

Communication from Public

Name: Jeany Choi

Date Submitted: 08/10/2023 12:08 PM

Council File No: 22-1196-S1

Comments for Public Posting: Dear Council President Krekorian and Councilmembers, My name is Jeany Choi. I work for the Korean American Coalition-Los Angeles (KAC) and have worked in the non profit sector for Koreatown for 7 years. KAC is a longtime member organization of the AAPI Equity Alliance. We are writing alongside AAPI Equity Alliance in support of our coalition partners at OUR LA calling for racial equity as we re-envision aspects of our city's charter. Racial equity is not achievable without the consideration and representation of the AAPI community. We support: 1) an independent redistricting commission and 2) expansion of the City Council by 2026. The task of drawing maps must be done by a completely independent redistricting commission, which must be equipped with enough resources for actively and consistently reaching out to our vulnerable communities, who have been left out for far too long. The value of an independent commission has been proven in use across state and local governments nation-wide. Empowering the people who directly hear from, and collective evidence from, the community to make redistricting decisions is more efficient, effective and fair than our current processes. The current size of the Los Angeles City Council was decided in 1925 by voters when Los Angeles was notably less equitable, diverse, and populated. However, as APIs are rapidly growing as a community and make up 12% of the city population, the current 15 single-member district Council does not adequately serve our communities. Remaining at 15 seats, there are no districts in which APIs make up more than 25% of the voters, thus making it very difficult to elect candidates who come from our community. Based on AAPI Equity Alliance's work with OUR LA and Fair Rep LA, modeling shows that expanding the council to a range of 23-31 would begin to achieve this goal while keeping Koreatown intact. KAC has led the work with our community for thirty years to unify Koreatown into one district. The historical victory was possible through working with the diverse community that makes up Koreatown as a community of interest. Therefore, preservation of Koreatown as a community of interest is key in the expansion of Council Districts with a floor of 23 seats and not to exceed 31 seats. We have the unique opportunity to change the makeup and size of our council districts and restore political power to those left out. Council expansion

between 23-31 council districts can help be the first step towards a more racially and economically equitable Los Angeles for all. While we support increasing council size to at least 23, we are cautious about council sizes beyond 31. Modeling shows that having 31 districts is the point at which it becomes harder to keep Koreatown whole. As a neighborhood that has organized for decades for representation, it feels important to respect the wishes of community members to use Koreatown's size of about 115,000 (depending on who you ask) as a minimum size for district populations – no smaller than that. That takes us to just about 31 single-member districts at maximum. Again, please pass independent redistricting and increase council size to a floor of 23, not to exceed 31 seats while keeping Koreatown whole to create Los Angeles which is equitable and representative for all. Thank you, Jeany Choi



August 9, 2023

Dear Council President Krekorian and Councilmembers,

My name is Jeany Choi. I work for the Korean American Coalition- Los Angeles (KAC) and have worked in the non profit sector for Koreatown for 7 years. KAC is a longtime member organization of the AAPI Equity Alliance. We are writing alongside AAPI Equity Alliance in support of our coalition partners at OUR LA calling for racial equity as we re-envision aspects of our city's charter. Racial equity is not achievable without the consideration and representation of the AAPI community. We support: 1) an independent redistricting commission and 2) expansion of the City Council by 2026.

The task of drawing maps must be done by a completely independent redistricting commission, which must be equipped with enough resources for actively and consistently reaching out to our vulnerable communities, who have been left out for far too long. The value of an independent commission has been proven in use across state and local governments nation-wide.

Empowering the people who directly hear from, and collective evidence from, the community to make redistricting decisions is more efficient, effective and fair than our current processes.

The current size of the Los Angeles City Council was decided in 1925 by voters when Los Angeles was notably less equitable, diverse, and populated. However, as APIs are rapidly growing as a community and make up 12% of the city population, the current 15 single-member district Council does not adequately serve our communities. Remaining at 15 seats, there are no districts in which APIs make up more than 25% of the voters, thus making it very difficult to elect candidates who come from our community.

