

New Orleans City Council District C Redistricting Meeting
May 10, 2011

The second of two City Council District C community meetings on Redistricting was held on May 10, 2011 at Delgado Community College, Westbank Campus from 6 – 7:30 PM. Data from the 2010 U. S. Census indicates that following Hurricane Katrina, District C's population grew and now exceeds the ideal population count by some 12,565 residents.

We are a microcosm of the entire City, said District C Councilmember Kristin Gisleson Palmer. We are both urban and suburban, heavy minority population, and we live in both historic and new districts, she said.

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 in attendance voiced similar opinions to their counterparts from the first District C meeting, indicating that the lines should be drawn so that historic neighborhoods – French Quarter, Treme, CBD/DDD, Marigny, etc. – could stay together. Other comments focused specifically on the French Quarter remaining together, and some residents questioned whether Algiers could become its own district. Other residents' comments included questioning immigration and citizenship status of individuals who completed the census; as well as reminding the group that Hurricane Katrina caused this scenario and impacted the numbers. Other residents wanted to know what options were available to the district, while others asked if redistricting laws made allowances for districts that repopulate. Additional comments included making sure that the process achieves equity for the entire city and that the laws governing the voting rights act are adhered to. Residents were strongly encouraged to remember that no matter the personal feelings, all of the districts are going to have to change.

Councilmember Palmer addressed concerns indicating that while Algiers is in a unique situation, it does not have the population to become its own district. She stated that residents' concerns would be heavily weighed as a part of the process, but the law would ultimately dictate the final outcome when the tough decisions have to be made.

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