

**To:** Members of City Council

**From:** Dana L. McDaniel, City Manager

**Initiated by:** Homer C. Rogers, Jr., CLRP, Assistant City Manager/Chief Strategy and Innovation Officer

Jennifer M. Rauch, AICP, Director of Planning

Brandon B. Brown, Director of Performance Analytics

Damon Leonhard, Senior Data Analyst

**Date:** March 30, 2021

**Re:** Ward Boundary Adjustment

## Summary

In accordance with Section 9.04 of the Revised Charter for the City of Dublin, City Council is charged with reviewing ward boundaries no less than every 10 years. The last review of the ward boundaries occurred in May 2011. The language of the Revised Charter is attached for your reference. The goal of the systematic review of the boundaries is to ensure a relatively equal population is divided among the wards, based upon the best available population data and minimizing splitting neighborhoods between wards by using major streets and subdivision boundaries as proposed ward boundaries.

City staff has prepared background data and maps that show the retention of the current ward boundaries and a proposed realignment of the boundaries to rebalance the ward populations. The background data accounts for the City's population change by ward from 2010 to 2020, including new residential developments that occurred during that time, 2025 population projections and future residential development in the subsequent 10 years (2020-2030).

A final scenario will be developed based on Council's feedback and brought forward for adoption at a City Council meeting in May.

## Recommendation

Staff requests City Council's input and guidance on the proposed scenarios, and whether other scenarios should be considered and additional data is needed prior to future adoption of the ward boundaries.

*Excerpt from the Revised Charter of the City of Dublin, Ohio*

#### **9.04. WARDS AND BOUNDARIES.**

(a) *ESTABLISHMENT OF WARDS.*

No later than July 1, 2001 and no less frequently than every ten years thereafter, Council shall, by legislation, divide or redivide the City into four wards for the purpose of electing four ward Council members at the next regular municipal election. The division or re-division of the City into four wards shall provide for substantially equal population in each ward.

(b) *WARD BOUNDARIES.*

All wards shall be bounded, to the extent possible, by county lines, streets, alleys, avenues, public grounds, canals, water-courses, municipal boundary lines, center lines of platted streets or railroads, or lot lines of platted subdivisions.

(c) *EFFECT OF RE-DIVISION.*

Re-division of the City into wards shall not terminate or otherwise affect the unexpired terms of ward Council members; however, at succeeding elections, ward Council members shall be elected from the wards as reapportioned or re-established under this Section.

(d) *CENSUS.*

Council shall have the power to cause a census of the City to be taken if it determines a census is necessary for the proper apportionment of the City's wards. Council may authorize officials and employees of the City, independent contractors or state or federal government agencies to conduct the census under the control and direction of Council.