

From: AEMAdmin@sdcounty.ca.gov
Sent: Saturday, September 25, 2021 12:28 PM
To: Potter, Andrew; Fang, Angela; Donnelly, Liberty; Temple, Nicole; Flores, Lauren; COSD, Redistricting; Hall, David; Lau, Chim; Villa, Nicole
Subject: IRC eComment

You've received a new form based mail from
<https://www.sandiegocounty.gov/content/sdc/redistricting/IRCEcomment.html>.

Values:

First_Name :
Ramah

Last_Name :
Awad

E-mail :

Phone :

eComment :

Dear Commissioners,

My name is Ramah Awad, and I am the Programs Manager with Majdal: the Arab Community Center of San Diego, located on East Main St in El Cajon. As an Arab-American, a granddaughter of refugees, and a daughter of immigrants to the U.S., I identify with San Diego's Arab refugee and immigrant communities. I live in the La Mesa area and spend a great deal of time in El Cajon and the SDSU College Area supporting recently resettled refugees and new immigrants from the Middle East, mainly Syria and Iraq.

My community is connected through our shared experiences as immigrants, refugees, or children of immigrants and refugees, a common language (Arabic), shared cultural values, and places of worship. The community I work with shares similar socioeconomic backgrounds: as renters, business owners, and a high proportion work in the service sector and are recipients of government aid programs. As a newcomer community, the majority of us speak a primary language other than English at home, and are limited English proficient.

I am writing to you today to emphasize the importance of including El Cajon, La Mesa, other San Diego refugee and immigrant communities together in a single Supervisorial district. I see myself in community with El Cajon, City Heights, Lemon Grove, Rancho San Diego, Granite Hills, Bostonia, Paradise Hills, Spring Valley, Encanto, and Skyline communities.

I identify my Community of Interest as BIPOC (Black, Indigenous, People of Color) Immigrants and Refugees. We also see our communities included in the current 4th district.

In addition, La Mesa must remain united in a single District and be included with other refugee and immigrant communities throughout the county to ensure that our shared needs as BIPOC, refugees, and immigrants, such as

affordable housing, equitable transportation access, and English Language Services, are adequately addressed by the San Diego County Board of Supervisors.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Best,
Ramah Awad

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