



Agenda Report

City Council

Date: January 24, 2023

To: Brian Saeki, City Manager

From: Rigoberto Garcia, City Clerk

Subject: 2020 US Census Redistricting Public Hearing No. 3 - Draft Map Proposals

RECOMMENDATION

Conduct Public Hearing No. 3 to consider new and received testimony on the 2020 US Census data/maps, review proposed map submittals, and provide direction as appropriate.

BACKGROUND

On June 3, 2014, Whittier voters approved a Charter amendment calling for four Council Members elected by and from geographically defined districts and a citywide mayor position elected at-large. According to the Charter, Council Member terms are four years, and the Mayor's term is two years.

On June 9, 2015, after considering public testimony, studying communities of public interest, natural boundaries, geographic, topographic and population data, contiguity, integrity, and compactness of territory, City Council adopted four district boundaries.

In 2016 the City held its first district-based election with District 1, District 3 and Mayor on the ballot. In 2018 the City held a district-based election for District 2, District 4 and Mayor. Elections continue to be staggered so that two Council Members and the Mayor are selected at one election and the remaining two Council Members and the Mayor are selected at the next election.

The 2020 US Census officially began on April 1, 2020, and ended on October 16, 2020. State law¹ requires that each city that uses district-based elections review its current council districts following the receipt of new decennial Census data to ensure that districts remain compliant with Federal and State requirements. For 2021, California enacted new requirements on the population counts (the realignment of incarcerated persons²) and the criteria³ used to draw and select the districts.

¹ Elections Code 21621

² Elections Code 21003

³ Elections Code 21621(c)

The law now mandates the following criteria in the following order of precedence:

1. Equal Population and Compliance with the Federal Voting Rights Act
2. Contiguity
3. Minimize divisions of neighborhoods and socio-economic communities of interest that would benefit from being united in a single district
4. Follow easily recognizable boundaries
5. Compactness

In June 2022, the City contracted with National Demographics Corporation to provide an initial analysis of 2020 US Census data to identify and create a redistricting database that includes socio-economic data, matching demographic data to existing district boundaries, and preparing a report on demographics and its compliance to state and federal criteria including identifying protected class populations and other socio-economic data such as income, education level, children at home, language spoken at home, home-ownership, and renters. NDC finds the existing district map appears to be in compliance with Federal and State law. Using the official 2021 redistricting data, the map has a total deviation between its largest and smallest districts of 7.45%, which puts it within the 10% maximum deviation allowed by the federal courts. The map has three majority-Latino districts, proportional to the Latino share of the eligible voter population. The map is contiguous, has easily understood boundaries between districts, and is compact.

At the September 13, 2022 City Council Meeting staff was directed to seek map draft options from residents and include what a minor change would look like to help improve the population deviation from the existing map without making major changes to all districts, and whether it was feasible to bring the boundary between Districts 1 and 4 to Painter Avenue.

DISCUSSION

On November 15, 2022, the City, in conjunction with NDC, held a Redistricting Community Meeting at the Whittier Central Library on the redistricting process, receive community testimony, and teach residents how to submit feedback on the maps or create their own draft map proposal. The workshop was attended by 71 residents and 32 teleconference users. The Community Meeting workshop was held as a public hearing in accordance with State Law by publishing an advertisement notice in the *Whittier Daily News* and *La Opinion* with a joined circulation of 35,000 residents in the City of Whittier, the *Whittier Daily News* ran a story of the redistricting process and workshop on September 24, 2022, running notices on Cable Channel 3, promoting public hearings at six City Council Meetings, distributing participation kits at every City Facility, Social Media post receiving 15,600 views, Public and Private Newsletters reaching over 25,000 residents generating 180 direct links the City's Census webpage, 376 clicks on the City's Mobile App Whittier365, and mailing over 60,900 bilingual postcard invitations to every household in the City of Whittier.

As part of the workshop, NDC worked with the City to prepare mapping tools to empower residents to submit and review draft maps and communities of interest. This included a one-page paper "Public Participation Kits" with basic information like streets, city borders, and total population data that allow residents with limited technological access to draw communities or districts. There is also a browser-based tool that allows users access to more demographic and statistical information. These tools were made available in both English and Spanish.

