

## **COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE (WORKING SESSION) FEBRUARY 2, 2009**

### **WARD BOUNDARY REVIEW – PUBLIC CONSULTATION SURVEY**

#### **Recommendation**

The City Clerk recommends:

1. That refined options for five and six ward configurations be presented to Council at its meeting to be held on February 24, 2009.

#### **Economic Impact**

Expenses arising from this report will be accommodated from within existing budgets for printing and communications costs.

#### **Communications Plan**

Refined options for 5 and 6 ward configurations will be posted to the City's website. The public meeting on the Ward Boundary review will be advertised on the City Page, through media releases, and on the City's website.

#### **Purpose**

The purpose of this report is to summarize the results of public consultations to date, and to facilitate the presentation to Council of refined ward boundary configuration options for five and six ward systems.

#### **Background - Analysis and Options**

At the September 9, 2008 meeting of Committee of the Whole (Working Session) the City Clerk presented the Ward Boundary Review Preliminary Report as well as options for 5, 6 and 7 ward systems. The proposed ward boundary options were created using the following Key Criteria:

- The maintenance of distinct communities
- Acknowledgement of natural or built boundaries between communities
- Use of easily identifiable boundaries
- No population variances greater than 15% based on the average populations between wards as of the date of the 2018 census
- Accommodation of future growth

The report was adopted without amendment by Council on September 22, 2008 (Item 1, Report No. 43 of the Committee of the Whole (Working Session)).

It was the view of the Committee that rather than engaging in public consultations on the basis of ward options already created, it would be preferable to assess the importance of the ward boundary criteria to the citizens of the City of Vaughan. The Committee wanted to take an approach which ensured that the public consultation process was not prejudiced by the presentation of concrete options, and asked that a report on the consultation approach be presented to Committee of the Whole (Working Session).

At its meeting of November 24, 2009, by its adoption of Item 2 of Report No. 56 of the Committee of the Whole (Working Session), Council adopted a revised timetable for the Ward Boundary Review Public Consultation Process. In accordance with the revised timetable for the Ward Boundary Review Public Consultation Process, a survey was released to the general public

seeking perspectives on such things as the City's ward system, the need for an additional ward(s), and representation at Regional Council. In accordance with Council's direction, the relative ranking of the key ward boundary criteria was tested through several questions in the survey.

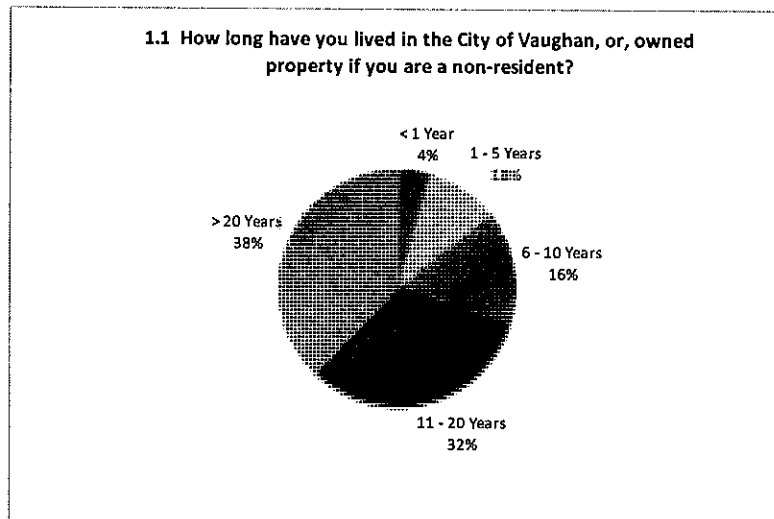
Survey Results:

Despite the Survey being widely advertised (in addition to a news release and posting on the City's website, notification was sent to the school boards, ratepayer associations and the Region of York; direct e-mail notification was sent to 3775 recipients of the Corporate E-mail Distribution List) only a small proportion of potential respondents replied to it. A total of 93 responses were received. Of those received, 76 surveys were submitted through the City's website, 16 hard copy versions were submitted at community centres and libraries, and one survey was faxed to the Clerk's Department.

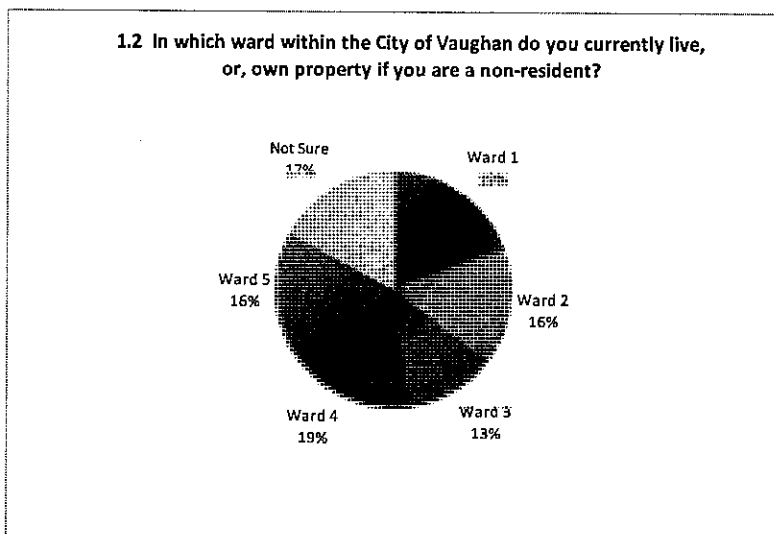
Respondent Background:

The background of the survey respondents is set out in the responses to questions posed in the 'About You' portion of the survey, and charted below in Figures 1 through 3.

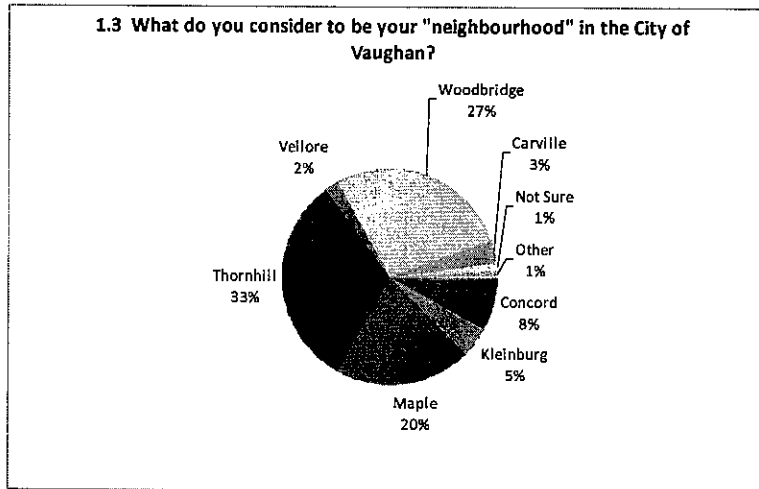
**Figure 1**



**Figure 2**



**Figure 3**

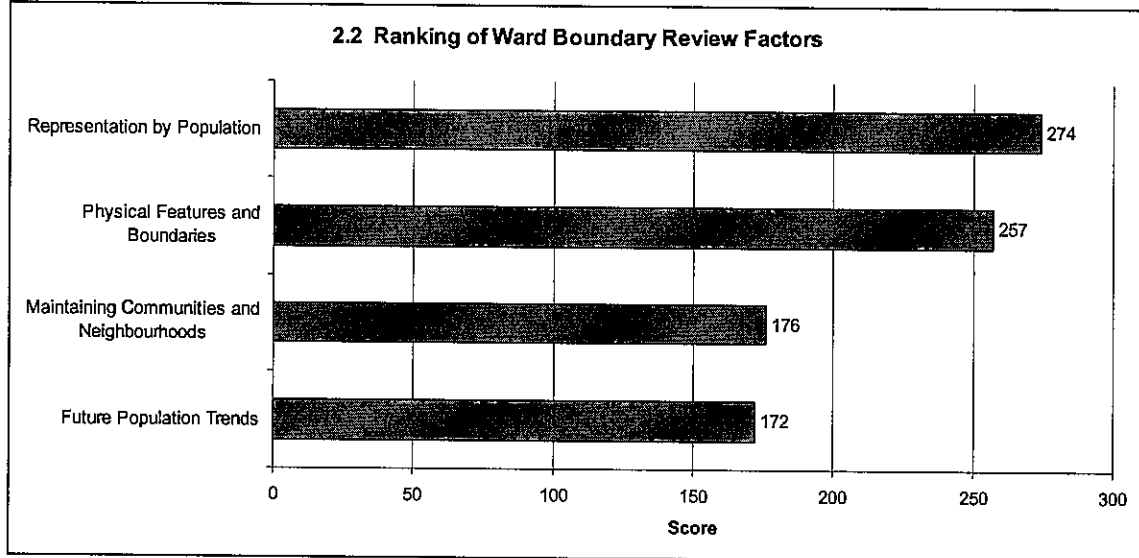


Though the sample size is quite small, the range of responses across the sample, both in terms of length of residence and community (ward) of residence, is quite balanced.

Key Criteria:

Part 2 of the survey focused on the relative priority of the ward boundary review criteria, as is summarized in the following Figures 4 through 6.

**Figure 4**



The above chart ranks the listed criteria in terms of their relative ranking by each survey respondent. Where ranked first, the criterion is given a score of 4. A rank of second results in a score of 3, and so on. The accumulated score shows that *representation by population*, followed closely by *physical features and boundaries*, are the primary criteria as chosen by survey respondents.

