

New Orleans City Council District A Redistricting Meeting
May 9, 2011

The first of two City Council District A community meetings on Redistricting was held on May 9, 2011 at Myra Clare Rogers Chapel at Tulane University, from 6 – 7:30 PM. Data from the 2010 U. S. Census indicates that following Hurricane Katrina, District A's population has increased and needs to be reduced by some 8,401 residents.

Susan Guidry, District A Councilmember acknowledged letters from Carrollton, Faubourg-St. John, and Lakeview neighborhood associations all requesting that their neighborhoods stay together.

Redistricting LLC provided a timeline for the public input process, as well as information on redrawing the lines. Their presentation also included information on the legal requirements the Council must fulfill, as well as the traditional redistricting principles and timeline for adopting the redistricting plan.

Residents expressed the importance of maintaining representation equal to what they have had in the past, as well as keeping neighborhoods together. Some residents asked if Orleans Parish Prison population numbers were factored into the population count, while others inquired about council boundaries relative to the French Quarter.

A number of residents asked questions about the process, ranging from deadline dates for the public to provide input, to how would the consultants communicate with the council throughout the redistricting process. Residents asked if their concerns and comments would be made public before submission to the Department of Justice, while others asked if a draft map showing proposed boundary lines would be available for the public to review.

Councilmember Guidry shared with residents that there will be a follow-up meeting to further review the redistricting plans. She also indicated that all maps and comments submitted by the public would be sent to the Justice.

The council deadline for adopting a Redistricting plan is targeted for August 2011.