

CITY OF SANTA PAULA  
CITY CLERK

January 30, 2023

JAN 30 2023

Mayor Andy Sobel and Councilmembers  
City of Santa Paula  
970 Ventura St  
Santa Paula, CA 93060  
Dear Mayor Sobel:

RECEIVED

We request you add an agenda item, specifically a noticed public hearing, to an upcoming Council meeting to discuss reconsideration of the Council's decision to create City Council Districts, which takes away the right to vote from residents and was done without public input.

We note that the City has hired a consultant and spent over \$100,000 creating the proposed districts, held various poorly attended forums, yet solicited no input from the public on whether to create districts.

The consultant claims to have solicited public input on the creation of proposed district maps from community groups throughout the city. However, your consultant neglected to contact any service clubs such as Rotary, Oddfellows, Optimists, America In Bloom, sports organizations or the school district board, all of whom do a great deal of work volunteering and supporting activities for all residents of the City. We have verified that their so-called contact with other groups was limited to a phone call notifying them about an upcoming meeting.

Clearly, the perception is that the City Council isn't interested in what the public thinks. The 1/18/23 City Council agenda included a number of letters, maps and notes from people who do not want districts that were never even mentioned at the Council meeting and completely disregarded by the City Council and its consultant. In fact, there were more letters and emails than the comments received at the so-called forums. It is time to rectify this situation in fairness to all Santa Paula residents.

We, the signators below, ask that you promptly schedule a noticed public hearing on an upcoming Council agenda to discuss this issue so that residents will have an opportunity to share their concerns with you in a format where the Council will be able to respond, rather than continuing to foster divisiveness in the City.

We look forward to your affirmative response to this request.

Yours truly,

See attached signatory page

Letter to Mayor Sobel - January 30, 2023

*Ginger Gherardi*

Name: Ginger Gherardi

*Richard Rudman*

Name: Richard Rudman

*Kay Wilson-Bolton* KWB

DocuSigned by:

Name: Kay Wilson-Bolton

*Rey Frutos*

DocuSigned by:

Name: Rey Frutos

*Mary Deines*

DocuSigned by:

Name: Mary Deines

*Walt Adair*

Name: Walt Adair

*Chris Wilson*

Name: Chris Wilson

*Linda Wilkinson*

Name: Linda Wilkinson

*Susan Wilkinson*

Name: Susan Wilkinson

*Gerald Olivas*

Name: Gerald Olivas

*Maryarette Olivas*

Name: Maryarette Olivas

*Maria McLaughlin*

Name: Maria McLaughlin

*Alicia Ferreira*

Name: Alicia Ferreira

*John McLaughlin*

Name: JOHN McLaughlin

*Row Merson*

Name: ROW MERSON

*Deborah A. Johnson*

Name: DEBORAH A. JOHNSON

*Billy Herrera*

DocuSigned by:

Name: Billy Herrera

*Connie Tushla*

DocuSigned by:

Name: Connie Tushla

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Name: \_\_\_\_\_



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## City Districting Submission

4 messages

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**Austin Auger**

Tue, Jan 31, 2023 at 9:32 AM

To: [districting@spcity.org](mailto:districting@spcity.org)

