

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

**WEDNESDAY, APRIL 30, 2011
BALBOA PARK CLUB – SANTA FE ROOM
2144 PAN AMERICAN ROAD WEST, SAN DIEGO, 92101**

CHRONOLOGY OF THE MEETING:

The meeting was called to order by Chair Dalal at 10:09 a.m. 88 persons were observed to be in attendance. The meeting was adjourned by Chair Dalal at 11:49 a.m. to the next scheduled Pre-Map Public Hearing of the Redistricting Commission on Monday, May 2 at the Regional Transportation Center Showroom.

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

NON-AGENDA PUBLIC COMMENT:

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

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

(Transcript Begins)

Comment 1: Jeannie Foulkrod

So, I've been watching the KUSI news, stories about the Commission, and I question the integrity of the whole Commission and if either we should start from scratch again and actually ask for affiliations. I think that Ms. Quiroz– I'm not sure how to pronounce your name, Ms. Wong and Mr. Marquez, given what has been said about the Commission and what your affiliations are, on the news, I wonder if you should resign or at least make sure the public knows just how non-partisan you are going to be. Thank you.

Comment 2: Joe LaCava

Joe LaCava. I'm speaking under public comment because my comments are actually to the public and not to the Commission. Having attended every meeting here, it seems to me at this point in the game we've got at least four proposals on the table that are incompatible with each other. It seems to me that is not a good thing, because what you're risking is that the Commission is going to make that decision. That means there is going to be three very unhappy groups in this process. Or, if I was a Commissioner, I would throw out all four and come up with a fifth one to make sure no one thought there were any favorites being played, so you're going to have four very unhappy groups. I know a lot of work and effort has been put into this up to this point and maybe it's the mediation training in me, but I would really urge the four groups to sit down with each other and talk with each other and see if there is some plan that you can come up with that's more of a compromise, that meets most of your goals. It will make it a lot easier for the Commission to adopt that and try to make as many people happy as possible. So, that's my two cents on a Saturday morning. Thank you.

Chair Dalal: Thank you, Ms. Wong.

PUBLIC HEARING:

ITEM 1 – WELCOME AND INTRODUCTION BY REDISTRICTING COMMISSION CHAIR

Chair Dalal: Again this is our fifth pre-map public hearing; this is our first one on a weekend. And we did have an opportunity to go out into the communities in Districts 4, 8, 5, and 7. This week we will be in District 3 on Monday, May 2nd at 6:00 p.m. We do have a meeting scheduled at the Regional Transportation Center. Then we will also be in District 2 on Wednesday, May 4th at the Point Loma Hervey Library in the community room. And then the following week we have meetings scheduled in Districts 6 and 1. So we will have all our pre-map public hearings done by Wednesday, May 11th. Then we also have our regular Commission meetings. We do have one this Thursday, May 5th at 4:00 p.m. at the City Council chambers in downtown San Diego. And then another one on Thursday, May 19th at 6:00 p.m. at City Council chambers. Again, I encourage you to come out to any of our future meetings. But we are very happy, again, that you have taken time and have some ideas to share with us. So we look forward later in the agenda to hearing what you have to say about redistricting.

Part of our agenda, we also use this to share information about our work and some of the guidelines we have to follow when coming up with our preliminary redistricting plan. So our next item on the agenda, Ms. Wong, our Chief of Staff, will present an overview of the 2010 Redistricting and Census data. And following her presentation, you will have an opportunity to ask questions regarding the information she shares. Ms. 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 were two questions from the public.

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

Comment 1: Brian Pollard

(Transcript Begins)

I wanted to basically welcome everyone here as well. I am impressed with the turn out on a Saturday morning, here at Balboa Park. My name is Brian Pollard, I live in the 4th District, specifically in a beautiful neighborhood called Valencia Park. I just want to share a few things. With the support of numerous residents, groups and organizations throughout the 4th District, including the Coalition of Neighborhood Councils, BAPAC, the NAACP, the Latino Redistricting Committee, Pastors on Point and numerous other religious organizations, the Valencia Park Town Council, the Webster Community Town Council, and many others, we will be presenting a truly collaborative copy of our proposed new 4th District map. That will be on Monday at City Heights.

