

Communication from Public

Name: Ann O'Connor

Date Submitted: 10/30/2021 04:40 PM

Council File No: 20-0668-S7

Comments for Public Posting: Testimony for the City Council 10/30/21 Meeting My name is Ann O'Connor and I live in the northern Part of Sherman Oaks called POSO, about 6900 residents. Our boundaries are approximately Oxnard on the north, Burbank on the south, 405 Fwy on the west and Hazeltine on the east. We won our Renaming to Sherman Oaks in 2009 LA Council File 08-2758 and the 2010 Commission made a "de facto policy decision to maintain and respect communities that had been identified by the Los Angeles Community Renaming Policy." We were then grandfathered into the Sherman Oaks City maps and kept whole with Greater Sherman Oaks, even though we are in Van Nuys Neighborhood Council. We have sent a certified letter dated 7/21/21 and gave testimony on 8/4/21 and 9/20/21. Our Sherman Oaks Homeowners Association, Bob Anderson, also submitted letters and gave testimony to the Commission with our concerns. Please keep us united with Greater Sherman Oaks in the same Council District. We worked very hard on our Renaming and it took a couple of years to attain. We hope the City Council listens to us. Thank you. Ann O'Connor 818-730-2113



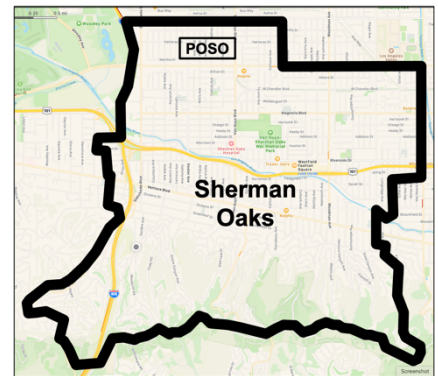
July 21, 2021

Los Angeles City Council 2021 Redistricting Commission
 Los Angeles City Hall
 200 North Spring Street, Room 275
 Los Angeles, CA 90012
redistricting.lacity@lacity.org

Dear Commissioners:

Reference 1: SOHA July 5, 2021 Letter to Los Angeles City Council 2021 Redistricting Commission, Sherman Oaks Homeowners Association 2021 Redistricting Recommendations (updated)

As POSO Team Leaders, we represent a neighborhood in North Sherman Oaks (in Los Angeles) referred to as Part of Sherman Oaks ("POSO"). POSO's boundaries are Burbank Blvd (south) to Califa/Tiara (north) and the Fwy 405 (west) to Hazeltine (east). POSO's population is approximately 6900 residents, as shown in the map at the right. We prevailed on July 14, 2009 to have the Los Angeles City Council include POSO in the community of Sherman Oaks. This is documented in Los Angeles City Council File 08-2758 (included as Attachment 1). After our Renaming, we were able to attend the LA City Redistricting Commission meetings in 2010 and 2011 and advocate successfully to be kept whole with Greater Sherman Oaks within Los Angeles City Council District 4.



POSO has been kept whole with Greater Sherman Oaks in four of the five districts that were redistricted in 2010-2011: (1) California Senate District 18; (2) California Assembly District 46; (3) Los Angeles County Supervisorial District 3; and (4) Los Angeles City Council District 4. Therefore, we request to continue to be kept whole with Greater Sherman Oaks during City Council Redistricting. We are also concurrently asking the CA Citizens Redistricting Commission to be united with Greater Sherman Oaks in a single Congressional District. The Valley Industry and Commerce Association (VICA) supports this request to keep us whole with Greater Sherman Oaks.

We further support the redistricting recommendations and goals of the Sherman Oaks Homeowners Association (Reference 1) to keep all of Sherman Oaks in a single "over-the-Pass" Valley district.

We share a community of Interest with Greater Sherman Oaks in many areas, as we highlighted during POSO's 2009 Renaming to Sherman Oaks and those interests remain constant today, as detailed below.