Based on AAPI Equity Alliance's work with OUR LA and Fair Rep LA, modeling shows that expanding the council to a range of 23-31 would begin to achieve this goal while keeping Koreatown intact. KAC has led the work with our community for thirty years to unify Koreatown into one district. The historical victory was possible through working with the diverse community that makes up Koreatown as a community of interest. Therefore, preservation of Koreatown as a community of interest is key in the expansion of Council Districts with a floor of 23 seats and not to exceed 31 seats.

We have the unique opportunity to change the makeup and size of our council districts and restore political power to those left out. Council expansion between 23-31 council districts can help be the first step towards a more racially and economically equitable Los Angeles for all.

While we support increasing council size to at least 23, we are cautious about council sizes beyond 31. Modeling shows that having 31 districts is the point at which it becomes harder to keep Koreatown whole. As a neighborhood that has organized for decades for representation, it feels important to respect the wishes of community members to use Koreatown's size of about 115,000 (depending on who you ask) as a minimum size for district populations – no smaller than that. That takes us to just about 31 single-member districts at maximum.

Again, please pass independent redistricting and increase council size to a floor of 23, not to exceed 31 seats while keeping Koreatown whole to create Los Angeles which is equitable and representative for all.

Thank you,

Jeany Choi

Communication from Public

Name: Daniel Noh

Date Submitted: 08/10/2023 12:12 PM

Council File No: 22-1196-S1

Comments for Public Posting: Dear Council President Krekorian and Councilmembers, My name is Daniel Noh. I am an incoming high school senior in the LAUSD school system and have done some volunteer work at the Korean American Coalition- Los Angeles (KAC), a nonprofit organization located in the heart of Koreatown. KAC is a longtime member organization of the AAPI Equity Alliance. I am writing alongside AAPI Equity Alliance in support of our coalition partners at OUR LA calling for racial equity as we re-envision aspects of our city's charter. Racial equity is not achievable without the consideration and representation of the AAPI community. We support: 1) an independent redistricting commission and 2) expansion of the City Council by 2026. The task of drawing maps must be done by a completely independent redistricting commission, which must be equipped with enough resources for actively and consistently reaching out to our vulnerable communities, who have been left out for far too long. The value of an independent commission has been proven in use across state and local governments nation-wide. Empowering the people who directly hear from, and collective evidence from, the community to make redistricting decisions is more efficient, effective and fair than our current processes. The current size of the Los Angeles City Council was decided in 1925 by voters when Los Angeles was notably less equitable, diverse, and populated. However, as APIs are rapidly growing as a community and make up 12% of the city population, the current 15 single-member district Council does not adequately serve our communities. Remaining at 15 seats, there are no districts in which APIs make up more than 25% of the voters, thus making it very difficult to elect candidates who come from our community. Based on AAPI Equity Alliance's work with OUR LA and Fair Rep LA, modeling shows that expanding the council to a range of 23-31 would begin to achieve this goal while keeping Koreatown intact. KAC has led the work with our community for thirty years to unify Koreatown into one district. The historical victory was possible through working with the diverse community that makes up Koreatown as a community of interest. Therefore, preservation of Koreatown as a community of interest is key in the expansion of Council Districts with a floor of 23 seats and not to exceed 31 seats. We have the unique opportunity to change the makeup and size of our

council districts and restore political power to those left out. Council expansion between 23-31 council districts can help be the first step towards a more racially and economically equitable Los Angeles for all. While we support increasing council size to at least 23, we are cautious about council sizes beyond 31. Modeling shows that having 31 districts is the point at which it becomes harder to keep Koreatown whole. As a neighborhood that has organized for decades for representation, it feels important to respect the wishes of community members to use Koreatown's size of about 115,000 (depending on who you ask) as a minimum size for district populations – no smaller than that. That takes us to just about 31 single-member districts at maximum. Again, please pass independent redistricting and increase council size to a floor of 23, not to exceed 31 seats while keeping Koreatown whole to create Los Angeles which is equitable and representative for all. Thank you, Daniel Noh