In addition to the map, it is critical that our district remain known as the 4th District. The numerical distinction is our community of interest’s brand name. It is commonly used in numerous venues to identify our neighborhoods and our community, a community of passion, beauty, with pride and with energy. In support of the entire process, we definitely support the creation of an additional Latino seat, also the enhancement and the appropriate separation of District 8 to create that additional seat. Of course, we support the enhanced African-American empowerment in District 4, as well as the Asian district within our city, with some changes that would enhance their representation. We support the continuance of the LGBT representation and the rights of all underrepresented groups and communities of interest within our city. In closing, I just want to thank again the Commission for your outreach efforts. It’s gone far, far beyond what has historically been done and I want to thank you for that. I also want to thank you for your focus, energy, and your credibility. Keep up the good work. Thank you very much.

Comment 2: George Mitrovich, San Diego Human Relations Commission

Good morning to you all. I’m George Mitrovich. I am a member of the San Diego Commission on Human Relations. I’m representing our chairman Bruce Abrams, and our vice chair Shonee Henry, and I’m joined this morning by Danell Scarborough who is the executive director of the Human Relations

Commission. I want to read a letter that has been adopted by our Commission and directed to this Commission:

“The San Diego Human Relations Commission is charged with protecting human rights and assuring that all City residents have equal access to economic, political, and educational opportunities. Our mission is to ensure that San Diego is a city where our individual and collective communities are empowered and appreciated. Out of that sense of mission we have great interest in the progress being made by the Redistricting Commission in its efforts to present a plan that provides fair and effective representation for all San Diegans, including racial, ethnic, and language minorities.

“With all due respect, we remind you of the importance of being responsive to the great diversity that marks San Diego. We have serious concerns regarding those communities of interest which in the past have been marginalized in the process. We urge you to maximize representation of all our communities so that the civic well being of San Diego is assured, especially in the critical years ahead.”

On behalf of our Commission and its chairman and vice chairman, and Ms. Scarborough, I would like to thank you for your service to the city and to the service you have rendered to the people of San Diego. As someone who has been involved in the City for a very long time, it’s no small thing to do. Thank you so very much.

Comment 3: Jose Lopez

Good morning, Commissioners. I am Jose Lopez from Fox Canyon. Commissioners, we have paired older neighborhoods with new communities to redistribute resources and City services. We have mixed ethnic groups and cultures, not to divide them but to create diversity. We have established three different district boundaries to gain political clout. All this has served us well in the last ten years and Fox Canyon has prospered within District 7. However, it is time to face reality. As per the last census data of City Heights and taking Fox Canyon as a typical microcosm and a random example, our particular demographic places our current particular population at 1,389, distributed as follows: Latinos 50%; Asians 23%, Black 15%, all other 12%. This new reality forces us to look at and plan for the future, not the past. The future will bring us the proposal of one united City Heights core district. The core of this district will encompass all of City Heights in the south and will pair it with the communities of Talmadge, Kensington, Normal Heights and Adams North to the north, from 805 to 54th street and from 8 to 94, and places the core district number at 99,992 people.

Option one, which you have been also shared, this one– encompasses the City Heights core district, which I just spoke about, plus the communities to the east of Euclid Avenue– College west and east, Rolando, El Cerrito, and Redwood Village, Rolando Park, to La Mesa and from 805 to 94. Preliminary population count of this population group is roughly 139,582 people; this number does not include the City Heights community of Ridgeview. This is our best proposal and preferred option. Coupled together are traditional communities of interest and need, sharing communal, cultural, financial, and traditional bonds, which have existed for more than 30 years within the boundaries of District 7. This proposal is not gerrymandered, achieves great social justice and redistribution of the powerful political and educated elite resources and city services. This proposed option is contiguous, compact and cocooned within major freeways, framing a strong and defined district boundary. This proposed option will leave all planning groups intact within one new district.

Option two encompasses the City Heights core proposal plus the communities to the west of 805 – that will be this one – North Park, Burlingame, South Park, from 8 to the 94. Preliminary population counts for this option is roughly 144,417 residents. This option is not our preferred option but we will be very happy within it. This option will bring a great number of Latino residents together and follow new police enforcement boundaries.

In parting, we reserve the right to newer and extended comments throughout the public hearing period, to redefine the district proposal, the boundaries, and the population numbers to fit set specifications. We urge you to strongly support the City Heights core district, plus option 1. Respectfully submitted, Jose Lopez. Thank you.

