

**Commission on Reapportionment
Meeting Minutes**

DATE & TIME: January 12, 2022 – 6:00 PM
LOCATION: Powered by Zoom Meeting by Dialing (646) 558-8656,
Meeting ID: 871 1855 9447
PRESIDING OFFICER: Regis Obijiski
LEGISLATIVE STAFF: Fawn Tantillo
PRESENT: 1st Deputy Chair Sarah DeStefano, 2nd Deputy Chair
Andy Monk, Donna Lutz, Travis Rask, and Kathleen
Waithe
ABSENT: None
QUORUM PRESENT: Yes

OTHER ATTENDEES: Legislator Phil Erner; Ulster County Kristin Gumear,
Ulster County Planning Dennis Doyle and Robert Leibowitz; Mike Baden, Supervisor,
Town of Rochester.

Chairman Regis Obijiski called the meeting to order at 6:02.

Motion No. 1: To APPROVE the minutes of December 8, 2021

Motion By: Commissioner Waithe
Motion Seconded By: Commissioner Panza
Discussion: None.
Voting in Favor: Commissioners Obijiski, DeStefano, Monk, Lutz, Rask, Panza,
and Waithe
Voting Against: None
No. of Votes in Favor: 7
No. of Votes Against: 0
Disposition: **Minutes APPROVED.**

Chairman Obijiski acknowledged the guidance documents for outlining how the public may submit a map for consideration had been posted on the website and a press release inviting the public to participate had gone out.

Clerk Tantillo explained the deadlines for submitting legal notices. In order to hold a public hearing in the week of May 16-20th a draft plan needs to be approved and submitted for a legal notice in the official newspapers by April 29th.

The commissioners agreed to schedule at least one public hearing on May 17 and to have a draft plan ready to submit by April 28.

Commissioner Panza shared a document he prepared outlining the process he used to develop a draft map.

The commissioners discussed the process of developing and vetting maps including how to address compactness, how to identify and define gerrymandering, a method to “score” map submissions and/or creating a matrix.

The commissioners discussed getting together in small groups to learn how to use the mapping tools. Ms. Gumaer reminded them to be cognizant of the open meetings regulations as they do this and if more than 3 commissioners are meeting for any reason, they need to notice the meeting.

Director Doyle praised the process document presented by Commissioner Panza and felt it would be good to formalize it to explain how the commission reached their final draft and final plan.

Public Comment

Legislator Erner thanked the commissioners for their work. He asked if they could consider the current City of Kingston Ward boundaries as the redistricting maps are developed. He also discussed the importance of “de-invisibilizing” incarcerated individuals and appreciated that they were a part of the redistricting conversation.

Commissioners clarified some of the challenges of census blocks and population shifts as well as changes in the law since 2011 in regard to incarcerated individuals.

Supervisor Baden discussed the scheduling of public hearings and how they were done in 2011.

Chairman Obijiski asked if there was any other comments or business. Hearing none:

Motion to Adjourn

Motion Made By: Commissioner DeStafano

Motion Seconded By: Commissioner Rask

No. of Votes in Favor: 7

No. of Votes Against: 0

Time: 6:28 PM

Respectfully submitted by: Fawn Tantillo

Minutes Approved: February 9, 2022