



# COUNTY OF SANTA BARBARA

## CITIZENS INDEPENDENT REDISTRICTING COMMISSION

### Summary of Proceedings 2020 Citizens Independent Redistricting Commission

Date: **Monday, January 25, 2021**  
Time: **6:30 PM – 8:19 PM**  
Place: **Remote Virtual Participation Only**

Recordings of the Commission Meetings, Agendas, Supplemental Materials and Minutes of the Citizens Independent Redistricting Commission are available on the internet at:  
[www.countyofsb.org/redistricting.sbc](http://www.countyofsb.org/redistricting.sbc)

#### BOARD ACTION SHOWN IN CAPS

##### 1. Commission Convened

###### Roll Call

Commissioners Present: Bradley, Gray, Hudley, Katz, McClintock, Morris, Olmedo, Rios, Turley, Twibell

Commissioners Absent: None

##### 2. Public Comment

The Public Comment period is reserved for comments on items not on the Agenda and for matters within the subject matter jurisdiction of the Citizens Independent Redistricting Commission. The Commission may adopt reasonable regulations, including time limits, on public comments. The Commission may not discuss or take action on any matter raised during the public comment section, except to decide whether to place a matter on the agenda of a future meeting.

#### PUBLIC COMMENT:

LEE HELLER, HEARD REGARDING CLARIFICATION OF THE RFI FOR THE DEMOGRAPHER, AND SUGGESTED MOVING ITEM 6 AFTER ITEM 8 – CANDIDATE INTERVIEWS.

WILLIAM CONLIN, HEARD REGARDING HIS SUPPORT OF COMMISSIONER GRAY AND STRONGLY ENCOURAGED HIM TO RECONSIDER HIS RESIGNATION, EXPRESSED CONCERNS ABOUT THE DEMOGRAPHER AND LEGAL COUNSEL SERVICES, AND COMMISSION VACANCIES.

NADIA LEE ABUSHANAB, SBCAN, HEARD REGARDING RFI FOR THE DEMOGRAPHER, CLARIFICATION ON THE PROCESS, AND WHEN IT WILL BE DISCUSSED.

LATA MURTI, HEARD IN AGREEMENT OF MS. HELLER'S COMMENTS, AND RECOMMENDED POSTPONING ANY ACTION ON ITEM 6, UNTIL AFTER ITEM 7 AND PUBLIC COMMENT ON THE INTERVIEWS.

JANET BLEVINS, UNABLE TO SPEAK DUE TO TECHNICAL DIFFICULTIES, AND DIRECTED TO SUBMIT WRITTEN COMMENTS TO [redistricting@countyofsb.org](mailto:redistricting@countyofsb.org).

ANDY CALDWELL, HEARD REGARDING CONSIDERATION TO HAVE CLOSED SESSION AT THE BEGINNING OF THE MEETING, SO THE PUBLIC DOES NOT HAVE TO WAIT AN UNDETERMINED DURATION TO COMMENT, QUESTIONED ACCEPTING COMMISSIONER GRAY'S RESIGNATION BEFORE SELECTING A REPLACEMENT, AND COMMENTED ABOUT HAVING TWO VACANCIES.

WRITTEN COMMENT:

SPENCER BRANDT, WROTE REGARDING PREVIOUS COMMISSION DIRECTION AT THE LAST MEETING FOR SUBMISSION OF PUBLIC COMMENTS/CONCERNS ABOUT NDC.

NANCY ANDERSON, COUNTY OF SANTA BARBARA, GAVE AN OVERVIEW OF THE PROCESS, ANNOUNCED THAT THE RFI (LETTER OF INTEREST) IS DUE BY FEBRUARY 1, AND THE INFORMATION WILL BE USED TO DEVELOP A LIST FOR DEMOGRAPHY SERVICES PROVIDED TO THE COMMISSION TO USE FOR AN RFP AT A LATER DATE, IF NEEDED.

COMMISSIONER MORRIS CLARIFIED THERE IS NO AGENDA ITEM FOR CHANGING THE DEMOGRAPHER.

THE COMMISSIONERS AGREED TO REORGANIZE THE AGENDA AS FOLLOWS:

- HEAR ITEM 3, 4, AND 5
- ADJOURN TO CLOSED SESSION FOR ITEM 9, 10 AND 11
- RECONVENE IN OPEN SESSION AND HEAR ITEM 7, 6, 8, AND CONTINUE WITH THE REMAINDER OF THE AGENDA

3. Discussion and decision of staff's recommendation to continue Interim Chair and Vice Chair for this meeting or nomination and selection of Chair and Vice Chair.