Communication from Public

Name: Ross Weistroffer

Date Submitted: 08/10/2023 12:58 PM

Council File No: 22-1196-S1

Comments for Public Posting: August 10, 2023 Due to a last-minute meeting time change at my workplace, I'm unable to make the following remarks to the Ad Hoc Committee on City Governance Reform in person today: *** First impressions are important. My first impression of democracy happened in DC in 2010, when I cast my first ever vote for my ONE local representative and two of FOUR at-large members on the 14 member DC City Council. My first impression of LA democracy happened in 2021, when my ONE and only city representative, in a city more than FIVE times' DC's size, had her district, District 4, radically altered just after I elected her to office. Angelenos deserve as much democratic power as I had when I lived in DC, and the injustice done to all Angelenos and Councilmembers by a tainted redistricting process has not yet been made right. I'm asking this committee to: + swiftly move to expand the Council to at least 35 members, to get voters closer to the same representative proportions as our nation's capital, + immediately study the addition of an at-large membership model, so each Angeleno can have more than one person on the Council represent their interests, and + conduct a new round of redistricting enhanced with all necessary ethical reforms as soon as possible, so that in five years' time, when the entire democratic world's eyes are on us, LA and its government can make a great first impression. *** I now also ask the committee to please ensure that all matters of governance reform that so dramatically affect all City residents offer remote public comment. Those working during normal business hours, or otherwise limited in their ability to attend, should be able to deliver their public comment with the same weight as as those able to attend in person. Thank you for your time and consideration. Sincerely, Ross Weistroffer

Communication from Public

Name: Joon-Hyung Noh

Date Submitted: 08/10/2023 02:08 PM

Council File No: 22-1196-S1

Comments for Public Posting: Dear Council President Krekorian and Councilmembers, My name is Joon-Hyung Noh. I am an incoming high school senior in the LAUSD school system and have been volunteering at the Korean American Coalition- Los Angeles (KAC), a nonprofit organization located in the heart of Koreatown. KAC is a longtime member organization of the AAPI Equity Alliance. I am writing alongside AAPI Equity Alliance in support of our calling for racial equity as we re-envision aspects of our city's charter. Racial equity is not achievable without the consideration and representation of the AAPI community. We support: 1) an independent redistricting commission and 2) expansion of the City Council by 2026. Firstly, the task of drawing maps must be done by a completely independent redistricting commission, which must be equipped with enough resources for actively and consistently reaching out to our vulnerable communities, who have been left out for far too long. The value of an independent commission has been proven in use across state and local governments nation-wide. Empowering the people who directly hear from, and collective evidence from, the community of all ages and backgrounds, to make redistricting decisions is more efficient, effective and fair than our current processes. Secondly, The current size of the Los Angeles City Council was decided in 1925 by voters when Los Angeles was notably less equitable, diverse, and populated. However, as APIs are rapidly growing as a community and make up 12% of the city population, the current 15 single-member district Council does not adequately serve our communities. Remaining at 15 seats, there are no districts in which APIs make up more than 25% of the voters, thus making it very difficult to elect candidates who come from our community. Based on AAPI Equity Alliance's work with OUR LA and Fair Rep LA, modeling shows that expanding the council would achieve this goal while keeping Koreatown intact. KAC has helped lead the work with our community for thirty years to unify Koreatown into one district. The historical victory was possible through working for decades with the diverse communities that make up Koreatown as a community of interest. Therefore, preservation of Koreatown as a community of interest is key in the expansion of Council Districts. We have the unique opportunity to change the makeup and size of our council districts

and restore political power to those left out. Council expansion can help be the first step towards a more racially and economically equitable Los Angeles for all. Again, please pass independent redistricting and increase council size by 2026 while preserving Koreatown by keeping it whole to create Los Angeles which is equitable and representative for all. Thank you,
Joon-Hyung Noh

Communication from Public

Name:

