

MINUTES

**FOR THE REDISTRICTING COMMISSION
OF CITY OF SAN DIEGO
FOR MONDAY, JULY 16, 2001
6:00 P.M. - 8:00 P.M.
(DISTRICT 8)
SHERMAN HEIGHTS COMMUNITY CENTER
2260 ISLAND AVENUE
SAN DIEGO, CA**

ITEM-1: CALL TO ORDER/WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS

The Redistricting Commission was called to order by Chairman Ralph Pesqueira at 6:10 p.m. Chairman Pesqueira informed the public of the procedures for those people interested in giving testimony. Chairman Ralph Pesqueira explained that there was going to be a Spanish interpreter for anyone who requested that type of assistance. The Commissioners and staff proceeded to give a short introduction of themselves. The meeting was adjourned by Chairman Pesqueira at 8:28 p.m.

ITEM-2: ROLL CALL

Operations Director Staajabu Heshimu called the roll:

- (C) Chairman Ralph R. Pesqueira-present
- (VC) Vice Chairman Leland T. Saito-not present
- (M) Mateo R. Camarillo-not present
- (M) Charles W. Johnson-present
- (M) Marichu G. Magaña-present
- (M) Shirley ODell-present
- (M) Juan Antonio Ulloa-present

REDISTRICTING COMMISSION ACTION: (Tape location: A024-030.)

ATTENDANCE DURING THE MEETING:

- (C) Chairman Ralph R. Pesqueira-present
- (VC) Vice Chairman Leland T. Saito-present
- (M) Mateo R. Camarillo-not present
- (M) Charles W. Johnson-present
- (M) Marichu G. Magaña-present
- (M) Shirley ODell-present
- (M) Juan Antonio Ulloa-present

Also present:

Deputy City Attorney Lisa Foster
Operations Director Staajabu Heshimu
Senior Planner Joey Perry

ITEM-3: PUBLIC HEARING

The Redistricting Criteria

Ms. Foster explained that the Commission has seriously taken into consideration the feedback received in the public hearings. One of the things that Ms. Foster wanted to point out was some of the legal criteria that the Commission had to follow in making their decisions. She informed the audience that hopefully this would help explain why some of the boundary changes occurred in the way shown on the preliminary map. Ms. Foster stated this was the first time San Diego was having a Commission make all the necessary decisions regarding redistricting. Ms. Foster shared with the audience that in 1992 the citizens of San Diego voted to change the City Charter. This resulted in placing an independent Commission in charge of redistricting to take some of the politics out of the process.

Ms. Foster went on to explain the legal factors in order of importance. She stated that number one on the list is the equalization of the population between districts. The most important reason

to do that is because the constitutional concept of one-person-one-vote. When a person votes for their councilperson, their vote is worth the same as someone else's vote in another district. They will be getting the same amount of representation for their vote as someone in a different district.

Ms. Foster informed that the second criteria is the Voting Rights Act. In the process of equalizing the districts, the process should not make changes that are harmful to racial, ethnic, and language groups in their ability to elect candidates of choice. Certain groups qualify for protection under this act when they meet a three part test. The group has to be large enough to potentially be a majority in a district. The group has to be politically cohesive meaning they tend to vote the same. The group prefers candidates that are defeated by the white population in that particular area.

Ms. Foster explained that the Commission is working with a well-known redistricting consultant. He is currently doing a Voting Rights Act analysis on voting patterns in the City Heights area. Ms. Foster commented that the Commission does have an alternate map in the make. The Commission does want to have a backup plan in the event that the analysis does show a Voting Rights Act issue.

Ms. Foster shared that the third concept was that race cannot be considered too much. In some cases the people are not geographically close together and the district shape turns out to be very irregular.

Finally, the districts have to be eight in number. This criteria appears in the City Charter and can't be changed unless the people vote to change the number. The districts need to be made up of contiguous territory. They need to be geographically compact as possible. They need to use natural boundaries to the extent possible. They need to preserve identifiable communities of interest. The Commission is to use whole census units and should not draw lines for the purpose of creating an advantage for elected officials.

REDISTRICTING COMMISSION ACTION

(Tape location: A031-177.)

**The Preliminary Redistricting Plan
(as adopted June 29, 2001)**

Ms. Perry briefed the public on the Preliminary Redistricting Plan and the changes that effected the various districts with emphasis on District 8.

REDISTRICTING COMMISSION ACTION

(Tape location: A178-273.)

Chairman Pesqueira outlined the dates and final process that the Commission will be concluding within the next few weeks.

REDISTRICTING COMMISSION ACTION

(Tape location: A274-334.)

