

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

**TUESDAY, APRIL 19, 2011  
VALENCIA PARK/MALCOLM X LIBRARY – COMMUNITY ROOM  
5148 MARKET STREET, SAN DIEGO, CA 92114**

**CHRONOLOGY OF THE MEETING:**

The meeting was called to order by Chair Dalal at 6:34 p.m. 95 persons were observed to be in attendance. The meeting was adjourned by Chair Dalal at 7:48 p.m. to the next scheduled Pre-Map Public Hearing of the Redistricting Commission on Wednesday, April 20, 2011, at 6:00 p.m. at Otay Mesa/Nestor Library, 3003 Coronado Avenue, San Diego, CA 92154.

**ATTENDANCE DURING THE MEETING:**

(C) Chair Anisha Dalal  
(VC) Vice Chair Carlos Marquez  
(M) Arthur Nishioka  
(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) Arthur Nishioka - present  
(M) Ani Mdivani-Morrow - present  
(M) Frederick Kosmo - present  
(M) Theresa Quiroz - present  
(M) David Potter - 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 three 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 – Pat Washington, Ph.D., a resident of District 4.**

(Transcript Begins)

Good afternoon, my name is Pat Washington. I'm actually speaking on behalf of several communities that I represent. I am a lesbian, so I believe very much so that we need to preserve the LGBT community as a united community. We do have representation that has been fought for and won over previous years. I also live and breathe in this community, the 4<sup>th</sup> District of San Diego County [sic]. One of the things that is really important to me is that this is the heart and soul of where black people function, basically – in terms of our activism, in terms of our population percentages, in terms of the psychological home for African Americans. It's really crucial that we look at the ways in which we can preserve this community for our historically under-represented African American community. We also continue our work to preserve space and mindset and political power for the LGBT community. I also support wholeheartedly the efforts to create a Latino empowerment district. I believe very firmly that we should be working towards that as well as serving as someone who believes very much so that our API community needs voting strength in our district. I want to urge you to please consider, 1) this District right here is the heart of where the African Americans have a presence, even if it's not a numerical presence that people want to pay attention to, it is the heart and soul of African Americans' political empowerment. The LGBT community has a home, a space for political empowerment and we need to preserve that as a Community of interest that matters. It makes a difference in this counting. Also, I believe we want to create an Asian empowerment district, because Asian Americans have long been underrepresented in our political structure in San Diego County and that needs to change. Thank you so much for your time.

**Comment 2 – Jim Varnadore, a resident of City Heights.**

I've given you the long version of this speech several times, so I will give you the short version tonight. First, thank you very much for your time and your energy, and your efforts, and your dedication. Thank you. Second, to remind you that at the end of this process you will have no new friends and lots of new enemies. Third, to remind you that it is the interest that is to be preserved for a Community of interest and that the community should decide how that is to be accomplished. Finally, you have been hearing testimony here and elsewhere, please remember that each speaker including me wants redistricting to favor our goal constituencies. You should never lose sight of that of that basic fact about redistricting. Thank you.

**Comment 3 – Ed Smith, a Commissioner of the Webster Community Council.**

Good afternoon, my name is Ed Smith. I am one of the Commissioners from the Webster Community Council. One of the things that I want to do before I do that is I'd like all the residents that live in the 4<sup>th</sup> District and been there for long, will you please stand up. The ones that can't stand raise your hand. That tells me something; that with all the residents that are out here today, we would like to stay in the 4<sup>th</sup> District instead of placed somewhere else. We have a good Community Council at Webster and of course we do a lot of things with the community, and the kids, and with the school. We would like to stay there. Being one of the members of the Community Council, I've been in this area for about 30 something years. I enjoy working in Webster Community and for the public and I know you work hard in trying to get things done. Thank you very much.

**Comment 4 – Barrett Tetlow, a representative of the San Diego County Republican Party.**

The reason I speak to you today is to bring something to your interest, which was back in January. Deputy City Attorney Sharon Spivak informed the Redistricting Commission of the possibility of the June primary election where City Council candidates would be on the ballot would be moved up to the February elections. The Commission needed to complete its work quicker than is traditionally taking place. When Deputy City Attorney Sharon Spivak informed the Commission, that was the situation, but the situation has now changed. The State Assembly just passed AB80 by Fong, 75-0, moving the presidential election in February like we had in 2008 to June. While this isn't law yet, hasn't been signed by the Governor, there is very little reason to think that the June elections are going to be moved to February. In fact we are not going to have a February election. The City Charter allows the Commission to complete its work 9 months from when you received the data. The data released by the U.S. Census in March, you have until mid December to finish your work. There is no reason the Commission should be rushing to finish in 5 months when the City Charter allows you to have 9 months. More input, more time, more meetings, more venues like this, more debate, even if it's contentious; it's a healthy thing. So I urge the Commission to reconsider the timeline in light of what the State Legislative has done. Thank you.

