

**DATE:** 10/08/2024

**TO:** COUNCILMEMBERS

**FROM:** CITY MANAGER'S OFFICE

**SUBJECT:** COUNCIL Q&A FOR OCTOBER 8, 2024 CITY COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING

**Agenda Item 1 (Minutes):**

- Please see the accompanying pdf.  
**Answer: Corrected.**
- Special meeting minutes: Under "Establish Quorum", just like last time, correct "Sally Meadows, Councilmember, requested to attend the meeting remotely due to illness", please delete 'illness' and replace with "a medical issue".  
**Answer: Corrected.**
- Regular meeting minutes: Please correct the minutes to reflect that the request to attend remotely was only made during the special meeting, so the following description is probably not accurate since the request was already made in the Special Meeting, not during the regular meeting, "Pursuant to AB2449, Sally Meadows, Councilmember, requested to attend the meeting remotely due to a medical issue."  
**Answer: Corrected.**

**Agenda Item 3 (Downtown Parking Lot Resurfacing):**

- Will the Council consider the Downtown Parking Study and give input prior to resurfacing lots 4, 5, and 6?  
**Answer: The council will consider the Downtown Parking Study before the lots are resurfaced. This scope of work for the Downtown Parking Lot Resurfacing before City Council is strictly for survey and design at this time. The purpose of the design work is to address current maintenance, drainage issues and to comply with the latest ADA path of travel requirements. The design work will conclude by the beginning of 2025 with the plan to go out for construction bid in early 2025.**

**Agenda Item 4 (Public Hearing - District):**

- It is possible to create a CVRA compliant map that keeps the Grant Park and Highlands neighborhoods together? If so, please describe how the other four districts would have to look.

**Answer:** As was explained at previous Council meetings, it is not possible to have a Council district that includes the entirety of the Highlands (everything south and west of Foothill Expressway) and the entirety of the Grant Park neighborhood (bounded by Fremont Avenue, Grant Road, Foothill Expressway and the City limits) as such a district would be too large.

As was explored at the September 24 Council meeting, it may be possible to create districts in which the entirety of the Highlands is in one district and the entirety of the Grant Park neighborhood is in a separate district.

- Please provide maps that show the street names of all the boundaries of each district.

**Answer:** There are links to maps with the street names on the City's website (<https://www.losaltosca.gov/cityclerk/page/district-based-elections>). The City's consultant, Redistricting Partners, can manually add street names to the final map.

- if we needed to request a special meeting before making a final decision, would it be possible?

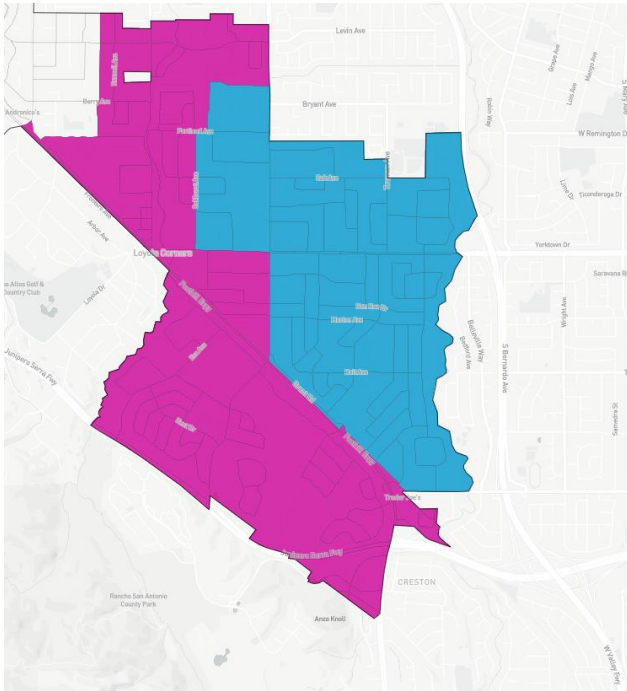
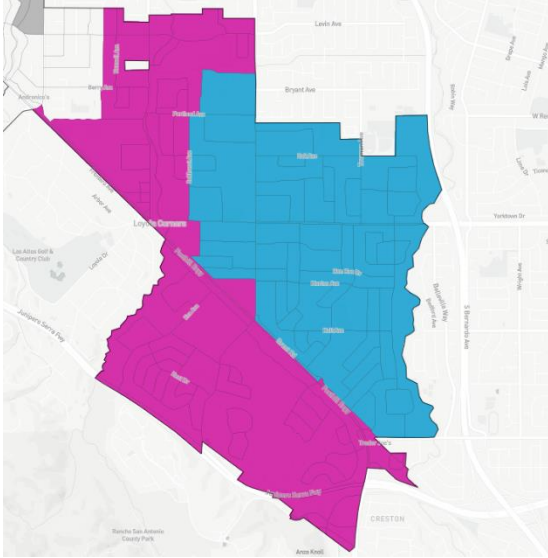
**Answer:** The Council can request a special meeting before making a final decision, however, any draft maps to be considered by the Council would need to be posted to the City's website at least seven calendar days prior to the meeting.