SPEAKER 1: Ralph Inzunza

I represent the 8th District and I am here today to testify in regards to what, I believe, is a process that thus far has been very fair, and a process that I think has been very good at getting input from fellow citizens throughout the City of San Diego. As you see here, we have several members from the 8th District. We did mail to our district so that we could get some feedback and some information. I hope that will be helpful. What I would like to do is talk a little bit about the southern tier of my district and then really spend the bulk of my time on the northern tier. That's principally because as I look at the preliminary redistricting map that you have up there--when I testified, I think, two or three months ago to this Commission, I had addressed the concern and the importance that many of us felt in the 8th District. Especially, many of us who live in the southern tier of the 8th District feel it would be important it be brought together because of the different aspects of the community that were shared among those who are currently in District 2. In your preliminary map you do have all of that brought together. I want to thank all of you because I think that is the appropriate thing. I think that is a fair approach with regards to the South Bay. The northern tier is a district which is interesting and what concerns me. There is a preliminary redistricting plan that we're seeing here, and then there is also an alternate plan. My concern is that the alternate plan does not include Golden Hill, and does not include that area that goes from I-5 to the west, to roughly I-15 to the east, from A Avenue to the north, down to 94 to the south. The other communities are included in the northern tier of the 8th District which I currently represent and which historically have been part of the 8th District. Those being Sherman Heights, Grant Hill, Stockton, Logan Heights, Memorial, Southcrest, a portion of Shelltown and Barrio Logan. It's very important to me that those communities stay together because those communities do have many interests with regards to different aspects of society, different aspects of living, different groups of people who are trying to improve their standard of living, but within that is also Golden Hill. Golden Hill, as you have in the preliminary map, I think is correct. Because Golden Hill does share many interests with regards to these other communities. Although Golden Hill and Sherman Heights are split with I-94, I don't think that should be a reason not to keep it in the district. I don't think that corridor supercedes the human spirit which really does interchange between Golden Hill, Sherman Heights, Logan Heights, and so forth. The reason being is that you do have major transportation corridors that keep a lot of fluid movement between the different communities. You have 19th Street, you have 22nd Street, you have 25th Street, you have 28th and 30th and all of them are corridors that really do bring together many of the

communities. I think also the school districts can really speak to the fact that many of the kids on the north side of 94 and south of 94 go to many of the same schools. You can also look at the different historical districts that we have right now. In Golden Hill you do have a historical district, and you do have many in Sherman Heights that are also forming and working together. Golden Hill has really been a beacon and an example as to how we can bring about some of the historical changes and some of the redevelopment necessary. An example of that is the lighting that we have in Golden Hill. Golden Hill is one of the first communities that has begun to put up the egg corn lights, the Gaslamp style lights and that now is being emulated by the communities of Sherman Heights, Grant Hill, Logan Heights and we're in the process of spending close to a million dollars to do exactly what Golden Hill has done. I think, also we need to look at the diversity issue. Golden Hill is a very diverse community as is the entire 8th District. I think it is very important that we keep that diversity, that we keep the different communities working together, and interchanging on the different aspects of life. We have the union of Pan Asian communities centered here in my district and Golden Hill. You have the Chicano Federation which is in Sherman Heights. You have NAACP which is in Logan Heights. Although they are located in different neighborhoods they really are part of one larger community that's trying to bring people together and to say let's work them out and let's be able to be part of the solution. In 1993, we opened up this wonderful facility. We are now in the process of building something very similar in Golden Hill. We plan to build a center very similar to this, actually by the same architect Rob Quigley. The largest portion of my CDBG allocation which is the funding that we give out from HUD will be going toward the Golden Hill CDC. I'm proud to be doing that because I think it's an area that will be able to work with children's issues, with seniors issues and with after-school programs for both Sherman and Grant Hill as well as Golden Hill. I think it would be a shame for me to commit to that money, millions and millions over the next 20 years, and not have it in my district. The other thing to look at is with regards to communities of faith. You have many Baptist and many Catholics that live in this part of the district and that's important because they do work at times as a vehicle to organize and to be able to communicate with their different communities. If you look at Our Lady of Angels, Our Lady of Angels is located right here in Sherman Heights just south of 94. I would say almost half of their parishioners are from Golden Hill. When my wife and I lived in Golden Hill, we would vote in Sherman Heights at Our Lady of Angels. Again, that was another connection with the community. You can look at public safety issues. The public safety issues here whether it's code compliance which takes in this area and Golden Hill under one department. If you look at the fire department the fire station that we built on 25th and Broadway that was built in order to take care of all of the norther tier of the 8th District. The police station there on Logan Heights on 25th and Imperial, and the neighborhood service center was also built to take care of Golden Hill. I think what you have here is some relevance. There is a nexus. There is an ability to bring people together. It really does mean that we need to keep these communities centered. I think

the other thing, to take in a note, is the political aspects of Golden Hill. Golden Hill for the most part is a Democratic area. It tends to vote very Democrat partisan wise. You will see many districts not only at the local level but, at the State Assembly, Senate, and Congressional using "A" Avenue as a cut-off. They do not use 94 as the cut-off. The 50th Congressional seat also uses "A" Avenue as does the 40th Senate seat, as does the 79th Assembly seat. Interestingly enough so does the 1st Supervisorial seat. They all use "A" Avenue because the true boundary is Balboa Park. The natural boundary for these communities is not 94. So I just wanted to come here and to share some of those comments with all of you and if you'd like, Mr. Chair, I'd be available for any questions.

REDISTRICTING COMMISSION ACTION

(Tape location: A335-477.)

Chairman Pesqueira explained this was the most difficult part of redistricting, and this is the reason why it was turned over to a non-political group. It is expected that they look at redistricting from an entirely different perspective from those council people who have an ownership in much of their district. The biggest problem facing the Commission are the districts in the downtown area 2, 3, 4, and 6 to some extent compose the largest population. Just moving one census tract moves an awful lot of people. The City Heights area has 80,000 people in it. If those 80,000 people are going to be required to move into one district, it wreaks havoc around with what happens in the surrounding areas that you're speaking of. The next thing they have to consider of course besides the pure numbers, is the Voting Rights Act and that becomes the next driving tool. It gets way down at the bottom of the list when they start looking at the political ramifications, it's at the bottom of the list when they start looking at the economics, it's at the bottom of the list when they start looking at the pure social ramification of it. It is not that, that's something that they do just arbitrarily, but they do it because that is the way the law is set up. The potential challenge came late in the process with the Voting Rights Act regarding the City Heights area. If the analysis from their consultant comes back and says it is a Voting Rights Act issue, moving 80,000 people just tears everything up.