At the workshop residents requested the Groves Development information which identified the following 556 permitted units:

- 1-bedroom: 24
- 2-bedroom: 72
- 3-bedroom: 240
- 4-bedroom: 220

Residents additionally requested voter turnout by the voting district for the 2022 November Statewide General Election:

- District 1 - 31.73%
- District 2 - 46.80%
- District 3 - 52.94%
- District 4 - 49.13%

During the comment portion of the workshop residents generally:

- Indicated support for the existing district boundary maps.
- Questioned why the City had to participate in redistricting.
- Unincorporated Whittier residents inquired why the US Census Block doesn't match City and County Blocks
 - The State is responsible for providing jurisdictional boundaries and blocks; the blocks are correct at the time of sending the information to establish a cut-off date to work from.
- There continues to be confusion between the City of Whittier boundaries and Unincorporated Whittier. A resident questioned the accuracy of the district map because it didn't include two recent developments; both developments were adjacent to the City of Whittier but after verification turned out to be in Unincorporated Whittier.
- A resident question the accuracy of US Census Population because residents are not forced to participate in the US Census. It was further recommended the City conduct its own census count every five years.
- A resident inquired if potential annexed areas would be taken into consideration for the redistricting process.
 - If a territory is annexed, those residents would be placed in the adjected district subject to the approval of the City Council. The proposed annexation area borders District 1 and 2 of the existing district boundaries.
- A resident stressed that even though there are four districts the City is one community and should be kept together.

After the workshop the City received:

- 85 calls and one email from residents indicating the existing district boundaries worked as expected.
- Six social media posts reaching 15,640 views yielding 22 comments.
 - Of the 22 comments received one indicated support of the existing map, and another suggested moving to five districts instead of having a directly elected mayor. Social Media posts received 234 likes and 83 shares.
- Two paper map submittals with support for the existing district boundaries with no suggested changes.
 - One English, One Spanish
- Two online maps with changes to Districts 1, 3, and 4.

Based on City Council direction, the City's consultant additionally provided a draft map to show minimal changes that would help improve the deviation percentage without the production of jagged lines.

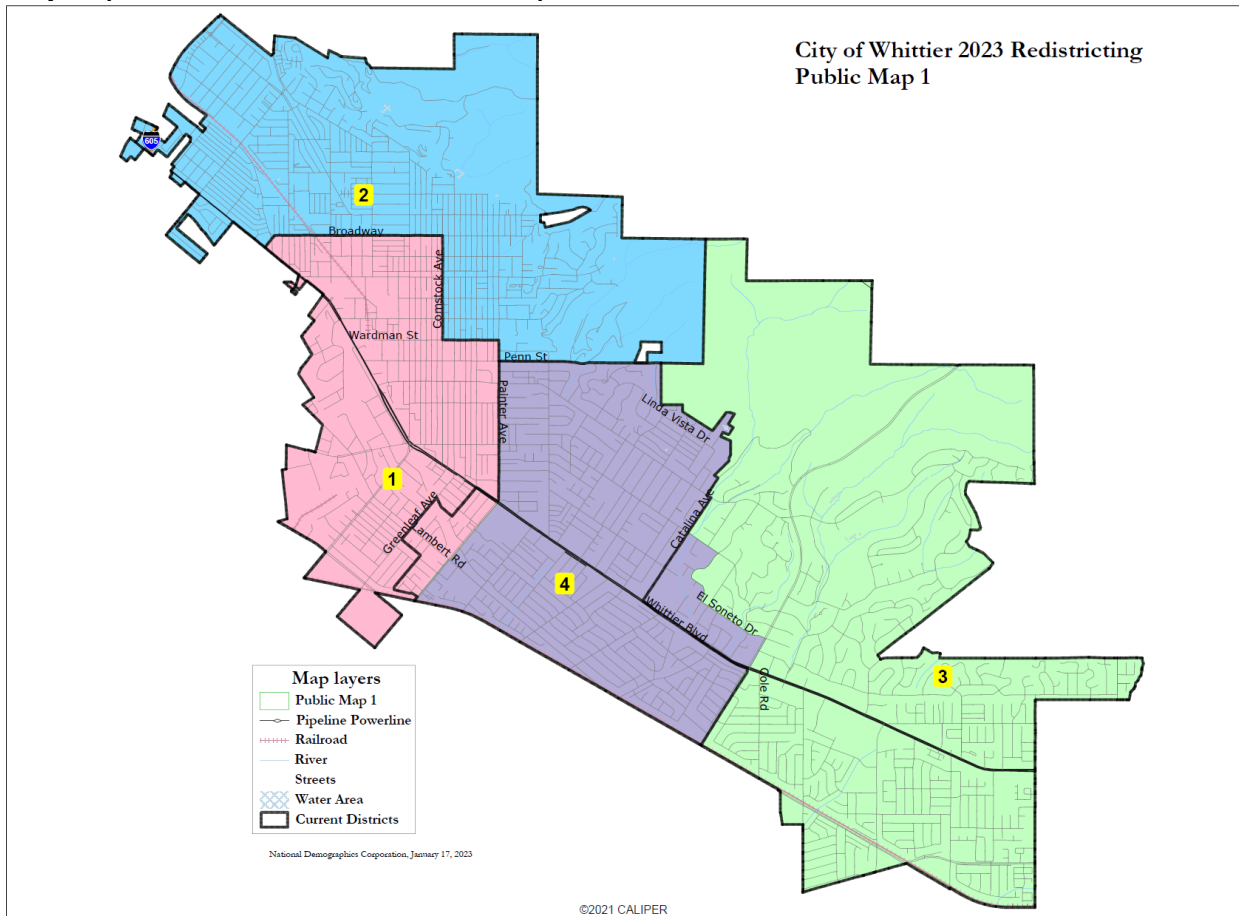
As of the publishing of this staff report there are five draft map submittals:

