

May 16, 2011

Dear Redistricting Committee Members:

My name is Sharon Conway Wible. I am an attorney, a former deputy City Attorney for the City of San Jose, and a long-time resident of Willow Glen. I live with my husband and two boys on Koch Lane between Plummer and Booksin, South of Curtner. Our children attend St. Christopher School which is a half mile from our home. Our boys play Willow Glen National Junior Basketball. Our fourth grade son plays baseball for Lincoln Glen Little League and our seventh grade son is an umpire for Lincoln Glen Little League. I serve as the Christmas Tree Lane coordinator for our neighborhood – where in our great Willow Glen tradition, we place lighted Christmas trees on our front lawns during the holidays. My family patronizes and supports Lincoln Avenue restaurants and stores. We are a Willow Glen Family.

I am one of the 200+ Willow Glen residents that attended the Redistricting Committee meeting at the Willow Glen Senior Center last Monday night. As you know, there wasn't enough room to accommodate all of the people that feel passionately about keeping Willow Glen in a single Council District.

At that meeting, you heard testimony from dozens of passionate Willow Glen residents who had a unified voice. Our simple request: do not draw arbitrary lines and divide our Community. Allow the Willow Glen Community to remain in a single Council District.

One of the charges of this Committee is to preserve identifiable communities of interest. Willow Glen is a unique Community and its residents share common interests, values and concerns. Once its own City, Willow Glen is now like a small town with its own main street, Lincoln Avenue. Willow Glen housing is architecturally distinctive with many Victorian and Spanish style homes dating back to the 1920's. Many Willow Glen families have been here for generations – as you heard at last week's meeting.

People who live in Willow Glen want to have a voice in Willow Glen. Our children go to school in Willow Glen, they play at parks in Willow Glen, we eat in Willow Glen restaurants and shop in Willow Glen stores, our Fire Department and Library are in Willow Glen. We need a City Councilperson like Pierluigi Oliverio who knows and understands our Community and can properly represent our interests. We do not want a small portion of Willow Glen to be arbitrarily carved out and placed in a different Council District. There are so many communities in San Jose that remain in a single Council District: the Rosegarden, Shasta-Hanchett, Naglee Park, Communications Hill, Downtown, Evergreen, Almaden Valley. Willow Glen should be afforded the same opportunity.

At the last meeting, people repeatedly testified that the best solution for Willow Glen is to take the Rubino Circle area out of District 6 and put this new, very dense, production home neighborhood into District 9. This will take some 7,000 residents out of District 6. Once that occurs, you will have the opportunity redraw the District 6 southern boundary at Foxworthy Avenue, the traditional Willow Glen boundary. There wasn't a single member of the public present at the hearing who opposed this plan of action – and there were hundreds of people present who passionately support it. In fact, the one Rubino Circle resident who spoke at the hearing agreed that Rubino Circle should be redrawn out of District 6. It is a newer production home tract built by KB Homes complete with its own park, infrastructure and Homeowner's Association. Rubino Circle is bounded by two expressways and a highway and is not geographically or otherwise tied to Willow Glen or its architecture and traditions. Contrast that with Willow Ranch – in the heart of Willow Glen -- which has long represented traditional Willow Glen with its roses and white split rail fencing; Simply put, Willow Ranch should not be in the Cambrian District (where it is now because the southern boundary of District 6 was drawn at Husted).

Whereas the silence of the Rubino Circle residents was unmistakable at the last hearing, the passionate pleas of the long time Willow Glen residents were deafening. Please take this opportunity to do the right thing and make Willow Glen whole again. This opportunity only comes once every decade. There was unanimous public support at the last hearing for Redistricting Committee Representative Chris Schumb's motion to move Rubino Circle into District 9 and redraw the southern boundary of District 6 to Foxworthy.

Do not further divide and ameliorate Willow Glen. Do not exclude southern Willow Glen south of Curtner from District 6. Instead, move the new production home tract on the other side of Almaden Expressway into District 9 and reinstate the southern boundary of District 6 to Foxworthy.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

John Wible and Sharon Conway Wible