REDISTRICTING COMMISSION ACTION

(Tape location: A478-B048.)

SPEAKER 2: Denise Moreno-Ducheny

For all of the 20 years I've lived in San Diego, I've really only lived in two communities. One is Sherman Heights and the other is Logan Heights. My law office for 20 years has been in Barrio Logan. I am here today to support many of the comments made by Councilman Inzunza with respect to these communities. I agree that the southern part of the district ought to be as shown on the preliminary map uniting Nestor, Palm, Otay, and San Ysidro communities altogether is an appropriate thing to do. That stretch from

District 2 was always sort of difficult and was really a very small piece of that district. It doesn't get the same kind of attention and makes it difficult to do coordinative planning. With respect to the north part of the district, I too would say that we need to acknowledge the historical connections that are here. The fact that at some point in history people decided to put I-5 and I-94 through the middle of communities that were in fact historical San Diego. For original communities you can look at any of the houses around here: Via Montezuma, houses in Golden Hill, the houses in Logan Heights. These were in fact all one contiguous community that's why 25th Street, 22nd Street and some of the other streets here do in fact go all the way through and those freeways we need to remember were put in later and the communities have continued, despite that, to relate to each other. The schools, the parish of Our Lady of Guadalupe, Our Lady of Angels is a school system so that you need to keep them together. The kids attend certain grades at Guadalupe certain grades at Angels they are all one school system, and certainly children from Golden Hill are part of that. As Councilman Inzunza stated, it's been our experience that most of Our Lady of Angels parish, although it's located technically south of 94, is in fact attended to a large degree by people who live north of 94. The division at Balboa Park, at least in Golden Hill, is really an appropriate place to allow the continuity of that 25th Street corridor. I had the privilege of representing all of those communities for the last ten years both on the community college board and in the state legislature and do support that. Another area that was also part of my prior district is Webster. It seemed rather odd to me over there in District 7. That community really does relate much more closely to either District 4 or District 3. I realize you are trying to balance populations, but whatever opportunity there might be to make that adjustment would seem to make much more sense to me than the existing proposal.

REDISTRICTING COMMISSION ACTION

(Tape location: B049-088.)

SPEAKER 3: Pat Martin

I live just a couple blocks down north of the freeway. I have lived there for 25 years with my husband and we raised our two children. As one of our recent neighbors has said, we've seen it all. We began organizing in 1979 in order to make a cleaner, quieter, safer neighborhood. I also worked with the San Diego Organizing Project and helped organize the neighbors in Sherman and Logan Heights. I am familiar with both the neighborhoods and all the problems. The first thing we learned when we started to organize was that we needed the help and support of our council person. Since Golden Hill, Sherman and Logan Heights have many of the shared neighborhood issues, I feel that it would be advantageous for us to have the same council person knowing and working with us on our shared issues. For example, one issue that I worked with for many years that continues to

be a problem are our halfway houses. As you know, both Golden Hill, Sherman, and Logan Heights have plenty. There are still people who want to bring more in. I believe that it would be important to keep Golden Hill as District 8 so we will have a stronger voice working for all of our neighborhoods. We were split by a freeway about 50 years ago, and we wouldn't like to be split now because of redistricting.

REDISTRICTING COMMISSION ACTION

(Tape location: B089-140.)

SPEAKER 4: Arlene Hamlin

I am the Executive Director of the Golden Hill Community Development Corporation. It's been my privilege for the last ten years while I've been living there to work very closely with the Sherman Heights Community. We have worked together with numerous events that we put on. Our children play soccer together first at Sherman Heights and then at the Golden Hill Recreation Center. We worked vigorously to help get the Sherman Heights ground sodded and we worked in the Kimbro area to make sure there was a playground there for the children because we knew our children in Golden Hill would be going there. It's been a very close relationship and one that I've counted on in the work that I do because we share so many commonalities. The historic character of our neighborhoods is the same. When Sherman was going to put the lights in Sherman Heights, they came to me and asked me for the design for Golden Hill. We worked together on that. We've been very good neighbors, and I think we need to continue to be neighbors. I would hate to see the boundary of 94 that we worked so vigorously to keep from being a boundary be put in place by this redistricting. I would like to request that you go with the preliminary redistricting plan, and do not separate Golden Hill from District 8.

REDISTRICTING COMMISSION ACTION

(Tape location: B141-163.)

SPEAKER 5: Marco Polo Cortes

I actually have worked in this community for many years, and I have a lot of friends and family ties to these communities. I'm also the immediate past-President of the San Diego County Hispanic Chamber of Commerce which I am pleased to say that many of the scholarships that we hand out over the years have gone to many recipients in this very neighborhood. Many literacy grants have been contributed to this very community center. I'm here to support you in keeping the communities of District 8. Grant Hill, Sherman

Heights, Logan Heights, Barrio Logan, Stockton and Southcrest, as I see, are all there as well as adding--in support of the changes with adding Nestor which is coming from District 2 to District 8. As you know, these communities are older and established communities and have many similar attributes and needs. In particular, the need for parks, libraries, and access to other public amenities. Unlike the State assembly districts which divides Barrio Logan currently there is a disconnect of services. By keeping these communities together you allow for uniform and continuity of services of programs in the upper mentioned communities. Thank you for your time.

REDISTRICTING COMMISSION ACTION

(Tape location: B164-178.)

