

Redistricting Committee of 2012
Wicomico County, Maryland

May 23, 2012

There being a quorum present, The Redistricting Committee of 2012 held its third meeting on Wednesday, May 23, 2012. Chairman, Joe Collins called the meeting to order in room 301 of the Government Office Building at 9:00 a.m. with all members present, those being: Harry Basehart, Eddie Boyd, Joe Collins, Charlie Gray, G.A. Harrison, Deke Sheller and Stacey Weisner.

County support staff to the committee: Frank McKenzie and Matthew Creamer.

Mr. Collins asked for a motion to adopt the agenda. **On motion by Mr. Sheller, second by Mr. Harrison the committee unanimously voted to adopt the amended agenda.** Mr. Collins asked for a motion to approve the minutes of the meeting of April 27, 2012 and asked whether there were any additions or corrections. Mr. Sheller noted a typing error, that the meeting was held in 2012, not 1012. There being no further additions or corrections, **on motion by Ms. Weisner, second by Mr. Harrison, the minutes were unanimously approved as corrected.**

A discussion ensued giving further consideration to the minority race percentage of District 1. Mr. McKenzie recalled that from the last meeting District 1 had a deviation of 1.94% and District 3 had a deviation of 2.13%. Dr. Boyd noted that while after the last meeting District 1 had a minority population of 58%, only 50% of the population is over 18 years old. There was informal consensus by the committee to work toward increasing the minority population over 18 years old in District 1. Mr. McKenzie stated that the software developed by the Census Bureau is only capable of identifying population by race, not their age at the census block level. He added that to introduce the age component would require a completely manual calculation of the districts. There was informal agreement to move on, but return to this point before the committee finalizes its work, noting that at the end of the last meeting the 56% of the voting age population of District 1 is black as the map currently shows District 1, while 58% of the total

population is black, as District 1 was configured at the last meeting. Ms. Weisner observed that Newtown be removed from District 1 because of the concentration of white population there. Mr. Harrison noted that the Princeton Homes area could help increase the minority population of District 1 if it could be done and meet the requirements for being contiguous and compact. Dr. Basehart expressed concern about how to achieve a viable District 1 without going into and splitting the city. Mr. Sheller observed that there are other issues, also, and the committee can revisit this if needed.

Mr. Harrison suggested that District 2 is so much over the population range, that the committee look at it next. Dr. Basehart observed it could be District 2 or District 5 next. Mr. Harrison suggested that when District 2 is brought down to a reasonable population range, it will be easier to adjust boundaries for Districts 5, 4 and 3 to get within the needed population range for those districts.

After further discussion the committee agreed to take a 5 minute break. When the committee reconvened Mr. McKenzie observed that as census blocks were being moved in and out of District 1 to bring the District closer to the population goal, higher percentage of black population, while having the district compact and contiguous, the software was recording the changes plus, or minus in District 1, but it was not making the corresponding changes in the other Districts. After working with the computer for several minutes Mr. McKenzie said he would have to rebuild manually what the committee had worked on for District 1 and it would be at least a half a day's work.

With the committee unable to proceed further at that time, **Mr. Collins asked if there was any Old Business. There was none. Under New Business there was discussion of a date for the next meeting. June 8, 2012 was agreed upon.** The committee agreed to meet at 9:00 am and to have a longer meeting in order to make up for time lost today and in recognition that it will soon be time for the committee to finish its work. Mr. Creamer reserved the Council Chambers on June 8th for the entire day, to give the committee flexibility to work as long as it wished to at the next meeting. There were no Public Comments, there being no one from the public in attendance. **On motion to adjourn by Mr. Harrison,**

second by Mr. Sheller, the meeting was adjourned at 10:30 a.m. by unanimous vote.

Matthew Creamer