Comment 4: Chuy Vallin

Good morning. I want to thank the Commissioners for allowing me to speak. My name is Chuy Vallin and I live in Clairemont because it's close to everything. It's also a melting pot just like San Diego. It is important to me as a Hispanic that there are districts that represent the diversity of people in San Diego. It's also important for the Asian community, African communities, and the Hispanic communities to be fairly represented in the council. Hispanics make up about 29% of the population in the City and we believe that there are least two districts that can be drawn where Hispanics make up the majority of the population. We also believe this can be done and still draw districts that empower the Asian communities and the African-American communities. Please keep this diversity in mind when you are drawing the new city, new county maps. Thank you.

Comment 5: Jim Cunningham

Hi, good morning. My name is James Cunningham. I am a resident of Mira Mesa in District 5. I also have an office in Sorrento Mesa, which is also part of District 5. I am certainly glad that I don't have you people's jobs, because mine is a lot easier than yours. Like many of my neighbors, I commute to and I patronize businesses in both Mira Mesa and Sorrento Mesa. The current City Council District map has Mira Mesa in one district, has Peñasquitos in another district, and the Marine Corp Air Station in yet a third district. I think that is a mistake because Mira Mesa and Peñasquitos have many of the same concerns, such as traffic issues, public safety, and the preservation of the Los Peñasquitos Canyon Preserve, which backs up to my home. Both communities share the canyon as a recreational space and a wildfire could be devastating to both communities. So I feel it's in the best interest that these communities are in the same district. Directly to the south is the Marine Corps Air Station which also employs many military families who live in Mira Mesa. I think it's the City's best interest to keep these communities together and redraw the lines to make them one council. The freeways naturally make the district lines, with 56 to the north, 52 to the south, the 805 the west and the 15 to the east. I feel like that would be a perfect district for me to live in. Thank you.

Comment 6: Bob Velasquez

Good morning, Commission. My name is Bob Velasquez and I'm a resident of the De Anza Cove in Pacific Beach. De Anza is a northeastern part of Mission Bay that is currently in District 6 and not District 2, which is a mistake that shuts out our community in the public process. I support keeping Pacific Beach together, with other beach communities like Mission Beach and Ocean Beach– but I'd like you to also keep in mind, this is all Pacific Beach, including De Anza Cove– in the same District City Council, which obviously would be District 2. The postal service has 92109 for Pacific Beach. As a

resident of De Anza, my personal postal zip code is 92109 – so they're on top of this. As far as the continuity and contiguous territory, if I were to drive out of my residence the closest voter would be in that Pacific Beach district, and also areas of communities of interest, that is under Section 5.1 of City Charter requirements.

Besides, De Anza Cove does deal with all the impacts of the Pacific Beach communities– a beach is a beach, a bay is a bay. But also would be considered a natural boundary according to Section 5 of the City Charter requirements; the bay is a natural boundary. Look at your map, ladies and gentlemen; you can see there is Fiesta Island which obviously doesn't have any voters so there is no impact. To the south of Fiesta Island, you see that large area there – the only residence I'm aware of that live there 24 hours a day are the sharks and the fishes of Sea World. So I ask you to please consider the De Anza Cove area. If you look at your PowerPoint presentation, page 3, or excuse me page 2, slide 3. It says, "Why is this happening? To ensure equal access to all political representation." Our beach issues are bay issues. Thank you very much.

Comment 7: Michael Magallanes

Morning, my name is Mike Magallanes. I've been a resident of Mira Mesa nearly 20 years. We're a suburban community with both new and older homes. Many of our parks have been open for the last ten years, and my family and I have been using the Los Peñasquitos Canyon Preserve as long as I've been there for hiking and bike riding. It's a wonderful treasure and its one of the best parts about living in Mira Mesa. The businesses along Mira Mesa Blvd. between the 805 and 15 are where most people go to shop, go to the movies, and out to eat. Many of our neighbors either work in the southern part near Miramar Road or towards the 805. We'd appreciate your support in keeping Mira Mesa united between the 805 and the 15, to keep us linked with the Los Peñasquitos Canyon Preserve and the businesses on Miramar Road. I'd also like to concur with my neighbor that was up here earlier, that it should be from the 52, as a boundary, to the 56 in the north. Thank you.

Comment 8: Maria Martinez

I live in Barrio Logan which is in District 8. I am a member of the Environmental Health Coalition and I and my colleagues have worked on a lot of social and environmental justice issues in District 8. The people in my district have the same concerns that I do, which is the health of our children. We do not want to see District 8 divided. I do support the idea of another Latino district but I want to maintain District 8 as it is. I live in the district that comprises from San Ysidro to Barrio Logan.

