CITY OF LONG BEACH

OFFICE OF THE CITY MANAGER

333 West Ocean Boulevard • □ Long Beach, CA 90802 • □ (562) 570-6711 FAX (562) 570-7650

R-11

May 24, 2011

HONORABLE MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL
City of Long Beach
California

RECOMMENDATION

Make a determination whether redistricting is required based on the population data provided by the Planning Commission and provide direction to staff on policy for redistricting. (Citywide)

DISCUSSION

At the City Council Study Session on February 15, 2011, the City Council received a presentation regarding the redistricting process. On March 22, 2011, the City Council formally adopted their criteria for a redistricting process (Attachment A). On May 5, 2011, the Planning Commission officially reviewed the 2010 Census data by Council District and voted to transmit that information to the City Council (Attachment B).

Under the City Charter, the City Council makes the decision on whether redistricting is required. Section 103 of the Long Beach City Charter reads in part:

> Commencing the second quarter of 1981 and at intervals of five (5) years, or at any other time the City Council may direct, the Planning Commission shall ascertain the number of inhabitants in each Councilmanic District and report its finding to the City Council. If the report shows that the Councilmanic Districts are not approximately equal in number of inhabitants, the City Council shall, by ordinance, redistrict the City into nine (9) Councilmanic Districts, each having approximately an equal number of inhabitants.

The City Council will use the data transmitted by the Planning Commission to determine if there is a significant imbalance between Council District populations, which would trigger the need to redistrict. The Council District ideal population (citywide population divided by nine) and percent difference from ideal population, are key factors in making this determination. District populations that are more than +/- 5 percent from the ideal population would be considered first for boundary changes to bring their population totals within the +/- 5 percent threshold. Historically the City has used +/- 5 percent as the threshold to trigger redistricting, and the City Council voted earlier this year to re-adopt that criteria for redistricting. As shown in the attached documents, four of the districts (District 1, 6, 8, and 9) exceed the threshold.

Policy Issues

There are two additional policy issues for the City Council to consider, in addition to the guiding principles the City Council adopted. These policy issues will determine the magnitude of the changes as the City Council, City staff and the community engage in the redistricting process. These issues include:

1. Does the City Council take action to focus on only redistricting the districts that exceed the threshold or should all districts be redistricted?
2. Does the City Council strive to bring all districts to as close to being equal as possible (e.g. near 0 variance) or to make as few changes as possible (e.g. just under 5 percent), or a variant of those two concepts?

Schedule

On May 24, 2011, staff is requesting City Council direction on the two policy issues above and the official decision to redistrict. Shortly thereafter, staff will utilize the policy guidelines already adopted by the City Council to generate several maps that utilize those policies in order to provide options for the City Council and the community to consider. City staff will post those maps for a minimum of two weeks on www.longbeach.gov/redistricting to allow public comment, which can be provided through the website. After the public comment period, City staff will return to the City Council for a discussion on the maps, receive public testimony, and receive further City Council direction on the maps.

This matter was reviewed by Chief Assistant City Attorney Heather Mahood and by Budget Management Officer Victoria Bell on May 13, 2011.

FISCAL IMPACT

There is no fiscal impact or local jobs associated with this recommendation.

SUGGESTED ACTION

Approve recommendation.

Respectfully submitted,

PATRICK W. WEST
CITY MANAGER

City of Long Beach: Redistricting Criteria

Adopted, March 22, 2011

The Long Beach City Council adopted redistricting criteria applicable to Long Beach City Council districts for the 2011 redistricting process on Tuesday, March 22, 2011. The criteria are presented below and have been numbered for identification purposes only.