- 1) Public Map 1 (Online) 5.95% Deviation
- 2) Public Map 2 (Online) 5.29% Deviation
- 3) Public Map 3 (Online) 2.39% Deviation
- 4) Minimal Changes (City Council Direction) 4.31% Deviation
- 5) Existing Map (Current) 7.45% Deviation

The full demographic spreadsheets for each map are available on the City's redistricting website along with an Interactive Review Map that allows users to zoom, search for specific addresses, and compare the maps to the current districts and other options.

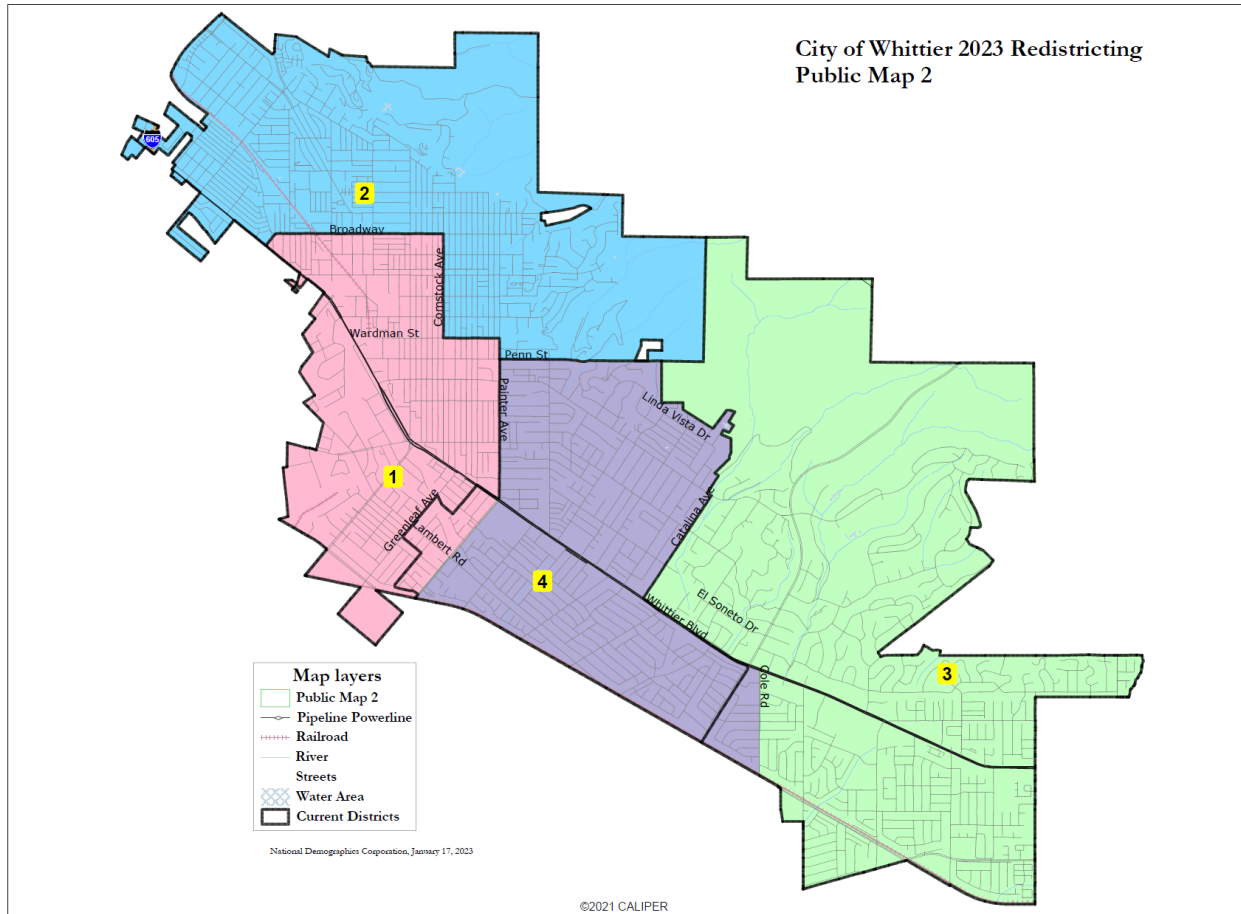
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Map 1 (Full Statistics Attachment A)



