

**COUNCIL AGENDA  
NEW BUSINESS ITEM**

**TO:** The Mayor and Members of City Council

**DATE:** April 1, 2009

**COUNCIL**

**DATE:** April 2, 2009

**RE:** City Council Districts

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**RATIONALE:**

It is a clear conflict of interest to allow elected officials to draw their own districts. The result is that the officials pick their voters instead of the voters picking their representatives. The 2010 census will be available in 2011, at which time it would be logical to redraw the City Council districts to reflect current populations. There is time to put this item on the 2009 general election ballot to amend the charter as follows:

- 1.) Require City Council redistricting to be done by a nine member citizens committee, with each elected official being allowed to name one member.
- 2.) Meetings of the citizens committee shall be within the sunshine law.
- 3.) Lines shall attempt to respect major roads, corridors, neighborhood associations and natural borders.
- 4.) Districts shall be compact and provide opportunities for a diverse Council.
- 5.) Final lines must be approved by an up or down vote with no amendments by the City Council.

**ACTION DESIRED:**

Respectfully requesting this item be referred to the Council Procedures Committee for review and consideration.

Karl Nurse  
City Council Member