SPEAKER 6: Clive Richard

I live in District 7. Pretty much what I'm here to speak about and against is that living in District 7, I'm really concerned about having census tract 34.01 moved into District 7. That census tract is called Webster on the police beat community map. I don't know if the people there call it that. I don't live, as you know, in the neighborhood in that district, but it concerns me. You've done beautiful work of taking fingers out of different parts of the city. You've taken this hoof print or something and put it into, but it just--other than the fact that it looks ugly for the aesthetic purposes. I noticed that even in your alternate map this community would be moved or at least split. It seems to me if I read my history correct this census tract was originally in District 3. The timing of the way that the districts were--the map was finally adopted. District 3 was in the process of about to elect a new council member, and 34.01 was moved to District 4. That might not be a terrible thing except that they had to wait 6 years before they could vote for a council person. As their previous neighbors had been voting, they had to wait. There is actually a six year delay. It happens again though. District 4 is about to elect a new council member. Their current council member cannot run because the Charter says he cannot. The new council person will have to be elected. This census tract will not be allowed to vote in the upcoming election of District 4 because they will be moved into District 7. District 7 has already elected Mr. Madaffer as their council person and he will not be up for election until 2004. This district, this one census tract, will have been denied its ability to cast a vote for the candidate of their choice in the upcoming election. I think that is very important perhaps only 5,000 or 6,000 people will vote. I don't think that the urge to move all of the communities into one united community in the same district really meant that you should hurt people who live in a district in a community that seems to be expendable and movable.

REDISTRICTING COMMISSION ACTION

(Tape location: B179-220.)

SPEAKER 7: Chuck Bahde

I reside in the medical complex which is located north of Washington Street and north of Hillcrest. Today, after listening to the Chair's comments as well as the City Attorney's comments I would like to offer a couple fine tuning items that will assist you in completing your charge. Census tract 4 north of Washington is indicated in the uptown plan as a subarea, specifically the medical Complex. I believe it is more closely tied to the Mission Hills area which is in District 2. This particular area has been here in this district for over 20 years. I have lived there 17 years. By returning that area north of Washington, you would be splitting a census tract, however, the boundary is very logical because it is Washington Street. That would allow you to do some fine tuning in District 8 to the south. Particularly, the new boundary for your plan cuts off part of Barrio Logan and puts it into District 2. I believe that by swapping the area north of Washington back to District 2 and giving up from 2 back to 8 that which is south of Imperial the two populations would just about balance. What's really important about this is if you look at census track 4 north of Washington, that track is about 73 percent white. District 2 is approximately 80 percent white. In area 51 there are 3,360 people approximately 45 percent Latino, 65 percent non-white. You would be further equalizing population and protecting history as well as strong voting blocks. You would not be disenfranchising those voters particularly in census tract 51. Beyond the subarea planning area of the uptown plan, the census tract 4 shares both major hospitals, UCSD and Mercy Hospital. A number of doctors and residents that work in the hospitals reside in Mission Hills. People who live above Washington go to the public library in Mission Hills. Residents of Hillcrest use the uptown district and primarily the University Heights Library.

REDISTRICTING COMMISSION ACTION

(Tape location: B221-278.)

SPEAKER 8: Benjamin Hueso

I live in Golden Hill. I came in a hurry when I heard Golden Hill was being excluded from the District 8 plan. I couldn't believe this was true. I came down here to talk about keeping Golden Hill in District 8. I'm very glad to see that the community of interest is still a part of District 8 under your preliminary plan. I am very much in support of your current map for District 8 which includes all of the South Bay and whatever we could salvage up here in the north. I would still like to see a portion of East Village in District 8, but I understand the decisions you have to make. I think overall your decision is the best one. As a life-long resident of Logan Heights, Golden Hill and Sherman Heights, I

came pretty much to tell you how important it is to keep these communities together. Nobody has really spoken on the issue of the observed natural boundaries as district dividing lines and composed districts that are geographically compact responsible. I think a major issue to observe is Balboa Park. Balboa Park is an enormous geographic separation from Golden Hill to District 3, and to make an argument it should be part of District 3, I think, is a very bad argument. Growing up in this neighborhood Our Lady School here we always practiced football and any sport that we were involved with we always went to Golden Hill Park. That was our recreation center for this community. We play football there, soccer there, and basketball there. I mean the tie-in between Golden Hill, Sherman Heights, and Grant Hill is enormous. When I bought my home it was, you know, I considered it part of the neighborhood I wanted to live in which is Logan Heights. As a very active member of this community in Barrio Logan, Logan Heights, Sherman Heights, Grant Hill, and Golden Hill working with people like Arlene Hamlin and the Golden Hill CDC and Estella who works at Sherman Heights Center, Rachel Ortiz this has always been a very cohesive community. Those groups have always worked closely together with Father Brown and Our Lady Guadalupe Church pretty much on any issue whether it was the impact of the Ballpark or issues like neighborhood night out on crime. All these people really came together in support of these communities as very cohesive communities having residents that share common factors. The last thing I want to mention as part of my job is one of the programs we have is Community Empowerment Zone. Golden Hill is part of the enterprise community and they make those decisions based on certain socio-economic factors. Golden Hill along with Sherman Heights, Grant Hill, Stockton, Logan Heights, Memorial, South Crest are all part of the empowerment community and enterprise community and they should all be brought together.

REDISTRICTING COMMISSION ACTION

(Tape location: B279-329.)

SPEAKER 9: Jaime Garcia

Basically I support what you guys have done. This is a very difficult job. You have to satisfy a lot of us. Also, I would like you to support our main man which is Ralph Inzunza because we support him 100 percent. Whatever he requests from you guys basically has the support from his citizens of South Bay. The census that was taken, I don't know if there was any consideration taken into account that there are a lot of U. S. citizens living in Tijuana. They utilize South Bay the majority of the time. Their kids go to school in South Bay schools. You can tell by the Baja plates at Southwestern College. I know that we're talking about votes, but I assume it has something to do with how much money is allocated for each district in the long run. I hope that someday, somehow you

guys take into consideration that issue.