Comment 9: Patricia Bird

Good morning, Commissioners and residents of San Diego. My name is Patricia Bird and I'm a resident of Barrio Logan. My parents were residents of Barrio Logan, my children are residents of Barrio Logan, and my grandchildren are residents of Barrio Logan. In total, there are four generations of us living in Barrio Logan. Why so many generations in this one community? Because this community has always been where we Latinos feel comfortable, where we feel we belong, and where we have friends and family. Those of us that live in District 8, whether in Barrio Logan, Sherman, or San Ysidro, have many things in common. We have a trajectory of coexistence. We seek to improve always, protect our culture, maintain and live our roots, and more than anything share the Latino power we have in this district. We need to maintain the political power for us, the Latino community, and not divide the residents of District 8, especially those of us who live in Barrio Logan. We don't want to be sent to another district.

Our history as a Latino community should stay with the Latino District 8, and we support the map that the Redistricting Committee presented to you today.

Comment 10: Agustin Galindo

Good morning, members of the Commission and residents of San Diego. My name is Agustin Galindo. I am a resident of Barrio Logan and I have lived in the Mercado Apartments for many years. My district is District 8, represented by Mr. David Alvarez. It is my understanding that District 8 will be reduced. I support that the communities that do not remain within District 8 align with the communities that are currently in Districts 4 and 3, to create a community identity. Within these communities would be a new district. We need representation within the City council equivalent with the Latino population of the City of San Diego. I also support increasing the percentage of the African-Americans for District 4 and creating a district that unites Rancho Peñasquitos and Mira Mesa to have a district that represents the population of Asian descent. I completely agree with the map that the Redistricting Committee has developed. Thank you.

Comment 11: Jose Franco Garcia

Good morning, my name is Jose Franco Garcia. I am here representing the Environmental Health Coalition. I wanted to thank the Commissioners and the other residents for being here today on a Saturday, as many people have said. I'm here along with other members of the Environmental Health Coalition that you heard speak right now, because our organization understands the importance of this process for the people of San Diego. The Environmental Health Coalition has spent more than 30 years working with underrepresented communities on environmental justice and environmental health issues. Specifically, we've usually worked south of the 8 freeway; we've worked with residents of District 8 as you've heard here, but also, in District 4 and District 3. We've also been affected by things going on in the other districts. So from our work here, working on these issues we have seen the importance and the benefit of communities being properly represented when it comes to their issues, to their land-use issues, to the different governmental decisions that are made affecting communities.

So with that in mind, we do support, as other members have said here, the make-up of City Council districts properly representing the numbers, the census numbers that we were able to see earlier. For example, seeing that 30% of the City's population is made up of Latinos, it would... you know we have the opportunity to give proper representation to all groups because we have nine City Council districts. That's the decision you all will be making, and with those decisions all groups can be properly represented, and that's what we support, believing that residents and people have the best ability to represent themselves, and have the decisions that they support be reflected in the members that they elect and the decisions that are made affecting the communities where they live. So, with that in mind we do support as much as possible the maintaining of the communities that have worked together and are in District 8.

Because we are going to nine districts, we understand that every district will change and will be getting smaller. But we do believe this an opportunity, that there can be another district that has a majority Latino population, showing the proper representation that would be made up from 30% of the City's population and there is an opportunity here to further empower other groups such as African-American communities in District 4 and LGBT communities in District 3 and we see all these things working together as the abilities, the possibilities that can come from going to nine city council districts. So, the Environmental Health Coalition supports these principles, and with this in mind we just hope that this

Commission takes into account maps reflecting these district divisions that would give this proper representation and support for the communities that are south of the 8 freeway. Thank you.

Comment 12: Andy Berg, Rancho Peñasquitos Town Council

Thank you, good morning. My name is Andy Berg. I'm the president of the Rancho Peñasquitos Town Council. I wanted to just take a quick 5 seconds aside – two previous speakers asked for the 56 to be a northern boundary. Whatever you do, please don't do that. That would split Rancho Peñasquitos right in half. That would not be a boundary that we would like no matter what map you come up with, so we would appreciate that. And that kind of talks to the complication of this whole issue; this whole issue is very complicated. And we looked at this for a long time in subcommittee, came up with an idea that we thought our community of interest is – our school district and our children. Rancho Peñasquitos has more children than any other community per capita in this city, and it's not even really that close. Everything our children do is in that surrounding area, and we've talked about that. But we've put out a map based on Rancho Peñasquitos area being in Poway Unified School District, Rancho Bernardo, etc. We are on version number 10 of that map now. That's why it's complicated. People think, "56, well that's a good dividing point." Well, it's not. We thought some things were good too, until we heard some people from other communities and we got to learn about their communities. They said, "Well, don't do that because that would divide us." So we said, "Well, that makes sense." And we looked back at the census tracts and said, "Well, there's only like 5 people there, we can move that; it doesn't change the numbers, it makes it better." I think our tenth version is the best one yet. I sent that out to our Chief of Staff yesterday. I think by the time we get to our 15th version, it'll be even better, because we keep getting responses back from people to make communities what they are.

