

MINUTES

BE IT REMEMBERED, That on this 4TH DAY of NOVEMBER, 2021, Commissioners Court of Fort Bend County, Texas, met at a special meeting with the following present:

KP GEORGE	COUNTY JUDGE
VINCENT MORALES	COMMISSIONER PRECINCT 1
GRADY PRESTAGE	COMMISSIONER PRECINCT 2
ANDY MEYERS	COMMISSIONER PRECINCT 3
KEN R. DEMERCHANT	COMMISSIONER PRECINCT 4
LAURA RICHARD	COUNTY CLERK

When the following were heard and the following orders were passed:

- 1. Call to Order.**
Call to Order by Judge KP George at 10:01 a.m.
- 2. Receive presentation of redistricting maps.**

Commissioner Precinct 1 presented proposed map - Commissioner Morales explained his map creates a balanced population and balanced diversity and is a fair map.

Commissioner Precinct 2 presented proposed map – Commissioner Prestage stated, for the record, the map submitted this morning is a slight variation of the map currently being presented. He explained his proposed map takes the area in the southern part of Sienna Plantation, City of Arcola and much of the Fresno area out of Precinct 1 and puts it back in Precinct 2. The map adds the area on the west side of the Brazos River, which will be accessible when the Fort Bend Parkway Toll Road is complete and there is a bridge over the river. It keeps communities of interest together. Some plans divide Missouri City down the Texas Parkway and believes this is not acceptable. This map will keep all communities of interest together in Precinct 4. Precinct 1 loses the east side and gains some of the north part of the County, which is some of the Mission Bend/Grand Mission area. The Precinct 3 area remains much intact as it is currently and accommodates Commissioner Meyers' residence. Commissioner Prestage stated this plan is a fair plan and builds on the status quo, there are no changes involving the residence of elected officials. Commissioner's alternate map has tweaks that did take into account some of the Elected Officials and where they live. It is a balanced map and makes Precinct 1 a Hispanic opportunity and makes Precinct 4 an Asian opportunity district.

Item 2 continued - Receive presentation of redistricting maps:

Commissioner Precinct 3 presented proposed map – Commissioner Meyers explained his plan meets all criteria, meets the proportionality test, keeps two Democrats and two Republicans and keeps subdivisions and communities of interest together in the same Precinct. He stated Precinct 1 and Precinct 3 deal with subdivisions of the state (MUDs, LIDs, ESDs, etc.) and addresses the concerns and needs of the community that is communicated to the Commissioner’s office. The County is a service operation and not a Legislative body and splitting subdivisions and MUDs/LIDs is a disservice to the community as a whole. Commissioner indicated, according to Dave’s Redistricting, his proposal would be rated overall the fairest and the most reasonable plan. The compactness and proportionality of his plan is rated higher than the other plans.

Judge George presented proposed map – Judge George stated his map was run by experts and they believe his map is a clear reflection of Fort Bend County’s current population. Judge believes his map is the best map to adopt. He mentioned there was a tweak or small change made to the previous map. Judge George mentioned the tweak on his map was to include Constable Precinct 2 back into his Precinct.

3. Receive Public Comments.

Nimra Shahzad, 4230 Lewis Creek Dr, Precinct 4, is a senior at the University of Houston. Ms. Shahzad spoke on the importance of the redistricting maps. She stated the growth in Fort Bend County has grown with a large proportion of Asian Americans and asked the court to take this process seriously.

Jeff LaBroski, 1802 Cotton Mill Court, Richmond, Precinct 3, president of the Tideland Labor Assembly. Mr. LaBroski is not in favor of Precinct 4 map. The map splits up the ability to coordinate advocacy for issues important to people. Mr. LaBroski asked the court to keep communities united and not to dilute the power of labor.

Shah Haleem, 5815 Silbay Meadow Drive, Katy is a Democrat and has concerns about the maps. The maps should represent the people of this County for the next ten years. The map must represent the color, and choices of the race of the people to elect the next official of this County. Mr. Haleem would like to see a map that represents the color and the growing race of our County.

