



## EAST LIBERTY PARK community organization

March 25, 2022

Dear Salt Lake City Redistricting Advisory Commission:

We are writing you as representatives of the community councils of Salt Lake City. From Westpointe to the East Bench, and from Sugar House to Rose Park, community councils cover every street and neighborhood in the city, forming an accessible, local, volunteer-led connection with city residents.

The boundaries of community councils are familiar to Salt Lake City residents even if they aren't aware of what these councils do. That's because these borders trace the understood spaces that residents use to define where they live and to develop a deep and proud sense of home. If community councils are new to you, we encourage you to learn more about them from your colleagues and from testimony by city residents.

As you know, boundaries matter. Where they are drawn can have real-life implications on representation, identity, and belonging. We are asking that you, as members of the Salt Lake City Redistricting Advisory Commission, respect the current community council boundaries as you draft new City Council districts.

You can find the current community council boundaries on a map (PDF) located at this link:

<http://www.slcdocs.com/comcoun/pdfs/map11x17.pdf>

Recently, the redistricting maps created by state lawmakers did not always follow existing community council borders in Salt Lake City. Neighborhoods in East Liberty Park and Sugar House that had been connected for decades to adjacent areas found themselves separated by new and arbitrary political boundaries.

We believe that respecting and maintaining community council boundaries—where it is possible—is even more important for local levels of representation like city councils.

Thank you for considering the vital role and impact that community councils play in Salt Lake City's local governance as you develop new maps for its residents.

Sincerely,

Jason Stevenson, East Liberty Park Community Organization (ELPCO) co-chair

Also signed by the boards or chairs of:

*Salt Lake Community Network (SLCN)*

*Sugar House Community Council*

*East Central Community Council*

*Greater Avenues Community Council*

*Yalecrest Neighborhood Council*

*Liberty Wells Community Council*

*Ballpark Community Council*