So, I've said a lot about what our community is; it is our children. It's their band, it's their youth sport, it's everything they do, and everything they do is north of us, unfortunately. My kids have never played against anybody in Mira Mesa, they've played as far away as Menifee. They've played in Fallbrook. They play mostly in Rancho Bernardo and Carmel Mountain Ranch and Torrey Highlands, which I mentioned the other day is where my daughter goes to high school. Rancho Peñasquitos High School, Westview High School – we supported on the town council, we give them money every year for their school newspaper; it's in Torrey Highlands. Those communities are really tied together.

We have heard from the other groups that there are these... all of a sudden the Peñasquitos Preserve is no longer a natural boundary, it's a shared resource. So the 8 freeway is a shared resource between Hillcrest and Mission Valley, let's kind of keep them together if that's what we are going to do. I don't get that.

I'm a little concerned when I look at the other map. I don't want to pick on things too much; maybe they can... their second version will be better. But right now you have a District 5, on the APAC map, that starts in San Pasqual and ends in Mission Valley. That's almost the whole contiguous city. I'm sure that could be fixed. You have in that map, areas – a little piece of Kearny Mesa, part of University City. Basically, we just grabbed Asian census block, after Asian census block, after Asian census block, and put a group together that had the right number of people and was contiguous, although barely, that was contiguous, and didn't care about any of the communities. And I'm telling you, from talking to people in communities around the city, community is what matters. Every one of you lives in a community; we live there for a reason. There's things you love about your community; there's things we love about ours. Try to listen to communities and not all the other special interests.

Comment 13: Joan Raymond

Good morning. My name is Joan Raymond. I'm a native of San Diego and I live in Ocean Beach in District 2. Thank you for the opportunity to speak. I think sometimes– I've noticed that it's very easy to lump in all the communities on the Point Loma peninsula together and to say that they are one large community. But the east side and the west side of the peninsula are very different. On the east side of the peninsula, it is much more connected to downtown development and the big money that seems to stick downtown. Also, the east side is more connected to the city's deep military roots, like Liberty Station at the old Navy training center, the Navy base in Point Loma, the Marine Corps Recruit Depot, the SPAWAR building, all the way out to Fort Rosecrans.

But as soon as you cross over to Catalina Boulevard on to Ocean Beach, the 92107 area code, this is much more of a beach community that deals with a lot of the same issues as the other beach communities, like Mission Beach and Pacific Beach. We have food co-ops, bars that feature live musical acts, and a much younger group of residents than you would find on the eastern side of the peninsula, except for the recruits at the training center at MCRD. I believe that it is this youthful energy that helps keep me young, even though I'm not young anymore. That's why I continue to stay at the beach. Every day we surf or go to the beach or walk along the beach. We are heavy duty dog walkers, especially along the beach, along Sunset Cliffs. So, to sum it all up, if the Point Loma peninsula were San Diego's odd couple, and the eastern part along the airport, it would be Felix. And we in Ocean Beach, we would be proudly Oscar, a little less concerned with drawing inside the lines, but having a whole lot of fun anyway. So, please keep this in mind when redrawing the lines in a more balanced way. And we so appreciate you holding these public hearings and not having a lot of action behind closed doors. There's too much of that lack of transparency these days. Thank you.

Comment 14: Kelly Mayhew

Hi, my name is Kelly Mayhew and I really don't envy your job. My husband and I teach at City College and live just up the hill from the campus in Golden Hill. We choose to raise our son in this community because of its diversity and its rich collection of people. And it's also because it's reflective of our commitment as teachers and our preference to live in a kind of polyglot community. Just as it's true of San Diego as a whole, Latinos now make up a larger percentage of City College's student population. We've been working really hard on our campus to accommodate this growing community of interest. This makes me reflect on your job and what's happening right now with redistricting in San Diego as a whole. As the recent census figures show, Latinos now make up, what? ...about 29% of San Diego's population. So, I believe it's important that efforts similar to the ones we're doing at City College be made in our politics as a whole so that we have representation in these communities of interest that serve these communities in a way that is sensitive to people's needs. So I think it's really important that we keep the historical communities of interest, Latino communities of interest intact, and that we enhance Latino empower in District 8 by maintaining its unity with south San Diego. And also create a second Latino empowerment district, uniting City Heights with majority Latino neighborhoods to the south. I think these communities will be served much better by council members who have the same experiences, histories, cultures and who reflect our values as a diverse community. So, thank you.