**Figure 5**

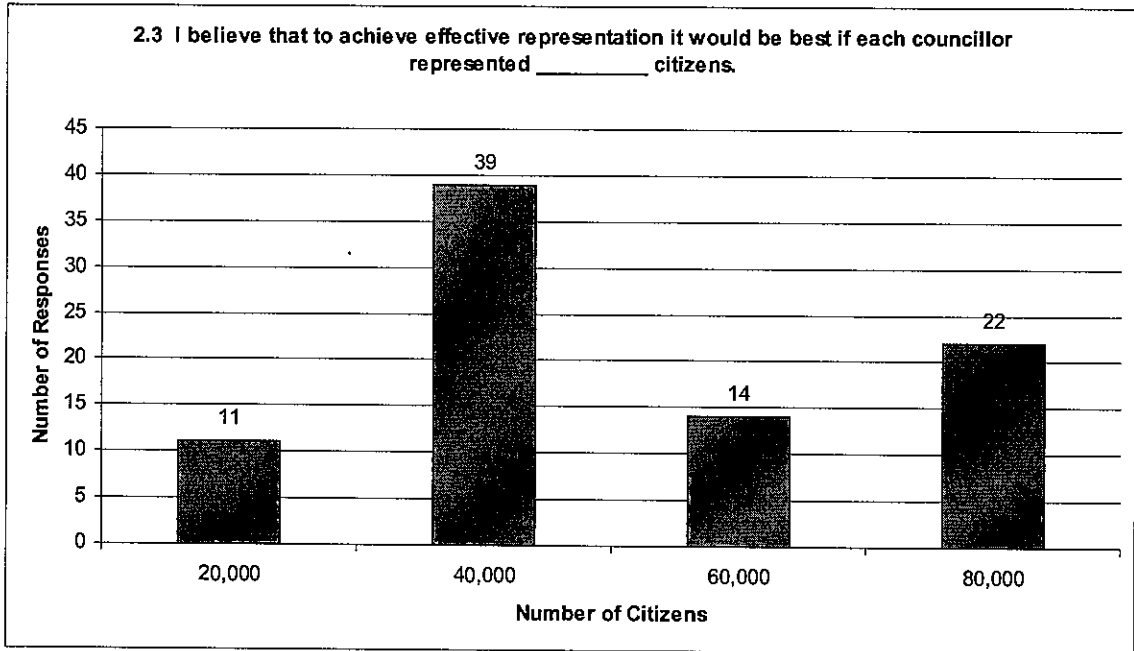
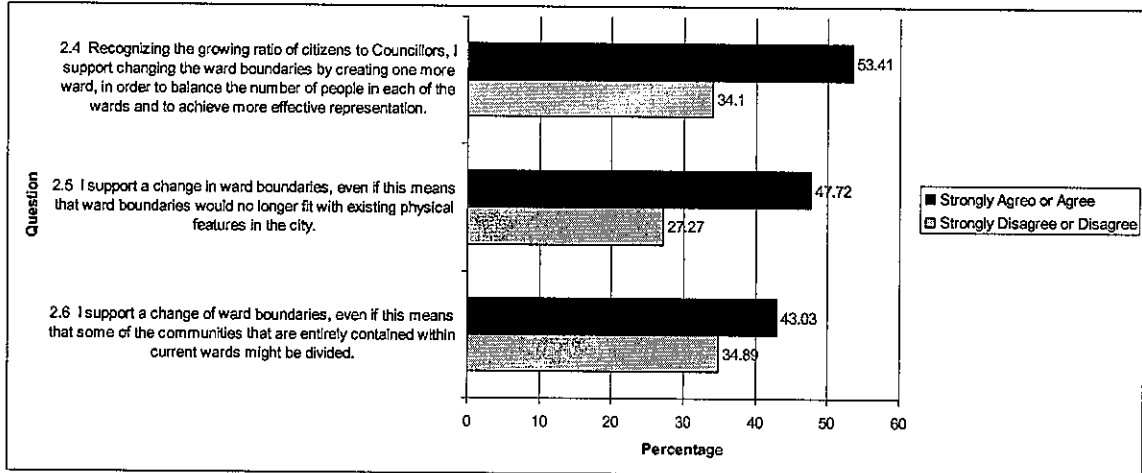


Figure 5 shows that the most popular response for ward size is a population of 40,000 for each local ward. Using simple arithmetic, a ward size of 40,000 in a total population of just under 270,000 results in a ward configuration of between 6 and 7 wards. The creation of at least one more ward is also supported by the answers set out in the following chart in Figure 6:

**Figure 6**

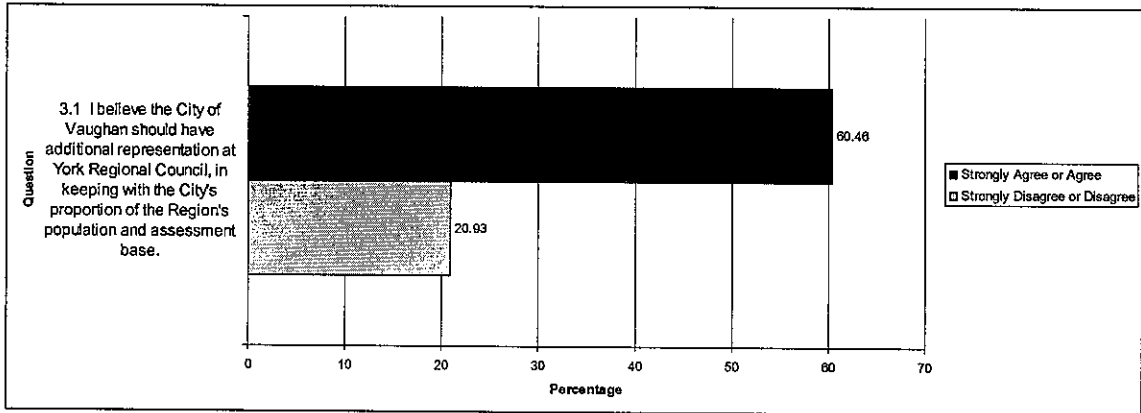


Representative comments recorded in support of the answers given above are set out in Attachment 1. The full survey tabulation (with minor redactions to protect personal privacy) is available upon request.

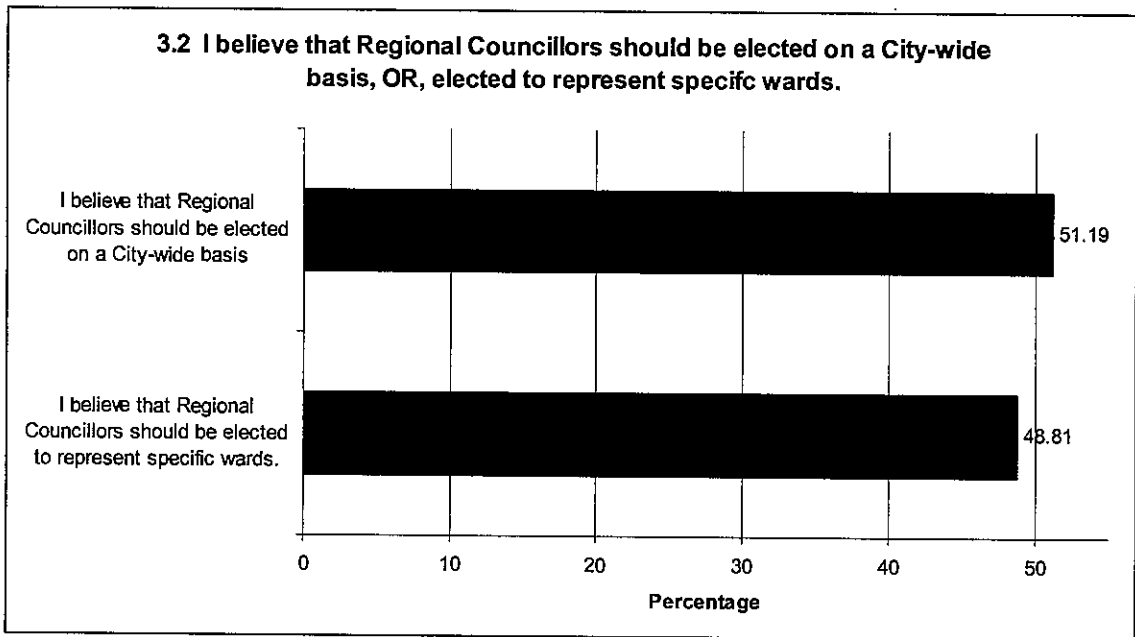
Regional Representation:

Survey results on the desirability of additional representation were clearly in favour of increasing Vaughan's membership on York Region Council, as is demonstrated in Figure 7. The response on the method of representation, whether by city-wide vote or on a ward (or ward combination) basis, showed no significant preference, as shown in Figure 8. Attachment 2 sets out the relevant representative comments from survey respondents.

**Figure 7**



**Figure 8**



Next Steps

Proposals for 5 and 6 ward configuration options are set out at Attachment 3. These configurations were originally presented to the Committee of the Whole (Working Session) meeting of September 9, 2008.

The survey results did not generate specific new proposals for configuration of the City's wards. Indeed, though the sample size was admittedly small, the survey confirmed the importance of balancing ward populations in any ward restructuring. Accordingly, the City Clerk recommends that the ward configuration options set out in Attachment 3 be refined (particularly by reviewing the implication of information received from the school boards relating to planned future school sites) and presented directly to Council on February 24, 2009.

New proposals for ward configurations will be reviewed and incorporated into the ward boundary review process if and when they are presented. It is hoped that the March 9, 2009 public meeting will generate discussion and assist in arriving at a consensus ward configuration.

On March 31, 2009, a final report to Committee of the Whole will summarize the public input on the Ward Boundary Review and make recommendations for the adoption of a preferred ward configuration. The Committee's recommendations in that regard will be presented to Council on April 14, 2009.

### **Relationship to Vaughan Vision 2020/Strategic Plan**

This report is consistent with the priorities set forth in Vaughan Vision 2020, particularly "Demonstrate Leadership and Promote Effective Governance."

### **Regional Implications**

Implementation of any measures modifying the number or manner in which Vaughan councillors are appointed to Regional Council will require the approval of that body.

The election of representatives on York Region's School Boards will be affected by reconfiguration of Vaughan wards.

### **Conclusion**

Though caution must be exercised given the small sample size of the study, the survey clearly supports the addition of one additional ward. The principle justification for that increase is based on a clear preference for population-balanced wards, so long as the ward boundaries follow clearly defined physical features and routes. Surprisingly, the maintenance of distinct communities was not given high priority, though in the process of ward design there is a clear imperative to maintain, even forecast, those boundaries as much as is possible.

### **Attachments**

- Attachment 1: Representative Comments on questions relating to Key Criteria
- Attachment 2: Representative Comments on questions relating to Regional Representation
- Attachment 3: Ward Configuration Options

### **Report prepared by:**

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City Clerk

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to Committee of Adjustment

Respectfully submitted,

Jeffrey A. Abrams  
City Clerk

**Attachment 1**  
**Representative Comments on Questions Relating to Key Criteria**

**2.3 Please select one of the options below:**

***I believe that to achieve effective representation it would be best if each councillor***

- represented***        ***20,000***    ***citizens.***  
    ***40,000***  
    ***60,000***  
    ***80,000***

Written explanations included the following comments:

- Need to strike a balance between number of councillors we can afford to pay, and have a reasonable number of constituents to represent.
- Wards should be smaller to improve the effectiveness of representation.
- Too many councillors (20000 citizens) will cost the city too much. Too few councillors (80000 citizens) mean that the voice of the population won't be heard. The representation level should be around 40000 citizens per councillor.
- The present total of five ward councillors and three regional councillors is enough for the projected growth in the next 15 to 20 years. It is reasonable to have councillors represent a ward of 80,000 residents or, for wards that are heavily commercialized, fewer residents plus the commercial/industrial interests.
- Current proportion seems to be working. It is also important that city council be a manageable size. As the city grows in population there will then have to be more residents per councillor.
- 60,000 is the maximum amount. Less than this would be ideal, as a councillor can't effectively represent more constituents, and be able to field calls and enquiries in a timely manner.

**2.4 Please indicate your agreement or disagreement with the following statement, by circling your rating:**

***Recognizing the growing ratio of citizens to Councillors, I support changing the ward boundaries by creating one more ward, in order to balance the number of people in each of the wards and to achieve more effective representation.***

Written included the following comments:

- Creating another ward is fine - as long as the expense of creating this additional ward is not astronomical
- Makes sense
- The wards boundaries should be re-aligned to balance the number of residents and commercial and industrial properties to more equally share them among the existing five ward councillors. An additional councillor, and the associated expenses, is not justified at this time.
- I support changing the ward boundaries but only to redistribute the ward population among the CURRENT number of councillors.

**2.5 Please indicate your agreement or disagreement with the following statement, by circling your rating:**

***I support a change in ward boundaries, even if this means that ward boundaries would no longer fit with existing physical features in the city.***



Written explanations included the following comments:

- Physical features should not be a limiting factor
- Ward boundaries must be on a railway, river, or major roadway.
- If the physical features are community boundaries, they should be considered ward boundaries as well.
- Physical boundaries shouldn't be a determining factor in this day and age.