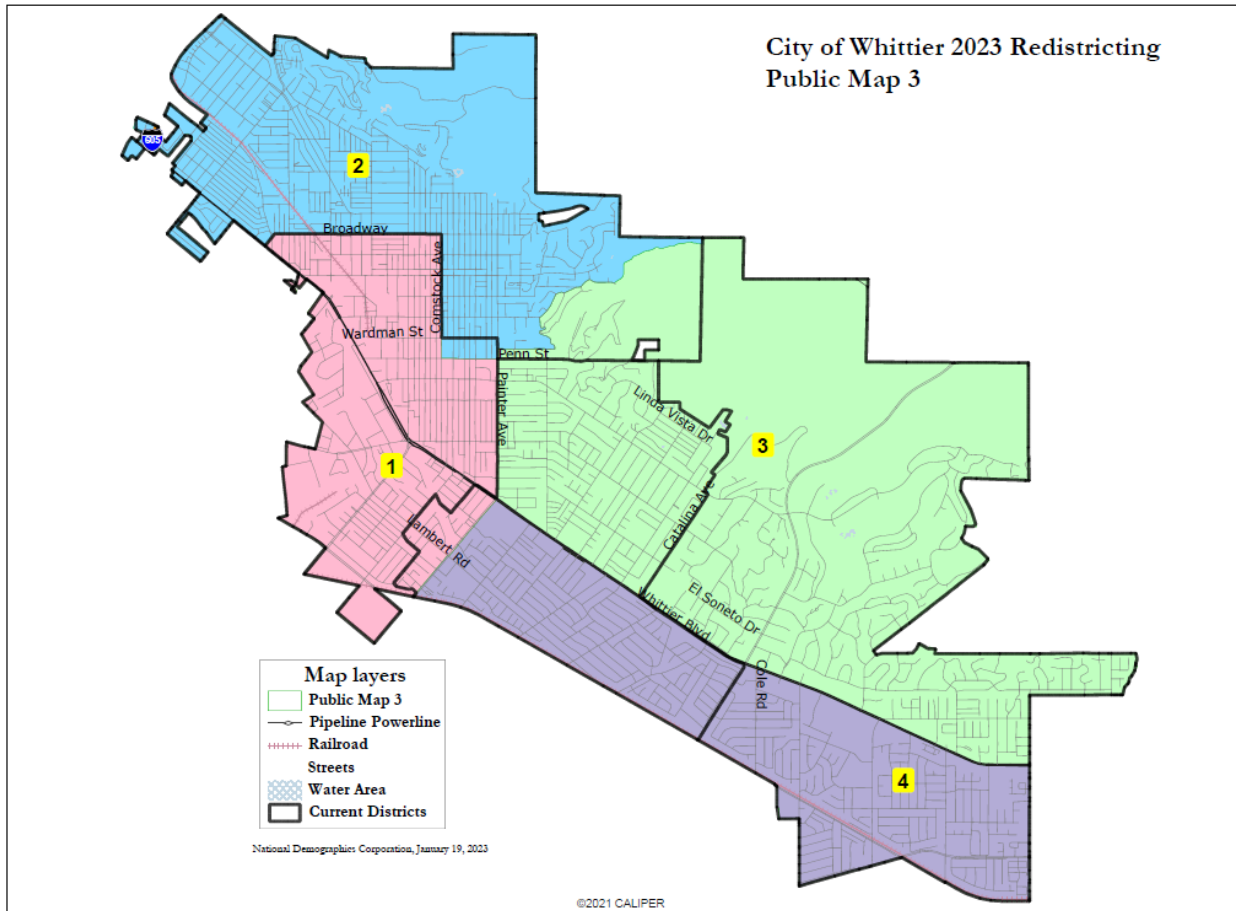
Public Map 1						
District		1	2	3	4	Total
	Total Pop	22,584	22,098	21,629	21,281	87,592
	Deviation from ideal	686	200	-269	-617	1,303
	% Deviation	3.13%	0.91%	-1.23%	-2.82%	5.95%
Total Pop	% Hisp	84.2%	72%	56%	71%	71%
	% NH White	9%	20%	32%	22%	21%
	% NH Black	2%	1%	1%	1%	1%
	% Asian-American	3%	5%	9%	4%	5%
Citizen Voting Age Pop	Total	14,057	16,071	15,277	14,812	60,217
	% Hisp	78%	60%	48%	63%	62%
	% NH White	14%	31%	41%	32%	30%
	% NH Black	2%	2%	1%	1%	2%
	% Asian/Pac.Isl.	4%	6%	9%	3%	5%
Voter Registration (Nov 2020)	Total	10,994	14,186	15,075	13,885	54,140
	% Latino est.	80%	66%	49%	64%	64%
	% Spanish-Surnamed	73%	60%	44%	58%	58%
	% Asian-Surnamed	2%	2%	5%	2%	3%
	% Filipino-Surnamed	1%	1%	1%	1%	1%
	% NH White est.	21%	34%	48%	37%	36%
	% NH Black	1%	2%	1%	1%	1%

Map 2 (Full Statistics Attachment B)



