

New Orleans City Council District E Redistricting Meeting  
May 19, 2011

The second of two City Council District E community meetings on Redistricting was held on May 19, 2011 at All Souls Episcopal Church, from 6 – 7:30 PM. Data from the 2010 U. S. Census indicates that following Hurricane Katrina, District E's population has diminished and needs to grow by some 12,687 residents.

Councilman Jon Johnson, who represents the district, explaining the purpose & the importance of receiving input from the community. According to Councilman Johnson, the Lower 9th Ward's district line will not change. As with the first meeting, he recommended that the redistricting process for District E start East of the Industrial Canal.

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 understood that their numbers would need to increase, but generally believed that the 2010 census numbers are incorrect. Some residents asked specific questions – If neighborhoods are combined with one paying a special security tax for private patrol, do the new residents have to pay the same tax?

One resident recommended that the lines be drawn so that Desire and Florida are in one district, while another resident expressed confidence that the Council will act in the best interest of the districts in redrawing the lines.

Other residents took the opportunity to express frustration with the overall slow rebuilding and recovery in the district and asked that more be done to revitalize the area. Councilman Johnson indicated that a community meeting will be set up to discuss non-redistricting issues that impact the quality of life in the district.

Councilmember-at-Large Jacquelyn Brechtel Clarkson, who attended the meeting, expressed the importance of community input and thanked everyone for attending the meeting. Councilmember-at-Large Clarkson further indicated that the Lower Ninth Ward would not be ignored during the redistricting process.

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