



Office of the Chicago City
Clerk



R2011-1147

Office of the City Clerk

City Council Document Tracking Sheet

Meeting Date: 10/5/2011

Sponsor(s): Mell, Richard F. (33)
Burke, Edward M (14)
Austin, Carrie M (34)
Suarez, Regner Ray (31)

Type: Resolution

Title: Call for redistricting of wards

Committee(s) Assignment: Committee on Committees, Rules and Ethics



RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, The rights of meaningful political participation are guaranteed by the Constitutions of the United States of America and the State of Illinois and are further guaranteed by the statutes of the United States, specifically the Voting Rights Act of 1965, as amended, and the statutes of the State of Illinois, and

WHEREAS, Pursuant to Section 65 ILCS 20-21/38 of the Illinois Compiled Statutes, on or before the first day of December of the year following the year in which the national census is taken, the Chicago City Council shall, by ordinance, redistrict the City of Chicago on the basis of the national census of the preceding year, and

WHEREAS, The Municipal Code of Chicago requires that each ward, as nearly as practical, be compact, contiguous and of substantially equal population with an acceptable deviation to respect established communities of interest or to achieve other legally valid and permissible objectives; and

WHEREAS, The decennial redistricting of the City of Chicago's fifty wards directly affects the ability of Chicago citizens to cast ballots of substantially equal weight and quality; and

WHEREAS, Given the effects such redistricting will have on all residents of the City of Chicago, the City Council of the City of Chicago must assure their meaningful participation in the redistricting process, and

WHEREAS, The residents of the City of Chicago have a wealth of knowledge about their communities and neighborhoods which should be given consideration by the Chicago City Council and incorporated into the final City ward map when possible, and

WHEREAS, The Members of the City Council of the City of Chicago recognize and accept their duty to safeguard that political participation by the residents of Chicago, and

BE IT RESOLVED, That the City Council of the City of Chicago hereby declares its intent to create wards that are consistent with all applicable legal and constitutional guidelines, including specifically the fair representation of the racial and language minority groups that are protected under the Voting Rights Act of 1965, as amended,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Members of the City Council of the City of Chicago do hereby commit to conducting the 2011 redistricting in a transparent and accountable manner by providing residents of Chicago the opportunity to submit, in person and electronically, proposals and testimony on the 2011 redistricting, and to give consideration to public input on any map proposed to the Chicago City Council, and

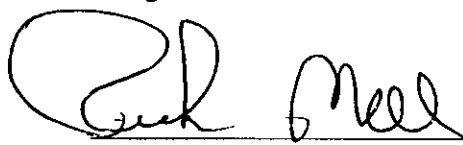
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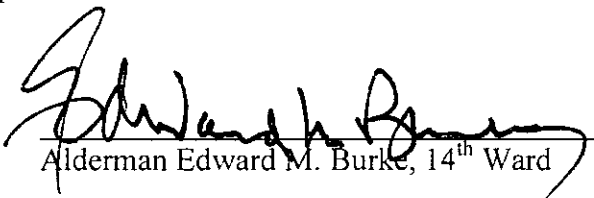
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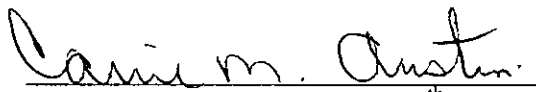
BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Members of the City Council of Chicago, through the Committee on Committees, Rules and Ethics, shall commit to informing the public on the 2011 redistricting process through the creation of and informational website, holding at least six (6) public hearings throughout the City for the purpose of receiving testimony from all sectors of the public, and then holding one (1) public hearing on any Ward map submitted to the Committee on Committees, Rules and Ethics for final consideration, and

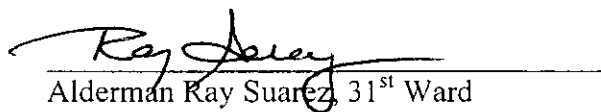
BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Committee on Committees, Rules and Ethics make available to the public access to the Redistricting terminals on a sign up basis and the Committee shall also provide to the public mapping criteria and an explanation of any redistricting proposal presented to the full City Council, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the City Council of the City of Chicago shall publicly release the final City Ward map that will be submitted to the full City Council for consideration using all media outlets available to invite further public comment.


Alderman Richard F. Mell, 33rd Ward


Alderman Edward M. Burke, 14th Ward


Alderman Carrie M. Austin, 34th Ward


Alderman Ray Suarez, 31st Ward