- Can we have a map showing the Grant park area as one, this is a request made by a large number of residents who live in the area.

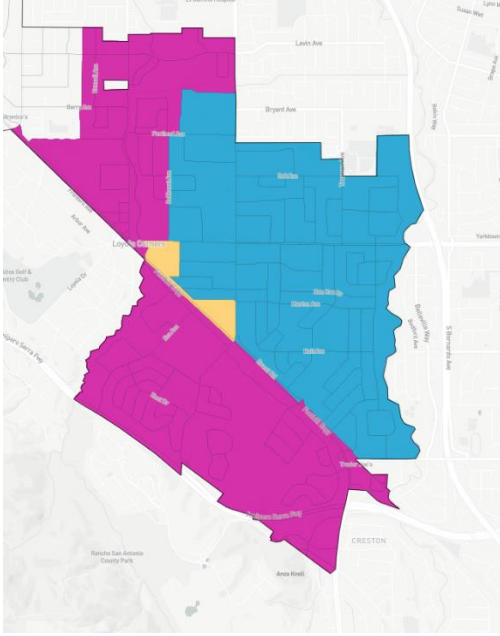
**Answer:** As was explained at previous Council meetings, it is not possible to have a Council district that includes the entirety of the Highlands (everything south and west of Foothill Expressway) and the entirety of the Grant Park neighborhood (bounded by Fremont Avenue, Grant Road, Foothill Expressway and the City limits) as such a district would be too large.

At the September 24 Council meeting, the Council reviewed several options in which the Highlands and Grant Park neighborhoods were placed in separate districts. The majority direction of Council was to not move forward with this.

There are a couple of options for doing so:



It should be noted that there is a census block, shown in yellow below that cannot be split into two districts.



Should Council wish to adjust the two districts in the southern portion of the City, it most likely will not affect the remaining three districts (this is true about 99% of the time, except in some rare instance if the two districts are underpopulated in some way and would need to pull population from the other three districts).

- Can you provide more options where El Camino is not broken up.

**Answer:** If the Council directs to have more options for El Camino Real, those maps would need to be posted on the City's website at least seven days prior to Council considering them.

- Please clarify the community of interests demonstrated by these six maps.

**Answer:** The maps are based on the communities of interest identified by Council at the September 24 Council meeting. The consultant can further clarify what the communities of interest identified by Council at the meeting tomorrow. Due to the City's size and shape, the districts are so inflexible that almost every map considers the same communities of interest. The Highlands and Grant Park neighborhoods, the old Los Altos neighborhood, El Camino, the communities around parks and schools, and all that is balanced with the needs to create compact, contiguous districts that are not diluting the voting power of the API community and bounded by major streets and natural/artificial barriers. Then there were the maps that were drawn to explicitly consider the business districts.

The final maps are all based on the direction given by Council at the September 24 meeting and Map C, and the differences in them are relatively small.

- They all have the same southern districts, with most of Grant Park and the Highlands together and a 38.3% CVAP Asian district.

- They all keep the Old Los Altos together, although only one takes that south of South El Monte Ave, where the others split an extended version of old Los Altos along that street.
- In maps F2-F5, everything south of South El Monte Blvd is in District 3.
- They all consider landmarks like the schools and parks.

The final map chosen among any of these appropriate and legal maps may be based on factors like which one is most “easily identifiable and understandable by residents.” Or simply which one balances the range of concerns that councilmembers may have. When the City has selected a map, Redistricting Partners will do a longer writeup on how the communities of interest were considered when drawing the maps, and when a community was split, how/why it was split due to a higher ranking criteria.