

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

**MONDAY, MAY 2, 2011  
REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION CENTER – SHOWROOM  
4001 EL CAJON BOULEVARD, SAN DIEGO, 92105**

**CHRONOLOGY OF THE MEETING:**

The meeting was called to order by Chair Dalal at 6:13 p.m. 164 persons were observed to be in attendance. The meeting was adjourned by Chair Dalal at 9:38 p.m. to the next scheduled Pre-Map Public Hearing of the Redistricting Commission on Wednesday, May 4 at Point Loma/Hervey Library in the Community Room.

**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:

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

(Transcript Begins)

**Comment 1: Todd Gloria**

Thank you, Madam Chairwoman. Good evening everybody. Good evening, District 3! I want to thank each and every one of you for being here tonight. I'm sure that your reputation has preceded you but if the Commissioners didn't know, when we hold a public meeting in this district our folks show up, don't we? That is one of the many reasons I always like to say– and I know we have some visitors from the outside, but we have the best council district in the entire City of San Diego. I am grateful you would take interest in the future of our district and I hope that you all fill out speaker slips or written comments tonight.

To the Commissioners, I want to thank you for the service to our City. I want everybody to know and be reminded that these are individuals are not compensated for their service tonight. They are simply San Diegans who share our common goal of making this America's finest city. So, we want to thank each of you for your service.

To my neighbors, I hope that you would use this opportunity to discuss the specific qualities that make our district special. What are the common themes that organize us into a cohesive unit? What are the social, political, economic, and cultural ties that bind us together? The 2010 Census data and accommodating a new 9<sup>th</sup> Council District means that current District 3 population needs to be reduced by approximately 4,620 people. A modest number when compared to the other council districts. Now this would suggest that D3 should only anticipate slight adjustments to its boundaries. And of course other may argue for more significant alterations, and I'll be here tonight interested in hearing the testimony this evening. I'm going to refrain from sharing my personal opinion on what I believe should be the result of this process, but from where I stand I will simply say that ours is a district of older, urban neighborhoods, each a hundred years old, grappling with common issues like infrastructure and public transit. They are communities known for small business districts and iconic neon signs– and we have one just outside the window here that, god-willing, will be on when the sun goes down; a district using economic development to bring renewed excitement and communities, neighborhoods, bounded by a progressive attitude; a district with the lowest median income in the city of San Diego; a group of communities that value our arts and culture and home to our city's crown jewel, Balboa Park; and finally, a district that is proudly diverse both in race and in sexual orientation– the district that is home to San Diego's LGBT community and to immigrants and refugees from around the world. I imagine many of these themes will come up tonight. Certainly other neighborhoods' specific concerns will be raised as well. I'd ask each of the Commissioners to please listen to my constituents, because in addition to all of the things I've already mentioned, ours is district full of thoughtful, civically minded people, who consistently provide valuable input. Thank you, ladies and gentlemen for being here and thank you to all of my constituents; it's great to see you.

**Comment 2: Joe LaCava**

My name is Joe LaCava. I have spoken many times. I also want to thank the Commission for your service to the city and to the good citizens of District 3 for hosting us tonight. I often confuse people because I'll bounce back and forth between my specific agenda and standing back and looking at big picture items. And I'm really speaking on a big picture item. I want to get something in front of the Commission that I hope the City Attorney will address when she gets to her turn on the agenda. And that is this question about the allowed deviation from the population. I think we all know by now that the

target population is 144,000. But the question is, how much is the allowed deviation? The City Attorney has previously explained to us and I'm sure will explain to us tonight that the federal guidelines are plus or minus 10%, but the courts have asked for a much tighter deviation which certainly makes a lot of sense. The handouts that I gave to the Commission are the numbers from the 2000 Commission. Now, I'm not an attorney; I don't know what case law has been the last ten years, but you will note that in 2000 they found it perfectly acceptable to deviate by as much as plus or minus 4%. And the difference between the most populous and least populous district after the redistricting was 10,000. So, it seems like there is some leeway to be played here. The reason I mention is that I'm seeing a number of plans that are coming forth where people are bending over backwards trying to hit this magic "144" number as they try to plan the entire city. And I think they are making a lot of enemies where they don't need to be making enemies, because they feel like they have to hit that 144, so they are splitting communities, they're splitting communities of interest. I think if we could start to get some guidance from the City Attorney about what is an appropriate amount of deviation that the citizens can know about and the Commission can think about, as they come forward with their plans. Because I think we can go with the goal that I hear from everybody, which is keep the communities of interest, keep the community planning areas whole. So, I hope that you will keep that in mind and I hope the City Attorney will address it in her comments. Thank you.

**Chief of Staff Wong:** That's the last non-agenda comment.

**PUBLIC HEARING:**

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

**Chair Dalal:** Thank you, Ms. Wong and thank you to our speakers who just presented. Our next item on the agenda is... Again, I really appreciate all that you have– everyone coming out tonight, taking time out of your busy schedules to really share what you have to say, and we really value this input from all individuals. This is again, as I shared, I believe our sixth pre-map public hearing and we have three more in other districts in our city, and we are really determined to hear your thoughts about how the lines should be drawn. Our next item on the agenda is, we'd like to share some information about 2010 Redistricting and U.S. Census Data Overview by our Chief of Staff, Ms. Midori Wong.

(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 was one question from the public.

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

**Comment 1: Jim Varnadore**

(Transcript Begins)

Hi, I'm still Jim Varnadore. I do still live in City Heights, which is still America's finest community. Thank you very much for being here. I will not take three minutes. Half of the restaurants or more that were mentioned by Commissioner Quiroz are on University Ave. Please don't forget them when you're going out for supper tonight. My neighbors and I for a very long time have had access to three council members. We love that idea. We think that is a terrific way to go. We are also realists. We understand what the law requires and we understand what the census data say. We are going to rely on this Commission to draw boundaries which match the law and match the numbers and preserve communities of interest where that is possible, and we will learn to live with the result, and we will learn to get around it, and we will learn to manage our personal, and political, and financial affairs inside the districts you draw. Again, thank you very much for being here. You've heard me speak before on other topics. I will speak to those again and I will not take three minutes. Thank you.

**Comment 2: Jose Lopez**

Good evening, everyone. My name is Jose Lopez. I think this is more about the redistricting of the sun—and whatever screen we are going to use. I am the President of the Fox Canyon Neighborhood Association although tonight I am speaking by myself. So, let me start. I call this the Fox Canyon Proposed Maps to call them something. Unite City Heights... United City Heights core plus three options that we have presented are geographically compact and have contiguous territory. All have excellent access between population centers serving communities of interest as defined by themselves. We don't want to define the communities of interest; I want the communities of interest to define themselves. Each option retains common activities, social and lifestyle patterns typically desired by members of the area, with the exception of Option 3 and I'm going to go quickly over the options.

All the maps that I have put together got very close to the Census data that supports the planned proposal. Communities of interest within each option need to step in and express desire to be within the preferred option. This is District 9 proposed United City Heights Core district. Population: 99,992. Area: Hwy 805 to 54<sup>th</sup> Street and Hwy 8 to Martin Luther King Jr. 94. We want, or at least, I want City Heights to be together. We are a family of neighborhood associations, a family of neighborhoods and communities that perhaps when we were divided, we now need to be united. So, this is what I call the Core City Heights plan. But we are short on some numbers. So if we take the district core and add the communities to the east, which we are now together in District 7, then we will have 139,582. And you can see how the district would look.

Here is another option. This is the City Heights core—remember we are taking the City Heights core and adding either to the east or the west. If we move to the west, then we have the core, plus the North Park, Burlingame, South Park. That would give us 144,417 inhabitants. And what I did not present on Saturday was Option 3. And Option 3, I have seen some maps going up, so I said, "Fantastic, this is what we can do." We can take the core of the district and add the communities to the south that are Hispanic and we have the third option. With that, I think that you need to step up. You need to say, "Hey, perhaps we need to have the core and leave here and there," and allow the committee to do their job. She is signaling to me which is saying, "Jose, shut up and go sit down." And I will do that now. Thank you.

**Comment 3: Damian Tryon**

Good evening. My name is Damian Tryon. I live in the Fox Canyon neighborhood of City Heights. That man over there is the president of our neighborhood association. I got two things in mind for my community. First, with 30% of San Diego's population being Latino, it only makes sense that there is a second City Council district that has a majority Latino population. But more so, in City Heights, the neighborhood there is very diverse. English and Spanish are spoken in my house. But right down the street, our neighbors speak Hmong, Vietnamese, Cambodian. My boy's best friend, I like to call him my weekend son, Nadine– he has no less than five languages in his home. Somali, French, Italian, Arabic, English. We all come from an immigrant background; we've dealt with immigration issues. And I just... the first point of a Latino seat combines really well with the diverse immigrant population in City Heights. I applaud Jose for proposing consolidation in that area. I hope the redistricting process is fair in helping consolidate a lot of the representation in City Heights. I do want to support the maximizing of the African-American population in District 4, unifying neighborhoods that have historically defined the LGBT community, and I'd love to support the APAC effort but it doesn't allow for the creation of a second district with majority Latino population, so that is a very important thing to me and I hope that you'll support the work of the Latino redistricting committee and Mr. Pollard. I think they are moving in the right direction. Thank you.

**Comment 4: Carol Ann Flanagan**

Good evening, Commissioners. My name is Carol Ann Flanagan. I currently live in Clairemont Mesa/Linda Vista area, although 20 years ago I lived at Polk and Marlborough. I'm glad to see that the neighborhood is as wonderful now as it was then. I cherish my time there. I'm interested in this process because I'm hoping you'll consider how areas of dense population often center around neighborhoods with apartment buildings, townhomes and condos. I currently lived in an attached housing complex off of Genesee Ave. These areas are different than the single-family neighborhoods because there is much greater intensity of traffic and these areas are usually crammed right up against shopping centers. I understand why this happened, but I think there needs to be more consideration paid to people who live their lives in close proximity to these big shopping areas, especially when reliable and swift public transportation options are not readily available. Instead we have situations like along Genesee and Balboa Ave., where many residents are crammed into apartment buildings which causes a lot of traffic right next to giant shopping centers, like the intersection there that features Home Depot, Target, and several grocery stores, drug stores, and restaurants. I'd like to have City Council district that is really focused on the needs of the residents who live in these high traffic areas like this part of Clairemont Mesa. Other areas of Clairemont do not necessarily have this problem, but it is very apparent east of the Genesee and Balboa intersection. It might make sense to keep us in the same district with Mission Valley as we now are, because that is another community that is feeling the effects of having major shopping centers right next to dense apartment buildings and condos. And with the development of Corey Falls at the end of the intersection of Friars and 163 going on now, it's only going to get worse. It would be great to have a city council member who is responsive to this important community issue. Please consider it. Thank you.

**Comment 5: Mauricio Miranda**

Good evening, my name is Mauricio Miranda. I live on Jamacha Road in Encanto. I would like to speak in favor of the City Council map that truly reflects the diversity of our city. That is why I am in favor of maximizing the African-American population in District 4, creating a second City Council district that

has at least 50% of its population comprised of Latinos, unifying neighborhoods that have historically defined the LGBT community, and creating a district that unites neighborhoods with significant Asian and Pacific Islander populations. I would caution the Commission against viewing the citywide map proposed by APAC as being reflective of our community because it does not allow for the creation of a district with majority Latino population and the fulfillment of these other goals. Please respect the diversity of our city in drawing a new map. Thank you.

**Comment 6: Eric Robles**

Good evening. Thank you for coming out today. My name is Eric Robles and I'm a resident of Talmadge. I've been living there for almost a year. I... my family and my community is very special to me. I've enjoyed the brief one year we've been there. I've learned a lot about Talmadge. I'm originally from a different part, not from San Diego at all. But when we moved here we found Talmadge as a beautiful community. We found interesting that it was connect to the hip of our sister to the south, Kensington and we found ourselves spending a lot of time in the College area because we don't have markets in different parts, so we spend a lot of time in the College area, Kensington, and Mission Valley because that's where a lot of our resources are, and I think that was an important piece of looking to our community. My son is preschooler at College Avenue Baptist School. A lot of my neighbors, about four of them, have kids there, too. We lack park space, so we spend a lot of time in Kensington and in the College area. And my sons will most likely go to school with the other children in my neighborhood. Some of them are going to school in Del Cerro, so it's an interesting location. I understand that there is another proposal out there that would change what Talmadge and Kensington and the College area would look like, and I want to reemphasize that it is very important to keep these communities together. To keep Talmadge, Kensington... but we really need to expand our resources in our community, because Talmadge itself is resource poor. We don't have stores, we don't have places to go shopping and to eat. So we definitely need some support and our natural fits have been the College area and the Mission Valley area because that's been where a lot of my neighbors spend time. So thank you very much for your time and thank you for coming to this part of town.

**Comment 7: Charles Latimer**

I'm Charles Latimer. I live in Allied Gardens for a long time. I would like the Commission to consider Grantville, the redevelopment. Because I think that about 40- or 50,000 are going to be moving into that area, which will really compact the area and really change the boundaries that you are thinking about at the moment. I'm very happy with the boundaries as they are now but that expansion is greatly going to change things for us. Thank you very much.

**Comment 8: Lois Bach**

Good evening. My name is Lois Bach and I am a board member and secretary of Adams Avenue Business Association and I'm joined by about half of our board members here. My main concern is to keep our business district from Texas Street at the west to Vista Street at the east intact in only one city council district. My husband and I have been a part of this association for eight years and we actually sought out property on Adams Avenue for our business because of the reputation of the Business Association. Adams Avenue Business Association worked for years to bring Kensington into our association and just a couple years ago we made that happen. We now have over 600 businesses that span the two-mile length of Adams Avenue. Adams Avenue Business Association has invested and spent much time marketing Adams Avenue and promoting our avenue as a community of interest. There

are so few small business neighborhoods left in city where business owners such as my husband and I can still buy a freestanding commercially zoned building on a major street in San Diego and be a part of such a strong business association. I urge you to please keep our district intact. Thank you very much.

