

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

**WEDNESDAY, APRIL 20, 2011
OTAY MESA-NESTOR LIBRARY – COMMUNITY ROOM
3003 CORONADO AVENUE, SAN DIEGO, 92154**

CHRONOLOGY OF THE MEETING:

The meeting was called to order by Chair Dalal at 6:10 p.m. 72 persons were observed to be in attendance. The meeting was adjourned by Chair Dalal at 8:22 p.m.

ATTENDANCE DURING THE MEETING:

(C) Chair Anisha Dalal
(M) Ani Mdivani-Morrow
(M) Frederick Kosmo
(M) Arthur Nishioka
(M) David Potter
(M) Theresa Quiroz

ROLL CALL:

Chair Anisha Dalal called the roll:

(M) Ani Mdivani-Morrow – present
(M) Frederick Kosmo – present
(M) Arthur Nishioka – present
(VC) Vice Chair Carlos Marquez – arrived following roll call; present
(M) David Potter – present
(M) Theresa Quiroz – 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. Spanish translation services are available for this meeting.

(Transcript Begins)

Chair Dalal: Ms. Wong?

Chief of Staff Wong: We don't have any non-agenda comment this evening.

Chair Dalal: Thank you very much.

PUBLIC HEARING:

ITEM 1 – WELCOME AND INTRODUCTION BY REDISTRICTING COMMISSION CHAIR

(Transcript Begins)

Chair Dalal: We really want to welcome you, members of the public, to our meeting this evening. It's very important that you have an opportunity to share your ideas and thoughts about the redistricting process. We are here to serve you. We really appreciate the comments you have to share and we do take those into consideration when drawing the boundaries of the plan. We do have a series of meetings set up. This will be the second pre-map public hearing that we have, the first one in District 8, though. We did have a hearing yesterday in District 4, and then tomorrow we will have our regular Commission meeting at 4:00 pm, at Council Chambers, in the City Administration Building in downtown San Diego. And then we have a series of other district meetings set up next week, pretty much through May 11. And all of those meetings are posted on our Redistricting Commission 2010 website. All of the information is on the table for you to review and be involved. We do also have a mailing list. If you want to receive any news or information about the Redistricting 2010 events, then you will get an email from us. We do appreciate your participation. We are very committed and we want to hear what you have to say. We are here to serve you.

(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 13 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 7 questions from the public.

ITEM 4 – PUBLIC COMMENT REGARDING PREPARATION OF A PRELIMINARY REDISTRICTING PLAN

Comment 1: Ken Seaton-Msemaji, representing Sheet Metal Local 206

(Transcript Begins)

Good evening. It’s interesting because last night the Commission got accused of being dominated by Republicans, like Emily and Empower San Diego group, and tonight you’ve been accused of being dominated by Republicans. In regard to last night, they didn’t design the system that was going to pick the Commissioners; they applied and they got chosen. Those judges, who did, two of them that were at the meeting, were made judges by George Deukmejian when he was Governor. So, I don’t think we can say they are being dominated by Democrats and I don’t think they are being dominated by Republicans. Some of us have looked into these people and they are here in good faith and we need to assume that they are going to operate in good faith until we have reason, concrete reason, to believe something else.

The creation of a 9th District gives us an unusual opportunity. Normally, you know, you have to reapportion the districts, you know, eight districts, eight districts, eight districts. But in 50 years it has always been that, it doesn’t happen every reapportionment that we get to increase the number of seats, which gives us an unusual opportunity because you have to shrink the districts, you have to do a number of other things to satisfy all of that, which makes an opportunity for you and me and everybody to really make some progress here, if we can, you know, get on with it. To spend our time criticizing the process, it’s too late. We should’ve been doing that a year ago. If we want to do that next time, in ten years, let’s do that. That’s over. Let’s talk and discuss, and argue if we have to with each other and with them about lines and districts and census tracts and population, not over the process.

A number of, some people were saying that they thought maybe this had something to do with how old a person is. In other words, to be counted they needed to be old enough to vote, or something like that. The Census is based on the number of human beings, whether you vote or not, wherever you come from or not, because it determines how they are going to provide government services, City services like police and fire, water, utilities, roads, all that sort of thing. Even the Federal government uses the Census to decide homeland security. They got to know how many people are out here, how many human beings – not what age they are – how many human beings are here, in order to appropriate the resources to accomplish their goals. So that’s what it’s about, people not voters, though it does give voters an opportunity to have a fair shot. The whole question, I hope it doesn’t keep coming up every meeting, sometimes – you gotta understand, we get emotional. Sometimes we get frightened, because we believe this or that. And when we get frightened we’re inclined to say things we don’t really mean. So I wouldn’t take some of these comments seriously. But we ought to try to stay calm.

Everybody needs a voice so they can invest it in the prosperity and success of San Diego. To the extent we include everybody, we going to be able to build a very rich City. To the extent we exclude people, we are not going to do that. We’ll be working in reverse. So, hopefully we can take the opportunity to

maybe get another seat where a Latino could win to protect District 4 and its constituents and District 3 and its constituents, so they continue to have a voice, and to give our Asian sisters and brothers an opportunity to have a district where they can elect somebody, up in Peñasquitos and Rancho, I mean, in Mira Mesa. By the way, it's likely according to the numbers, that district is going to be Republican, so this is – representation is more important than politics.

Comment 2: Steve Schroeder, Otay Mesa-Nestor Community Planning Board

My name is Steve Schroeder, and I'm also on the Committee Planning Board here for the Otay Mesa-Nestor area. And our concern that we see and we've listened to many times is the fact that the Otay Mesa-Nestor area is not contiguous with Barrio Logan, nor do we share the same problems, nor the same interests, or background. We have always been a gerrymandered district, going back to the point when we used to be hooked to Point Loma at one time; we were with Downtown at one time, Barrio Logan. We have always been non-contiguous as a district for the better part of the last 25, 30 years that I can remember. It's time that we, in this community, this part of the district, got good representation instead of all the representation we've had which has been out of Barrio Logan. We have always had all of our representation, basically out of Barrio Logan. And it's time that we receive the representation that we need for the things we need done in this community.