Niloufar Hafizi, 6511 Sterling Canyon Drive, spoke on behalf of Emgage Action was looking for a good map to endorse and put support behind and found there is no good map in good faith for the organization. Ms. Hafizi asked the court to remember the values that the communities want to see when a map is voted on. She does not want to see the communities broken up, such as the Asian American community and would like to see a map voted on with communities interests.

Veronica Pina – 5030 Ridgewest, is representing the Fort Bend County Tejano Democrats. The purpose of the organization is to focus on the Hispanic, Latino and Latinx community and the motto is “the voice of the people”. Ms. Pina agrees with Commissioner Prestage’s map as being the fairest map for the Latino community and Commissioner Meyers map. She would like to see these two communities be a strong and fair representation for the Latino community. Ms. Pina believes these maps should represent all cultures.

Idemudia Uwagbale, 14943 Havenridge Drive, Precinct 2, member of the Texas Organizing Project. Mr. Uwagbale believes the maps should reflect diversity, keep communities of interest together and be able to elect those of choice. Mr. Uwagbale asked the court to reject any map proposed in Fort Bend County that dilutes the power of voters of color. He asked to place fairness above political expediency and pass accurate maps that illustrate communities of color that have played a major role in filling this County’s population growth and economic prosperity for the past decade.

Item 3 continued - Receive Public Comments:

Rodrigo Carreon, 1122 Avenue C, Precinct 1, believes the maps should work to keep the Constables in the right Precinct. Mr. Carreon explained Precinct 2 should expand to the East side, Precinct 1 should not be too overgrown. He said Hwy 59 should be divided with Precinct 1 and Precinct 3 to increase population. The maps should keep the communities together.

Judge George opened the meeting to anyone who wanted to speak.
There were no additional speakers.

Recess: 10:45 AM

Reconvene from Recess: 11:46 AM

Commissioner Meyers made a comment and recommendation. He stated after a review of the two plans and a conversation with the County Attorney's office, he see deficiencies in Precinct 4 plan and would strongly recommend to recess again in order for Precinct 4 Commissioner get together with our outside attorney, Mr. Bob Bass, to review the plan and give him direction as to what may be some deficiencies in his plan.

Bridgette Smith-Lawson, County Attorney, explained if Commissioner Meyers would like to recess to allow additional time for plan review and for plan alterations it is up to the Court to recess to allow for additional time to review plans and make alterations and reconvene.

Motion To Recess:

Recess until 9:30 AM, Friday, November 5, 2021 to give an opportunity to the people to review the maps and make any modifications to get maps in compliance.

Moved by Commissioner Meyers, Seconded by Commissioner DeMerchant
Duly put and carried (4-1), it is ordered to recess until 9:30 AM, Friday, November 5, 2021 to give an opportunity to the people to review the maps and make any modifications to get the maps in compliance.

Judge George	No
Commissioner Morales	Yes
Commissioner Prestage	Yes
Commissioner Meyers	Yes
Commissioner DeMerchant	Yes

Judge George announced the Court cannot accept any more new maps moving forward.

Recess: 11:50 a.m.

Item 3 continued - Receive Public Comments (Receive Presentation of Alternate Redistricting Maps.):

Reconvened from Recess to Continued Discussion from yesterday.

Reconvened: Friday, November 5, 2021 at 9:33 AM.

Commissioner Meyers acknowledged and thanked Robyn Doughtie, Director of Information Technology and her IT staff for working beyond the call of duty.

