

COMMENTS OF THE ANTELOPE VALLEY LEAGUE OF UNITED LATIN AMERICAN CITIZENS TO THE PALMDALE ADVISORY REDISTRICTING COMMISSION DURING THE MEETING OF FEBRAURY 9, 2022

First, thank you for your voluntary work to ensure a fair and open redistricting process for Palmdale. We would like to go on record stating our support of your efforts and outcome to date.

We are disheartened, but not at all surprised, that the City Council would thwart your initial recommendation and firmly believe that any decision you formulate will not be accepted unless it fully protects the incumbency of those currently in office. This is their one primary concern as was made evident during the Council meeting of February 2, 2022.

We do not know if you are interested in sending maps to the Council that have as their primary objective the protection of incumbency but we would argue and recommend that you do not. You are under no obligation to derive of maps that protect incumbency. The City and you by extension, are under legal obligation to support maps that protect the voting rights of protected classes. In this circumstance, protected classes mean Latinos and African Americans.

A council member accused the creators of both map 208 and the ALVA map of politicizing the maps pitting Democrats against the Republican incumbents. He also accused the Commission of thwarting a "good faith effort to bring to the council four maps." Both of the accusations are preposterous, in our view.

We agree with the statements made by Councilman Carrillo during the Council meeting that the actions of the council were completely disrespectful of the Commission, the process they followed, and the community they represent with special emphasis on those community members who participated in the process.

Given what we see as an opportunistic and not so veiled attempt to corrupt the process, AV-LULAC urges you to resubmit the original maps. We urge you to allow the City Council to be responsible for their own actions. Do not allow yourselves and this Body to be used as a buffer. Place the onus back on them allow them to decide what maps they want instead of using you as a shield to guard them from the consequences of their actions.

Sincerely,

Xavier Flores
President
AV-LULAC