Comment 15: Pastor Wayne Riggs

Good morning, Commissioners. I'm Wayne Riggs, pastor of Plymouth Congregational Church in North Park. I have been there for the last 22 years and I will refrain from doing anything too religious, like

preaching or taking up a collection or anything like that. But I do want to address an issue that is important, I think, not only to the faith community but to social services. I'd like to speak in favor of keeping North Park and other uptown communities such as University Heights and Hillcrest in the same council district. I bring this up because the non-profit Uptown Faith Community Service Center, a new 501C3, provides a broad range of social services and it's sponsored by congregations and by organizations in zip codes 92103, 104, and 116. Monthly food distributions from the San Diego Food Bank are also provided through churches in these zip codes. My point is that is very helpful to have one City Council member to communicate with when we are dealing with a lot of the very issues that affect all of these communities contiguous to each other and who have been tied together historically for decades. Plymouth Congregational Church has been an integral part of District 3 and of the uptown community over all these decades. In the last two decades, we have received public recognition from District 3 for our involvement in the well-being of these communities. So, these boundaries– it's important to us that these communities remain in the same district and we appeal to you to consider that in your deliberations. Thank you very much.

Comment 16: Jane Bausa

Hello, my name is Jane Bausa and I live in the Oak Park community in District 4. I am Filipina and a lot of my neighbors are also proud Asian-Americans. We love the diversity of the Oak Park community, but we know the best opportunity to create a district that gives the Asian and Pacific Islander the greatest voice is not in our neighborhood. Nonetheless, we are excited to see the possibility of uniting Rancho Peñasquitos, Mira Mesa, and the Convoy district in Kearny Mesa to create a district that has a population that is at least 35% Asian and Pacific Islander and keep it combined with its cultural landmarks. Asian Americans now make up 16% of the city. Of the nine city council districts, we are hopeful that there will be one with a strong Asian American population. Please do not split up Oak Park and I urge you to please recognize the growing Asian population in San Diego. Thank you.

Comment 17: Ken Seaton-Msemaji

Good morning, I'm Ken Seaton-Msemaji. Again, I'm shocked at some of these people who run through everyone of these sessions making unfounded, as a matter of fact, un-factual allegations against you all on the Commission. And I think they are trying to do that for the record, so let's deal with the record. The record is, the facts are that the judges who selected you were appointed by George Deukmejian, not Jerry Brown. The judges who selected you were apolitical in their deliberation. If they were political, they'd have a black on the Commission; if they were political they'd have one from each council district. They picked people based on your education and other considerations, who they thought were going to be the most impartial people around. So, let's keep that straight. We're not going to tolerate somebody trying to mess up this whole process because they have some extreme agenda they want to pursue.

I agree with Mr. Pollard. He has done an excellent job for the 4th District bringing all sorts of people together, individuals and groups. We support everything he and that District has said in terms of preserving a district that reflects Black interests.

A second Latino district: the second Latino district is very important for all the reasons you've heard of, but there is another connection, another community of interest. In City Heights there are immigrants of all kinds– all sorts of Asians, all sorts of Africans, all sorts of Latinos in there. I heard someone say that City Heights is the Ellis Island of San Diego, and I think that's true. It's another community of interest

that supports the 2nd Latino District. We support preserving the opportunity for the LGBT community. We support the Asian opportunity in Mira Mesa and keeping that business district in there too. And the beach people– Ocean Beach, Pacific Beach... that makes a lot of sense from all sorts of the criteria pointed to on there. So, thank you very much and we know that you are going to keep the Voting Rights Act in mind, the Constitution in mind, the City Charter in mind, appropriate laws and not the stuff you are being falsely accused of.

