

**MINUTES
FOR THE 2010 REDISTRICTING COMMISSION
OF THE CITY OF SAN DIEGO
INTRODUCTORY PUBLIC HEARING**

**TUESDAY, MARCH 22, 2011
JACOBS CENTER FOR NEIGHBORHOOD INNOVATION
404 EUCLID AVENUE, SAN DIEGO, CA 92114**

CHRONOLOGY OF THE MEETING:

The meeting was called to order by Chair Dalal at 6:39 p.m. 40 persons were observed to be in attendance. The meeting was adjourned by Chair Dalal at 7:50 p.m.

ATTENDANCE DURING THE MEETING:

(C) Chair Anisha Dalal
(VC) Vice Chair Carlos Marquez
(M) Ani Mdivani-Morrow
(M) Frederick Kosmo
(M) Theresa Quiroz
(M) David Potter

ROLL CALL:

Chair Anisha Dalal called the roll:

(C) Chair Anisha Dalal - present
(VC) Vice Chair Carlos Marquez - present
(M) Ani Mdivani-Morrow - present
(M) Frederick Kosmo - present
(M) Theresa Quiroz - present
(M) David Potter - present
(M) Arthur Nishioka - present

NON-AGENDA PUBLIC COMMENT:

This portion of the agenda provides an opportunity for members of the public to address the Redistricting Commission on items of interest within the jurisdiction of the Commission.

Comments are limited to no more than two minutes per speaker. Submit requests to speak to the Midori Wong, Redistricting Commission Chief of Staff, before the item is called. Pursuant to the Ralph M. Brown Act, no discussion or action, other than a referral, shall be taken by the Redistricting Commission on any issue brought forth under Non-Agenda Comment.

Comment 1 – Hon. Tony Young, San Diego City Council President

(Transcript Begins)

Good evening, Commissioners. Thank you for coming to District 4. Particularly our representative Theresa Quiroz; we are extremely proud of her. Theresa has done a lot of work in this community and she intimately knows the needs of communities like District 4. I just want again to welcome you to District 4. It's really sunny like this every day, believe it or not. The fact that you are here means a lot. I think that—obviously, I can't speak on anything specifically that is agenzized, but I would say that this is a community that is united. We have worked together on a number of issues including this project here that you are sitting in together. I think there is a benefit to that. It's a benefit that we care for each other, we work with each other, and to have anything dramatic happen to the composition of this district I think would be a travesty simply because of the fact that we have been working with each other for so long and we really have a united community. I know that is not necessarily one of your criteria, but it is maybe some type of underlying factor that might indicate that District 4 needs to stay together. Other than that I would also say we want to make sure we include the participation of individuals in my community and that's exactly what you are doing. I would also—I know I'm not addressing the Commission but those of you in the audience—I just want to say how much I appreciate you all being here because it's really important. Trust me, there are people throughout the entire city who are organizing, strategizing, providing comment to this Commission from a board perspective and on an individual perspective and you all will have to do the same thing. There are things that prohibit me from being involved too intimately but I would encourage you—I know that you will do a good job representing us. I've seen a number of you who have been at the Commission meetings and I would again encourage you to do the same. So with that, Commissioners you have a very difficult task, but I think just looking at your faces you guys are ready and will to really do the work. God bless you and thank you for coming to District 4.

Comment 2 – Carmen Lopez

With all due respect to Mr. Young, one of the things that I want to verbalize is the participation of political figures in this type of thing. I know that they are community members and they have a right to do so but yet he just commented on something about keeping the District together. So it's kind of a oxymoron. I really have a hard time—you know, I think that we have to keep this clean because quite frankly you all work for the City or you are involved with the City. Like I said he is a member but he just made a comment that influences the process as well. So I just want to verbalize that to you—I really do not like that. Thank you.

PUBLIC HEARING:

ITEM 1 - WELCOME AND INTRODUCTION BY REDISTRICTING COMMISSION CHAIR

Chair Dalal: We are very delighted that you are able to take time out of your busy schedules and join us tonight. We are very excited about the process and we are here to serve you, the public. We want you to be as involved as possible. We are very grateful and honored to be here tonight. The purpose for tonight's meeting—we plan to share information with you about the redistricting process: some information about the U.S. Census Data that came out last week; also, some of the criteria that we will use in our redistricting efforts. Yesterday we also had an informational meeting in the Kearny Mesa area and this is a second of two informational meetings that we have. You will also receive some more information—we have a series of 9 pre-map public hearings that we have scheduled. It's on our website and I want to encourage you to participate, invite some friends and other community members because we are very dedicated; committed to hearing what you have to say and the input you have to offer about how our boundaries should be drawn. Welcome—and you will be very pleased with the information you receive in tonight's meeting. Now I'm going to turn it over to Ms. Wong.

