



City of Twentynine Palms
6136 Adobe Road
Twentynine Palms, CA 92277
760-367-6799 ~ FAX 760-367-4890
www.29palms.org

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The City of Twentynine Palms Launches Redistricting Community Engagement Phase

The City of Twentynine Palms launched its redistricting process in July with its first public hearing. Tonight, the City Council will hold its second of four hearings and launch the community engagement phases of the redistricting effort. With the release of the official data by the State of California on September 20, 2021, the City can now proceed with developing maps that will benefit from community feedback. Concurrent with its second hearing tonight, September 28, 2021, the City will formally launch its community outreach efforts.

“We have been on pins and needles waiting for the State to release this data - it was the final dataset we required to enter the map drawing phase. Now begins the critical process of educating and engaging with the public to learn about the communities of interest in our city to ensure our district lines preserve those communities,” said Mayor Daniel Mintz.

Every 10 years, local governments use new data from the Census to redraw their district lines to reflect how local populations have changed. On August 12, 2021, the United States Census Bureau released the official data for the 2020 Census. The California Statewide Database then implemented adjustments for the State and County prison population as required by state law and released the data to the public on September 20, 2021.

Using the finalized Census data, the City will begin working with the City’s demographer consultants, National Demographics Corporation, to begin drafting maps and work to narrow down maps for Council consideration. The City of Twentynine Palms has tentatively scheduled its third redistricting public hearing on February 8, 2022 at 6:30 PM which will include a presentation of draft maps for consideration.

Members of the Twentynine Palms community are encouraged to participate in the redistricting process to help ensure district lines respect neighborhoods, history and align with geographical elements. The public can get involved in the redistricting process by speaking at public hearings, drawing maps or identifying communities of interest. The City is launching a dedicated redistricting website within the next week. Residents are not required to submit complete maps; they can simply draw boundaries for their own desired district.

For more information on the third public hearing and how to draw a map, send an email to redistricting@29palms.org.

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