**Comment 9: Nicole Murray Ramirez**

Good evening. First of all, I would like to thank each of you for your service to the City and to the citizens of San Diego. I am currently on my 8<sup>th</sup> term in the City of San Diego's Human Relations Committee. I've been a San Diego resident since the early 1970s and a proud Latino and gay activist for over 40 years and a resident of the 3<sup>rd</sup> District for a majority of that time. The 3<sup>rd</sup> District has been the proud melting pot of San Diego with over 30 languages spoken. It unites San Diego's older urban communities. It's the home of hardworking families. It's the heart of San Diego's creative communities. The 3<sup>rd</sup> District is the home of two of San Diego's most diverse neighborhoods: City Heights, which is know as the welcoming place for immigrants and refugees, and Hillcrest, which is the home of the gay, lesbian, transgender community. Socially, politically, economically District 3 brings together a compact council district that should be left largely intact. I would note two things: first, City Heights has always made clear its desire to have multiple representatives on the City Council. It currently has three and should stay that way or be increased out of respect to that neighborhood wishes. Second, as a gay man of color, I think it's critically important to the future of our city, our state, and our county that District 3 continue to link the LGBT community and the community of color. Eight years ago I founded an annual children's Easter egg hunt in District 3 with donations and sponsorship mostly from the LGBT community. This year, over 500 children and their families attended, 90% of them people of color. Two communities share in an Easter Sunday together, building relationships. Our current council member is the first Native American, Filipino, and Puerto Rican representative on the council. Yes, he's from District 3's melting pot. And know some people want to change District 3 to become an almost 70% Caucasian district. I have often said that our Golden State is turning brown with our fastest growing population being Latino and Asian Pacific Islander communities. District 3 unites people of color and gays and creates atmosphere of getting to know each other and learning about each other. For now almost two decades, has been about walking, working, and living together, hand in hand, neighbor by neighbor. Because of this I believe we are one of America's finest cities, neighborhoods, and council districts. Thank you.

**Comment 10: Veronica McCune**

My name is Veronica McCune and I've been a resident of San Diego for 50 years and I have been a resident in District 3 for four years. So, I'm asking you, and I have my reasons, to remove the line of District 3 and 8, such as communities of Grant Hill, Logan Heights, Stockton area into District 3. That's what I'm asking for tonight. The relationships of those districts, those communities, have nothing to do with South San Diego. Those are communities that have totally been neglected so what District 3 has done here, should be done in that area of Grant Hill, Logan Heights, and Stockton. So, all I can ask you to do is to open up District 3. In regards to the census taking, you did not match the language takers with the language people in District 3 who live here. You did not get the proper information. I know that for a fact. I have walked these streets for four years with my dog and I have talked to a number of Census takers and they were all English speakers and they did not speak the different languages of 50 languages that are in this community. And I am here to tell you that and I will leave you with your decision and I'm asking you to bring those areas into District 3 so they can do something with the community over in that area. Because it's definitely needed and it has been definitely neglected.

**Comment 11: Amber Prentice**

Hello, my name is Amber Prentice. I am a resident of Rancho Bernardo. And you might be thinking, why would someone who lives in Rancho Bernardo be down here in City Heights? It's part of the reason why I am here testifying. I, like many people who live way up north, need to commute. I commute to Spring Valley and the I-15 is my way mainly to get way down south. As I'm commuting there's always, because the City of Poway borders Rancho Bernardo is along the I-15, there's always a huge backlog, a huge... a lot of cars which make it really hard to make my commute. So what I would like this district to do is include in the communities around the I-15 to be together so those concerns can be put together in the districts. For example, when I get on the freeway on Rancho Bernardo Road it's often a little bit backed up, then around Camino Del Norte we get to go again, then we hit Scripps Ranch and Poway Road, and all of a sudden it's really slow. This takes a big toll on my neighborhood and a lot of the people who live in Rancho Bernardo and other communities further north need to commute south. So, I'd like you to keep that in mind when you're doing the redistricting to try to keep those communities around I-15 together. Thank you.

**Comment 12: Willard Gee**

Good evening, my name is Willard Gee and I live in Normal Heights. A native San Diegan, been here all my life and proud of it. This is America's finest city. I would like to speak in favor of a City Council map that truly reflects the diversity of our city. That is why I am in favor of maximizing the African-American population in District 4, creating a second City Council district that has at least 50% of its population to be composed of Latinos, unifying neighborhoods that have historically defined the LGBT community, and creating a district that unites neighborhoods with significant Asian and Pacific Islander populations. Please do not adopt a citywide map proposed by APAC, do not. It is not reflective of the community and because it does not allow for the creation of a second district majority Latino population and the fulfillment of these other goals. Please support diversity and support the work of the Latino Redistricting community and Mr. Pollard. Thank you.

**Comment 13: Elizabeth Maldonado**

Good afternoon. Welcome to beautiful City Heights. I am Elizabeth Maldonado. I am the daughter of immigrants. I am a proud alumni of Hoover High School right down the street. And I'm also, proudly, a lifelong resident of City Heights. I live just six blocks away from here on the other side of the 15 in a small neighborhood called Cherokee Point which is part of a City Heights community of interest. In the southern part of this triangle, just east of the 805, west of the 15, and south of the 8, we are a predominantly Latino community that uses culture resources to our east and south. But City Heights is also a community of immigrants that have come from all over the world. Whether its refugees from Africa or Southeast Asia, or immigrants from Latin America, City Heights is a part of San Diego where diverse families have made their home. As we see in our annual International Village Celebration, City Heights is San Diego's colorful, international community. As you travel along El Cajon Boulevard or University Avenue, you witness our diversity in action. Storefront businesses and places of worship along these two major roads reflect the more 30 languages that are spoken in our community. As the immediate past chair of the San Diego Immigrant Rights Consortium I know how important it is to empower these diverse communities and give them a stake in our city process. As religious, language, and ethnic diversity defines City Heights, we encourage you a City Council district that centers around this important hub of international refugee and immigrant communities. Thank you very much for your service and your time.

**Comment 14: Brian Pollard**

Good evening. It is good to see you folks again. I am too impressed with the turnout. It seems as the topics are getting more and more juicy, there are more and more people that are showing up and voicing their concerns. I am here to basically talk about the new district, the proposed new district for the 4<sup>th</sup> District City Council seat. With the support of numerous residents, groups, and organizations throughout the 4<sup>th</sup> District, including but not limited to the Coalition of Neighborhood Councils, BAPAC, NAACP, the Latino Redistricting Committee, Pastors on Point, the Valencia Park Town Council, the Webster Town Council, the Emerald Hills Town Council, and the Broadway Heights Town Council. There are many other groups, but together we have created a collaborative copy of a proposed new 4<sup>th</sup> District.

We have a slide presentation here; it will not last nine minutes. This is the current 4<sup>th</sup> District. The boundaries: Mount View, Mount Hope to the west; Oak Park primarily to the north; Paradise Hills to the south; and to the east and northeast, Lomita Village and Jamacha.

This is the proposed; I know it's probably difficult to see. I will be emailing copies to the Commission. What we have done is the proposed 4<sup>th</sup> District City Council seat will basically move our western boundaries from I-15 four blocks to a park called Oceanview Park. That's roughly 41<sup>st</sup> Street. And the purpose of that movement was because looking at the census blocks, the ratio from Latinos to African-Americans in that block— those census blocks we moved to the east was roughly 80% and 20% African-American. Along with that, that means we will be losing.

Secondly, is we moved those districts, those census tracts over to the new Latino district to help with their numbers in their creation of a new Latino seat. The next change, because as most of you know, we are looking at 144,000 people roughly. So we move in one direction to the west, we then expand to the north and northeast. Our expansion to the northeast and the north will be moved from Streamview in Oak Park to one block south of University Ave. The other addition we are making is to the northeast, which includes the College Grove Shopping Center. It looks like the numbers substantiate it and the most important thing is it boosts the African-American representation from 18% to 20%, as I mentioned.

This also does a couple of things. This map represents collaboration primarily with the LRC, which is the Latino Redistricting Committee, and of course in support of the increased empowerment of the African-American residents in the 4<sup>th</sup> District. What this also does is it recognizes 95% of communities of interest in our district. That means we represent 46% Latinos, this plan supports them. This plan assists the Asians in our community which comprises 20% and this of course recognizes the African-American population that prior to this was 18.8%. This map is consistent with the population requirements; its consistent with the contiguity element, as well as compactness.

Additionally, it is critical that our district remain known as the 4<sup>th</sup> District. The numerical distinction is our community of interest's brand name. It is commonly used in various venues to identify our neighborhoods and our community— a community of passion, beauty, pride, and energy. We also support strongly the creation of the additional Latino district, as well as an Asian district. Now I think, looking at the numbers, there is a way to do both, but it cannot be done the way that the maps have been drawn up to this point, north of 8. We support the continuance of the LGBT community and their representation, and the rights of all underrepresented groups and communities of interest within the city. Again, I want to thank the Commission for their focus and for being a target for everyone. And again, I'm just

thoroughly impressed with the outreach effort that you folks have made. Normally, it's nine, you folks are doing twenty. So thank you very, very much and thank you all.

**Comment 15: Katherine Eaton**

I think this is the first time in twenty years that I've agreed with Nicole, so thank you for your comments. Thank you, Madam Chairwoman. My name is Katherine Eaton and I live in Azalea Park. I support a ninth district with represents our Asian community members, but I'm uneasy about dividing communities based on arguments of race and culture. I've only got three minutes. I believe it's shortsighted and it serves to polarize our richly diverse communities. But here tonight we are forced to do just that and assert our arguments to demonstrate our cultural preferences and demonstrate our majority representation in order to preserve CD3's integrity.

So LGBT representation has strengthened the communities in which we meet in tonight. My gay and lesbian brothers and sisters are richly represented in Azalea Park. Having established a long line of leadership, activism, financial investment and hard work throughout our neighborhood with much support from former council members Kehoe, Atkins, and presently Councilmember Todd Gloria. It is the strong LGBT activism and council support that shifted a once crime-embattled neighborhood into a refuge where our less affluent LGBT members could invest and raise a family, and even someday retire. My spouse and I have owned our home in Azalea Park for almost ten years. Having representation of an LGBT council member has been a critical component to the success of our neighborhood and continues to be in the future. Its largely why we purchased our home in Azalea Park. I urge you to retain the Azalea Park neighborhood in the LGBT Council District 3. Thank you for your time.

**Comment 16: Robert Gleason**

Good evening. My name is Robert Gleason, I've been a resident of District 3 for 20 years and this is where my husband and I have chosen to raise our three children. I was asked to speak today by the LGBT Redistricting Task Force, to share my thoughts about the process, but I'm going a little out of order with them because I have a babysitting challenge. I have the pleasure of representing the LGBT community in a number of capacities, both at our LGBT Community Center Board and also proudly serve the City in a number of appointed capacities, including on the Convention Center Board and currently serving Chair of the San Diego County Regional Airport Authority. And I mention that only because I think it simply wouldn't have been possible 20 years ago for an openly gay man to hold those positions.

I don't think there's any debate that the LGBT community has historically faced common social and economic burdens due to discrimination from a variety of sources. And it has given me great pride to see firsthand how our community has grown, organized itself, fought for and achieved effective political representation and how that's allowed ordinary LGBT citizens who love this City to be able to serve it. That opportunity can be traced directly back to the outcome of earlier redistricting processes, when District 3 became home to our LGBT community. That home has been crucial for our growth and access to representation. We all care about and are deeply involved not only in our own community of interest but also in the outcomes and opportunities afforded to all communities of interest. From our home district, we have been able to contribute to our city as a whole. And I really believe that both District 3 and the City are better for that. But there is still a lot to be done. The 2008 vote to take away our right to marry, bullying, tragedies of youth suicide, the existence of national and local organizations whose sole mission is to deny us basic dignity and human rights, and sadly that list goes on. While strides have been

made, some of the discrimination that made this district necessary 20 years ago can still be found today. This City Council district in District 3 provided us with effective and fair representation for the first time, and we strongly, we urge you, we plead with you that you maintain a district that includes many of us. There are a variety of opinions about where the outer boundaries of that district should be drawn, but I think we all agree that it is important to keep the core of our district together representing our diverse LGBT community.

Earlier this year, the individuals who came together for the LGBT Redistricting Task Force wanted to listen to all the voices in the community and coordinate our participation in this effort. You are going to hear from many of them later in the evening and I ask you to listen to them. You'll see them with their name tags and their lavender attire; they may call it eggplant, or plum, or mauve or some description. We have a very fine sense of color. So I want to thank you very much for listening to our concerns and especially, very much, again to echo– a great thanks to your service to the community and all its diverse citizens.

**Comment 17: Jody Carey**

Hello, my name is Jody Carey. I live right here in City Heights, right across the canyon from Azalea Park. I am a member of the gay community. In City Heights, I'm just another member of some community. It's a... We're a melting pot and happy to be part of it. This will be short. I am asking the Commission not to be persuaded by other committees or organizations to carve out what they have deemed the undesirable aspects of their council district. Keep City Heights in District 3. We have worked so closely with our Councilmember Gloria and our previous council members in creating redevelopment that means something. We have a lot of work ahead of us, but we are up and coming and we are getting there. You know, don't count us out and don't drop us. Thank you.

**Comment: 18: Dennis Wood**

My name is Dennis Wood. That's my husband. We live at 42<sup>nd</sup> and Thorn. When we moved there in 2004—by the way, thank you, Commission. When we moved there in 2004, we bought a little track house, still active, and saw some potential. When we got to know the neighbors we were a little concerned about being accepted or fitting in. When we got into it and when we realized that everybody worked together, regardless of language, regardless of economic status, they worked together. And we saw Azalea Park bringing their resources over to our community, their manpower and all these things, because they had consistently worked with the council district over the years to match effort and dollars and resources into our community. Now, just this past weekend with Creek to Bay, we had three sites in our little area; we got 190 people just for our little spot—Chase Bank, the Rotary. All these community members, they drove down from San Clemente, from North County, to help our little pocket and for us to be removed out of CD3 would really be devastating because right now we've got resources and relationships we've built over the decades that we are now benefiting. We have rapport that works cleanly, clearly, and makes our community better for all the diversity that is in it. It doesn't matter that I'm gay, it doesn't matter that my neighbor is Hispanic, it doesn't matter that my best friend's kids—Caucasian parents adopted a black son and a born Caucasian daughter— they are all City Heights and we are City Heights, and we want to be a part of CD3 and remain that way. Thank you very much.

**Comment 19: Betty Timko**

Hello, my name is Betty Timko. I live in the University City area, the southern part of University City. It is important that both the northern and southern part of University City be united, because we feel the impacts of the hustle and the bustle of the north whether we like it or not. Northern University City has really put a strain on our streets because of the growth of the areas, such as University Town Centre shopping center, the UCSD campus, and the whole Eastgate/Judicial Drive area. We need to be connected to these communities so we can provide meaningful impact on the growth that affects the quality of life for those of us in the southern part. Nowhere is this more apparent than the debate over the construction of the Regents Road Bridge, which I think would have had a detrimental impact on the southern part of University City. What the north perceives to be in its best interest is sometimes squarely at odds with some of us in the south. We need one council member that is accountable to hearing both sides of this issue going forward. It is unfortunate that the APAC map tries to split up our community. I prefer the Commission adopt what is being called the Coast and Canyons map as it makes our community whole by respecting the impacts that north University City has on south University City. I think the Commission can still help APAC's wishes and draw an Asian-American empowerment district without encroaching on the UTC area. Thank you so much for your time and please keep University City whole.

