

Introduced by:

First Reading:
Second Reading:
Effective Date:

**CITY OF TAKOMA PARK, MARYLAND
ORDINANCE NO. 2022-**

**ADOPTING A REDISTRICTING MAP AND
AMENDING TAKOMA PARK CODE, CHAPTER 5.08, SECTION 5.08.010
DESCRIPTION OF WARD BOUNDARIES**

WHEREAS, Section 301(c) of the City Charter provides that *the City of Takoma Park shall be divided into six (6) wards for municipal voting purposes. Each ward shall be compact in form, composed of adjoining territory, and have substantially equal population. The ward boundaries shall be established by ordinance and shall be reviewed after each decennial census. The boundary descriptions of the six (6) wards shall be kept on file for public view at all times in the office of the City Clerk;* and

WHEREAS, Section 401(c)(50) of the City Charter empowers the City Council *to provide for the redistricting of the wards of the City; provided, however, that the number of wards shall be as set forth in this charter, wards shall be as nearly equal in population as is practical and apportioned consistently with the principle of one person/one vote, wards shall be geographically contiguous, ward boundaries shall to the extent practical recognize natural boundaries, and no ward shall be gerrymandered to ensure the election or defeat of any incumbent candidate or potential candidate;* and

WHEREAS, changes in Takoma Park's population as documented by the 2020 Decennial Census necessitates a reconfiguration of the boundaries of the City's six wards for purposes of ensuring that they be as nearly equal in population as is practical and apportioned consistently with the principle of one person/one vote; and

WHEREAS, the City Council contracted with FLO Analytics (the Consultant) to assist with the redistricting process and public outreach; and

WHEREAS, the 2020 population was reported as 17,633; and

WHEREAS, the adjusted population for purposes of redistricting is 17,723 resulting in an ideal ward population of 2,954; and

WHEREAS, in a process that included public education and outreach, meetings, articles in the Takoma Park Newsletter, a redistricting web page and map portal, written and oral public comments, receipt of community of interest surveys, and solicitation of

resident submitted maps, the Consultant prepared a series of maps for review by the public and City Council; and

WHEREAS, on February 2, 2022, the City Council selected two final options for consideration (Map Y and Map Z); and

WHEREAS, the maps were published for public review and comments; and

WHEREAS, a public hearing was held on February 9, 2022; and

WHEREAS, at a work session on February 9, the City Council selected Map Y as its preferred option and made additional revisions to Map Y on February 9 and on February 16 to incorporate resident requests to keep neighborhoods together where practicable; and

WHEREAS, the Council further considered Map Y on February 23 and March 2, 2022 and, after careful consideration, selected a final version of Map Y for adoption.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF TAKOMA PARK, MARYLAND THAT:

SECTION 1. The City Council approves the final map, attached hereto as Exhibit A, 2022 Voting District Map, dated March 16, 2022. Said Voting District Map is hereby deemed fully incorporated herein by reference.

SECTION 2. The Voting District Map approved by this ordinance shall supersede and repeal all previously adopted and approved City Council voting district maps and shall be used for all Takoma Park municipal elections occurring after the effective date of this ordinance.

SECTION 3. This Voting District Map will remain effective until superseded by a future redistricting process and adoption of a new map.

SECTION 4. Title 5 Elections, Chapter 5.08 Wards, Section 5.08.010 Description of ward boundaries shall be amended as follows:

5.08.010 Description of ward boundaries.

The City is divided into six wards for the purposes of City elections. The boundary lines of the wards shall be as they are shown on the map ~~and accompanying street directory~~ designated “~~2022~~2013 Voting District ~~Map Plan and Street Directory,~~” dated ~~March 16, 2022~~December 3, 2012, including any corrections made since that time, incorporated herein, on file and available for inspection in the office of the City Clerk.

SECTION 5. This Ordinance shall be effective immediately upon adoption.

This Ordinance was adopted this ____ day of March, 2022 by roll-call vote as follows:

AYE:

NAY

ABSTAIN:

ABSENT