

Redistricting Board Public Hearing - Valley Lee Fire Department (Monday, November 8, 2021)

Generated by Sharon Ferris on Tuesday, November 9, 2021

Members present

Richard Johnson, Chair

Matthew Burgan., Vice Chair

Dr Patricia Richardson, Board Member

Paul Thompson, Board Member

David Weiskopf, County Attorney

Neil Murphy, Deputy County Attorney

John Houser, Assistant County Attorney

Diane Gleissner, Staff Support

Angela Blondino, Staff Support

Sharon Ferris, Staff Support

Absent: Lance Johnson, Board Member

1. CALL TO ORDER

Richard Johnson, Chair, Redistricting Board called the Public Hearing to order at 6:00 pm at the Valley Lee Fire Department, Valley Lee, MD.

2. PUBLIC HEARING

A. PROPOSED REDISTRICTING MAP FOR PUBLIC HEARING

Present: Richard Johnson, Chair, Redistricting Board

Mr. Johnson explained the objectives of the Redistricting Board based on guidelines they were given and discussed the data received from the 2020 Census and the Board of Elections. The data provided was population, population greater than 18, and registered voters. The objective was to balance all 4 districts within 10% of the population. Mr. Johnson stated the total population of the County is \$113,958. Based on the guidelines provided, to get to an equal balance, each district should be approximately 28, 490. On the current map District 4 was 7,641 above the average, District 3 was short 1, 977, District 2 was short 3,852, and District 1 was short 1, 813. He explained they also looked at natural boundaries like rivers and roads. Each Board member was given access to an electronic version of the current Commissioner District Map which allowed them to draw their individual map based on data provided to them. Each Board member presented their final map to the Board explaining their rationale for their map. Following discussions, a vote was taken, and the majority of the Board chose Mr. Burgan's map as the Draft Proposed Redistricting Map.

Chairman Johnson asked John Houser, Assistant County Attorney to provide guidelines for the public hearing and open the hearing for public comment.

Public Comments given by:

Janice T. Walthour, 20493 Partin's Lane, Lexington Park, MD 20653 (Representing NAACP)

Elfreda M. Mathis, 45811 Delegates Ct., Great Mills, MD 20634

Kurt Engel, 44651 Shallow Ford Ct., Tall Timbers, MD 20690

Brandon Russell, 22291 Meadow Lane, Leonardtown, MD 20650

All speakers were opposed to the proposed map.

Mr. Houser closed the public hearing for public comment at 6:17 p.m. noting that the record would remain open for public comment for an additional seven days.

Chairman Johnson closed the public hearing at 6:19 p.m.

Minutes approved by the Redistricting Board on _____.

Richard Johnson, President