Commissioner Precinct 2 presented Alternate Proposed Map – Commissioner Prestage explained the alternate map is almost identical to the first map. The virtues of this map are as follows: The alternate map takes the current configuration of the Precinct, since it is low in population and brings the southern part of Sienna Plantation, City of Arcola and most of the Fresno area back into Precinct 2. It adds some portions of land on the west side of Brazos River and will be accessible in the coming years with the extension of the Fort Bend Parkway Toll Road. The alternate map adds a portion along Hwy 59 which is Greatwood into Precinct 2. This map leaves Precinct 4 intact and adds population in the Mission Bend area. Precinct 3 stays intact and eliminates the trail of precincts it took to connect Commissioner Meyers’ residence, with the predominant population. The alternate map added some portions of Mission Bend to the proposed Precinct 1. Commissioner believes his map is a fair plan and maintains Precinct 1 as a Hispanic opportunity precinct, keeps Precinct 4 as an Asian opportunity, Precinct 2 as an African American opportunity and Precinct 3 would be mostly a Republican Precinct, based on current voting patterns. All of the Annex offices are kept intact; except for the residence of Commissioner Meyers and possibly one elected official. This alternate map is believed to meet all of the test, consistent with the voting rights act and produces a minimum amount of disruption. It will create two Democratic Precincts, based on past voting patterns, one Republican Precinct and one Precinct, which is Precinct 1, with 51.5% Democrats, based on the composite election results as accumulated by Dave’s Redistricting.

Commissioner Precinct 4 presented Alternate Proposed Map – Commissioner DeMerchant stated comments from the public were taken into consideration when drawing this alternate map. He explained this map brings communities back together, gave up some areas in Rosenberg to make the numbers work, keeping all Elected Officials in their Precincts and is working with Attorney Bob Bass to make sure the map meets all criteria from his perspective. As of yet, Commissioner has not received Mr. Bass’ analysis.

Commissioner Morales commented that Precinct 4’s map reflects the makeup of this court right now.

Commissioner Meyers stated Precinct 4’s map comes closer than his map to meeting objectives he has of proportionality, it is essentially a 50/50 County and keeps most of the communities together.

Judge George stated he has a doubt and asked Commissioner Meyers if the 50/50 criteria is used for redistricting.

Commissioner Meyers explained proportionality, when looking at Dave’s Redistricting, one of the criteria it has in ranking the fairness and reasonableness of a map includes proportionality. It also includes compactness, competitiveness and other factors. Proportionality is reflecting the individual divisions, like precincts compared to the state or County as a whole. A County that has a 50/50 voting countywide, under proportionality would have the four precincts proportioned two and two.

Item 3 continued - Receive Public Comments (Receive presentation of alternate redistricting maps.):

Commissioner Prestage commented that Judge's map is a new map. Commissioner made a comment about Constable Smith and Judge said he tweaked the map and when he reviewed Judge's map it appeared to be more than a tweak. Judge's proposed alternate map divided the African American community on Texas Parkway and put the predominate in Precinct 4. It made major changes that were not part of the original map. Commissioner believes Judge should label his map as the other Commissioners did as a new map, because it is totally different than the one earlier. Commissioner Prestage stated, Judge's map takes the African American population in Precinct 2 from 40% to 31%.

Judge George stated his map is not totally different and just made a change because he realized Constable Smith was not in his precinct. He had no intention of dividing the African American community. Judge said this is his last plan. Judge George also stated when there is a high concentration of any group of people you will not get everybody possibly in the precinct.

Commissioner Meyers would like to see an explanation of Judge's map.

Judge George asked for the public maps to be shown if the presenters were present in court. No public presenters were present in court and the court moved on to the next item.

Michelle Turner, Chief – General Counsel, was advised there was updated information regarding maps that just came across all the Commissioners and Judge's email boxes that was conveyed by outside counsel.

Bridgette Smith-Lawson, County Attorney, confirmed Mr. Bass sent an email at 8:59 PM last night which she sent to the court and their respective staff members for their review.

Commissioner DeMerchant pointed out the email that Ms. Smith-Lawson sent to the court from Bob Bass is not the latest version of his map.

