



**To: Mayor Jerry L. Demings**  
**and**  
**Vice Mayor Michael Scott, District 6**  
**Commissioner Nicole Wilson, District 1**  
**Commissioner Christine Moore, District 2**  
**Commissioner Mayra Uribe, District 3**  
**Commissioner Maribel Gomez-Cordero, District 4**

**FROM: Commissioner Dr. Kelly Martinez Semrad, District 5**

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be "KMS", written over the printed name of Commissioner Dr. Kelly Martinez Semrad.

**DATE: January 27, 2025**

**SUBJECT: Discussion Agenda B. 1. Resolution Creating Redistricting Advisory Board**

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I hope this message finds you well. I regret not being able to join tomorrow's discussion on the 2025 Redistricting Committee (*Discussion Agenda B. 1. Resolution Creating Redistricting Advisory Board*), and I apologize for my absence. Please accept this memo as my formal submission to express several concerns regarding the proposed Redistricting resolution. These concerns stem from my experience serving on the 2021 Redistricting Advisory Committee.

Specifically, I would like to address the roles, responsibilities, and decision-making powers of the committee's Co-Chairs. Below, I have outlined my suggestions for revisions:

**1. Section 4(b)(1) – Designation of Co-Chairs by the Mayor**

I respectfully request that the designation of Co-Chairs by the Mayor be reconsidered. Instead, I propose adding language that allows the Redistricting Committee to select its own Co-Chairs. This approach has been successfully implemented for the County's most important boards like the Charter Review Commission<sup>1</sup> and nearly all other County Advisory Boards. I believe adopting this practice for the Redistricting Advisory Committee will provide greater autonomy and flexibility.

<sup>1</sup> CRC Meeting Agenda 2/20/2023

<http://occompt.legistar.com/View.ashx?M=A&ID=1082595&GUID=5CF5A11B-CFEE-4EB5-9248-577C7C7D5FB0>

**COMMISSIONER KELLY MARTINEZ SEMRAD, DISTRICT 5**

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## **2. Section 5(c) – Additional Meetings**

The current language reads: "Such requests may only be initiated by joint motion brought forth by the Committee's Co-Chairs, which is then approved by the majority of the Committee members present." I recommend modifying this to: "Such requests may only be initiated by the Committee through a motion instructing the Co-Chairs to request additional meeting(s), which is then approved by the majority of the Committee members present." This revision would allow the full Committee to act on such matters, rather than leaving it solely in the hands of the Co-Chairs.

## **3. Section 5(d)(3)(i) – Co-Chairs Adding Additional Items to the Agenda**

I suggest removing this provision entirely. Empowering the Co-Chairs to add items to the agenda without a majority vote from the Committee members could undermine the collaborative nature of the body. I believe the Committee should have the authority to determine the agenda by majority vote.

## **4. Section 7(b)(2) – Rules of Procedure**

The current language stipulates that changes to the Rules of Procedure may be made "by joint motion of the Co-Chairs." I recommend replacing this with "by motion" to give the Committee members the opportunity to adopt their own rules independently.

I am deeply honored to have served our community during the previous Redistricting process. My experience highlighted several operational challenges, and I hope that the insights gained from that process can help guide improvements in this new resolution. I believe the proposed amendments would enhance the independence and input of the Redistricting Advisory Committee, ensuring a more effective and collaborative process that will benefit our Orange County community.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Most Sincerely,  
/S/ Dr. Kelly Martinez Semrad  
Orange County District 5 Commissioner

Cc: Byron Brooks, County Administrator, Jeffrey Newton, County Attorney, Georgiana Holmes, Deputy County Attorney, Cheryl Gillespie, Supervisor, Agenda Development Office

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