I am Pablo Calderon and live in Kelly Allen Gray’s district.

The City Council used ten criteria for single-member districts in our last redistricting process. Two criteria need an affirmative position, not criteria seemingly set by an attorney protecting his client by setting standards at minimum compliance.

Criteria #2. “The districts should assure that voting rights of racial and language minorities to participate in the electoral process and to elect candidates of their choice are not diluted.” “Are not diluted” should be changed to strengthened.

Criteria #3. “The proposed districts should assure that voting rights of racial and language minorities under the current single-member district plan are not adversely affected.” Are not adversely affected is a minimum goal. The purpose of ten districts is to strengthen and increase minority representation.

Minority communities should not be cracked or fragmented into several districts, none or fewer of which are minority opportunity districts.

Minority communities should not be packed or concentrated into a small number of districts so that their votes are wasted in a district where their preferred candidate will win by an overwhelming margin.

Minority opportunity districts must have at least 50% minority voting-age population.

Criteria #7 should be deleted. “Where possible each district should encompass areas located inside and outside loop 820.”

Conflict of interest is inherent in Criteria #10. “Consideration may be given to the residence of City Council incumbents and their history in representing certain areas.”

An Independent Redistricting Committee would reduce the Council’s conflict of interest in drawing their own districts. Can a redistricting committee be named by someone other than the council? If appointed by the council, how may it be made independent? Their principal responsibility is faithfulness to residents not the council person.

The Independent Redistricting Committee will need a statistical analysis of past council election results to determine the degree of racially polarized voting.