From: Vijay Kapoor <vijaykapoor@avlcouncil.com>
Sent: 6/11/2019 7:47:36 PM
To: Jonathan Wainscott
Cc:
Subject: Re: Thank you

Jonathan,

Thanks very much for this information and for reading what I sent out. I agree that data is the key to understanding this issue and I hope that folks will consider it when we finally discuss this issue in detail.

Vijay

On Mon, Jun 10, 2019, 9:01 PM Jonathan Wainscott <jonwainscott@gmail.com> wrote:

Vijay,
Thank you for your courage in definitively stating your approval of the new district elections, with the map as drawn. Well, actually the map has not been officially drawn and that has been held up by the City not updating our charter and providing the Buncombe County Board of Elections with the required documents they need to create the new map and corresponding data. Without that actual data there is no way to bring a case against the State (though the data won't show racial gerrymandering anyway).

I appreciate your willingness to take a step back and analysis the lay of the land from a very pragmatic standpoint. Your analysis is very through. Gerrymandering is all about the numbers and I would like to pass along my analysis of the "racial gerrymandering" which is the narrative that most people are most passionate, and mistaken about. I am attaching the voter registration and turnout data organized by the new districts with the closest approximation of comparing the existing precinct maps with the new district boundary map. It is imperative that the myth of racial gerrymandering be debunked as this falsehood has caused unnecessary worry among the population, exacerbated conflict between Asheville and the predictably antagonistic General Assembly, and threatens extreme retaliation from Raleigh especially if Asheville manages to win a law suit against the State via some tenuous loophole or technicality. There is no "winning" for Asheville in this battle and it only makes more important negotiations with the State more difficult.

Unfortunately, Brian, Sheneika, and Keith are on the wrong side of both math and history. I believe your explanation is solid on the math but could use a bit more history and acknowledgement of the mistakes made in the past. Asheville had 50,000 in the 1930's and never fell lower than that. By comparison, Wilson NC has 50,000 now with a Council of 7 single-member districts and an at-large mayor. Asheville was large enough and geographically diverse enough to warrant district elections throughout the Civil Rights Movement. The establishment and development of single-representative districts opened the door of public office to minority communities throughout the US. But not in Asheville. We are ready to examine the proactively racist policies and practices of red-lining residential neighborhoods, and that our own school system was created as a workaround to end of separate-but-equal laws, so we should accept that not instating districts in the 60's was an act of passive racism to prevent the involvement of African-Americans in elected office.

Again, I am thrilled that you have shown the courage to make your initial statements. This is going to be a bumpy ride for a bit, so I urge you to be prepared to explain your decision from all the angles, and it would behoove all of us to get this thing resolved fast. I hope you find the data that I'm including useful, and thank you for considering this (as always) unsolicited advice. Oh, and the photo of the districts I have included called Voter Turnout 2017 shows the districts shaded to the exact level of contrast to represent the concentration level of African-American voters and the background represents the concentration shade of the city as a whole. As you can see, West and North are significantly more white than the whole city, East is slightly lighter (whiter) and Central and South are well above the city average.

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Jonathan Wainscott

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