

Communication from Public

Name: Lionel Mares, MPA

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Council File No: 21-1243

Comments for Public Posting: October 28, 2021 Re: Ad Hoc Redistricting Committee (CF-21-1243) Honorable Council-members, After participating in the Redistricting process and watching the 'Commissioners' redrawing the lines based on the United States Census data; including, but not limited to, voters, residents, neighborhood councils, etc... throughout the process, I was able to hear other people talk about the impact that this 'Final Draft' Map K2.5 will have on their communities. Although some progress has been made in attempting to unify Koreatown and other communities and neighborhood councils. The Commission left important things unanswered such as assigning the future council districts 2 and 4 or 4 and 2 in the San Fernando Valley. Although, according to the 'Final Draft' report by the Commission, it stated that for the first time, all five districts will be in the San Fernando Valley or "The Valley". As a 'Valley' Boy (Resident) myself, I am happy to see the San Fernando Valley uniformed and getting better political representation but I am still worried about whether or not this might be a good thing or not because Council members Nithya Raman and Paul Krekorian have not been assigned a council district and the Commission left it up to the Los Angeles City Council for debate. I am concerned about the lack of representation in the East San Fernando Valley. Many of the callers or 'activists' called from the West San Fernando Valley and other neighborhoods in Los Angeles. I didn't hear much debate about the East San Fernando Valley. If Nithya Raman were to be assigned to the newly designed district 2 or 4, I will welcome her with open arms. I think that Council member Nithya Raman will do a great job representing North Hollywood. I don't mind having her representing the East San Fernando Valley. I am more concerned about negligence to the residents of underprivileged neighborhoods in the East San Fernando Valley. Many West San Fernando Valley residents tend to be higher income but they got more political representation because of activists fighting for better representation there. Whereas the East portion of the Valley did not get as much attention due to Rachel Torres and others not speaking up as they should've had. I recall Sun Valley Area Neighborhood Council (SVANC) President Monica Vacas did express concern about Sun Valley being broken up into three districts, she advocated for the unification of Sun Valley, which I

support wholeheartedly. I guess my biggest concern is the fear of being left out of the conversation. I didn't hear much talk about the impact this districting will have on the northeast San Fernando Valley. But, if the city council were to accept the final recommendation of the Los Angeles City Council Redistricting Commission (LACCRC), then I would urge that we get to have a more open discussion and discourse on this issue during the Ad-hoc Redistricting Committee. I would also like to add that the Los Angeles City Council should consider expanding the City Council and creating an Independent Redistricting Commission as stated in the Final Draft Report by the Commission. These two things are very important! Overall, I believe that a more unified San Fernando Valley or "The Valley" will be a good thing in the long run. We deserve more representation and attention from our city council members, especially for low-income communities. Thank you for your time and consideration. Sincerely, Lionel Mares, MPA