



The Coalition Map

December 17, 2021

The Honorable Michelle Harris
Chairman, Committee on Rules and Committees
Chicago City Council
121 North LaSalle, Room 200
Chicago, Illinois 60602

Dear Chairman Harris:

Thank you for your dedication to helping the City Council produce an updated ward map for 2022 and beyond ("Map"). In response to your enthusiasm and as an indication of respect for your leadership, the co-sponsors of the Chicago Coalition Map hereby affirm our intention to continue our dialogue with you and our colleagues. We hope that we can work together to produce a Map the whole City can support.

We appreciate your invitation to meet in the Rules Committee map room ("Map Room") to discuss and resolve outstanding issues. We believe that if we can agree on protocols for our work in the Map Room, we can make substantial progress on developing a Map. Accordingly, we respectfully submit the enclosed draft of proposed protocols. We would be grateful if you would consider these ideas to be a preliminary draft for discussion. We welcome your responses and suggested edits, if any.

Please do not hesitate to contact me if you would like to discuss these concepts in person or by phone. We look forward to continuing our work together.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Silvana Tabares". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Silvana Tabares
Vice Chair
Chicago City Council Latino Caucus

CC:

Alderman Daniel LaSpata - 1st Ward
Alderman Brian Hopkins - 2nd Ward
Alderman Anthony Beale - 9th Ward
Alderman Susan Sadlowski Garza - 10th Ward
Alderman George Cardenas - 12th Ward
Alderman Raymond Lopez - 15th Ward
Alderman Michael Rodriguez - 22nd Ward
Alderman Byron Sigcho Lopez - 25th Ward
Alderman Ariel Reboyras - 30th Ward
Alderman Felix Cardona - 31st Ward
Alderman Rossana Rodriguez-Sanchez - 33rd Ward
Alderman Carlos Ramirez-Rosa - 35th Ward
Alderman Gilbert Villegas – 36th Ward
Alderman Andre Vasquez - 40th Ward

Proposed Protocols

The City Council acknowledges that the Black Caucus and Latino Caucus represent populations that are protected by the Voting Rights Act and that in some neighborhoods of the City, these protected populations live side-by-side in their communities. The Council further acknowledges that although the intermingling of such populations in communities of interest is a strength of these communities, the intermingling presents unique challenges for ward remapping. Accordingly, the Rules Committee shall prioritize mapping for members of the Black Caucus and Latino Caucus where their populations are intermingled and shall prioritize mapping of such areas over the mapping of areas of the City populated by non-protected groups.

Members of the Black Caucus and the Latino Caucus shall agree on suggested protocols for work in the map room. The Rules Committee shall agree to follow such protocols when mapping all wards that may be affected by adjustments to maps of members of the Black Caucus and Latino Caucus.

A subgroup of the City Council consisting of a small group of members of the Black Caucus and the Latino Caucus shall meet one time per week to review the progress of City mapping and to discuss outstanding issues and potential means to resolve those issues.

Alderpersons shall map in groups by region. A region shall consist of no less than 5 alderpersons who have wards generally located within the same geographic area of the City.

During each mapping session, alderpersons shall be shown an entire map of the City and shall be shown how the map of their region intersects with the remainder of the City. Alderpersons shall be entitled to secure statistics on how their mapping choices will affect surrounding wards. Notwithstanding mapping by region, boundaries of alderpersons in adjacent regions shall be shown to the aldermen who are present in the map room and working on mapping.

Alderspersons may be represented by counsel and by a map maker in mapping meetings, but such representatives shall not speak in the meeting except as necessary to answer questions. Otherwise, all advocacy conversations shall be held outside of the map room. Groups of alderspersons, members of Caucuses, and the Rules Committee may include counsel in their mapping meetings by region, but counsel shall be available only to respond to questions and should not interject opinions into the meeting. Counsel may ask clients to step out into the hallway to hold discussions in private.

The Rules Committee shall encourage all alderspersons to be flexible and to be willing to move boundaries in the interest of compromise. None of the wards shall be deemed to be "locked-in" in their entirety.

At the end of each mapping session conducted in a group by region, every attendee shall receive a printed copy of the regional map illustrating the agreed-upon boundaries settled in the mapping session.

Boundaries that have been agreed between members by region shall not be changed by the Rules Committee without the specific agreement of the alderspersons whose boundaries are at issue.