Commissioner Kosmo: To make it clear, we do not work for the City. None of us are City employees; as a matter of fact we are all just like you volunteers. So, none of us are getting paid for this. We are doing this to help better San Diego and I just want to make sure that it is clear that you know that we are only committed to you, the citizens of San Diego—committed to making sure this process is fair to everybody.

(Transcript Ends)

ITEM 2 - 2010 REDISTRICTING AND U.S. CENSUS DATA OVERVIEW BY THE CHIEF OF STAFF

Ms. Midori Wong, Chief of Staff, Redistricting Commission, provided an introduction to the 2010 redistricting process and an overview of the recently released Census data. There were no questions from the public.

ITEM 3 - REDISTRICTING CRITERIA OVERVIEW BY THE CITY ATTORNEY'S OFFICE

Ms. Catherine Bradley, Deputy City Attorney, provided an overview of legal criteria associated with the redistricting process. There were no questions from the public.

ITEM 4 - DISCUSSION REGARDING CITY REDISTRICTING

(Transcript Begins)

Comment 1: Antonio Pizano, representing MAAC Project

Good evening. My name is Antonio Pizano, and I serve as CEO of the MAAC Project. MAAC Project is one of the oldest and largest non-profit organizations in the county of San Diego. We happen to have a

couple of our housing developments in this district, District 4. MAAC is spread out throughout the County. Most of our programs, if not all of our programs, are targeted for individuals who are in need of some assistance. Whether it's housing like I said or education, such as high school, or our largest program, which is primary, located in North County, which is Headstart, early child education—I want to commend the Commission for volunteering to this incredibly important work for our communities here in San Diego and throughout San Diego County. I know how important it is that we study and listen to what is being said because ultimately your recommendation determines where the line is drawn. So that's the bottom line. There will be other speakers after me but I did want to say that MAAC, even though it is a non-profit organization, it's there to help everyone. Because of the nature of where it started in South Bay, where it serves today it remains primarily a Latino based organization. The name of the organization is actually the Metropolitan Area Advisory Committee; that was changed back in 1980. Back in 1965 when it first got started it was known as the Mexican American Action Committee. So it came out of the 60's, it's remnants from the 60's. Today it is one of the largest and most diverse organizations in the County. What I want to share with the Commission is that organizations such as MAAC are there to really help you get the word back to the community. Many of them can't be here today but we have a pretty good size room today. One of our jobs is to get the word back to the community—to the housing units, to the different services that we operate throughout the County. Please take into consideration organizations like MAAC. We will do our part in relaying the information back to the community. If necessary invite them to come to hearings like this. You probably need a bigger room though. Maybe down the road. I just want to say that I am here to help, I am here to assist. Ultimately we want to make sure that whatever is decided—that it's done equitably and with the input and feedback from leadership not only in San Diego County but from our community and the constituents you all serve. Thank you very much.

Comment 2: Andy Berg, representing Rancho Penasquitos Town Council

Good evening. My name is Andy Berg, and I am President of the Penasquitos Town Council. I spoke to you last night. I want to tell you a little bit about my history with Rancho Penasquitos. I moved there in 1993 and I know that distinctly because my wife was pregnant with my first child at that time. That's why we moved there actually, it's a community that's predominantly children. I mentioned this last night—more children there than any other community in San Diego by far. It is also a part of Poway Unified School District. It has communities of Carmel Mountain, Sabre Springs, Rancho Bernardo, Torrey Highlands, Black Mountain Ranch. That really is the tie that binds it. My daughter now is 17; she is a senior at Westview High School and she played soccer for a number of years and competed on the gymnastic team for Westview High School. My two younger sons played sports extensively as well. Their rivalries are all in that area. Our high school rivalries are Rancho Bernardo. They are the other schools within that Poway Unified School District and even to the north of that. We have bigger rivalries with La Costa Canyon, Carlsbad, than we do with Mira Mesa or Kearny Mesa schools, etc. Through all the time that they played sports, their leagues have always encompassed the whole North County inland area, those communities that I just brought out. That's what our communities are completely all about.

