



CITY OF LAUREL, MARYLAND

RESOLUTION NO. 1-22

A RESOLUTION OF THE MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL OF LAUREL, MARYLAND TO ESTABLISH A CITY OF LAUREL ADVISORY COMMITTEE RELATING TO THE REDISTRICTING OF CITY WARD BOUNDARIES

Sponsored by the President on behalf of the Administration.

WHEREAS, Section 603 (b) of the Laurel Charter establishes the existing two ward boundaries in the City of Laurel (“City”); and

WHEREAS, Section 603 (b) of the Laurel Charter mandates that not less than once after the publication of each decennial census of the population of the United States, the City Council shall evaluate the wards of the City to ensure that the representation is reasonably equal, and shall have the power to change the boundaries of the wards; and

WHEREAS, the 2020 census determined that the total population of the City as of 2020 was **30,060**, that the population of **Ward No. 1 is 13,614** and the population of **Ward No. 2 is 16,446**; and

WHEREAS, the Mayor and City Council wish to establish an advisory committee to review existing ward boundaries, and to make recommendation(s) to the Mayor and City Council regarding options for the adjustment of ward boundaries to provide for reasonably equal ward populations; and

WHEREAS, it is the desire of the Mayor and City Council to complete the process of redistricting so that any new ward boundaries, as may be adjusted to address the population change reflected in the decennial census in 2020, will be approved and in effect in time for the general election in the City of Laurel in November 2023; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the Mayor and City Council of Laurel, Maryland that there is hereby established an advisory committee to be known as the “**City of Laurel Redistricting Advisory Committee**” (hereinafter the “Committee”), subject to the following:

1. **Purpose and Duties**

- a. To review the existing ward boundaries of the City as established in the Laurel Charter.
- b. To review the population data from the 2020 U.S. Census as it relates to the City.
- c. To receive written or oral testimony from any person or government agency representative, including any elected or appointed official.
- d. To make recommendation to the Mayor and City Council regarding the redistricting of ward boundaries, if necessary, so that each ward will contain a reasonably equal population.
- e. No funds may be expended by the Committee for any purpose without



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- the express written consent of the City Administrator/CAO.
- f. The Committee's authority shall be limited to acting in an advisory capacity to the Mayor and City Council as set forth in this resolution.
2. **Membership.** The Committee shall consist of Five (5) voting residents of the City.
 - a. All members shall be appointed by the Mayor, confirmed by the City Council.
 - b. Membership shall be made up in the following manner:
 - i. The Mayor shall select two (2) voting members of the general public, (one (1) from each of the two wards).
 - ii. The City Council President shall select one (1) voting member of the general public.
 - iii. One member shall be from the Laurel Planning Commission.
 - iv. One member shall be from the Board of Election Supervisors.
 - c. All Committee members shall serve without compensation.
 3. **Appointment.** The voting members, as well as the Chairman and Vice-Chairman of the Committee, shall be appointed by the Mayor, subject to confirmation by a vote of the City Council.
 4. **Meetings.** All meetings of the Committee shall be open to the public with reasonable advance notice as required by Maryland State Law, except for legally permitted executive sessions. The Committee shall keep minutes of all its meetings.
 - a. The general public participation may be permitted at the discretion of the Chairman at any open meeting and shall be allowed at any meeting convened for the purpose of taking public testimony.
 - b. The Committee shall hold at least one public hearing for the purpose of taking public testimony, and there shall be at least five (5) days' notice of such hearing in the same manner as notice given for all City Council Meetings.
 5. **Staff Support.** The Mayor is hereby authorized and directed to assign staff support to the Committee, as may be required. The Clerk to the City Council and the Director of the Department of Economic and Community Development shall serve as advisors to the Committee in an ex officio, non-voting capacity.
 6. **Report to Mayor and City Council.** The Committee shall make its final report to the Mayor and City Council with its findings and recommendations, including various options as to specific redistricting of ward boundaries, within three (3) months from the date all members have been appointed and confirmed the by City Council.
 7. **Termination of Duties.** The Committee shall remain in force and effect for a period of three (3) months after the date of its report to the Mayor and City Council, unless extended or terminated earlier by a majority vote of the City



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AND, BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the members of the Committee shall serve at the pleasure of the Mayor and City Council and may be removed if the Volunteer Code of Conduct is not followed; and

AND, BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that this Resolution shall take effect on the date of its adoption.

ADOPTED this _____ day of _____, 2022.

ATTEST:

KIMBERLEY A. RAU, MMC
Clerk to the City Council

BRENCIS D. SMITH
President of the City Council

APPROVED this ____ day of _____, 2022.

CRAIG A. MOE
Mayor