**Comment 19: Andy Berg, Rancho Peñasquitos Town Council**

Good evening, Commissioners. My name is Andy Berg. I am president of the Rancho Peñasquitos Town Council. Spoke to you many times before and you'll be happy to hear that we are still on map 10; no new maps tonight. We will have an updated PowerPoint for you probably by the end of the week. As I've said many times, the residents of Rancho Peñasquitos and the surrounding communities of Carmel Mountain Ranch, Sabre Springs, Torrey Highlands, Black Mountain Ranch, and Rancho Bernardo predominantly moved to that area because of our children. There are children everywhere throughout those communities and they all act together. There's tons of extracurricular activities, whether sports or band or art or scouting, that these kids all do together and that is really the tie that binds our community. The biggest thing that binds our community is the school district. We are all part of the Poway Unified School District up there. And we've never been in a council district that had a councilmember that had a majority of their residents go to the Poway Unified School District. And we'd really like to see that relationship start to be forged with the City of San Diego and our school district.

We are currently in a district with La Jolla and University Center and the whole 56 carter, and it's great. I love our councilwoman Sherri Lightner. We're going to lose her, there's no way to draw a map that's going to keep us there unless she moves to Peñasquitos, we are going to lose our councilmember and that's understandable. We went through this process; we knew that was going to happen. We talked for about four different meetings in a subcommittee, how to decide how to form our district and we said, you know, we really want to be part of PUSD, Poway Unified School District, but we really were sympathetic and concerned about that Asian district concept. Most of our members, myself certainly, listened to everything that has been said and believed it all before I heard it again. People need to be represented, groups need to have representation, and that is very important. The district we created, the one for our district is 25% API, the district south on our map is 32% API. Just by way of comparison, you saw it, the current District 4 which is quote unquote an African-American district, is 18.8%. We've created two districts with a larger Asian population than that. I know the APAC map is a little larger than that, but we did ours in a way that will actually stand up to precedent of Miller vs. Johnson. We didn't do just based on race; there are natural reasons for every community we put together.

It looks a little goofy the where we put Serra Mesa and Linda Vista together and kept Mission Valley in District 6, but that is because people in Serra Mesa and Linda Vista said– we actually do talk to people in other communities– said we’re single-family homes, we have nothing in common with Mission Valley. We’d prefer to be in the same district. So we did it. That’s the only part of our district that looks a little weird. There was a comment made at an earlier meeting that really caught my attention– and I don’t know if this will come out patronizing or whatever. I hope my friends in the Asian community know that we are friends and we are working together, but the comment was that 16% of the population is API in the city, 10% of the registered voters in the city are API. Whether you draw a map that is 32% API or 39% API, I really suggest that voter registration is going to be a lot more important to the empowerment than where we draw those lines. I hope you can keep our communities in north city together. It doesn’t affect anybody else if you do that and still get that Asian district at 32%. Thank you.

**Comment 20: Guy Mock**

Hi, there. I’ve seen some of you before, some of you I have not. I live in City Heights, a community that was unfortunately not included in previous maps but that happens sometimes, it’s called Ridgeview. We are also a very active community in City Heights. Unfortunately, the police beats put City Heights, or rather Ridgeview and Webster together. Sometimes that mistake is made so I just wanted to clarify that. Why am I here tonight? Well, I retired in 2002 and I could’ve moved anywhere in the United States that I wanted to, and Uncle Sam would’ve moved me there. That’s the deal when you do 20 plus years in the military. I decided to stay here. I’ve become very active in the community. You’ve seen some people wearing these T-shirts. And there are a lot of organizations on the back of this T-shirt, but the most important thing– and this little lady right here can tell you– is this little number right here up front that says “500.” Five-hundred homes in City Heights have been face-lifted in 15 years. This is a very volunteer-oriented community. We don’t have a lot of money, we don’t have a lot voter base, but we do have a lot of volunteers. Why am I wearing this shirt? This is City Heights on patrol. We got reorganized and in fact, if you live in City Heights, I’ve either drove by your house or down your alley behind your home, somewhere in the last six months. And I drove by this building on Friday, ok? About 9:35 p.m. I patrol this community. I know all the one-way streets that go to dead ends. I know all the streets that start here, stop here, and start somewhere else, ‘k? What I’m here to say is that this is a highly-diverse community. No one group of people should lay claim to City Heights and in fact, I’ve said it before and I’ll say it again, it’s a great place to eat because you get authentic food because the people live here. And its multi-ethnic, multi-diverse. Right now, we have three council members that understand that. To change those council members may be a mistake, but we need more than one, because I don’t think one council member could handle all the different ethnicities and all the issues that exist in this community. Other people will come up here and speak but bottom line is, don’t break what is already working. We’re doing a lot in this community; we’ll keep doing a lot. And I want to thank you folks because you’ve taken a lot of garbage these last few meetings. You finally had one where someone didn’t attack you. And I didn’t see them standing there with their hands in the air when they were looking for volunteers, so thank you very much for what you are doing and keep up the good work.

**Comment 21: Robert Robinson**

Good afternoon. I want to thank you for being here to listen to us here tonight. My name is Robert Robinson. I live in the 4<sup>th</sup> Council District and I’m the president of the Broadway Height community council. I’m here to talk about over some 50 years ago, one Sunday– the reason for us doing what we do here tonight is to talk about equitable access, and having equal rights and the right to vote. That one Sunday was called Bloody Sunday. They were serious about it then and we are serious about it now, 50

years ago. So you have to stop and think what that means, so you have to stop and think about how serious this is and how important this is and what will this mean for the outcome of San Diego as a whole. Never would I have thought 50 years ago, that I would be standing here talking about diversity and talking about contiguous neighborhoods and talking about what's right. I didn't have a clue. But what I want to say to this Commission here tonight is that I live in the 4<sup>th</sup> Council District. I want the lines to be drawn right. I support the map that was presented earlier and my community has a position and you will hear that later. But what I'm saying to this Commission is don't bust up the progress that has been made. Pay close attention to what we've done and how we've done it. In 2000, the 4<sup>th</sup> Council District took a hit. We don't want to take a hit on this one, in 2011. If you look at the paperwork and you look at the records we did lose ground and we don't want to do that now. I want to thank you for having me and pay attention to the 4<sup>th</sup> Council District.

Comment 22: Van Urtiaga

Hi. My name is Van Urtiaga and I'm a resident of Normal Heights. I've been in San Diego for 50 years. I support a citywide map that reflects the diversity of San Diego. When drawing the new map please two districts that have a majority Latino population, a district that maximizes the African-American population, a district that maximizes the Asian-American population, and an uptown district that connects LGBT neighborhoods. And lastly, no district shall be drawn to favor politicians. Please respect the community. Thank you.

**Comment 23: Linda Pennington**

I'm Linda Pennington. I live in the Azalea Park in the City Heights community in council District 3. I would like to see council District 3 remain intact and I would also like to see City Heights remain with three city council districts for representation. The Azalea Park neighborhood has been very, very active and led the charge in City Heights. I started the Project Clean Group in 1981. It goes all over City Heights painting out graffiti and working in canyons. And we have absolutely no problem getting volunteers to do all kinds of work in City Heights. I now run the facelift event, again no problem getting volunteers from all over the county to volunteer in City Heights. San Diego is a wonderful place. I also help to lead the charge for Azalea Park to do the outreach to the gay community in 1993 for 17 years we went to the Gay Pride Parade and we had a beautiful elaborate float, and we also sat at the booth all weekend long. Talked to gay people, said "Here's a neighborhood that would open its arms to you. Come to Azalea Park." And what I heard from other people in City Heights was, "Invite them to my neighborhood, we want more gays." So, we definitely love our diversity in City Heights, its working, we all work together very well. I've been there since 1981. I have 30 years into City Heights; 25 years as a full time volunteer. I've actually been paid for some of my contract hours in the last couple years, but we love what we have now, we don't want that to change. Thank you.

**Comment 24: Dave McCulloch**

Good evening, Commissioners. My name is Dave McCulloch. I am a community activist, member at large of the Hillcrest Town Council's board of directors, and I'm speaking this evening as chairman of the Hillcrest Town Council's Redistricting Committee. To start, we'd like to see District 3 move farther west. There have been a lot of people talking about keeping it the same, but we'd really like to see it move west. As you can see, moving the district further west would include communities such as Mission Hills, Park West, Midtown, Little Italy, Golden Hill, Cortez Hill, and Old Town. These are areas with huge tie-ins to many of the areas of the current western portion of today's District 3. These are all very

historic areas that naturally flow. These are places that walking from neighborhood to neighborhood are in many ways indistinguishable from one another and are the quintessential sign neighborhoods, the neighborhoods with the neon signs. These also closely border one of San Diego's finest assets and one of my favorite things in San Diego, Balboa Park.

By the way, let's keep Balboa Park in District 3. When I walk from Hillcrest to Mission Hills or take a stroll from University Heights to North Park, or through Balboa Park to South Park, really it's like I never left the neighborhood. These are communities that deserve to be a part of District 3, not because they are different from the existing areas, but because perhaps they are more similar. These areas have all related issues, matters related to historical community assets, ordinances, <unintelligible> ordinances, major use area parks, parking limitations, and most importantly have both tangible and intangible associations with the larger uptown neighborhood. This greater uptown area has so much in common it almost boggles my mind that some of the areas in District 3 aren't united with District 2 as we are suggesting. All these communities that we are asking you to unite and bring together represent the history of San Diego. These communities are some of the oldest, most unique communities that we have. Yet these communities are lumped in with other areas such as Pacific Beach ostensibly for the sole purpose of attaching to downtown.

Downtown is a whole other ball game. I've talked to a number of individuals about where to equitably place downtown, if we cut it off from District 2 and it seems nobody wants downtown. It has nothing to do with the people, the population, people voting one way or another, or anything to do really about anything except with politicians. The politics in downtown scare the daylights out of many in the community, both wonks such as myself and average citizens as well. But the ultimate challenge will be where to put it. And that's something I don't have an answer to.

As it stands today, District 3 is a district that unfairly represents the people who live in it. No longer does Hillcrest get the attention it once garnered and instead up and coming neighborhoods to the east of Hillcrest are receiving it. These areas deserve attention too, but not at the detriment of other communities which should also be viewed as equally important to the city's vital essence, economy and culture. Hillcrest and our neighboring areas have problems that need solutions, and representatives are distracted by other communities' needs, we all lose. This is one of the fears we have with downtown as much as the other eastern areas of today's District 3. At least one person spoke at Saturday's redistricting hearing and suggested that both these eastern communities and western communities would best be served by placing each in their own council districts. I agree with that notion. Rather than splitting the attention of one representative between these two major areas let's get two representatives for these two areas and make sure that both of these communities are equally served. In the end, the gist of my message is this: We'd like to see the communities of Mission Hills, Bankers Hills, Mid-town, Cortez Hill, Little Italy and Old Town united under one representative with the greater uptown area. Number it as you see fit, that's not really the issue; however, we do want to see these areas united together in a way that best represents the needs and desires of these communities so we can ensure that San Diego thrives in such a way that it remains America's finest city.

**Comment 25: Albert Velasquez**

Good evening, Commissioners. Welcome again. My name is Albert Velasquez. I am a member of the Otay Nestor Planning Group. Thank you again for this opportunity to speak to you. Speaking as somebody from the South Bay, I just wanted to reiterate my concerns of splitting up District 8. We fought for the last ten years to get the recognition and the connections to City government that are

desperately needed in this area. And I'd like to reiterate to keep The South Bay section of District 8 together so that way our concerns can still be heard by the City. I'd also like to reiterate again my concerns for the communities of interest within the city and hope that the Commission take into consideration... and I know it's a tough job to balance out these communities of interests, but again to take these testimonies to heart and I applaud you all for your hard work. Thank you so much.

**Comment 26: Deborah Knight**

Hello. My name is Debbie Knight and I live in south University City in University City. I am really here today to make the very strong case for whatever boundaries are determined for the APAC map that... the most recent version that came out, I was surprised to see it extending over and cutting a big chunk out of University City. So I've looked at that in the map, and I think that is detrimental, extremely detrimental to community for a number of reasons. One is, first of all, it cuts a big chunk off of UCSD and to me it should be absolutely basic: a community of interest is UCSD; that you would not chop off a piece of UCSD and put it in two different council districts. It's a very fast developing community there, it's fast growing. They are building a lot. It is a very complex community, transit, transportation, everything. And I did bring you a map of the university here, and the most recent that takes a chunk of University City and adds it to the APAC map, a lot of what it takes is UCSD's graduate housing. So, 1,100 units of graduate housing – these are people who are required to be full-time students at UCSD. To me, their community of interest is UCSD. They are on the campus, they are fulltime students and they should not be redistricted into something... Rancho Peñasquitos and things like that. So I brought this to here to bring this to you, to give to here. That is the Mesa housing and the One Miramar Way, which are north of La Jolla Village Drive and east of the 5 that would be added into the 9<sup>th</sup> Council District if that map were adopted.

The other thing is the University Community Planning Group. We are called University Community because we were created with the university, north and south. And we are a major community of interest. For 40 years, we have been one community and we have one community plan, called the University Community Plan. I've been to almost every University Community Planning Group meeting for ten years. I can tell you, the challenges that we face are tremendous. We have enormous development issues there, we have enormous community plan issues, we have all of the growth of UCSD, huge transportation/transit. And to divide, to cut a piece out of the middle of that community plan and having two council people trying to deal with that district, University Community Planning District, is really untenable. I gave you a map last time of our planning district, so please keep our planning district together. Thank you.

**Comment: 27: Richard Gorin**

Good evening, Commissioners. Thank you so much for doing this. Thank you also to the sun for setting so I don't have to be blinded while I do this. Your job is really impossible. I learned today that your history is not of that of the County and State Commissions. But basically, we've had a number of ballot propositions sold to us saying that citizen redistricting is better, because it will prevent creating safe districts. And yet, when you look at your criteria– and they are dictated to you by the Constitution, by the courts– basically you are going to create safe districts. Maybe not safe for the current incumbents, but you are not going to create situation where there voters and going to say, “The government as it's working is mismanaged and we get to vote for the opponents.” So, that aside, if we are going to go by community of interest, I have two things to say. First, I would consider my community of interest– I live at First and Walnut and it's pretty much the area described by Dave McCulloch earlier. It's Mission

Hills, Hillcrest, Banker's Hill, Park West, University Heights, and that has been split up. In fact, I live two blocks on what I consider to be the wrong side of the line. No offense, Todd. If I could move the way kids are allowed to move to adjoining districts when they feel it's not suitable, I would do that. But I like where I live, as do you I'm sure. And so, I think that whatever you design, there is going to be minorities in there. And if you go with communities of interest, there are definitely going to be minorities in there, because there aren't 144,000 of this type or that community. And so, I want you to be particularly careful with how you allocate those who will be a minority in a community of interest district, because these are the people who will be somewhat disenfranchised and it's, I hope, your job to make it less so. Thank you.

