

## **North Side Meeting Write-Up By Mitchell Pinsky**

[COLUMBUS, OH] Residents of the North Side of Columbus conveyed the diversity and collective unity that defines the area during this community meeting. On Wednesday, June 16, 2021, North Side residents met with the members of the Council Residential Districting Commission (CRDC) to communicate how their vast community can best be defined in the redistricting process.

“We are very excited to be here on the North Side of town to hear from you and we look forward to hearing the ways in which you describe your neighborhoods” said CRDC Chair Malik Moore during the meeting’s opening remarks.

The third CRDC regional meeting was held at the newly-built Linden Community Center. Several community members and representatives from both area commissions and neighborhood civic associations gave insight into the story of the North Side.

The North Side is unique in that its neighborhoods are extremely diverse in size, location, demographic makeup.

“Italian Village is about 2,400 people. ... We are an incredibly strong community with both mixed-use buildings structures and local business owners, as well as just dedicated neighborhoods” gleefully delineated Jenny Frankhart of the Italian Village Society.

“Here in Northland, we represent about 135,000 residents across and a 25,000 square mile area of northeast Columbus...we have such a great population of New Americans, both refugees and immigrants...Northland is the largest second migration of Bhutanesse-Nepail population in the country and the second largest Samoli population as well as [a] thriving Ghanan community” remarked Northland Community Council Chair Alicia Ward.

Although the North Side is diverse in every way, the challenges faced by the community remain relatively uniform to those faced by residents in other regions of Columbus.

Neighborhoods on the edge of Columbus borders do not always feel part of the greater Columbus community, such as in the Far Northwest neighborhood: “We have some township neighbors mixed in. We’re split between Dublin and Worthington schools, and most of us have a Powell mailing address so it’s a little confusing at times” expressed Far Northwest Coalition President Aaron Neumann.

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The Council Residential Districting Commission is drawing the maps that will create nine Council districts in the City of Columbus, and we need your help to get it right. In addition to the weekly neighborhood virtual meetings occurring right now, you have an option to take the CRDC survey at [www.surveymonkey.com/r/Columbusdistricts](http://www.surveymonkey.com/r/Columbusdistricts).

The survey asks users for their insights in neighborhood representation in Columbus and how they want to see the CRDC address the new residential Council districts. The information will inform the strategy in the drawing of the maps to take place later this year.

**The survey is available online at:**

**[www.surveymonkey.com/r/Columbusdistricts](http://www.surveymonkey.com/r/Columbusdistricts).**

Working together, we can amplify every corner of the City with a legislative voice. The CRDC defining the future today! Visit [columbus.gov/districtingcommission](http://columbus.gov/districtingcommission) for more info.

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