**Comment 5 – Pamela Hendrickson, a resident of Lemon Grove.**

Good evening, I'm Pamela Hendrickson and I am speaking on behalf of preserving District 4 as the heart of the African American Community. I'm not a member of District 4; in fact I live in Lemon Grove. So you might think that I have no skin in this game, but I bring my son here to get his hair done. I come to this Library so he can read books and check out videos. I have community meetings with colleagues and friends. Every year I attend the Heritage Day Parade. This is the heart, the spiritual heart of the African American Community. I know that the growing Latino community, we have a tie within numbers, but for voting age, this is still a predominately voting age dominated by African Americans. I know it's going to take a lot of compromise. It's going to take a lot of compromise from various communities. District 3 is going to have to give up some, District 8 is going to have to give up some, District 4 is going to have to give up some, but I want this and I am asking the Commission to preserve this as the spiritual home of the African American community. Thank you.

**Comment 6 – Joe LaCava, a resident of Bird Rock.**

Hello, my name is Joe LaCava. Thank you for the opportunity to speak and thank you, Commissioners for your service to the City. I am going to speak about redistricting under number 4, but the Chief of Staff suggested that I speak now because I probably will not be able to make your regular meeting on Thursday. As part of your continuing outreach, generating interest and excitement in the redistricting

process – my suggestion is that as you receive formal maps that you actually post them on the web site so people can see. Others are suggesting, not everybody is going to be able to come out to every single meeting and there isn't anything that is going to generate more excitement, or concern or frustration than seeing what somebody else is pushing. If there is a way to post those maps – I am going to present one tonight that I am going to give you in a PDF form that you can post. I think that would be a good way to get the word out what other people are thinking. Thank you.

**Comment 7 – Chad Creviston, resident of Downtown San Diego.**

Good afternoon, my name is Chad Creviston. I am a resident of Downtown San Diego. What I'm here to talk about today is as a citizen of San Diego my concern with the Redistricting Commission's ability to comprise a board that does deliver a perspective and point of view in the redistricting process that is truly impartial and non-partisan in its work that it does. From a lot of what I have been able to research on my own as well as some other data sources that I have looked at, I'm concerned that individuals involved in this Commission, while highly accomplished individuals and clearly care about San Diego, are very disruptive on this Commission as they would have a disruptive impact on the fabric of democracy here in San Diego. The individuals in particular that I have concern about are Midori Wong, Theresa Quiroz, Carlos Marquez, David Potter. Again, very good individuals, accomplished members of our society, but believe this is not a proper role for you to serve in and determine the future of San Diego. I believe that it's in the City's best interest to look for alternative members of this Commission that can maintain the much needed diversity of this Committee and still deliver a non-partisan perspective on the redistricting process. Thank you.

**Comment 8 – Tom Mitchell, a resident of District 6.**

Good evening, my name is Tom Mitchell, I live in District 6. I am here to talk about tonight what I believe to be the hijacking of the electoral process via this Redistricting Commission. This Redistricting Commission was supposed to be independent. We got two Democrats who function, we got two Independents who function as anything but Independents, they are truly Democrats. The Vice Chairman of this Commission is the Vice President of Empower San Diego. Its implicit goal was to recruit special interest to represent the lapped of politics. Which is fine and great but please be explicit about that in your intentions. When they went before the judges to get on this Commission they did not disclose their partisan electioneering activities. The Vice Chairman of this Commission is the Vice President of Empower San Diego, which its goal is to put more progressives on here to represent labor union interests. The Vice Chairman is trading vices for vices. I hope you all stand with me and you won't stand for this and you call for their resignations. Thank you.

**Comment 9 – David Vidosic.**

Good evening, my name is David Vidosic. I am here as a concerned resident of San Diego to talk about the makeup of the Redistricting Commission. While I understand that in today's politically charged atmosphere it's very difficult to find anyone on earth who's truly impartial, I understand that everyone is going to lean one way or the other, my concern is when an organization whose stated goal is, you know in impartial redistricting in the City of San Diego, that they may have some interest in mind that aren't the well being or the makeup of the communities as previous speakers have alluded to. District 4 is the heart of a very select community. There are a lot of communities in San Diego that are maintained within certain City Council Districts. As a resident of San Diego I hope that we keep these communities together and we have the citizens of San Diego in mind when we do our redistricting as opposed to the

desires of certain political parties or certain labor union groups or certain interest groups. I think that their interest should be secondary to the interest to the citizens of San Diego. Thank you.

**Comment 10 – Lee Wright, Chair of the Webster Community Council.**

My name is Lee Wright, I am the Chair of the Webster Community Council. We have some concerns, we have not been told the advantage or disadvantage of us possibly being in another district. The two concerns we have are that Webster Community is one of the lowest crime communities in this City. The other concern is that insurance. We are afraid that being redistricted we would also be redlined as far as our property insurance and our property will be decreased in value. We would like for you to address those points tonight. Again Webster Community goes on record as saying that we do not want to be in another district. Thank you.