Our Town Council, again as I told you last night, set up a subcommittee to study this and we are about that close to being able now to give you a map. Crunching those census numbers was a little harder than we thought they were going to be. Hopefully you have a little bit better computer system than we do. We had 4 or 5 committee meetings and came up with 2 potential plans. Because we had two different ideas, one that you will hear a little bit about from the folks over at APAC will have a community based around Rancho Penasquitos, Mira Mesa, and maybe some of those surrounding communities. One that I just described has the Poway Unified School District. We had a long discussion at our Town Council

meeting, actually that meeting went to almost 11:00 at night; usually we are out of there by 9. We took a vote and it was 14 to 2 in favor of trying to stay a part of Poway Unified because that's the only community we have. I don't think—and with all due respect, I have really come to like Dr. Chan quite a bit and I like his restaurant even better; if you want the greatest dim sum in town, ask him where that is and get there. We don't have much of anything in common with Mira Mesa; I do go to the movie theatre there, but that's about it. We have nothing in common with Kearny Mesa, or Miramar, or any of the communities there as well. We are a community that is there because we are families; it's all about our children. Our days and weeks are spent around youth sports games, birthday parties, but I don't have a life I'm actually Alex's and Andre's dad; I'm not Andy Berg anymore and that's the way we like it. We like to keep that character if we can. Thank you.

Comment 3: Adam Manhbaoboua, representing APAC

Good evening, Commissioners. It's good to see you again. My name is Adam Manhbaoboua. I am the Treasurer for APAC, and Vice President of the Lao American Coalition. Again, I'd like to thank the Commission for your effort and commitment. Citizens like you make our city better. I'm here to support the proposed map submitted by APAC—a proposed 9th Council District comprised of Mira Mesa, Rancho Penasquitos, Miramar Base and Kearny Mesa. We will submit an updated map with minor adjustments. This proposed map is the result of significant considerations of how it will impact other communities. APAC respects the community of interest of African Americans, Hispanics, the LGBT community as well as others. This is why our proposed map has the least impact on these communities. In fact, District 4, District 8 and Districts 3 are not even touched. APAC understands that when communities of interest are preserved communities are stronger, in turn making the overall city stronger. We submitted a proposed map with the intention of what is the best interest of the City of San Diego. Clearly the strength of San Diego is its diversity. Because of that the city is unique. I once heard if you want to visit the world just come to San Diego. The contribution of the Asian Pacific Islander community is one of the reasons why San Diego is considered the finest city in the country—perhaps the finest city in the world. The APAC community contributes socially and culturally to the city with our New Year festivals and our community events, not to mention our karaoke. The city is more vibrant and more rich in culture because of us. Because of this the city is better. We also contribute economically to the city with our talent our entrepreneurship and businesses. You can find our businesses throughout the city. Having a 9th Council District will allow us to even contribute more economically; because of this the city will be better. But we want to contribute more to the city. We want to contribute more in respect to civic engagement and political involvement. Having a 9th Council District representing the Asian American community will make this possible. If we are able to contribute more in this respect, make no mistakes about it, the City of San Diego will be better. After all, a balanced government is the most effective government. In fact, this redistricting process has created new and exciting energy in the API community. For example the Laotian community, a community that has been relatively isolated from the mainstream society, has never been more active or involved. Jacobs Center, this center right here is one of our biggest partners, and the staff and board can attest to that. So I urge the Commission to adopt a map that reflects the City's true and rich diversity, its true personality, its true makeup, and also adopt a map that protects the true meaning of a government of the people, by the people, and for the people. Again, thank you, Commissioners for you time and effort.

Comment 4: Alberto Velasquez, a resident of District 8

Good evening, Commissioners. My name is Alberto Velasquez, I am a resident of District 8 here in San Diego. I am here today to implore this Commission again as stated in your PowerPoint presentation

about keeping communities of interest. District 8 is a unique district as you can see from both the map and the way it's drawn. We have a large section in South Bay and also the sections just east of downtown San Diego and south, Golden Hill, Barrio Logan, Grant Hill, Stockton, Southcrest, and coming down to South Bay, South San Diego, Nestor, Egor Highlands, San Ysidro; I'm sure I'm missing a few there. I implore this Commission to not break up District 8. It's a unique district; it's obviously a community of interest. It is a majority Latino district. Based on your census numbers you provided, Latinos make up about 28.7% of the population of the City of San Diego. I would ask that first of all maintain that district as close as possible, so we can still have a political voice within the city. Also, consider again that we are 28.7% of the population to see if there are other communities that we can form in order to expand that. I agree with APAC in a sense that we do need to provide a voice for all communities, but I think that exploring options like breaking up District 8 would be a detriment to that process of allowing communities to be part of the political process. I implore this commission to take that into consideration as it moves forward in its hard and diligent work. Thank you.