- **Geographical Proximity** - We share our southern border of Burbank Blvd with Greater Sherman Oaks. Our most frequented businesses are all in Sherman Oaks and many within walking distance, and our closest grocery stores and gas stations are in Sherman Oaks.
- **Similarity of Residential Dwellings and Landmarks** - POSO is primarily single-story residential dwellings of similar lot acreage and square footage to homes south of Burbank Blvd. POSO has a low propensity of townhomes and apartments in the neighborhoods on both sides of Burbank Blvd. Our neighborhood north of Burbank was built by the same paving company as south of Burbank Blvd (Malcom Paving 1950 stamped into our sidewalks/curbs).

- **Lack of Similarity to the area north of Califa and Tiara** - The area north of Califa/Tiara is in a commercial and industrial zone. The Orange Bus Line continues along the commercial and industrial corridor and dissects our neighborhood from the community north of the Orange Line.
- **Educational Community** - The children of residents of our neighborhood attend the same public schools (elementary/middle school) as residents from the community south of Burbank (Kester Avenue Elementary & Van Nuys Middle School). The Sherman Oaks Library is our community library.
- **Property Values** - Comps for homes north and south of Burbank Blvd are within 5% - 10% of each other.
- **Property Deeds** - Many deeds in POSO showed Sherman Oaks as the city even before the 2009 Renaming.
- **Sherman Oaks Hospital/Emergency Room** - This is our closest Emergency Hospital and we share this community of interest with Greater Sherman Oaks, including the many medical offices around the hospital.
- **Recreation Activities** - Sherman Oaks Park is our beautiful community Park for children and adults' school/community athletic teams (i.e., baseball, soccer, jogging, exercise equipment, swimming pool, tennis courts, basketball courts, and Movies in the Park during the summer, etc.). It is our closest park and within walking distance to POSO.
- **The Annual Sherman Oaks Fair** - POSO supports and looks forward each year to the Annual Fair on Ventura Blvd. in October where we commune with neighbors, families and business owners. It is part of our community. Local schools (elementary, middle & high school) put on musical and dance stage performances. Professional music groups perform on the big stage next to the tented food/refreshment gardens. Shop owners, tented vendors and amusement rides available all day.
- **Sherman Oaks Senior Center** - Located in the park, the Center serves as a hub for activities/lunches for seniors as well as an auditorium for presentations by Sherman Oaks Homeowners Association ("SOHA") on issues affecting our community (i.e., housing and retail developments, metro plans, legislation, etc.)
- **Economic Impact** - The Sherman Oaks Chamber of Commerce acknowledges our neighborhood's positive economic impact on Sherman Oaks. Through patronage of grocery stores, restaurants, banks, shopping malls, dry cleaners, florists and theatres, POSO adds value to the economic vitality and job creation in Sherman Oaks.
- **Local Police Dept National Nite Out** - Every year, neighborhoods host our Local Police and the Senior Lead Officers ("SLOs") on a rotating basis between streets in POSO and Greater Sherman Oaks. The event nurtures a closer relationship with our Sherman Oaks' SLOs and local representatives; and families enjoy the evening of fun, food and music.
- **Community Challenges** - Metro's Sepulveda Transit Corridor Project "STCP" and airplane noise are both community interests which unite us with Greater Sherman Oaks in our opposition to any elevated tracks above Sepulveda Boulevard. Elevated, noisy, heavy rail trains 20 feet or more above Sepulveda will be devastating and severely damaging to the Sherman Oaks community. We want the STCP to succeed and enhance the future of our community and we have been working with Greater Sherman Oaks and the Sherman Oaks Homeowners Association ("SOHA") towards that goal. Reducing airplane noise from both Van Nuys and Burbank Airports is also a shared interest.
- **The Sherman Oaks Homeowners Association ("SOHA")** - We are proud to say Sherman Oaks enjoys a very strong SOHA which is politically active in all issues affecting our community: real estate development, metro and transportation issues, redistricting issues, beautification, vision plans and much more. SOHA works closely with the Chamber of Commerce and Neighborhood Councils. The monthly SOHA meetings are well attended and introduce new local restaurants for dinner. They also have had a very successful Annual Toy Drive for 21 years at

Christmastime that benefits the Dept of Children and Family Services. SOHA publishes a very helpful and informative monthly newsletter detailing issues of concern. They have been holding monthly zoom meetings with residents during the pandemic with our elected officials as guest speakers.