**Comment 28: Cornelio Flores**

Good afternoon, my name is Cornelio Flores. I have 12 years living in City Heights. My kids grew up here in City Heights, they went to school here in the community of City Heights and now my grandson is also attending schools in City Heights and using the parks to play football, which is his favorite pastime. And I would like it, before they divide the districts, that they do more research into how over the last ten years— how everything has prospered, how City Heights has bettered in regards to creating parks, schools, markets. From 2000 till today, it has prospered, and more than anything, my recommendation is that City Heights remain united, that it not be divided so that it can continue to prosper.

**Comment 29: Emiliana Cruz**

Good afternoon to everyone. My name is Emiliana Cruz. I have also lived in City Heights for 12 years. I'm like my neighbor there. Twelve years ago, I also arrived worried, but as the years passed, I got to know my neighbors. And I've gotten to know this community that is always grouped around what the people want, what they wish to see in their communities. So, if they want to split up the districts to make another one, it's ok. But the most important – the most important thing is that there be no division of the Latin community in City Heights. Thank you very much.

**Comment 30: Joe LaCava**

Thank you. Joe LaCava, again. Since I have a second chance, I'm going to thank your Chief of Staff for her balanced energy in getting out to all the communities and the professionalism in dealing with all the various individuals and communities. I want to speak again about the big picture of community planning areas; I've spoken about this before. I really think that you should use the community planning areas as the building blocks in constructing the districts. The City of San Diego is somewhat unique in its community planning areas, but it's really how land-use is really divided in our community, how commercial and residential interacts, it's also the basis for parks, and schools, and streets, and infrastructures in general. So that should really be the building blocks. Culture and ethnicity is then the glue that decides how you should combine those building blocks into single council districts. I think that if you took a straw poll, all of us would gladly put up with deviations of three-thousand, four-thousand, five-thousand, six-thousand people, in order to make sure that our community planning areas and communities of interest are bound together in the same district. I think all the speakers are consistent in how important it is for communities of interest and community planning areas to be in the same council district. So again, please use community planning areas and communities of interest as your first criteria, and then deviation as a second and lesser criteria. Thank you.

**Comment 31: Ralph Barnhill**

Good evening, Commissioners and San Diegans. My name is Ralph Barnhill and I'm from Broadway Heights Community Council, which you call town councils. I'm here tonight to read into record that our ad hoc committee has drafted. Each of the Commissioners also has a copy at this time. This letter will hopefully convey to you the relationship we have had with City personnel, successes, concerns and our desires.

“Redistricting Commission:

“The Broadway Heights Community Council was founded for the purpose of enriching and celebrating the quality of life, safety, and beautification of the neighborhood. For the last two decades, the community council has provided strong leadership and collaboration with the community and has developed partnerships with government leaders, community-based organizations, business owners, schools, faith-based organizations, the Coalition of Neighborhood Councils, and the San Diego Neighborhood Funders. This community maintains a strong bond and working relationship with the San Diego Police Department and as a result, Broadway Heights has maintained some of the lowest crime statistics in the city of San Diego for the last 24 years. We do not want to start over with the progress we have already made.

“The demographics of the population are represented by a variety of ethnicities including African-Americans, Hispanics, Filipinos, Asians and Caucasians. Our goal is to build a safer community and a better quality of life. This group strives to educate our future leaders and offers opportunities for continued growth for our youth. Most recently, the Broadway Heights Youth Leadership Team, which meets monthly, was successful in petitioning the City of San Diego City Council to have a neighborhood street renamed to Martin Luther King Jr. Way. The council vote was 8-0.

“On March 7, 1965, was the beginning of what is currently knows as the Federal Voting Rights Act of 1965. Broadway Heights Community strongly suggests the Commission play close attention to the requirements of contiguous territory in preserving our community in order to retain common activities, social and lifestyle patterns typical and desired by our community when the lines are drawn. Broadway Heights does not want to be moved out of the 4<sup>th</sup> Council District under any circumstance.

“According to the 2010 Census Data, the 4<sup>th</sup> Council District has 152,912 people. So, once again, when the line is draw and the public hearings convene, Broadway Heights Community Council suggests the draft line that your Commission will present will preserve and maintain the contiguous territory of the 4<sup>th</sup> Council District of the 144,624 required to add a new Council District 9. We as a community will submit a map of how we think the new 4<sup>th</sup> Council District should look, therefore preserving the contiguous territory of our community.

“—Submitted by the Ad Hoc Redistricting Committee of the Broadway Heights Community Council.”

I would like to thank you for engaging us at this time and to let you know that... a question was asked earlier by a member, and it had to do with whether or not the intent of all the redistricting and everything is in order relative to everyone being represented and increasing representation in terms of the council and the voting. But it has to do with does it really mean anything if we got a lot of kids in that particular district, or that number we are talking about, that 144,624 – if they are not voting age? Those of you who are familiar with statistics will realize that in this case sigma being that number, then it can be

skewed to the right or to the left and the curve can look more plethoric than anything else. So, is the intent really there, what it is that we are really talking about doing? Thank you for your time.

**Comment 32: David Moty**

My name is David Moty. I am a resident of Talmadge. And first of all, I'd like to associate myself with everything Joe LaCava said. Community planning groups should be the building blocks of all your districts and you should not be overly concerned about getting this deviation down to zero. If you go for that you'll end up splitting up neighborhoods, and if this was about splitting up neighborhoods we would of left redistricting in the hands of City Council. The purpose of this citizen's Commission is to preserve, intact, neighborhoods. Regarding Talmadge in particular, being in Council District 3 works for us. We like being in Council District 3. The neighborhoods to the west of us, Kensington shares our issues, Normal Heights shares our issues, North Park shares our issues, we have more far in common with them than we do with Grantville, Del Cerro, or even the College area which is directly to our east. Thank you.

**Comment 33: Fred Lindahl**

My name is Fred Lindahl. I'd like to commend this Commission for taking on this difficult task. I reside in Council District 3 in Talmadge neighborhood. I serve as the Chair for the City Heights Redevelopment Project Committee, Treasurer of the Kensington/Talmadge Planning Group, and as the Vice Chair of the Talmadge Maintenance Assessment District. I'm not here representing any of these organizations. I'm here simply as a resident of Council District 3. I give you to this information to let you know that I am very active and interested in my community. I ask that you respectfully consider the common needs of the many neighborhoods of the current 3<sup>rd</sup> District and make every effort possible to keep them together as you draw new boundaries. I would like to highlight the neighborhoods of University Heights, North Park, Normal Heights, Kensington, and Talmadge, and note that they have developed historically along and beyond Adams Ave. and they are among the city's first and should be kept together. Please recognize these neighborhoods as a community of interest based upon our history and location and allow us to live and work together. Thank you.

**Comment 34: Sydney Blades**

Good evening, members. Good evening, everyone. I am also representing Broadway Heights. And I've been there from 1978 and we have a very nice community and we are family and we are very together. And I would like to see us stand by Broadway Heights. And please, all I'm going to say is, please don't take away the beef from the bread. We need it.

**Comment 35: Amanda Moss**

Hi, I'm Amanda Moss, and the current Corridor neighborhood is currently represented by District 3 as you all know. I believe that maintaining City Heights in District 3 is in the best interest of myself, my neighbors, and the residents as a whole. When taking my morning run, I leave my 1908 craftsman home and I pass home after home that tells rich stories of history and culture and that of diversity. I pass small local businesses and residences that thriving. I converse with residents that value community history, embrace diversity, and have pride in the redevelopment and improvements constantly going on around us. Again, I believe Council District 3 understands, values, and best represents me, a resident of the Corridor neighborhood of City Heights. I thank you and I appreciate your time.

**Comment 36: Monica Rocha**

Good afternoon. My name is Monica Rocha. I am a mother of 5 children. I've been a resident of City Heights for 20 years. I am a member of the Latino Redistricting Committee, of People United for a Social Change, and Director of Latinos y Latinas en Acción. In Latinos y Latinas en Acción, our job is to educate the community and involve them in the civic and political processes and events that happen in our community. So then, I ask you to please, when making a decision on how to redistribute the districts, take into account the community. The community needs respect; the families, our youth, are the first ones who will be affected. And my children live in this community and I want a better future for them, because my children will attend a university and they will be professionals and they will work in this community and volunteer time here so that the community will become educated and work hard. Thank you.

**Comment 37: Brian Fowler**

Hello, my name is Brian Fowler and I live in the community of Fairmount Park, which is part of City Heights. My community is very diverse and I support creating a City Council map that reflects the diversity of City Heights and of San Diego as a whole. I think it makes sense to unite Fairmount Park with other neighborhoods in City Heights, because we have a lot in common. We are working class neighborhoods that have a lot of ethnic diversity. We have a lot of older neighborhoods in City Heights, which is to say that our infrastructure and our roads that could really use some work. Thank you for your time

**Comment 38: Victor Quintero**

Good evening neighbors, neighbors from this beautiful San Diego. My name is Victor Quintero and I live in the boundaries of Paradise Hills in San Diego, in the zip code of 92139. And as a Latino, I'd like to speak in favor of a City Council District map that truly reflects the diversity of this city. That's why I am in favor of maximizing the African-American population in District 4, creating a second council district that has at least 50% of its population comprised of Latinos, unifying the neighborhoods that have historically defined the LGBT community, and creating a district that unities neighborhood with a significant Asian-Pacific Islander population. Please do not adopt the citywide map proposed by APAC. It is not reflective of the community because it does not allow for the creation of a second district with a majority Latino population and the fulfillment of other goals. Please support the diversity and the work of the Latino Redistricting Committee and Mr. Pollard. Thank you for your time.

**Comment 39: Barrett Tetlow**

Barrett Tetlow here, representing the San Diego County Republican Party. I wanted to just give a reality check to some of the Commissioners. You are surrounded by politics at all times. I think you've been able to—I hope you'll be able to spot the differences between real citizens who are getting up and special interests who are speaking on behalf, but if not I wanted to put this on the record. The charter says you are not allowed to build districts for incumbent candidates, for incumbents to be council members. But it should also say—at least it was implied in the spirit of Prop C in 1992 and it passed—not to build districts for candidates, as well. Let me give you an example of what happens when this becomes a real mess. In 2000, the 70<sup>th</sup> Assembly District was built for a candidate. His name was Vince Hall. Vince Hall was Chief of Staff to Bob Filner. He was involved in the redistricting scandal of 1991, which led to the independent Commission being recreated. He was then the Deputy Chief of Staff to Gray Davis in

1998, and he was the governor's point person on the 2000 redistricting scandal. What he most famously did, was he divided the African American community in half, between 78<sup>th</sup> Assembly District where he lived and the 76<sup>th</sup> Assembly District. And the reason why he did that was because he ran in 2002 against African-American community icon Reverend George Stevens who represented District 4 for 12 years. He ran in the Democratic primary and he wanted to divide the African-American community in half. It was huge mess, it was a huge scandal. You might not be aware of it. You can Google it at home tonight, but it was a huge problem.

If you build a district for a candidate, it is going to be problematic, you are going to have problems, and frankly, it's wrong. You may not be aware that some of the maps that are being proposed are being proposed by candidates. Mitz Lee is a Republican; she was on San Diego Unified. The Republican Party supported her; we supported her when she got elected. She was actually taken out by the unions and she ran for City Council. She is a candidate that is running; that is why all the interest in the Asian district, because she is a candidate. I read over the weekend that Brian Pollard was also a candidate for City Council, that's the interest he has in building a custom district for himself. Andy Berg has also proposed a map. Yes, he is the president of the Rancho Peñasquitos Town Council, but his day job is Executive Director to NECA, which is a union that does a lot of work in the city. The rumor in PQ is that he is a candidate for office. If you adopt any map or very similar to any map of a candidate, it's going to be a real problem and you are going to have real challenges. So, I'm not sure if you're all aware of these things, but I wanted to put it on the record so you're aware now. Thank you for your time.

**Comment 40: Su Nguyen**

Good evening, everyone. Thank you very much for your time to come to City Heights. My name is Su Nguyen. I am Director of Little Saigon Foundation and also founder of Little Saigon Foundation. I believe in redistricting. Redistricting is not dividing, but it is including. So, City Heights– you can't find more diversity than in City Heights in the city. We would like that City Heights not be broken apart. This is a diversity community. If you go a little bit down, like two blocks, you will see more than 100 Vietnamese businesses. If you go to the other side of City Heights, over on University Avenue, most of the business is Latino business. You go down a little bit, to Hillcrest, and this is the diversity we want, you know, somehow, after we see the product, we see the map, we'll be glad to see it represents the diversity of City Heights. And thank you very much.

**Comment 41: Tram Lam**

Hello, my name is Tram Lam. I am, as you can tell, I am an immigrant. I came here to City Heights and made my home here. I came here and found City Heights and stayed here since then. City Heights is proud to be a very diverse community. As a resident here– live here, went to school here, and now doing business here, I would like to continue to see City Heights as... the same and remain in one piece. That's all. Thank you.

**Comment 42: Carlos Mejia**

Good evening, everyone, and good evening, Commissioners. Thank you for taking on this very important task, as difficult as it may be, and for being here tonight with us in beautiful City Heights to receive a bit of education in regards to being able to redraw these maps so that it does become much more representative of the communities that are here. I would actually like to first echo what so many have come to say before me, and that is that it is vital to create a second majority Latino seat, while also

maximizing the representative power of all the other communities of interest. So please take that into consideration.

I am also here to talk about another community of interest which many—well, one of my fellow redistricting folks here had spoken about tonight—and those are the college students, and particularly the students at San Diego State. My name is Carlos Mejia, as I mentioned before, and I've actually been a resident of the College area for the last 8 years now when I moved from Los Angeles to come to San Diego State University. Now, although I've already long since graduated SDSU, I still continue to live in the College area and to be part of the vibrant community there. I attend the sporting events; I actively volunteer with my fraternity's alumni association, which is a Latino-based fraternity, but that still finds the time to give back to the community because we feel that is where our roots are, and we have to always give back. Now, I love the college-town feel of the neighborhood. But it's also important for people to know that the growth of San Diego State has created some real issues around affordable housing, things such as mini-dorms, for the community, and also new business opportunities that are there for students to actually partake in.

Now, the impacts of San Diego State are mostly felt within the college area which is fine, because it's one of the reasons I live there. But we really just are the hub of a lot of neighborhoods that serve San Diego State's students and faculty. Now many of these communities fall outside of the current District 7, but it would be great if we could make the needs of the San Diego State community included within one council district. Some of these neighborhoods are in District 6, for instance Mission Valley. Some are even in District 3, such as Talmadge. Now, if a council member— and this is what I feel and I've seen— is accountable to the College area, they may be more willing to understand that our neighborhoods have to be part of the solution, too. Outside of the social life on the campus and for students on El Cajon Blvd., Mission Valley is pretty much the actual central activity hub for many of these students. Our Aztec football games are played at Qualcomm Stadium. Many work and shop at the Mission Valley and Fashion Valley shopping centers. And many students rely on the new Green trolley line for their transportation there. Now on the flip side, there are a lot of students living on the northern side of Mission Valley and Grantville, who commute to campus as well.