Comment 5: Brian Pollard, a resident of District 4

Good evening and welcome to District 4. It's good to see a good turnout and I expected it. What I wanted to do today was basically offer something that I think is on the minds of a lot of people in the district, and that is the population growth and the population shift. When I look at these numbers and thanks to this process I am becoming an expert on these numbers—thank you very much for that—I look at this and I looked at the population by Council District and race and ethnicity. I look at the Latino population; for instance, it says 376,020 people and I think when the dust all settles it's a game about numbers. If you look at some of the stipulations in the Voting Right Act, that almost screams for more representation for the Latino community. So then the issue becomes how is that done. There has been talk in my district for the impact and growth of the Latino population in District 4, and because I have been involved in this, that is an issue that is very near and dear to my heart as well. I started crunching some numbers. There are opportunities for the Latino population to have a separate new district, not instead of District 4 representation, but in addition to. The numbers are there. There are different census tracts that the Latino population is well over 30, 40 percent consistently. I am offering that there are probably going to be some renditions of maps coming out that you guys will have a difficult job sorting through. We look forward—as I have said in the last comments and my last visits, that we are willing to work with any other organizations that is willing to talk about what those borders are going to look like. Because make no bones about it there is going to be a shift. The issue really is in my mind is how big of a shift is that going to be, but I would offer that there are enough numbers out there to create a second district and not at the expense of District 4. But there are enough pockets of the Latino population in all segments of the city that will answer the contiguous issue that will join them and create an additional voice down at City Hall so that there is proper representation for all. Thank you very much.

Comment 6: Genoveva Aguilar, a resident of District 8

Hi, my name is Genoveva Aguilar. I've been a long time organizer in many of the communities in District 4, District 3, and District 8. Currently I am an internal organizer for SEIU, but today I am speaking on behalf of being a many year resident of the Sherman Heights area and growing up in the barrio. I actually grew up in a great barrio where it taught me a lot about my identity and my culture. I went to a private university, University of San Diego and I was confronted with a lot of hate crimes; we did a lot of advocacy and a lot of work on that. Part of sustaining myself and graduating to a university was going back to my identity. In the area of Sherman my family experienced gentrification and at the same time we still go back, we still go back to our roots to our identity of what is Sherman. Not to divide

that district. I think at the end we talk about how a lot of non-profits have left our district, how we have gone through a lot of stages which, like I said gentrification—other issues of not sustaining our community center. But we still go back to what sustains us, which is our identity and being proud of being Chicano—that community and many generations and learning about our history and what keeps us strong. What encourages other Chicanos to continue with their education. So coming from that experience of hate crimes at the university, I saw those strong unity of everybody. I'm not just advocating for Latinos to have a voice, but also other communities. I feel it very important to other cultures, African Americans, Asian Americans to have the same as Latinos and Chicanos having a part of that identity and how they have also influenced a lot, not only in our decisions but a lot of other generations. That's what I'm speaking of. So be careful of not dividing out communities, so that everyone will have the same voice. Ok, thank you.

Comment 7: Juan A. Gallegos, representing Latino Redistricting Coalition

Good evening. My name is Juan Gallegos, I am a community organizer for the last 15 years working on civil rights with prestigious national Latino civil rights organizations throughout the Southwestern region of the United States. I grew up in Logan Heights and I am here to express this passion as an organizer and working with our local Latino leadership in San Diego, from the north all the way to the border.

