

## Communication from Public

**Name:** Barbara Ringuette

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**Comments for Public Posting:** November 4, 2021 Hello Councilmembers, It is troubling that major portions of at least two Council Districts are being removed from their districts as currently shaped. I am referring to Council District 2 and Council District 4. The proposed changes are so drastic that those familiar with these two districts could hardly recognize them. It is unjust to so dramatically reshape Council Districts. Voters of each district chose who they desired to represent them. How could a Redistricting Commission turn a blind eye to the wishes of so very many voters? The proposal for CD 2 is to remove most of the current communities and place them into a new CD 4. As to CD 4 - It is fundamentally unfair to remove the community in which the councilmember currently resides, Silver Lake, from the council district she represents. CD 4 Councilmember Raman resides in Silver Lake, yet her residence would be in the proposed Council District 13. The current redistricting map for the Silver Lake community has the northern portion in CD 4 while the southern portion is in CD 13, Councilmember O'Farrell's district and where I reside. In terms of the character of the Northern vs. the Southern part of Silver Lake, the current arrangement with Councilmember Raman in the north and Councilmember O'Farrell in the south makes sense. The two halves of this community differ in many respects – mostly single family vs. a majority of multi-family homes; differing socio-economic and cultural groups, languages spoken, etc. Representation of identified groups is important; the northern and the southern areas of Silver Lake are indeed two separate groups. Historically the northern and southern areas of Silver Lake have been quite different, and they remain different. Therefore, it makes perfect sense that they each should have different Council members representing them. The Silver Lake community as a whole, and the two areas, northern and southern Silver Lake are well-served by each of the two Council Districts - CD 4 and CD 13. As a 9-year Board member, until this spring, of the Silver Lake Neighborhood Council, and as Secretary of the Silver Lake Improvement Association for 9 years, I see nothing unsuitable or difficult with continuing the current arrangement of splitting our geographical area, Silver Lake, between two Councilmembers when it has been working so very well. In fact, this appears the perfect arrangement for our Silver Lake community. I understand

that two nearby communities including Glassell Park where Councilmember O'Farrell may continue to reside, have split their communities between two Council Districts. If the proposed plan were to go forward, people in these two districts will notice that their duly elected representatives have been removed and will lose confidence in the integrity of the redistricting process. Furthermore, if either of the current councilmember/s from CD 2 or CD 4 must leave their current district to represent the West Valley, then the West Valley constituents will not have the opportunity to vote for their representatives until 2024, a full 7 years since they last had a vote for a Councilperson. This is because both CD 2 and CD 4 elections were very recent, last year. I am requesting that a redrawn map continue the present division of the Silver Lake Community between the Council Districts 4 and 13. My hope is that redrawn maps for both CD 2 and CD 4 will keep Councilmember Krekorian and Councilmember Raman in the vast majority of their current districts. It's the just, the ethical, the right thing to do for the voters, for the community, and for their chosen representatives. Sincerely, Barbara Ringuette