REDISTRICTING COMMISSION ACTION

(Tape location: B330-361.)

SPEAKER 10: Kathryn Willetts

I live in Golden Hill. My neighbors across the street from me would be in District 3 because you are drawing the boundary on A Street instead of on Russ Blvd. between 24th and 28th Street. I don't know if you thought about that or not. You said you don't like to draw the boundaries along a residential street and have neighbors across the street be in a different district, but that's been the case for the last ten years at least. Golden Hill is an L-shaped community and it wraps around the southeast corner of Balboa Park and goes as far north as Juniper Street. It goes east to I-15. Your current map cuts Golden Hill virtually in half. I'm a founding member of the Golden Hill Planning Committee. In the early 70's we separated from the southeast planning community because we felt that southeast was such a big area that as a community we were not getting any attention from southeast in terms of their planning issues and that 94 was a major geographic boundary. However, we continued to be in two council districts. I'm now serving as the Vice-President of the Golden Hill Community Development Corporation working closely with Arlene Hamlin and many others from all parts of Golden Hill. We have not found it a disadvantage unlike the people that you mentioned in Clairemont and Kearney Mesa who said their communities were split and they wanted to be in the same council district. We have not found it a disadvantage to be in two different council districts. We have found that the council members have cooperated with us. The council members from both districts have cooperated with us on issues that are of crucial interest to Golden Hill throughout the nearly 30-year history of the Golden Hill Planning Committee, and the 10-year history of Golden Hill Community Development Corporation. Your splitting of Golden Hill from either Barrio Logan and Sherman Heights and Grant Hill or from the norther portion of Golden Hill is really not an issue for those of us who live and are very active in the community of Golden Hill because we find that we can work with it either way.

REDISTRICTING COMMISSION ACTION

(Tape location: B362-404.)

SPEAKER 11: Miguel Vasquez

I live in Golden Hill. The reason I am here today is to you give a different perspective of

how I would be a disenfranchised voter, as well as my wife. We are original members of the San Ysidro community in District 8, and as a life-long citizen of District 8 we have always enjoyed how receptive and warm this community has been towards people that come from that specific area. There are so many common interests and common values that we have as a rich community. Within the San Ysidro area as we decided to move to a specific area that would be closer to our work. My wife works in Clairemont, I work in La Jolla. We decided two years ago to move to the Golden Hill area specifically because of the people, the values of the community and the organizations that were here. They were so helpful in helping us understand the resources that were here for us both; the ideology of the communities and Golden Hill and San Ysidro were very much in tune. Again, I do believe that you guys have done a wonderful job in representing the thoughts and values of the people of this community and your specific map that you have as a preliminary rendering is something that is exactly what we're looking for, and the development of this redistricting. With that in mind, the only other thing that I would like to include is that there are other members that are not here that are also people that have moved from a specific area whether there are other regions in the South Bay that have moved to Golden Hill and continue to move to this region specifically because of the common values that we have as a community of interest. We do have an appreciation for one another. We continue to do that and show that by moving into this community which has a great representation and representatives such as everyone from Juan Vargas to Council Member Inzunza. We appreciate the hard work that they have done as well as the hard work that you have done in coming up with this preliminary redistricting plan.

REDISTRICTING COMMISSION ACTION

(Tape location: B405-461.)

SPEAKER 12: Maxine Sherard

I live in the 4th District, and I'm here today as an alternate and I'm here to speak up for the alternate plan at least the spirit of the alternate plan, and I'll tell you why. I like the preliminary plan with some adjustments because it could easily become the alternate plan so there's not a whole lot of difference. I want to call your attention to a few things that you already know about. I feel like the minority whipped because I feel like I'm out there with the people to really draw some attention to some areas that I think are really important. I am here to speak on reunifying City Heights. I think it is a very, very big issue. We have City Heights in 7. It doesn't belong there anymore than Webster belongs there, as a matter of fact. We're talking about a large block of disenfranchised voters in that area that is the eastern part of City Heights. Putting City Heights together reunifying City Heights as was stated by our Chair would constitute 80,000 or more people which is really half of a district. Don't you think that half of a district should represent the core of

any district. I surely think so. What we have is a population that should be combined. It was slighted as a part of the city in terms of its planning tool, as a neighborhood, and I would think that there ought to be some reason why City Heights was looked at as a neighborhood. There are some issues that are very peculiar to City Heights that need to be addressed: streets, zoning, family size, average income, the voting patterns of the people. They are so similar. I know that you brought them into alignment among two, but City Heights needs to be combined. It needs to be represented by one council person who will give undivided attention to the problems that are peculiar to that district. Now, I know at the top of the list is really the U. S. Constitution, and that is one-man-one-vote. By keeping City Heights apart I believe that at a lower level you are diluting the population, a population of voters. Bring City Heights together; we have 70 percent or more people of color living in City Heights. I believe to keep those people separated in different districts is to dilute the vote and so violate the spirit of the Voting Rights Act of 1965.

REDISTRICTING COMMISSION ACTION

(Tape location: B462-537.)

