

West Side Meeting Write-Up By Mitchell Pinsky

[COLUMBUS, OH] On Wednesday, June 2, 2021, West Side residents met with the members of the Council Residential Districting Commission (CRDC) to discuss how their community can best be represented in the districting process.

“Each part of Columbus has its own unique history that has shaped what we see today. We recognize it is important to consider the differences and the similarities between neighborhoods when we draw these districts,” remarked CRDC chair, Commissioner Malik Moore.

The second CRDC regional meeting was held at the Glenwood Recreation Center. Residents provided insight into the facets of the West Side they believed are most critical for the creation of their districts.

The West Side is a diverse area with residents of all socioeconomic and racial backgrounds, and various development issues, underscored by the Hilltop neighborhood. As Chair Rachel Wenning of the Hilltop Area Commission stated, “residents of the Hilltop closely resemble the makeup of the City of Columbus as a whole when it comes to racial and ethnic demographics. The value of homes is increasing, and people who can afford to stay in their homes are experiencing an increase in wealth, but affordable and safe rental units are difficult to find.”

Often, due to their proximity to the outside of the city center, residents in the areas outside I-270 feel isolated.

“We are in a sort of no-man’s land where we are not included in a lot of things because we are so far outside the city, like with the interstate, but at the same time we are not included with Hilliard or the townships because we are Columbus” explained Sharon Rastatter, Chair of the Far West Side Area Commission.

Given the wide-ranging economic statuses, several community members emphasized the need for districts that encompass neighborhoods with similar demographics.

Community member, Kevin Orr, wrote in a Facebook comment that the CRDC commission needs to “support maintaining borders of area commissions and clustering them around similar issues.”

Going forward, residents of the West Side are hopeful that the districting process will ensure residents are given the opportunity to have their voices represented in a strategic and equitable manner.

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[COLUMBUS, OH] Columbus, let’s make history. 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.

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.

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

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