The 2011 LA City Council Redistricting Commission said Sherman Oaks is a powerful, unified community of interest that should be in a single Council District (see Attachment 2). The 2011 City Redistricting Commission noted that preserving Sherman Oaks whole as a community of interest was one of four major commission accomplishments. A critical goal for 2021 redistricting is keeping Sherman Oaks, including POSO, whole in a single Council District, as quoted below.

“The Recommended Plan identifies and preserves “whole” the following communities as identified by the City of Los Angeles’ Community Renaming Policy, or grandfathered in from previous policies and actions of the City Council: Historic Filipinotown, Koreatown, Little Armenia, Little Bangladesh, Little Ethiopia, Little Tokyo, Rose Hill, Sherman Oaks, and Thai Town.”

[Andrew Westall, Executive Director, *Report and Recommendations of the Los Angeles City Council Redistricting Commission*, March 1, 2012, page 2]

In conclusion, we ask that the Commission keep our POSO neighborhood “whole and united” with Greater Sherman Oaks and maintain our contiguity and combined voting strength with Greater Sherman Oaks within a single “over-the-Pass” Valley district. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact Ann O’Connor, P. O. Box 57773, Sherman Oaks, 91413 or call 818-730-2113 or email ann@annoconnor.com

Sincerely,



Ann O'Connor
POSO Team Leader



Jason Popeski
POSO Team Leader



Gail Salem
POSO Team Leader



Mel Liberatore
POSO Team Leader



Kathy Gardner
POSO Team Leader



Jason Walley
POSO Team Leader

Attachment 1: Los Angeles City Council File 08-2758, Renaming POSO within Greater Sherman Oaks

Attachment 2: Excerpt from *Report and Recommendations of the Los Angeles City Council Redistricting Commission*, March 2012

cc: Councilmember Nithya Raman (CD4), Najeeba Syeed (CD4 Chief of Staff), Andrea Conant (CD4 Deputy Chief of Staff & District Director), Councilmember Paul Koretz (CD5), Joan Pelico (CD5 Chief of Staff), David Hersch (CD5 Deputy Chief of Staff), Councilmember Paul Krekorian (CD2), Karo Torossian (CD2 Chief of Staff), Jeffrey Hartsough (President, Sherman Oaks Neighborhood Council), Tammy Scher (Chair, Sherman Oaks Chamber of Commerce), Leslie Elkan (President, Village at Sherman Oaks Business Improvement District), Arianna Jukes (Commission), Betty Butler (Commission)

CITY OF LOS ANGELES

CALIFORNIA

JUNE LAGMAY
City Clerk

KAREN E. KALFAYAN
Executive Officer



ANTONIO R. VILLARAIGOSA
MAYOR

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CITY CLERK

Council and Public Services
Room 395, City Hall
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KONRAD CARTER
Acting Chief, Council and Public Services
Division

www.cityclerk.lacity.org

ATTACHMENT 1

**Los Angeles City Council File 08-2758,
Renaming POSO within Greater Sherman Oaks**

July 15, 2009

Part of Appendix J

**Los Angeles City Council action to incorporate Part of Sherman Oaks (POSO) community
into Sherman Oaks community**

To All Interested Parties:

The City Council adopted the action(s), as attached, under

Council file No. 08-2758, at its meeting held July 14, 2009.

City Clerk
os

An Equal Employment Opportunity - Affirmative Action Employer

Your

reports as follows:

Recommendations for Council action:

- Fiscal Impact Statement:** Neither the Chief Legislative Analyst nor the City Administrative Officer has completed a financial analysis of this report.