Item 3 continued - Receive Public Comments:

Received Public Comments:

Rebecca Clark, 7408 Kelsey Lane, Richmond, spoke on the redistricting maps. Ms. Clark indicated the map proposed by County Judge and others that split the northern part of Fort Bend County into two or more precincts will not only isolate certain ethnic groups; but also place undue hardships financially and logistically on our children, the elderly and hard working families in our community by severely hampering the efficiency and effectiveness of the County's services to our community. Residents deserve to choose their politicians; not the other way around. Ms. Clark asked the court to vote for a proportionate map that strengthens; not weakens our County financially, geographically and demographically for many years to come and that is in the best interest of every single member of our community.

Daniel McJunkin, 1234 Pony Lane, Simonton, reviewed the maps and voices his objection to Judge George's map. Mr. McJunkin said the Judge's map flips parties, redefines the present Republican district and is political gerrymandering and divides the County. Mr. McJunkin asked the Commissioners to disregard the map presented by Judge George and adopt whichever map from the remaining proposed maps. He asked that the court not divide our great County.

Jean Michel Beique, 23711 Banning Point CT, Katy, believes County Judge's map is gerrymandering and achieves three Democratic Precincts. Mr. Beique asked the court to consider some of the hardship that will be placed on our children, the elderly and families by diluting the efficiency and effectiveness of County services to our community. He asked the court to reject any map that would remove and merge our elected judiciary and law enforcement from our community into a bizarre coexistence with other elected officials from an existing precinct.

Jennifer Haar, 24815 Mt. Auburn Drive, explained the Court currently reflects 50/50 (Democrat/Republican). Ms. Haar stated that splitting the northern part of the County into two or more Commissioner precincts for partisan gain will cause hardships to those who live there. Any map that will remove our elected judiciary and law enforcement into inefficient coexistence with another set of elected officials from an existing precinct is foolish. Ms. Haar asked the court to create a fair and proportional map respecting both the geographic and demographic strengths of Fort Bend County.

Daphne Mitchell, 22607 Jade Brook Court, Katy, asked the court to consider a fair and proportional map that will not divide our communities, children and add stress to our elders and that our communities are 50/50 (Republican/Democrat). Ms. Mitchell supports Commissioner Meyers, Precinct 3 map.

Robert Beham, 24219 Falcon Point Drive, Katy, believes some maps have broken Voter Precincts, long established neighborhoods and local government services and have repositioned them across the County. Fort Bend County is a 50/50 voting County and should be represented in the distribution of precinct Commissioners. Mr. Beham asked the court to work for the constituents.

David Vrshek, 1006 Cleistes Lane, Richmond, believes Commissioner Precinct 4 map is closest to being a representative of a balanced map.

Brad Moon, 13139 Parkbrook Way Lane, Sugar Land, Precinct 4 watched many people commenting to the court about keeping communities and groups together. Mr. Moon stated Commissioners Court is not a legislative body; but is about services. The court should consider the services and believes Precinct 3 map is the most consistent, than Precinct 4 and Precinct 2, in that order.

Heather Garcia, 4702 Magnolia Summit Lane, is concerned about Tompkins High School, having a fair map and keeping the community together.

Item 3 continued - Receive Public Comments:

Idemudia “Ide” Uwagbale, 14943 Havenridge Drive, is a member of the Texas Organizing Project, believes the County should make people more aware of what is going on and allow people to have input. Mr. Uwagbale believes that any map that hacks or cracks communities or disenfranchises people and makes people drive to unnecessary distances to get the services they need should not be supported.

Kristin Martin, 4511 Summits Edge Lane, said some of the maps are racially divided and asked Judge George to remove his map and the maps that should be considered are only the Commissioners' maps. The precincts should be geographically compact to balance services without adding further expenses to the County or the taxpayers.

Cherisse Wright, 6910 Spring Creek Court, Missouri City, is in favor of Precinct 3 and Precinct 4 maps. Redistricting should not be about race or political affiliation, this is segregation. District lines should be based on the logistics, financial and services of our community.

