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**MEMO ACCOMPANYING SUBMISSION OF VOCES DE LA FRONTERA
REDISTRICTING COMMISSION ALDERMANIC DISTRICT MAP PROPOSALS**

From: Richard Saks

To: Alderperson Ashanti Hamilton, Chair, Judiciary and Legislation Committee
James Owczarski, City Clerk

Date: December 20, 2021

RE: Voces Aldermanic District Proposals

On behalf of the Voces de la Frontera Redistricting Commission, I submit for your consideration two alternative map proposals – Voces Proposal A and Voces Proposal B -- containing Aldermanic District (AD) configurations which each enhance the opportunity for Latinx voters to elect their candidate of choice in a third Latinx plurality/majority AD in what is currently the 13th AD. These proposals are informed and constrained by the guidelines and parameters described below, and subject of course to modifications necessitated by concerns expressed by other voters, other organizations, and the members of the Council.

For illustrative purposes demonstrating the cohesive and concentrated nature of the Latinx voter population, we also submit two City of Milwaukee ward maps as Attachments 1 and 2. Attachment 1 constitutes a “heat map,” showing the concentration by percentages in each ward of the Latinx population. The heat map demonstrates that the highly concentrated Latinx population in the 8th and 12th ADs, has expanded in a southerly and westerly direction to the immediate south of those two ADs. Under the map approved by the Common Council on Nov. 23, this highly concentrated and contiguous Latinx community was fractured across ADs 11, 13, and 14. We provide this for illustrative purposes to demonstrate the necessity and practicality of adopting a map that seeks to unite such Latinx wards into a third Latinx AD. Attachment 2 provides another demonstration of that concentrated, contiguous Latinx population across the southern wards of the City, showing a contiguous block of wards comprising sufficient population for three aldermanic districts comprising an aggregate population that is 64.7% Latinx. These attachments demonstrate that there exists a sufficient Latinx population to comprise three Latinx aldermanic districts.

In creating these illustrative ward maps and aldermanic district configurations, Voces worked with Matthew Petering, UW-M Assoc. Professor of Industrial and Manufacturing Engineering, <https://uwm.edu/engineering/people/petering-matthew/>, who has applied his mathematical expertise to devise algorithms that map electoral districts consistent with traditional redistricting

criteria. Professor Petering's redistricting website, available at: <https://www.districtsolutions.net/#/>, demonstrates his expertise in this area and his adherence to statutory and constitutional redistricting principles such as contiguity, population equality, and voting rights concerns.

Voces created over forty maps attempting to create such a third Latinx district, and have shared such maps with other stakeholders and elected officials. It is possible to create an even stronger third Latinx district than Proposals A and B – i.e., even above 60% -- but such maps required disturbing other ADs including 8, 12, 3, and 4. Hence, we are not submitting such maps because we wish to propose the strongest possible third Latinx AD, under the following guidelines:

1. to not reduce or otherwise compromise the 70% Latinx populations in ADs 8 and 12;
2. avoid or minimize alteration of any other ADs except for 13 and 14;
3. respect the integrity of the historic Bay View neighborhood in AD 14;
4. create a third Latinx AD in a geographic area reflecting the southward demographic growth of the contiguous Latinx community;
5. maintain contiguity of all ADs and population equality within permissible 5%/+/- ;
6. respect other communities of interest such as the broadly dispersed south side Islamic population by keeping its main institutions in a single AD; and
7. maintain the residential addresses of all incumbent Alderpersons in their respective ADs.

Within such parameters, we submit the following two proposals:

Voces Proposal A: This proposal does not disturb the AD configurations in the Council's Nov. 23 map, except by changing wards in ADs 13 and 14. No other AD is impacted. This map keeps the strong Latinx super majority in ADs 8 and 12, and increases the 13th AD to a solid Latinx plurality of 46.7%. This map also illustrates the demographic movement of the Latinx population to the far southern portions of the city.

Voces Proposal B: This proposal maintains the super majority of 70% in ADs 8 and 12, exchanges a number of wards between ADs 13 and 14, and increases the Latinx population in AD 13 to a 52.1% majority. This 5% increase in the Latinx population is essentially achieved by shifting population southward via minimal changes to the following wards: 236 & 241 (from AD 14 to AD 4), and 162 (from AD 4 to AD 3).

Finally, we are aware that the organization Forward Latino (FL) submitted a map that increases the Latinx majority in AD 13 to 36.4%. Under the map approved on Nov. 23 by the Common Council, AD 13 had a 33.8% Latinx population. Thus, the FL map only increases the Latinx population in AD 13 by a mere 2.6%. Clearly, the Mayor and the members of the Common Council have not opted to reject the Nov. 23 for failing to capture the growth of the Latinx population only to increase such representation by such a marginal, *de minimus*, amount. The FL map is woefully insufficient to remediate the oversight in the Nov. 23rd map, and should not be enacted. Such a minor change does little to move the ball forward in advancing the voting concentration of Latinx voters on the far south side.

Please also be advised that Voces representatives, including Prof. Petering, will be available to present and answer your questions at the January 10 hearing conducted by the Council Committee on Judiciary and Legislation.