Date Submitted: 08/10/2023 02:09 PM

Council File No: 22-1196-S1

Comments for Public Posting: Dear Council President Krekorian and Councilmembers, My name is Jeany Choi. I work for the Korean American Coalition-Los Angeles (KAC) and have worked in the non profit sector for Koreatown for 7 years. KAC is a longtime member organization of the AAPI Equity Alliance. We are writing alongside AAPI Equity Alliance in support of our calling for racial equity as we re-envision aspects of our city's charter. Racial equity is not achievable without the consideration and representation of the AAPI community. We support: 1) an independent redistricting commission and 2) expansion of the City Council by 2026. Firstly, the task of drawing maps must be done by a completely independent redistricting commission, which must be equipped with enough resources for actively and consistently reaching out to our vulnerable communities, who have been left out for far too long. The value of an independent commission has been proven in use across state and local governments nation-wide. Empowering the people who directly hear from, and collective evidence from, the community of all ages and backgrounds, to make redistricting decisions is more efficient, effective and fair than our current processes. Secondly, The current size of the Los Angeles City Council was decided in 1925 by voters when Los Angeles was notably less equitable, diverse, and populated. However, as APIs are rapidly growing as a community and make up 12% of the city population, the current 15 single-member district Council does not adequately serve our communities. Remaining at 15 seats, there are no districts in which APIs make up more than 25% of the voters, thus making it very difficult to elect candidates who come from our community. Based on AAPI Equity Alliance's work with OUR LA and Fair Rep LA, modeling shows that expanding the council would achieve this goal while keeping Koreatown intact. KAC has helped lead the work with our community for thirty years to unify Koreatown into one district. The historical victory was possible through working for decades with the diverse communities that make up Koreatown as a community of interest. Therefore, preservation of Koreatown as a community of interest is key in the expansion of Council Districts. We have the unique opportunity to change the makeup and size of our council districts and restore political power to those left out. Council expansion can help be the first step towards a more racially and

economically equitable Los Angeles for all. Again, please pass independent redistricting and increase council size by 2026 while preserving Koreatown by keeping it whole to create Los Angeles which is equitable and representative for all. Thank you, Jeany Choi

Communication from Public

Name: No telephonic comment, one minute of comment, groups locked out

Date Submitted: 08/10/2023 03:10 PM

Council File No: 22-1196-S1

Comments for Public Posting: Paul talks about participation Wherever we go But he don't want to change the world It's all just a manipulation Well we know But we want to change the world But when you use process to keep the people out You end up with policy that the people doubt Well we know it's gonna be too small Well this is a travesty, hey Paul! Well we know it's gonna be too small! Paul says he's got a real solution Well you know We'd all love to see that plan But you don't ask for our contribution But you know We still have one in hand But if you want power for people that fucked this up We're gonna have to tell them that it just sucks We know it's gonna be too small This is a travesty hey Paul! We know it's gonna be too small This is a travesty hey Paul! Telephone comment now for us all! This is a travesty hey Paul!

Communication from Public

Name: KIWA

Date Submitted: 08/10/2023 03:26 PM

Council File No: 22-1196-S1

Comments for Public Posting: We are writing on behalf of KIWA (Koreatown Immigrant Workers Alliance). We are based in City Council District 10. Founded in 1992, KIWA builds power with immigrant workers and renters to bring about a more just and equitable Los Angeles. We organize workers, particularly in the restaurant and retail industries, to improve their working conditions, with an understanding of the deep connections between labor and housing justice. We are writing alongside AAPI Equity Alliance in solidarity with our coalition partners at OUR LA calling for racial equity as we re-envision aspects of our city's charter. We can't have racial equity without considering all communities. The Asian Pacific Islander (API) population makes up 12% of the city population, and we are rapidly growing. At 15 seats, there are no districts in which APIs make up more than 25% of the voters. The current size of the Los Angeles City Council was decided by voters in 1925 when Los Angeles was notably less equitable, diverse, and populated. We have a unique opportunity to change the makeup and size of our council districts and restore political power to those left out. According to modeling by OUR LA and Fair Rep LA, we see that 23 districts is the minimum number of seats for AAPI and Black voters to see the possibility of creating districts in which we make up a critical mass of 35% or more. While we support increasing council size to at least 23, we are cautious about council sizes beyond 31. Modeling shows that having 31 districts is the point at which it becomes harder to keep Koreatown whole. As a multiracial worker center based in Koreatown for over 30 years, we urge you to respect our wishes to use Koreatown's size of around 115,000 individuals as a minimum size for district populations, and no smaller than that. The task of drawing maps must be done by an independent redistricting commission, equipped with resources to actively and consistently outreach to our hardest-to-reach communities. In order to bring about city governance guided by racial equity, the city must ensure that the people most affected and most marginalized— particularly low-income people, unhoused people, communities of color, recent immigrants, speakers of English as a second language – have a say in the decisions that affect their lives. Again, we urge you to pass independent redistricting and increase council size to between 23-31 seats to create a more

equitable and representative LA.