Most of the things we have happening in this community now, such as beautification and stuff, is all done by the people, not by the state or by the City Council. Yes, we got ADA going in, but that's federal money. What happened to our percentage of the funds that should've come to this district, this part of the district, that have not come here? We haven't received our representation. We see the money go everywhere else. We are tired of being taken and shoved around. We have 40% of the City of San Diego's trailer parks in this community. We have 3,300 subsidized housing units in this community. Our community plan calls for 300. But we are so oversaturated with subsidized housing and along with that, we have every new proposition that comes along is, "we want to over-populate. We want to shove more people into smaller areas," and we're losing our urban area. We are one of three areas in the greater San Diego area, that you can name, certain areas here in town, we can have horses and go down into the Tijuana River Valley Estuary with the horses. And you can ride your horse right up to your house and you can keep your horse at your house. Closest one to that is Sorrento Valley.

We are a very unique community and we are not treated that way by the City Council, nor are we treated that way by most of the City of San Diego. We are just the orphan area, where we get all the junk and we are a dumping ground. We have seen more low income housing put in here than the law should allow. We'd like to see equal representation; we'd like to see equal distribution on all of these things such as subsidized housing and stuff. We want to be represented properly. We don't need trying to justify that we are also a part of Logan. We are not.

Comment 3: Jerry Guzman, Historic Barrio District 8 Resident

I unfortunately didn't agree with everything he said. I do believe that the north and the south part of District 8 do have a lot of things in common. My name is Jerry Guzman. *Buenas noches*. I am a resident of Sherman Heights and member of various groups in my community. Tonight I'm not just here to speak about my neighborhood, but I'm here to speak about my community, which many of us call the Historic Barrio District. The Historic Barrio District is comprised of Sherman Heights, Logan Heights, Grant Hills, Stockton, and Memorial, bounded by the 5, 15, and 94 freeways. Our neighborhoods share a wonderful sense of pride, language, art, culture, history, and long lineages of families. It hasn't been

until most recently, and in the past 5 years to be specific, that we've been able to take back our neighborhood and work in solidarity to revitalize our community and improve the quality of life for our residents.

Thanks to various resident-led efforts, I can say today life is so much better in the Historic Barrio District, giving us continued hope for the future. Now, the only thing that can threaten our hopes for the future is if this Commission draws lines of separation in our neighborhoods. With that said, now is time for my asking of the Commission. I ask the Commission to respect the unity of the Historic Barrio District bounded by the 5, 15, and 94 freeways. I ask the Commission to respect the community of interest that connects South District 8, Barrio Logan, and the Historic Barrio District, by allowing us to stay together in the 8th District. Finally, and this is most important, I ask that the Commission do not include any part of the East Village into the new 8th District as it will only hinder our communities and dilute our issues with those of the East Village. And quickly, I'd like to state that I am in support of the 2nd Latino Empowerment District, as well as maintaining the African American and LGBT Empowerment Districts. Thank you.

Comment 4: Liliana Garcia-Rivera, Sherman Heights Community Center

Good Afternoon, My name is Liliana Garcia-Rivera and I am a resident and property owner of Sherman Heights. I am also the President of the Board of the Sherman Heights Community Center and I am a member of the Latino Redistricting Committee. I am here today to address the Commission and to ask them to consider the needs of our community and respect the cohesiveness of the Historic Barrio District, which is composed of Sherman Heights, Grant Hill, Logan Heights, Memorial and Stockton. We are together with Barrio Logan, we are south of the highway 94 and west of the I-15.

The Sherman Heights Community Center is the hub of our part of the district. We service multi-generational families, residents not only of Sherman Heights but also of surrounding communities. We have people from everywhere in the surrounding area come and we've seen generations of children. We have seniors. That is the hub of where we live. We have formed neighborhood councils, not only for Sherman, for Logan Heights, Stockton, and we come together in time of need, when we have a crisis. This is a crisis for us, right now. And we come together to, join together to figure out what we're going to do to protect our community and also we come together in times of celebration. Our people come together to the neighborhood even after they leave. We are the seed of a lot of the Latino population in San Diego. We grow up, we go to college, a lot of us don't come back to the neighborhood to live, but we do come back as the center of where our heart is at. We have Our Lady of Guadalupe, Our Lady of Angels, and Christ of King. Those are anchors of our community. People come back to church on Sunday and they come back for the religious rites: quinceañeras, weddings, bautizos. People come back to the neighborhood because it's important. There is a cultural identity there that cannot be broken even after generations. We are the Mecca of history, art, culture, and activism.

We feel that the City of San Ysidro, the South Bay, should have their own district, but unfortunately we have looked at the numbers and their numbers are not there. So, we ask in light of that we maintain our unity. We are two Latino communities that have a lot in common. And we ask that we join together in this situation and ask the Commission to keep us together and keep us united. What we don't want, is we don't want any shortage of our numbers to then give you the idea that we want to be included in anything that has to do with Downtown or the East Village. That would hinder the community's progress and it would tax our community with the problems of the East Village and we don't want that. In closing, I'd like you to consider the Voters Rights Act, and to know that we support the enhancement

of the Latino Empowerment, current District 8, keeping our communities together; the 2nd Latino District, which would unite City Heights and about 60,000 other people of Latino background. We support the LGBT Empowerment in District 3. We support the African American Empowerment in District 4, and the creation of an Asian American District. And we want to stay together, and we want you to draw the right lines to make it fair for all of us. Thank you.