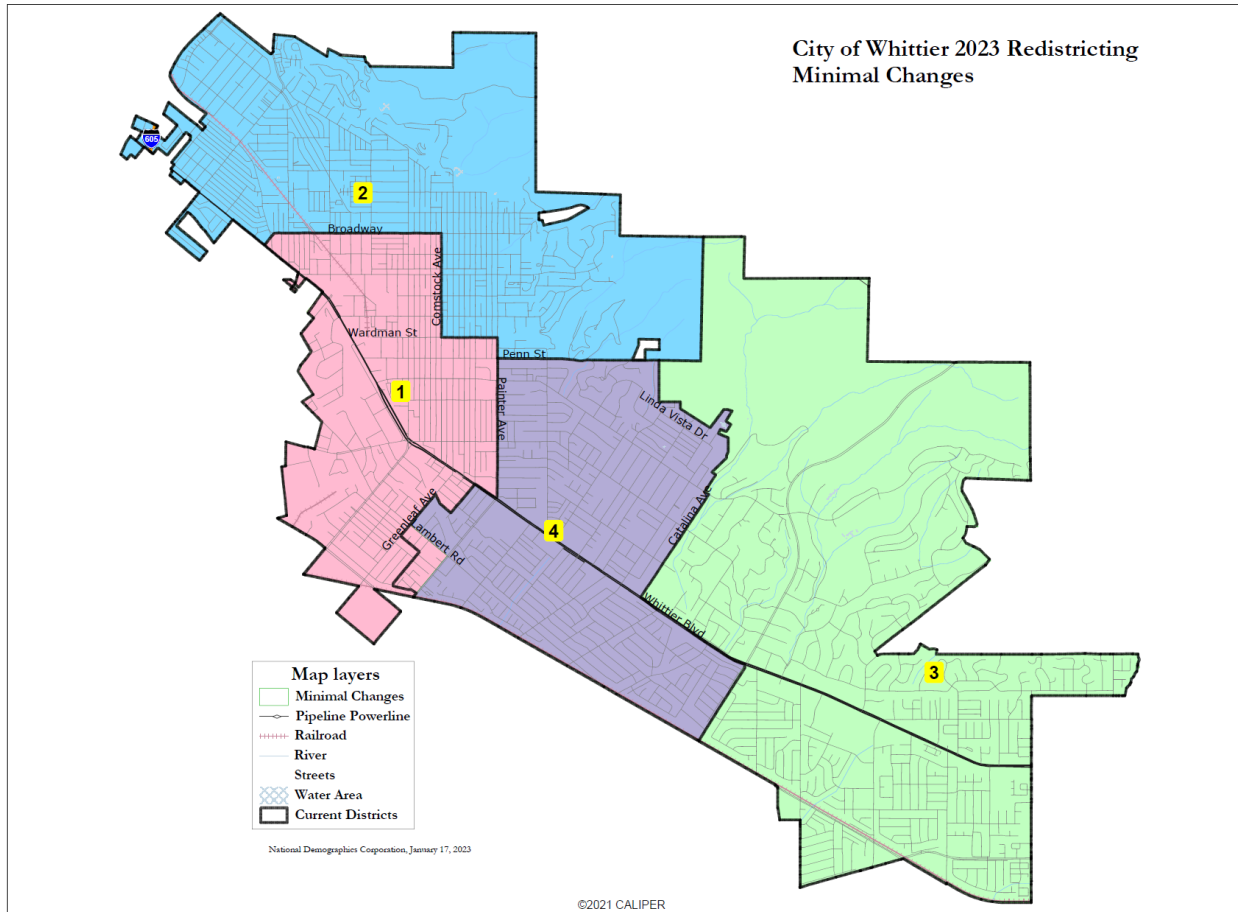
Public Map 2						
District		1	2	3	4	Total
	Total Pop	22,584	22,098	21,426	21,484	87,592
	Deviation from ideal	686	200	-472	-414	1,158
	% Deviation	3.13%	0.91%	-2.16%	-1.89%	5.29%
Total Pop	% Hisp	84.2%	72%	55%	71%	71%
	% NH White	9%	20%	32%	22%	21%
	% NH Black	2%	1%	1%	1%	1%
	% Asian-American	3%	5%	9%	4%	5%
Citizen Voting Age Pop	Total	14,057	16,071	15,312	14,777	60,217
	% Hisp	78%	60%	48%	63%	62%
	% NH White	14%	31%	41%	32%	30%
	% NH Black	2%	2%	1%	2%	2%
	% Asian/Pac.Isl.	4%	6%	9%	3%	5%
Voter Registration (Nov 2020)	Total	10,994	14,186	14,889	14,071	54,140
	% Latino est.	80%	66%	49%	64%	64%
	% Spanish-Surnamed	73%	60%	44%	58%	58%
	% Asian-Surnamed	2%	2%	5%	2%	3%
	% Filipino-Surnamed	1%	1%	1%	1%	1%
	% NH White est.	21%	34%	48%	37%	36%
	% NH Black	1%	2%	1%	1%	1%

Map 3 (Full Statistics Attachment C)