Hello,

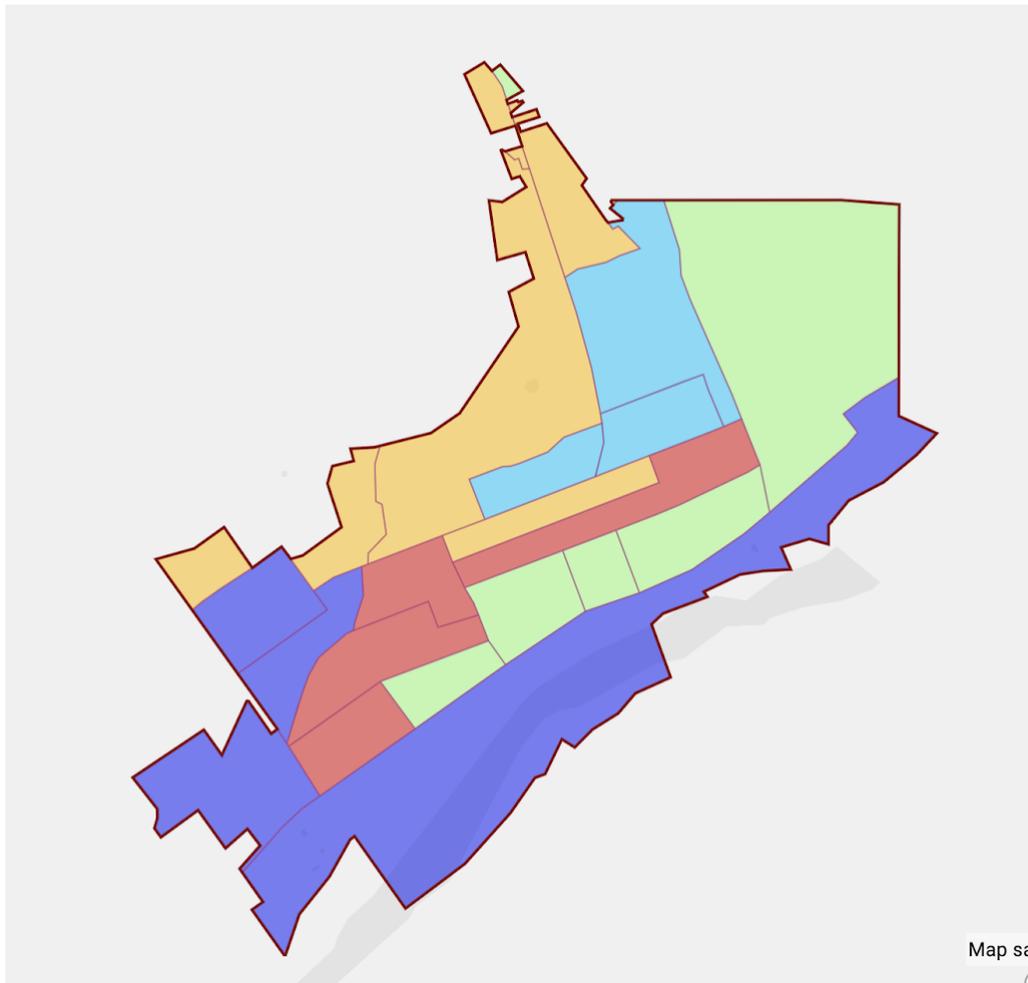
My name is Austin Auger and I had submitted my districting idea for Santa Paula via a share link from 'Dave's Redistricting' (<https://davesredistricting.org/join/a715a7e5-b32a-42fb-8f7f-f903a42d6fae>) but I haven't seen it appear yet on the city's website for review. Perhaps it just takes time to update the site, but just wanted to ensure that my submission made it in before the cutoff date/time.

Thank you kindly for your time.

Cheers,

--

-Austin Auger-



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**Jonathan Royas**

Tue, Jan 31, 2023 at 9:00 PM

To: Austin Auger

Cc: Districting Districting <districting@spcity.org>

Good evening Mr. Auger,

Your map has been received. Maps which meet the legal requirements will be posted to the website after the deadline on February 1 before the public hearing.

Have a good evening.

Be well,

Jonathan

On Jan 31, 2023, at 9:32 AM, Austin Auger

wrote:

Hello,

My name is Austin Auger and I had submitted my districting idea for Santa Paula via a share link from 'Dave's Redistricting' (<https://davesredistricting.org/join/a715a7e5-b32a-42fb-8f7f-f903a42d6fae>) but I haven't seen it appear yet on the city's website for review. Perhaps it just takes time to update the site, but just wanted to ensure that my submission made it in before the cutoff date/time.

Thank you kindly for your time.

Cheers,

--

-Austin Auger-

&lt;Screenshot 2023-01-31 at 9.31.48 AM.png&gt;

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**Douglas Johnson**

Tue, Jan 31, 2023 at 9:12 PM

To: Austin Auger

Cc: districting@spcity.org

Yes this map has been received and is being processed for posting. One thing that you may want to address, however, is the two non-contiguous parts of the map (as you can see from the colors on the map, the green and yellow districts are not contiguous). We recognize there is a bug in the DRA system where the analytics screen does not correctly classify contiguous and non-contiguous maps, but thankfully contiguity is easily determined simply by looking at the map. If you wish to adjust the map so that those two districts are contiguous, the City would welcome that amended submission as long as it arrives by the 6:30pm deadline on Feb. 1.

And thank you for your interest in this important process for the city!

- Douglas Johnson

NDC

[Quoted text hidden]

--

Douglas Johnson

National Demographics Corporation

**Douglas Johnson**

Mon, Feb 6, 2023 at 7:18 AM

To: Jonathan Royas

Justin Levitt

FYI - Mr Auger's response:

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Austin Auger**

Date: Wed, Feb 1, 2023 at 3:45 PM

Subject: Re: City Districting Submission

To: Douglas Johnson

Hello Mr. Johnson,

Thank you for your response and analytical review of my districting map and suggestions.

