

Friends, Neighbors and fellow Community citizens of Santa Paula,

Thank you for the opportunity, one of the most sacred rights of a Democracy, to share some of my thoughts on Districting.

My name is Connie Tushla. I have lived in Santa Paula for the past 50 years. I have volunteered in several areas of Santa Paula and right now serve as a Board Member of the Police Foundation and the Santa Clara Valley Boys and Girls Club. The Club provides child care and numerous academic programs for the Children of Santa Paula, Fillmore, and Piru. By way of private donations, Corporate Giving, Grants from Government and Foundations and from constant Event Fundraising operates a yearly budget in the the range of 780,000 thousand dollars.

The Police Foundation, just this week had the pleasure of meeting Chief Aguiliar and looks forward to hearing in the future the 2023 Goals of the Police Department. These men and women in the Police Department have a tough job, one that a lot of us would not want to have as our occupation. I also served as Chamber Present for two years and have been an advocate for the extension of Ventura College in Santa Paula. I served for around a year with the guidance of Hank Lacayo, a really talented and fair leader, on the Oversight Committee for the Bond Money we never received for the extension of the College in Santa Paula. Oddly enough one of the main centers of conflict at the time dealt with the fact that Limoneria had not had their project approved for East Area One, so we had no land and we still have no land today.

I have listed some of the things I have been involved with, certainly not because I am such a great and giving person but because the things I

have been involved with hopefully display my interests and heart and passion for those areas of involvement. I would like to compliment many of you in this room who spoke of their passion and interests for districting and expansion of Ventura College SP Campus at Council this week. It has been my pleasure to work with and know Gabino Aguire and Laura Espinosa who are both models of Community Advocay and have been Involved in many important issues for many, many years.

Please take my comments on districting as being sincere and not based on division. They are made for the purpose of consideration for discussion and for the purpose of developing a Team Efforts.

I am concerned for the following reasons:

1. Diminishing of everyone's vote. We would have one vote for a Council Member not 5 votes.
2. The diminishing ability to vote for the best candidate from the pool of candidates in the entire town
3. My confusion about how Districting will effect an improvement in crime satisticis, cleanliness of the entire town and the desperate need for improved roads and economic developments of the town. ( many spoke of these issues at Council but did not present a plan as to how districting would affect these issues)
4. The possibility that we will have more division and gridlock as each district has the potential to become there own little serfdom to obtain their own individual wishes and goals
5. The shocking amount of knowledge, or lack there of, about Districts by the majority of Santa Paula Citizens and the really discouraging fact that they are not aware or choose not to get involved.

6. What method will Council will appoint a Council Member if no one chooses to run for a seat in a District or if only one person runs with no completion.
7. Not studying and observing the many problems Ojai now has in a small City. Disricting , I feel is more successful in a large City.
8. Finally will Disticting bring Santa Paula Together or will the process result in Santa Paula more divided in future days. I really hope for the good of us all. That doesn't happen.

These are some of my concerns, Thank You for the Opportunity and Thank You for Listening.