

New Orleans City Council District B Redistricting Meeting
April 26, 2011

Councilmember Stacy Head held the second of two District B meetings on April 26, 2011 at Sacred Heart Nims Art Center from 6pm to 7:30pm. Redistricting LLC provided residents with an overview of the timeline for getting information from the public, adopting a redistricting plan, the process of redrawing the lines for District B, the legal requirements, and the traditional redistricting principle.

At the meeting, Councilmember Head, who indicated her purpose and role at the meeting would be to listen and learn from District B residents, shared that neighborhood groups and members of the District B community have been lobbying her office in an effort to ensure that their neighborhoods stay together based on similarities. Councilmember Head indicated that District B would not see tremendous changes because their population count only needs to be trimmed by some 2100 or it could remain the same because it falls within the +/- 5% deviation.

Different from the first community meeting, residents raised questions that addressed the following: When will maps be available for review after community input; and Are the population numbers being used from the census or registered voters. Some residents voiced concerns about the exclusion of the Hispanic population in the census, as well as using flawed data that leads to flawed results. Mid-City residents urged the councilmember not to chop Mid-City into three parts asking that the neighborhoods be kept consistent along the lines of style and type. One resident stated that Katrina – a man-made disaster – brought about the change in the population numbers and that should be a strong consideration when the Justice Department redraws the lines.

Councilmember Stacey Head closed the meeting urging residents to continue providing information since this is an ongoing process. Council Vice-President and At-Large Member, Jacquelyn Brechtel Clarkson provided information on the next steps following the district community meetings. There will be committee meetings in the Council Chambers, which will provide opportunities for the community to give further input. She also said residents will be invited to an Open House in the Council Chamber once the first rounds of maps are drawn.