

From: "Vincent Tran" <vincent@vietrise.org>
To: "cityclerk" <cityclerk@ggcity.org>
Sent: Tuesday, February 22, 2022 9:54:55 AM
Subject: Public Comment for Garden Grove Redistricting Hearing 2/22

Dear Garden Grove City Council,

My name is Vincent Tran, the Community Engagement Coordinator of VietRISE and a graduate of Bolsa Grande High School. VietRISE is one of the leads of the Garden Grove Redistricting Committee, a committee of Garden Grove residents who have met since [June 2021](#) to ensure Garden Grove residents are able to equitably participate in the redistricting process.

I wanted to speak in support of the map the committee has submitted. In building these maps we ensured that all communities of interest in Garden Grove with commonalities such as income, living situation, and language-needs were kept whole and would have the strongest ability to vote for their candidates of choice.

In particular, we paid close attention to ensure that low-income and house burdened communities such as apartment and mobile home renters would be kept together to strengthen their voices and ensure their needs are prioritized by their representatives.

Garden Grove is a thriving and dynamic community that is growing more and more vibrant each year with new developments continually appearing. However, this development continues to take place at the cost of renters in the city. For example, the Great Wolf Lodge was built on top of the former Travel County RV Park, displacing low-income families in the name of development. This move was executed by the city through eminent domain and resulted in a 10 year legal battle to ensure those residents would receive fair relocation money. The same could occur for the countless apartments or low-income housing located on Garden Grove Blvd and Westminster Blvd, two of the most important commerce streets in the city. These low-income renters are vulnerable residents who are currently split into 2 districts, district 3 and 4, in the current Garden Grove district breaking up a distinct community of interest.

Since 2015, the number of renter occupied housing units has seen a steady decline. According to the 2019 American Community Survey, there are 47,378 occupied housing units, 21,699 of which are renter occupied, accounting for nearly 50% of the overall occupied housing units. This is a significant drop from 2015, when Garden Grove had 23,433 renter occupied housing units, a total of 1,734 renter occupied housing units gone. At the

same time, owner occupied housing units increased by 1,731, from 23,948 in 2015 to 25,679 in 2019.

A drop of 1,734 renter occupied housing units is a cause for concern as the population of Garden Grove has not seen significant population growth since the 2010 Decennial Census, only increasing by 1,066. This suggests that renter occupied housing units are being replaced with owner occupied housing units at an alarming rate. To address this change, districts should keep together high density apartment areas, requiring representatives to center the interests and needs of apartment residents who have seen a marked decline in population since the previous establishment of district boundaries in 2016.

Thus, please ensure our most vulnerable communities are kept together by keeping the majority of apartment residents on Garden Grove Blvd together and create an additional district that keeps apartment residents on Westminster Ave together. The Garden Grove Redistricting Committee's map ensures the vast majority of renters will have representation and thrive for years to come. Please choose the Garden Grove Redistricting Committee's map. Thank you.

Sincerely,

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Vincent P. Tran

Pronouns: He/him/his

Community Engagement Coordinator

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