

Redistricting Public Hearing 12/8/2016

David Jupiter

Good Evening Ladies and Gentlemen, I appreciate the opportunity to speak to you tonight **in favor of Option 8**, on behalf of the concerned parents and other residents of the Brigadoon and Hillwood communities.

We are located in planning block 22 of the redistricting map and we are currently zoned for Samuel Tucker Elementary School. Option 8 is the only option that keeps us in our current school district. There are many reasons we want to remain a Tucker community, including, the school's calendar, the wonderful experience current students from our community are enjoying at the school, and the overall experience that the school has built. However I will focus my comments on the elements of the redistricting criteria that apply directly to our situation.

1. **Student Safety:** This criterion is sited to promote safe walk zones-routes to school. While it is not zoned for walking, Tucker is a mere 1/3 of a mile from planning block 22. When I walk with my children to a playground, we go to Tucker, because it is the closet playground in the city to our community. Parents in this community often take advantage of the proximity to walk their children to school in the mornings.
2. **Transportation:** Sending the children in planning block 22 to Patrick Henry does not make sense logistically. The boundary increases travel time, thereby adding to traffic congestion on Duke Street during the morning rush and adds more buses to Duke Street in the morning and afternoon.
3. **Program Continuity:** Our community has been a Tucker community since the school opened. The current plan forces children out of their community school and reduces the shared experience the parents and children in this community gain by disrupting program continuity for our children.
4. **Sensible and Fair Boundary Lines:** If the city wants to promote neighborhood schools, why create a boundary that forces children out of the school they live nearest to?

Each of the other criteria are not affected or are positively affected by keeping planning block 22 in Tucker's school district. There is no affect to diversity and the enrollment numbers remain the same between the options.

The only difference between options 8 and 9 are a few planning blocks in the southwest corner of the city (22, 28, and 118) perhaps we can preserve the key objectives of the redistricting, sensible school districts with close in students attending their local schools, and maintain that single desired statistic of FARM % in option 9, by adjusting some of the further out planning blocks.

Outside of the new school, there are only a handful of planning blocks that are in danger of switching schools and between the two remaining options, blocks 22 and 118 are by far the closest to those schools. I know the committee is working hard towards an equitable solution and I hope they keep this in mind.

Option 8 allows my community to stay in the district of the school that is 1/3 of a mile away, instead of clogging already congested roads in order to travel five times that distance to another school. Please

choose option 8, so that our elementary aged children aren't unnecessarily placed in a school that is not in the neighborhood they live.

Thank you