

**MINUTES OF THE ST. MARTIN PARISH
CITIZEN REAPPORTIONMENT ORGANIZATIONAL COMMITTEE MEETING
SEPTEMBER 22, 2021**

The St. Martin Parish Citizen Reapportionment Organizational Committee Meeting met at 5:01 P.M., Wednesday, September 22, 2021, Carroll J. Fuselier Meeting Room, St. Martin Parish Annex Building, 301 West Port Street, St. Martinville, Louisiana.

The meeting was called to order by Mr. Mike Hefner, Chief Demographer, Geographic Planning & Demographic Services.

The following members were present: Kirk Sieber, Ricky Acosta, Yvette Morris, John Alexander, Dale Boudreaux, Terry Guidry, Robert Hollier, Linda Handy, Michael Melancon, and Randy Dore. Members absent: None.

Parish President Chester Cedars welcomed the members of the St. Martin Parish Citizen Reapportionment Committee.

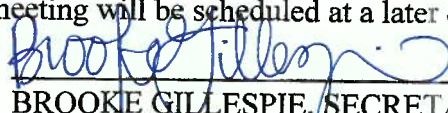
Parish President Chester Cedars explained Section 2-02 of the St. Martin Parish Home Rule Charter. Mr. Cedars advised that within thirty (30) days after the publication of the federal census, the St. Martin Parish Council is required to appoint a Citizen Reapportionment Committee to prepare a reapportionment plan for the Parish. The Committee consists of ten (10) members, one (1) is appointed by each member of the Council, except that the Council member representing the district incorporating the lower part of St. Martin Parish appoints two (2) members of the Committee, one (1) of whom is from lower St. Martin Parish. Each of these two (2) members shall have a one-half ($\frac{1}{2}$) vote. All other members of the Committee shall have one (1) vote. The Home Rule Charter also states that within twelve (12) months of their appointment, the Committee shall submit a reapportionment plan to the Council. The plan shall be the official reapportionment plan for the Parish and shall be adopted by the Council without change within thirty (30) days after submission to the Council. The Council shall publish the reapportionment plan in the official journal. The Home Rule Charter also states that the St. Martin Parish Council shall provide the Committee sufficient funds to acquire the necessary consulting services to perform the task. In the event the Civil Rights Division of the United States Department of Justice or any court of competent jurisdiction declares any part of the reapportionment plan to be in violation of the Federal Voting Rights Act, the St. Martin Parish Reapportionment Commission shall reconvene for the purpose of

revising the plan to resolve the cited violations of the Voting Rights Act. The Committee members shall serve without compensation. President Cedars stated that the Home Rule Charter of St. Martin Parish has a very unique provision because it removes the politics and/or the perception of politics.

Mr. Mike Hefner also welcomed and thanked members of the St. Martin Parish Citizen Reapportionment Committee for attending the meeting. At that time, each member of the Committee introduced themselves as follows: **District 1**–Kirk Sieber (representing upper St. Martin Parish), **District 1**–Ricky Acosta (representing lower St. Martin Parish-Belle River & Stephenville areas); **District 2**–Yvette Morris; **District 3**–John Alexander; **District 4**–Dale Boudreaux; **District 5**–Terry Guidry; **District 6**–Robert Hollier; **District 7**–Linda Handy; **District 8**–Michael Melancon; and **District 9**–Randy Dore.

Chief Demographer Mike Hefner gave an overview of the census data and made a presentation to Committee members. Mr. Hefner shared his findings to the committee by stating that District 4 has grown tremendously, having approximately 888 more than the ideal district population. On the other hand, Districts 2 and 3 are down in population, with District 3 having approximately 1,083 less than the ideal population of 5,752. Mr. Hefner mentioned only 58% of St. Martin Parish households responded to the 2020 Census. The purpose is to determine the new Census 2020 Population numbers in the current districts as last approved by the Department of Justice. If the 2020 Census reflects that the population numbers of each district are now within 5% of the previous total population of that district, then reapportioning may not be necessary. But if one or more districts have a current population outside the allowable 5% deviation, then the St. Martin Parish Council must reapportion itself to bring the district populations in balance with each other while preserving minority voting strength. Mr. Hefner noted to the committee members that the plan must be submitted to the State of Louisiana no later than June 7, 2023, but he is expecting the plan to be finalized before then.

Mr. Mike Hefner declared the next meeting will be scheduled at a later date.


BROOKE GILLESPIE, SECRETARY
ST. MARTIN PARISH
CITIZEN REAPPORTIONMENT COMMITTEE