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Sent: Friday, August 20, 2021 9:01 AM

To: Adler, Steve <Steve.Adler@austintexas.gov>; Harper-Madison, Natasha <Natasha.Madison@austintexas.gov>; Fuentes, Vanessa <Vanessa.Fuentes@austintexas.gov>; Renteria, Sabino <Sabino.Renteria@austintexas.gov>; Casar, Gregorio <Gregorio.Casar@austintexas.gov>; Kitchen, Ann <Ann.Kitchen@austintexas.gov>; Kelly, Mackenzie <Mackenzie.Kelly@austintexas.gov>; Pool, Leslie <Leslie.Pool@austintexas.gov>; Ellis, Paige <Paige.Ellis@austintexas.gov>; Tovo, Kathie <Kathie.Tovo@austintexas.gov>; Alter, Alison <Alison.Alter@austintexas.gov>

Cc: Thomas, Deborah <Deborah.Thomas@austintexas.gov>; Dugan, Matthew <Matthew.Dugan@austintexas.gov>

Subject: ICRC Communications

Mayor and Council,

As you know, my office is involved per Charter in the creation of the Independent Citizens Redistricting Commission (ICRC). After creation of the ICRC, my office no longer has an official role in the process, although we remain committed to a successful redistricting process which includes this independent commission.

I am writing because I have heard from a couple of Council offices about a request last week from the ICRC to City Council offices. The request specifically asked for Council Member's home addresses to be considered as the districts are redrawn. In discussions with those Council offices, I have pointed out that City Charter specifically prohibits the ICRC from considering this information when drawing/re-drawing district maps (Article II, Section 3, F). Despite this, there is nothing prohibiting you from sharing the information. I have also brought this to the attention of the Law Department and the staff liaison for the ICRC. It is unclear whether this was a request from the full Commission or from a Commissioner acting on their own.

Given the importance of this body's work, I also wanted to share two other provisions of Charter that may be important in the coming months. The first is from a section about the selection of the ICRC and specifically states that the ICRC is designed to be "independent from influence by the city council" (Article II, Section 3, C 3). The second is from a section regarding the activities of the commission and states that the ICRC "may not communicate with or receive communications about redistricting matters from anyone outside of a public hearing..." (Article II, Section 3, K 3). There are exceptions within this section for staff assisting the Commission.

As I mentioned, my office is no longer involved in the process but we do want to ensure that the ICRC is able to complete its work independently, as designed, and that you all are aware of the Charter language related to their work.

Sincerely,

Corrie

Corrie Stokes

City Auditor

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