**2.6 Please indicate your agreement or disagreement with the following statement, by circling your rating:**

***I support a change of ward boundaries, even if this means that some of the communities that are entirely contained within current wards might be divided.***

Written explanations included the following comments:

- Really hope communities can be maintained
- I think it's important to keep historical, cultural and religious communities in tact.
- It is most important that the number of Citizens per ward be as equal as possible. The boundaries change must reflect the communities interest
- The ethnic make up of a community should have NO input into a Ward boundary.
- Wards should not be determined by ethnic, cultural or religious communities

**Attachment 2**  
**Representative Comments on Questions Relating to Regional Representation**

**3.1 Please indicate your agreement or disagreement with the following statement, by circling your rating:**

***I believe the City of Vaughan should have additional representation at York Regional Council, in keeping with the City's proportion of the Region's population and assessment base.***

Written explanations included the following comments:

- Only if our taxes are not affected
- As Vaughan is the south-western border municipality within the Regional Municipality of York, and as Vaughan increasingly must address growth issues which include: intra and inter regional transit and commuting, disproportional increase in population density due to proximity to Toronto, etc., it is important for the City of Vaughan to be appropriately representing on Regional Council.
- I don't support the numbers of regional representatives (mayors and/or councillors) being determined on a simple mathematical ratio to numbers of residents or total rateable values.
- I strongly agree because we are so close in population numbers to Markham and our population will continue to grow and probably exceed Markham in the future and there should be equal treatment within all the municipalities within the Region of York. Markham has 5 and we should too.

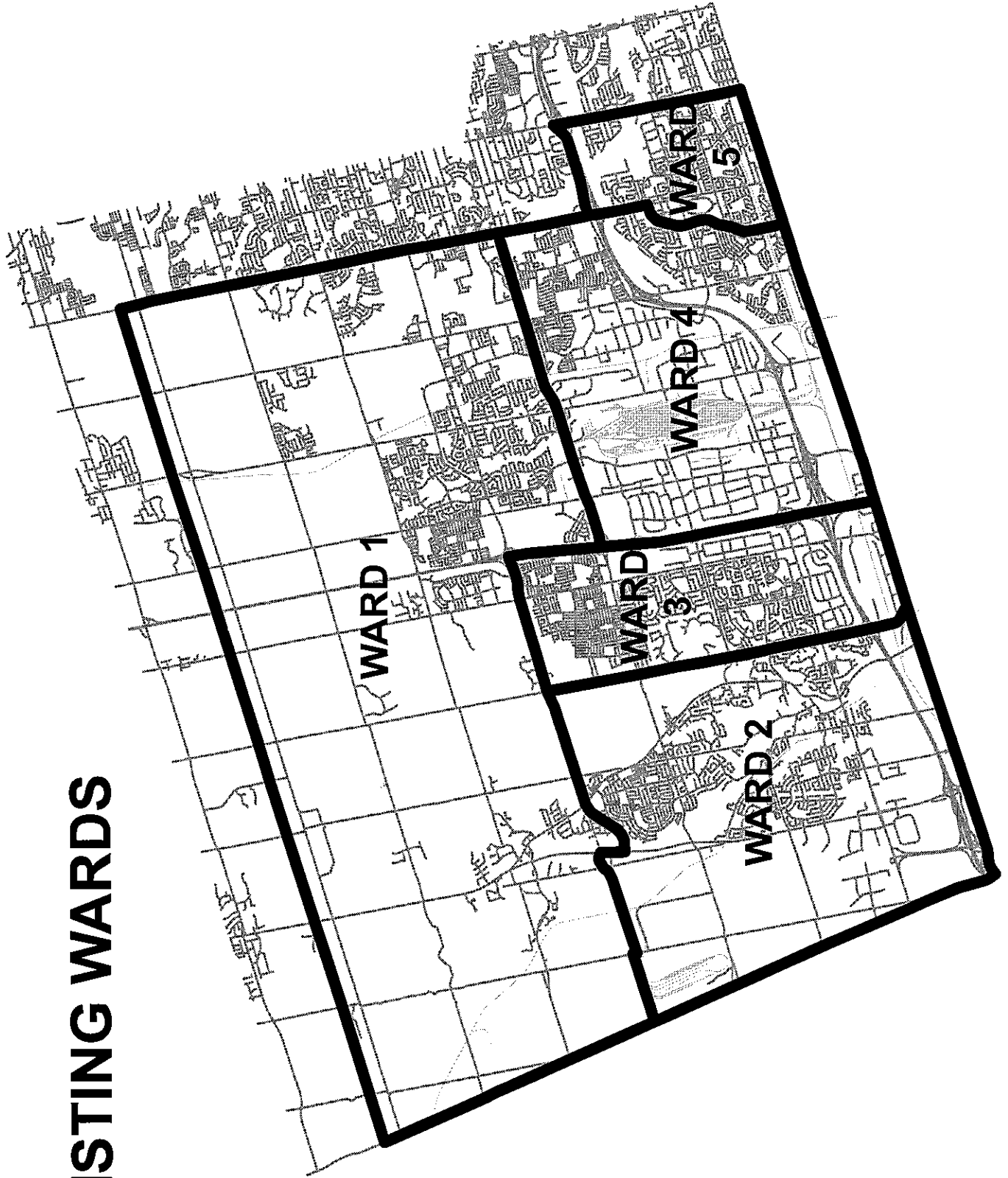
**3.2 Please choose one of the following statements:**

- I believe that Regional Councillors should be elected on a City-wide basis***  
**OR**  
 ***I believe that Regional Councillors should be elected to represent specific wards.***

Written explanations included the following comments:

- Regional councilors are there to represent the City of Vaughan and ethically should focus on that without promoting one ward over another at regional level.
- Keep Regional Council representation closer to the district and in touch with the people at their ward level. City-wide basis representation too far away.
- The city has grown significantly over time, and the growth should also been seen at the regional level BUT it should be broken down by area so that there is ample representation from all parts of the city.
- If Regional Councillors represent the entire City of Vaughan to the Region, they should be elected by the entire city and not a ward only.
- Coucillors should reflect the generalized opinions of the collective population of whom they are representing, not a specific community within the city.

# EXISTING WARDS



## Population Projections - 5 Ward Options

<b>5 WARD - OPTION 'A'</b>						
Ward	2010		2014		2018	
	Population	Variation from Average Ward Population (%)	Population	Variation from Average Ward Population (%)	Population	Variation from Average Ward Population (%)
1	70,174	30	83711	38	90461	43
2	51,939	-3	51939	-14	51939	-18
3	47,257	-12	55217	-9	55217	-13
4	33,999	-37	46281	-24	53695	-15
5	65,706	22	65706	8	65706	4
Total Population	269,075		302854		317018	
Average Population per Ward	53,815		60571		63404	
Average Deviation from Ward Avg. Population	11,300	21	11310	19	11744	19

<b>5 WARD - OPTION 'B'</b>						
Ward	2010		2014		2018	
	Population	Variation from Average Ward Population (%)	Population	Variation from Average Ward Population (%)	Population	Variation from Average Ward Population (%)
1	48911	-9	62795	4	63842	1
2	63091	17	63091	4	63091	0
3	40330	-25	52384	-14	60982	-4
4	51037	-5	58878	-3	63397	0
5	65706	22	65706	8	65706	4
Total Population	269075		302854		317018	
Average Population per Ward	53815		60571		63404	
Average Deviation from Ward Avg. Population	8467	16	3952	7	1096	2

<b>5 WARD - OPTION 'C'</b>						
Ward	2010		2014		2018	
	Population	Variation from Average Ward Population (%)	Population	Variation from Average Ward Population (%)	Population	Variation from Average Ward Population (%)
1	56467	5	56467	-7	56467	-11
2	55535	3	69419	15	70466	11
3	35468	-34	42655	-30	46249	-27
4	32875	-39	43832	-28	53355	-16
5	88730	65	90481	49	90481	43
Total Population	269075		302854		317018	
Average Population per Ward	53815		60571		63404	
Average Deviation from Ward Avg. Population	15715	29	15503	26	13656	22

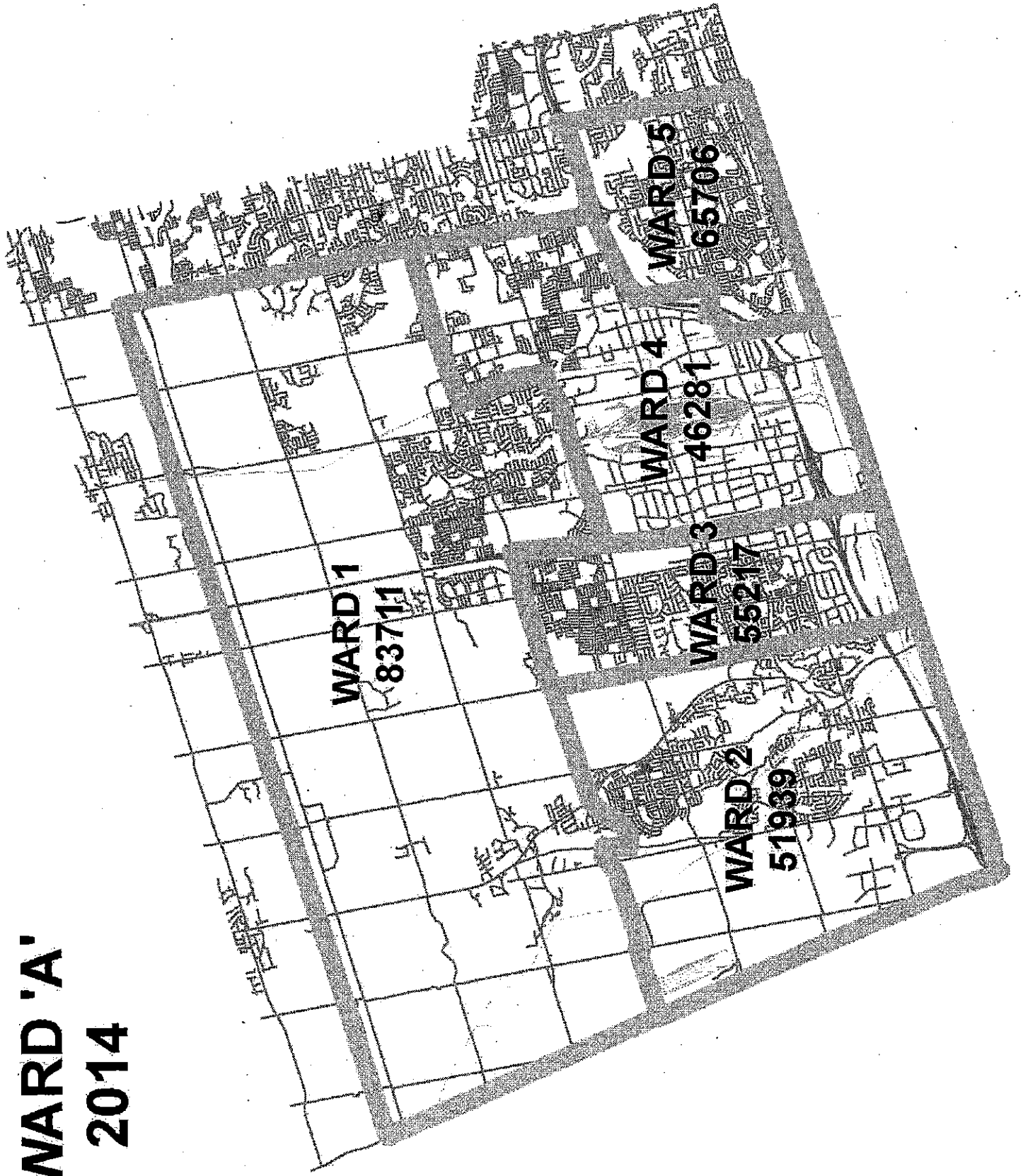
# 5 WARD 'A'