**Comment 11 – Jackie Meshack, a resident of District 4.**

Good evening. I've been in San Diego 64 years and August 20<sup>th</sup> I will be here 65. I came out here when I was 17 and I have not lost my zest. I have 6 children, 30 grandchildren and about 25 have the last name Meshack. So you're in trouble because someone will be left when I leave but that will not be soon. I know about redistricting and I know that they come in and they snatch us apart or add somebody to us that's already struggling. As soon as we get the ball and can win they come with another rule and another question. Like I told you, I've been here 64 years; why is it that I don't see me up there on the panel? I'm an only child but like I said you can't push me around. They tried with 27 firings and that was not from the gun but even if I say 45 they all start running 'cause they think it's in my pocket. I ran for City Council in 1975 and they did not have Citywide at that time. I'm speaking mostly to our audience that what the difference is, in the District you can win your own district but in the general it becomes Citywide. They weren't ready for me in '75 and I know they are not ready in 2011, but I'll be here as long as I know I need to. I wish you guys will wake up, I really do. I mean my people, you know I love all people. This is what I said to Barry; is he here or not here? Hello, hi there good friend. I said we need another count because I believe the Census cheated us. Because I, throw a tomato if you want to because they are a dollar each, I am an American, I was born in Chicago. I don't claim African American, I don't claim it. I'm an American and if you have to throw a color in I was black before you could be proud of it. I came before James Brown and my name was Jackie Brown. But come on people here we go again. We don't applaud after people speak, and they have said plenty good things, but see you are in San Diego, and that's the first thing I complained about, that you are slow. Don't forget now if we have some voting power make sure we use it. Thank you.

**Comment 12 – Christina Sanchez**

Good evening, my name is Christina Sanchez. I live on 4300 Newton Avenue. I am a member of St. Jude's Catholic Church, and also member from SDOP [San Diego Organizing Project] almost from its beginning. I walk every day around my neighborhood. I have to repeat the words that one Pastor of St. Jude, he said, it seems to him that he had one foot in Tijuana and one foot in San Diego. I've been in San Diego for about 40 years and I have seen the community grow. When I started being active Catholic in Our Lady of Angels, on 24<sup>th</sup> and Market, a mass was audited and I was living also in North Park on 30<sup>th</sup> Street; there is a Catholic Church. We started a Hispanic Mass. I also go to the library and I see a lot of Hispanics use the library and I have taken some classes at ACC. I see some need for more Hispanic professors in there. Thank you.

**PUBLIC HEARING:**

**ITEM 1 - WELCOME AND INTRODUCTION BY REDISTRICTING COMMISSION CHAIR**

**Chair Dalal:** We really appreciate that you have taken time out of your busy schedules to come out here. This is the very first of our series of Pre-Map Public Hearings. We will have another hearing tomorrow in District 8 at 6 p.m. at the Otay Mesa Nestor Library. All the information is again on our Redistricting Commission web site. We have our regular scheduled meeting at 4 p.m. on Thursday, April 21<sup>st</sup> at City Council Chambers. Then we also have a series of meetings in the following weeks. The schedule again is on the web site and you will get some more information about that in the presentation that you will hear today. But I really want to encourage you to continue to come out to let your voice be heard. We want to hear as much input as possible and we want to make sure that we know your ideas so that we can do what is best for the citizens of San Diego. We are very committed and dedicated to this process. The turnout tonight is amazing and very impressive. We hope that will continue in our future meetings.

(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. Sharon Spivak, Deputy City Attorney, provided an overview of legal criteria associated with the redistricting process. There were 12 questions from the public.

**ITEM 4 - DISCUSSION REGARDING CITY REDISTRICTING**

**Comment 1: Linda Perine, LGBT Redistricting Task Force.**

(Transcript Begins)

Good evening, my name is Linda Perine. I am here from the LGBT Redistricting Task Force. First thing I want to do is say a heartfelt thank you to the Commissioners. You are doing a wonderful service for our community. You should be commended for your efforts on our behalf and I do so now. The second thing I'd like to do is commend the group of people here. We are exercising democracy in its purest form and we should be commended. We have committed, concerned and educated citizens, listening to the concerns of educated and committed citizens who are here for no other reason than to protect and grow their community. So you are to be commended as well. If anyone has an idea or thought or a comment or something that moves us forward in this endeavor to make San Diego representative of its wonderfully diverse population, I want to hear and everyone in the room wants to hear everything you have to say. If the best you can do, because your ideas are so bankrupted, is personal antagonism and

attacks, I personally wish that you would not do that. I want to be here now to tell you what I came here to talk to you about. I want to encourage the Commission to recognize and continue to recognize the LGBT Community of interest. I want to encourage the Commission to consider very carefully and positively the creation of a second Latino Empowerment District. I'd like to lend my support to the folks in the API Community who are working to create a Community of interest. I would like to thank everyone for being involved in this wonderful exercise of democracy. Thank you.

