



ST. CHARLES
SINCE 1834

AGENDA ITEM EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Title:	Recommendation to approve a new ward map for the City of St. Charles
Presenter:	Brian Townsend/Ward Redistricting Task Force Members

Please check appropriate box:

X	Government Operations (2/6/12)		Government Services (1/23/12)
	Planning & Development		City Council
	Public Hearing		

Estimated Cost:		Budgeted:	YES		NO	
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If NO, please explain how item will be funded:

Executive Summary:

The City of St. Charles is divided into five districts, or wards, for the purpose of electing aldermen to the City Council. As a result of the 2010 census, the City of St. Charles is required to review its ward boundaries and make changes to balance population. The wards must also be compact.

In order to complete the task, Mayor DeWitte and the City Council established a "Redistricting Task Force" of three aldermen to work with city staff and legal counsel to redraw the wards. Aldermen Jim Martin, Cliff Carrignan, and Bill Turner were appointed to this task force. The task force held its first meeting on Monday, October 24th. At this meeting, the task force received guidance from legal counsel and discussed a series of proposed changes. A second meeting was held on Monday, December 5th, to review a proposed map. At the conclusion of the meeting, the Redistricting Task Force recommended that a draft map be forwarded to the City Council for its consideration.

In performing the task of redrawing the map, the task force followed certain legal requirements, including balancing population (i.e. deviation of no more than 1%). The group also considered typical neighborhood boundaries as well as commonly recognized geographic barriers in the community (e.g., Main Street and the Fox River).

At the February 6th Government Operations Committee meeting, the Ward Redistricting Task Force will present two alternatives for the members of the committee to consider. One map received a unanimous recommendation from the task force. A second map has also been prepared based on concerns expressed by Ald. Bessner pertaining to the Harvest Hills neighborhood being split into two wards.

Attachments: *(please list)*

None – maps will be presented at the Government Operations Committee meeting

Recommendation / Suggested Action *(briefly explain):*

Recommend to the City Council that a new Ward Map be adopted for the City of St. Charles.

<i>For office use only:</i>	<i>Agenda Item Number: 7b</i>
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