Paula Chavez, 11018 Glenrothers Drive, Richmond, stated the County is diverse and communities thrive on diversity. These redistricting issues are threatening to divide the people and destroy our cohesiveness of community. Ms. Chavez asked the court to oversee the general welfare of Fort Bend without separating our County in different sections for partisan reasons. She opposes any plan that separates the northern Fort Bend into two or more precincts for no other reason than political gain. Some of the proposed maps have a negative impact on community services we all depend on. She asked the court to think about the safety issues for our residents, a law enforcement that may be spread thin, emergency services impacted by natural disasters and the increase costs to taxpayers this proposal will create. Ms. Chavez asked the court to stop putting politics before people and draw a fair and proportionate map.

Judge George announced a recess is needed due to more information received from the outside counsel, Mr. Bob Bass, that needs to be reviewed.

Recess: 10:27 AM

Reconvened: 11:05 AM

Received Public Comments continued:

Ed Krenek, 6106 Cross Creek Harbor Lane, Fulshear, Precinct 3, is opposed to a radical change and believes Judge KP George’s map is radical and is not what people need. Mr. Krenek asked to impose the most minimal harsh change with the maps.

Robert Boettcher, 2111 Canyon Crest Drive, Precinct 1, supports Precinct 4 map. This map keeps communities intact. Mr. Boettcher believes the maps should keep communities together and keep the government running effectively. By gerrymandering the maps will degrade the efficiency of the government. Mr. Boettcher asked to follow the lead of Precinct 4 and the maps that will best represent the communities of Fort Bend County.

Tim Stroud, Candidate for Congressional District 7, request the court to consider the hardship that some of these proposed maps will place on our children, elderly residents, our family and all taxpayers by diluting the efficiency and effectiveness of County services to our community. He respectfully asks Commissioners Court to consider and support a fair proportional map that respects both the geographic and demographic strengths of Fort Bend County for years to come.

Item 3 continued - Receive Public Comments:

Lea Simmons, 715 East Park Street, Precinct 4, stated she lives in a small community that is left out and would like the court to remember the Quarters.

Candance Martin, 4103 Wentworth Drive, Fulshear believes the maps are gerrymandering. Ms. Martin stated the court members are servants of the public and not masters. The body politic will remember the actions and will act accordingly the next time at the ballot box. She stated the court has an opportunity to select a map that reflects a true equal balance of political viewpoint present in Fort Bend County and urges the court to choose a map that is balanced because the choices will be remembered.

Otu Udoudo, 3811 Abalone Cove, Missouri City, Precinct 4, rejects any plans by the Judge to be partial and draw maps that tilts the balance in favor of a political party that he may belong to or holds persuasion to. Mr. Udoudo is upset the court chooses to divide the citizens along ethnic and color lines. He has not had to think of those things up until now. The maps should be fair and not drawn to be biased which is divisive. Mr. Udoudo asked humbly that the court reject any plans to redistrict in a way that would dilute policing and schooling. He asked to reject the map that Judge KP George has put forward.

Nishan Khan, 17006 Summer Hollow Drive believes Judge George's map is drawn in the manner of the future. Mr. Khan urged Commissioner DeMerchant to tweak his map, keep the precinct he won and add the new population that has grown in Precinct 4.

Ruei Tuo, 6410 Dylan Springs Lane urged everyone to support KP George's map because this is our only chance to have a voice in government.

Carolyn Jones, Kendleton, former Mayor of Kendleton is concerned about the citizens of Kendleton. Ms. Jones asked the court to consider Kendleton on the maps.

Dr. Oto Cantu, 1202 Chapel Cone Lane, Katy asked the court for fairness. Dr. Cantu supports Judge KP George's map. He believes if the maps are drawn based on population, automatically, it will be the majority of Democrats which will be a 3 to 1.

