

**CITY OF BONITA SPRINGS, FLORIDA  
RESOLUTION NO. 22- 07**

**A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY OF BONITA SPRINGS, FLORIDA;  
PROVIDING THE INTENT OF THE CITY COUNCIL TO REDISTRICT THE  
CITY OF BONITA SPRINGS ELECTION DISTRICTS IN ACCORDANCE  
WITH THE CITY CHARTER AND IN CONSIDERATION OF THE 2020  
CENSUS CONDUCTED BY THE U.S. CENSUS BUREAU; AND PROVIDING  
FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE.**

WHEREAS, as required by Article I of the Constitution of the United States, the U.S. Census Bureau must conduct a census every ten years to determine the number of people living in the United States; and

WHEREAS, Section 53 of the City Charter provides that in the year 2001, and in the odd-numbered years after each decennial census thereafter, and at any time when required by law, the City Council may redivide the City into six districts as roughly equal in permanent population (along precinct lines) as practical; and

WHEREAS, the City Council most recently redistricted the City by adoption of Ordinance 12-02 using data from the 2010 Census; and

WHEREAS, the U.S. Census Bureau has completed the 2020 Census and the data is now available to the public; and

WHEREAS, in accordance with the City Charter and in consideration of the 2020 Census data, the City Council intends to adjust the boundary lines of the City's election districts by adoption of an ordinance; and

WHEREAS, the City has contracted with Kurt Spitzer & Associates to assist the City Council in analyzing the 2020 Census data and redistricting the City accordingly.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF BONITA SPRINGS:**

**SECTION 1. *Public Participation.*** The City Council will conduct a transparent redistricting process with opportunity for public participation. All redistricting plan information will be available to the public in a timely fashion, free of charge, via the City's website and other reasonable means. The public will have the opportunity to submit comments on district maps for City Council's consideration.

**SECTION 2. *Expert Consultant.*** In March 2022, insofar as practical or possible, Kurt Spitzer & Associates will present to City Council its final recommendation for revisions to the City's election district boundaries in accordance with the criteria provided in this resolution. Kurt Spitzer & Associates must include a map together with a description of the recommended election

districts and, may include several other potential redistricting options that meet the criteria established in this resolution.

**SECTION 3. Redistricting Criteria.** The City Council shall follow established constitutional principles for redistricting in accordance with law. In furtherance of this requirement, the City Council shall adopt election district boundaries that meet the criteria set forth below. With the exception of population equality and compliance with the Voting Rights Act, which are mandatory criteria, there is no order of priority among the remaining criteria, which are discretionary criteria that the Council is choosing to follow to the extent practicable.

- A. **Population Equality.** Election districts must be based upon the principle of equal and effective representation as required by the U.S. Constitution. Accordingly, each district must be as nearly of equal population as is practicable. The districts may deviate somewhat from perfect population equality to accommodate the redistricting criteria otherwise set forth in this resolution. The target for population deviation is no more than 3% greater or less than the ideal population for election districts, and in no case may the difference in deviation between the largest and smallest election districts exceed ten percentage points based on the data available from the 2020 census. The City Council may consider future population growth over the next decennial period.
- B. **Voting Rights Act.** The districts must comply with Section 2 of the U.S. Voting Rights Act of 1965, which prohibits voting practices or procedures that discriminate on the basis of race, color, or membership in certain language minority groups, or which result in denying a racial or language minority and equal opportunity to participate in the political process. To this end, election districts must not be drawn in a manner that results in the dilution of the vote of a racial, ethnic, or language minority group.
- C. **Compactness.** Each district should to the extent practicable be compact, striving for a minimum distance between all parts of the district with no bizarre shapes. For example, a circle, square, or hexagon would be examples of shapes that are compact.
- D. **Contiguity.** Each district must have contiguous territory, where all parts of the district are connected at some point with the rest of the district. Contiguity may be achieved by crossing a waterbody.
- E. **Geographical Boundaries.** The boundaries of each district should, to the extent practicable, recognize significant natural or man-made boundaries. For example, these include water bodies, major highways, or railroad tracks.
- F. **Political Boundaries.** Each district should, to the extent practicable, recognize and not split existing political boundaries such as U.S. Congressional and Florida Legislative districts, voting precincts, or census blocks.
- G. **Communities of Interest.** Each district should to the extent practicable recognize and not split existing communities of interest such as where people share recognizable social, political, cultural, religious, or economic interests. Communities of interest may

include but are not limited to established neighborhoods and subdivisions, downtown districts, historical districts, or economic districts.


H. **Existing District Cores.** Each district should, to the extent practicable, maintain existing election districts as previously drawn.

**SECTION 4. Intended timeline.** The City Council intends to establish revised election district boundaries with an ordinance adopted no later than May 4, 2022, insofar as practical or possible.

**SECTION 5. Effective date.** This resolution shall take effect immediately upon adoption.

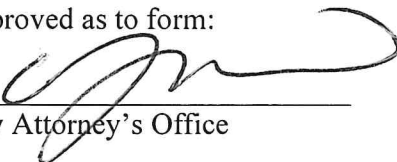
DULY PASSED AND ENACTED by the City Council of the City of Bonita Springs, Lee County, Florida, this 19<sup>th</sup> day of January, 2022.

AUTHENTICATION

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Mayor Rick Steinmeyer

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
City Clerk's Office

Approved as to form:

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
City Attorney's Office

[Seal]



Vote:

Carr Aye	Purdon Aye
Corrie Aye	Quaremba Aye
Forbes Aye	Steinmeyer Aye
Gibson Aye	