NO ACTION TAKEN.

4. Approval of Minutes of January 19, 2021.

MOTION TO CORRECT SPELLING ERRORS (MEAGAN HARMON, AND LUCILLE BOSS), UNDER EX PARTE COMMUNICATIONS, AND ACCEPT THE CORRECTED MINUTES OF JANUARY 19, 2021.

MOTION CARRIED: 10 AYES

5. Disclosure of ex parte communications.

COMMISSIONER GRAY COMMUNICATED WITH MR. CHURCHWELL, AND COMMISSIONER MORRIS REGARDING 4<sup>TH</sup> DISTRICT ACTIVITIES AND SITUATION.

THE MEETING RECESSED AT 6:48 PM FOR CLOSED SESSION.

9. Conference with Legal Counsel—Anticipated Litigation  
Significant exposure to litigation pursuant to paragraph (2) of subdivision (d) of Section 54956.9. A point has been reached where, in the opinion of the legislative body of the local agency on the advice of its legal counsel, based on existing facts and circumstances, there is a significant exposure to litigation against the local agency.

Number of cases: One

THE MEETING RECONVENED IN OPEN SESSION AT 7:18 PM.

10. Announcement of any reportable action taken in closed session.

NO REPORTABLE ACTION.

11. Discussion, deliberation, and possible action regarding the Republican Party / Hispanic Chamber letter.

NO ACTION TAKEN.

7. Commission applicant interviews.

COMMISSIONER MORRIS EXPLAINED THAT THREE APPLICANTS FROM THE 4<sup>TH</sup> DISTRICT, MR. BRAY, MR. PIERCE, AND MS. OCHOA, WERE INVITED TO PARTICIPATE IN THE INTERVIEWS. MR. PIERCE WITHDREW HIS NAME FOR CONSIDERATION EARLIER TODAY. THE COMMISSIONERS DECIDED SINCE MS. OCHOA WAS INTERVIEWED DURING THE FIRST ROUND IN DECEMBER, TO USE AND REVIEW THE

VIDEO FROM HER PREVIOUS INTERVIEW.

COMMISSIONER MORRIS GAVE AN OVERVIEW OF THE INTERVIEW PROCESS, AND STATED THAT THERE IS A 3 MINUTE MAXIMUM TIME LIMIT TO ANSWER EACH QUESTION.

QUESTION #1 – ASKED BY COMMISSIONER TWIBELL (DISTRICT 1):

- WHY DO YOU WANT TO SERVE ON THE REDISTRICTING COMMISSION?

QUESTION #2 – ASKED BY COMMISSIONER TURLEY (DISTRICT 2):

- GIVEN THE COMMISSION’S INITIAL FIVE MEMBERS, AND WHAT YOU KNOW ABOUT THEIR BACKGROUNDS AND SKILL SETS, COULD YOU HIGHLIGHT ELEMENTS OF YOUR PERSONAL BACKGROUND, EXPERIENCE, SKILLS, AND KNOWLEDGE OF SANTA BARBARA COUNTY THAT YOU THINK WILL ADD TO THE OVERALL DIVERSITY OF THE COMMISSION?

QUESTION #3 – ASKED BY COMMISSIONER HUDLEY (DISTRICT 3):

- HOW WOULD YOU HELP THE COMMISSION TO DRAW LINES THAT PROMOTE “COMMUNITIES OF INTEREST?”

QUESTION #4 – ASKED BY COMMISSIONER RIOS (DISTRICT 4):

- COULD YOU DESCRIBE A PROJECT OR OTHER EXPERIENCE IN WHICH YOU HAD TO COLLABORATE WITH A GROUP OF INDIVIDUALS IN ORDER TO REACH A COMMON GOAL? WHEN YOU DISAGREED WITH OTHERS, HOW DID YOU HANDLE THOSE DISAGREEMENTS?

QUESTION #5 – ASKED BY COMMISSIONER OLMEDO (MEMBER-AT-LARGE):

- HOW DO YOU THINK THE COMMISSION SHOULD ADDRESS THE PROBLEM OF PUBLIC EDUCATION AND OUTREACH ON REDISTRICTING TO HELP ENCOURAGE BROAD PARTICIPATION IN THE COMMISSION’S WORK? WHAT ARE SOME IDEAS YOU HAVE FOR THE COMMISSION TO SOLICIT PUBLIC INPUT ON THE REDISTRICTING PROCESS, AND METHODS OF PUBLIC OUTREACH TO ENSURE TRANSPARENCY?