I wrestled myself with conceptualizing this map draw up, as the key to this indeed relied upon the definition of "contiguous." On one hand, you can take contiguous to mean it blatantly like you are interpreting here with like places/colors needing to be in like packages and touching. On the other hand, I took contiguous to mean the touching of all 'census tracts,' which in this case all of the districts represent contiguous census tracts and are of balanced populations under that 10% threshold.

So now I am curious, does the actual law stipulate districting continuity based upon physical location, or by the census tracts that that location actually resides in? 🤔

With this all said, the ambiguity that I am left in currently, and with time not on my side, I think I'd like to just keep my map drawn up as it is please.

I thank you again kindly for you time and help that you are providing to our city here!

Kind Regards,

--

-Austin Auger-

[Quoted text hidden]

[Quoted text hidden]



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## My opinion about the proposed districts in Santa Paula

2 messages

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**Karen Karayan**

Wed, Feb 8, 2023 at 8:58 AM

To: [districting@spcity.org](mailto:districting@spcity.org)

Cc: [cityclerk@spcity.org](mailto:cityclerk@spcity.org), Dan Singer

Good Morning,

I am still not quite sure why our small community needs to go to districting...we have such a mix population in all neighborhoods.

Anyway, I am in favor of #104 proposal.

Respectfully,

Karen Heath-Karayan

Karen Karayan

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**Kylie Sun**

Wed, Feb 8, 2023 at 9:57 AM

To: Karen Karayan

Cc: [districting@spcity.org](mailto:districting@spcity.org), [cityclerk@spcity.org](mailto:cityclerk@spcity.org), Dan Singer

Received, thank you.

[Quoted text hidden]



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## Fwd: City Council Meeting

1 message

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**Jonathan Royas**

To: Districting Districting <districting@spcity.org>

Sun, Feb 12, 2023 at 10:11 PM

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**From:** Laura Staben

**Sent:** Friday, February 10, 2023 3:50 PM

**To:** Andy Sobel; Dan Singer; Jenny Crosswhite; ; Carlos Juarez

**Subject:** City Council Meeting

Santa Paula City Council,

I am a City Business owner and have resided in Santa Paula for more than 70 years. I love Santa Paula and I'm upset with what is happening to divide us. Please consider what I am writing to you about.

I am against dividing our city into districting. In our recent School Board Member election under divided districting, I was denied my right to vote for an excellent, experienced Board Member up for re-election. I approve of an At Large Voting system that has worked for years in Santa Paula.

Thank you for your attention

**Laura Staben**

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**FW: DISTRICT VOTING**

1 message

**Jonathan Royas**

Tue, Feb 14, 2023 at 12:44 PM

To: Districting Districting &lt;districting@spcity.org&gt;

**From:** David Romney**Sent:** Tuesday, February 14, 2023 8:17 AM**To:** Andy Sobel ; Jenny Crosswhite ; Carlos JuarezDan Singer Pedro A. Chavez ; Leslie Cornejo  
James Mason Julie Latshaw**Subject:** DISTRICT VOTING

Re: District Voting

Councilmembers – Yogi Berra got it right. This is déjà vu all over again.

Over twenty years ago Assistant U.S. Attorney Lee threatened to sue the City of Santa Paula based on the 1964 Civil Rights Act and legislation enacted pursuant to that Act. The City Council refused to comply then and won. Since the California Voting Rights Act is just more of the same the City Council should refuse now and fight to win. And, of most significance, it is worth the fight.

Here's why: Since 1964 a Civil Rights grievance industry has endeavored to use the Act as a second Constitution to undermine our original one. The aim is to flip “E Pluribus Unum” (out of many, one) to the opposite where the lens for governance focuses on neighborhood turf fights rather than the greatest good for the greatest number of people. What is more, the entire premise for District Voting is wrong and un-American. In Santa Paula minorities are the majority. It is preposterous to think the majority of “minorities” must be protected from themselves by providing for neighborhood districts in a town as small and cohesive as Santa Paula. It is also preposterous to think that citizens of the United States see the world at large through the perspective of skin color or country of origin. Yet that is what is sought to be advanced under the name of more “due process” than is due. What is more, the city council will be ceding its jurisdiction to un-elected litigant organizations the jurisdiction that, in fact, rightfully belongs to the residents of the City of Santa Paula currently represented by, and thought to be protected by, the City Council.

Don't do it.

Best,

David T. Romney  
ROMNEY LAW OFFICES, A.P.C.

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