1. Transparency and public information should be of the highest priority;
2. Staff will receive input from many sources, but formal direction will come from the City Council in open session;
3. Direction to staff on adjustments shall occur in public session of the City Council;
4. Requested information will be shared publicly with all members of the City Council and the community;
5. Staff will provide the City Council with several options, and request direction until consensus is reached;
6. Deviations from mean population should be as small as possible, but not greater than +/- 5%;
7. Splits in neighborhoods, ethnic communities and other groups having a clear identity should be avoided;
8. Districts should be as compact as possible, avoiding gerrymandering;
9. Residences of Councilpersons should remain within their respective districts;
10. Boundaries should, wherever practicable, follow major roads and other readily identifiable features;
11. Preservation of communities of interest, where possible;
12. Boundary adjustments should generally consist of easily identifiable blocks/areas;
13. Use Census tract boundaries wherever possible; Redistricting shall avoid splitting Census blocks whenever possible;
14. Preservation of population cores which have consistently been associated with particular districts;
15. Avoidance of large scale dislocations of district populations;
16. Recognition of inevitable and historical topographic and geographic limitations on district boundaries; and
17. Redistricting should focus on areas of population, and not on areas of non-population (parks, businesses, etc.).

**For additional information, please visit www.longbeach.gov/redistricting*

AGENDA ITEM No. 2

CITY OF LONG BEACH

DEPARTMENT OF DEVELOPMENT SERVICES

333 West Ocean Blvd., 5th Floor Long Beach, CA 90802 (562) 570-6194 FAX (562) 570-6068

May 5, 2011

CHAIR AND PLANNING COMMISSIONERS
City of Long Beach
California

RECOMMENDATION:

Transmit to the City Council the 2010 Census population totals by City Council District for use in the Councilmanic Redistricting process. (Citywide)

DISCUSSION

Section 103 of the Long Beach City Charter reads in part:

> Commencing the second quarter of 1981 and at intervals of five (5) years, or at any other time the City Council may direct, the Planning Commission shall ascertain the number of inhabitants in each Councilmanic District and report its finding to the City Council. If the report shows that the Councilmanic Districts are not approximately equal in number of inhabitants, the City Council shall, by ordinance, redistrict the City into nine (9) Councilmanic Districts, each having approximately an equal number of inhabitants.

The City Manager's Office of Government Affairs and Strategic Initiatives is coordinating the preparation and processing of Census 2010 census data to be used in the 2011 Councilmanic Redistricting process. The Planning Commission has the role of reviewing the population figures by City Council District and forwarding that information to the City Council.

The City Council will use this data to determine if there is a significant imbalance between Council District populations, which would trigger the need to redistrict. The Council District ideal population (citywide population divided by nine) and percent difference from ideal population will be key factors in making this determination. District populations that are more than +/- 5 percent from the ideal population would be considered first for District boundary changes to bring their population totals within the +/- 5 percent threshold.

As shown in the table below, Long Beach's population increased by only 0.2 percent between 2000 and 2010, according to the 2010 Census data. Population change varied by Council District, with five districts increasing and four decreasing in inhabitants recorded by the Census. The largest increase was 2.6 percent in the 8th District and the largest decrease was –3.3 percent in the 1st District.