I hope you recognize that these communities right across the freeway are also part of this community, whether its Adobe Falls, where student housing is proposed, or Lake Murray which a lot of students use for recreation. I'd really love to see College area blossom into a place where students who graduate feel compelled to remain in the area and contribute to the community, instead of having to turn over in population every year because of graduation rates. In closing, I'd really like to say – and I apologize for going over my time— but please, in many of our communities of interest, please take into consideration those who have not spoken out, such as those students at San Diego State.

**Comment 43: Stephen Russell**

Good evening, Commissioners. My name is Stephen Russell, resident of City Heights here, the Cherokee Point neighborhood, for the past 18 years. And I grew up in the Scripps Ranch neighborhood, northern San Diego, but like many young gay people, the first thing I did when I turned 19 is I moved down to District 3. And it's remained a beacon for the young people of this entire region to move to, because it's a place where we can be ourselves. It's been a place where we've been able to have our jobs, where we've been the waiters, the actors, and just the young folk who create part of the vibrancy of this district. But like many of the people who moved there then— I lived in Hillcrest, it got awfully expensive and gentrified; I moved to North Park, it got expensive and gentrified; and for the past 18

years now I've lived here in City Heights and felt very much part of District 3. And I will say that District 3—aside from just being a member of the gay community, I'm also I think very deeply steeped into what District 3 is about, in terms of economic development. I've spent most of my professional career in economic development, this boulevard—I used to be the executive director of this boulevard—we span multiple communities, but District 3 was about leading these charges. I'll tell you—and this is something Todd might not even know—we're winning an APA award for this project here, for the interchanges, these arches right out here, the transit-oriented development. These are things that District 3 has led in for three decades, through Kehoe, through Atkins, now through Gloria. This has been a community about economic development and urban revitalization. And as a part of City Heights, I feel a part of that. My life is here in this district. It has been here for 28 years. And I'd like to stay part of the district I've always been a part of, a member of two communities of interest, I think, economic development and the gay community. And I think that City Heights really belongs squarely as part of both of those. I thank you very much for your time this evening.

**Comment 44: Maria Cortez**

Hello, my name is Maria Cortez. I am president of our community Teralta West. I reside here in City Heights. I've been here for 39 years now; born and raised here in San Diego, proud to say all fifty-years. I would like for us in City Heights to remain in District 3, to remain the way we are. I have also been a part of the I-15, since 1985, as Steve was talking about. Look at where we are right now; we are in the RTC center. Take a look at all these flags out here. That represents City Heights, the surrounding communities. We are all together. And as Todd knows, he has seen me, god knows, every parade and everything, I frequent City Heights, because I live here. I go to the Toyland Parade in North Park. I go to Hillcrest. I frequent everybody; I'm also in the Kensington area; I work at the elementary there at Franklin. I've been there for 23 years. My daughter was at that school; now my grandson goes. But, I also work in City Heights, because I also work at the Metro Villa Apartments, who work with a lot of the afterschool programs in City Heights. I also like working here in City Heights, living here in City Heights, because we welcome the LGBT in Azalea Park. When Azalea Park was crumbling we welcomed them. And I'd like to say I welcome you, I love working with you, and I love being with you, not just the guys, but the ladies, too. You are wearing my favorite color and also, not only that, I am very proud of the council people we have had. I'm very proud to have had Christine Kehoe, very proud to have had Tony Atkins, and damn well proud to have Todd to be with us. We have been working here all together in City Heights. This is what they call the melting pot? No. We are combining everybody together to show everybody else, no matter what part of the city you live in, no matter what part of the States you live in, here in City Heights we can all live together, along with the police department, along with the problems that are going on, because as you can see, I work with CHOP. We also go around through City Heights, working around the neighborhoods, making sure that everybody is safe. I don't care who you are, if you're Latino, if you're white, if you're Asian, because to me we are all together. I don't care if you are straight or if you're gay, because we are all in this together, and by god we are going to fight to keep the way we are. I want us to stay City Heights.

**Comment 45: Karen Bucey**

Good evening. My name is Karen Bucey. I live in the Azalea Park neighborhood, one of sixteen neighborhoods in City Heights. I am also part of the LGBT community, but I'm here tonight to represent City Heights. We are a proud community that is diverse both culturally and economically. We rejoice in this diversity and work consciously to develop a complete community for residents to live, work, and play here. City Heights has thrived by being represented by three council districts, Districts 3, 4, and 7.

Under the attention and advocacy of the council members, we have worked alongside our representatives for neighborhood revitalization, redevelopment of commercial corridors, and development and creation of high-quality housing. I urge you to leave City Heights within the boundaries of Council District 3, as well as the areas of overlap with Districts 4 and 7. Thank you.

**Comment 46: Steve Barbone**

Hello, I am Steve Barbone. I represent myself. I live in the City Heights neighborhood of District 3. I'd like to thank the Commission for its careful work. I ask you though, as far as you can, to keep District 3 intact. Why? Our commonality, our interests are our diversity. Here is how I mean this: in the morning, when I go to work, I go to the closest bus stop. At that same block as my bus stop, we have a halal butcher, a tortilleria, and an Eastern Orthodox Church. Without leaving District 3, still on the same bus, I pass yet another Orthodox Church; a Mosque; Buddhist temples; multi-lingual, mainstream, and not mainstream Christian churches. My neighbors—and I mean this in a literal way, the people who live between me and the bust stop—are Africans and African-Americans, Asian, Asian-Americans, European, European-American, Latino, Latino-Americans. My neighbors are straight; my neighbors are gay. My neighbors are poor; many are more affluent. Many more are up and coming. My neighbors are new families, established families, families that are traditional, families that are not so traditional. The result is vibrant arts, vibrant businesses, wonderful festivals. City Heights, District 3, is the model of American success at the melting pot, or the new American rich stew. To split us up, to divide us, is the opposite of progress, the opposite of what District 3 and City Heights stand for. Our commonality, our interests are our diversity. To split us up, will only alienate us from us each other. Please keep us together in one district. Please don't make ghettos out of the neighborhoods that are now in District 3. Thank you for your attention.

**Comment 47: Petrima Branch**

Hi, my name is Petrima Branch. I'm here on behalf of the San Diego NAACP. The San Diego NAACP has been involved with the City Council redistricting process as it relates to Council District 4. The San Diego NAACP supports the process undertaken by Barry Pollard and many, many other people in the 4<sup>th</sup> District community. We support the collaborative process that has been undertaken to create the proposed map and indentify communities of interest. The map as presented earlier this evening, respects the interests of African-Americans, Latinos, and Asians for representation on City Council. The proposed map complies with the requirements of compactness, continuity, and respecting communities of interest. As you know, the NAACP has been involved in the forefront of civil rights since its beginning over 100 years ago. We appreciate the opportunity to be part of this redistricting process and ask for your diligence in identifying communities of interest and ensuring representation for people who historically have been underrepresented. Thank you.

**Comment 48: Santos Thorton**

Good evening. My name is Santos Gilbert Thorton and I have lived in the City Heights area the last 15 years. I have 16 cousins, two brothers, and a daughter that I am raising in City Heights. They all attend the recreation centers and parks within the area. I want to say that I support the empowerment for the African-Americans and the LGBT. I do disagree with the APAC map that was presented because it disenfranchises many communities. I do support, though, political empowerment for API community and most of all I support a new Latino district for this area because it is a very diverse area. At the same time, thank you, that's it. Thank you for your time.

**Comment 49: Ken Seaton-Msemaji**

Good evening, Commissioners and folks. This is an excellent turnout. I'd like to say, I am Ken Seaton-Msemaji, working with Sheet Metal Local 206. We support the map that is proposed by Barry Pollard, and frankly, I am offended by that guy who made those disparaging remarks. Pollard has worked hard throughout the community, getting all kinds of people together who normally don't even talk to each other, and to do that work, and if some of them push him into running for something later on, there's nothing wrong with that. He is an honorable man and that is an insult.

We support protecting of a district where an African-American can be protected and certainly support the creation of a new Latino district. Now I recall this country was founded because there was a war fought based on taxation without representation. Representation supersedes all other interests. If you really want to get down to the heart business, let's all put our feelings somewhere else. If you want to talk about fairness, when Latinos get two seats, they still don't have equity. They are a third of the population and ought to have three seats. And for anybody to stand in the way of this second seat, to take the other map which gives more clout to the LGBT community, that's wrong to say in front of them, to do that. It's wrong of these Asians up here to do the math that they did, excluding a second seat. We supported them, knowing that they Rre republicans. We put politics aside because they ought to have representation. And they're going to come back and do something like that. It is wrong. Representation is it and there is going to be some unintended consequences if we don't. All this hoopla, love, color-blindness, and we love diversity and all that. Yeah, you love diversity until we represent you. All this color blindness and diversity is rich when everyone is at the table with equal representation and not one day before. Without that, it is poor. And for the next ten years, to put anybody in that position is a big mistake.

**Comment 50: Elizabeth Lou**

Good evening, Commissioners. My name is Elizabeth Lou. I am very grateful to be here this evening. I am originally from Sudan and I am representing the Sudanese community. Here in City Heights, Sudanese people... how do I start it? We Sudanese people in City Heights are a community of interest. We struggle hard, we struggle with transportation, we struggle to get jobs, we struggle with opportunities. And I personally, came here to this country in 1999, as a refugee. I have about 12 years here. I am now a U.S. Citizen. I work very, very hard and I'm serving the community. I founded a non-profit organization called the Nile Sisters Development Initiative to help those who are coming after me to this country. The culture is different, the language is different, the system is different. Everything is a struggle.

So, I have children. My children went to school here in City Heights in Horace Mann Middle School and Crawford, and some went to San Diego State and other universities around City Heights. So, City Heights is home to us Sudanese. Now, we are used to residents in City Heights, the community of Latinos, the Asians, and other communities. We are used to each other. We go to the same Food 4 Less, Albertsons; we shop together. We use the same transportation. I'm pleading to Commissioners to please save our City Heights, and leave City Heights as it is. We have done a lot of development here in City Heights. For the last one and a half years, almost two years, we have been working together with the California <unintelligible>, an initiative helps building healthy communities. City Heights is one of the 14 communities that California <unintelligible> has chosen to work with to build a healthy community. Since then we have a held many community meetings, bringing all the diverse communities together.

The Latino, the Asians, the Africans, the African-Americans, the low-income, we bring them together. Everybody knows everybody. So, to divide us, to take part of City Heights out, or to add part of other cities to City Heights will make a big impact. So my plea to Commissioners is to please keep City Heights as is. Thank you so much for your attention.

**Comment 51: Anthony Catanese**

Thank you very much. My name is Anthony Catanese. I live in Downtown San Diego. And again, I think it's great that there are so many people here today to participate in the process. I think that's just great. I want to make sure that the new City Council district map recognizes the deep military tradition of San Diego. I think you can accomplish this by keeping together the cluster of military facilities and landmarks on or near San Diego Bay, Point Loma, and Downtown, where I reside. These landmarks include the Balboa Naval Hospital, Navy Broadway Complex, the historic Naval Training Center now known as Liberty Station, Marine Corps Recruit Depot, Naval Station Point Loma, Space and Naval Warfare Systems Center, Fort Rosecrans Cemetery, the USS Midway, the U.S. Coast Guard Station, the San Diego Marine Exchange, the Veteran's Village of San Diego, the USO of San Diego, and the Veteran's Museum and Memorial Center in Balboa Park. I would also include the 32<sup>nd</sup> Street Naval Station and the shipyards in this group, but I know there is a requirement that the districts connect. I want to be respectful of the largely Latino community in the South Bay, and understand that with keeping all of the waterfront in one district might cut them off from other Latino areas of the city. I want to thank you for considering this idea and thank you for your service to San Diego. Thank you very much.

**Comment 52: Dr. Allen Chan**

Good evening, Commissioners and thank you for your hard work. It is really exciting to see so many people come here tonight and exercise their duties and express their concerns and issues regarding their communities. My name is Dr. Allen Chan. I am a chiropractor. I moved to San Diego in 1982 to Rancho Peñasquitos. I started my office over there. When I first came here I didn't know a person. But I made friends in Mira Mesa. And also, I used to have an office here, just three blocks from here, until we have Jasmine Sea Food Restaurant in Kearny Mesa and so I moved that office there closer so I could take care of both businesses.

Asian Americans are among the earliest immigrants to San Diego. The Chinese Americans moved here 150 years ago and they started the fishing village where now is Downtown. It also became Chinatown at one time and the remnants of it are now 3<sup>rd</sup> Avenue, south of Market Street. During the history of San Diego, San Diego had only one Asian American City Council person, Tom Hom, fifty years ago. And since 44 years ago, there's no true Asian American representative in the City, except Tom. His one quarter and we respect that, too. I was involved with the redistricting 10 years ago, in 2000. And we started late, so we did not succeed. But we were very much inspired by the LGBT community and their effort of 10 years making their dream come true. And I was also involved with the census in 2000 and I was the only Chinese American in the census <unintelligible> specialists and actually I volunteered to come to this area helping out some of the hard-to-count communities, making sure they are counted and get their interests represented.

And I am the convener of APAC, Asian Pacific American Coalition, and just for the record, I'm not running for office. The only place I'm running is on my treadmill. APAC is non-political—I'm sorry, APAC is non-partisan and we have representatives from different Asian communities from all of San

Diego. What we want is that 16% of the population, which is over 200,000 San Diegans, their interests be represented and their voices be heard. That's why we respect everybody else's concerns to increase their representation and maximizing their influence for us, we just want to have a beginning of true representation in the City of San Diego so that we can contribute more to the City of San Diego for the betterment for all. Thank you.

**Comment 53: John Cuthbertson**

My name is John Cuthbertson. I live here in District 3, in Talmadge. I actually had applied in the process of the appointment of the Commission and recognize a good many of you from the selection hearing. I applied because like you, I think having fair districts is really critical to our representative democracy. And I would say that, as one of the appointing judges commented, I was really impressed by the candidate pool that turned out. I would say that it seemed fairly evidently to me that some of ya'll who were selected were interested in representing particular interests or groups during this processes. But there's nothing wrong with that, as long as there is some balance. However, as I've followed the coverage of this process in the news, it has been somewhat concerning to see that there has been actions taken by both the appointing authority and by the Commission that have been, I would say, unproductive from the standpoint of creating public confidence that what we are going to have is an impartial process with the goal of a fair outcome. And so, I definitely hope that you will be considering taking some concrete steps to address the concerns that have been raised and to build that public confidence. I would definitely encourage you to do that.

