

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 comply with the City's Charter and applicable federal and state law; and

WHEREAS, on September 29, 2021, the City Council adopted Resolution 2021-32 establishing the following criteria for evaluation and selection of a redistricting plan: 1) each ward shall have substantially equal populations, but in no case shall the difference between the largest and smallest ward populations be more than 10 percent, 2) if practicable considering other criteria, the Council has a goal of reducing the difference between the largest and smallest wards to five percent or less, 3) wards shall be compact, 4) wards shall be composed of adjoining territory that is geographically contiguous, 5) wards shall recognize natural boundaries where practical, 6) no ward shall be gerrymandered to ensure the election or defeat of any incumbent candidate or potential candidate, and 7) using information gathered from residents during the community meetings and other engagement opportunities, ward boundaries may be drawn so as to keep a particular neighborhood or

community within one ward as opposed to dividing the neighborhood or community among multiple wards, but only if possible in light of the applicable legal criteria; and

WHEREAS, review of the census block data indicated that there were fewer residential students counted on the Washington Adventist University campus than in prior census years; and

WHEREAS, there are currently 130 students living on campus; and

WHEREAS, staff recommended that Council consider adding 90 people to the census blocks encompassing Washington University's campus; and

WHEREAS, the Total Population reported by the 2020 Census was 17,629; and

WHEREAS, for purposes of redistricting, this population was adjusted as follows:

- The census count included a population of 10 that was from a census block outside the boundary of the City along Eastern Avenue. (-10)
- Addition of 14 residents by reassigning Maryland residents in correctional institutions to their last known address in Takoma Park (as required by the Maryland 2010 "No Representation Without Population Act." (+14)
- Addition of 90 residents to Washington Adventist University census blocks to account for residential students not on campus at the time of the census. (+90)

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

WHEREAS, the City Council contracted with FLO Analytics (the Consultant) to assist with the redistricting process and public outreach; 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 redistricting map options for consideration, Map Y and Map Z; and

WHEREAS, the maps were published for public review and comment; 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 redistricting option and made additional revisions to Map Y; and

WHEREAS, on February 16th Council made additional revisions to incorporate resident requests to keep neighborhoods together where practicable; and

WHEREAS, Council reviewed Map Y on February 23; and

WHEREAS, Council again reviewed Map Y on March 2, 2022 and, after careful consideration, selected a final version of redistricting Map Y for adoption, which is the same map attached hereto and incorporated herein as Exhibit 1.

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

SECTION 1. 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 Voting District Map,” dated March 16, 2022, ~~“2013 District Plan and Street Directory,” dated 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 2. The redistricting map, which is referred to as the 2022 Voting District Map, dated March 16, 2022, and attached hereto as Exhibit 1, is incorporated herein by reference.

SECTION 3. The 2022 Voting District Map approved by this ordinance shall supersede and repeal all previously adopted and approved City Council voting district maps, including without limitation the 2013 District Plan and Street Directory, and shall be used for all Takoma Park municipal elections occurring after the effective date of this ordinance.

SECTION 4. The 2022 Voting District Map will remain effective until superseded by a future redistricting process and adoption of a new voting district map.

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