**Comment 2: Joost Bende, Rancho Penasquitos Planning Board.**

Good evening, my name is Joost Bende, and I'm a former Chair of the Rancho Penasquitos Planning Board. I'm also the former Chair from La Jolla, I served on the La Jolla Community Planning Association. I got started in my history with Boy Scouts of America and my troop in La Jolla. When I started to grow up I realized the need to provide a great school district for my kids to grow up in. Like many of us that live in Rancho Penasquitos, that's why we moved to Rancho Penasquitos because of the school district. Today I'd like to talk to you about the North City Inland, the North City Poway Unified School District proposal, which is supported by the Rancho Penasquitos Town Council, and Rancho Penasquitos Planning Board, and we are looking for other supporters. This is just a work in progress. I can send the map that is in our last slide out to the Commission as a PDF so that it can be posted on their web site. This plan unifies representation of Northern Communities in the Poway Unified School District. It also unifies communities' political interest in the Wildland Urban Interface Fire Hazards. All these communities that are in this district that I am proposing, District 5 were evacuated in fires in '03 and '07. It unifies the communities that are part of the Palomar Pomerado Public Health District, which is the largest health district in the State of California. It creates 9 equal districts under 1% deviation, it also creates an API District with about 32% API population. It's bounded by natural boundaries, Penasquitos Canyon to the South and Lake Hodges on the North.

**Comment 3: Marina Castelo, Chair of Latinos y Latinas En Accion in City Heights.**

My name is Marina Castelo and I am a Chair of Latinos y Latinas En Accion in City Heights. We represent the Latino Community in City Heights. We work with the community and we want to let everybody know that we are growing. Our numbers are growing, Latinos is growing, now we are 60% Latino in the community of City Heights. We want to tell the Commission to take fair decisions for our community. Thank you.

**Comment 4: Dr. Kitty Reed**

Good evening, my name is Dr. Kitty Reed. I'm here today to voice our choice to remain in the 4<sup>th</sup> District. During this process our communities will be represented and we will be involved. We understand that 2010 Census will mandate we make some adjustments and we also realize we have input. I live in Webster Community. This Community Council is a non-profit organization comprised of residents that live in the boundaries of Webster school. I have lived in this community since 1970. Webster Community Council was formed in 1982. Webster is a small area and we do not want any part of it pinched off and merged with other districts. As a matter of fact we want College Grove Shopping Center back. We are a strong, largely African American community that votes regularly. We own our own homes, we pay our taxes. We attend church in the 4<sup>th</sup> District. We do our shopping within the 4<sup>th</sup> District and our kids go to school within the 4<sup>th</sup> District. We are a Community of interest in the 4<sup>th</sup> District and we want to remain so. Our history is in the 4<sup>th</sup> and our passage is in the 4<sup>th</sup>. Our work is not done in the 4<sup>th</sup>. Together we are working for redevelopment, economic development and many other

issues as a community. In summary, as this process continues we strongly urge you to keep Webster Community within in the boundaries of the 4<sup>th</sup> District. We belong there and we want to remain there. We are one of the highest voting blocks in San Diego. We are asking for your consideration to help 4<sup>th</sup> District to grow, not destroy it. Thank you.

**Comment 5: Joe La Cava, a resident of Bird Rock.**

Joe La Cava again, here to talk about Redistricting, I'm proud to say that over the course of my life I've lived in 6 of the 8 current Council Districts, and I'm proud to call Council District 1 my home right now, and that's why I'm speaking because I hope that when this is done I'm still living in Council District 1. I presented a map to you that is now being circulated through the different communities. We propose to revise the current Council District 1 by picking up the westerly half in order to meet the population numbers. By coincidence I realize that this dovetails pretty nicely with what you heard from Rancho Penasquitos. Clearly this is a geographical compact composed of contiguous territories. We have good access between 5, 52 & 56, and we are bounded by natural boundaries that define this. The Pacific Ocean, the Northern boundary to the City, 805, 52, 5 and the hills of Mt Soledad. We call this the Coast and Canyons Plan because that's really what defines our westerly corner of the City. We've clearly shown that this congregation of communities works; we are very interested as has said by others to keep the Community Plan Areas in their entirety within each Council District. We have worked well together over the years. We have similar demographics and we are all focused more on the coastal than the easterly communities are. We respect the major open space corridors that define the north City area. As mentioned previously, we align with the School District boundaries. We are primarily San Diego Unified as opposed to the easterly part which is connected to Poway. Our residential areas are very well connected to the major employment centers of UCSD, biotech areas as well as the Golden Triangle area. This effort has just gotten itself organized. I note that I am gaining the support and by the time you get to the May 11<sup>th</sup> meeting in Council District 1 I hope to demonstrate that we have unanimous support for this proposal. So I urge the Commission to adopt this plan the Coastal Canyons plan as the new Council District as part of the redistricting effort. Thank you very much.

