

SUPPLEMENTAL REPORTS & COMMUNICATIONS II
Office of the City Clerk

City Council of the City of Napa
Regular Meeting
April 28, 2020

FOR THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF NAPA:

EVENING SESSION:

4. PUBLIC COMMENT (all items were read into the record*):

- Email from Amy Martenson received on April 28, 2020.
- Email from Joe Fischer received on April 28, 2020.
- Email from Justin Hole received on April 28, 2020. (*Please note that this email was not read into the record because it was received after the public comment period closed).

5. PUBLIC HEARINGS/APPEALS:

5.A. Transition to District-Based Elections for Councilmembers (all items were read into the record*).

- Email from Robert Van Der Velde received on April 28, 2020. (*Provided public comment via phone, but email submitted as a back-up in case any issues with phone connection).
- Email and attachment from Napa County Progressive Alliance received on April 28, 2020.
- Email from David Campbell received on April 28, 2020.
- Email from Ron Rhyno received on April 28, 2020.
- Email from Mike Sobelman received April 28, 2020. (*Please note that this email was not read into the record because it was received after the public comment period closed).

From: [Amy Martenson](#)
To: [Clerk](#)
Subject: Public comment for Napa City Council: PLEASE READ ALOUD (General public comment, Item 4)
Date: Tuesday, April 28, 2020 4:44:49 PM

[EXTERNAL]

Good evening, Napa City Council:

I would like to take a moment to complement you on the beautiful landscaping around the three roundabouts. I have actually gotten used to the roundabouts and do appreciate now not having to stop.

While I do still have concerns about tourists confronting them for the first time, I am assuming that since trees have now been planted that the city decided to forego public art there, which seems like a good idea. People looking at art when they are driving tricky roundabouts would not be safe.

So, again, it looks nice, and if you could please confirm that there will not be public art there, I would appreciate it.

Amy Martenson

City Council Meeting
4/28/2020
Supplemental II - 4. Public Comment
From: Joe Fischer

From: Joe Fischer [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, April 28, 2020 6:19 PM
To: Clerk <clerk@cityofnapa.org>
Subject: Public Comment for City Council Meeting April 28

[EXTERNAL]

Council Members,

I have thought about how to help our local restauranteurs and business owners. It is clear that they will be restricted to reduced occupancy — 50% or less in their physical spaces. At the same time many of our residents and visitors — as they are allowed in — will be more comfortable outside than inside.

By strategically closing off certain north /south streets in the downtown core, The City of Napa can create additional seating space in a safe, properly socially distanced environment — also fun by the way. This will allow restaurants to get back to ‘full’ capacity in terms of available tables. It will also be a really interesting and notable way to get people and our restaurant owners and works through this difficult time.

I think Main Street, Randolph Street and other. First Street and Second Street and other main corridors would remain open to traffic.

Thanks for listening.

Joe Fischer.

Joe Fischer
[REDACTED]

DRE# 01982853

STRONG & HAYDEN

Commercial Real Estate
Office, Hotel, Mixed Use, Multi Family, Retail
[REDACTED]

City Council Meeting

4/28/2020

Supplemental II - 4. Public Comment

From: Justin Hole

From: [justin.hole](#)

To: [Clerk](#)

Date: Tuesday, April 28, 2020 6:48:56 PM

[EXTERNAL]

HI ALL CITY OF NAPA meeting for the City Council ON ZOOM meeting

HI IM JUSTIN HOLE YOU ALL GOOD JOBS

Sent from [Mail](#) for Windows 10

**City Council Meeting
4/28/2020
Supplemental II - 5.A.
From: Robert Van Der Velde**

From: [Robert Van Der Velde](#)
To: [Clerk](#)
Subject: COMMENT TO COUNCIL FOR APRIL 28, 2020 MEETING – PLEASE READ
Date: Tuesday, April 28, 2020 9:16:00 AM

[EXTERNAL]

I would prefer to speak to Council by phone [REDACTED] but if there is a problem with the phone connection, please read the following for the record:

Mayor and Council,

This is what I wrote and had hoped to present at the your hearing on March 17th:

“In one respect, this is very easy. Almost exactly 25% of Napa lives north of Trancas. Another 25% lives south of Redwood and West of 29. Draw a line horizontally or vertically east of 29, and you are done.”