Honorable City of San Diego Redistricting Commissioners, I stand here to submit our testimony as a Latino community to ensure that the Federal Voting Rights Act is upheld and that the Commission be just and not divide our communities of interest, as we have many generational, geographical, and cultural ties to this land. Our communities of interest encompass Logan Heights, Sherman Heights, City Heights, University Heights, parts of Mt. Hope, parts of Emerald Hills, parts of Valencia Park, Grant Hill, Logan Heights, part of the gentrification process in the Gaslamp Quarter, Barrio Logan, and to the south, Nestor, Tijuana River Valley, San Ysidro, Otay Mesa, and Palm City; certain segments in proximity to National City and Paradise Hills. San Diego's Latino communities are diverse, multi-ethnic and the youngest workforce in the region. We share a common language and culture. We also share important values like commitment to our families and extended families. Taking care of our elder and our youth and many shared religious practices. We also have an immaculate work ethic that has spurred an astounding nationwide growth. Latinos are now the second largest demographic in the nation. Due to our young workforce, we are the economic backbone of this nation's economy. San Diego, California is only a microcosm of this phenomenon. Latinos now comprise 29% of the population of San Diego. Being nearly a third of the population it's clear that a needed additional majority district be drawn to represent our traditions and values as a whole in our community. City Council does not represent one-third of our community. The following constitutes our communities in terms of shared interest and views. Our communities engage in a holistic approach to educating our community, both young and old and traditional and non-traditional methods—passing down ancestral teachings and specific cultural traditions as you have here in this neighborhood. Geographically, our communities are vested in Districts 2, 3, 4, 7 and 8. The preservation of traditions, values, and rites of passage are such that invest and support community cohesiveness, immigration, safe and secure neighborhoods, neighborhood pride, art and culture, historical continuity, family unity, physically and healthy communities, caretaking of our elderly, actions that empower our communities, civic engagement, and actions that enforce and enhance citizens' participation. As part of the Latino Redistricting Committee, we will be submitting additional testimony, data, and maps, where our representation of a second Latino interest district should be drawn. We are comprised of over 25 community leaders, including youth and elders comprised of the following: educators, organizers, teachers, clergy, physicians, small business owners, business owners,

investors, residents, art and cultural workers, law enforcement. Most important we are analyzing our qualitative and quantitative data to submit a plan. On behalf of the Latino Redistricting Coalition Juan Gallegos, their spokesperson. Muchas gracias.

Again, our communities of interest are City Heights, parts of University Heights, Emerald Hills, Mt. Hope, Valencia, Grant Hill, Logan Heights, Barrio Logan, Gaslamp, South Park, Sherman Heights, parts of Paradise Hills, Nestor, Otay Mesa, San Ysidro, and the Tijuana River Valley. Again, we are analyzing the data and we will be submitting a final map with our recommendations. Thank you very much. I will be submitting this document to you; I just need to make a couple adjustments. I will be emailing them to Ms. Wong if you may allow me to unless you want this now.

Comment 8: Sandra Diaz, representing SEIU, United Service Workers West

Hi, good evening. My name is Sandra Diaz and I'm here representing the Service Employees International Union, United Service Workers West. So just to give a brief background of who we are, we represent largely public sector workers; most of them are Latino immigrants. Most are women in the janitorial industry, but we also represent a significant amount of African American workers and the reason we are here—we have been working with many different organizations and we are trying to figure out how do we create a process where everybody's voice is empowered. That's a challenge for all of us here and I commend the efforts that all of you are going to undergo. How do we draw the lines where as somebody mentioned in District 4, we continue to keep the African American community together, but also not compromising the voice of other communities, such as the Latino community as mentioned by Mr. Gallegos. Many of our members live the districts in these cities that Mr. Gallegos mentioned. Most of them live in Districts 8, 3 and 4. We have seen a large number of our members who are Latino immigrants and their voices have been disenfranchised throughout the city. Right now as we are looking at the immigrant rights debate, as we look at all these attacks we are facing, it is a critical point. Not only for the nation, but for the county to start looking at how we start empowering communities so that we become part of our electoral process, but who have also been embedded in the makeup of this county. We hope that you take those basic principles in mind, which are how do we keep different together so they maximize their voice within this electoral process by continuing to form part of the fabric of this county? I was raised in North County in the City of Escondido; unfortunately we haven't had many of these processes. As part of the Latino community, I've been a witness of what it is to be disenfranchised and voiceless in the electoral process. I commend you all here within the City of San Diego and what we are doing is an inclusive process. We are going to be working with the different communities of interest to ensure that we do come up with a map that represents everybody. Thank you.

Comment 9: Erik Marquis, a member of the Rancho Penasquitos Town Council

Hello. My name is Erik Marquis I am also a member of the Rancho Penasquitos Town Council. I, like Andy, moved to Penasquitos with my family in 2003, specifically for the reason of getting into the Poway Unified School District. I know many of my neighbors did the same. Currently, we don't have any representation under the current configuration on the City Council. Rancho Bernardo [sic-Penasquitos] is part of District 1, so we are a minority in that district, and Rancho Bernardo is part of District 5, and they are a minority in that district. So it would be really nice if we could have the Council District that represented PUSD. I'd also like to point out that Rancho Bernardo and Rancho Penasquitos are both on the fire safety council. We both evacuated for the Witch Creek fires in 2007. So we both have a strong commitment to public safety. So in closing I'd just like to say that we have many tangible

community interests and I think the right thing for Rancho Bernardo and Rancho Penasquitos to be together. Thank you.