Against Proposal: Van Nuys Neighborhood Council
Sherman Oaks Neighborhood Council

At its regular meeting held on June 23, 2009, the Education and Neighborhoods Committee considered an application filed by Laurette Healy requesting to change a community name to Sherman Oaks. This community is roughly located in a neighborhood north of Burbank Boulevard, south of Oxnard Street, east of Sepulveda Boulevard and west of Hazeltine Avenue. The properties petitioning for a name change are comprised of approximately 1,855 parcels and are located within two postal zip code areas; 91411 and 91401.

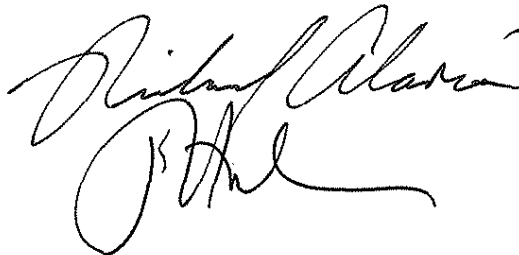
The Office of the City Clerk provided a summary of the application chronology which is attached to the Council file. The application was filed on September 23, 2008 and, after City Clerk staff verified the requisite number of signatures on the petition accompanying the application, it was approved for processing on October 8, 2008. The Department of Neighborhood Empowerment reports that the Sherman Oaks Neighborhood Council, the Van Nuys Neighborhood Council, Lake Balboa Neighborhood Council and Greater Valley Glen Council were all notified of the proposal to rename a portion of Van Nuys to Sherman Oaks. The Sherman Oaks Neighborhood Council and Van Nuys Neighborhood Council held public hearings on January 9, 2009 and January 14, 2009, respectively, and voted to oppose the proposed name change from Van Nuys to Sherman Oaks. Both Neighborhood Councils submitted Community Impact Statements to the Council file. The Lake Balboa Neighborhood Council and the Greater Valley Glen Council did not hold hearings on the subject. Additionally, the City Clerk, Records Management Division, and the Public Works, Bureau of Engineering, submitted reports relative to the application.

During the discussion of this matter, the applicant briefly presented background information concerning the community and addressed related questions from the Committee members. Since the proposed community is located within the boundaries of Council District Two, staff representing Councilmember Wendy Greuel addressed the Committee. The representative of Councilmember Greuel's Office spoke in support of the application and petition to officially rename the community Sherman Oaks and requested a technical amendment to describe the western boundary as the east side of the 405 Freeway. After an opportunity for public comment, the Committee recommended to approve the application to rename a community Sherman Oaks as amended to describe the western boundary as the east side of the 405 Freeway. This matter is now forwarded to the Council for its consideration.