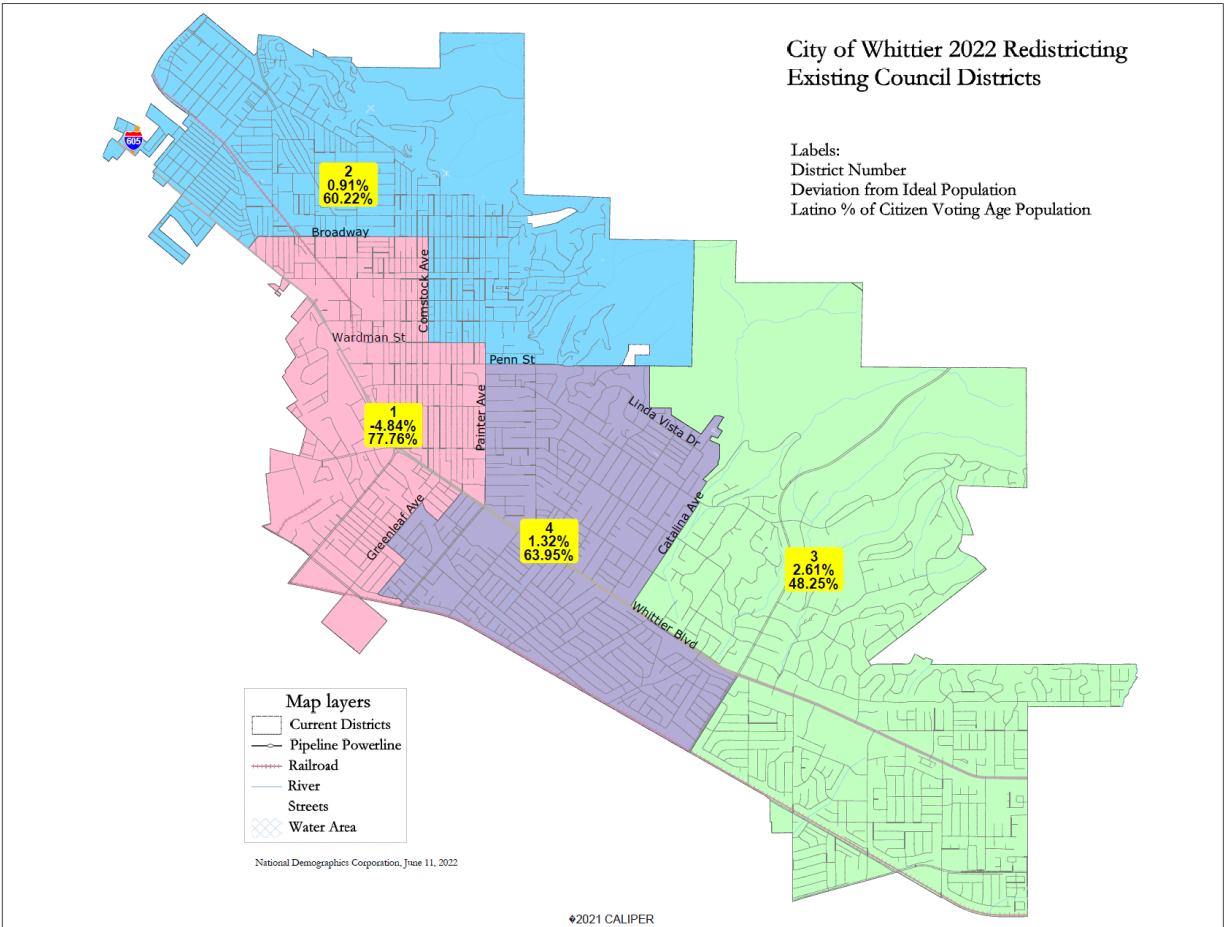
Public Map 3						
District		1	2	3	4	Total
	Total Pop	21,884	21,777	21,704	22,227	87,592
	Deviation from ideal	-14	-121	-194	329	523
	% Deviation	-0.06%	-0.55%	-0.89%	1.50%	2.39%
Total Pop	% Hisp	84.9%	72%	60%	65%	71%
	% NH White	9%	19%	29%	25%	21%
	% NH Black	2%	1%	1%	1%	1%
	% Asian-American	3%	5%	7%	6%	5%
Citizen Voting Age Pop	Total	13,406	15,633	15,400	15,778	60,217
	% Hisp	78%	62%	44%	65%	62%
	% NH White	14%	30%	46%	27%	30%
	% NH Black	2%	1%	2%	1%	2%
	% Asian/Pac.Isl.	3%	6%	8%	4%	5%
Voter Registration (Nov 2020)	Total	10,588	14,128	14,850	14,574	54,140
	% Latino est.	81%	67%	52%	60%	64%
	% Spanish-Surnamed	74%	61%	48%	54%	58%
	% Asian-Surnamed	1%	3%	4%	3%	3%
	% Filipino-Surnamed	1%	1%	1%	2%	1%
	% NH White est.	21%	33%	46%	40%	36%
	% NH Black	1%	2%	1%	1%	1%

