

In watching the January 11th City Council redistricting meeting, I hear the public say two things: (1) They want neighborhoods kept together, and (2) the proposed maps created by the City demographer were created with current City Council street addresses in mind rather than what is in the best interest of voters. As I understand the districting process, fragmenting communities of interest is not the purpose of drawing districts. Lexington/Parkway/Empire is a community of interest, and all three of the proposed maps submitted by the City demographer fragment LPE.

On January 5th, I submitted copies of the City demographer's three proposed maps to the DRA website, along with comments and areas highlighted in pen showing the fragmentation of Lexington/Parkway/Empire (LPE) on each map. Despite this, the City demographer's maps remain three of the eight considered for redistricting. Therefore, I am resubmitting the three maps created by the City demographer showing the fragmentation and asking that they be taken off the table for consideration. The map submitted by Cline appears to be the best option of the eight considered for saving LPE and other neighborhoods of interest.

Lexington/Parkway/Empire has a long history. We are friends, family, neighbors, and often business partners. The wetlands in the middle of Lexington were fought for (and saved by) those who lived in Lexington. The new Broder Park that most who sit on Council are familiar with was taken under the wing of neighborhood advocates as a united front to try to save it. The trails in the middle of all three areas (Lexington/Parkway/Empire) were protected because like-minded neighbors consider the trails important to the neighborhood for future generations to enjoy. The development at the end of Silberhorn was converted to luxury homes rather than the initially-planned apartment building to keep the esthetic of the neighborhood thanks to those of us who yet again united for the greater good. The children who grew up in Lexington/Parkway were the first graduating class of Vista del Lago (many of their names are engraved within the walls). And, our neighborhood once again united to keep Vista del Lago High School (which is only one block from Lexington) as our home school when FCUSD wanted to move Lexington/Parkway students to Folsom High, which is four miles away. From either a numerical or ethical perspective, it does not make sense to split the area commonly known as LPE (Lexington/Parkway/Empire) and incorporate it into an area where our community has no connection or history.

With the above said, I would like to state I am bothered by the fact that districts are being drawn and neighborhoods split to accommodate current Council members' street addresses rather than the voters' best interest. Drawing districts by Council members' addresses is insulting to voters and may open potential lawsuits. I am also bothered that Council only recognizes the Historic District, American River Canyon, and Natoma Station as a guiding principle to draw boundaries. Lexington/Parkway is (and always has been) a guiding principle and neighborhood of interest. Unfortunately, the majority who sit on City Council have not lived in the city of Folsom long enough to recognize that fact.

Whether or not current council members remain in their seats after districts are drawn is unknown and not important to voters. What is important to voters is keeping neighborhoods

with long histories as a community of interest. If a currently-seated Council member happens to reside in one of the newly-drawn districts, all the better, but do not make retaining titles the priority. It's unethical.