**Comment 6: Ken Seaton-Msemaji**

My name is Ken Seaton-Msemaji and I haven't been here as long as Jackie, but I have been here long enough. I'd like to say before I get into this, the people who came from wherever they came from making those accusations is absolutely incorrect. Empower San Diego; nobody in this room has the power to put anybody on or off this Commission. Their motives were deviant. Empower San Diego, everybody ought to want to join that because they work with communities and neighborhoods where people who don't have a voice can have a voice about these very same issues and services that all this aims at. So those people had a different motive, you all are not guilty of what they accuse you of and if you don't do right we'll get you at the end.

The reapportionment of districts are not based on voter registration; it's based on the number of human beings in the area. The purpose is government services, City, State, Federal services, water, utilities, the police, fire, libraries, recreation centers. All of those services are distributed based on Census data, how many human beings live in a particular area. That's why that is the way it is. This redistricting gives us an incredible opportunity. Because we do have an impartial panel of concerned people and they have demonstrated that already by having more meetings and more hearings than they have to. But the other reason is the 9<sup>th</sup> Council District means that every District here has to change because of population and to get that 9<sup>th</sup> District. That means most of the existing districts have to shrink and get smaller. The 4<sup>th</sup>



District is going to get smaller, which will make it stronger, because a lot of the Spanish speaking people they are going to that second Latino district which they deserve. Rancho Penasquitos and Mira Mesa should be somewhere up there where an Asian can run and win. Now I want you to understand this, I believe that we all have to be vested as human beings first. Whether our ideas are different we have to have a chance and a voice. Whoever that Asian person is, is likely to be a Republican. I'll never be a Republican. However, the fact that Asians need to be vested just like Latinos and Blacks and LGBT – it's more important than the politics of our era. That has to be a thing, and the LGBT community will shrink and some of them will be moved into somebody else's district. This opportunity could get a second Latino district, can strengthen our 4<sup>th</sup> District where most of the African Americans live can make sure that the LGBT people have their district where Todd Gloria, Christine Kehoe, and Toni Atkins are very good representatives have come from and in the North an Asian can be elected. Now, none of this can happen by itself, as a matter of fact, you mess up any of those 4 areas, all of them could fall like dominos. We have to be each other's brothers and sisters here. If you don't like each other, do it after the Census and after all this is done, because we all need each other.

**Comment 7: Mable Bell**

Good evening. After everything we spoke about let's stay united before I speak. I'm here as a Latina and a community of color as a Community of interest. My brother lives here in Encanto and I also know Jackie. I'm here to embrace my black brothers and sisters, my LGBT brothers and sisters, my Asian brothers and sisters. I think we have more in common than differences. I'm glad that you had race, ethnic and language up there because this is going to be a criteria and I'm glad to see that. As a Latina resident for 30 years I'd like to speak here on behalf of the Latino Redistricting Committee, which has dedicated and vested a lot in our communities. I say this for all the Latinos in San Diego region, because not only are we growing in numbers here but statewide. We want the national vote, we took that, we took the state one too. Our families may be immigrants, they may be undocumented, but 18 year olds are documented as being the voting power in the Latino population and we are making a difference. We are no longer in the shadows, one voice one vote and we are here on solidarity. As the brother said, we need to stay united because we have a lot in common. We have to embrace each other and work together as communities that embrace the families that we present here, the communities. We have suffered a long time, since 1960 with Jim K. Let's get it together here in San Diego. Please, yes, the 2<sup>nd</sup> district has been according to the Census, according to the numbers, according to the mapping, it should be a Latino district, and I think we deserve it because we are here, we are next to the border, and we are voting, and we are also engaging in our communities. Let's be the role models for our children and the leaders of tomorrow. Thank you.

**Comment 8: Santos Gilbert Thorton, a resident of City Heights.**

Good evening, my name is Santos Gilbert Thorton. I am a resident of City Heights, District 3. I respect and admire the African community and the black community in many relations. I don't want nothing to happen to District 4 because you have a lot of spiritual relationships with this area. I see a lot of African Americans, black people in this area that relate to a lot of people here and what they do here. I want to say also that my area where I am at I spend a lot of quality time there with my family. My daughter and my wife, I take them to Latino Park; I take my daughter to Chollas Lake so the geese will chase her. I believe the Latin community – we need fair representation in our districts. We also want to help pass policies that affect our community. That is why I support the new Latino district. Thank you.

