

Testimony of Rep Pat Dillon, D-92, July 19 Redistricting Hearing

Good evening, and thank you for taking the time to come into our community to hear our views on redistricting.

I'm here to talk about the 92<sup>nd</sup> district and how it fits with other patterns in the city of New Haven, and to help you in your decision making. Tonight there are several other meetings in the 92<sup>nd</sup> district. Given the distance, several people asked if they can communicate with you without attending this evening.

As you know, New Haven's population increased 5%, largely in the Latino community and in the eastern part of the city. The two districts with the smallest population – 93 and 92 respectively - lie towards the west.

The 92<sup>nd</sup> district includes Dwight, West River, Edgewood, and Westville neighborhoods: that is, wards 2 and 3 in part, and wards 23,24,25,26,and 27 in whole. I represented current ward 23 and parts of ward 2, 3, and 26 in Dwight and West River neighborhoods when I represented former ward 23 on the Board of Aldermen. Since then the number of wards grew from 27 to 30 - wards are smaller - and the Board of Alders has redrawn lines without conforming to state districts. Whatever the aldermanic lines, the streets and families are the same.

Like many neighborhoods, the communities of interest in 92 often cluster around houses of worship. Ward 25, in the center of Westville, and part of ward 24, have relatively little turnover. Some stay close to walk to synagogue nearby, others remain involved in local civic groups and St Aedan's parish.

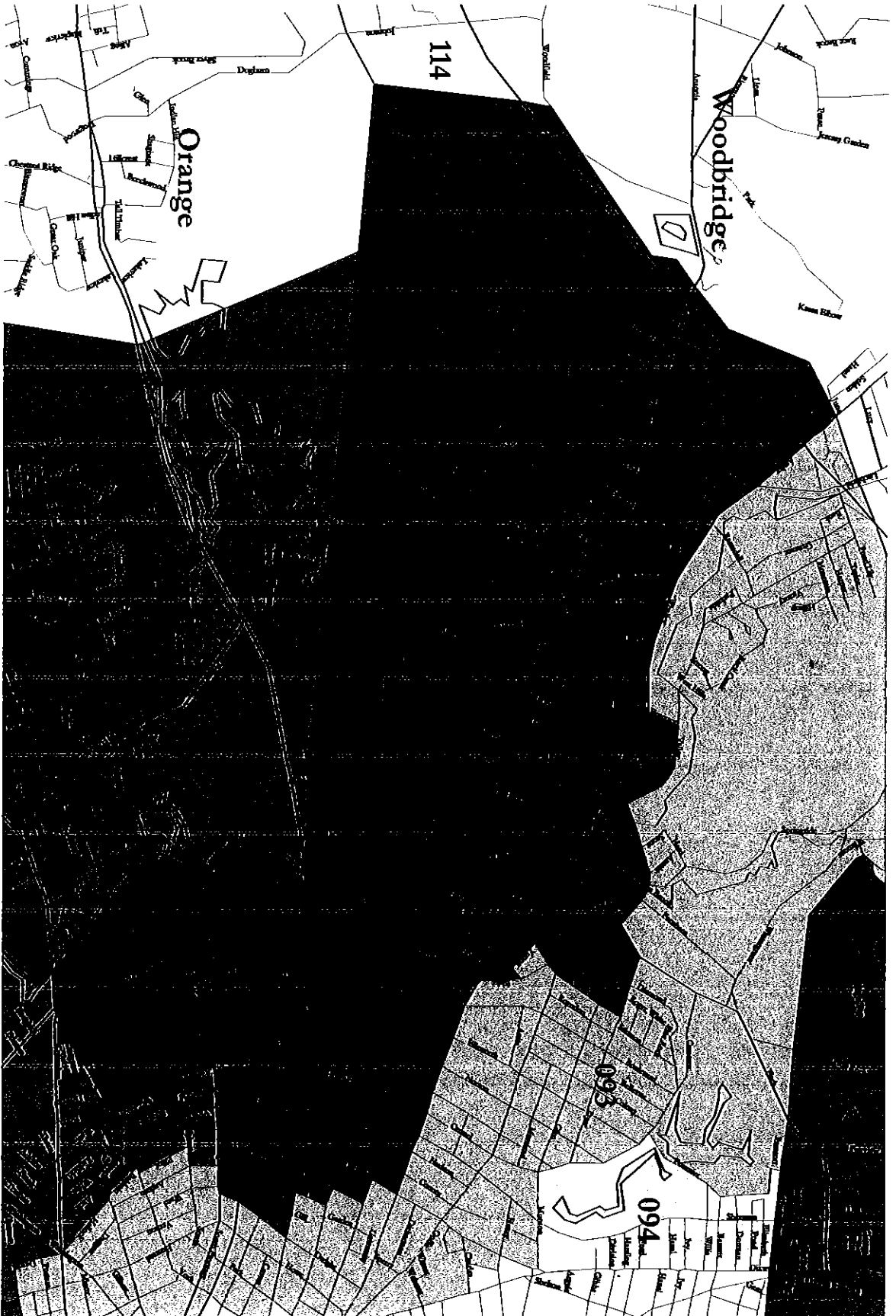
Many in wards 26 and 27 maintain ties to wards 2 and 23 through family ties and church membership. The demographics of the 92<sup>nd</sup> district have shifted. The middle class African American community has expanded primarily through western migration. Many families that own homes at the western borders of the 92<sup>nd</sup> in wards 26 and 27 look east. Some that I first met as an alderwoman when they lived on Day St or Orchard St in Dwight, for example, moved to ward 26 or 27 in Westville, but they still attend church and have family members in Dwight.

Since the 92<sup>nd</sup> district is socially cohesive and the second smallest district in New Haven, there is no policy reason to remove any part of it. The question, rather, is, in order to conform to your mandate, where should it expand? The adjacent district – 93 – is the smallest district in the city, so expanding there makes no sense.

The simplest remedy would be to include a section of the Hill that has grown. Rep. Candelaria. and I discussed this, and we can follow up with you on specifics. Thank you for your time.

Rep. Patricia A. Dillon.

**State House of Representatives Redistricting Plan 2001  
House District 92**



**Legend**  
 Precinct Boundaries  
 Interstate  
 State Road  
 County Road  
 Local Road  
 Water

**The Connecticut General Assembly**  
 REAPPORTONMENT COMMISSION



**Map of House District 92**  
 Prepared by the  
 Reapportionment Commission  
 December 15, 2001