

October 28, 2021



City Council

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Mayor

Jackie Elward
Vice Mayor

Susan Hollingsworth Adams
Willy Linares
Pam Stafford
Councilmembers

Darrin Jenkins
City Manager

Don Schwartz
Assistant City Manager

Michelle Marchetta Kenyon
City Attorney

Sergio Rudin
Assistant City Attorney

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Director of Community Services

Nishil Bali
Finance Director

Vanessa Garrett
Director of Public Works

Sylvia Lopez Cuevas
City Clerk

Tim Mattos
Public Safety Director

Mary Grace Pawson
*Director of
Development Services*

Victoria Perrault
Human Resources Director

Sonoma County Board of Supervisors
575 Administration Drive
Room 100A
Santa Rosa, CA 95403

Re: 2021 Redistricting

Honorable Supervisors,

On behalf of the Rohnert Park City Council, I submit this letter to urge you to create and select a district boundary map that places the entirety of the City of Rohnert Park in Supervisorial District 3.

Under the Fair and Inclusive Redistricting for Municipalities and Political Subdivisions (Fair Maps) Act, agencies must use certain criteria in a specified order of priority when redrawing the new County supervisorial district boundaries. The second criterion identified in the Fair Maps Act provides that “to the extent practicable, geographic integrity of any local neighborhood or local community of interest shall be respected in a manner that minimizes its division.” A “community of interest” is a population that shares common social or economic interests that should be included within a single supervisorial district for purposes of its effective and fair representation.

Rohnert Park is the only city currently split between two supervisorial districts. The residents of Rohnert Park are a “community of interest” under the Fair Maps Act as they all share common social and economic interests that should be included within a single supervisorial district in order to minimize its division. For example, residents of Rohnert Park share a single unified school district. They share the same public transportation infrastructure, the same water system, wastewater system, and public safety services and the same public City facilities.

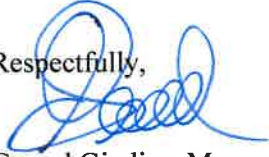
The Fair Maps Act was enacted to avoid splitting communities of interest like Rohnert Park into multiple districts and we would ask that you redraw the boundaries in a manner that eliminates the division of our community of interest so that the City of Rohnert Park can be included in its entirety in a single supervisorial district.

On October 26, 2021, our City Council reviewed the maps put forward by the Sonoma County Advisory Redistricting Commission for your consideration on November 2. While recognizing the hard work and well intentioned efforts of the commission, our City Council was unanimous in its rejection of the maps put forward because they either split Rohnert Park (Map 51162 NDC B) or move Rohnert Park to District 5 (Maps 51162 NDC C & D). Rohnert Park has no relationship with the coastal, river, or forest communities of District 5. Rohnert Park does however have a close relationship with the urban areas along the Highway 101 corridor such as those portions of Santa Rosa and Unincorporated Santa Rosa Avenue in District 3. The Rohnert Park City Council requests that Rohnert Park, in its entirety, be in District 3 to avoid splitting our community of concern.

District 5, when drawn to include Rohnert Park, is not compact and reaches past communities to bring in Rohnert Park. These attributes are discordant with the Fair Maps Act.

Thank you for your consideration and your continued leadership. Please establish that all Rohnert Park residents be represented together with like communities of interest.

Respectfully,



Gerard Giudice, Mayor

Cc: City Council
City Attorney
Sonoma County Advisory Redistricting Commission
County Counsel