Comment 5: Andrea Carter, Grant Hill Neighborhood Resident

Good evening, Commissioners. Thank you for all your hard work. I'm here as a resident to inform you about the community of interest where I live, and I'd just like to say to all of the folks in South Bay, I don't think that for all of the residents of District 8, whether you live in the south or the north, that you're particularly pleased about having the district the way it is, but until you get your numbers up and off, then, you know, that's where we're at. So, I'm a resident of Grant Hill in the Historic Barrio District. And I've lived in San Diego for six years, and in southeast, in Grant Hill, for two years only. And as a white person of privilege who's able to move into any neighborhood of my choosing, I did choose to live where I do now for several conscious and intentional reasons, a large one being the distinct Latino and working class culture there, that is in very historical homes and mostly single residential neighborhoods. And it's very obvious. Not just the geographical boundaries and the cultural markers but also, just being there for the two years that I have and getting to know my neighbors, talking to people across these areas, people's testimony's – they remember when the freeways were built. Most of the people on my block have lived in their homes for 30, 40 years. Some of them even have been renting for that long. And so, there's incredible history and unfortunately, many of those people never come to a meeting a like this. So I just wanted to give voice to a lot of what I hear. And so, I'm just urging this Commission to take careful note of the existing communities of interest in District 8, both social and economic. And also the other districts that have been mentioned, as well, particularly racial, ethnic, and cultural communities of interest. And so, no, I do not support the East Village and Downtown being included within the District 8. And please keep the Historic Barrio District neighborhoods, the five neighborhoods listed by the other speakers, united to ensure their deserved representation. They have a very distinct history and culture together and many families that have stayed within that area intentionally.

Comment 6: B.D. Howard

Good afternoon. My name is B.D. Howard. I've spent a lot of time in the entire part of the district, and obviously the fundamental problem that everyone keeps mentioning, well that some of the speakers keep mentioning, is the way that it's split up leads to ineffective representation and both areas deserve their fair share or equal representation. And, you know, beginning with the southern part of the district, it includes a lot communities, great communities, such as Otay Mesa-Nestor, San Ysidro, someone said Tijuana River Valley. And because of its proximity to the border there is a lot of potential in terms of economic prosperity, creating economic engine, such as – because this is pretty much the last part of the City that has vacant land – we have bi-national corporations in this area, so we have a potential to create a lot of jobs. And if we had a council member who was able just to focus on this area, we could work on things like improving the inefficiencies at the border, because we lose billions of dollars a day because of problems such as this. So, I think it's only fair that residents in these areas, in the southern part of this district, where this meeting is being held – it's only fair that they get a Councilmember that looks after them and maybe include a community such as Southcrest and Shelltown in this area, because that area is also very much forgotten, because of, unfortunately it's not as politically organized as the other areas. So if we were able to include that Southcrest and Shelltown with this area, I think this area would be

able, or that district would be able to create its own identity and start working on some of the issues that were brought up by previous speakers.

Now with the northern part of the District, I'd like to see Golden Hill reunited with the other part of Golden Hill in District 3, because it's totally different than the other parts of, the northern part of the District. It's more affluent. Also, they like to work on things, like creating the 25th Street Corridor to create more of a commercial shopping area, such as they have in South Park and North Park. So, I'd like to see that community reunited. And then I'd also like to make sure that the Southeastern San Diego Planning Group stays, I mean minus Southcrest and Shelltown, it stays together and if it has to move, I'd like to see it moved to District 4. I think that would be the most equitable solution for all these communities and we'd be able to get equal representation for all of our residents. Because we have people who've paid their dues. We have a large military population in the south. We have a lot of community activists in the northern part of the district. So, those are the suggestions I give to the board, and I'd really like to see that happen. Thank you.

Comment 7: Alberto Velasquez

Good evening, my name is Alberto Velasquez. I am a resident here of District 8, just over the hill here. Just really brief, I've come before this committee before when we met at the Jacobs Center. Again, just to reiterate the communities of interest aspect of District 8, and also within in the City of San Diego, to keep the South Bay as united as possible. We don't want to lose the voice that we have. We are just starting to get to the point, where things are starting to move, and to change that dynamic would be detrimental to the positive growth that we've had. So I urge this committee to keep the south bay as united as possible, and again to keep the communities of interest in mind for the City as a whole.

Comment 8: Brian Pollard

Hi, I'm Brian Pollard from District 4. Welcome again and it's good seeing you all, and it's good to see such a healthy turn out as we did in District 4 last night. In this issue, this time around seems to have generated a lot of passion and interest. You know, I listened to the different conversation that is going on within different districts and that's a healthy conversation. That's a healthy outlining of what the needs are for every district; cutting districts in half, making any kind of adjustment is certainly a major emotional bridge for all of us to cross. I'm here tonight because I support enhancing the African American Empowerment District within District 4 – increasing the African American percentage in that District from 18.8 to about 20.1. I love the 4th District and honor the historical civil rights, the spiritual, and the passion that goes on there – similar to the passion that I see in District 8 currently. I also support historically underrepresented groups in San Diego, wherever they are. Those underrepresented folks need some representation in City Hall and it's possible for all these communities of interest to get this empowerment at the same time if the lines are drawn properly.

I support enhancing Latino empowerment, as well, especially in District 8 by maintaining the unity of all of the south San Diego with the Historic Barrio neighborhoods, south of Highway 94 and west of I-15. I also support a 2nd Latino Empowerment District that unites City Heights, which is nearly 60,000 people and 62 percent of which are Latino, with remaining Latino majority neighborhoods to the south. Fifth, I support enhancing the LGBT Empowerment District in District 3, by uniting neighborhoods south of I-8 which opposed Proposition 8. And the last, I support the creation of an Asian American Empowerment District that unites the large Asian populations in Mira Mesa and Peñasquitos. And I've got a few more seconds, and what I do want to encourage everyone, is remember that the purpose of this meetings and

the meetings throughout the City is to help underutilized folks get better representation. And so we are all gonna have our differences, we're all gonna have our issues to deal with, but when the smoke all clears we're still going to be here. So, we are having issues in District 4, coming up with highly critical and emotional issues and we'll get through those. And I'm sure that any kind of issues that are going on with existing District 8 and creating a 2nd Latino District, work them out, healthy discussions, and then when it's over let's move on. Great. Thank you very much.