SPEAKER 13: Richard Kurylo

I work for North Park Mainstreet. It's the business improvement district in North Park, and I'm also a member of the Greater North Park Community Planning Committee. I have a bachelor's and master's degree in geography so this map drawing is right up my alley. I just want to commend the Redistricting Commission. I think you have done a lot of good work unifying the neighborhoods and looking at a lot of the details. I've been watching on television and I know you've really been working in an effort to keep the neighborhoods together. I submitted a letter via e-mail about a month ago, I know that you received that, and I'm here today because Council District 3 is not entirely unified as it is drawn on the preliminary map. I believe in the mid-city area there are about nine parts of that, that should be kept together those are: Hillcrest, Mission Hills, University Heights, North Park, South Park, Normal Heights, Kensington, Balboa Park and Park West. Presently on the preliminary map, Mission Hills, Park West and Balboa Park, parts of Balboa Park, are excluded from District 3. City Heights which is a little bit different from the other neighborhoods is included to a large degree in District 3. I'd like to suggest that District 3 shift westward to include all of Park West, Hillcrest, Mission Hills, Balboa Park. I know that, that would take some population from District 2 so perhaps La Jolla can be included in District 2. That would make a lot of sense because the California Coastal Commission is generally west of I-5. I know they are very similar, Pacific Beach and La Jolla, so that would make a lot of sense. Because this is a large change to ask for I would like to at the very least speak in favor of the preliminary map over the alternate

map inasmuch as it keeps Kensington and Normal Heights with District 3.

REDISTRICTING COMMISSION ACTION (Tape location: B538-617.)

SPEAKER 14: Emilio Ramos

Good afternoon, my name is Emilio Ramos and I live in Grant Hill I'm not sure if many of you know that this community exists. Not a great deal of attention has been given to it, but I would like to make some comments. I think that the ideas in terms of making some of the districts larger have been good ones, but I think that what is important is that all the districts work together and unite, as opposed to working independently from each other. For example, District 4, 5, or 3, I think, it would be much better if they all decided to work together. I think, that if there are communities that are wealthier communities, or more solvent communities, or that can do more, and that there is--that there might be ways for them to do more. For example, there are some communities that have more than others. A specific example would be lighting. There would be those communities that have some additional ones that can give them to others that don't. I've seen these problems for years and years. I've lived in the community for 40 years now, and I can really speak to the ups and downs of the communities. I can say that we have more schools, but then although we have seen some changes for the good, we have also seen many for the bad. I for one like living next to people that I know if I have a well-educated neighbor, a good neighbor then I feel comfortable in terms of leaving my house when I do so. I'm quite happy to do so, but I think that really more than anything what is important is that instead of working independently as districts that we all work together. That we all come together, and please don't forget my lights.

REDISTRICTING COMMISSION ACTION (Tape location: B618-C080.)

SPEAKER 15: Louise Torio

First of all, I want to thank you for the good job that you are doing. I have a high degree of confidence in this panel. Unlike the degree of confidence that I had in our county representation for the maps they drew, I know that you are going to follow the law. I think that many people believe you are going to follow the law. I think the purposes of these meetings are really for you to get a handle on the web of interaction that happens in communities. When communities say they don't want to be broken apart, it's because of the level of history, the level of interaction, the level of back and forth that goes forth.

These divisions are real to us. In this community here in Sherman Heights we have had the battle of the highways. Now, the highways have been here 50 years, but the communities have been here a 120 years, and we actually survived in spite of the highways, and the fact that now that in 2001 we have intense communities who with our council leadership have done amazing things in the past seven, eight years. We've really come an incredible way. When you hear about this web of activity, I know that, that might be fifth or sixth down the list, but I ask that you keep it in mind. The idea of keeping Golden Hill with us that is in the alternate plan not on the current plan that you've heard repeatedly is just such that web of activity. We have helped in our revitalization through our preservation of our historic resources. That's not a minor thing for these communities, the preservation of our historic resources has allowed others to come in to help revitalize the area to help people take pride in the area, to help people take advantage of things like the Mills Act, historic property owners who can get a reduction in the property taxes for maintenance of historic building. The web of activity is important, please keep that in mind. Please, if you need to do an alternate map, don't split Golden Hill from us, and thank you very much.

REDISTRICTING COMMISSION ACTION

(Tape location: C081-110.)

SPEAKER 16: Steven Veach

I live in Sherman Heights, and I run my business out of my home. I have a lot of extra time. I watch television quite a bit. I have been watching you guys and I think you guys have done a great job. The process looks really good and I respect the fact that you come out to the community and listen to what we have to say, and that makes me feel like government is working. I congratulate you. The map the way it is, the preliminary map I think, it looks pretty good. I am kind of sad too that we lost a little bit of East Village, but I understand that. The alternate map with Golden Hill, please either redraw it and have a new alternate because I don't think that quite works.

REDISTRICTING COMMISSION ACTION

(Tape location: C111-120.)

SPEAKER 17: Michelle Krug

I live in Golden Hill even though it is not below A Street. Golden Hill, as one of the speakers mentioned, does go up to Juniper Street. I wish to speak to Golden Hill not being split, but therefore all of it being in District 3. I've lived there for 23 years, and

Golden Hill has been split at A Street. I've only recently started educating myself about this redistricting. I suspect this is a Staa question, but I do not have the actual street boundaries. I have another concern because I recently purchased a home in City Heights. What brought me to this meeting was the fact that I heard that City Heights was being split. Again, I can't really speak to that except that I do see the area where I have my home in and I have been going to their meetings and people are really concerned about that whole area. The last thing I wanted to just mention was that people are talking about the park and recreation center at Golden Hill. The kids on Grape Street use that Park and Recreation Center, the kids on Elm Street. It is not just the kids from below A Street. I would like to see all of Golden Hill together so that the northern part Golden Hill can help the southern part. We have all of the difficulties with gangs and graffiti, and I would see us as a united community being able to deal with it, and I see more connection with North Park.

REDISTRICTING COMMISSION ACTION

(Tape location: C121-159.)