Comment 18: Fajari Jeffers

Hi, my name is Fajari Jeffers and I was born in San Diego. I've lived here consistently for the last 45 years, so I consider myself a home-girl. The key point I want to make is that our city needs a voice for everyone and the more inclusive the power structure is of the City Council, the stronger and richer our city will be. So, I think that our city should protect the District 4 for African Americans to be elected. I also support the second Latino district because the numbers require it. So, I appreciate your efforts to do that. I support the LGBT district, District 3 so they need a continuing voice. And we should create a district where an Asian American can also be elected, possibly in the Mira Mesa/Rancho Peñasquitos area, that makes sense. And I also support the comments that were made by a previous speaker. He was talking just about the physical boundaries of the district, how when they were talking about how the physical boundaries make sense, how the Mira Mesa area is the area where Asians live and where they could possibly elect a representative for the first time. So, thank you for your work. It's a difficult area, but isn't it fun also? You have a very important job, so thank you.

Comment 19: Tim Nguyen

Thank you, Commissioners and staff for your tireless efforts. My name is Tim Nguyen and this is my first time speaking in a public forum for a cause. Coincidentally, this is what this process is about, which is providing an outlet to those who have not been heard. I have been following this process closely. The things that I've learned are effective are personal stories and professional perspective. Today, I will try to provide you with both. My parents arrived in this country in 1982 and my childhood was spent in City Heights, then later Linda Vista. To give you a quick snapshot, the kids I played with in my neighborhood were Afghani, Ethiopian, Romanian, Mexican, and Indian. I remain friends with many of them today. I consider myself fortunate to have this firsthand experience of the rich diversity of the city. And I believe this is a reason of us being in this environment, is the reason why I am here today.

In my teens my family moved, pretty much followed all of our relatives north to Mira Mesa and this is pretty much where we stayed since. I did leave the city for a little bit to go to college, but I returned. And this past year, my wife and I bought our first home to be near our parents who are now in Rancho Peñasquitos. Now this is my personal story; however, I'm sure it's not unique, as there are thousands of households in purposed District 9, and today, I believe I am the voice for many of them.

Now professionally, I am an urban planner and served as the immediate past community planner for most of the northern areas you see there. Now, I can attest that the greater Carmel Valley area shares similar interests with coastal areas of La Jolla and Torrey Pines. So I urge you to keep this in mind when drawing your lines. Now, on the eastern end of the 56, some may consider Los Peñasquitos Canyon a natural divide, while to others it's a shared mutual interest. Black Mountain Road is an artery that starts and ends in Rancho Peñasquitos and Mira Mesa. It ties populations to jobs, medical services, and families. And as someone who studies census data closely, there is no doubt that there has been a lot of

growth in the northern areas and there is about a 40% API population in the contiguous area from UTC all the way to Ranch Peñasquitos.

Now in closing, like many here I was extremely hesitant to get involved. Some of my fears were realized when concerns focused on race, and I hope that everyone can see it's not about that, but rather commonalities, culture, and communities. Now at the root of all this is the drive for fair representation. Now, this imbedded in our country's history from the arrivals of the Europeans in the 1800s, the great migration of the 1920s that gave rise to Harlem and the Chicago's south side, which helped put a minority president– to be the first minority president. More recently, closer to home, the Latino and LGBT communities have shown that local representation is the gateway to having a voice in State matters. These groups have shown our system works and the citizens of the city should be proud and embrace our diversity. Thank you very much.

Comment 20: Dr. Allen Chan

Good morning, Commissioners. Thank you for your hard work. I am Dr. Allen W. Chan. I moved to Rancho Peñasquitos in 1988, so I've been there for about 22 years now. I represent the Asian Pacific American Coalition. The new map that we proposed on Monday has been skillfully and carefully crafted, following all the regulations/guidelines of the City Charter, and also following the federal Constitution and the federal Voting Rights Act of 1965.

This new district is uniting Rancho Peñasquitos, Mira Mesa, north UTC, and also Torrey Highlands, as well as west Miramar base and west Kearny Mesa in the south. It's bounded by 15, 163, 805, with Rancho Peñasquitos and Mira Mesa as our major, as I call that, our master bedrooms, and with the Rancho Peñasquitos Preserve as our common courtyard. That's where we go hiking, running, and jogging and where our children do their scouting activities.

These two major communities have very similar development histories, along with the I-15 improvements. We have relatives and grown children, and now grandchildren living in those two areas. Our children go to higher education at Miramar College and also at UCSD where 44% of the students happen to be Asian-Pacific American. There are also many ethnic language schools and after school programs all over Mira Mesa and Kearny Mesa, helping to preserve and promote the Asian culture that makes United States strong. Mira Mesa, UTC, and Kearny Mesa are also our daily places for grocery shopping, for worshiping, for dining, and for movies and other recreational and festival and cultural activities happening over there. A significant number of residents in those areas also work in the financial districts, high-tech, bio-tech companies in Sorrento Valley and UTC, as well as hundreds of small businesses in Mira Mesa and Kearny Mesa.