Comment 10: Mateo R. Camarillo, representing the Latino Redistricting Coalition

Good evening, Commissioners and members of the San Diego community. My name is Mateo Camarillo. I sat in your chair 10 years ago as a Commissioner. In 1990 I was an adviser to the County Chief Administrative Officer in terms of redistricting the County. I also advised the State Legislature, the State Senate on state districts. I am a businessman and have been for over 35 years. I'm also a community organizer; I have a masters degree in social work emphasizing community organizing. I've organized here in District 4 helping Sister Margaret Castro establish a clinic here in St. Regis just down the street. I was on the Board of Directors of the Chicano Federation when we sued the City for its method of discriminating by utilizing at-large elections, which diluted the voting rights and voting opportunities for Latinos by having the people of La Jolla electing the people who represent San Ysidro. That's how we established district elections. We also sued the County for its redistricting in terms of diluting the communities of interest, the Spanish speaking communities of interest. I heard your City Attorney speak of the various laws, rules, regulations. I didn't hear about the City Charter, but the City Charter calls that you not break up Census tracts because of the issue of compactness. So if you look at a map and look at District 8, I support testimony of an earlier speaker that said, "don't mess with District 8." However, it's got too many people so you have to take mostly from the northern part because there is no where to put District 8 from the south of Chula Vista, because it can only be attached like it is politically, geographically to the major San Diego body. So it would have to be the southern part of San Diego around Barrio Logan, which is a Latino majority community. The risk based on the U.S. Census, which you published in your own records, is that there can be a second majority Latino district as you create the 9th District. You all have to just take a look at the map and as Juan Gallegos indicated, and I'm part of the Latino Redistricting Committee, and if you take a look at the map that your numbers show that beyond District 8 is the Latino population which is 40-50-60 percent in Census tracts. From District 8, District 3, and District 4, which is in the middle of the city, there is the most logical, without gerrymandering to have compact districts. So that there would be a new district which would be majority Latino—just based on the numbers and the laws and regulations that you have to obey, which is communities of interest. Juan Gallegos explained what the communities of interest are and definitions. Look at the churches, look at the schools, over 50 percent of the students entering San Diego Unified School District are Latino kids. It's not hard to tell where those schools are. That's part of our communities of interest and we hope that you would respect those boundaries and reflect them in your plans as you draw your maps. I also belong to other organizations that are looking at what you are doing with great interest and have been involved in the past in terms of correcting oversights. Let's call them that as opposed to willful acts. The Chicano Federation, MAPA, LAPA (Latin American Political Association)—I am also the president of multicultural organizations, which include Filipinos, African American, and Latinos. We share much in common and we get along and I think that you ought to take a very close look at those communities of interest in those geographical areas identified. We will go further and present you a map to help you guide you in terms of how you choose to do your work. We hope that you comply with the various requirements that are outlined in the City Charter, the U.S. Constitution, Voting Rights Act, and various case laws that identify communities of interest. I thank you very much for listening and I wish you good luck. Thank you.