2010



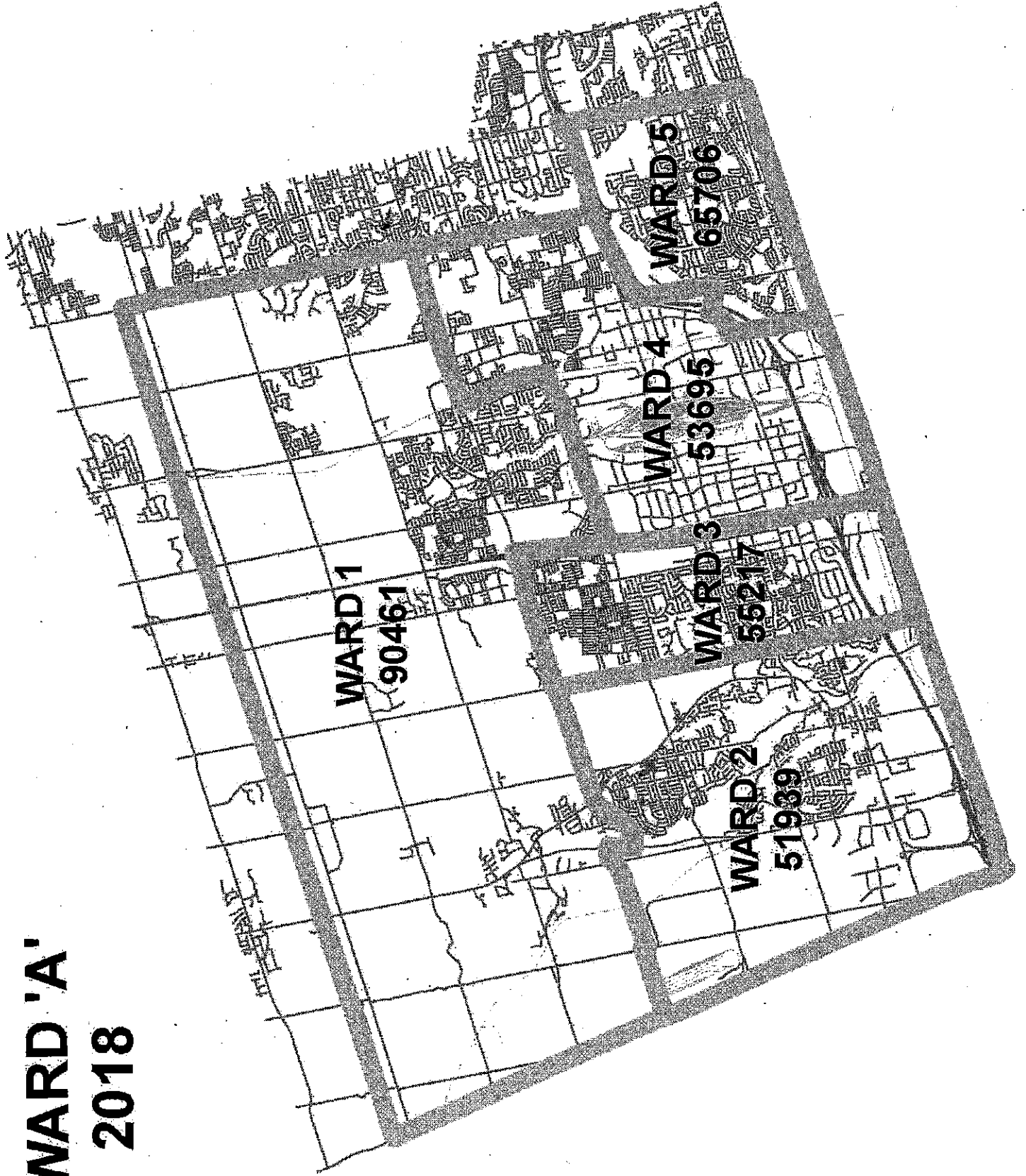
# 5 WARD 'A'