But tonight in particular, I did want to bring one particular item to your attention that I had seen in the news recently from the Voice of San Diego. An article appeared a few days ago, which pointed that an organization here in town called the San Diego Foundation for Change had funded some local organizations with \$300,000, some of which was specifically earmarked for lobbying the redistricting Commission processes. Just a quote from the article here, briefly, "Organizations that were funded to get residents involved in the redistricting process include, Pastors on Point in Southeastern San Diego, Council on Filipino-American Organizations in National City, Sherman Heights Community Center, San Diego Refugee Forum in City Heights, Social Advocacy in El Cajon, National Latino Research Center at CalState San Marcos." Now, obviously, there is nothing wrong with any of these organizations, but I do think it's important for both the public and the Commission to be aware that along with ordinary citizens presenting their views and concerns, there are groups that are being paid to promote a particular agenda. To me, that should be a concern. I have made copies of this article for each of you Commissioners. Thank you very much.

**Comment 54: Remigia Bermudez**

*Buenas noches.* Good evening, everybody. My name is Remigia Bermudez. I am a resident of Sherman Heights and I have been before you in the past. I'm very happy to see what a wonderful diverse group because this is who we are. We are one. I'd like to say that my shirt says, *Dignidad: Dignity; Respeto: Respect; y Esperanza*, which is hope, and I say that because that is what we are here about. As much as I respect the APAC membership, I feel that the map infringes on the communities further down south. If you look at the map, it looks wonderful at the top and at the bottom, there's leftovers. And I have to tell you that south of I-8 and south 94, we get leftovers if we're lucky. Education is better north of I-8. Services are better; Parks and Recreation is better. We have nothing. In Sherman Heights, we don't have

parks, we don't have recreational activities. Yes, we have taggers. But where are the services? When we redistrict, we redistrict for services as well as for representation.

Also, I am very happy to be here, because I lived in City Heights for approximately ten years, from 1977 to more or less '87, when it was referred to as Mid-City. I don't know how many of you remember that. And it was at the time when the people from Cambodia and Vietnam were being brought here as refugees and behind my little apartment we had a dropout house for them. There were so many families in one home. They were so destitute, they were so disenfranchised, they were so scared. And we had one unifying factor. They didn't speak English, I didn't speak Vietnamese or Cambodian. They didn't speak Spanish. But we both spoke French. So we signaled, we told stories, we laughed. It was a big family and that's what we are right now. So, I see how our neighborhoods have become a microcosm of a multi-lingual, multi-cultural, mini world where 80 languages represent 80 cultures. And for those of you who are not bi-lingual educators like me, a language is a culture. Eighty languages. A microcosm that by virtue of being split in three districts, the voice of the majority numbers are often not heard. So, I propose uniting the 3<sup>rd</sup> District, City Heights, within the northern boundaries going all the way to... National Avenue, I believe, which is the proposed 9<sup>th</sup> District, in between District 8 and District 4. Because then you do have a unifying voice, you won't be split into three districts. And those who speak that we shouldn't change, it's because maybe they're not aware that they are split into three districts. And remember that divide is conquer. Let me close with, *la tierra es de quien la trabaja*. Emiliano Zapata said, "the land belongs to those who work it." And let me tell you, the people south of 8 and south of 94 work the land by holding two or three jobs all over the city, not just City Heights or the 8th District. So I propose that you please endorse and create a district, the new 9<sup>th</sup> District, south of 8, south of 94. Do justice and may justice prevail. Thank you.

**Comment 55: Lori Saldaña**

Good evening, my name is Lori Saldaña. I lived in City Heights many years ago. I used to ride my bike to work in North Park, past Buddhist shrines and taco shops. For the last six years, I've been your representative in Sacramento. I served for four years on the Elections and Redistricting Committee and many times this process in San Diego was used as a good example, in fact, one of the best examples in the State for a citizen-based redistricting process. For those that there are concerns that there are efforts to create a super-majority or safe districts, the majority of voters— or more and more voters are now registering as decline to state. We are seeing a drop off in registered Democrats, in registered Republicans all around California, including very dramatically here in San Diego. So, I think the most important thing for citizens to know is that this is a basic process, it's part of voting, it's very important for people to be out here participating, and this is how we create strong communities. This is how we come up with who will be elected and representing us. I was also teaching English as a Second Language when I was living in this community, and I had a chance to meet a lot of my students from Vietnam, from Laos, from Cambodia that lived here.

**Comment 56: Angela Harris**

Good evening. I don't envy you guys. What a daunting task to have so much diversity and so many concerns and so many issues. My name is Angela Harris and I'm just going to read you a quick something, and I think the most important thing that came out of all our meetings and things we were having, is that the bottom line is that we are all going to have to give up something. So I believe part of our process was beginning from that particular point that its going to happen so what does it look like, and how do you give, and how do you receive, and I believe that the map I'm here supporting tonight

has been reflective of that. We've lost— for those of you who don't know, the 4<sup>th</sup> District— I think we have lost, given up some very invaluable parts, and yet are receiving potentially so many others. So it's a hurting process, but it's a necessary process and once again I don't envy you.

I and many other organizations, residents, and business owners and community leaders have been involved with this City redistricting process as it relates to the Fourth Council District from the beginning. I support the map that has been presented. It empowers the African American residents in the 4<sup>th</sup> District, raising our population percentage as it has been stated from 18.8 to over 20%. It respects 95% of the communities of interest within our district. There have been a lot of different communities represented, a lot of different things said and we want to know that we took in the need and the diversity as each community obviously has, and we are in support of that. It respects the Latino and Asian population of our district and supports the proposed new Latino district. It complies with the elements of the Commission's requirements of compactness, contiguity, population and respecting our communities of interest. It is important that our entire community be listened to and our cultural diversity be respected and represented properly. The residents of are passionate about the process and about our communities of interest. Additionally, it is important that our Latino brothers and sisters acquire their additional council seat. Their numbers make this additional seat imperative and the duties of the Commission to assist them proper representation. Obviously, we may be a little bit more passionate, we have a larger historical representation of not being represented, so when we see a disparity we find it incumbent upon us to speak in favor of or against. So, thank you very much focus, outreach to the community, and your much, much poised and focused attention. Thank you.

**Comment 57: Nicholas Espinal**

Hello, my name is Nicholas Espinal. I'm a parent of six children. I live here in No. 4. I've lived all over San Diego. I've lived in La Jolla, I've lived and I've seen the community, I see my community and I know my history. And unfortunately, we have not had a Mexican governor since we became part of America. We have not had a Mexican mayor since we became part of America. So, these lines have not been fair since, and we want it to start now. Our community, the future of our kids has not been represented, and it won't be for the next 200 years if we keep going the way we are going. This is our future. Our kids are our future; our investment is our kids, our children, all our children— that should be color blind. As far as wars should take precedence over children, that's not right. They should not have to pay for their healthcare; they should not have to pay for their college. So, these communities have been underrepresented for too long now, and that's all that matters. Thank you.

**Comment 58: Matt Corrales**

Good evening, Commissioners. I don't envy you for putting up with the task before you. But I will speak as a resident of North Park, as an apartment renter, and as both a member of the LGBT community and as a member of the Latino community. I think we have before us is a tremendous opportunity. This Commission can continue to contribute to the empowerment of two communities that I am proud to be a part of. As part of the LGBT community, I know that we support the historically underrepresented Latino majority. This is a chance to really unite City Heights. I hear a lot of the residents talking about that unity of the great diversity of the community of City Heights. And by really making City Heights the heart and the core of a new City Council district, we create a lot of empowerment in this area and I encourage the Commission to take that into consideration.

Finally, this also provides the opportunity to— I really agree with the idea of uniting the African American community and using this as the opportunity to really condense District 4 into an even stronger block for that community. There is no need for the division that some of the maps have had south of the 8. As the majority of the population, as a majority of a lot of our underrepresented population, the communities south of the 8 should have five City Council districts, should have five City Council members.

**Comment 59: Mateo Camarillo, LRC**

*Buenas Noches.* My name is Mateo Camarillo. I am the chairman of the Latino Redistricting Committee and I am yielding my time to Dr. Alberto Pulido, who is going to make a PowerPoint presentation for our organization. Thank you.

**Comment 60: Alberto Pulido, LRC**

Good evening, Commissioners and thank you very much for your service. My name is Dr. Alberto Pulido and I am here this evening speaking on behalf of the Latino Redistricting Committee. I hope I will not take the 23 minutes; I will be as precise as possible. It is late and I will stick to my text in the interest of time. So, thank you again.

I'd like to begin with, "Who is the Latino Redistricting Committee?" as you can see on the slide. The Latino Redistricting Committee is comprised of 40 community leaders and civic-minded activist who have come together in the interest of preserving and building Latino voting power in the San Diego region. We've been working really hard, meeting on weekends, meeting on evenings, early mornings and we are very pleased to be sharing this information which has already been brought to the Commission in other venues as well. You can see the members of the steering committee listed there and the maps that have been submitted by the Latino Redistricting Committee were drawn in a collaborative process amongst the Latino Redistricting Committee membership and in the spirit of cooperation with other communities.

Next slide underscores where Latinos live in San Diego, and our main point here is you can see where the reddish-orange color appears is where you can find a concentration of Latinos. Our main point to underscore here is that Latinas and Latinos reside in the urban sectors of San Diego. So, why is the Latino Redistricting Committee here before the Commission? And it's to address the following questions and propose the following. We want to affirm that Latinos comprise close to  $\frac{1}{3}$  of the city's population. We recognize that it is very diverse but they share many values and many dynamics that are part of the community of interest that I will address in a minute.

The stated goals of the Latino Redistricting Committee are before you: To maintain a 75% Latino version of District 8 that keeps Southbay and the Historic Barrio District intact; to create an additional majority, meaning over 55% Latino district by uniting City Heights with remaining Latino majority neighborhoods to the south. This district creates a second majority Latino district in the City of San Diego providing Latinas and Latinos with a political voice that mirrors their population numbers. Here we present the concentration of Latinos in the southern San Diego. On the one side, you see by the darker colors, the South Bay region; and on the other side, you see City Heights and the Historic Barrio District. The main thing we want to underscore here is that we have three centers that are now concentrated in Latino population. They'd be in the South Bay, the Historic Barrio District, and City Heights. If we zoom in on central San Diego once again, it's just to underscore the strength in numbers

and the representation base by the darker colors. What was already presented to the Commission is the map that is before you here, and it's basically District 8 and the proposal in the map is to maintain Southbay and the Historic Barrio District together. We are proposing that District remain much as it is today, with the removal of a few neighborhoods to decrease population. And just to underscore, it's something that has already been presented. What has also been presented is our proposed new district, and that is what you have before you. And if you look at the black outline, that is what we are making reference to, and that's the areas of City Heights, Southcrest, Golden Hill, Rolando, Fairmont Park, Ridgeview, Mount Hope, Mountain View, and Shelltown.

So what does the data look like? Here we have it in this next slide. If we look at District 8 in our proposed map, we see a population of 140,200. We're off 3% on the standard deviation of 144,000 plus. That proposed district is at 75% Latino, African-American is 5%, and API is 9%. In the new proposed district, we are 140,064; again, deviation off by 3%. Latinos represent 58% of the population here; 12% African-American, API.

The ties that bind communities of interest, several, and several have already been spoken to by our representatives that are here today. Language, culture, ancestry, religious practices, our interest in youth, our interest in the elderly, extended family, educational goals— where people go to school, why they go to school, how they attend, shopping patterns, the list goes on, the border, in terms of border cultures, commerce and lifestyle. And what I'd like to really point out in this is— the last part of this slide here, which are more references to communities of interest— is that all of these are tied to public sites, places of worship, schools, community centers. And those are thing we really want to underscore and things we've heard echoed by various members of this community.

The other thing that I think is important, especially in the issue of redistricting, as you see in this slide, you see fight for economic housing, you see fight for human rights. And the issue is, in the spirit of redistricting and in the spirit of one vote, one person, the objective is to continue to support struggles in communities that are trying to bring about change, not to break them up, so that they can continue doing the work that they do. And that is very valuable here in that spirit. And I will address that in the upcoming slides as well.

The areas in this district may seem geographically unrelated, but they have a lot in common. Here are some of the struggles that the communities are facing: very high numbers of young people, high rates of poverty, low rates of educational attainment related to inadequate educational services, high numbers of immigrants— very much a welcoming community, diverse population of immigrants, high rates of a non-English language spoken at home, high rates of foreclosure amongst rental housing. So, again, in the spirit of redistricting and in the spirit of empowering communities, it's an attempt to keep these communities cohesive so that they can work collectively to address these struggles and bring about these changes.

I'll go quickly through these slides, because they are basically just to reinforce the communities of interest in this region. You can see in the darker areas we share a language; 44% of households speaking Spanish are the darker shaded areas. A welcoming community, a community of immigrants: You can see here— I know it's hard to read that, but it basically says that the orange dots equal 200 people who are not citizens, the blue dots equal 200 people who are naturalized citizens, so it's that same spirit of the welcoming community. Many young people: Lightest shades is median age is less than 30 years. And let's keep in mind that the redistricting process is one that takes effect ten years, so maybe if the population is young now they will be of voting age the next time the redistricting process comes about.

The Latinos are the fastest growing community in California, in the region and it's related to the fact of their youth. It's something that is up and coming and something we need to be mindful of. Shared economics, in terms of working class and working people with shared values of a strong work ethic and a desire to help the community. Again, similar struggles with low educational attainment: more than 16% of residents– the darkest shade represents that more than 16% of residents have less than a 9<sup>th</sup> grade education. Again, wanting to value this community and give it equal representation through the redistricting process.

Unifying City Heights: City Heights has been served well in the 3<sup>rd</sup>, 4<sup>th</sup>, and 7<sup>th</sup> Districts. With the addition of a new Council District, there can be a new and even better future for this neighborhood. One, in this new district, City Heights will comprise 40% of the population. Two, it will be the anchor of the district and a significant political player. Three, City Heights residents speak 80 different languages and yet have many unifying opportunities and shared challenges for working together. Our main point here is that a second Latino-majority district is not possible without City Heights.

One person/one vote, opportunities for empowering communities: This district unites areas of other districts that have low levels of political participation. As part of other districts, these areas may have been neglected or had a less significant voice. In this district, the budding civic culture of these areas can come into blossom. The new district will be multilingual, multicultural district where diversity can become a unifying force because of the many other shared experiences.

We'd like to make a comment on the shape of the proposed district. The proposed 'shape' of the new district is necessary to empower Latino voters and African-American voters. If one were to draw a new majority Latino district that was more compact, it would significantly infringe upon African-American voting rights in District 4. Voting rights is more important than compactness.

What does the City Charter says about minorities in redistricting? I'd like to reference Article II, Section 5.1 of the Charter that reads, quote: "Each redistricting plan shall provide fair and effective representation for all citizens of the City, including racial, ethnic, and language minorities, and be in conformance with the requirements of the United States Constitution and Federal statutes." Notice the second use of the word "and"? The Charter doesn't say empower minorities "to comply" with Federal Law -- it says provide fair and effective representation for all minorities "and" comply with Federal Law. This tells the Latino Redistricting Committee that the City Charter holds a higher bar for voting rights than Federal Law. The Latino Redistricting Committee is very proud to stands with our neighbors. The maps we are proposing to the Commission were drawn in close communication with redistricting leaders from the African-American community, the African-American committee, and the LGBT Task Force, LGBT communities. The LRC supports African-American empowerment in the 4th District and LGBT empowerment in the 3rd District.

