

**22-031**

City Council Action and Executive Summary

Type of Action:

☒ Resolution☐ Ordinance☐ TIDD ResolutionDistrict: ☒ 1 ☒ 2 ☒ 3 ☒ 4 ☒ 5 ☒ 6 ☐ N/A

1st Reading:

Adopted:

September 7, 2021

Drafter:

Robert Cabello

Department:

Legal

Program:

Office of the Director

Line of Business:

Compliance

Title:

A RESOLUTION TO CREATE A CITIZEN AD HOC COMMITTEE TO WORK WITH RESEARCH & POLLING, INC. TO EVALUATE CITY COUNCIL REDISTRICTING PROPOSALS.TYPE OF ACTION: ☒ Administrative ☐ Legislative ☐ Quasi-Judicial**PURPOSE(S) OF ACTION:**

To create a citizen ad hoc committee to evaluate City Council redistricting proposals.

BACKGROUND / KEY ISSUES / CONTRIBUTING FACTORS:

The Las Cruces City Charter 2019, Article II, Section 2.01(e)(1) requires that each City Council district "shall contain as nearly as possible substantially the same population based upon the most recent federal census." The last federal census was in 2020 and the data for the City Council districts was disclosed on August 12, 2021. Therefore, the City Council needs to approve a redistricting proposal.

The City will utilize an existing contract from the City of Albuquerque with Research & Polling, Inc., a consultant from Albuquerque, New Mexico, to evaluate various proposals for redistricting the City Council districts based on the 2020 federal census data. The pending contract is based on an existing contract, where Research & Polling, Inc. is providing the same services regarding redistricting to the City of Albuquerque. Using an existing contract in this manner is authorized by the City's Procurement Code, LCMC Section 24-316, because it was competitively procured by Albuquerque.

City Council desires to create a citizen ad hoc committee to provide public input and assist Research & Polling, Inc. to evaluate the various redistricting proposals. The proposed resolution creates an Ad Hoc Redistricting Committee, which shall consist of up to seven (7) Las Cruces residents. All committee members shall be appointed as follows: each councilor may appoint one (1) member who is a resident of their district; and the mayor may appoint one (1) city resident. The Ad Hoc Redistricting Committee will elect one of its members chairperson at its first meeting and thereafter gather public input of the redistricting of Las Cruces at various publicly noticed meetings. The Ad Hoc Redistricting Committee will forward information to Research & Polling Inc. for its consideration by a majority of the vote. All meetings of the Ad Hoc Redistricting Committee shall be open to the public and subject to the provisions of the Open Meetings Act, including maintaining minutes of all their public meetings with the City Clerk. It shall also submit written reports summarizing its activities to the City Council. The Ad Hoc Redistricting Committee will terminate after the City Council approves a redistricting proposal.

PLAN(S):

None

COMMITTEE/BOARD REVIEW:

None

ANNUAL BUDGET APPROVAL:

☐ Yes

☐ No

☒ N/A

Does this action amend the Capital Improvement Plan (CIP)?

☐ Yes

☐ No

☒ N/A

Does this action align with Elevate Las Cruces?

☐ Yes

☐ No

☒ N/A

OPTIONS / ALTERNATIVES:

1. Vote "Yes"; this will create a citizen ad hoc committee, which will work with Research & Polling, Inc. to evaluate City Council Redistricting Proposals.
2. Vote "No"; this means a citizen ad hoc committee will not be created, and Research & Polling Inc. will without input from a committee.
3. Vote to "Amend"; this would allow City Council to modify the proposed ordinance.
4. Vote to "Table"; this would postpone the decision to amend the ordinance and would allow City Council to further direct staff.

RESOLUTION 22-031

A RESOLUTION TO CREATE A CITIZEN AD HOC COMMITTEE TO WORK WITH RESEARCH & POLLING, INC. TO EVALUATE CITY COUNCIL REDISTRICTING PROPOSALS.

The City Council is informed that:

WHEREAS, the Las Cruces City Charter 2019, Article II, Section 2.01(e)(1) requires that each City Council district "shall contain as nearly as possible substantially the same population based upon the most recent federal census"; and

WHEREAS, the last federal census was in 2020 and the data for the City Council district was disclosed on August 12, 2021; and

WHEREAS, the City will utilize an existing competitive procured contract from the City of Albuquerque with Research & Polling, Inc., a consultant from Albuquerque, New Mexico, to evaluate various proposals for redistricting the City Council districts based on the 2020 federal census data; and

WHEREAS, City Council desires to create a citizen ad hoc committee to provide public input and assist Research & Polling, Inc. to evaluate the various redistricting proposals.

NOW, THEREFORE, Be it Resolved by the Governing Body of the City of Las Cruces:

(I)

THAT the Ad Hoc Redistricting Committee shall consist of up to seven (7) Las Cruces residents. All committee members shall be appointed as follows:

A. Each councilor may appoint one (1) member who is a resident of their district; and

B. The mayor may appoint one (1) city resident.

(II)

THAT the Ad Hoc Redistricting Committee will elect one of its members chairperson at its first meeting and thereafter gather public input of the redistricting of Las Cruces at various publicly noticed meetings.

(III)

THAT upon a majority vote, the Ad Hoc Redistricting Committee will forward information to Research & Polling Inc. for its consideration.

(IV)

THAT all meetings of the Ad Hoc Redistricting Committee shall be open to the public and subject to the provisions of the Open Meetings Act, including maintaining minutes of all their public meetings with the City Clerk.

(V)

THAT the Ad Hoc Redistricting Committee shall submit written reports summarizing its activities to the City Council.

(VI)

THAT the Ad Hoc Redistricting Committee will terminate after the City Council approves a redistricting proposal.

(VII)

THAT City staff is hereby authorized to do all deeds as necessary in the accomplishment of the herein above.

DONE AND APPROVED this 07 day of September 2021

APPROVED

Mayor

ATTEST:

City Clerk

Moved by: Gill Sorg

Seconded by: Gabe Vasquez

AYES Kasandra Gandara, Gabe Vasquez, Gill Sorg, Ken Miyagishima, Yvonne Flores, Tessa Abeyta-Stuve, Johana Bencomo

NAYS