THE COMMISSIONERS INTERVIEWED APPLICANT JAMES BRAY.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

LEE HELLER, HEARD REGARDING THE QUALIFICATIONS OF MR. BRAY AND MS. OCHOA, AND APPLICANT SELECTION.

WILLIAM CONLIN, HEARD REGARDING MR. BRAY’S QUALIFICATIONS, AND COMMISSIONER GRAY’S RESIGNATION.

WALLY, LOMPOC RESIDENT, HEARD REGARDING MR. BRAY'S QUALIFICATIONS, AND COMMISSIONER GRAY'S RESIGNATION.

SPENCER BRANDT, HEARD REGARDING MR. BRAY'S QUALIFICATIONS, AND MR. GRAY'S SERVICE AS A COMMISSIONER.

COMMISSIONER MORRIS CLARIFIED THAT MR. BRAY IS NOT CURRENTLY A MEMBER OF THE CHAMBER'S BOARD OF DIRECTORS.

COMMISSION DISCUSSION:

COMMENTS INCLUDED THE POOL OF WELL QUALIFIED APPLICANTS, AND THE NEED FOR DIFFERENT REPRESENTATION (HISPANIC AND POLITICAL PARTY).

MOTION TO APPOINT AMANDA OCHOA TO THE DISTRICT 4 SEAT VACATED BY MS. MURTI.

UPON FURTHER DISCUSSION, THE COMMISSIONERS SET THE MOTION ASIDE TO HEAR ITEM 6 FIRST.

6. Discussion, deliberation, and possible action regarding Commissioner Gary's Offer to Resign which would create a vacancy in the Fourth District.

COMMISSIONER GRAY COMMENTED MR. BRAY'S QUALIFICATIONS, AND TENDERED HIS RESIGNATION.

THE COMMISSIONERS EXPRESSED THEIR OVERWHELMING GRATITUDE AND APPRECIATION, AND THANKED COMMISSIONER GRAY FOR HIS EXEMPLARY CHARACTER, HARD WORK AND CONTRIBUTIONS, AND LOOK FORWARD TO WORKING WITH HIM IN THE FUTURE.

MOTION TO ACCEPT WITH REGRETS COMMISSIONER GRAY'S RESIGNATION.

MOTION CARRIED: 9 AYES

8. Discussion, deliberation, and possible action regarding the commissioner appointment for the Fourth District.

MOTION TO APPOINT AMANDA OCHOA, AND JAMES BRAY TO THE DISTRICT 4 VACANCIES.

MOTION CARRIED: 9 AYES

JACQUELYNE ALEXANDER, CHIEF DEPUTY CLERK OF THE BOARD, COUNTY OF SANTA BARBARA, INTRODUCED HERSELF AND ADMINISTERED THE OATH OF OFFICE TO NEWLY APPOINTED COMMISSIONERS, AMANDA OCHOA, AND JAMES BRAY.

COMMISSIONER OCHOA INTRODUCED HERSELF.

12. Report of the ad hoc committee on the evaluation criteria to be used for selecting Independent Legal Counsel and possible action.

MR. CHURCHWELL GAVE AN OVERVIEW OF THE AD HOC COMMITTEE'S TASK, THE MATRIX DEVELOPED BY THE AD HOC COMMITTEE, AND EXPLAINED THE MATRIX IS TO HELP GUIDE THE COMMISSION'S DECISION.

COMMISSION DISCUSSION:

COMMISSIONERS INQUIRED ABOUT THE FEES (HOURLY RATE, MAXIMUM, ETC.), AND AN EXPLANATION OF THE "OTHER CONSIDERATIONS" CATEGORY.

THE AD HOC COMMITTEE COMMENTED THAT SOME FIRMS PROVIDED HOURLY RATES OR MAXIMUM AMOUNTS, AS THE RFP DID NOT SPECIFY HOW TO INDICATE LEGAL FEES. OTHER CONSIDERATIONS IS A "CATCH ALL" FOR ADDITIONAL ITEMS THAT MAY COME UP, AND DIDN'T FALL INTO THE OTHER CATEGORIES.