Bishop James Dixon, 1023 Pinemont, President of the Houston NAACP (National Association for the Advancement of Colored People) and President of Push Democracy Forward, asked for fairness on the maps. Mr. Dixon stated this is a challenging season in America and in Texas. Divisiveness seems to rule the public conversation. As the population shifts happen in Texas, we seem to change the rules in order to fit who wants to win, as opposed to allow the natural progress of population growth to dictate how we govern. He urged the court to really study and reconsider in making sure the lines are drawn equitably. Mr. Dixon asked the court to review the maps and make sure the outcome of the maps are not political; but are just, then all people benefit.

Item 3 continued - Receive Public Comments (Receive presentation of alternate maps.):

At 11:38 AM – Judge George submitted Map 3. Judge stated this is democracy at its best and thanked everyone for making an effort to explain and for talking about how they feel. The map is based on the demonstration map provided to members of the court earlier this week by the County Attorney’s outside legal counsel and it is thoroughly vetted for the other major urban counties in Seattle, state of Texas and passes the muster of any potential legal concerns regarding Section 2 of the Voting Right Act. The map has taken care of Commissioner Prestage’s concern earlier about dividing the community. This map provides an opportunity District for each of the major communities of interest. This map keeps Precinct 2 as its opportunity District for African Americans, Precinct 3 as an Asian opportunity District, will give Precinct 4 District an opportunity for Latino members of our community to have a chance to elect a member of choice. Judge George is ready to present this progressive reflective of our community’s population map. This map reflects the hope and vision of so many Fort Bend County residents from all backgrounds and all walks of life.

Commissioner Meyers commented the members did not have time to review the map.

Commissioner Morales stated from what he is seeing on the map, elected officials are being taken out of their precincts. This is disrupting what the people voted for.

Judge George stated he is proposing both of his maps.

Recess: 11:45 AM

Reconvene from Recess: 2:04 PM

Received presentation of alternate redistricting maps:

Judge George stated his new map is based on information that was sent out to all the Commissioners Court members last Tuesday at 10:15 AM in an email from the County Attorney’s office. A draft version was recommended by the outside counsel. This map is a reflection of his map and the changes made are a reflection of the concerns the court heard. Judge proposed a compromised map that alleviates all these concerns and the base version of this map and data analysis is the demographic and partisan makeup. Judge described this map, which keeps Precinct 2 as an African American opportunity district, Precinct 3 with a possible Asian American opportunity district and Precinct 4 as a future Hispanic opportunity district within the next decade. He believes this map is a map of inclusiveness and allows people of color to elect people of choice. Judge George quoted Todd Hunter, “Redistricting is a political process and some people like it and some people don’t like it”.

Commissioner Morales made a comment on the surprise map. Commissioner stated this map is not a surprise. We have all known a surprise map was going to be submitted by sources from outside the County. This map’s purpose is clear to anyone. It’s drawn to radically displace as many taxpayers and politicians as possible. This map has clearly been drawn by someone outside Fort Bend County. In Commissioner Morales’ many years of experience and political activism, as a business leader, a Mayor and a Commissioner in our County, this map ignores the realities of our County, our population and the way people vote, especially the way that Fort Bend residents vote in this political environment. This map is an attempt to duplicate the format leverage and results the Democrats in Harris County achieved last week. The key difference is the Harris County’s map was drawn by Mike Matt Angle, a longtime political strategist who showed up to explain his map at a final vote. That court at least had the good political sense to let their Commissioners introduce the surprise map instead of asking their rookie County Judge to run the show. This map clearly was not drawn by anyone who knows anything about Fort Bend County politics.