Comment 9: Louise Torio

Hello, I'm Louise Torio, resident of Sherman Heights historic district in the northern part of the district. What I'd like to suggest is that as you come to these meeting, it would be very good to have a neighborhood map so that we don't have to waste time describing areas to you. We could just point to it, or have a pointer that helps us explain what we're talking about. I think you've heard folks in the southern part of the district saying their issues are different from the north. I think you'll find that the numbers are not there for the southern part of the district to be its own district. I'd like to strongly encourage you to keep the northern part of the district as in tact as possible, because we have similar issues. You have heard reference to the Historic Barrio Districts, which is a lovely name and very positive, but we have two real historic districts in that area. We have the Sherman Heights Historic District which is the largest historic district in the City of San Diego, with almost 400 contributing structures and has been a historic district since 1987. We are very proud of that. That is something that will never happen again because they'll never come into a neighborhood like ours where the residents said, "please make us a historic district so we can save our neighborhood from improper redevelopment." And we're a historic district. We also have the Golden Hill Historic District. These neighborhoods have to stay together. Not only that, the northern part of the district is made up of inner city neighborhoods that have gone thru similar struggles. As a 17-year resident, I am very proud of what my neighbors and I have been able to do together. Please do not use Market Street as any dividing of line because of Census tracts. We have very strong boundaries regarding the highways and that should be respected because we are together. With that, please keep us together, please keep the neighborhoods of the Southeastern San Diego Planning Group together, so that we continue to be effective and we continue to make gains. It's been a hard struggle but together we can do it, I'd like to stay together. Thank you.

Comment 10: Ben Rivera

Ok, my name is Ben Rivera and I'm coming from the Logan Heights community in the northern section of District 8. Today I'm requesting that the San Diego Redistricting Commission keep our communities in the central core of District 8 intact. Our communities include Logan Heights, Barrio Logan, Sherman Heights, Grant Hill, Memorial and Stockton. I'm also speaking in favor of San Ysidro, when possible, having their own district; also, for the 4th District Empowerment; also for the LGBT Empowerment; as well as the Asian Communities Empowerment. All power to the people, right?

Although we are primarily a Mexican-American community, we are diverse and democratic and respect the rights of all to participate equally in all aspects of community life. I'm basing my requests on the following: As part of this neighborhood I feel a strong sense of shared interest and community with other neighborhoods within which the Latino Coalition is trying to establish a proposed boundary. Logan Heights, Barrio Logan, Sherman Heights, Grant Hill, Memorial and Stockton have a long history of multi-generational connections, shared languages, religious traditions, ethnic and cultural ties, shared economic background, and common civic struggles. We also have a long history of connection with the

San Ysidro portion of the district, although it is very difficult for us to have such a long distance relationship and it causes difficulty for us to even draw a boundary today. The 8th District has been identified with our Historic Barrio communities for many years. We have elected our own representatives, built our own institutions and businesses, worked in conjunction for many years and wish to continue without the disruption of being split up. Our community is served by four historic Catholic churches, Our Lady of Guadalupe, Saint Ann, Our Lady of Angels, and Christ the King, as well as a number of other churches that contribute to our sense of community. Our recreational life is served by the Memorial Park complex where our children play soccer, baseball, basketball, football, and swim. Memorial Prep and King Charter School are our common schools which are the feeder schools for San Diego High. The boundary for San Diego High is Highway 15, the proposed boundary for our district.

There are five neighborhood councils that meet monthly, and meet jointly at least twice a year. The Sherman Center Community Center covers these five communities. The Barrio Station serves Barrio Logan and Memorial Recreation Center serves Memorial, Logan Heights and Stockton. Our community participates in the Southeastern San Diego Planning Group, which meets separately to discuss issues pertaining to the Historic Barrio District which covers these five neighborhoods. Additional common institutions include the Logan Heights Library which services neighborhoods west of Highway 15 (there is another library east of the 15 which services the proposed 9th District); the Cesar Chavez, formally Logan Heights, Post Office; Chicano Park, which is a historic park dedicated to the common struggle of our common communities desire for self determination. Although we are primarily a Mexican American community, we are diverse and democratic and respect the rights of all to participate equally in all aspects of community life.

Comment 11: Ruth Schneider

My name is Ruth Schneider. I have lived here since 1968. At the time I moved here we were part of the 4th District and we had no recognition whatsoever because of insufficient number of people to vote. These last few years I've worked to see that we get proper representation. That's why I am here tonight. I begged a ride to be here and that's why I insist I speak tonight. I hope I don't fall down trying to do it. You get to be 89+ years old, it's not easy believe me. Thank you, it's not worth the effort, I tell you. I remember the last time we went through this business. Our representative was unfortunate; he didn't finish his job, but so it goes sometimes. One of the things we fought for was to keep this area together. When I moved here in '68 we were hardly recognized and now that we have finally gotten a little recognition I will fight to keep it as long as I am able to fight to keep it. I think it's this area down here in the south part of the city that has become most important, because not only do we have a multitude of cultural backgrounds and economic backgrounds, and loads of kids, we have been able to do things for ourselves. And we have been able to make this part of the City a good place to live.