That is essentially what you have done with Map 1-A. My bill is in the mail, although I’ll consider it paid by Mayor Jill’s nice shout-out at the last meeting.

But I also said on March 17th:

“But if the goal is to assure a voice and a seat at the table for a marginalized population impacted by a history of polarized voting, then none of the maps before you does the job.”

While I continue to believe the best and prudent course is to delay districting due to the pandemic emergency that cut short public input, you can act now to create a framework for the 2022 re-districting. Specifically, you should begin the discussion about adding two additional seats to Council to help provide for those unrepresented voices, work to decide whether to incorporate the unincorporated islands, as well as create an Independent Redistricting Commission as is done for congressional and legislative districts. Such a commission could embark on a much broader effort to obtain public input, including conducting targeted Spanish-language workshops, and lead a process that won’t be rushed by petitioners nor, I hope, be interrupted by a pandemic. The discussion last week about the maps and the sequencing of elections raised the specter of political pressures and self-interests, making it clear that districting should be done by an independent body, so that the voters select you rather than you selecting your voters.

--

Robert J. Van Der Velde
[REDACTED]

City Council Meeting

4/28/2020

Supplemental II - 5.A.

From: Napa County Progressive Alliance

From: [Napa County Progressive Alliance](#)

To: [Clerk](#)

Cc: [Beth Nelsen](#); [Gary Orton](#); [Devra Dallman](#); [Val Wolf](#); [Amy Martenson](#); [Scott Rafferty](#); [Jill Techel](#); [Doris \[REDACTED\]](#)

Subject: Public Comment for Tonight's Napa City Council Meeting: PLEASE READ ALOUD for Item 5A

Date: Tuesday, April 28, 2020 1:03:13 PM

Attachments: [NCPA Public Comment to Napa City Council 4-28-20.pdf](#)

[EXTERNAL]

Honorable Mayor and Members of the City Council:

My name is Beth Nelsen. I am a member of the Napa County Progressive Alliance Steering Committee and am speaking for the Alliance.

First, we would like to express our appreciation for proceeding with the districting of city council elections under these difficult circumstances. It is a testament to your commitment to honoring the voting rights of all citizens by continuing with these hearings even as we are under siege.

We understand that you have narrowed your attention to Draft Map A and will withhold comments on other submissions. The Napa County Progressive Alliance requests you give special attention to a small but needed boundary adjustment to Draft Map A. In his written communications to you, our attorney, Scott Rafferty, has pointed out in detail the reasons.

We continue to have great concern for the residents of the neglected county areas that are completely or substantially surrounded by city boundaries. We hope you see the need to start annexation proceedings immediately, not only to provide more efficient services, but to enfranchise the residents who have been denied the right to vote on city matters that vitally affect them.

One of these areas, the West Pueblo/Linda Vista county island, is critically affected by Map A, which puts the entire island in District B (Brown's Valley). The eastern half of the island, when annexed to the city, would have the lowest per capita income in the City of Napa (\$20,467). Sixteen percent of the population over the age of five speaks Spanish but does not speak English well. Twelve percent lives in poverty. Eight percent are not citizens. Forty-five percent of the eligible voters are Latino. Furthermore, if you leave this island entirely within District B, upon annexation it would cause a population variance of more than thirteen percent.