Comment 11: Dr. Allen Chan, representing APAC

Good evening, Commissioners. Thank you for your hard work. You had been working all day yesterday morning and last night and now today also I am really encouraged by the number of people showing up yesterday and today. I'm Dr. Allen Chan, representing APAC, Asian Pacific American Coalition. We've been to the very first hearing, actually before the Commission was even formed, and we were really discouraged because there was nobody else except us. Now we are seeing so many people here—that means that you really care about your community and you want to protect your community of interest through this process. That's why we are here. 10 years ago I was involved with redistricting and we were really inspired by the people coming out during that time especially the LGBT community they were really coming out. However, we did not see at that time to have a district that can represent the Asian Pacific American interest, because we started too late and for various reasons. That's why this time we organized earlier to get the support for the different Asian Pacific American communities and organizations. If you go onto our website, www.apacsd.org, you will find out Asian communities and organizations supporting this cause. What we want to do is that Asian Pacific Americans have been in San Diego—well actually the Chinese have been here the longest, they have been here for over 100 years already and we used to have a Chinatown in downtown, which is not there anymore, but Third Avenue has some remnants of the Chinatown there. According to the newest data, we have 15.63% of the total San Diego city population. Most of them are in Districts 1, 4 and 5. However, there is no representation at all for the Asian Pacific Americans and we are crying out to get involved and be represented and also to make San Diego a better place for all of us. Myself, I moved to San Diego in 1988 and the place I really liked and picked was Rancho Penasquitos. I raised my two daughters there; they graduated from Mt Carmel High School. Now my younger daughter also started raising her family in Penasquitos. She is expecting her first child, my first grandchild in a week and a half. I am pretty sure the grandchildren in the future will be going to school in Rancho Penasquitos. Rancho Penasquitos and Mira Mesa are the two main, what I call bedrooms part of the district we are proposing, what I'd like to call District 9, comprised of Rancho Penasquitos, Mira Mesa, Miramar Base west of I-15, and Kearny Mesa. Those two communities are the bedrooms of the district, as most people live in Penasquitos, Mira Mesa. The development history of those districts, of these areas are very similar. When I moved to Penasquitos there was no 56, no Black Mountain Road; at the time there were only two lanes and divided road between Mira Mesa and Penasquitos because most people lived in Mira Mesa; when they expand their family they moved into Rancho Penasquitos. When I first came out here I lived with my friend in Mira Mesa, until I established my chiropractor practice and bought a home in Rancho Penasquitos. The two communities have a large number of Asian Pacific Americans. Mira Mesa has close to 50% Asian Pacific Americans and Penasquitos according to the old data has 37%. If we combined those two areas together in forming part of a new district we are looking at close to 40% Asian Pacific Americans. With more that 15% of the city's total population, 40-50% of the whole district's population, we have no representation at all. Nobody is looking after our interest. We are very inspired by the Latinos, the African Americans, and other communities who speak out and fight for their rights and their voice to be heard in the City and we will try to do the same thing. It will never be too late. Most of the growth in the city is in the north city part—north of 56. If you look carefully when more data comes out you are going to notice that a lot of that growth is from the Asian Pacific American population. A lot of them are moving into the northern part of the city. I just would like to request the Commission do a fair job representing the interest of all San Diego, especially the Asian Pacific Americans in San Diego. Thank you very much.

Comment 12: Glenda Gates, a resident of District 4

My name is Glenda Gates and I've been a member of this community and the San Diego community for over 40 something years. I came out when I was 16. My concern right now is that everybody wants a separate community. Everybody wants an Asian American community, everybody wants a Latino community. I'm not saying that the 4th District is a very diverse community; it's one of the most diverse communities in all the council districts. We got Asian Pacific, we got the Samoan community, we got all the communities in one. To hear that people want separate communities, what would that be like? Then that would be like, is that more power to this one group of people? I'm just concerned about when people just want to talk about their own community, their own nationality. I love everybody's nationality, don't get me wrong, I love my African American community too, but I don't want to be separate. I don't want everybody to be separate, like I'm a Latino community and if I'm in the 9th District then everything's got to be all about Latinos. Forget about what the other districts are about or I'm in the Asian American community—forget about what other communities are about. I'm just kind of wiggled out here at the moment. I'd like more information about redistricting because what I'm hearing is that everybody wants a separate community. We are all in this melting pot together. If we are going to do communities, let's try to get redistricting where everybody will be a part of that community. Not one community group over another one, because that's where we are going to have problems with. I'm real passion about this. I sat back there as long as I could without saying anything, but I'm real passion about we need to still all work together. Let's not be separate. I want to learn as much about the Asian American community as I can, because I want to be part of that community. I might not be the race but I want to know. The Latino community, Samoan community. This is all our community and we are one big melting pot. Let's not separate. If we are going to separate and do a 9th District, make sure Commissioners that you guys do a 9th District based on a group, you know all people included, not just one nationality. I'm through.

Comment 13: Guy Mock, a resident of District 3

I'm here to say that that young lady beat me to the punch. I was raised up in an Air Force family and was not really exposed to racism until I went down into the deep south and ran a-fall of the Ku Klux Klan. I joined Navy and was thrown in a room with 80 other people from all over the country and we all got sick from everybody else—brought their flu or their illness from their particular part of the country. We learned to work together. I live in City Heights. Believe me, I'm telling you right not that if you live in City Heights you know about diversity, you know about other nationalities, and we have mosques and temples and Catholic churches and we even have a Chinese church that actually was torn down recently because the Chinese community started in City Heights and left. It's an immigrant community that a lot of peoples' forefathers, and grandparents, their parents started and then they left. City Heights is a community of interest and it should be an example to everybody in this room. Just like those 80 people that came from all over the country and were thrown into a room together and joined the Navy and had to learn to get along—we're learning to get along in City Heights. It's great to have your own personal or your own groups' representation downtown, but we have 3 different Councilmembers in our community, and we don't get along as great as we could, but be careful about what you ask for. What you are going to end up with is a community that is so specific to just one ethnicity or one religion that you are going to isolate yourself from the rest of the community and we are going to have all these isolated communities that aren't working together for the whole San Diego and the community. You will only be vested in what you want in your particular group. You will end up pushing out other people in that community that are forced to live there by whatever means or reason because they don't follow your ethnicity or your ideas. You have to be very careful about that. Very careful, ok. If you know my