I don't want to see us cut up into little pieces so that all the efforts that we've made will be lost. I go to the planning group for you together, and I got the fire station added down here, which we desperately needed. We had to wait for them to come down the freeway 20 minutes if you had a fire. I got the library for you, including this one and the other that was in the store across the way. This one is my library. Believe me, that's the way I've worked for it. I feel like everything here is mine because I've worked for it and I'm not going to give it up to be divided up. So I insist that we be kept together, because we have learned to get along together. Together we've gotten our parks; together we got our public facilities. And together we will exist equally, no matter what they do in downtown San Diego, we will be equal because when it comes time we have a voice and we can use it, we learned that. Tonight I'm here to represent a number of people. When I found out this was going to be discussed, I said I'm going to be there. I'm

here for a number of people that I talked to on the phone. Every one of them said, we don't want to be divided. Keep us together. Keep us like we have been. We've learned to get along, and we learned to cope and that's really an important thing. In spite of everything that's going on in downtown, we have been able to go on down here. So, thank you, we'd like to stay this way. Good night.

Comment 12 – Diego Padilla, Otay Mesa Recreation Council

Good evening, my name is Diego Padilla and I am the chair for the Recreation Council and I was a former member of the Redevelopment Committee for approximately 20 years, with Ruth. She has been here a while, but I have been in this community on and off since 1959. So we are pretty close together. I have seen this community from farmland grow to city. It was a chance to drive on the dirt roads, that weren't freeways at that time, and you could see nothing farm land growing. At any rate, I have seen a lot of changes in this community but I still see the lack of representation in our community. It is a challenge for Ruth and all the other members of this community that not only have we been ignored, but we have been chastised. We have asked for very little and got nothing. A couple of years back there was a flash flood that happened on the corner of Marshall and Peterland. I was the first one to call it in. What happened was that a storm drain collapsed. I bring that up for the fact that if you speak up you can be heard. So one of my comments was – after calling the City for so many days and seeing nothing done – I finally made this comment: If this was La Jolla, this would have been fixed. So, fortunately, there was a million dollar project instituted to replace the collapsed storm drain in my neighborhood. So things can be done. So if I am one of those persons who can make one change, I want this district to remain as it is. As a matter of fact, what about San Diego County? Don't they get representation? What about Spring Valley? Who represents them? We are looking at District 9, we should be looking at District 10 and District 11. Thank you.

Comment 13: Pamela Hendrickson

Hello, again. I see a lot of familiar faces from yesterday. My name is Pamela Hendrickson. I am the Recording Secretary for the National Council of Negro Women. I am also the Vice President and tail-twister for the Presidents Lions Club. As you know, or maybe you don't, I live in Lemon Grove but I'm very concerned about keeping District 4 the heart of the African-American community. I thought the meeting last night was informative and helpful to everyone. Thank you for doing these types of meetings because it lets us know what's going on. I took copious notes last night and I took what you had to say to heart, about not creating districts based solely on race. It's very important to know that to me and other African Americans, we're very sensitive to voting and political representation for obvious reasons. African Americans will not be disenfranchised and excluded from representation. I won't rehash what has happened in the community but my community won't stand for that.

I've listened to what other community members and the Commissioners had to say and I stayed up last night and I did some maps which I'm going to submit. I think I came up with a win-win for everyone. As I said last night, every community is going to have to come to the table and every community is going to have to give some. I used natural boundaries as you guys said last night. I used freeways and major streets to divide the communities, because really it was the easiest thing to do. I created two and half districts to be represented, and they are also mixed ethnicities. Because after all, we are all Americans and we all have our strong proud heritage. District 4 retains its historical nature as an African-American community with a large Latino and Asian population. And the new 9th District should be a district where Latinos again will have additional representation. It's a City Heights centered district, which I think is a good thing because I read in the UT today, that 10 years ago City Heights was carved

up. So it's fitting that with the growing Latino population, the new district be a Latino district. And I will submit the rest of my statements for the record.

Comment 14: Alberto Pulido

Good evening, everyone. My name is Alberto Pulido and I live and work in District 6. I am here because I grew up in this area, in the South Bay. I spent most of my childhood in Imperial Beach and in San Ysidro and what strikes me, and when I was reflecting on my comments today, is that I have a lot of strong memories of my family, of growing up along the border, and particularly of the rich diversity of the area. I have many memories of crossing the border, going to Tijuana without any problems, and the fluidity of cultures and languages, and the biculturalism, and all of the richness of what this region is. And it really has shaped the person that I am and I think it is very, very important. And I also recall that in the Historic Barrio Districts, in Sherman and in the Chicano Park areas, as I grew older, there was a lot of history there, there was a lot of art, there was a lot of music and there was that ongoing connection that led to my development and to the person that I am. And I feel like I embody that, and I want you as a Commission to acknowledge that, that this goes beyond lines, but it's about people and who we represent and what we are about. And it's in that spirit of the diversity and the spirit of the tolerance in the terms of what we represent, that we should look at this conversation and we should look at this exercise as a way to celebrate our differences and what they represent. And I say that because I strongly support the strengthening and enforcement of the existing African American district; same with an LGBT community and a new Asian American district; and a new second Latino district. And I say that again with the understanding that it's in our differences, it's in who we are as people, who we are as Americans, who we are as citizens of San Diego that we will find our unity and we will be able to celebrate and really be a true community in terms of our differences and all we represent.

Comment 15: José Franco Garcia

Good evening. I wanted to say thank you to the members of the Commission for this hearing process and giving the opportunity for residents to speak out. My name is José Franco Garcia. I am a lifelong resident of District 8. Actually, I grew up and currently live just a few minutes away from here on Piedra Street in the Nestor community. So I'm going to give a little bit of personal story about that, growing up in District 8, but then just a thing that I've looked at. I am working with a lot of people here with the Latino Redistricting Committee just looking at some of the district lines that could be possible. So one this is for sure, I grew up here and there is an identity to growing up here. 'Till I was 8 years old I thought I lived in Chula Vista, but I learned soon after that that I didn't. But I grew up down here, and later on when I was in college I actually lived in the northern part of District 8 and spent a lot of time working with residents around Chicano Park issues and immigration issues, people in Sherman Heights and Logan Heights, and these communities. I grew up around here playing baseball across the street, going to church at Monte Carmelo. When I went to churches in Sherman Heights and Logan Heights, there weren't that many differences in that church make-up then there were in the communities down here. So I do think there is a shared identity. I do think that at some point, maybe ten years from now, this area down here will have enough population to be its own district. And I look forward to that.