Because the law was changed effective January 1, 2020, the city is required when adding new territory to place that territory in the nearest council district without changing the boundaries of the other council districts. If left unmodified, Draft Map A will give the council no choice but to place all of the island in District B, regardless of the opinion of the island residents regarding which district would best suit them. We support Mr. Rafferty's simple solution of moving eight census blocks involving 253 Napa residents from District B to District C. With this small change, the West Pueblo Island will adjoin both Districts B and C and after annexation can be attached to either district or parts to each.

To echo what Mr. Rafferty has said, we believe that the Island, or at least the eastern half, has more in common with District C (the central district) than with District B (Brown's Valley), and the Council should give itself the opportunity to listen to the City's new residents before making a final decision. You will preclude your ability to do that unless you make this slight modification as requested.

Thank you for your consideration.

Honorable Mayor and Members of the City Council:

My name is Beth Nelsen. I am a member of the Napa County Progressive Alliance Steering Committee and am speaking for the Alliance.

First, we would like to express our appreciation for proceeding with the districting of city council elections under these difficult circumstances. It is a testament to your commitment to honoring the voting rights of all citizens by continuing with these hearings even as we are under siege.

We understand that you have narrowed your attention to Draft Map A and will withhold comments on other submissions. The Napa County Progressive Alliance requests you give special attention to a small but needed boundary adjustment to Draft Map A. In his written communications to you, our attorney, Scott Rafferty, has pointed out in detail the reasons.

We continue to have great concern for the residents of the neglected county areas that are completely or substantially surrounded by city boundaries. We hope you see the need to start annexation proceedings immediately, not only to provide more efficient services, but to enfranchise the residents who have been denied the right to vote on city matters that vitally affect them.

One of these areas, the West Pueblo/Linda Vista county island, is critically affected by Map A, which puts the entire island in District B (Brown's Valley). The eastern half of the island, when annexed to the city, would have the lowest per capita income in the City of Napa (\$20,467). Sixteen percent of the population over the age of five speaks Spanish but does not speak English well. Twelve percent lives in poverty. Eight percent are not citizens. Forty-five percent of the eligible voters are Latino. Furthermore, if you leave this island entirely within District B, upon annexation it would cause a population variance of more than thirteen percent.

Because the law was changed effective January 1, 2020, the city is required when adding new territory to place that territory in the nearest council district without changing the boundaries of the other council districts. If left unmodified, Draft Map A will give the council no choice but to place all of the island in District B, regardless of the opinion of the island residents regarding which district would best suit them. We support Mr. Rafferty's simple solution of moving eight census blocks involving 253 Napa residents from District B to District C. With this small change, the West Pueblo Island will adjoin both Districts B and C and after annexation can be attached to either district or parts to each.

To echo what Mr. Rafferty has said, we believe that the Island, or at least the eastern half, has more in common with District C (the central district) than with District B (Brown's Valley), and the Council

Total wordcount: 319

should give itself the opportunity to listen to the City's new residents before making a final decision. You will preclude your ability to do that unless you make this slight modification as requested.

Thank you for your consideration.

From: [David Campbell](#)
To: [Clerk](#)
Subject: Public comment. Please read aloud. For Item 5A
Date: Tuesday, April 28, 2020 1:20:22 PM

[EXTERNAL]

Members of City Council,


I am disappointed that the city-contracted attorney, who must have had access to our city's demographic information, and council members, who should intimately know our neighborhoods, would praise the city for how "integrated" it is are simply because we have Latino neighborhoods dotted throughout Napa. Their comments did not take into account the economic disparities between neighborhoods, and the city council made no attempt to create districts that would increase the likelihood that residents from low socio-economic neighborhoods, which are predominantly Latino, could elect their candidates of choice, namely candidates who understand their needs and would advocate for them.

