

BEFORE THE METRO COUNCIL

FOR THE PURPOSE OF ESTABLISHING) ORDINANCE NO. 01-895
CRITERIA FOR METRO COUNCIL)
DISTRICT REAPPORTIONMENT AND)
DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.) Introduced by Presiding Officer David
) Bragdon

WHEREAS, at the November 7, 2000 General Election the voters of the Metro region approved Ballot Measure 26-10 and thereby amended the 1992 Metro Charter; and

WHEREAS, Section 16 of the amended Metro Charter prescribes that beginning January 6, 2003, the governing body of Metro is to be a Council consisting of seven councilors, one of whom shall be elected at large and designated president of the council together with the remaining six councilors each nominated and elected from single districts within the Metro area; and

WHEREAS, Section 32(3) of the amended Metro Charter requires that within three months after the completion of the year 2000 census, the Metro Council shall establish six council districts in a manner that accords equal protection of the law and further states that three councilors serving terms that expire January 2005 shall each be assigned to one of the six districts and that their term shall continue; and

WHEREAS, Section 32(1) of the Metro Charter establishes the minimum criteria for council districts, requiring such districts as nearly as practicable to be of equal population and to be contiguous and geographically compact; and

WHEREAS, Section 32(1) of the Metro Charter further provides that the Council may by ordinance specify additional criteria for districts that are consistent with this section; now, therefore,

THE METRO COUNCIL ORDAINS AS FOLLOWS:

SECTION 1.

In addition to the criteria for council district reapportionment contained in Section 32(1) of the Metro Charter, which requires that "as nearly as practicable, all council districts shall be of equal population and shall be contiguous and geographically compact," the Council also specifies each of the following additional criteria in developing an apportionment plan:

a. The apportionment shall comply with all applicable federal and state laws pertaining to voting rights of electors.

b. No council district shall vary in population more than five percent (5.0%) from the average population of the district. "Average population" shall be that amount equal to one sixth of the total Metro area population based on the data compiled by the 2000 U.S. census. The maximum variance of five percent shall be construed to mean that no district may be more than five percent larger nor more than five percent smaller in population than the average population.

c. While observing the maximum five percent population variance based on the 2000 census data required in Section 1(2) of this Ordinance, the Council shall make every effort to create districts with population variances of zero percent (0.0%) based on the data compiled by the 2000 U.S. census.

d. In developing the reapportionment plan, the Council shall give consideration to existing precincts and, to the maximum extent possible after meeting all other applicable criteria, shall maintain communities of interest. Such communities of interest are represented in cities under 15,000 in population, regional centers, town

centers, watershed boundaries, established neighborhood associations, neighborhood planning organizations, community planning and participation organizations and other similar groups as specifically defined by the Metro Council.

SECTION 2.

a. A Metro Council Reapportionment Task Force is hereby created, consisting of the three Metro Councilors serving terms that expire in January 2005. The Metro Council Reapportionment Task Force shall develop a reapportionment plan conforming to the criteria set forth in this Ordinance and shall recommend its plan to the Metro Council as set forth herein.

b. In developing a reapportionment plan, the Reapportionment Task Force shall hold at least one public meeting within the geographic boundary of Metro not more than fourteen days following the effective date of this ordinance for the purpose of gathering information from interested parties and the general public regarding district reapportionment and the reapportionment process.

c. Thereafter, by April 23, 2001, a draft reapportionment plan shall be prepared for consideration by the Metro Council Reapportionment Task Force. Following preparation of the draft plan, the Task Force shall hold at least four public hearings that shall be held in geographically diverse locations around the Metro Region for the purpose of hearing from interested parties and the general public regarding the content of the draft plan. Such hearings shall be held on dates that allow for the committee to consider testimony received and to amend the draft plan prior to June 1, 2001.

d. No later than June 1, 2001, the Task Force shall make its recommendations on reapportionment to the Metro Council.

SECTION 3.

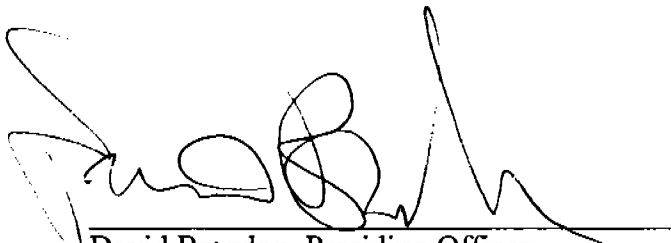
a. A Citizens Review Committee on Reapportionment is hereby created, consisting of 16 members who shall be appointed by the Executive Officer and the members of the Metro Council as set forth in this subsection. The Executive Officer shall appoint two review committee members, who shall be residents of the Metro Region. Additionally, each Metro Councilor shall appoint two review committee members, who shall be residents of the Metro Region. No appointee shall hold any elected office and no appointee shall be a Lobbyist or an Employer of a Lobbyist as those terms are defined in Metro Code Chapter 2.17.

