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Ward Zoning Hearing advice

Resolved, ANC 1D advises the DC Council to make amendments to the 2011 Ward Redistricting to implement the following points.

1. There can be at least one, and better two, ANCs with majority Latino population. Similarly, other minority groups or demographic clustering should be respected so that local social and political functioning can mature and not be scrambled every decade. And, any relatively contingent demographic sector can have a chance for electing a representative council-member or for being influential in petitioning its interests.
2. Draw boundaries that respect social realities rather than conveniences of mapping. So, the neighbors on both sides of a street should be in the same ward.
3. Draw boundaries that respect neighborhood integrity. So, neighborhood areas can remain stable even when ward boundaries shift. Three ANCs are now split between wards without major problems. However, neighborhoods with strongly different interests but contingent geography are better assigned to different political districts so that they don't neutralize each other. (Wikipedia reports there are about 130 neighborhoods in DC. Many are composites of strongly divergent demographics where differences should be respected.)
4. Zoning types, including strong differences in density, usually result in contrasting social interests. For example, the area around Ward One is north of the central concentration of office buildings, and south and east of areas of semi-detached housing. Similarly, Mid-Town (roughly the traditional Ward One) has functioned as an integrated social unit for over a century. Its area is set by strongly different types of buildings: the area north of Florida Avenue, south of Spring Road and the McMillan plan boundary for a 'green necklace' of small parks, east of Rock Creek Park, and west of the Washington Hospital Center and the old Corp of Engineers water facility.

Passed by 2 to 1 vote at the legally noticed, public meeting of ANCID on May 17, 2011, with a quorum present. Voting "yes": Commissioners Romero-Castillo, Edwards. Voting "no": Commissioner McKay. Abstaining: Commissioners Wilson Phelan, Scott. Absent: Commissioner Terrell.