As I have mentioned previously, I live in the Browns Valley community and it is anything but low income or integrated. This makes the status of the Linda Vista/West Pueblo island, which is predominately poor and Latino, one of considerable importance. The immediate annexation of this island must be a pressing priority for city council. This will begin to right the wrongs of decades of neglect and political malfeasance

Further, although it is, perhaps, too late now for island residents to be included in the 2020 elections, these residents also must be taken into account during the current redistricting so as to be given a meaningful vote in the 2022 city election. As currently drawn these voters would, by law, be cast into the overwhelmingly anglo Browns Valley district following annexation of the island. This would be a serious injustice to those citizens.

Hopefully having districts will begin to provide all of our neighborhoods with a representative who will take ownership over the entire district and advocate for the needs of all of the neighborhoods but especially those that have been underrepresented and underserved. The map must be amended so as to allow voters of the Linda Vista/West Pueblo island to join the downtown area as opposed to forcing them into insignificance in the Browns Valley district.

David Campbell



When I despair, I remember that all through history the way of truth and love has always won. There have been tyrants and murderers and for a time they seem invincible, but in the end, they always fall – think of it, always. ***Mahatma Gandhi.***

Go Green! Think before you print.

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To: Jill Techel & Council members
Via: Tiffany Carranza
From: Ron Rhyno
4.28.20

- 1.) The City's choice Map A1 has a problem contradicting the premise of assembling Communities of Interest for districts. The City of Napa had no originating master plan for City development; rather organically arising from the original "Ranchos" ceded by Californios to various individuals including Salvador Vallejo, and Euro-Americans. The notion that Map A1 is "clean and simple" belies the fact of irregular neighborhood boundaries and that creating inclusive democratic governance has never been clean and simple – e.g. Women's right to vote, Civil Rights Movement, Women's right to choose, Equal Opportunity Employment; and the CA Voting Rights Act among a few examples.
- 2.) Problem 1: A Map does not reveal the territory of lived experiences; nor does a simple revealing of demographic numbers and percentages; nor does, for example, hiring housing consultants who don't know the cultures, history, dynamics, and processes of socialization and decision-making of a City and County.
- 3.) Problem 1a: The Browns Valley area is not one area, but at least four areas. The City's '*City of Napa Neighborhoods*' map shows Browns Valley Central, Browns Valley South, and what appear as unlabeled Browns Valley West; and Browns Valley East where Browns Valley road and 1st street join. The City *Zoning Base Districts* Map shows the predominance of lot sizes as 40K, 20K, Interspersed with 7K and others in the four Browns Valley areas. The big unincorporated island now identified as *West Pueblo/Linda Vista* was from the 1800s *Pueblo de Salvador*, named for Salvador Vallejo as part of his *Rancho de Napa* and labeled as such until what appears to be 1972, when the Records Assessor's Map Bk. 42-04, and 42-03, 1956 appears to indicate a change. The Pueblo Park neighborhood (which includes West Pueblo/Linda Vista *unincorporated island* area surrounded by City) is included into Map A1. As shown in the *City Zoning Base Districts* map, it contains many lots of RI (residential infill), RM (multi family residential) and several of R4K, R5K, R7K, and several of R10K. It is known that the Pueblo Park neighborhoods and area has a significant population of underrepresent individuals and families, as does the Westwood area to the south of Pueblo Park.

Browns Valley 4 areas are not the same as Pueblo Park and Westwood. My 7 district maps separate them to incorporate Pueblo Park and Westwood to advantage the Browns Valley 4 areas and Pueblo Park/Westwood.

Finally, A Public Question: If the Purpose of the CA VR Act was/is to create a more inclusive and Participatory democracy at what point did the Napa City Council in the 17 years between 2003 and 2020 learn of the CA Voting Rights Act?

**City Council Meeting 4/28/2020
Supplemental II - 5.A.**

From: [Mike Sobelman](#)
To: [Clerk](#)
Subject: How About that Vote on Map C Tonight
Date: Tuesday, April 28, 2020 7:38:01 PM

From: Mike Sobelman

[EXTERNAL]

Scott is already talking about Map A. Haven't you heard anything tonight.

Please discuss Map C.

Michael Sobelman