**Comment 9: Wayne Lucero**

Good evening. My name is Waynee Lucero and just wanted to let you know that the first half of my life I grew up here in the 4<sup>th</sup> District. I went to Warren Elementary, I went to Gompers Elementary, 7-12. I remember the Food4Less area was an empty airport industrial area right. We used to do haunted houses there during Halloween. The other half of my life I grew up in Southcrest. St Jude's Church is on the corner of Boston and 38<sup>th</sup> Street, and that church has been in my life for many, many years. I was baptized there and with everything that's going on with the Latino population, I support a new Latino district but I also want to voice support for the enhancement the empowerment, and fair representation for the API community, the LGBT community, and the African American community.

**Comment 10: Mateo Camarillo**

Good evening. My name is Mateo Camarillo, I am here representing the San Diego Latino Redistricting Committee. I'm an immigrant, I came to this country and my first home was here in Encanto. There used to be farms here; I attend a farm here in Encanto. I worked with Sister Margaret Castro to get medical services for Spanish language residents here in Encanto. I worked with Gregg Knowl to get bilingual services for legal services for the largest population in District 4. The main points that I want to leave with you is that we are going to be presenting two maps, one for District 8 and one for District 9, which both will be majority Latino districts. In respecting, we have met with leaders of the African American Community and we want as a protected group we are, we want to empower underserved communities. Like Latinos, like African Americans. We support the efforts of the gay and lesbian community to have a voice, a continued voice in the City of San Diego. I would hope that you respect the U.S. Constitution, the Voting Rights Act, and the Supreme Court Decisions in empowering underserved communities. Even though you hear different voices say that only certain age groups, only certain status of groups should be counted. That all human beings and I support what Ken Seaton-Msemaji said, we are all human beings and we should all be taken into account that your decision making of drawing these redistricting. Thank you very much.

**Comment 11: Remy Berniudez, a resident of Sherman Heights.**

Good evening everybody. My name is Remy Bermudez, I go by Remy Bermudez that's what my family calls me because it's easy for the rest of the people to pronounce. I am a resident of Sherman Heights of the 8<sup>th</sup> Council District. So many people have stated that the Latino population is growing. The statistics that I have is that there are 374,968 Latinos. Next to the Anglo Saxon community we are the largest growing community, but I'm not here to talk about the ethnicities and races. I find the process can be perceived as racist and segregationist. I am here about diversity, I am here about unity for brotherhood, we are one. I don't care where we come from, we are one. What I am asking is to respect the fact that our communities, specifically to the 8<sup>th</sup> District, have struggled to many years because we have been underserved. We are at the point right now that we have an elected official who is from the community, who has struggled along with us in the trenches. By redrawing the boundaries, I want to make sure that we keep our home grown elected officials. Those are the ones that are here to stay. Anybody else that may be gerrymandering, they don't have the commitment and conviction for our communities. I ask you that as you are looking at the Voting Rights Act, please keep that in mind. All communities in the 8<sup>th</sup> District, I know that we have to redraw the lines because we're overpopulated. I know all the Districts have to change, but the minimal changes that may take place in any of our districts we would appreciate it. I know we all have to give a little bit. We have been working with other communities with other ethnic groups and other sexual preferences, and we would like to continue that dialogue. I ask you

to keep in mind that the area has to be compact, contiguous and favor the Communities of interest. Thank you very much.

**Comment 12: Kathleen Harmon.**

Good evening. I know the Commission knows me because I've been before them and I'd like to bring Barry over here by me to let our community know that this is not our first endeavor to meet with the Commission. We have met on Thursdays and Barry is our representative from our District and he has done a good job. I'd like to say where Barry came from was from the Black Political Association. He was there and we voted him to head redistricting. After we endeavored that we were there every week and we will be there. I would like to invite you and suggest a plan because this is really crucial. We have drawn a map. We have a map in Black Political Organization and we are opening the doors every 3<sup>rd</sup> Saturday in the month at Neighborhood House. I've been sick for three weeks and I got out of the bed to come, because that's how important this is for me. We need a plan, and the plan is to come together – the Latinos, African Americans and whoever. It's only one nation and under that nation we all survive. When we began to separate and single ourselves out we have a problem. I have been taught all my life, I can live anywhere and next to anybody. We have an open door for you to come because we are doing the work for this Commission. You need to come and make your input and that's why you are in this room tonight because that's where we got started. You would never be here tonight unless we had designed that and I want you to know it. You are welcomed to come and work and I got up to tell you I'm Vice Chair, the door is open and we are going to be working these numbers. We need to meet with the Latinos. We need to stop being all for one; you'll never get nowhere. You've got to be united and you are just as good as I am. We need to change our attitude. We need to know that the Lord will have us to be that way. If you have any questions for me I will be happy to answer them but I just want you to know that we do have a central place where we will be following up with the Commission and working on the problem. Our door is open. Thank you. It's the third Saturday at Neighborhood at 10:00 in the morning and Willie Blair. I am the Vice Chair and if you need to know anything we will be happy to share it with you. I have no money to do no mailing and all of that. So we are just like everybody else. Thank you.

