

Dear 14th District Leaders and Friends,
On Monday, March 28, the Baltimore City Council approved the new redistricting map for all 14 City Council Districts.

According to a Law Department memo of March 25, 2011, this new district map takes effect on April 1, 2011, meaning that current City Councilmembers represent their new districts as of that date. There is no “representation” delay until the end of the current term of office in December 2011.

According to that same Law Department memo, “...all candidates for the City Council must be residents of the district they intend to represent as of July 1, 2011 for the November 2011 election.” (“Redistricting Questions,” Victor K. Tervala, Assistant City Solicitor, March 25, 2011, page 3.)

Changes to the 14th City Council District

Upon receipt of U.S. Census numbers, the Mayor submitted amendments to adjust for population changes from the original map she submitted on January 31. Each district must be within a maximum 5% variance from the “ideal” district number based on the Citywide population divided by 14.

The 4th Council District, to our north, had lost more population than estimated. To compensate, the Mayor’s amendments moved two Pen Lucy election precincts (Ward 9, Precincts 1 and 2) into the 4th District from our adjacent 14th District.

To compensate for that population loss to the 14th, the Mayor’s amendments then moved one Wyman Park/ Hampden/ Stone Hill precinct (Ward 13, Precinct 11) into the 14th from the 7th District.

It is sad for me to lose Pen Lucy from the 14th District, a neighborhood I have represented for all my years in elective office. I have promised to stay involved and to work with 4th District Councilman Bill Henry, who already has represented the northern tier of Pen Lucy since 2007.

It is likewise sad for Councilwoman Belinda Conaway to lose Wyman Park, Stone Hill and part of Hampden, all of which she has represented so well since 2004. I will work with her to assure a smooth transition for the residents.

REDISTRICTING BACKGROUND

Why and when we redistrict

“One Man, One Vote” requires that our nation’s election districts be redrawn after every 10-year U. S. Census to equalize the current populations of like districts. In other words, for example, no Congressional district in the nation may have more or less population than any other.

The Governor and General Assembly of each State redraw the Congressional and Legislative districts for each State. Here in Baltimore City, the Mayor and City

Council enact redistricting legislation for City Council districts, and this process occurs under definite deadlines:

- First deadline: February 1 in municipal election years following the U.S.Census

The City Charter requires that the Mayor submit a redistricting plan to the City Council by February 1 of the first municipal election year following the Census.

Municipal elections for Mayor, City Council and Comptroller will occur this year, in the Fall of 2011, so the Mayor met the deadline by submitting her plan to the City Council on Monday, January 31, 2011.

- Second deadline: 60 days after January 31, 2011 date of submission

The City Council may adopt the Mayor's plan, amend her plan or adopt another plan entirely, but the Council needs a majority vote to do so. (Majority is 8 votes of 15 members.)

Had City Council failed to successfully adopt or amend the Mayor's plan or adopt its own, the Mayor's plan would have taken effect automatically after 60 days from introduction (ie., after April 1). To meet its own deadlines, City Council scheduled its 2nd reader vote for Monday, March 21, and 3rd reader vote for Monday, March 28, adopting the Mayor's amended plan as adjusted for the official U.S.Census numbers.

(It should be noted that, this year, for the first time, State prisoners are required to be counted as residents of their last home addresses, NOT of the locale of incarceration. Those numbers came late to the process but were low enough (5700 prisoners Citywide) not to require any district boundary adjustments.)

Thanks for your interest. Please call or email me with any questions at 410-396-4814 or marypat.clarke@baltimorecity.gov.

Thanks.
Mary Pat