

## MEMORANDUM

**FROM: THE HYATTSVILLE REDISTRICTING COMMITTEE**  
**TO: MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL**  
**DATE: MARCH 29, 2012**  
**SUBJECT: REVISED WARD BOUNDARY OPTIONS**

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In response to feedback from the City Council and citizens of Hyattsville during the public comment period, the Redistricting Committee met on March 27 to revise its slate of options for the Council to consider.

Our rationales for redrawing the ward boundaries have not changed. They remain answering the need to provide districts of equal population size, creating contiguous and compact wards with relatively smooth boundaries, and protecting a Hispanic community of interest in West Hyattsville by creating a “minority opportunity ward” with at least a 50 percent Hispanic population. Additionally, the locations of incumbent Councilmembers were taken into account in the process, when feasible.

### NEW RECOMMENDATIONS

The following revised proposals present four additional options for the Council, in addition to retaining two of the existing original six scenarios. We have eliminated Options 1, 1a, 2, and 4. Options 1, 1a, and 4 were drawn without regard to current Council seats and would have required dramatic reshuffling. Option 2 did not meet the 50 percent threshold for a “minority opportunity ward.” Options 1, 1a, 2 and 4 were therefore eliminated as options.

In all the current options presented below, we have tried to keep the population of the wards with ongoing developments slightly lower than the ideal ward size to accommodate to some degree the growth in population. As before, to be as transparent as possible about the procedures and rationales used by the Committee to create the submitted maps, we offer the following interpretations for each of the proposals:

**Scenario 2a:** (original) *variant of Scenario 2, the status quo (i.e., using 2000 ward boundaries) with blocks removed from Ward 3 and redistributed to other wards, but with additional smoothing and other small adjustments.* In this scenario, Wards 4 and 5 would have 49.9 and 44.7 percent Hispanic populations respectively. This option therefore does not meet the criterion for the 50 percent threshold for Hispanic “minority opportunity ward.” In this scenario, all incumbents would remain in their wards.

**Scenario 3:** (original) *most similar to current (2000-based) ward boundaries, with territory from Ward 3 redistributed among other wards.* Under this plan, neither Ward 4 (with 45.3 percent) nor Ward 5 (with 44.6 percent) would meet the criterion for minimum Hispanic population for a “minority opportunity ward” classification. In this scenario, all incumbents would remain in their wards.

In response to feedback, we propose two new options to satisfy the original request for a five-ward system but with changes to satisfy the “minority opportunity ward” criterion. To remedy the issue with Scenario 2a not meeting the 50 percent criterion for Hispanic population in Ward 4, we propose a new option, Scenario 2b.

**Scenario 2b:** *a variant of the original Scenario 2, the status-quo proposal suggests small adjustments to raise the Hispanic population in Ward 4 to 50 percent.* In this scenario, census blocks were added to the southern portion of the ward to raise the Hispanic population percentage to 50.0 percent, with corresponding small changes to neighboring Wards 2 and 5 to create evenly sized wards with target populations of 3,511 persons per ward. In this scenario, all incumbents would remain in their wards.

**Scenario 5:** *this new option meets the 50 percent Hispanic threshold west of Queens Chapel Road. It is similar to earlier scenarios with compactness and contiguity prioritized over other criteria, and incumbent seat locations not factored in.*

In this scenario, Wards 4 and 5’s Hispanic populations would be 52.2 and 41.6 percent respectively. Incumbent Councilman McKnight would be displaced from Ward 3 to Ward 2, and Councilmembers McKnight, Warner, and Hiles would all be in Ward 2.

### **Options other than five wards**

One of the comments received during the March 5 City Council meeting was that the Council would like to see some options using different numbers of wards, other than the five wards the City currently has. The Committee therefore presents two additional options, one with six wards and one with four:

#### **Scenario 6: six wards with target populations of 2,926 per ward.**

In this scenario, a six-ward configuration would be created with contiguity and compactness preserved. A new Ward 6 would span Queens Chapel Road in territory formerly in Ward 4. The newly configured Ward 4 would contain a 53.8 percent Hispanic population. Incumbent Councilman McKnight would be displaced from Ward 3 to Ward 6, and Councilman Wingard would be displaced from Ward 1 to 2.

#### **Scenario 7: four wards with target populations of 4,389 per ward.**

In this scenario, a four-ward configuration would be created with a concentration of Hispanic population in Ward 4. The newly configured Ward 4 would contain a 52.1 percent Hispanic population. Incumbent Councilwomen Mofor and Frazier would be displaced from Ward 5 to Ward 2, Councilman Hiles would be displaced from Ward 2 to 1, and Councilman McKnight would be displaced from Ward 3 to Ward 1.

As the scenarios show, achieving a balance among the various criteria continues to require trade-offs and discussion among the City Council. We are confident in presenting the scenarios that the full range of options has been duly considered.

Respectfully submitted,



2012 Hyattsville Redistricting Committee

David Rain (Ward 3), Chair

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