



City of Sacramento City Council

915 I Street, Sacramento, CA, 95814
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Meeting Date: 8/23/2011

Report Type: Consent

Title: Recognition of Lesbian Gay Bisexual & Transgender Community of Interest

Report ID: 2011-00751

Location: Citywide

Recommendation: Adopt a Resolution recognizing Sacramento's Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual & Transgender community as a Community of Interest.

Contact: Scot Mende, Principal Planner, (916) 808-4756, Community Development Department

Presenter: None

Department: Community Development Dept

Division: New Growth

Dept ID: 21001223

Attachments:

- 1-Description/Analysis
- 2- Background
- 3- Resolution

City Attorney Review

Approved as to Form
Matthew Ruyak
8/17/2011 8:28:26 AM

City Treasurer Review

Prior Council Financial Policy Approval or
Outside City Treasurer Scope
Russell Fehr
8/11/2011 10:46:07 AM

Approvals/Acknowledgements

Department Director or Designee: Max Fernandez - 8/15/2011 1:32:29 PM

Assistant City Manager: Cassandra Jennings - 8/16/2011 1:31:15 PM



Description/Analysis

Issue: The Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender (LGBT) community has testified that it should be recognized as a “Community of Interest” in the context of redistricting. For the purposes of analyzing whether various redistricting map proposals respected the LGBT community of interest, the Redistricting Committee utilized the Central City boundaries. Additionally, the Redistricting Committee analyzed the “Extended LGBT Area,” which included the adjoining neighborhoods of Curtis Park, Land Park, and East Sacramento.

Policy Considerations: Consideration of communities of interest may be important in order to provide a meaningful and fair chance to elect officials who best represent the group’s concerns, interests, and priorities. The courts have not stated precise standards for determining “communities of interest,” but some evidence is required, including evidence based on anecdotal testimony and sound social science research methods (if available). The goal is to protect geographic areas that are “communities of interest” from being cut into different districts

Environmental Considerations: Recognizing the LGBT as a Community of Interest does not constitute a project that requires compliance with the CEQA, inasmuch as it does not involve an activity which may cause a direct or indirect change in the environment (Public Resources Code Section 21065).

Sustainability: N/A

Commission/Committee Action: At the Sacramento Redistricting Citizens Advisory Committee meeting of May 23, 2011, the Committee directed staff to recommend to Council that the Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender (LGBT) community be considered as a community of interest with no reference to specific boundaries.

Rationale for Recommendation: Identifying the LGBT as a community of interest recognizes the Council’s intent to draw Council District boundaries that keep the community of interest relatively intact.

Financial Considerations: N/A

Emerging Small Business Development (ESBD): N/A

Attachment 1

Background

What is a “Community of Interest?”

- In *Wilson v. Eu* (1992), the Special Masters assisting the Supreme Court used the following definition: “the social and economic interests common to the population of an area which are *probable subjects of legislative action*, generally termed a ‘community of interest’....” Specific legislative action by the Council is possible with regard to issues involving same-sex marriage (permanent partner immigration act), housing non-discrimination and contracting, domestic partner rights, etc.
- Proposition 20 – which applies only to the state redistricting commission – defines “community of interest” as “a contiguous population which shares common social and economic interests that should be included within a single district for purposes of its effective and fair representation.”
- Communities of interest can be identified by referring to the census, demographic studies, surveys, or testimony of citizens and civic leaders.
- A community of interest should be geographically definable and contiguous.

The Testimony about an LGBT “Community of Interest”

Throughout the hearings held by the Sacramento Redistricting Citizens Advisory Committee and the City Council, public testimony was provided that the LGBT population has common interests and concerns:

- Rainbow Chamber of Commerce, Sacramento Gay & Lesbian Center, Stonewall Democratic Club, and other organizations have been established to represent LGBT interests
- LGBT institutions (e.g., businesses oriented to LGBT community)
- Need to create affirmative and safe work and residential environments for the LGBT community
- Foster a positive image of openly gay/lesbian persons for youth
- Opportunity and desire for LGBT to elect a member of its community to Council seat; currently the “urban core” is split by 3 Council districts
- Convention & Visitors Bureau web site references LGBT community
<http://www.discovergold.org/visitors/glbtcfm>

Geographic Extent of the LGBT “Community of Interest”

The public testimony also provided arguments that the LGBT community can be geographically delineated:

- Equality California maps identify data from results of Propositions 8 and 22, membership of Equality California, domestic partners, Same Sex Head of Households, Persons of Same Sex Sharing Living Quarters, and other indicators (or markers) where there are persons who identify with the LGBT issues; the area of highest scores of these indicators are concentrated in downtown/ midtown, and to a lesser extent in the surrounding neighborhoods of East Sacramento, Curtis Park, and Land Park;
- 50 point spread comparing the results of Propositions 8 and 22 between areas identified inside the self-defined community of interest compared to areas outside of the community of interest
- LGBT-friendly churches, businesses, and residences concentrated in Midtown / Downtown/Central City.



RESOLUTION NO. 2011-

Adopted by the Sacramento City Council

August 23, 2011

RECOGNIZING THE LESBIAN, GAY, BISEXUAL AND TRANSGENDER (LGBT) COMMUNITY IN SACRAMENTO AS A COMMUNITY OF INTEREST IN THE CITY OF SACRAMENTO'S REDISTRICTING PROCESS

BACKGROUND

- A. Every 10 years following the U.S. Census, the City of Sacramento is required to undertake a redistricting process to redraw Council District boundaries to balance the population among eight Council Districts.
- B. The Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender (LGBT) Community in Sacramento formed a LGBT Redistricting Coalition made up of representatives from the Rainbow Chamber, the Sacramento Gay and Lesbian Center, Stonewall Democrats, and other LGBT community leaders.
- C. The LGBT Redistricting Coalition has actively participated in the City's redistricting process, working cooperatively with Equality California, an LGBT state-wide advocacy organization, to provide the City specific data on where the LGBT community and its supporters live, using information from California's domestic partner database, census data, donors to LGBT friendly groups, and voting patterns on initiatives related to LGBT issues.
- D. During California's state legislative redistricting process in 1973 and in 1992, the Special Masters (appointed by the Supreme Court) defined communities of interest as "the social and economic interests common to the population of an area which are probable subjects of legislative action."
- E. In November 2010, the voters of California passed Proposition 20, which defined a community of interest as "a contiguous population which shares common social and economic interests that should be included within a single district for purposes of its effective and fair representation."

BASED ON THE FACTS SET FORTH IN THE BACKGROUND, THE CITY COUNCIL
RESOLVES AS FOLLOWS:

Section 1. The Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender (LGBT) Community is formally recognized as a community of interest in the City of Sacramento's redistricting process.