Respectfully submitted,

EDUCATION AND NEIGHBORHOODS COMMITTEE

<u>MEMBER</u>	<u>VOTE</u>
ALARCON:	YES
HAHN:	YES
ZINE:	ABSENT



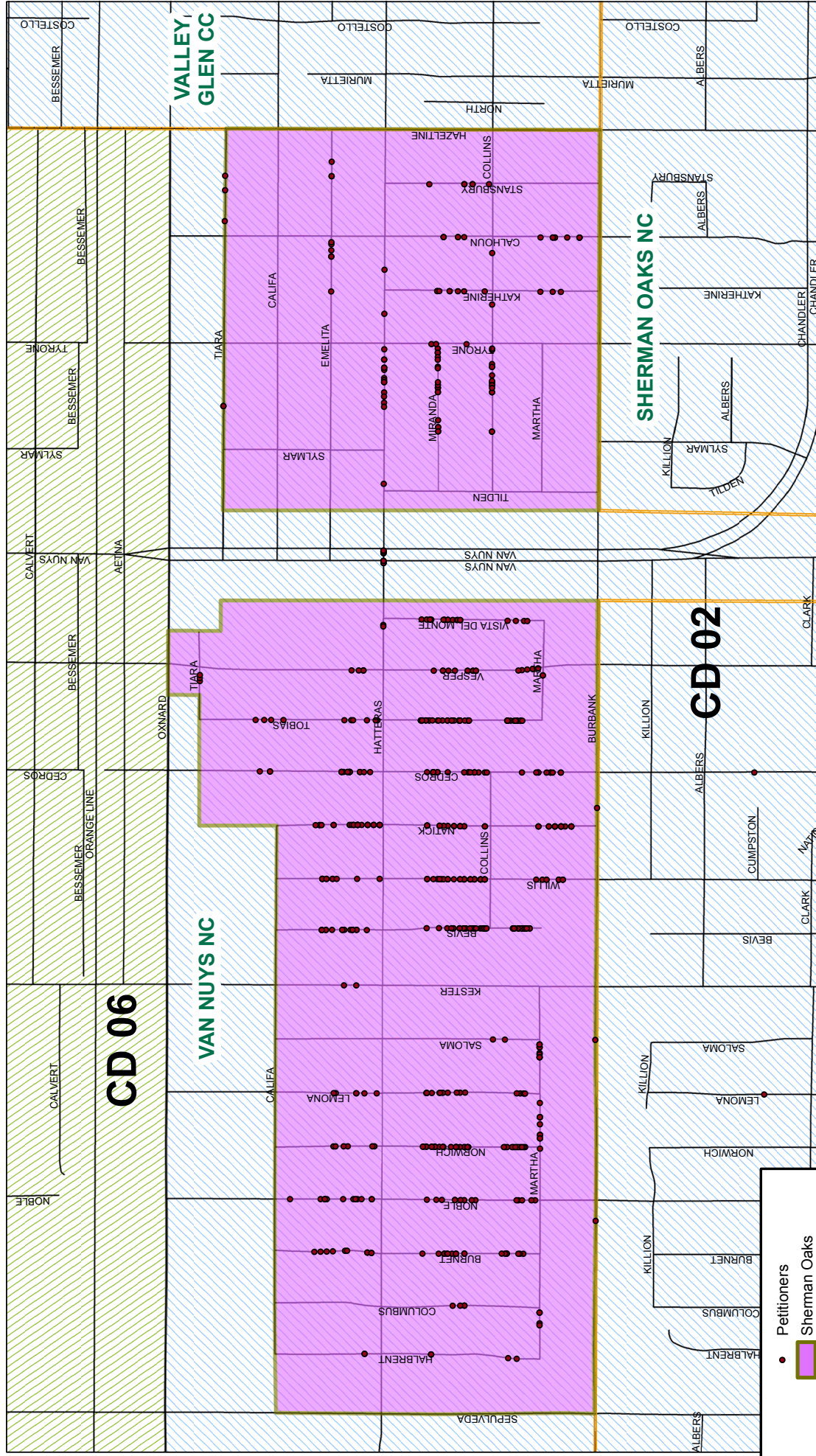
ADOPTED

JUL 14 2009

LOS ANGELES CITY COUNCIL

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CD 2
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- Not Official Until Council Acts -



Office of the City Clerk
Systems Division

Proposed Sherman Oaks Community

- Petitioners
- Neighborhood Councils
- Freeway
- Streets
- CD 02
- CD 06

LOS ANGELES CITY COUNCIL REDISTRICTING COMMISSION



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ATTACHMENT 2 Excerpt from Report and Recommendations of the Los Angeles City Council Redistricting Commission, March 2012

Report and Recommendations of the Los Angeles City Council Redistricting Commission

**Report excerpts concerning LA City Council addition of area known as
Part of Sherman Oaks (POSO) to Sherman Oaks Community**

Everybody Counts!

Additionally, the Recommended Plan accomplishes the following:

