1.46
3	14120	56	0.39
4	14336	272	1.93
5	14146	82	0.58
6	13803	-261	-1.85
7	13891	-173	-1.23
8	13966	-98	-0.69
9	14132	68	0.48

- Council Member Residence
- Voting Precincts 2022
- District Boundary