2014

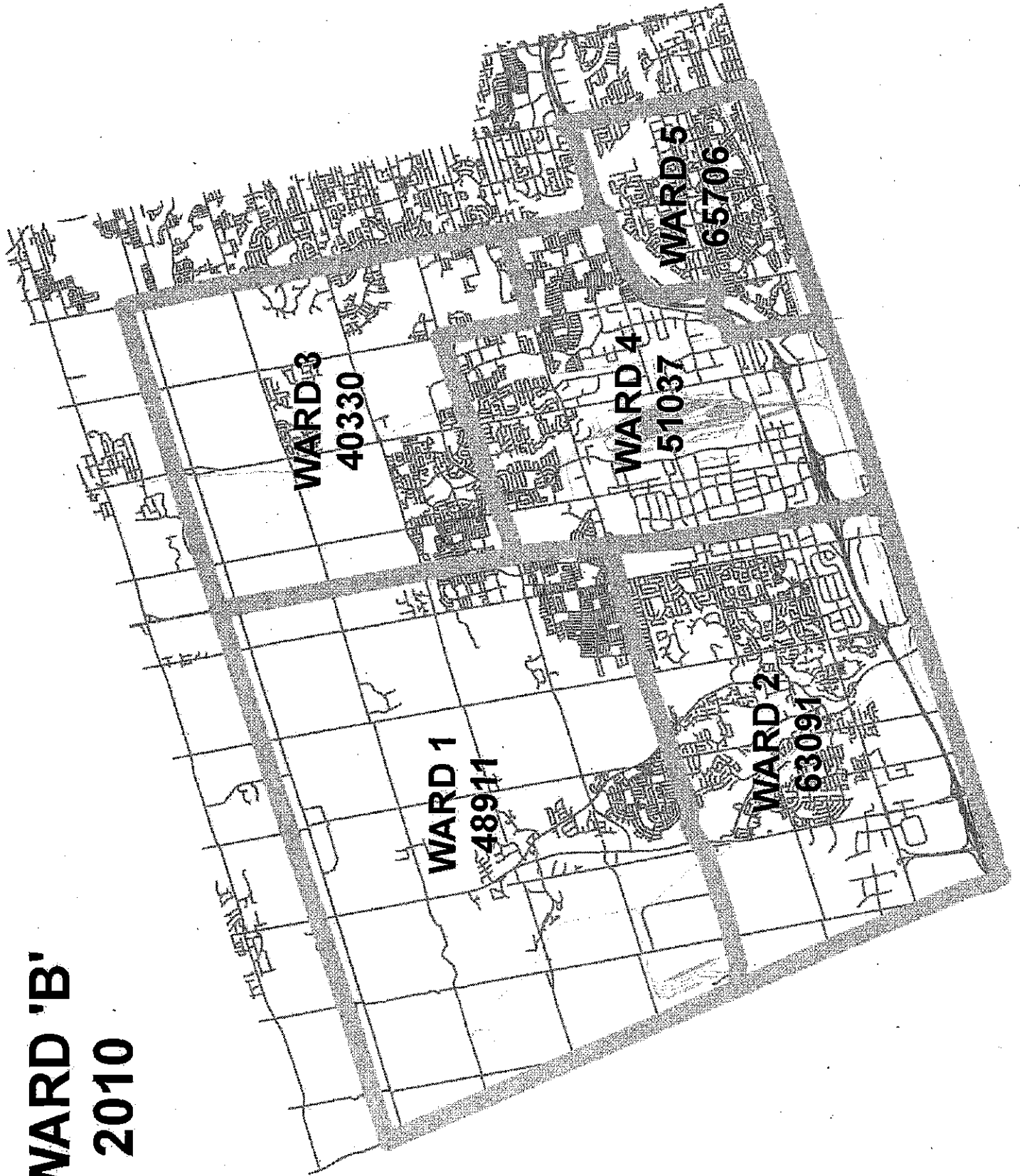


# 5 WARD 'A'

2018

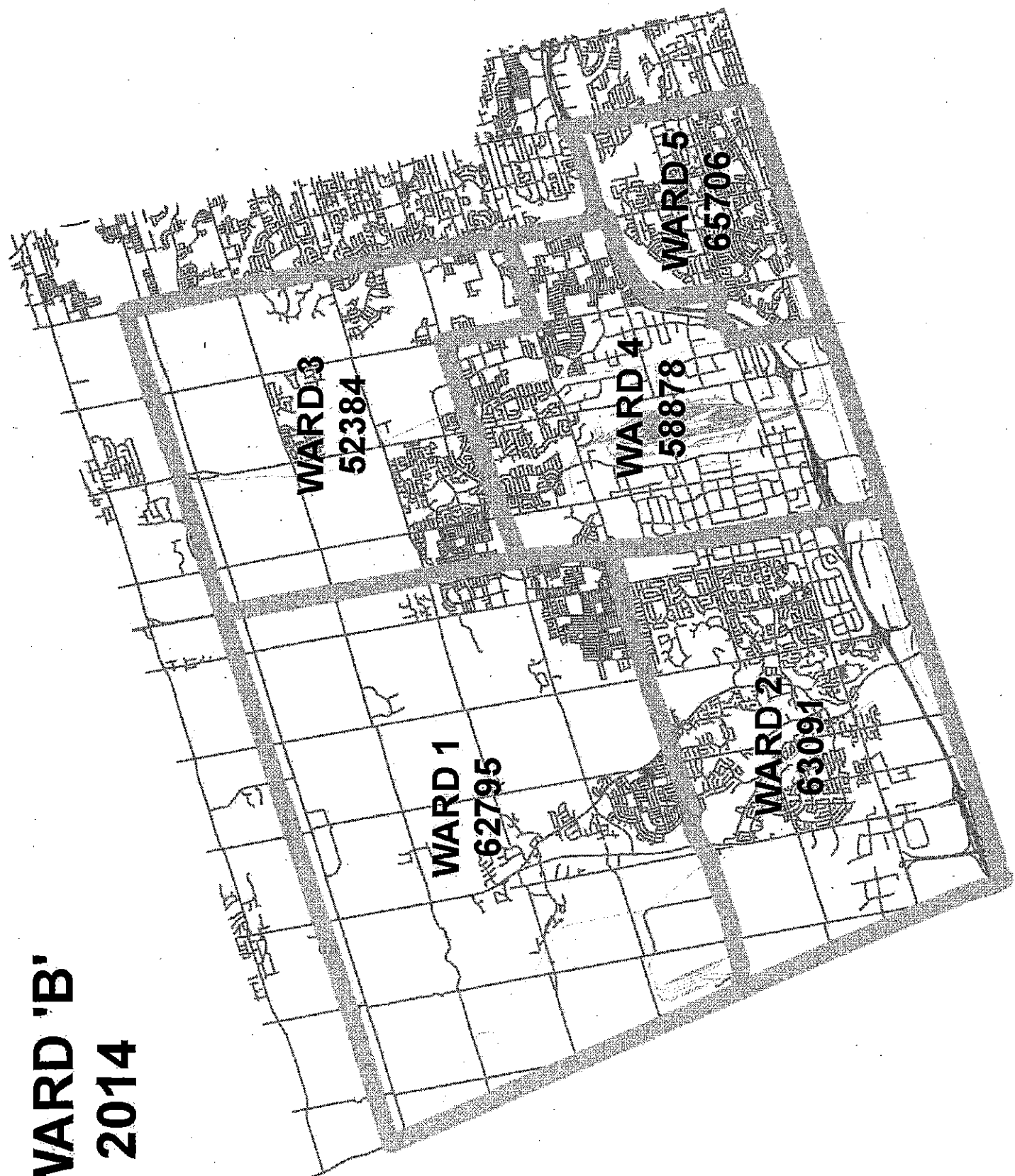


# 5 WARD 'B' 2010

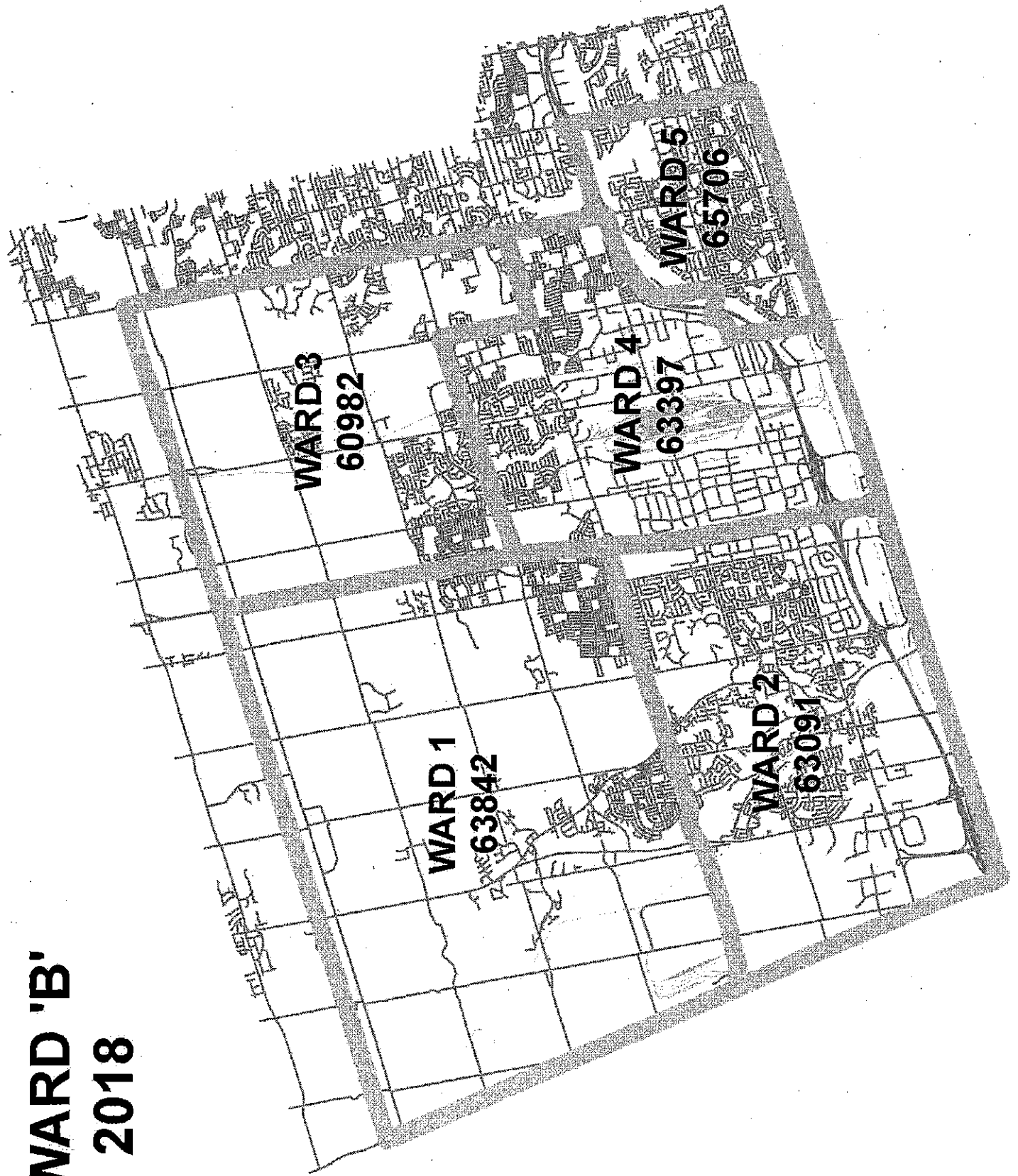




# 5 WARD 'B' 2014



**5 WARD 'B'**  
**2018**

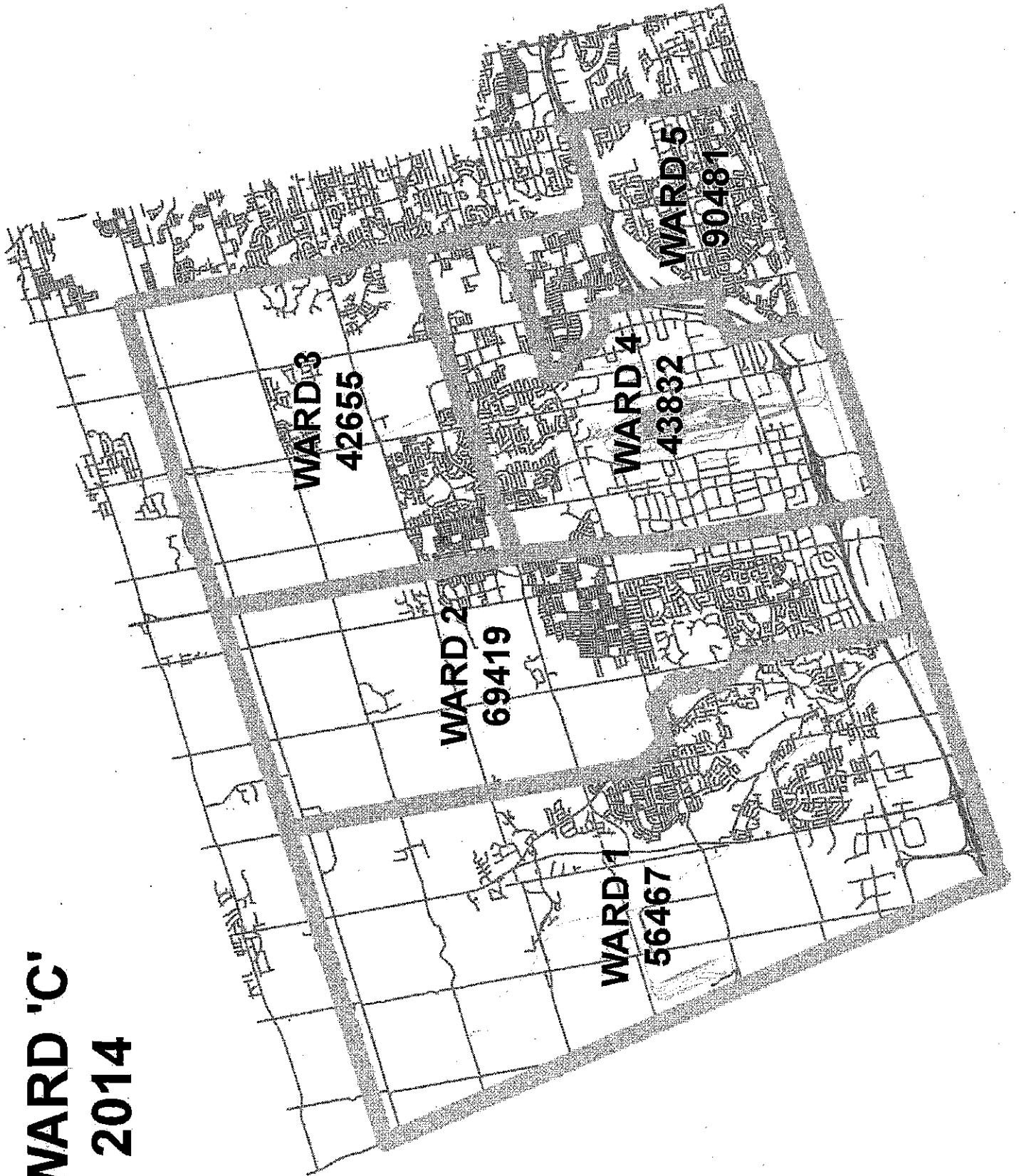


**5 WARD 'C'**  
**2010**

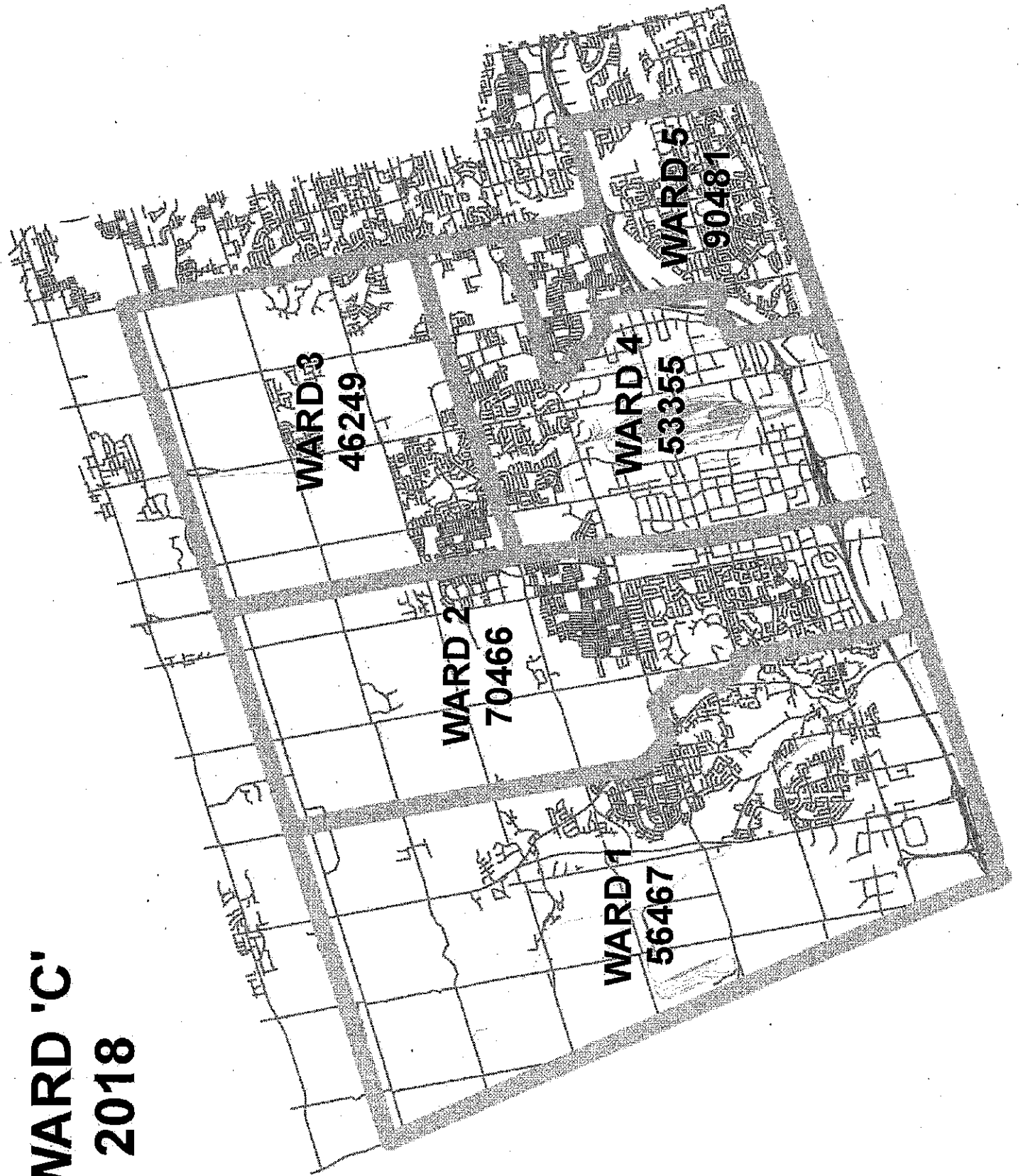


# 5 WARD 'C'

2014



**5 WARD 'C'**  
**2018**



**Population Projections -**  
**6 Ward Options**

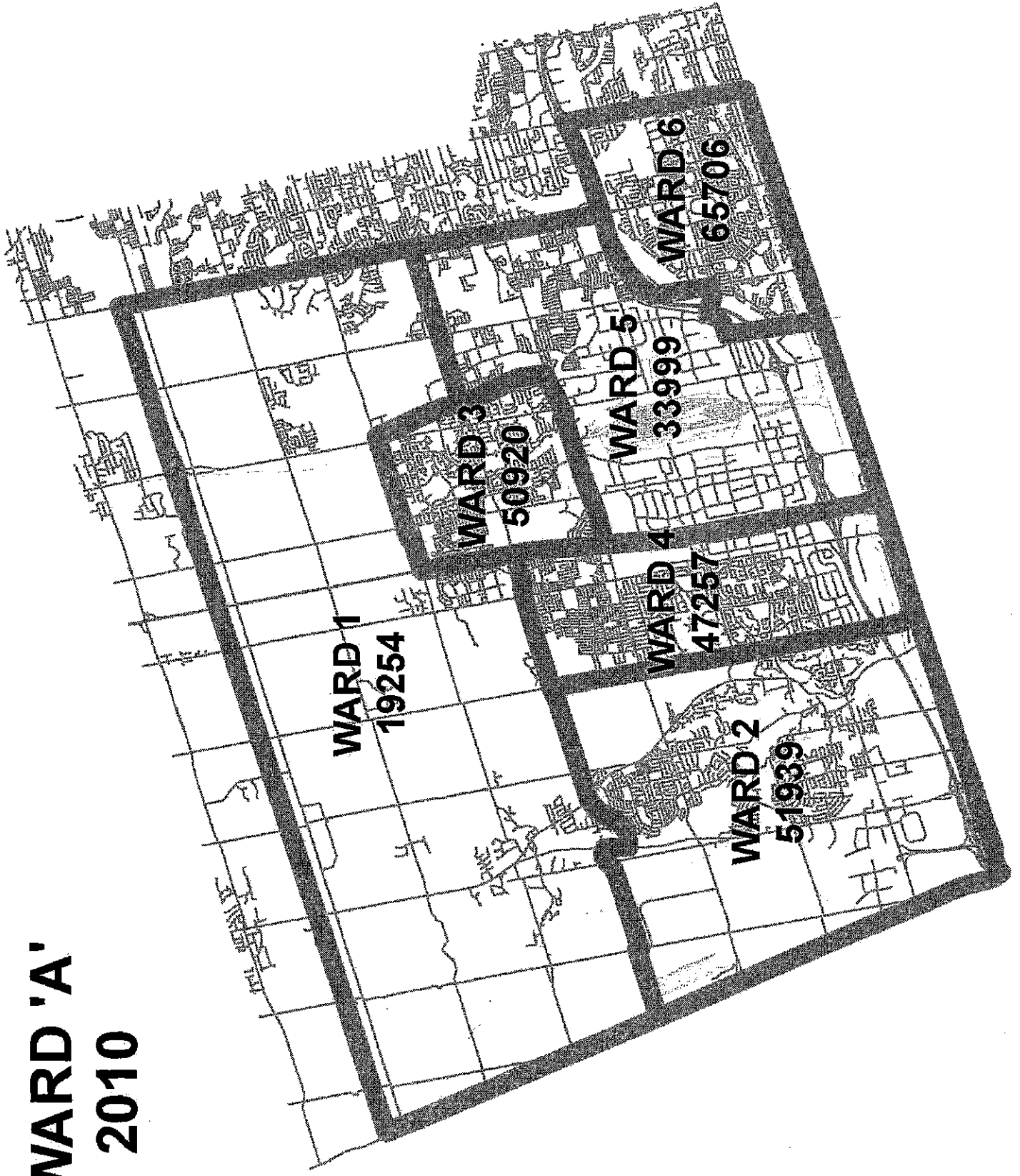
	<b>6 WARD - OPTION 'A'</b>					
	<b>2010</b>		<b>2014</b>		<b>2018</b>	
Ward	Population	Variation from Average Ward Population (%)	Population	Variation from Average Ward Population (%)	Population	Variation from Average Ward Population (%)
1	19,254	-57	32,365	-36	37,006	-30
2	51,939	16	51,939	3	51,939	-2
3	50,920	14	51,346	2	53,455	1
4	47,257	5	55,217	9	55,217	5
5	33,999	-24	46,281	-8	53,695	2
6	65,706	47	65,706	30	65,706	24
Total Population	269,075		302,854		317,018	
Average Population per Ward	44,846		50,476		52,836	
Average Deviation from Ward Avg. Population	12,146	27	7,435	15	5,576	11

	<b>6 WARD - OPTION 'B'</b>					
	<b>2010</b>		<b>2014</b>		<b>2018</b>	