April 1, 2010 Population by Councilmanic District

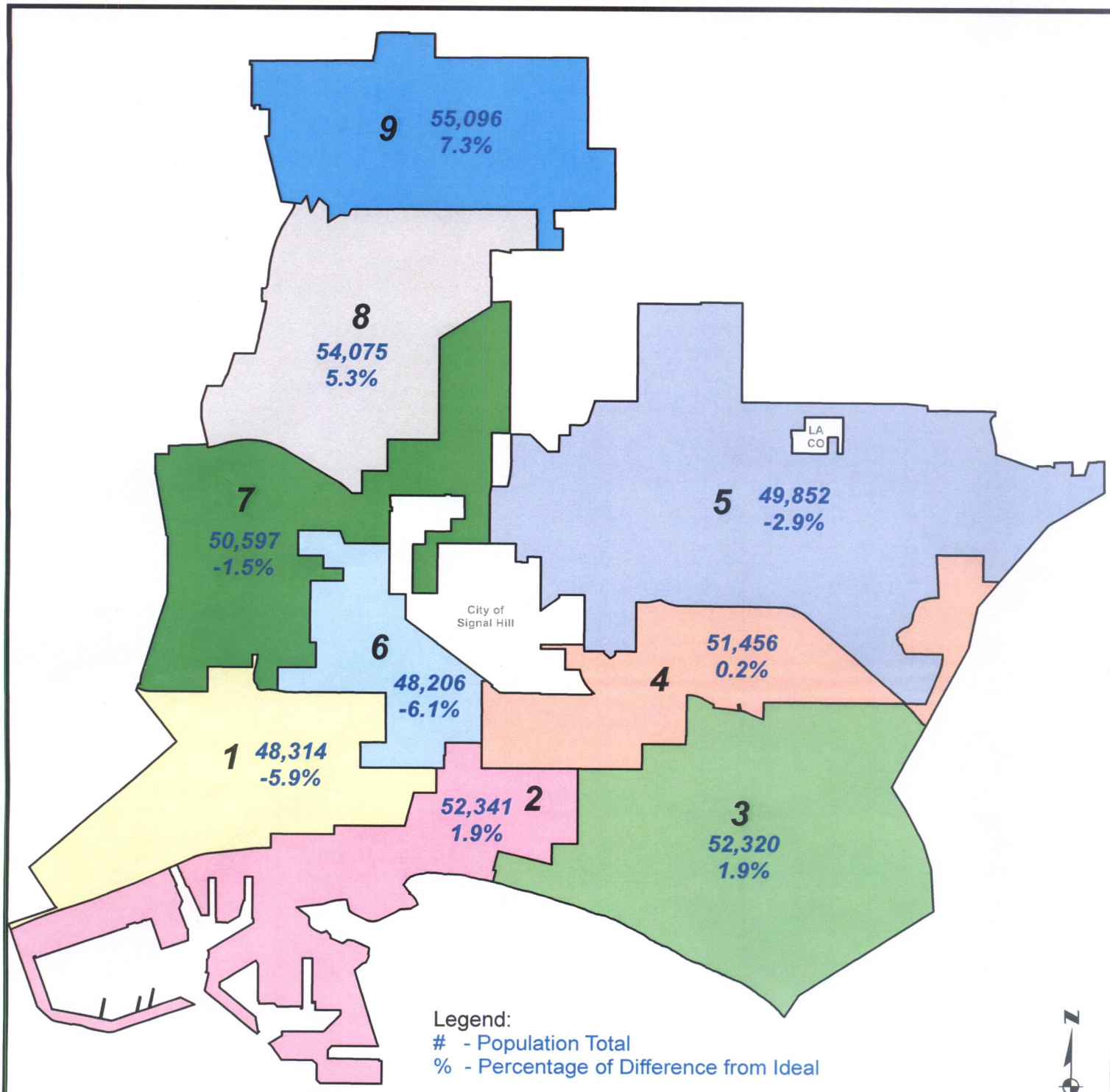
Council District	2000 Population	**2010 Population**	00-10 Change	# Difference from Ideal Population	% Difference from Ideal Population
1	49,979	**48,314**	-3.3%	3,048	-5.9%
2	53,536	**52,341**	-2.2%	-979	1.9%
3	51,089	**52,320**	2.4%	-958	1.9%
4	52,198	**51,456**	-1.4%	-94	0.2%
5	49,129	**49,852**	1.5%	1,510	-2.9%
6	49,492	**48,206**	-2.6%	3,156	-6.1%
7	49,681	**50,597**	1.8%	765	-1.5%
8	52,684	**54,075**	2.6%	-2,713	5.3%
9	53,734	**55,096**	2.5%	-3,734	7.3%
Citywide	461,522	**462,257**	0.2%		
Ideal Population (Citywide Population divided by 9)	51,280	**51,362**			

To fulfill its City Charter-mandated role in the Councilmanic Redistricting process, the Planning Commission is requested to transmit to the City Council the updated Council District populations based on the 2010 Census data.

Respectfully submitted,

AMY J. BODEK, AICP
DIRECTOR OF DEVELOPMENT SERVICES

AJB:DB:LR



Source : U.S. Census Bureau 2010 Data

City Council Districts
2010 Population &
% Difference from Ideal Population

City of Long Beach, California

As of March 2011

Department of
Technology Services GIS

E:\Census2010\CD_Pop.mxd