But right now, we do have to connect with parts of the northern communities. I support the people who spoke earlier with the Latino Redistricting Committee that mentioned keeping those historical communities together – Sherman Heights, Barrio Logan, these communities I can't name off the top of my head right now. But we have a shared identity, we have a District 8 identity. I think if you are going to do that you should keep those communities together. However, looking at the numbers, I understand

that not all of District 8 can stay together. You're going from eight districts to nine, it's just a numbers thing. These districts are going to have to get smaller in population, which usually means in size, as well, of the land. So looking at that, there are those communities that will no longer be in District 8. Those communities do have contiguity to go together with other communities right there neighboring, some mentioned earlier, and you could form another district in that area that would be majority Latino. And I think that is what this Commission should be looking to do. And we will be submitting a map really soon that reflects just that. Doing those district lines, that create those two districts will actually work to strengthen community of interest in District 4, an African American Empowerment district. I've spent a lot of time working in District 4, so I recognized the importance of that as well. I do see that and I do believe that is important. And also of importance is that there are communities south of the 8 where there is a shared interest, a community of interest really, in supporting LGBT issues. And I do believe that district, made up of many communities current in District 3, should be reflected on the council. And I think all of these things from the maps I've been looking at and some of the numbers I've been looking at, could also support creating a district in the north where there is a possibility of electing an Asian American or Pacific Islander. And I believe that is what the Commission will hopefully do, and I just wanted to ask you to do that. And lastly, please make sure that this southern part of San Diego does stay together; don't split us up as I know was done one time in the past.

Comment 16: Jeanne Brown, California Common Cause

Good evening, my name is Jeanne Brown. I am the San Diego organizer for California Common Cause. I want to applaud this Commission for all the good work they've already done, and the difficult and sometimes thankless work that you will be doing that is bound to bring criticism no matter where the final lines are drawn. We recognize the importance of the work you are doing. There are many people who believe redistricting is even more important than the voting process in a democracy. So it is critical that this process is open, transparent, and fair. I can see that this Commission is trying its best to be all these things, keeping in mind that the communities have a strong voice. And just as a chain is only as strong as its weakest link, so this Commission can only be as fair as the information it receives. That is why it is crucial that all communities of interest be involved and why reaching out to those communities is so important.

As for transparency, when this Commission is looking for a technical advisor to help them with the mapping, we recommend if you are going to use an outside vendor, that you check on the funding of that vendor. The State Redistricting Commission recently rejected disqualified an applicant because they refused to disqualify their funding. We hope this Commission will maintain those ethical standards when looking for a vendor. Without that transparency, the Commission would never know what internal bias that vendor might bring. And it could cause erosion of public confidence in this process. Also, when you are looking at funding, the shortage of funds the City has, the City should seriously consider whether to use an outside consultant, but rather use an internal. The City has GIS experts that could be used, and they would know the neighborhoods and the communities much better than outside vendors. So we highly recommend you consider that. In conclusion, we feel that we don't need outside experts; we should use our skilled City workers and the engaged community that we have. There is no way you will be able to make sure everyone is happy in this process. But when voters with similar interests are drawn into a district together, whether it is District 8, 4, or any of the others, their voices multiply, giving them a greater opportunity to express their views and hold their leaders accountable. The work you are doing here makes all that possible. Thank you.

Comment 17: Barrett Tetlow, San Diego County Republican Party

My name Barrett Tetlow. I'm with the San Diego County Republican Party. I was here earlier, I should of spoken during the non-agenda public comment; I was filling out my form at the time. I apologize. I will be quick.

I wanted to get it on the record again, we will not be having a February election, which changes the timeline, which gives you more time to do more work. I've prepared handouts here, that I will pass out at the end. I also spoke to the Registrar today and they've claimed they've never told you that you had to have this thing completed by September. The Registrar, so you know, did an election in 88 days, back in June of 2009. There is really no reason why the Registrar should be telling you that they have to have 270 days; candidates can't even file until 112 days out. If you took the full nine months that the City Charter allows you to do, that would put you at about mid-December. That would give the Registrar 160 days to have their election ready. Remember, you have to serve beyond the adoption of the final map. You have to serve through the referendum process and through the legal process. I recommend that you bring someone from the Registrar, ask them some very difficult questions, some tough questions, get it on the record so at least your butts are covered on this. But, you have more time to do it, and I recommend you take that time. Thank you.

Comment 18: Cynthia Soto, District 8 resident

Good evening. *Buenas noches. Me llamo Cynthia Soto.* My name is Cynthia Soto. I am bilingual. I live in Sherman Heights, which is the first community out of downtown. I have been hearing all this, what has been going on with the redistricting and doing all the work, but I haven't seen a map showing where the divisions are going to be. We have tried to work on remapping our district. For us it is very hard to cut our community; we don't want to cut our community. We feel very comfortable with our community. I feel that at this time we have fair representation in our community and we want to keep it the same way as it is, having San Ysidro, Otay and the northern part of District 8. It is hard to know that – if we are divided – it is hard to know that part of our community is going to leave. We don't want that, we don't want District 4 to lose part of their community. The other part is that City doesn't have that many funds. I don't why they are going to put another councilman in. We need firefighters in our community; we need other things that are a priority in our community. I don't know for you it's fair or not, but we need those things in our community.