A note about the proposed APAC map: The map put forward by the Asian & Pacific American Coalition does a disservice to protected communities south of Interstate 8. We know it is possible to draw a map comprised of 9 districts with both an Asian empowerment district and a second majority-Latino district. Re-numbering: What should the two majority-Latino districts be called? District 8 should remain District 8. That name is a part of the identity of the included neighborhoods. The new majority-Latino district should be an odd number so that it can have an election in 2012.

We want to thank the Commission for its hard and uncompensated work. As community leaders, we know the value of community engagement and volunteer labor. We also want to thank the community

leaders from our neighboring districts who have been so helpful in our endeavor for supporting increased Latino empowerment in the political process. We are most certainly stronger together than we are apart. Lastly, we want to thank all of you here today for coming out and participating in our democracy! Thank you very much. *Muchas gracias.*

**Comment 61: Tom Luhnnow, LGBT Redistricting Task Force**

Good evening. Like many of you, I have a meeting in 11 hours, another meeting, so I'll keep it brief. My name is Tom Luhnnow. I am the CEO of the Greater San Diego Business Association, which is the LGBT chamber of commerce in San Diego and has been here since 1979. We have over 800 business members, a good number of them in District 3. Later this evening— believe it or not, later— you will receive a copy of a letter my board unanimously passed, asking you, requesting that you keep our community of interest intact in District 3. Historically, LGBT people have been subject to discrimination whether in seeking employment, getting a license or permit to open a business, purchasing a business, or being treated with respect as customers. We have struggled to achieve equal treatment and after years of organizing and educating, we are proud today that almost a quarter of our members are non-LGBT businesses that support our community. Our businesses interact with all levels of government and we have profited by the political organizing that has given us members of our own community to represent us in government. We respectfully ask you to keep together the core of the district that has facilitated that representation and progress. Thank you very much.

**Comment 62: Patrician Ann Washington, LGBT Redistricting Task Force**

Good evening, my name is Pat Washington. I'm basically standing before you as a Lesbian grandmother who is African-American. But before I forget this, it is absolutely crucial that there is an API empowerment district. That community has long been underserved and underrepresented in the San Diego region. That has to change and it has to change with this redistricting cycle, because it'll be ten years before it'll be done again.

So, speaking as a lesbian, one of things I want to say most importantly is that according to Article 21 of the California Constitution, a community of interest is a contiguous population which shares common social and economic interests that should be included within a single district for purposes of its effectiveness and fair representation. I am so proud that years ago, decades ago, lesbians, gays, and hopefully, bisexual and transgendered people fought to have representation in San Diego County, political representation, electoral power and representation. We desperately need to retain it because we've come a long way, but we haven't come far enough. And yet what we have to keep in mind is that our strength relies on having an identifiable community, a presence and space in San Diego County and that is District 3. So, socially and politically our advancements have been greatly accelerated by having our own wonderful, wonderful elected representatives on the City Council. So, we need that to continue. It's going well, but it can't stop now. Thank you.

**Comment 63: Jeri Dilno, LGBT Redistricting Task Force**

Good evening, my name is Jeri Dilno and I live in Kensington. I'm a native San Diegan. And a little history, I've been active in the LGBT community since 1975 and tonight I'll try to summarize some of the history as a community of interest. I've served as the ED of the LGBT Center and later as its chair of its board. I've been involved with LGB Pride, which produces one of San Diego's largest weekend events that's enjoyed by all San Diegans. In the early 70s, I've been with Pride since then and I've been

an editor of the Gay & Lesbian Times and president of the San Diego Democratic Club. Additionally, I've had the opportunity to serve the City of San Diego on the Citizen's Advisory Board for Police Community Relations, the mayor's Advisory Board for Women's Issues, and the <unintelligible?> Community Planning Group, and I currently sit on the Balboa Park Committee.

I believe my experience gives me some perspective on the designation of the LGBT community as a community of interest, with shared goals, history, and culture. We've been fighting for our rights in the political arena since the early 70s. We created organizations, we ran candidates, but we were not able to succeed in electing them until the advent of district elections in 1989. Following the 1990 census, we worked hard to create a district where a qualified member of our community could compete in. Our community of interest was recognized in the boundaries drawn for District 3 and the District was won by Christine Kehoe in 1993, becoming the first open LGBT elected official in San Diego. Following Kehoe's two terms, the District elected another community, Toni Atkins, who was selected by her council peers to be acting mayor during a portion of her term. And following the 2000 Census, the district boundaries were changed, only slightly, again recognizing our community of interest. After a second term, Toni Atkins was succeeded by Todd Gloria, and after a campaign runoff that included two openly gay candidates.

Having now elected three open LGBT candidates in five elections, we have seen the benefit of having a historical community of interest represented effectively in its own council district. Our representatives have achieved council resolutions supporting marriage equality and the abolition of Don't Ask, Don't Tell. Legislation was also passed providing equal benefits of partners of the LGBT City staff and many community members have been appointed to City Commissions. District 3 council members have been role models to the community, particularly, our youth and they have helped erase negative stereotypes of LGBT people. They have been responsive and effective public officials for all of District 3 and are well respected, demonstrated by voters who have sent two of them to higher office. However, our community is still struggling for equal rights particularly our young people and our transgendered people. I urge you to preserve a district that continues to be inclusive of our community of interest in the richness of District 3. Thank you. And thank you for your service, I know how hard it is.

**Comment 64: Doug Case, LGBT Redistricting Task Force**

Good evening, my name is Doug Case. I'm also a member of the LGBT Redistricting Task Force. I'd like to make three quick points. I've been involved in redistricting since 1991, when we first created the 3<sup>rd</sup> District and then again in 2001 and now in 2011. I think what is different this time is that the LGBT community is not just focusing on our own community but we are looking at empowering others. I think it's important that we work to have a second Latino district, and in fact, I think that the Voting Rights Act demands that we have second Latino district in the city of San Diego. It's also important to empower the African American district and it's also important to have an API district, which can be accomplished in north of Interstate 8. So, I think some of the maps that have been presented can accomplish all three of those purposes and empower all communities.

Secondly, the Census data does not ask about sexual orientation, but there are ways of knowing where LGBT people live. Part of that is membership in LGBT organizations; others are by looking at same-sex households; and thirdly, you can look at voting patterns, particularly things like Proposition 8, which shows which people are willing to support LGBT rights. So I would encourage you to try to the degree possible to keep the highest concentrations of the LGBT community together, especially North Park, University Heights, and Hillcrest. And finally, parenthetically, as a chair of a community planning

board– I am president of the College Area Community Planning Board– I would agree with the previous speakers who said to the degree possible, try to keep community planning groups together and I think it's more important that you keep neighborhoods together, even if that means you are going to have a 3 or 4 percent deviation. Thank you.

**Comment 65: Araceli Mohamed, LGBT Redistricting Task Force**

Good evening, my name is Araceli Mohamed and I am a resident of Council District 3. First of all, I would like to thank all the Commissioners for your time and service and intention, and to all the community members, for your participation in the process. I was invited by the LGBT Task Force to speak to you about what its meant to me to be part of the LGBT Community and have LGBT representation in Council District 3. My partner of 13 years, Nancy, and my two children, Brianna and Richard Joseph, have made North Park our home for the last 11 years and we have resided in Council District 3 for the last 20. Having had a voice and strong representation on the City Council via our openly gay elected officials has been one of the most empowering elements to the members of our community. Members of the LGBT community work, live, play and worship in all eight council districts, but having a vote represents our unique needs on the council since 1993 has helped us feel safer, feel included, protected and heard. The laws and resolutions passed by the City Council have impacted our quality of life as residents, due in large part to the vision and leadership of the City Council District members at the time.

Many of the social services agencies which provide mental health services, social and peer support, education and outreach, and direct health services are concentrated in Council District 3 and receive community block development grants. These agencies serve all citizens of all districts, but address a real need in services by an often marginalized community, the LGBT community. These grants are voted on by council members who represent our community's interests and wellbeing. The successful advancement of an individual representing an often less represented community to public office and civic engagement encourages others to follow. Since 1993, we have added openly LGBT community members to City boards and Commissions; we have elected LGBT judges and Commissioners, a gay school board member, an openly lesbian District Attorney. Our first two District 3 council members have moved on to State Legislature where they are now part of an LGBT caucus that has been extremely successful in passing much needed legislation protecting our civil rights, our employment, our families, as well as protecting the environment, our children's education, and addressing our housing needs, including homelessness.

Thus, the empowerment of the community of interest concentrated in one district has worked to benefit all the members of the community of large. Council District 3 provides a unique place for the LGBT community to call home. The LGBT community is vibrant and engaged, volunteering in neighborhood associations, community clean ups, and business improvement associations all because we have a voice and we know that together we can make a difference. That difference has resulted in creating better neighborhoods, improving our schools, giving hope to all those that are struggling with issues of sexual orientation and providing a home for many members of our community who cannot be out in their own communities. Tonight we thank you for listening to our voice, and our very diverse voice. Thank you.

**Comment 66: Craig Roberts, LGBT Redistricting Task Force**

Good evening, ladies and gentlemen of the Commission. My name is Craig Roberts. For almost 24 years now, I've had the good fortune of calling San Diego my home, and for 16 of those years I've owned a

condo in North Park. I am former member of the Greater North Park Community Planning Committee. I served two years as chair, and I also served as San Diego City Commissioner myself on the Science and Technology Commission. And you may recall for my previous appearance before you that I applied to be on this Commission as well because I love politics and data and representation, and all of that. I thank you for your service and probably of most significance, I'm the data guy of the presentation here.

We are at a disadvantage, we LGBT Americans, when it comes to redistricting because the U.S. Census, the fundamental basis for all redistricting decisions, doesn't even bother to ask respondents about their sexual orientation. This fundamental disregard is yet another example of societal and institutional prejudice against the LGBT community. Now, in the 2010 Census, they did track same-sex relationships but that information will not be available until June or August, depending on who you ask. Either way, it's too little too late to help us for our purposes. So as a result we have to use other benchmarks to provide evidence of our geographic community of interest. In San Diego, we began looking at areas that voted heavily in 2008 to support marriage equality, and this is the map that we've been looking at for a while. In other words, the darkest green portions here were the ones most heavily opposed Proposition 8.

Moving on, we studied areas that had high concentrations of domestic partnership registrations. This information is available publically from the California Secretary of State. And the dark blue concentrations show the highest percentage of domestic partnership registrations in the City of San Diego. Both of these maps reflect a very high concentration of LGBT and LGBT-friendly populations in certain neighborhoods. Then we mapped concentration of contributors or members of the Human Rights Campaign, which is the largest national civil rights organization of the LGBT community, and that's this map. The darkest regions here are the highest concentrations in San Diego of HRC members. You heard a speaker tonight from the Greater San Diego Business Association, which is our LGBT chamber of commerce. This map shows you where the highest concentrations of GSDBA members live. We also provide a map of restaurants, bars, and other businesses catering to the LGBT community.

The consistency of the contours that each map provides is clear cut evidence of the parameters of our community of interest. Thus, looking at the facts, unclouded by expectations or agendas, the placement of the district lines for an LGBT community of interest is pretty clear cut. The boundaries of this district would have Interstate 8 as its northern boundary, Interstate 5 providing the northwestern boundary, San Diego Bay serving as the southwestern boundary, the south side of Balboa Park, A Street, provides the southeastern boundary, and Interstate 805 sets the far southeastern boundary. The neighborhoods of a portion of Normal Heights, Kensington, and Talmadge round out this list of heavily LGBT and LGBT-friendly neighborhoods. As mentioned earlier, the purpose of the LGBT Redistricting Task Force was to determine the strongest and most friendly LGBT-friendly district. I believe the map Linda Perine will show you next accomplishes this goal. Thank you.

**Comment 67: Linda Perine, LGBT Redistricting Task Force**

Good evening. My name is Linda Perine. I am the chair of the LGBT Redistricting Task Force. First and foremost I want to thank you all – you're the bomb. You're the best. In 2008, a general election was held and a proposition was placed on the ballot. The sole purpose of that proposition was to deny the fundamental right to marry to gay and lesbian citizens. That proposition, Proposition 8, passed in San Diego County with a 52 to 48 percentage vote. However, in some neighborhoods, that unprecedented assault on the civil rights of a group of citizens was resoundingly rejected. In percentages ranging from 61% to 83%, these neighborhoods stood strong for the civil rights of the LGBT community. It's our premise that these neighborhoods should form the core of the LGBT community of interest.

If we look at the numbers in the neighborhoods, we will see the support for marriage equality by neighborhood: Hillcrest, Burlingame, University Heights, South Park – this is District 3. But if you look further down, you see Park West, Little Italy, you see Harborview, you see Mid-town, Mission Hills, you see Downtown. You see Mission Hills, Mid-Town, Park West, and Old Town. It is our premise that if you are going to create the strongest, pro-gay, pro-LGBT district possible, it should be comprised of the neighborhoods with the strongest support for the fundamental civil rights of LGBT folks. The average support of these neighborhoods was 74%. That is 33% more than the City of San Diego and City Heights. Using the voting on Proposition 8 to create a basic core district for the LGBT community, those neighborhoods in that district are again supported by the concentration of registered domestic partnerships, support for LGBT civil rights, membership with the LGBT chamber of commerce, and location of businesses catering to the LGBT community.

Again and again and again, all the proxies that we have available for us draw the same district. That district is comprised of these neighborhoods and it looks like this. Thank you. This map brings together a clearly identifiable community of interest in order to retain the common activities, social and lifestyle patterns typical and desired by members of the area. It meets the Constitutional standard of a contiguous population with shared common social and economic interests that should be included in a single district for purposes of fair and effective representation. In addition, it meets all the essential ingredients set out by the City Charter. The population is 141,516, with the minimal deviation of 2.15%. It is drawn in total deference to the Voting Act requirements of adjacent districts. It is drawn in total respect for LGBT empowerment and for Latino empowerment. It is drawn without reference to race as a sole qualifier; it is geographically compact; it is composed of contiguous territory; it respects natural boundaries, streets and city boundary lines; and it respects, indeed celebrates, our LGBT community of interest.

There's another map that I want to show you, which includes the airport and the Marine Corps Recruitment Depot. This has the advantage of giving us the population of 145,000, which is a deviation of 0.33%, which is not bad for an amateur. Please don't try this at home. In conclusion, to summarize, the LGBT community is community interest. We share common social interests, specifically related to our same-sex affection and affiliation. We share common social and economic burdens because of societal prejudice against us. We have created businesses and social support networks in our LGBT communities of interest. Our history is one of electing LGBT representatives. This recognition has led directly to the fair and effective representation of the LGBT community and we have come together as a group of people who share the same goals and values in a specific, identifiable, geographic area, which is supported the support of LGBT civil rights and community. Thank you so much for your attention.