SPEAKER 18: Larry Maloui

I currently live in North Park. I grew up in this community. I was one of the original board members for the Sherman Heights Community Center, and also I lived in the Villa Montezuma for 16 years, and I'm currently on the Historical Resource Board for the City of San Diego. Lastly, I am the director of a community based agency in the 4th District. All those districts and all those communities are important to me, and I was talking to some business owners today in the 8th District and property owners, and a couple of questions, and would like to get a response if we have time. One statement was made that the Commission is here to restructure the various districts. Now, for clarification, will this have to be adopted by the City Council. The historical district, that's a real intimate piece for me because I know how important historical districts--some folks spoke about the Mills Act, and wanted to know if the Commissioners took the historical districts in consideration. Number three, is how were the Commissioners selected. I have two more. The 8th District is really impacted by social service agencies and homeless shelters. We run the gambit of the shelters because of what's happening in the Gaslamp District and the ballpark. No one wants to go west because the taxes, because of the property taxes, that's--that's the fourth and fifth. We saw before what happened in the College Grove development where people were divided because of tax increments.

REDISTRICTING COMMISSION ACTION

(Tape location: C160-199.)

Ms. Foster answered that the selection process was set out in the Charter. There was a panel of

three retired judges that were chosen at random to serve as the Appointing Authority. Those three judges considered over 60 applicants. Based on factors in the Charter regarding qualifications of the people, the retired judges chose the Commissioners and seven alternate commissioners.

REDISTRICTING COMMISSION ACTION

(Tape location: C200-222.)

SPEAKER 19: Warren Nielsen

I came to the wrong meeting, I'm sure. Anyway I've had this old map sitting around since 1994. This is the time to show these ten districts. I am here today to get rid of this map, old as it is, and I would like to share it with anybody who is interested in looking at it. I got carried away, and I used those old maps the City gave me, but they're all torn up and they're all ragged and I won't attempt to unfold them here. I will share with you this reduced version of it, and it was based on the census tracts of that time to make them equal and I want to create ten districts thinking that would be a more reasonable district. I felt South Bay needed a district all its own. I won't try to explain it all. The district going from Wild Animal Park all the way down to I-8. I'd show you the maps. These just show you what I am proposing with the ten districts. May I share this with you.

REDISTRICTING COMMISSION ACTION

(Tape location: C223-279.)

SPEAKER 20: Jay Turner

I reside in North Park. The reason I'm here is because I couldn't attend the meeting in City Heights, I had another meeting that night. I used to live here in Golden Hill, and I'm in charge of the revitalization of the University Avenue corner in North Park. This community of interest idea is not insignificant. When I lived in Golden Hill, I will tell you my neighbors were Sherman Heights. I love North Park and South Park, but they were not my neighbors, they were up there. Now, I live in North Park, and I see that this redistricting is trying to take away a community of interest to the north of us at least not in this preliminary plan but in the alternate plan. In my district we redid one block with 15 businesses and 22 languages. It is wonderful, but you have to develop those relationships with time. Those relationships are very tender and important. I just beg of you, please realize that Sherman Heights and Golden Hill are linked. I know they're linked. Those of us in mid-city know they're linked, and Normal Heights is linked to us. Dividing it is sort of hard for us. Kensington, I don't know where they'll end up being, but they are at the end of Adams Avenue and I don't know what happens to them in this-- I have difficulty reading this thing quite honestly because I don't see streets. I'm asking

you please, please be mindful. Don't lump off parts of neighborhoods, and I know you're not trying to, but Normal Heights is part of us. Sherman Heights and Golden Hill are linked and that's all I'm asking you; please take that into account.

REDISTRICTING COMMISSION ACTION

(Tape location: B280-321.)

SPEAKER 21: Ellis Rose

I have addressed you before, and when I have addressed you I thank you for what the preliminary map does do for District 3, and I want to thank you again. I strongly support the district boundaries for District 3 as they are in the preliminary map. You also know that I strongly disagree with the swap of areas between 4 and 7 in the preliminary map. Having watched the Commission I remember what helped to prompt this. When the District 4 hearing was held back in April, George Stevens requested that since his population was almost perfect to please leave his boundaries alone with one exception. He asked that you please consider moving the College Grove Shopping Center into his district. When you got around to looking at that and realized that you couldn't do it without moving a census block. So then you began to look at larger areas. In order to justify that, you talked about unification of a neighborhood of Oak Park though some people from that area tell me that there is some question as to whether that is all truly Oak Park. Then you swapped lots from District 4 and put that into 7. As a result at the bottom of District 7 you had that little dangling area there that I have dubbed the hanging chad of redistricting. I bring it up because it is a violation of geographical compactness. Something that you've been able to do elsewhere in the map. I need to ask you to reconsider that. I also remind you that the term hanging chad brings about images of disenfranchisement. I want to thank Clive Richards because he pointed this out to me too. The history of Webster and Ridgeview in terms of redistricting speaks to disenfranchisement. In 1989, they got to vote in the District 3 election. Once redistricting happened 10 years ago they had to wait until 1995. They got to vote in 1998. If they're moved into District 7, they will once again have to wait six years until the year 2004 under the preliminary map. I want to point out that this is the only area in the city that will have to wait six years. No one else is going to have to wait that long. Not only does this area have to wait long, but it's going to have to do it twice in two redistricting processes. My thought is that if I have to choose between a so called neighborhood reunification and the opportunity to vote, I will always lean toward the opportunity to vote. I urge you to do the same. Please restore the boundaries between District 4 and 7, and return Webster and Ridgeview to District 4.

REDISTRICTING COMMISSION ACTION

(Tape location: C322-370.)

