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## **COALITION OF COMMUNITY GROUPS RELEASE ALTERNATIVE REDISTRICTING MAPS**

Mobile, Ala – This morning, a coalition of local community groups including the Interdenominational Ministerial Alliance, NAACP and Stand-Up Mobile released a series of alternative redistricting maps which meet the City’s legal and moral obligations. Following the 2020 U.S. Census, which confirmed the City of Mobile has a majority Black population, the City is required to redraw the City Council District lines to ensure proper representation in city government.

“These maps demonstrate that the City can easily meet their legal and moral obligations,” said Beverly Cooper, Co-Founder of Stand-Up Mobile. “In contrast with the maps proposed last month, these maps not only meet our obligations as a City but come from a community-based coalition and draw upon feedback from a diverse group of community groups, leaders, and residents.”

Last month, Mayor Stimpson released his proposed redistricting map which failed to meaningfully meet the legal and moral obligations of including a fourth district which provides the majority Black population an opportunity to elect a candidate of choice.

“These maps are very close to those presented by the administration moving only a handful of neighborhoods to create a map in compliance with the federal voting rights requirements,” said Cooper. “Now that we have demonstrated how easily a map can be drawn that does not dilute the political power of Black voters, we urge the Mayor and Council to adopt one of these or create their own that actually meets the city’s legal obligations.”

The Voting Rights Act of 1965, celebrated last weekend at the annual Bloody Sunday remembrance in Selma, requires that Mobile’s Black voters shall not have their votes diluted as they are in the earlier proposed map.

The Coalition Maps, which increase the Black voting age population in the new district over 51%, adhere to traditional redistricting principles and better preserve the ability of

Black voters to elect candidates of choice in four districts with legally permissible deviations, compact districts, and have not drawn any incumbents out of their districts.

“We encourage the City Council to make these alternative maps available to the public next to the one proposed last month and encourage all citizens of Mobile to review them and contact their Councilmembers in support of a fair, equitable city council map,” said Cooper.

A copy of the Coalition Map is available at: <https://sum-blueprintforus.org>

*Stand Up Mobile: A Blueprint for US is committed to bringing the power of the black vote to elections at all levels. We believe that it is important that all people have their voices heard, especially those that are too often excluded from the political, economic, and social institutions that shape their lives. More information on the organization is available here: <https://sum-blueprintforus.org/about-us>*