

From: Kevin Albanese
Sent: Monday, May 16, 2011 9:30 PM
To: 2011redistricting
Subject: District 6: Proposal to transfer areas 6-9 (a); (aa); (c); and 9-6 (a).

Dear Redistricting Commission:

Thank you for taking your time to participate in this important redistricting process and allowing me to speak at the recent meeting at the Willow Glen Senior Center.

I write strenuously opposing your continued consideration for transferring the above captioned areas from District 6 to District 9. Beyond the fervor demonstrated by the more than 200 people at the Willow Glen meeting, this proposal undermines nearly every guideline this commission is charged to consider.

Having lived in Willow Glen for most of my life, I understand the value of our community. I, and all the speakers from the May 9 meeting attempted to share these values with you; though the point apparently was not effectively communicated. Socially, economically, politically, and spiritually, our neighborhood should be a model for other communities and districts; not destroyed.

The Willow Glen community embodies a "population which shares common social and economic interests that should be included within a single district for purposes of its effective and fair representation." This "community of interest" requirement is found in each major guideline you are charged with following and must be respected. Whether residents of this district demonstrate the "community of interests" through neighborhood associations, little league, athletic activities at parks, neighborhood watch meetings, or merely walking through Willow Glen; every day you will find a proud and close knit community that should be encouraged, not split apart at the seams.

Your consideration of transferring a large portion of Willow Glen to district 9 will only serve to disenfranchise many residents of our community at the expense of the City and its residents. In so doing, you will politically separate many students and their school (Booksin School and St. Christopher's School would end up in District 9); many parishioners from their Church (St. Christopher's); and even many players from their home little league (Lincoln Glen Little League). Each of the aforementioned institutions have been stalwarts of this community for over 50 years. While they currently are not 100% congruently aligned, it would be shameful to further alienate those impacted by this possible change and make it worse.

You have options, which makes this proposal so disheartening. The Rubino Circle area is a newer neighborhood and while I hate to see anyone transfer from District 6; I understand some must. That said, transferring Rubino Circle (Area 6-9 (d) & (b)) would best serve the residents of District 6, of San Jose, and likely, the Rubino Circle residents.

In closing, thank you for undertaking this important project. I urge you to transfer the Rubino Circle area and keep Willow Glen intact. Frankly, this is the only solution to this challenging problem consistent with the City Guidelines.

Sincerely yours,

Kevin J. Albanese