**Comment 13: Carlos Martell, a resident of District 8.**

Good evening, my name is Carlos Martell. I am a resident and homeowner in the beautiful neighborhood of Logan Heights, which is a Mexican community and a Black community. I don't have to remind you of that. There you would be amazed of how our communities work together. Especially the kids out in the street, I mean the rough kids out in the street, they actually work together. That's west coast; whatever you want to call it. I'm very happy to be at the Malcolm X Library, it has wonderful books, but I wonder what Malcolm X would say what is happening here. It is a very interesting hypothetical situation and I don't have time to get into it, but we can all wonder what the great Malcolm X would say. What I do want to speak about is the unity we should have and the empowerment that we should all be working towards in our communities. Today I am here only to speak about the boundaries that should be respected for District 8; they are very well defined boundaries. We not only have communities of interest, we have many shared cultural, historical, architectural, many things binding us together. From language to religion to obviously historical precedence; I want the Commission to please take that into account. I am a resident but I work with many other groups. I am an involved resident. Many of my neighbors that work with me, they are not Mexicans, they are actually black. I want to make one specific thing, there should be bilingual meetings being held, or multilingual especially in this district, where

there are more Somali speakers, Ethiopian speakers. All your meetings should be bilingual. Buenas noches.

**Comment 14: Ben Rivera representing the Logan Heights Neighbors Council.**

Hello my name is Ben Rivera and I represent the Logan Heights Neighbors Council. My family and I live here in Encanto. There're a lot of Mexicans that live in Encanto and we have been here for a long time at peace. I recognize Ms. Meshack, I worked with her on a lot of issues; we talk about police brutality many times. Spoke at this hall many times about many issues, common struggles. I want to add to something brother Carlos said, let's not be bound by boundaries, ok? Our boundaries have been created for us for so long. Our freeways divide our neighborhood. Do you know how many freeways we have in Logan Heights? They have broken up our neighborhood in so many places and divided us so many times we actually fought each other. I am old enough to remember when we fought each other in the street. For what? Do those people up in Scripps Ranch and La Jolla, Rancho Penasquitos, do they fight, do they argue with each other where the boundaries are going to be drawn? I don't know, I wonder about that, I am going to go to one of those meetings and check that out. Now don't some of you remember, we used to all live in District 4 at one time, and then the boundaries were drawn like 4 or 5 times. We have been in different districts so many times. Some of you over there in the Chollas area, Webster, were part of District 3, I remember Rev. Stevens, God bless his soul, I disagree with him on a lot of things regarding the case and such, that was another story, but that man was a great man because he created neighborhood councils. We got neighborhood councils, we learned from that, you got neighborhood councils, we got neighborhood councils. The powers that be said, you can't have no neighborhood council, we don't recognize your neighborhood council. We said, you know what, you don't draw our boundaries, you don't tell us who we are. Talk about Malcolm X, talk about determination. We have the right to self determination. I know we don't want to move, we don't want to redraw our boundaries, but we don't want to grow out of our zone of safety. We are not enemies here. We are not enemies. We can work together. We in Logan Heights, we don't want to give up any of our territory, of course not. People here spoke from Shelltown, they are like on the boundary, like where do we stand, like in the middle? We have downtown, now you want to talk about some problems those people want to come and take our neighborhood and build big high-rises. Now that's some problems right there. We would appreciate all your support on that, that struggle in the long run, because they would like to move all of out of there and eventually all of us in the outlying areas. Let's try to work together, cooperate with each other and who knows who is going to win that election. It don't even matter if the person is black or Mexican, they don't always represent us. We were talking about that in Sherman Heights. We have white people in Sherman Heights and they are down. We have people of our own color that sell us out all the time. Let's talk about neighborhoods first, it's about neighborhoods.

**Comment 15: Brian Pollard, member of the Coalition of Neighborhood Council.**

Hi, I am Brian Pollard, I'm from Valencia Park. I am a member of the Coalition of Neighborhood Council as well as BAPAC, and more importantly a resident of Southeastern San Diego District 4. I want to thank first of all you guys for coming out here. It shows that you are willing to outreach to the community. Be responsive and to actually talk to the people and put names with faces. I'm just so impressed with the turnout. I see people from all different sectors and all the districts. You know as I sat here I was making some notes and I the thought came to me that District 4 has always been the core of the struggle for the under-represented people. For as far as I can remember, blacks and browns and gays and Asians were always underrepresented. There was a period of time in which this district here was the core of that struggle. What I want to talk about very shortly this evening is what we heard discussed