Ward	Population	Variation from Average Ward Population (%)	Population	Variation from Average Ward Population (%)	Population	Variation from Average Ward Population (%)
1	50,216	12	50,216	-1	50,216	-5
2	43,685	-3	56,796	13	61,437	16
3	53,569	19	61,529	22	61,529	16
4	27,499	-39	33,589	-33	38,108	-28
5	35,997	-20	42,615	-16	47,619	-10
6	58,109	30	58,109	15	58,109	10
Total Population	269,075		302,854		317,018	
Average Population per Ward	44,846		50,476		52,836	
Average Deviation from Ward Avg. Population	9,119	20	8,336	17	7,522	14

	<b>6 WARD - OPTION 'C'</b>					
	<b>2010</b>		<b>2014</b>		<b>2018</b>	
Ward	Population	Variation from Average Ward Population (%)	Population	Variation from Average Ward Population (%)	Population	Variation from Average Ward Population (%)
1	48,853	9	62,737	24	63,784	21
2	45,598	2	58,449	16	64,453	22
3	36,577	-18	36,577	-28	36,577	-31
4	43,941	-2	44,367	-12	46,476	-12
5	50,450	12	57,068	13	62,072	17
6	43,656	-3	43,656	-14	43,656	-17
Total Population	269,075		302,854		317,018	
Average Population per Ward	44,846		50,476		52,836	
Average Deviation from Ward Avg. Population	3,455	8	8,942	18	10,600	20

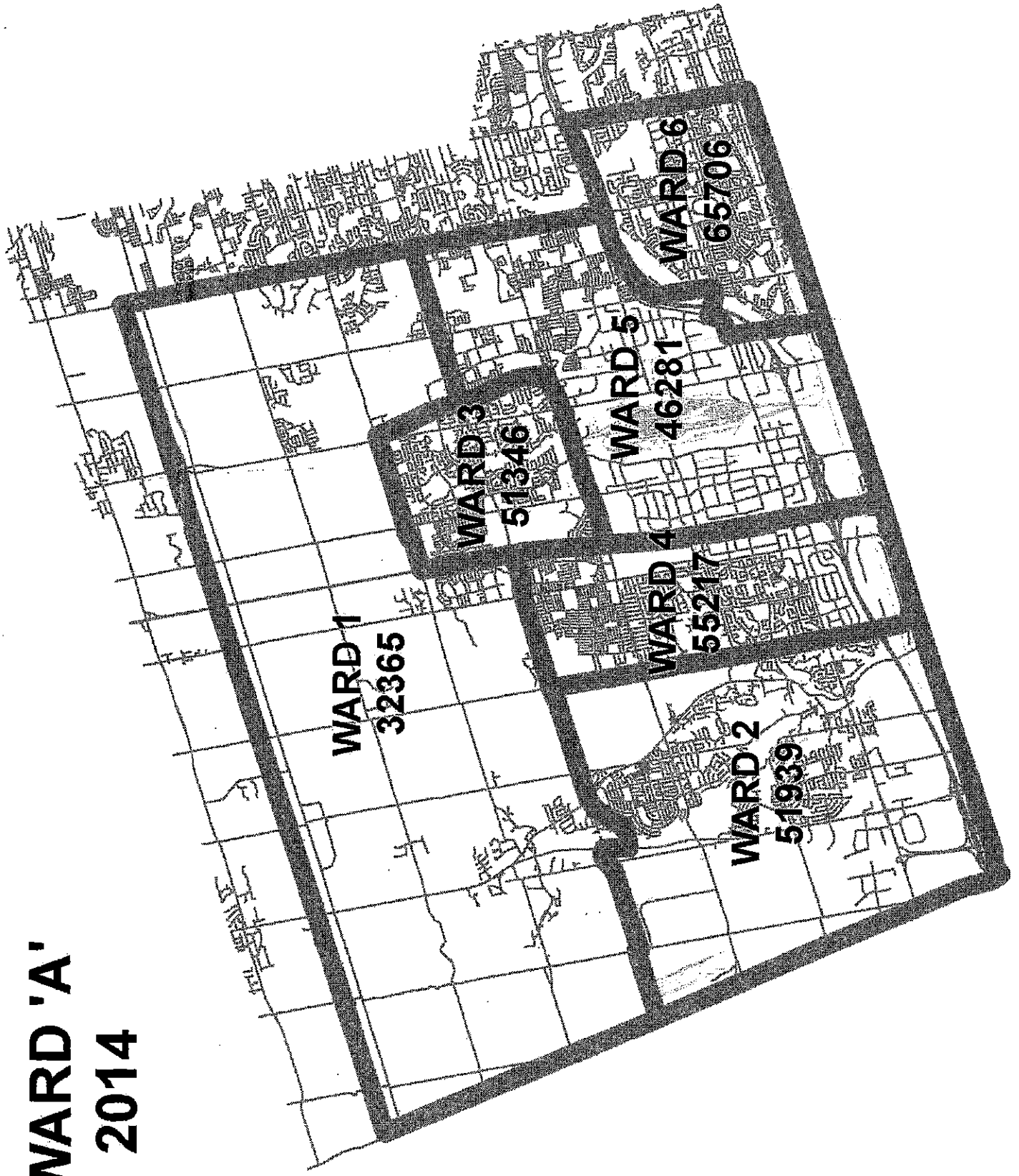
# 6 WARD 'A'