Item 3 continued - Receive Public Comments (Receive presentation of alternate maps.):

And every member of this court knows who and notices they aren't here today. This map cuts the Democrat numbers down so far for the suggested Precinct 3 and Precinct 4 that any political consultant would be sued for malpractice. Commissioner Morales opposes this map for the costs and the hardships it places on our taxpayers and our first responders. He opposes it on behalf of the overwhelming majority of the proposed Precinct 4 residents who would have to drive past the County Katy Annex in order to drive another 30 minutes round trip to reach precinct offices in Richmond. Commissioner opposes this map because it will split the historic heart of Fort Bend County, the long 200 year history of one of the most storied Counties in Texas. He won't let this happen. Therefore, Commissioner Morales moves to amend the motion and to substitute the Precinct 4 map submitted by Commissioner DeMerchant.

4. Take all appropriate action on Order Adopting a redistricting Plan for Fort Bend County Commissioners Court Precincts.

Moved by Judge George, Seconded by Commissioner DeMerchant
Duly put and carried, it is ordered to approve Judge KP George's first map that he presented.

Judge George's second map was submitted on 11/01/2021 @ 7:21.

Judge George withdrew his motion to adopt his first map.

Take all appropriate action on Order Adopting a redistricting Plan for Fort Bend County Commissioners Court Precincts.

Moved by Judge George, Seconded by Commissioner DeMerchant
Duly put and carried, it is ordered to adopt Judge KP George's third map which was just discussed and submitted by County Judge on November 5, 2021 at 11:03 AM.

Moved by Commissioner Morales, Seconded by Commissioner Meyers
Duly put and carried (3-2), it is ordered to amend the motion to place Commissioner DeMerchant's map in place of Judge George's third map, submitted by Judge George on November 5, 2021 at 11:03 AM.

Judge George	No
Commissioner Morales	Yes
Commissioner Prestage	No
Commissioner Meyers	Yes
Commissioner DeMerchant	Yes

Commissioner DeMerchant stated he preferred not to vote on the maps this way. Commissioner would prefer to vote on one map at a time.

MOTION ON THE AMENDMENT PASSES

Item 4 continued - Order Adopting a redistricting Plan:

A clarification of the Approval was needed, therefore, the court restarted the Motion and Voting:

Bridgette Smith-Lawson, County Attorney, recommended since there was no clarity on the motion, that the original motion be restated, get the second, then restate the Amendment, get the second and get a clear casting of the vote.

Take all appropriate action on Order Adopting a redistricting Plan for Fort Bend County Commissioners Court Precincts.

Moved by Judge George, Seconded by Commissioner DeMerchant
Duly put and carried, it is ordered to adopt Judge KP George's third map, which was just discussed and submitted by County Judge on November 5, 2021 at 11:03 AM.

Moved by Commissioner Morales,
Duly put and carried, it is ordered to amend the motion to substitute Commissioner DeMerchant's map in place of Judge George's third map, which was submitted on November 5, 2021 at 11:03 AM.

Michelle Turner, Chief - General Counsel stated under Robert's Rules of Order, this amendment is improper. Anything that makes the Amendment essentially the opposite vote of the motion is an improper amendment.

Bridgette Smith-Lawson, County Attorney, stated this motion was an inappropriate motion, due to Robert's Rules of Order Newly Revised, Improper Amendments Section 10.1, one that is not germane to the question to be amended; one that merely makes the adoption of the amended question equivalent to a rejection of the original motion; thus in a motion that is identical with a question previously decided by the assembly during that session. Ms. Smith-Lawson stated what needs to happen is the original motion made, a second, discussion. That motion will either pass or fail; then a subsequent motion with a substituted plan or map that the court propose a second, discussion and therefore. An amendment to the motion cannot change the germane and essence of the original motion.

AMENDMENT MOTION FAILED DUE TO IMPROPER AMENDMENT

Take all appropriate action on Order Adopting a redistricting Plan for Fort Bend County Commissioners Court Precincts.

Moved by Commissioner Prestage, Seconded by Judge George
Duly put and carried (3-2), it is ordered to amend the motion presented by Judge KP George on November 5, 2021 at 11:03 AM to include the Millwood Section of the Riverstone Subdivision to be part of the proposed boundaries of Precinct 3, as presented, which namely is the subdivision of the voting tabulation district that is immediately to the West of the Millwood Section.

