



REPORT TO

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City of Sacramento Sacramento Redistricting Citizens Advisory Committee

915 I Street, Sacramento, CA 95814-2671
[www. CityofSacramento.org](http://www.CityofSacramento.org)

Staff Presentation/Information May 16, 2011

Members of the Sacramento Redistricting Citizens Advisory Committee

Title: Redistricting with Sensitivity to Minority Interests

Location/Council District: Citywide

Recommendation: Receive and file

Contact: Vincene Jones, Neighborhood Services Director, Department of Parks and Recreation, (916) 808-5072

Presenters: Jesse Mills, PhD, Ethnic Studies Dept., USD San Diego;
jessemills@sandiego.edu; (619) 260-7740 (x7740)

Department: Department of Parks and Recreation

Organization No: 19000

Background: Minority struggle for civil rights in the United States has highlighted, on the one hand, ironic and tragic inflections of democratic "liberty and justice for all," and on the other hand the possibilities and limits of civic participation. Civil rights, or the legal status and government protections of citizens and residents within civil society, have been inescapably intertwined with race and racism in the U.S.

Our speaker will provide insights into the importance of sensitive drawing of Council district boundaries in order to positively influence local decision making to advance political interests of the minority communities in Sacramento.

Respectfully Submitted by:

Vincene Jones, Neighborhood Services Director

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Jesse Mills, Ph.D.

Assistant Professor, Ethnic Studies

University of San Diego



Jesse Mills, Ph.D., has been an active and dedicated member of the College of Arts and Sciences faculty since Fall 2006 . Developing an African American Studies curriculum, serving as a resource for campus-wide diversity efforts, and mentoring advanced undergraduate research in ethnic studies, Mills enjoys being a part of the USD learning community. Mills draws his inspiration from his esteemed colleagues in the Ethnic Studies core and affiliated faculty, and the College of Arts and Sciences as a whole.

Education

Ph.D., University of California, San Diego; Ethnic Studies (2008)
M.A., University of California, San Diego; Ethnic Studies (2004)
M.A., University of California, Los Angeles; Afro-American Studies (1999)
B.A., Sonoma State University, Philosophy (1995)

Scholarly and Creative Work

As a scholar/artist/activist, Mills integrates academic research, community service, and artistry. His main research and fieldwork is with Somalis in San Diego examining nonprofit structures of refuge, cultural politics, and youth organizing, with new directions including comparative study in the U.S., Canada, and Europe. He serves as chair of the Grantmaking Committee of the Foundation for Change, and chairs the board of directors for Somali Family Services. His artistic accomplishments include serving as original composer, musical director, and performer (guitar/voice) in the acclaimed “Hip Hop Saved My Life”, a spoken word/music/dance performance collaboration commissioned in the inaugural season of the new SUSHI Performance and Visual Art. As a holistic body of work, Mills’s scholarly and creative work seeks to manifest interdisciplinary African American and Ethnic Studies with the praxis of an organic intellectual.

Teaching Interests

Mills teaches introductory and advanced courses in comparative ethnic studies and African American studies. His courses emphasize interdisciplinary inquiry in cultural studies, ethnography, and historiography centered on community service learning and participatory action research methodologies. His upper division seminars include African American Civil Rights, African American Music and Culture, African American Panethnicity, Ethnicity and Cinema, Race and Performance, Comparative Immigration, and “Triangle of Emancipation: The Black Freedom Struggle in Global Perspective” (co-taught with Tom Reifer, Sociology).