2010



# 6 WARD 'A'

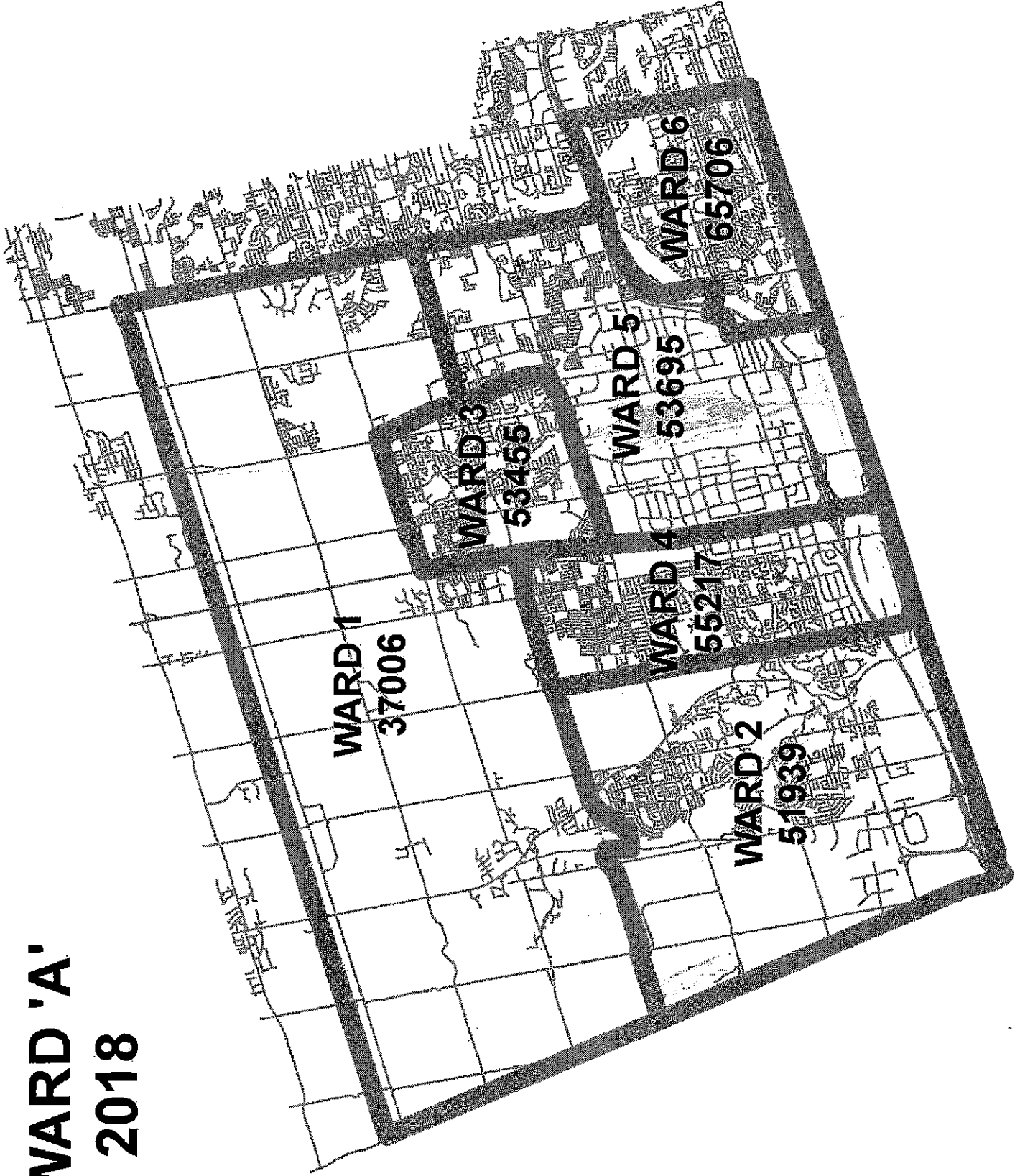
2014





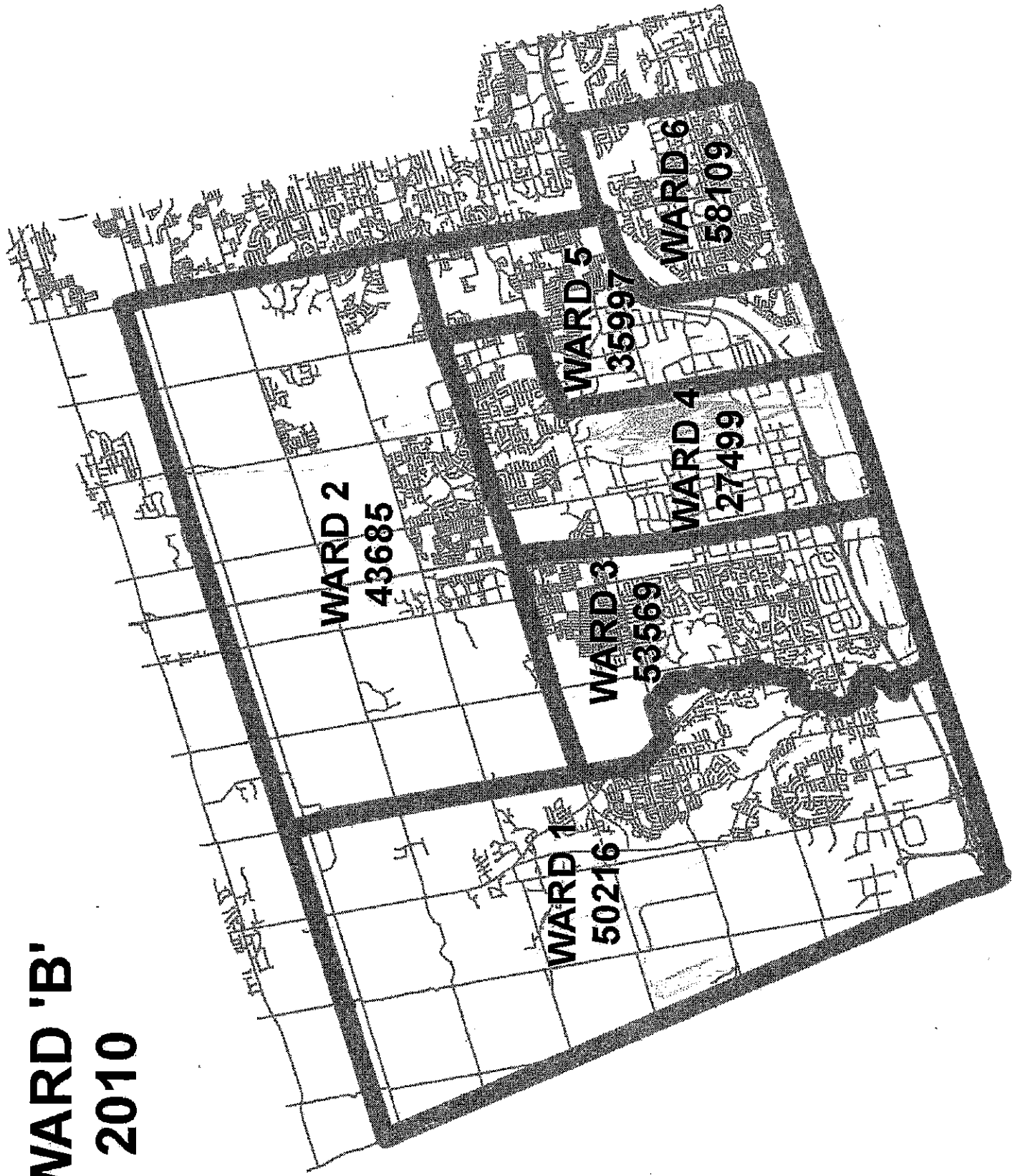
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2018



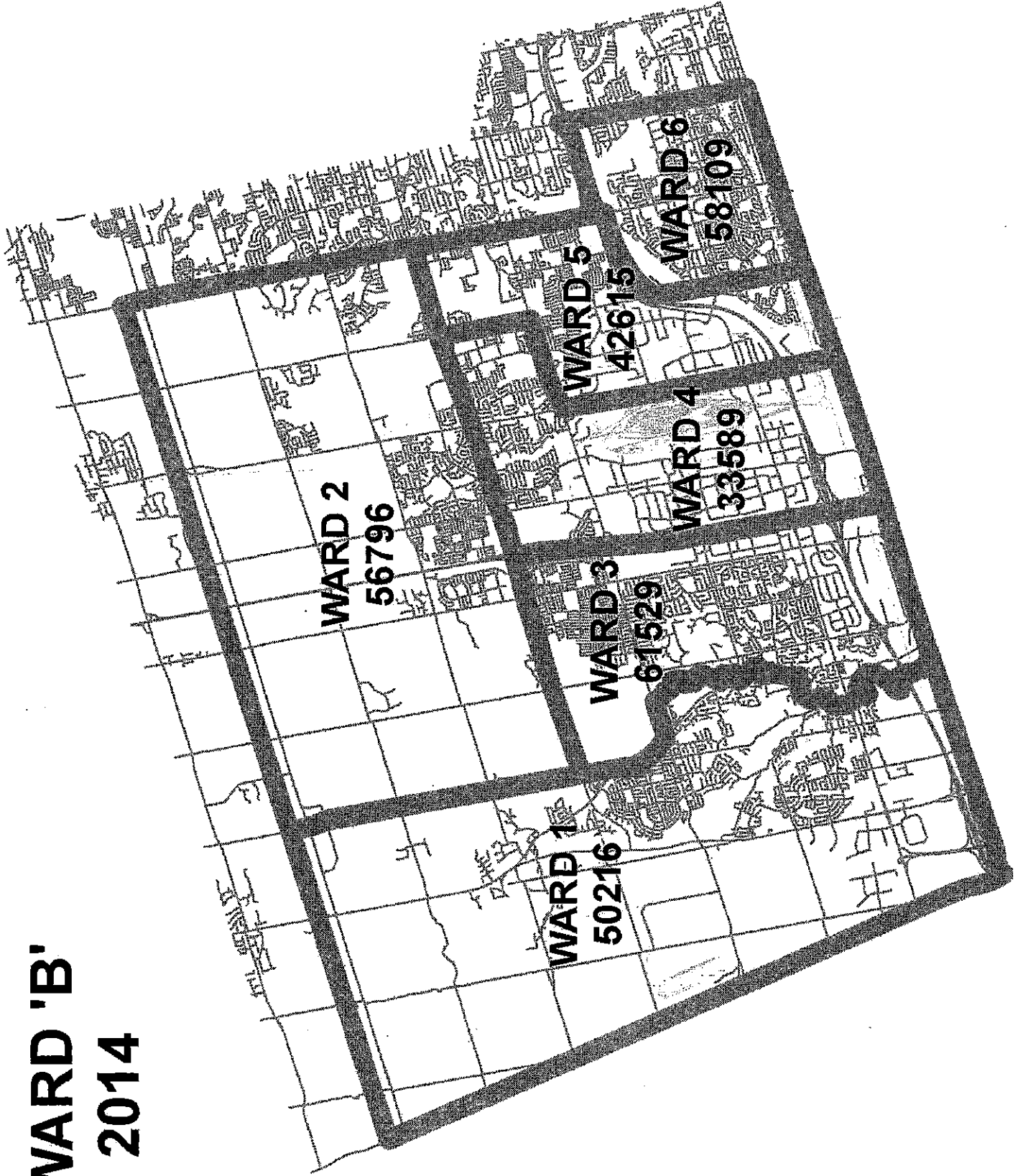
# 6 WARD 'B'