history, and many of you don't, Theresa does and some of you in this room do. I should have given up trying to do this stuff a long time ago, but I'm a glutton for punishment, I'm still here and we still need to diversify, because this is a melting pot country. My parents came over here as indentured servants, conscript labor from Germany back in the 1800's. We had to work for 5 years to pay off their passage to the United States. So all of us in one way or another are immigrants to this country and we are all part of the Heinz 57 melting pot, that's the United States. So let's not go down any particular line, let's start working together as a community not as a group of people, that's a sub community. Thank you.

Chair Dalal: Any other individuals that would like to speak? I want to thank everyone very much; we appreciated you taking time out of your schedules and coming to this very important meeting, learning about the process, having an opportunity to hear about the Census data. I highly encourage you to come to our next meeting on April 7th at 4:00 pm. It's in Council Chambers downtown.

(Transcript Ends)

Question from audience regarding meeting times beginning at 4 p.m.

(Transcript Begins)

Chair Dalal: We had already established that time at 4:00 and we encourage people to come; we start at 4:00 and depending on the agenda we don't have a certain time for ending. We encourage people to even come after work, sometimes our meetings do go as late as 7:00. It depends on the agenda.

(Transcript Ends)

Question from audience regarding availability of online mapping tool.

(Transcript Begins)

Chair Dalal: I can have Ms. Wong, our Chief of Staff, speak to those efforts.

Ms. Wong: We have an RFP for a mapping software consultant; the bid period just closed yesterday. It's certainly the intent of the Commission to have a web accessible tool that can be accessed by members of the public online. So when that selection process is complete we hope to provide that resource.

(Transcript Ends)

Follow up question from audience regarding availability of online mapping tool.

(Transcript Begins)

Ms. Wong: As I said, the bid period just closed yesterday so we haven't even selected a software or consultant yet.

Chair Dalal: As soon as we get that information it will be posted on our website. I also encourage people— we do have an email distribution list. So if you haven't already, please sign your name and your email address so we'll make sure you get the latest updates on our efforts as well.

COMMISSIONER COMMENT:

Commissioner Quiroz: Thank you. As was stated earlier I am the District 4 person sitting up here, so I would just like to take the chance to welcome everybody to District 4. Thank you for coming down. I know some of you must have had very long drives to get here, so we do appreciate it; we hope you enjoyed your stay down here, come again. It's a wonderful little shopping center right here, so come down and shop. Thank you. I can't tell you how much it means to us to hear what it is you have to say. It really makes our job easier, because it's so difficult for us to know your community. So I really urge you to keep coming, come as often as you can. Even if you want to say the same thing over and over again, just keep telling us so that we can get it through. But please do keep coming; ask your friends to come. Especially to these ones that are going to be out in the districts; we really hope that there will be a lot of people coming down to those. Welcome, and thank you so much for coming.

Vice Chair Marquez: I just want to reiterate what Commissioner Quiroz and our Chair have said this evening. I'm incredibly proud of San Diego this evening, and I think everyone of us up here continues to learn about the rich diversity of San Diego. I don't think we ever had as many voices representing as many communities at any meeting as we have this evening. Thank you so much for all of your participation and hope you continue to do so. We all very much want to make sure that this is an equitable process, and we want to make sure that you believe us and that you don't think that we are lying through our teeth. We're not. So we just want to encourage you to continue to participate. Thank you.

Commissioner Nishioka: I would also like to express my appreciation and thanks to the people for coming out and discussing and presenting their ideas. This has been very informative and educational for me as I try to carry out my particular duties on this Commission. So I encourage you to continue to come, participate, and voice your opinions, they are very important to be heard. Thank you. No one has said it yet, but go Aztecs!

(Transcript Ends)

ADJOURNMENT:

Chairperson Dalal adjourned the meeting at 7:50 p.m.

Janet Comer, Executive Secretary
2010 Redistricting Commission