

The Redistricting Task Force correctly applied the principles underlying its Equitable Process Statement, including defending and enhancing the electoral power of Hispanic and Black citizens, respecting communities of interest and favoring continuity and stability, in many of the changes it made that produced the map finally approved by the Task Force. Unfortunately, some of these principles were not correctly applied when the decision was made to move the Florida Ave./U/16th triangle (historically known as the northern blocks of the “Strivers’ Section”, a historic district immediately adjacent to other Adams Morgan historic districts, including Washington Heights and Kalorama Triangle) from ANC 1C to 1B.

Adams Morgan was named and delineated in 1958, after the Adams and Morgan schools. It is bounded by 16th Street on the east, Connecticut Avenue to the west and north, and U Street to the south. The Reed-Cooke neighborhood, located just to the west of Meridian Hill Park, is bounded by 16th Street on the east, 18th Street on the west, U Street to the south, and Columbia Road to the north. A Reed-Cooke Overlay District includes portions of the area that would be moved from 1C to 1B in this proposal.

The residents of the Strivers’ Section of Adams Morgan have a strong community of interest within the parks, schools, recreation centers, restaurants and grocery stores of Adams Morgan. They share neighborhood and civic associations, and Strivers’ Section is included in Adams Morgan as part of District Government planning documents like the Adams Morgan Vision Framework from the Office of Planning. The area has been fully within the boundaries of 1C since at least after the 1990 census. The Strivers’ Section has strong historical and current ties to Adams Morgan. Bishop Marie Reed was a powerful force in the civic life of Adams Morgan. Reed’s church on Seaton Street NW was a centerpiece of the community, then a low-income, racially mixed area. After the desegregation of District schools including the all-white Adams and all-black Morgan Schools noted previously, a brand-new Community Learning Center opened in 1977 on the site of the overcrowded and run-down Morgan School. The new Community Learning Center was named in Bishop Marie Reed’s honor; Marie Reed Elementary School and Community Center in Adams Morgan is just one block west of the Strivers’ Section. Parents in the

Strivers’ Section send their children to Marie Reed Elementary School, just as many other parents in Adams Morgan.

The shopping, work and leisure patterns of movement of the residents of the historic homes in the Strivers’ Section tend strongly towards the 18th Street commercial corridor. There are approximately 46000 sq. ft. of commercial space on 18th Street which is one block west of Strivers section and over 50,000 sq. ft. of commercial space, including a large grocery store, approximately two blocks north of the Strivers’ Section on Kalorama Road. The residents of the Strivers’ Section are better served by ANC 1C representation, given their interests in the nearby shopping, parks, restaurants, community centers and schools that are in 1C.

Notably, the record never shows any clear support for the move from 1C to 1B, prior to consideration of the final map. A March 17th straw poll of the Task Force members resulted in an “evenly divided vote on whether the triangle between Florida Avenue, 16th Street, and U Street should be with a U Street ANC to the east or with an Adams Morgan ANC to the north.” In a flash poll asking respondents to identify what general area they lived in before answering, among residents living within the area in question, responses were near evenly divided. Additionally, this move of 894 people in five census tracts does nothing to advance us toward the goal of greater equity for historically marginalized citizens, in either 1B or 1C.

Moving the Strivers’ Section from ANC 1C to 1B does not further the goals of respecting communities of interest, favoring continuity and stability, or advancing equity in representation. Redistricting is based on a snapshot taken at a moment in time, measuring all potential changes against an identical baseline. While it may be intellectually engaging to speculate on how population growth will pattern itself in the next decade, many recent national and world events have reminded us of the danger of predicting the future with any certitude therefore future development should not be a basis for redistricting decisions. For these reasons, I dissent from the provisions of the Task Force result that would move the Strivers’ Section from 1C to 1B and urge its removal.

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