[Repeated comment in Spanish]

Comment 19: Raquel Solis Bermudez

Good evening. My name is Raquel Solis Bermudez, they call me Mrs. Moran because of my husband. I've lived in San Ysidro for the last 35-36 years. I really like to be involved in anything that has to do with my community for the benefit of my community and the people that live around us. I really liked this young man Jerry Guzman expressed himself. And I like to see a young man with such initiative, because we need more of these young people with new blood. I'd also like to say that I am very pleased with the representation I have in District 8 and I would not like to have it divided, nor to have my community divided for anything. We need people like the people that are representing us now, because we were forgotten for many years, but we were forgotten. And I am very sorry that Mr. Ramirez wants to remove San Ysidro from the map. How can that be? Imagine not having San Ysidro right there on your way to Tijuana, even if we do have a lot of traffic. You tell me who in all of the State of California, anywhere in the United States, doesn't know what San Ysidro is. It is their gateway to go to Tijuana. So,

everyone is welcome to San Ysidro. And please, I don't want to hear anything about dividing the lines of San Ysidro for other things. And if a new 9th District comes in, great. But let's also have a good representative, like the one we have now and for him or her to represent our community, and to keep our community together, to not divide us. Thank you for having hosted this panel today for us, but please think very, very, very carefully about how you will divide the lines so that they will benefit the communities that all of you represent. Yes? Thank you.

Comment 20: Alicia Jimenez

Good evening, my name is Alicia Jimenez and I'm here from San Ysidro. I have been living in San Ysidro for more than 20 years. As a leader in San Ysidro, I represent some people who weren't able to be here tonight. But I only wanted to let you know that we support the communities in south of District 8 and we want to continue being together. We would also like to be connect to the Historic Barrio and we also support the creation of a new Latino district made up of the rest of the communities in old District 8 as well as most of the Latino residents in City Heights. I realize as Mrs. Moran already said, this is going to be a very difficult decision for you. So I ask that you please think about it very, very carefully. It's going to be very to be congruent and to try and please all of the people that live in all of the different districts in San Diego. So, your decision is going to be very complicated, but please take us into account because of our roots, our culture, and everything that defines us Latinos. We hope that you will not divide us.

Comment 21: Martin Carpenter

My name is Martin Carpenter. I speak English *y hablo bien el español, inclusive soy buen compositor de canciones mexicanas* <and I speak very good Spanish; in fact I am a good composer of Mexican songs> *pero*, but there is something that concerns me here. And I think this Commission will find it a different thought that they have been getting here from many people. The black communities as well as the Hispanic communities are always represented by a group of people that probably with the best intentions in heart, try to group their people together and fight for a common cause. Whatever this cause is, it isolates them from integrating into the greater Caucasian community in the United States. And if you look around the community I have friends that have gone through high school here and can barely say their names in English. You know, they just can't speak it properly. They have no opportunity, they have no future, they are going exactly nowhere. At my business, I'm a storage operator and I grew up between Calexico, El Centro. I'm a surviving businessman, which in this City is very difficult to be. But every single day I have people come to me and ask me for advice on a subject, "What should I do about my marriage? What should I do about my things in storage? How should I resolve this problem and that problem?" and I'm the one who ends saying, "Ok, here's what we're going to do." I sit down and I find a solution that is going to work for them. But they don't have enough education. And part of the reason they don't have it is that they don't interact with the greater Caucasian community and the more affluent communities where people are succeeding. That's not all of them. I've seen some of them go straight up like stars, like shooting stars. But the majority don't and the only way they are going to get this is, is if these communities are set up somehow so they have some greater communication than they have today with people who are more affluent, speak English, and are going to take them away from the groups that sometimes control them completely, and launch them into the next century.

I wish you well on your job, it's going to be very difficult, certainly the way San Diego is laid out, attached to San Ysidro by a little string of water. You've got a problem. And you've got a community you're dealing with out in Golden Hills, I guess it's called, in those areas, they are very different than

here. They are so separated that we have very little common ground. But we've got to find a way to think about the educational level of the people that we're trying to bring up here. If we don't, they are destined to never have much in their lives, because certainly their home doesn't give them what they want. What do they do at home? They watch *telenovelas* [soap operas], "*Mira que le pasó a Maria, se va a casar con el charro. Ay, dios mio!*" ["Look what happened to Maria, she is going to marry the cowboy. Oh my god!"] And all of that stuff. That's great! There's nothing wrong with it, but there is no opportunity for them to learn English in this process. And I think our Governor Schwarzenegger really said it right when he said they need to turn off the television in Spanish. And watch it in English more often. I didn't intend to be popular but I did intend to be productive by underlining that we have. It's the lack of study and the lack of future opportunity for study because of the very limited ability the people have to speak English properly.

Comment 22: Daniel Cadena, Sherman Heights resident

Good evening, everybody. My name is Daniel Cadena. I am a resident of Sherman Heights. Well, first of all, is to share this with you guys, for the Commission to try to keep together Sherman Heights, Logan Heights, Grant Hills, Memorial, Stockton,— District 8 as it is right now. We share a lot of things with them and we'd like to keep it as it. If you try to bring Downtown into District 8, we are going to have a lot of troubles with that. Like the guy said, for us, we don't speak English well, but if we bring those people into our barrios then they are going to call the Migra [INS/Border Patrol] to us and we are going to be in Tijuana. So, there is some schools – we have schools to go to learn English, but there is no—I mean, well, it's kinda tricky. They are going to call the Migra on us and we are going to be in trouble. So, the best thing is to try and keep our community like it is right now. And probably we can do something about Golden Hills, there is a little bit of trouble over there. Golden Hills, they want to be part of District 4, but the rest, our barrio is like a big home for us. We grow together over there and we'd like to keep it like it is right now. So, just think about it and try to be concerned about that.

Another thing right now, is about our guy right now, David Alvarez. He is a good representative for us and I hope, and I have faith he is going to work for us. He is working really hard for us and we'd like to keep it like it is. Our community is growing up and we'd like to keep it like it is right now. Thank you.