SPEAKER 21: Kevin Davis

I live in District 3. I wanted to make a few comments briefly about City Heights. I believe that area is so large and has suffered so much need that it is best served by the current configuration of three districts. I believe that it only started to redevelop and revitalize under the current configuration in the past. It did not receive attention in one district. I wanted to address the bulk of my time to census tract 4 that is the part of Hillcrest that's in District 2. Now, if you remember Byron Wear the council member for District 2, he was in favor of having census tract 4 to District 3. He felt it had more in common to District 3. If I understand correctly, several witnesses the to last political redistricting explicitly say that the only reason census tract 4 is in District 2 is because the wife of the council member at that time worked in District 2. That was the only reason. If you look at the voting patterns of the people in census track 4, you'll notice the Prop 22 numbers from the last year's election. Eighty-one percent of the people, more than 4 out of 5 people, voted against Prop 22 which is more in line with voting of District 3 than District 2.

REDISTRICTING COMMISSION ACTION

(Tape location: B371-399.)

SPEAKER 22 Carrol Waymon

I, too, want to talk about two specific areas when I look at it. I want to talk about this district that you're talking about here. I have had the unique opportunity of living and working in this area. I've had the opportunity to live in where I'm living now and also work in District 3. It is the District 3 that I want to talk about in comparison with this district. Both reflect the change in demographics, both have newcomers, both have diminished resources if you wish. Therefore, they have a lot in common in terms of diversity. I too think that this community here should be united and remain united this community. I also want to go down to City Heights. City Heights with its newcomers, for example, represents kind of a new world if you wish. I have the opportunity to work in the new African community there or the assistance program there that's not only just Africans but other refugees. It is almost diminished resources by definition. It has diversity. It has new communities, we call them new communities, we call them new neighbors, and the alternate map reflects that. I'm pushing, therefore, to keep the neighborhoods and communities together in District 3, City Heights that is. I think those should not be divided between three different pots if you wish. Just because while we might live in a contemporary right now and a particular council person is all concerned

about losing his or her resources right now, it is not about the present, it's about the next ten years at least and the person representing it now need not necessarily be around. They may be defeated tomorrow so to speak. Therefore, to put emphasis on whose district it is today seems to miss the point. Once again, I think both are minuses, both have diminished resources, both are reflecting the change in demographics, and both have diversities. I think we ought to praise those things, prize those things, keep those things. This District 8, for example, we heard about earlier, and you might, might want to think about. We have all of these Heights, we have University Heights, Sherman Heights, Logan Heights, Normal Heights, City Heights, and all the other Heights. Some of these Heights must be together. It was not accidental that in this particular community we have some of those sites. I don't think therefore we should separate them simply because a particular person today is representing that district. Therefore, I advocate keeping this group together, and City Heights communities, new world, new communities together for those reasons I mentioned.

REDISTRICTING COMMISSION ACTION

(Tape location: B400-454.)

SPEAKER 23: Tershia DiElgin

I have this ill prepared and very personal approach to this. However, my sentiments are more broadly expressed by the gentlemen in the blue suit. I feel that living here has given me personal involvement with government that I haven't experience previously in my life. I think that, that's due to the kind of constituency building by Juan Vargas and now by Ralph Inzunza, and if that changes then I personally feel I will have to start all over again. We can't help but--if I feel that way it might affect others the same way. I would like you to approve the preliminary redistricting plan.

REDISTRICTING COMMISSION ACTION

(Tape location: B455-475.)

SPEAKER 24: James Justus

I reside in Sherman Heights and my family says I live at 2208 Imperial Avenue at my business, also in Sherman Heights. I really want to thank you for the time devoted to this project. I'm here on behalf of the Inner-City Business Association. I am the current president, and we have 90 members that are situated in Golden Hill, Sherman Heights, Grant Hill, Stockton, Logan Heights, and Barrio Logan. Our membership would like to be represented by a single district. One of our accomplishments this year has been the

establishment of the maintenance assessment district that includes the commercial corridors of Sherman Heights, Grant Hill, Stockton, and Logan Heights. We would also like to keep this intact. Finally, I would like to see as much of the enterprise zone as possible to be included in District 8. These are all communities of similar interests, and we would like to see them all represented by a single council district.

REDISTRICTING COMMISSION ACTION

(Tape location: B476-505.)

SPEAKER 25: Cesar Portillo

With all due respect to our minority whip, who I have a lot of respect for because I saw her tenacity, the preliminary map is a good and fair map that truly represents the interests of the voters in the communities that make up District 3. I have attended several of the meetings and public hearings. I know you have listened to communities and created districts that take into consideration the concerns of these neighborhoods, and I thank you. Continue to listen to the community and our request to keep us as we are specifically in District 3. As I mentioned to you before, there is political empowerment in that particular district and as a Latino male I am speaking from that behalf. In the 11 years that I have lived in San Diego, I have seen a change for the better in those neighborhoods, specifically in District 3. Last week driving to City Heights, I saw the people walking on the sidewalk and playing in the parks, something I don't remember seeing in the 11 years since I first moved here. The testimony that there has been a difference in the way that, that particular area has been--and to change that I think would be a travesty. In closing, keep the preliminary map. It truly empowers our community by giving City Heights, Hillcrest, and all of the different areas a political power. Thank you.

REDISTRICTING COMMISSION ACTION

(Tape location: C506-536.)

ITEM-4: ADJOURNMENT

Chairman Ralph Pesqueira adjourned the meeting at 8:28 p.m.

REDISTRICTING COMMISSION ACTION

(Tape location: C778-779.)

Ralph Pesqueira, Chairman
2000 Redistricting Commission

Gilbert Sanchez
(OCA)Legislative Recorder I

