

Y.K.'s Revenge?

TO: Mayor Kerri Howell, the Folsom City Council, City Attorney Steven Wang

FROM: Linda Holderness, resident of Chelsea Ridge

RE: The Map (Preferred Map 2) That Disenfranchises Chelsea Ridge

Text from your criteria for creating election districts:

- *The geographic integrity of any local neighborhood or local community of interest should be respected in a manner that minimizes division. A “community of interest” is a population that shares common social or economic interests that should be included within a single district for purposes of its effective and fair representation.*
- *Council districts shall be bounded by natural and artificial barriers, by streets, or by the boundaries of the city.*
- *Council districts shall be drawn to encourage geographic compactness in a manner that nearby areas of population are not bypassed in favor of more distant populations.*

I submit that your assignment of Chelsea Ridge on Preferred Map 2 violates these criteria.

During the scattershot process at your Feb. 15 meeting to draw an alternative by-district voting map, Council Member Chalamcherla suggested ousting my little neighborhood of Chelsea Ridge from East Broadstone and leaping it over tall buildings to join neighborhoods with which it has no contiguity and even less common community interest. The rest of the council agreed.

I don't know what this move accomplished for the map, but I do know what it's doing to a couple hundred residents in Chelsea Ridge: Disenfranchising us.

Chelsea Ridge is a tiny neighborhood of affordable homes. We were the first neighborhood Elliott built in east Broadstone, which is now populated with everything from mansions to apartment buildings. We watched it all go up.

Retirees live in Chelsea Ridge because the homes are the right size and good quality for the price. Young families choose it for the excellent schools.

We shop here with all of our Broadstone neighbors. Our kids make friends across the Broadstone communities—groups of them who look nothing like one another play American sports year round outside my window. We don't have parks and trails of our own, so we share the ones our neighbors do have. Chelsea Ridge is part of the wide, wide Broadstone world. What do we know from Big Valley Road?

With Preferred Map #2, we are not physically connected to a single neighborhood in our assigned district. More than that, the map's meandering boundaries look gerrymandered for everybody. I suspect many residents would find flaws in this arrangement—if they knew you were drawing a map, which hardly anyone does.

I especially appeal to Council Member Aquino, who has been so sensitive about the need to keep neighborhoods together: Please do not unmoor us from our community of interest.

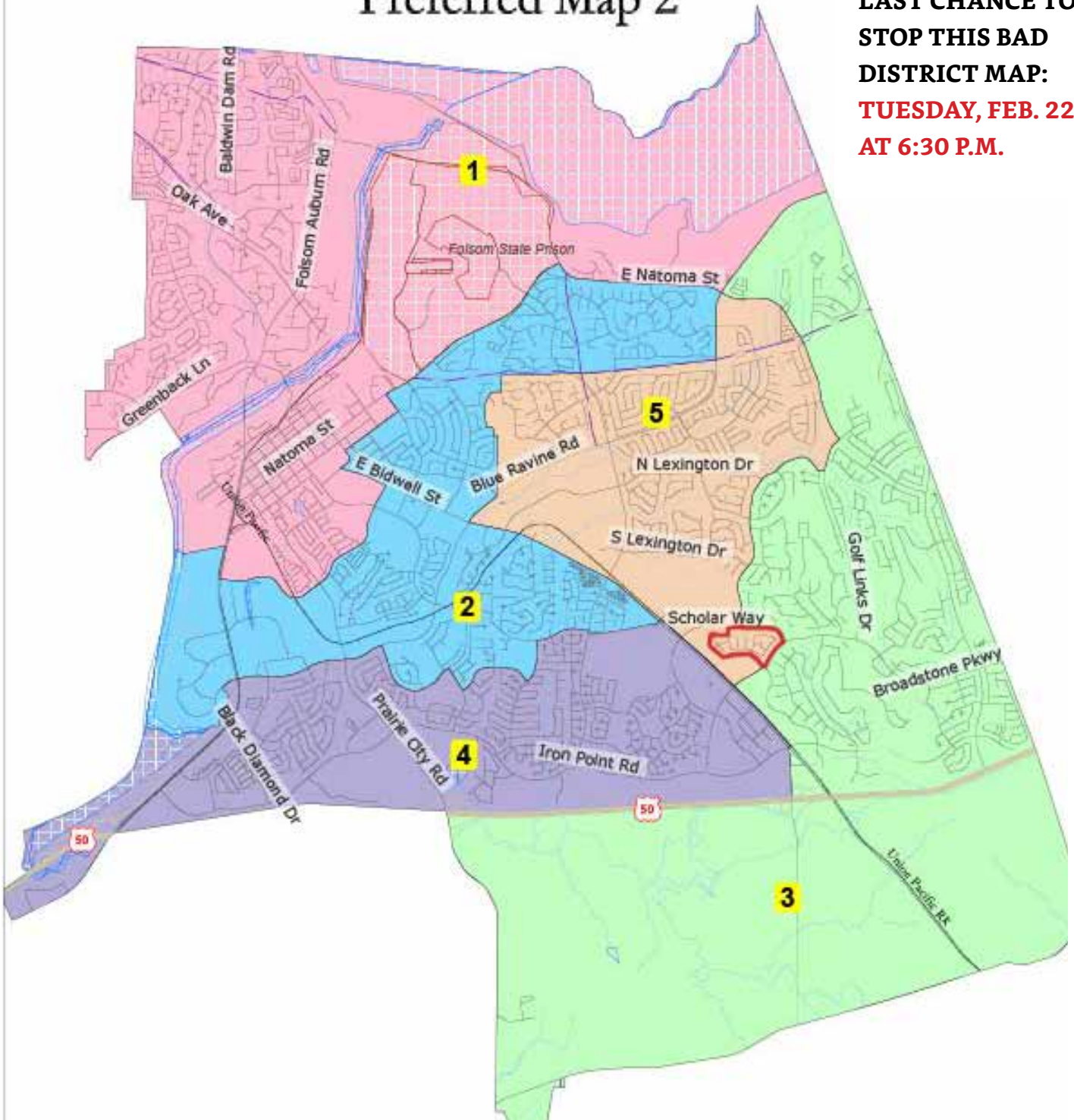
Please don't disenfranchise the residents of Chelsea Ridge. Do not select Preferred Map 2.

P.S. Consider this? ... As a starting point to modify this map, swap Chelsea Ridge with the northernmost section of District 3. Your boundary there appears to split a neighborhood, and below it is a swath of uninhabited land. The move would make this area contiguous with its neighbors, smooth out boundaries, and create room for Chelsea Ridge to be returned to the rest of Broadstone.



Preferred Map 2

**LAST CHANCE TO
STOP THIS BAD
DISTRICT MAP:
TUESDAY, FEB. 22,
AT 6:30 P.M.**



Notice the small red outline under the words “Scholar Way”—that is Chelsea Ridge. Notice the empty tracts all around it—those are non-residential areas. Chelsea Ridge is not connected to any neighborhoods in its proposed council district. Even within this district, it is not aligned with neighborhoods that share its “community of interest.” Instead, we have been separated from the Broadstone neighborhoods with whom we are tied geographically, culturally, historically, politically. Please help restore our voting rights in local elections by including Chelsea Ridge with the rest of east Broadstone.

Linda Holderness/Hillswick Circle/Chelsea Ridge