



The Coalition Map

January 28, 2022

Chairwoman Michelle Harris
Committee on Rules and Ethics
City Council of Chicago
121 N. LaSalle St., #200
Chicago, IL 60602

Chairwoman Harris:

Thank you for your invitation to a meeting this Sunday with members of the Black Caucus and other members of the City Council for the intention of reaching a compromise on redistricting. For several months, members of the Latino Caucus and sponsors of the Chicago Coalition Map have urged the Rules Committee and Black Caucus to engage in sincere negotiations. We are grateful for your efforts to bring everyone together again this weekend, and we hope that the meeting will result in genuine compromise by all members of the City Council. We were disappointed to hear that our original Black Caucus and Coalition Map negotiation meeting scheduled for today, Friday, January 28th was abruptly cancelled 24 hours before the agreed upon time. We are glad to hear members in support of the Committee on Rules map have reconsidered and set up a meeting for this weekend on this most urgent issue.

We have a historic opportunity to bring together members of the City Council to produce a map that is fair and legally defensible. As a sign of good faith, the Coalition Map sponsors sent ahead suggested protocols for continued negotiations to show our sincere hope to reach a compromise. Although those were immediately dismissed in your letter dated January 10, 2022, we still hope to discuss those protocols with you on Sunday.

As you know, we introduced the Chicago Coalition Map nearly six weeks before the December 1, 2021 deadline to give Chicagoans the opportunity to review the boundaries, become informed about the data, and to ask questions about the map. Although your letter suggested Sunday's meeting be "closed to the public", we respectfully offer a suggestion of streaming this meeting on Facebook LIVE as to show the public backroom deals are a thing of the past and we are making this a transparent process open to all residents of Chicago.

We look forward to seeing you on Sunday in hopes of finding middle ground with all members of the City Council while engaging in a process that is transparent, open, and fair.

Sincerely,

Alderman Gilbert Villegas - 36th Ward
Co-Sponsor of the Chicago Coalition Map

CC:
All co-sponsors of the Chicago Coalition Map