**Comment 68: Larry Baza, LGBT Redistricting Task Force**

Hello, I am the last speaker and I will be brief. Thank you for being here and staying here all the way through. This is important work that we all need to address. My name is Larry Baza, and like Councilman Gloria, I am a native San Diegan of multi-ethnic heritage. I want to acknowledge Todd Gloria's work for our district, all of the residents of our district. He has done a great job, is doing a great job for us. And I will ask you that if you believe that as I do, that you'll join me, as he goes forward, because I know that he is committed to a lifetime of service for San Diego. No matter what these lines, what happens in this, I am committed to Todd's work and the work of San Diego and I hope you will join me in that. I want to thank you, the Commissioners again for your service on this very important and difficult work.

I'd also like to offer my support for each and every one of you for the <unintelligible> work especially in view of the recent attacks in the electronic and print media on two of you specifically, and I don't doubt that there will be others on some of you as this process goes forward. It's to be expected. It's a political process, any way you cut it. But I do trust the judgment of the judges who appointed you, according to the guidelines provided them.

I'm happy to be able to serve this City as well. I currently serve on the City's Commission for Arts and Culture. I've served all of my worlds, in the Latino community as the Director of the Centro Cultural de Raza, on the City's Commission of Arts and Culture, and as the first openly gay man to serve on the Chicano Federation's board and in the LGBT community. So, as you can see, I live in more than one world, just as Todd Gloria does.

My mixed heritage goes like this: My father came from the island of Guam. We call Guam, Guahan, and we call ourselves Chomorros; you call us Guamanians. My mother was a Mexican American from here in San Diego; they met in downtown San Diego. I'm a 5<sup>th</sup> generation Californian and a 3<sup>rd</sup> generation San Diegan. My family's roots, my mother's roots, are in Barrio Logan and in Shelltown in District 4. I have lived with my partner, Tom Knoll, in District 3 for 25 years. .

The district lines that you all draw will not only have political ramifications, but also social and cultural ones, very important impacts on the lives of the citizens. They've been explained and shared with you far better than I by many people tonight. Heed those words; mind their interests and their needs.

But I am here to support the maintenance of the core of the LGBT community in District 3. I'm here to support the establishment of a second Latino-majority district. Our numbers demand it. Your job is to do it. I also support as a Asian Pacific Islander, the long overdue establishment of a district for a majority of Asian Pacific Islanders in San Diego County. And finally, I support a majority of the African-American community in District 4.

This work is going to be difficult. You will draw a map. It will be challenged. We're all challenged with one another. But I believe in San Diego. My life is tied up with San Diego's future and yours is as well. Redistricting made possible for the LGBT community– and I am a gay man– made it possible for us to have a voice in City government...

(Transcript Ends)

**ADJOURNMENT:**

Chair Dalal adjourned the meeting at 9:38 p.m.

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Julie Corrales, Executive Secretary  
2010 Redistricting Commission

## **Written Comments Received at the May 2, 2011 Redistricting Commission Public Hearing**

### **Comment 1: Tram Lam**

I don't support the map presented by APAC. As an immigrant, I came to City Heights, made my home here, went to school, and now doing business here in City Heights. I want to see D4 Remain in one piece and Little Saigon District on El Cajon Blvd Between highland Ave and Euclid Ave continue to be a part of District 4. Thank you.

### **Comment 2: David Johnson. LGBT Community**

Our community needs its say at City Hall. We are a model for California. If we are not recognized as a community, then this whole process breaks down because we have districts so that people have power, communities have power. If you take that from us, we are a community at large and we lose our power. Our LGBT elected officials represent the best of what our community has to offer.

### **Comment 3: Wayne Lucero**

The LGBT community is a diverse community. We are spread across racial, ethnic and language groups. Recognizing this community as a community of interest in no way lessens the federally protected classes. After these federally protected classes, our unique needs should be recognized.

### **Comment 4: Norali Martinez**

I live in Mountain View in District 4 and due to historically being an African American community, it has not been properly represented. Mountain View is majority Latino and the only community council is 100% Latino and meetings are held in Spanish. Therefore, I support my community being part of a new Latino district for we have more in common w/ our Latino represented neighbors of Southcrest/Shelltown, including shopping at the biggest groceries store, Gonzalez Market (Northgate), language, culture, and habits.

In addition, as someone who was an active youth in the Sherman Heights community, I am a full supporter of the Historic Barrio District and support Sherman, Logan, Stockton to all stay together. I completely oppose any part of downtown currently not in District 8 to be added to the HBD. This mainly because of the big gentrification shift that will occur jeopardizing the beauty, unity, and strength of the community.

Oh, just to clarify, when I say it's ok Mountainview is in a new district, I say all of MV, not just one part. This would the 805 freeway being the east border. Thank you.

### **Comment 5: S. Ledeboer**

My request is simple: Please do not Balkanize San Diego by having "special interest" Council districts. We need to co-operate with one another, not fight over limited resources.

**Comment 6: Dwayne Crenshaw**

District 3 neighborhoods of character share a historic and cultural link that creates a community of interest. They also share many of the challenges that older urban communities feel, such as burden infrastructure, density, lack of open space which requires effect and fair representation.

**Comment 7: Sean Bohac, San Diego Alliance for Marriage Equality**

The community of Hillcrest is the heart of the gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgendered community. It is concentrated with LGBT-friendly businesses including a wide variety of restaurants, clubs, shops, and stores that make this such a vibrant neighborhood. It is a place where people of all sexual orientations and cultural backgrounds feel comfortable living, working, shopping and socializing.

**Comment 8: Patricia Ann Washington, Ph.D.**

We ask that you respect the criteria set forth in the City Charter and part of the Commission's mandate involving the preservation of identifiable communities of interest and that specifically No. 2 that ways to identify and preserve as far as practicable communities of interest in order to retain the common activities social, and life style patters typical and desired by the members of the area. The LGBT community has said common lifestyle patterns, social and common activities. Please keep this community intact and protect our voice.

**Comment 9: Rachel G.**

I think the redistricting would break up a wonderful area and that would be unfortunate. The LGBT community has contributed so much to the city of San Diego. According to Article 21 of the California Constitution, a community of interest is a contiguous population which shares common social and economic interests that should be included within a single district for purposes of its effective and fair representation. The LGBT community meets these criteria and we ask that you respect this community of interest.

**Comment 10: Elizabeth Leventhal**

As an ally of the SD LGBT community, I believe strongly that the LGBT community is a community of interest and should therefore be kept together w/in the same city council district for the benefit of both the community and the city as a whole.

The current D3 has a large LGBT population, and openly LGBT council members have been elected in the last five elections. Besides initiating and voting on matters that affect the community, a council member appoints community members to boards and commissions, serves as a role model to the community, and helps to destroy ignorant stereotypes regarding LGBT people.

**Comment 11: Vicky Kerley**

Balboa Park is possible the single most distinctive feature in District 3. While it is the crown jewel of the city, it is D3's neighborhood park. Since D3 is lacking in park facilities and green space – it is particularly important to keep Balboa Park in D3.

**Comment 12: Lyn Gwizdek**

From a business perspective we have artifacts that show our common economic interest. We have our own chamber of commerce in the GSDBA that prints a guide every year. In that guide we showcase both LGBT owned and LGBT friendly businesses and their concentration in District 3. That meets the criterion for the community of interest status.

**Comment 13: Tamandra Michaels**

District 3 is the center of their social lives. The vast majority LGBT owned and friendly bars, clubs, and restaurants are located there. Beyond providing food and drink, these institutions, along with the Center, sponsor other endeavors, including our sports teams, our performance arts, and our support groups.

**Comment 14: Jacqueline Palmer, LGBT RTF**

District 3 has always been represented by a member of the LGBT community. This has provided a much needed voice for our community. It is also valuable for meeting the unique social and economic needs of our community. Please do allow this to continue by giving us a district that first respects the Voters Rights Act and then second recognizes us as a community of interest as defined by the City Charter.

**Comment 15: David Warmoth, LGBT RTF**

Our community provides us the safety we need to conduct our business, live openly and to provide for our everyday lives. Many people find the strength within the confines of D3 to live openly as they have not done before. This is due in large part to the concentration of the LGBT community of interest. By not recognizing this community of interest you take away the voice of a great deal of people who need to be heard. Please recognize this community of interest and its unique needs.

**Comment 16: Matt Corrales, LGBT RTF**

We have created in district 3 a common support structure. That structure includes community centers, shopping, entertainment and health care unique to the needs of the LGBT community. This satisfies criteria for being a community of interest and I ask that you recognize that in your creation of a new city council map.

**Comment 17: Charles Schmitt**

The voting against Proposition 8 gives the most direct evidence of where the LGBT and LGBT friendly population are in San Diego. As we are a community that has so few statistical indicators, this is our best one. This also helps to prove our community of interest status as we have common social and economic goals.

**Comment 18: Denise Serrano**

The LGBT community is a “community of interest” because we are a “community of memory” marked by a shared history and experiences.

**Comment 19: Brian Lackien**

The CA Supreme Court has recognized the LGBT community as a protected class. The Attorney General of the U.S. has also recognized the LGBT community as a protected class. As such, the LGBT community in San Diego meets the criteria for designation as a community of interest for purposed of preserving D3 as an LGBT community of interest.

**Comment 20: Steve Barbone**

Keep our community together: Hillcrest/North Park/ City Heights/Azalea Park.

Demographics and other measures will show that D3 has a large percentage of same sex couples living together in relationships. Many businesses are gay-owned and cater to the gay population. The LGBT Center, Balboa Park, where or Pride celebration takes place, the consistent election of LGBT representation. All these things, plus more, reflect an actual shared interest, a common thread of social interest.

**Comment 21: Mark Conlan**

The City Charter says that redistricting should preserve identifiable communities of interest. Since 1990 the LGBT community of interest has been synonymous with D3. Please preserve our LGBT community of interest representation in D2.

**Comment 22: Connor Maddocks**

As a member of District 3 and the LGBT community I respectfully ask that you do not split D3 as doing so can possible lessen our representation and do harm to the work we do as a collective district.

The LGBT community is a community of interest centered in D3. We have many common social and interests that should be included within a single district for purposes of its effective and fair representation.

**Comment 23: John Greenwell**

Since we do not have census data to define where we live, we are left with the definition as a community of interest. District 3 is where we shop, dine, have our nightlife, and hold our yearly Pride Festival. This brings us together in a common economic and social basis. This is one of the main definitions of a community of interest. Please recognize this status.

**Comment 24: Fentress Ott**

District 3 has been recognized since 1990 as a LGBT community of interest. This has allowed the LGBT community to have effective and fair representation. Please preserve this identifiable community of interest.

**Comment 25: Doug Case**

For the LBGT community, “community” is not just a word – it’s who we are. And D3 is our home. It is in many ways the difference between what we call our Families of Choice and our Families of Origin. Too often our Families of Origin turned us away or dismissed us. And so, seeking welcome and support, we created new families. In this way, we have created our community, which as you see, is not just an abstract idea of commonality, but an actual shared geography.

**Comment 26: Danny Dunn, FTMI**

My communities could meet the surface requirements to be considered of interest. Indeed, any group of people living in the same area long enough invariably comes to share common interests. What is unique to the LGBT community is that we come together geographically specifically because of the common thread of relevant interests.

**Comment 27: Frank Nobilett**

The LGBT community is a community of interest as defined by common voting behavior. Voting behavior in Proposition 8 in 2008 and voting behavior in electing LGBT representatives to Council District 3 in the last five council elections, clearly shows common voting behavior as contemplated in the Voting Rights Act.

**Comment 28: Sean M. Sala, SDDC**

A community of interest is defined in the CA Constitution as “a contiguous population which shares common social and economic interests that should be included within a single district for purposes of its effective and fair representation.” The Supreme Court of the United States recognizes “a respect for communities defined by actual shared interests,” and references a common thread of relevant interest, discussed as social, economic or political. Few groups meet these goals as well as the LGBT community, and rarely has their recognition been as beneficial as in the creation of District 3.

**Comment 29: Araceli “Cheli” Mohamed**

We as a community are at a statistical disadvantage since we are not identified through the census data collection process. I ask that you carefully and fairly evaluate the data that representatives of the LGBT community have provided for you. Denying our status as a community of interest puts us at a distinct disadvantage. I ask that you recognize our status as the LGBT Redistricting Task Force has laid them before you.

**Comment 30: Chad Michael Terry**

The community of Hillcrest is the heart of the Gay and Lesbian community. It is concentrated with friendly restaurants, clubs, shops,. These make Hillcrest vibrant. Hillcrest makes people of many backgrounds feel welcomed, to shop, live and socialize.

**Comment 31: Gregory Bolian**

The LGBT community is a community of interest because:

1. We share common social interests specifically related to our same sex affection and affiliation
2. We share common social and economic burdens because of societal prejudice against same sex affection/affiliation
3. We have come together to be among people who share the same goals and values in a specific, identifiable geographic area
4. We have created businesses and a social support network that is concentrated in a particular geographic area specifically oriented toward LGBT interests
5. The history of our District 3 shows how important and successful the empowerment of the LGBT community has been
6. The recognition of D3 as an LGBT community of interest has led directly to “effective and fair representation” of the LGBT community of interest.

**Comment 32: Mick Donahue**

If we are not recognized as a community, then this whole process breaks down because we have districts so that people have power, communities have power. If you take that from us, we are a community at large and we lose our power. Our LGBT elected officials represent the best of what our community has to offer.

**Comment 33: David Turczyn**

The LGBT community is a diverse community. We are spread across racial, ethnic and language groups. Recognizing this community as a community of interest in no way lessens the federally protected classes. After these federally protected classes, our unique needs should be recognized.

**Comment 34: Terrie Vorono**

District 3 is strongly supported by PFLAG San Diego's 200 members for its welcoming atmosphere to our LGBT family members and their straight parents and siblings. Our membership utilizes businesses and help. It's a vibrant, busy neighborhood. It is vital to have representation on the City Council.

The City is very much in acknowledgement of this community. Our norms, our values, and commitment to diversity point this out. The city's employees' associations include it. There is a Gay and Lesbian Association along with all the others. The human dignity ordinance includes it. You are charged with redrawing the lines for the City of San Diego. I urge you to honor and respect the city's treatment of the gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgendered community by giving this community the same fair treatment during this redistricting process. The residents of the Third District elected three openly gay persons to represent them at City Hall.

**Comment 35: Nicolas Espinal**

San Ysidro needs its own district or 2 split down the 805.

**Comment 36: Kevin Davis**

I support a district representing the LGBT community.

**Comment 37: Yvonne Curtis and Charlene Coffing**

We are NOT in favor of redistricting. We are a part of the LGBT community that resides in Azalea Park and favor having our representation stay the way that is currently stands. We want to stay in CD3.