Map 4 (Full Statistics Attachment D)



Minimal Changes						
District		1	2	3	4	Total
	Total Pop	21,506	22,098	22,449	21,539	87,592
	Deviation from ideal	-392	200	551	-359	943
	% Deviation	-1.79%	0.91%	2.52%	-1.64%	4.31%
Total Pop	% Hisp	84.1%	72%	56%	72%	71%
	% NH White	9%	20%	31%	21%	21%
	% NH Black	2%	1%	1%	1%	1%
	% Asian-American	3%	5%	9%	4%	5%
Citizen Voting Age Pop	Total	13,427	16,071	15,962	14,758	60,217
	% Hisp	78%	60%	48%	64%	62%
	% NH White	14%	31%	41%	31%	30%
	% NH Black	2%	2%	1%	1%	2%
	% Asian/Pac.Isl.	4%	6%	9%	3%	5%
Voter Registration (Nov 2020)	Total	10,398	14,186	15,659	13,897	54,140
	% Latino est.	80%	66%	49%	64%	64%
	% Spanish-Surnamed	73%	60%	45%	58%	58%
	% Asian-Surnamed	2%	2%	5%	2%	3%
	% Filipino-Surnamed	1%	1%	1%	1%	1%
	% NH White est.	21%	34%	48%	37%	36%
	% NH Black	1%	2%	1%	1%	1%

Map 5 (Full Statistics Attachment E)



Current Districts with Splits						
District		1	2	3	4	Total
	Total Pop	20,838	22,098	22,469	22,187	87,592
	Deviation from ideal	-1,060	200	571	289	1,631
	% Deviation	-4.84%	0.91%	2.61%	1.32%	7.45%
Total Pop	% Hisp	84.4%	72%	56%	72%	71%
	% NH White	9%	20%	32%	21%	21%
	% NH Black	2%	1%	1%	1%	1%
	% Asian-American	3%	5%	9%	4%	5%
Citizen Voting Age Pop	Total	13,050	16,071	15,977	15,119	60,217
	% Hisp	78%	60%	48%	64%	62%
	% NH White	14%	31%	41%	30%	30%
	% NH Black	2%	2%	1%	2%	2%
	% Asian/Pac.Isl.	4%	6%	9%	3%	5%
Voter Registration (Nov 2020)	Total	10,021	14,186	15,659	14,274	54,140
	% Latino est.	81%	66%	49%	65%	64%
	% Spanish-Surnamed	74%	60%	45%	59%	58%
	% Asian-Surnamed	2%	2%	5%	2%	3%
	% Filipino-Surnamed	1%	1%	1%	1%	1%
	% NH White est.	20%	34%	48%	36%	36%
	% NH Black	1%	2%	1%	1%	1%

Staff request City Council review the draft map proposals, consider public testimony, and provide direction as appropriate. The redistricting process requires at least one more public hearing at a later date prior to making a decision on district maps. The entire process must be concluded by September 2023 so that the district boundaries apply to the April 9, 2024 General Municipal Election.

FISCAL IMPACT

Sufficient funds exist in account 100-15-151-303 803610 - Professional Services to conduct the redistricting process.

STRATEGIC PLANNING GOAL

- Transparent & Open Government

ATTACHMENTS

- A. Draft Map 1 with full statistics
- B. Draft Map 2 with full statistics
- C. Draft Map 3 with full statistics
- D. Draft Map 4 with full statistics
- E. Draft Map 5 with full statistics