b. The Citizens Review Committee on Reapportionment shall provide information, advice and assistance to the Council Reapportionment Task Force in formulation of a reapportionment plan. No later than May 11, 2001, the Citizens Review Committee on Reapportionment shall provide to the Council Reapportionment Task Force its advisory views on the draft reapportionment plan. Thereafter, the Citizens Review Committee on Reapportionment shall then be dissolved.

SECTION 4.

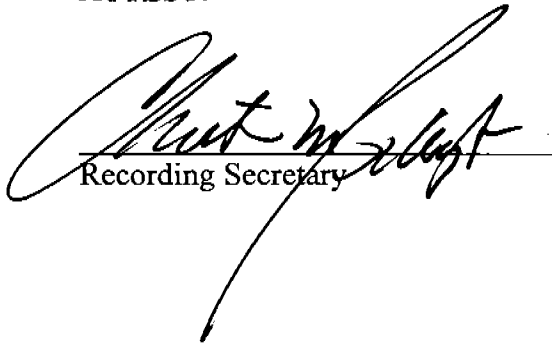
This ordinance being necessary for the health, safety or welfare of the Metro area, for the reason that the work of the Reapportionment Task Force should proceed without delay as stipulated in the Metro Charter, an emergency is declared to exist and this ordinance shall take effect upon passage.

ADOPTED by the Metro Council this 15th day of MARCH, 2001.



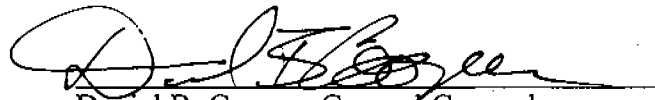
David Bragdon, Presiding Officer

ATTEST:



Recording Secretary

Approved as to Form:



Daniel B. Cooper, General Counsel

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Staff Report

IN CONSIDERATION OF ORDINANCE NO. 01-895, FOR THE PURPOSE OF ESTABLISHING CRITERIA FOR METRO COUNCIL DISTRICT REAPPORTIONMENT AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY

February 20, 2001

Presented by: Councilor Bragdon

Purpose

Ordinance No. 01-889 would establish criteria related to the redistricting of Metro Council districts. The ordinance also would establish a Council Task Force to oversee the development of a redistricting plan for consideration by the full Council. A citizen review committee would be created to provide information, advice and assistance to the Task Force.

Background

The Metro Charter, adopted by the voters in 1992, specifies that councilor districts be reapportioned within three months following the receipt of data from the year 2000 census. Prior to the most recent redistricting in 1993, the Council adopted criteria and procedures to be used during the redistricting process. The proposed ordinance would establish such criteria for the upcoming redistricting process.

Section 1 of the proposed ordinance outlines the criteria to be used during the redistricting process. The section includes the Charter requirement that districts should "be of equal population and shall be contiguous and geographically compact." The population of each district can not vary more than five percent from the average population of a district though the Council "shall make every effort to create districts with population variances of zero percent." In addition, the Council would be required "to the maximum extent possible" maintain certain specified communities of interest. Such communities of interest would include 1) cities under 15,000 in population, regional centers, town centers, watershed boundaries and neighborhood associations and planning organizations. The Council also could specify define other communities of interest.

Section 2 would create a Council Reapportionment Task Force consisting of the three Councilors serving terms that expire in 2005. The task force would be responsible for developing a redistricting plan for consideration by the full Council. The section also requires the Task Force to hold at least five public hearings and make its final recommendations to the full Council by June 1.

Section 3 would create a citizens review committee related to the redistricting process. The committee would consist of 16 members. Each councilor would appoint two members to the committee and the Executive Officer also would appoint two members. The committee members must live within the Metro boundary. The members cannot be an elected official and cannot be a Metro lobbyist or the employee of such a lobbyist. The committee would be required to make its recommendations by May 11.

Budget Impact

Based on the cost of the most recent redistricting process completed in 1993, the Data Resource Center staff has estimated that the redistricting effort will cost the center an estimated \$21,000. Actual costs will depend on the number of plans and plan amendments that are requested and the amount of staff time needed to respond to such requests. No funds have been specifically budgeted for the redistricting project. Therefore, a budget amendment may be needed late in the fiscal year when the actual costs can be more clearly identified.

All Council costs, including staff time, will be absorbed in the existing budget.