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TO: Mayor and Council

FROM: Milton Dohoney Jr., Interim City Administrator

CC: Jacqueline Beaudry, City Clerk  
John Fournier, Assistant City Administrator

SUBJECT: November 1, 2021 Council Agenda Responses

DATE: October 27, 2021

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**B-1 – An Ordinance to Amend Sections 1:451 to 1:455 of Chapter 17, Reapportionment of Wards, of Title I of the Code of the City of Ann Arbor (ORD-21-33)**

**Question:** Can you please share more details about how Wards were reapportioned and why the deviations are so much greater than following the 2010 reapportionment. (Councilmember Briggs)

**Response:** The wards were reapportioned based on the 2020 Census numbers. The same target deviation was used in 2021 as 2011, a range of plus or minus 1.5% of the target population. This is a very close margin and in making the adjustments, as in 2011, we came closer to the target than our goal. The 2021 redistricting has no more than 339 more people (Ward 1), 1.36% from the target of 24,936 and no less than -219 people (Ward 4), -0.88% from the target. In 2011, we were able to achieve a deviation between -0.29% and 0.58%. When making adjustments, an entire Census block must be moved so it isn't possible to simply shift the exact numbers from one ward to another.

**Question:** What factors are considered when considering new Ward boundaries? (Councilmember Briggs)

**Response:** The proposed boundary changes focus on the downtown area in order to follow the guidelines set forth in the City Charter for the creation of the ward boundaries, specifically that the wards are each a pie-shaped segment coming out of the center of the city. The changes also meet the requirements of the Charter and State law that the

boundaries be compact and contiguous and that the population in each ward is nearly equal based on the Census.

**Question:** How will residents/voters that are changing Wards be notified of this change? (Councilmember Briggs)

**Response:** The recommended effective date of these changes is December 1, 2021, following the City's Special Election on November 2. Once approved, final adjustments to the precinct boundary lines within each ward will be made by the City Election Commission and voters will be notified of their new ward and polling place in advance of the 2022 election cycle with a new voter ID card that highlights the changes. These cards will also include any changes to their Congressional, State and/or County districts.

**Question:** Is it possible to provide one map that has an overlay so it's easier to see the shift in boundaries. (Councilmember Briggs)

**Response:** [Three maps and a copy of the presentation that was given to the City Election Commission and the Council Administration Committee were attached to the file.](#) The first map, entitled Census 2020 Redistricting Proposed Ward Boundaries, includes hash marks that reflect the proposed changes. The background color of the blocks to be moved reflects the new ward and the hash marks reflect the color of the former ward. The second map shows the existing boundaries today, and includes the population as it currently stands (pre-redistricting). This was the basis for making the proposed changes. The final map shows the proposed changes on a map of the entire city. Additional side-by-side viewing of the current and proposed maps are included in the presentation attached to the file.