MS. ANDERSON MENTIONED THAT THIS CAN BE PART OF THE NEGOTIATION PROCESS, AND THE ULTIMATE GOAL SHOULD BE GETTING TO AN HOURLY RATE WITH A NOT TO EXCEED AMOUNT.

COMMISSIONER MORRIS ASKED IF THERE IS A BUDGETARY CAP TO BE CONSIDERED, THE PROCESS ONCE A FIRM IS IDENTIFIED FOR RECOMMENDATION, AND THE ROLE OF THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS TO COMPLETE THE PROCESS.

MS. ANDERSON STATED THE CONTRACT WILL BE BASED ON THE RFQ, THE COMMISSION WILL PROVIDE THE NEGOTIATED AMOUNT TO THE COUNTY TO PREPARE THE CONTRACT TO GO BEFORE THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS ON FEBRUARY 9, OTHERWISE THE NEXT OPPORTUNITY WILL BE MARCH 2.

COMMISSIONER MORRIS EXPLAINED THIS WAS THE REASON FOR THE JANUARY 27, AND 28 COMMISSION MEETING, TO AGREE ON AND APPLY THE FORM TO THE PROPOSALS, AND RECOMMEND ONE OR MORE FIRMS TO BE INTERVIEWED.

MR. JOHNSON COMMENTED THAT FEES CAN BE A QUESTION ASKED DURING THE INTERVIEWS.

COMMISSIONER MORRIS COMMENTED THAT THE MATRIX IS A TOOL TO AID IN THE REVIEWING THE PROPOSALS, AND NOT A TALLY OR SCORE SHEET.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

LEE HELLER, HEARD REGARDING THE MATRIX, CONCERN REGARDING A POSSIBLE CONFLICT OF INTEREST WITH A NIELSEN MERKSAMER ASSOCIATE'S CONTRIBUTION TO A COUNTY SUPERVISOR'S CAMPAIGN, WELCOMED COMMISSIONER OCHOA AND BRAY, AND SUGGESTED THE COMMISSION CONSIDER THE EXPERIENCE, AGE, AND TIME IN OFFICE OF PERSONNEL THAT WILL BE ASSIGNED TO THE CONTRACT.

MOTION TO CORRECT THE TYPOGRAPHICAL ERROR IN PARAGRAPH TWO, AND ACCEPT THE AD HOC COMMITTEE'S EVALUATION MATRIX AS PRESENTED.

MOTION CARRIED: 10 AYES 1 ABSTAIN

COMMISSIONER OLMEDO HAS A CONFLICT AND IS NOT AVAILABLE ON THURSDAY, JANUARY 28.

THE NEXT COMMISSION MEETING WILL BE WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 27, TO DETERMINE WHICH FIRMS TO INTERVIEW, AND THE MEETING ON THURSDAY, JANUARY 28 WILL BE CANCELED.

MR. JOHNSON COMMENTED THAT THE CENSUS DATA UPDATE, AND COMPLETE COUNT INFORMATION WILL BE PRESENTED AT THE FEBRUARY 1 COMMISSION MEETING.

13. Outreach discussion and possible actions, including introduction to County's outreach budgeting form.

ITEM MOVED TO A FUTURE MEETING.

14. Discussion and possible action regarding future agenda items.

MOTION TO ADD THE FOLLOWING ITEMS TO A FUTURE AGENDA:

- OUTREACH AND COMMUNITIES OF INTEREST
- CLARIFICATION OF EX PARTE AND SOCIAL MEDIA COMMUNICATIONS

MOTION CARRIED: 11 AYES

15. Discussion and possible action regarding scheduling future meetings.

NO ACTION TAKEN.

COMMISSIONER KATZ INQUIRED ABOUT REGISTRATION FOR THE COMMON CAUSE WORKSHOP ON THURSDAY, JANUARY 28.

MR. JOHNSON MENTIONED THE WORKSHOP WILL BE RECORDED AND NDC WILL WORK WITH COMMON CAUSE TO OBTAIN AND PROVIDE THE LINK TO COMMISSIONERS.

ADJOURNMENT – The next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, January 27, 2021, at 6:30 p.m.

Agenda Packet Items:

Item 04 Minutes of January 19, 2021

Item 06 Commissioner Gary's Offer to Resign

Item 07 Interview Schedule / Questions / Applications

Item 11 Republican Party / Hispanic Chamber letter

Item 12 RFQ for Independent Legal Counsel and Proposals Submitted

Item 14 Proposed Future Agenda Items