2010

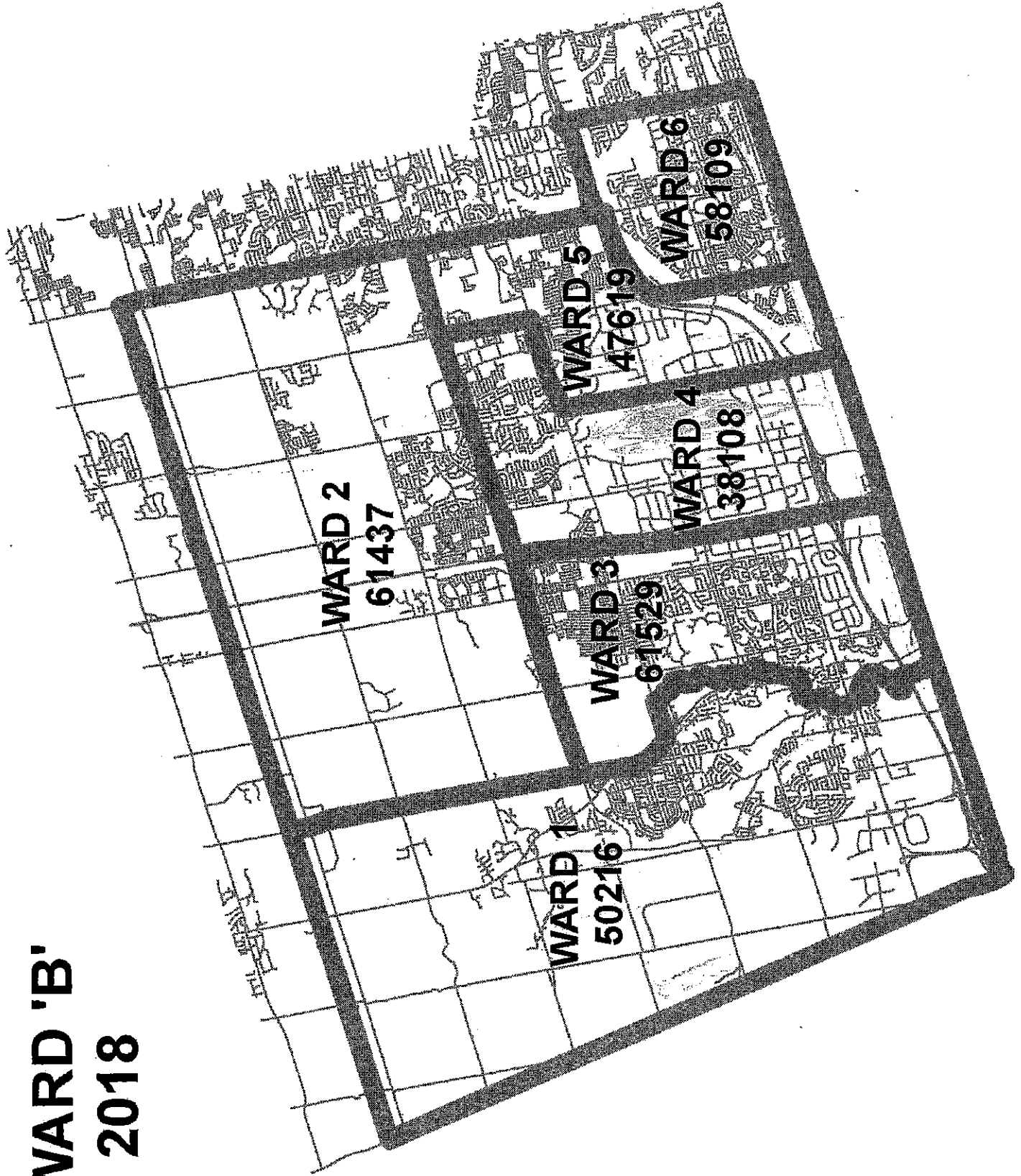


# 6 WARD 'B'

2014

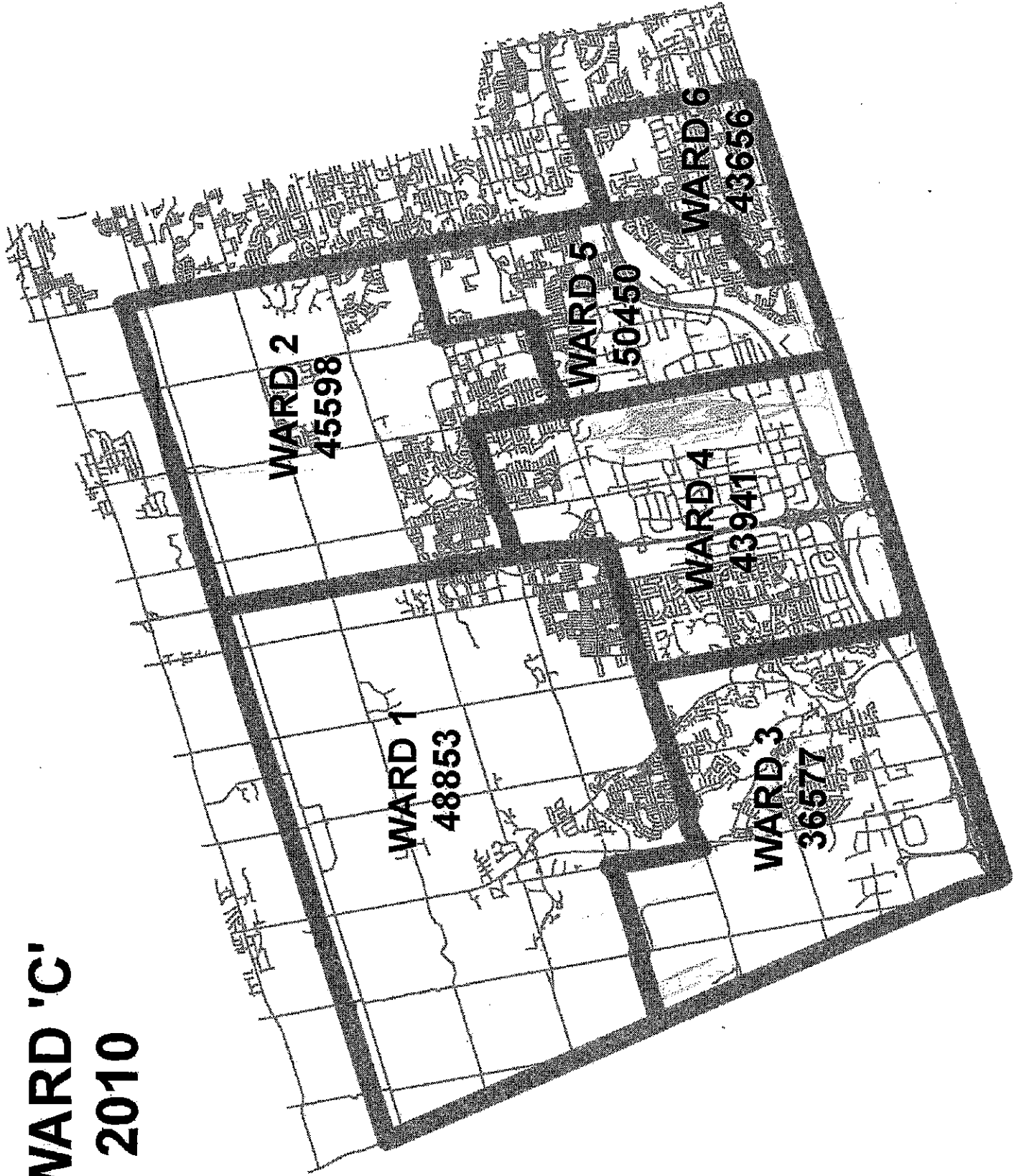


# 6 WARD 'B' 2018



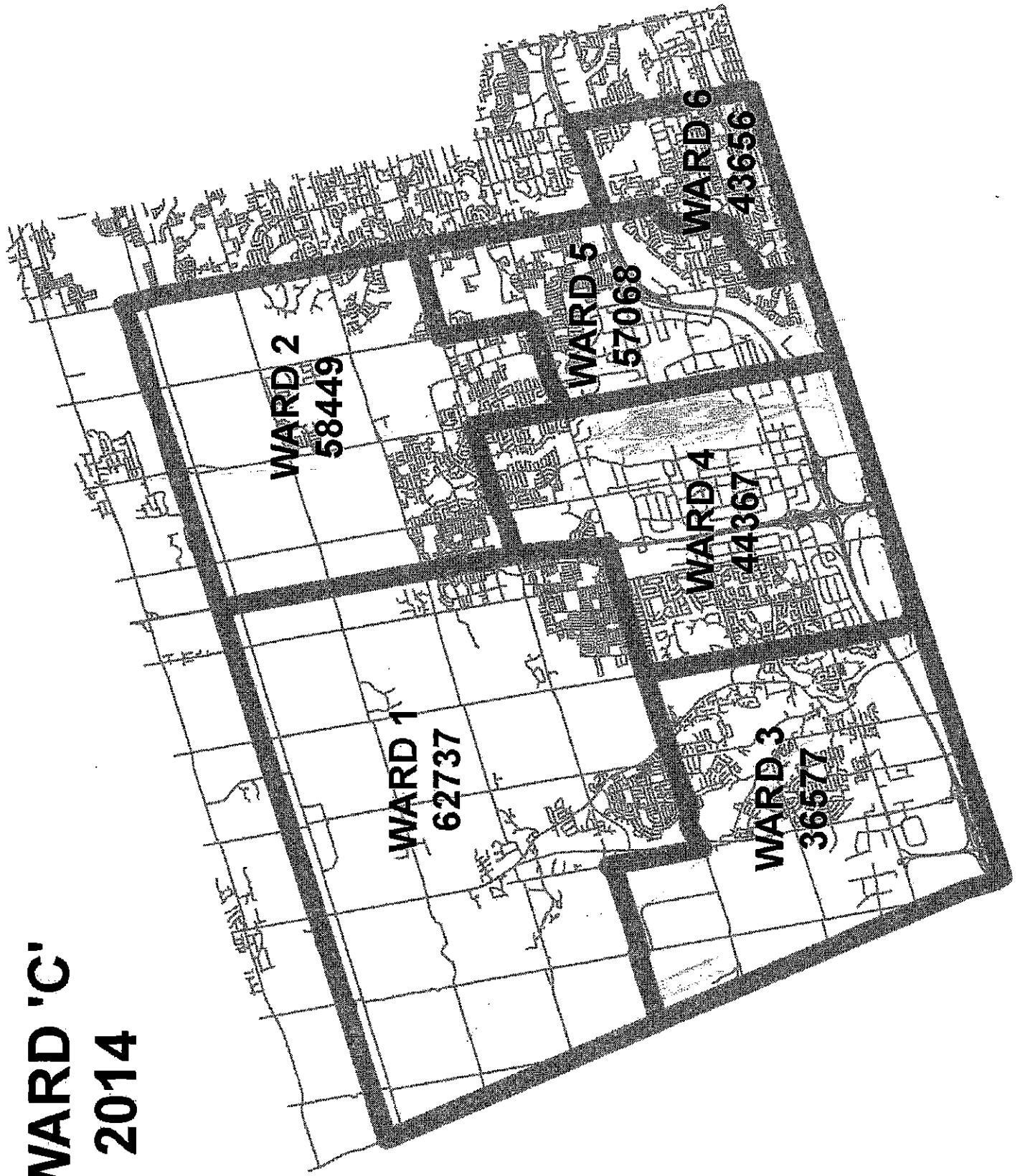
# 6 WARD 'C'

2010



# 6 WARD 'C'

2014



# 6 WARD 'C'

2018