- Neighborhood Councils are more unified: Of the City's 95 Neighborhood Councils, the number that are divided between Council districts is reduced from 53 to 29, while the number of Neighborhood Councils split between three Council districts is reduced from thirteen to only three. Whereas Encino, Palms, and Lake Balboa are each currently split between three Council districts, each is united within single districts under the Recommended Plan. Overall, a total of 24 Neighborhood Councils that are currently split across multiple districts are united within single districts.
- Preserves communities as established by the Los Angeles City Council: The Recommended Plan identifies and preserves whole the following communities as identified by the City of Los Angeles' community renaming policy, or grandfathered in from previous policies and actions of the City Council [See Appendix J]: Historic Filipinotown, Koreatown, Little Armenia, Little Bangladesh, Little Ethiopia, Little Tokyo, Rose Hill, Sherman Oaks, and Thai Town.
- The opportunities of all voters to elect candidates of their choice is maintained: The number of districts from which Latino communities have an equal opportunity to elect Latino candidates is maintained throughout the City with five majority Latino Citizen Voting Age Population districts and one coalition district. The voting strength of African-Americans has also been maintained in Council Districts 8, 9, and 10, with one majority Black Citizen Voting Age Population district and two coalition districts.
- Maintains an overall deviation of less than 5 percent: Based on the policy decision made by the Commission on February 15 to maintain a 5 percent overall deviation (+/- 2.5 percent) or lower across the City, the Recommended Plan, with an overall deviation of 4.96 percent, goes further than the current Council District boundaries enacted in 2002 which tolerated an overall deviation of 10 percent, a reduction of more that half in keeping with the one person, one vote principle.

Based on the Commission's conclusions, it now recommends that the Council take the following actions:

1. Approve and adopt this "Report and Recommendations of the Los Angeles City Council Redistricting Commission" (the "Report"),
2. Adopt as the City's Decennial Redistricting Plan, the Commission's Recommended Plan discussed in this Report,
3. Adopt an ordinance, as approved by the City Attorney, which establishes Council District boundaries in accordance with this Report.

V. REVIEW OF THE COMMISSION'S RECOMMENDED PLAN

The Recommended Plan Satisfies the Equal Population Principle as Embodied in the United States Constitution

The total population of the City, according to the 2010 Census, is 3,792,621. Divided among the 15 Council districts, the ideal population for each district becomes 252,841. In the Recommended Plan, Council District 12 has a population of 259,073 (+2.46%) and Council District 14 has a population of 246,509 (-2.50%), making the total population deviation for the City 4.96%. Based on the policy decision made by the Commission on February 15 to maintain a 5 percent overall deviation (+/- 2.5 percent) or lower across the City, the Recommended Plan goes further than the current Council District boundaries enacted in 2002 which tolerated an overall deviation of 10 percent, a reduction of more than half in keeping with the one person, one vote principle. The Final Map Recommendation has made good faith efforts to draw equipopulous districts with slight deviations based on the public policy rationales of: keeping at least two-thirds of the Neighborhood Councils whole, including minimizing splits between Council Districts to the extent possible; maintaining and respect communities and neighborhoods that had been identified by the City of Los Angeles' community renaming policy, or grandfathered in from previous policies and actions of the City Council; and compliance with federal, state, and municipal law.

Communities are More Intact and Unified

The Recommended Plan is an important improvement on the existing Council boundaries by significantly reducing the number of Los Angeles Neighborhood Councils that are divided between multiple Council districts. The Commission's adopted database identifies 95 currently certified Neighborhood Councils across the City. Of these 95 Neighborhood Councils, 53 are currently divided across multiple Council districts: 40 split between two districts, and 13 split between three districts. The Final Map Recommendation reduces the number of split Neighborhood Councils from 53 to 29. The number of Neighborhood Councils split between two districts is reduced from 40 to 26, and the number of Neighborhood Councils divided between three districts is reduced from thirteen to three. Three communities that are currently split among three districts - Encino, Palms, and Lake Balboa - are completely united within single districts under the Recommended Plan.

Through its actions on February 15 and February 22, the Commission also made the de facto policy decision to maintain and respect communities and neighborhoods that had been identified by the City of Los Angeles' community renaming policy, or grandfathered in from previous policies and actions of the City Council: Historic Filipinotown, Koreatown, Little Armenia, Little Bangladesh, Little Ethiopia, Little Tokyo, Rose Hill, Sherman Oaks, and Thai Town. [see Appendix J]

Neighborhood Councils Compels Respect for a New Community of Interest

The formation and certification of 95 Neighborhood Councils since the adoption of the Los Angeles City Charter in 1999 created a new opportunity and challenge for the