

JUN 21 2011

THE STATE OF TEXAS §
§
COUNTY OF HARRIS §

APPROVE M/L
Recorded Vol. 274 Page _____

The Commissioners Court of Harris County, Texas, convened at a meeting of said Court at the Harris County Administration Building in the City of Houston, Texas, on the 21 day of JUN 21 2011 2011, with the following members present, to-wit:

- | | |
|----------------|------------------------------|
| Ed Emmett | County Judge |
| El Franco Lee | Commissioner, Precinct No. 1 |
| Jack Morman | Commissioner, Precinct No. 2 |
| Steve Radack | Commissioner, Precinct No. 3 |
| Jerry Eversole | Commissioner, Precinct No. 4 |

and the following members absent, to-wit: NONE, constituting a quorum, when among other business, the following was transacted:

ORDER ADOPTING PRIORITIES AND PRINCIPLES FOR REDISTRICTING OF HARRIS COUNTY COMMISSIONER PRECINCTS AND MATTERS INCIDENT THERETO

Commissioner MORMAN introduced an order and made a motion that the same be adopted. Commissioner Lee seconded the motion for adoption of the order. The motion, carrying with it the adoption of the order, prevailed by the following vote:

	Yes	No	Abstain
Judge Ed Emmett	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Comm. El Franco Lee	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Comm. Jack Morman	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Comm. Steve Radack	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Comm. Jerry Eversole	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

The County Judge thereupon announced that the motion had duly and lawfully carried and that the order had been duly and lawfully adopted. The order thus adopted follows:

WHEREAS, the Commissioners Court (the "Commissioners Court") of Harris County, Texas (the "County"), is in the process of drawing new lines for its four commissioner precincts based on 2010 Census data; and

WHEREAS, the Commissioners Court desires to be guided by certain policy priorities and legal principles as it undergoes the redistricting process; and

WHEREAS, the Commissioners Court wishes to achieve an equitable balance of population among the commissioner precincts; and

WHEREAS, the Commissioners Court desires to adhere to those traditional principles of redistricting recognized as legally sufficient and acceptable; and

WHEREAS, the Commissioners Court acknowledges that the Voting Rights Act has established certain protections against retrogression of minority voting opportunities; and

WHEREAS, the Commissioners Court agrees to base its redistricting decisions on certain established criteria set forth below as the *Priorities and Principles for Redistricting of Harris County Commissioner Precincts*.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDERED, ADJUDGED AND DECREED BY THE COMMISSIONERS COURT OF HARRIS COUNTY, TEXAS THAT:

ARTICLE I.

PRIORITIES AND PRINCIPLES

The Commissioners Court hereby adopts the following as *Priorities and Principles for Harris County Redistricting*:

1. The four commissioner precincts should be of substantially equal population and, in no event, exceed a ten percent (10%) top-to-bottom deviation.
2. The four commissioner precincts should be contiguous and reasonably compact.
3. To the extent possible, the redistricting plan should use identifiable geographic boundaries as precinct boundaries, preserve natural historical boundaries, recognize identifiable communities of interest in a single precinct and avoid splitting neighborhoods when drawing precinct lines.
4. To the extent possible, the four commissioner precincts should be based on existing composition of the precincts.
5. The redistricting plan should use whole county voting precincts to draw commissioner precincts.
6. The redistricting plan will adhere to (a) the Equal Protection Clause of the Fourteenth Amendment to the United States Constitution and not use race as the predominate factor in establishing commissioner precincts and (b) the Voting Rights Act and avoid retrogression in the position of racial, ethnic and language minorities with respect to the effective exercise of their right to vote or electoral franchise. The redistricting plan should not dilute voting strength of racial or language minority citizens and should not either fragment minority communities or pack them into precincts in concentrations greater than necessary to help them elect minority representation.
7. Recognizing the value of incumbent-constituency relations, the redistricting plan should seek to keep (a) existing commissioners in their existing precincts and (b) facilities and service locations established by incumbent commissioners in the precincts of those commissioners.
8. The redistricting plan should recognize the duties and obligations imposed by law on commissioners to provide services to the residents of precincts and the public investment in facilities, service locations and personnel that has been made to provide such services.

ARTICLE II.

MISCELLANEOUS

Section 2.1.: Open Meeting. It is hereby found, determined and declared that a sufficient written notice of the date, hour, place and subject of the meeting of the Commissioners Court at which this Order was adopted was posted at a place convenient and readily accessible at all times to the general public at the Harris County Administration Building for the time required by law preceding this meeting, as required by the Open Meetings Law, Chapter 551, Texas Government Code and that this meeting has been open to the public as required by law at all times during which this Order and the subject matter thereof has been discussed, considered and formally acted upon. The Commissioners Court further ratifies, approves and confirms such written notice and the contents and posting thereof.

Section 2.2.: Repealer. All orders, resolutions and ordinances, or parts thereof, inconsistent herewith are hereby repealed to the extent of such inconsistency.

Section 2.3.: Effective Date. This Order shall be in force and effect from and after its passage on the date shown below.