



BILL LINEHAN
BOSTON CITY COUNCILOR
DISTRICT 2

September 12, 2012

Dear Mayor,

Thank you for your letter outlining your position and veto on the Redistricting Plan approved by the Boston City Council. The plan which you chose to veto was a good and fair plan for all of Boston. Members who voted for the plan did so on its merit.

The process was thorough and open, and encompassed 16 months of work by the Committee on Census and Redistricting and by all members of the Boston City Council. Many of the concerns you outlined in your veto response were investigated and vetted in public forums. Although the vote of approval from the Council was close, it is in no way indicative of a lack of cooperation and participation by all members. In the end, we each voted our conscience, influenced by our political beliefs.

In an effort to move forward and create an alternative plan for the residents of Boston, it is imperative that we analyze the vetoed plan to ensure we develop a plan void of challenges and address your concerns. Although extensive work was done that included a review of the Voting Rights Act, we will aggressively pursue further due diligence to eliminate any misgivings or misinterpretations.

With the aforementioned in mind, the Committee will schedule a meeting and invite members of the Coalition of Color to articulate their positions to the members of the Committee. In addition, others who are recognized as professionals in the field of redistricting and the law will be invited to testify and handle questions from the Committee. City of Boston Corporation Counsel will also be invited.

A next step, if necessary, will be to expand community participation. Additional meetings may be held in neighborhoods where hearings were not held to date.

After these steps are completed, a new plan will be developed as an order, filed and presented to the Council for a vote. If at any time a plan is presented to the Committee, it will be reviewed and considered seriously.

As always, I thank you for your efforts on behalf of the citizens of Boston, and will enthusiastically work with members of your administration to build a plan that can be approved by November 1, 2012.

Sincerely,

Bill Linehan

Chair, Committee on Census and Redistricting

Cc: Ann Hess Braga
Boston City Council

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