

**Minutes of the Nonpartisan Independent Council Fair Districting Commission  
Meeting  
Summit County Council Chamber  
6 p.m. Tuesday, Sept. 21, 2021**

**CALL TO ORDER**

Commission Chair Sugerman called the meeting to order.

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**ROLL CALL**

Members present: Michael Callahan, Tracy Carter, Frances Buchholzer, Cazzell Smith, and Irving Sugerman.

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**APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM THE ORGANIZATIONAL MEETING ON  
TUESDAY, SEPT. 14, 2021**

Motion by Commission Chair Sugerman to accept the minutes from the Sept. 14 was approved by commission.

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**PRESENTATION**

By the Book Advisors and Mark Salling (Levin Urban College, Cleveland State University) provided an overview of the redistricting process as well as population shifts within Summit County. The population changes, according to Salling, necessitate a redrawing of council district boundaries. (Attached is Salling's PowerPoint presentation)

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**PUBLIC COMMENT**

Cynthia Blake, a Summit County resident, provided testimony to the commission urging them to draw compact districts in the City of Akron to allow for the election of minority candidates to office. (Attached is Blake's testimony)

Summit County Councilwoman Gloria Rodgers spoke to the commission, asking for consideration of Blake's testimony and drawing districts to allow for the election of minority candidates to office.

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### **MISCELLANEOUS BUSINESS**

Commission members spoke about the redistricting process, including discussion surrounding the direction the commission should take when drawing district boundaries as well as conversation recommending an examination of the Voting Rights Act as it concerns redistricting.

The commission also discussed the upcoming meeting schedule.

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### **ADJOURNMENT**

Chair Sugerman made a motion to adjourn, which was accepted by the commission.