Judge George	Yes
Commissioner Morales	No
Commissioner Prestage	Yes
Commissioner Meyers	No
Commissioner DeMerchant	Yes

AMENDED MOTION PASSED

Item 4 continued - Order Adopting a redistricting Plan:

Commissioner Meyers pointed out that a yes vote approves the Judge's map. A no vote would allow the court to move to consider Precinct 1, 2, 3 and 4's map.

Commissioner Prestage noticed the map changes offices. The North Annex had been the home of Commissioner Precinct 3 and will be placed in a new Precinct 1. Commissioner is not sure what happens to Precinct 1 Annex. The property agreed to be purchased for a future Precinct 4 Annex will be in Precinct 3.

Commissioner Meyers stated the court is basically taking three newly elected officials out of office and will have two JP's in Precinct 1 and two Constables in Precinct 1.

Bridgette Smith-Lawson, County Attorney stated taking them out of office is an incorrect reflection. They will still be Constables and still be on the payroll; but their jurisdiction would be subject to change. In the event there are vacancies this body politic has the ability to appoint a Constable or a Justice of the Peace (provided the current Constable decided not to move). This court does have the ability to redistrict Justice of the Peace and Constable lines.

Commissioner Prestage asked if, according to this map, the current offices for Precinct 4 are on Dairy Ashford and under this plan, if it is approved, they will be in the new Precinct 3.

Judge George stated this is correct.

Commissioner Morales asked what happens to Constable Beard, Precinct 1, does he move into the new territory of Precinct 1.

Ms. Smith-Lawson read from the Texas Constitution Article V – Judicial Departments Section C when the boundaries of Justice of the Peace and Constable precincts are changed, each Justice and Constable in office on the effective date of the change or elected to a term of office beginning on or after the effective date of change shall serve in the precinct in which the person resides for the term to which each was elected or appointed even though the change in boundaries places the person's residence outside the precinct for which he was elected or appointed. Commissioners are carried in a separate provision which is Section D, where in effect a Commissioner on the effective date of the change or elected to a term of office beginning on or after the effective date of change will serve in the precinct of which he was elected or appointed for the entire term.

Ms. Smith-Lawson stated this new Precinct map will take effect on the effective date of change. The day the court voted will make it effective. Ms. Smith-Lawson also stated the court could make the decision to make an effective date of change, however the Court is up for deadline on November 13 for filing purposes.

Commissioner Morales asked how will it work for the two JP's currently in Precinct 1 and one JP that would now be Precinct 1 which is Precinct 3.

Ms. Smith-Lawson stated there would be an evaluation on how the Justice of Peace would serve out his or her term in terms of the change on the lines.

Item 4 continued - Order Adopting a Redistricting Plan:

Take all appropriate action on Order Adopting a redistricting Plan for Fort Bend County Commissioners Court Precincts.

Moved by Judge George, Seconded by Commissioner DeMerchant
Duly put and carried (3-2), it is ordered to adopt Judge KP George's third map, which was just discussed and submitted by County Judge on November 5, 2021 at 11:03 AM as it was amended to include the Millwood Section of the Riverstone Subdivision to be part of the proposed boundaries of Precinct 3, as presented, which namely is the subdivision of the voting tabulation district that is immediately to the West of the Millwood Section.

Judge George	Yes
Commissioner Morales	No
Commissioner Prestage	Yes
Commissioner Meyers	No
Commissioner DeMerchant	Yes

Judge George’s third map has been adopted with the amendment.

5. Adjournment.

Commissioners Court adjourned at 2:48 p.m. on Friday, November 5, 2021.

Moved by Judge George,
to adjourn.



I attest to the accuracy of the foregoing minutes.

Laura Richard, County Clerk, Fort Bend County, Texas