Comment 23: Remigia Bermúdez, Latino Redistricting Committee

Respetable concurrencia, buenas noches. Respectable audience and Commissioners, good evening. My name is Remigia Bermúdez. I am a resident of Sherman Heights. I brought visuals because we need them. Without that we can't really see what's going on. I'd like to give you a little background on that. This is our District 8. On the northern part are the Sherman Heights, Logan Heights, Grant Hills, Memorial, and Stockton communities. And down here is the area that has been left out. But you know, this is not the first time I'm here. Back in 1983, I worked for the Mayor and I represented all the communities south of 8. At that time, San Ysidro said they were the orphan child. But guess what? We have something in common. Because the northern part of District 8 was an orphan child as well. At that time, people used to refer to City Hall as the ivory tower that nobody could reach. The upper portion said the same thing, and we were right next to them. So to just to let you know, we are united together and I am so happy to hear so many people say, do not divide our communities. Do not divide our 8th district from the way it is, because it's working now. We finally have somebody who cares, somebody who worked in the trenches in the community; somebody who is really delivering the goods that we have long been not served. So with that said, it would be great if San Ysidro had the population, but you

are 40,000 people short. So somebody mentioned that we should connect San Ysidro to Shelltown and Southcrest. That will only give you 4,000, so that's not going to work, just so that you know.

So, if you want to prepare for the next ten years, or if you want to do it sooner, there is a way of doing it. The only thing that connects Downtown to the southern part of San Diego, is the San Diego Bay. It's not legal, but nobody's challenged it. The water is what connects; the land under the water connects. So if you want to shorten those ten years, wait on the legalities of that. If not, wait another ten years for more people.

I would like to go the next slide. This is what we are proposing for the northern part of District 8. It's always good to have a map, and I'll just read what it says there:

The proposed boundaries of District 8 were generated by the members of the Latino Redistricting Committee. Please note that there are no changes to the southernmost part of District 8. The proposed modifications are being made on the northernmost part of District 8 and the southeastern border of central D8. It was proposed that an area in the northernmost section of District 8 be given up for the current area.

So, since my time is up I can only tell you the boundaries. On the north we have the Martin Luther King or 94 freeway, from I-5 to 30th. On the south, we have Division. On the east, we have I-15, and on the west, we have the bay. And those black marks that you see right here are the actual boundaries of District 8. And what we are giving up is all of Golden Hills and part of Gateway Central West, and that section east I-15. I have given you maps. If you have any questions, my name is on those. and I'm available. Thank you very much. I appreciate your time.

Comment 24: Carlos Vasquez

Yes, good evening. I am going to try to be brief. My name is Carlos Vasquez. I am from District 8. I grew up in the north part of the District, Logan Heights, until the early 70s. I've live walking distance from here for the last 38 years, and I've worked all my adult life in San Ysidro for about 35 years. So, I feel strongly about District 8.

We don't live in a perfect world. There are a lot of things that we might want to change and suggest to you, but the reality is that for us right now District 8 is working. I urge you to keep in mind to try to keep the integrity of this community. Until our numbers are different, we can then have a different conversation. But for the meantime, my recommendation is that you keep the integrity of District 8 as close to what it is right now.

In regards to the 9th District, it is true that Latinos, Hispanics are growing as a population, as a group. And that's why we need a 9th District that is – and I'm saying this a little reluctantly, because beyond being a Latino district, it just happens we just have the numbers – it is going to be a district of people that are in need, that are underrepresented. It's a district that can be contiguous with City Heights, coming down to parts of what used to be – perhaps losing some of the parts of District 8, the border there. But, more than a race, it's a community that's not represented really. And that's what we need to strive for – we need to strive so that all our citizens have a vote, have a voice. I believe that's a way that could be accomplished.

Comment 25: Andrea Skorepa

My name is Andrea Skorepa. I'm a lifelong resident and native of San Ysidro. I'm also on the County Redistricting Committee, so I know what you are facing. We just had our first public meeting today also. I'm here to urge you to create District 9 as the South Bay, which would include San Ysidro, Otay Mesa, Nestor, etc. And take as much of the northern part of the District in order to fulfill the population that we need. Then, split the rest and give the remaining part of District 8 and formulate them. The reason I am suggesting this is because I am a practical person. It took an election to advocate for a 9th District, it would take another election, and a 10th District would make it even again and that is not something that is conducive to good electoral politics. So then it would be two districts that you would have to create and I don't think the electorate would go for that. If we in the South Bay are ever going to come to our own empowerment—which yes, we do share a lot of things with the rest of District 8, but that is just a numbers thing. And so, I urge you to make the southern part of District 8 into District 9. And then just add what you need to add, because it would be easier ten years from now to adjust that, then to then at that point in time say, “No, District 8 is in the south and those of you up here will now have to share the other 8 districts.” I think it's a practical issue. I understand about the population and I understand that we will have to have part of the present District 8 in District 9, but I think it is something that certainly can be done and should be done. Thank you very much.

Comment 26: Vicky Rodriguez

Hello, my name is Vicky Rodriguez. I am a resident of District 8. I grew up down here all my life with my parents. This is where they called home. I grew up off of Del Sol, so in the Palm City area. I returned back here and bought my house in the Egger Highlands area. So, really what I ask the Commission is – I understand that the northern and the southern areas, as has been said, we have a long distance relationship. But I think it is really important that we continue to be united as a District. Believe it or not, there are differences but we also do have some commonalities with each other. I grew up and I live down here, and I've had the opportunity to work out in the Historic Barrio District. I think it's important that we continue to stay united. We do have similar interests. We want to have good education, safe neighborhoods, just a good place to work, live, and play. So I think it's important that we stay united with our northern district. If my parents were still alive, they would absolutely support wanting to stay to continue be united. They would also, as Filipino Americans, support the Asian American area up in the Mira Mesa area. I hope as you begin to take all the feedback from the community, really just consider not only the boundary lines but the impact they will have on people's lives. Thank you.

(Transcript Ends)

ADJOURNMENT:

Chair Dalal adjourned the meeting at 8:22 p.m.

Julie Corrales, Executive Secretary
2010 Redistricting Commission