earlier and that is working together. When I was back in the 70's, I won't tell you how old I was back then, but when I was back in the 70's Latinos and African Americans were very close. I remember going down to City College and interacting with a lot of my Latino brothers way back then. Slowly I've seen this rift come between us and that makes me feel uncomfortable. I think the thing that hits me repeatedly is fear—fear of the unknown. Fear of what's going to happen when the Latinos get their own district. Fear of Latinos coming over here and taking the "City Council seat." I've have an opportunity to meet with a lot of Latino groups in the past month or so. The path that seems to be moving towards is an additional seat and not coming and even entertaining the idea of assuming the Council seat for the 4<sup>th</sup> District. It's an African American district and yet there are significant amount of Latinos moving into our district, which causes us to make some changes, and let me tell you folks we will have to make some changes. It's going to happen; numerically, it's going to happen. We do have a map and the map is a first draft and I can tell you very briefly that map moves our district to I-15 to Ocean View Boulevard. From I-15 to Ocean View Boulevard. There's a lot of historical buildings, residents and it's going to cause an impact, an emotional and historical impact. Now when we give we get. So what we are trying to do now is move north towards University Avenue and then we are also try to move northeast over near the College Grove area and in that area. There's going to be some adjustments, and I am going to be fired, there are some adjustments that are going to have to be made. That will happen. So what we are trying to do is meet with the variety of different groups to work that out among us, rather than have these folks do it. We want to settle it and that will take some give and take from both sides. So we do need to continue to work together. I have a committee that's growing, that's forming if you are interested please get in touch with me, because we need input. Thank you very much.

**Comment 16: Pamela Hendrickson**

Hi, I'm Pamela Hendrickson, I spoke to you earlier. Like I said, I'm not a District 4 resident, but I still want to maintain District 4 as an African American district. A community of interest. I'm listening to all the conversations that are going on and I think it's nice. I believe that the new District 9 should be a Latino seat. I believe that, but I also believe that we are going to have to give a little. District 3 is going to have to give a little. District 4 is going to have to give a little. District 7 is going to have to give a little. District 8, well they are going to have to give up that half to make it work. I know the numbers are you are trying to get to this 144 as the magic number, but I would truly ask the Commission to really consider the populous. I want them to consider the voting, the actual people who are registered voters in that community. I believe that is crucial to it. Just because you have a lot of bodies there doesn't mean that you are going to have many votes. As I said, I want to preserve District 4 as a community of interest for the African American community. I would love to see the second City Council District seat to be District 9, a Latino seat.

**Comment 17: Clovis Honoré.**

Good evening, my name is Clovis Honoré. First of all I want to thank the Commission for the work that you guys are doing and for coming out and doing what you have to on these meetings to get your work done. I want to thank the community for coming out to do our job to keep them on their toes. I want to say that much of the discussion has been about diversity. I think it's good and should be celebrated, but I also want to remind all of us that much of the criteria we are talking about came out of negative circumstances. We want to respect the Voting Rights Act, but it was created not out of the wonderful desire to have the African American vote, because we had to fight to get that. What this sounds like to a great extent is getting down to political representation. What I am hoping is that the next time we come around here 10 years from now that the discourse will be about the things we have in common and how

we are so much alike and that maybe we will talk a little less about what a person has to look like for us to get fair representation. And that we will have grown to a place where no matter what you look like, no matter where you came from, no matter what your background, no matter what language you speak, I'll trust you to do the right thing for my community. We will all do the whole thing, just in unity. Thank you.

**COMMISSIONER COMMENT:**

**Chair Dalal:** Before we adjourn our meeting, I just want to remind everybody that tomorrow we will be out in District 8 at the Otay Mesa/Nestor Library. We will have translation services available there. We have a series of meetings through May 11<sup>th</sup> in each of the Districts. We also have a Saturday meeting, Saturday, April 30<sup>th</sup> for anyone from any of the districts at the Balboa Club in the Santa Fe room. This Thursday we have our regular Commission meeting at 4:00 p.m. at City Council Chambers in downtown. I want to thank everyone for participating, sharing your input. Information from all the speakers will be transcribed verbatim and that transcript will be given to us so we can make sure that we capture everything that was said before we even initiate drawing our maps. So thank you everyone for coming out and we really appreciate all that we heard, and thank you for sharing your thoughts at this meeting.

(Transcript Ends)

**ADJOURNMENT:**

Chair Dalal adjourned the meeting at 7:48 p.m.

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Janet Comer, Executive Secretary  
2010 Redistricting Commission

**Written Comments Received at the April 19, 2011 Redistricting Commission Public Hearing**

**Comment 1 – Bettie Jackson, District 4 – Webster**

We want to stay in the 4<sup>th</sup> District.

**Comment 2 – Patricia Cueva, District 8**

I do not agree with the proposal for redistricting our neighborhoods. Please have them stay as is.

**Comment 3 – Gwendolyn McSwain.**

As a 4<sup>th</sup> generation of the 4<sup>th</sup> District, I would like to see more stability in the district.