The U.S. economy depends on small business. A significant amount of Asian-Pacific residents in the district own and operate small businesses in Mira Mesa and Kearny Mesa of the new District 9. If you just drive along Mira Mesa Boulevard, along Black Mountain Road to the south, and also along Convoy Street you will understand why we are proposing the district we are proposing. The familial, educational, social-economical, commercial, recreational, and spiritual ties in these communities are so strong, and they so intertwined that it's truly a shame to have kept those communities separated and placed into different districts for so long. San Diego has 30% Latinos, and the second largest minority group in San Diego is the Asian Pacific Americans. 16% of the population in San Diego or about 21,000 of the residents in San Diego are Asian and Pacific Americans. In the new District 9 that we are proposing, it's 38.7%– that is over 56,000 people of Asian American descent living in the district. Yet,

Asian Pacific Americans in San Diego have no representation at all since 1967. That is 44 years ago, when the one and only Asian Pacific American city councilman in the history of San Diego, the honorable Tom Hom, was elected to the state capital and left San Diego.

Redistricting is about representation and also about preserving the voting rights of the residents so their voices can be heard and their interests can be represented, and yet we have experienced attacks from different interest groups, so that they can preserve and promote their interest, but as Asian Pacific Americans we are not even allowed to speak of it. So dear Commissioners, please listen to the voice of the people and help us preserve the communities of interest in the new proposed District 9 as one district, so we can all make this great city of San Diego a better place to live for all of us. Thank you.

Comment 21: Adam Manhbaoboua

Good morning, Commissioners. My name is name is Adam Manhbaoboua. I am here representing APAC and the Laotian community. We have submitted a proposed map of the 9th Council District comprising the areas of Mira Mesa, Rancho Peñasquitos, Miramar base, and Kearny Mesa. This new council district is truly a community of interest as Dr. Chan highlighted in his presentation. Our community of interest represents 16% of the population in the city. Our community of interest represents over 200,000 San Diegans. Our community of interest can no longer be ignored. Our community of interest must be fairly represented. Commissioners, I understand that you want this process to be as fair as possible, that's why you have more public hearings than required. I know 7 are required and you are having 20 plus and I know the citizen's really appreciate that. I also know that in your heart you are volunteering your time because you genuinely care for the city and want to see our city bettered. Personally, I feel the same way. I don't think I would have the same devotion, passion and commitment to attend these hearings and continue to fight if I didn't think having an API-influenced district would make our city stronger. Does having an API-influenced district make our city stronger? You don't have to look any further than the history of our great nation. Our nation is built on groups and communities that were at one point disenfranchised, not fairly represented, not having a voice. I'm talking about African Americans, the Hispanic/Latinos, LGBT, even women. They organized and fought for equality and justice. Now, they are empowered. They are able to accomplish and contribute more to our great nation. Everyone wins. When the API community is fairly represented our city will become stronger. We all win as San Diegans; we all win as Americans. Thank you.

Comment 22: Ann Garwood

Good morning. My name is Ann Garwood and I've lived in Hillcrest since 1984. I am a volunteer, an activist, president of the Hillcrest History Guild, active with the Hillcrest Town Council, and until recently I was a member of the Hillcrest Business Association since 1983. I'm glad that you are meeting today in Balboa Park. We love our park but we all have issues that deal around here as well. I think a lot of people from our neighborhood wanted to come to the meeting today but if they tried to get across the Cabrillo Bridge they weren't able to. And to get here from there, takes another 15 minutes. Like you said, the good weather, saddled with that obstacle, kept a lot of our neighbors from attending today. We have a rich history in our neighborhood— all the older neighborhoods that circle Balboa Park, and I think the way the district currently divides uptown, with Hillcrest being in a district to the east and Banker's Hill and Mission Hills and Old Town being in a district to the west, is not really fair. I think these older rich communities have a need to be represented at City Hall. We really aren't being, because we're splintered. I think that Hillcrest has more in common with the older community of Golden Hill or even Sherman Heights, than we do with some of the communities further to the east. I support the older

neighborhoods of character being represented by one council member, and to have that representative voice speak for our community. I think we are all tied with the neighborhood as our community of interest and even though I am a lesbian that is not why I chose this as my home. Thank you.

Comment 23: Santos Thorton

Good afternoon, my name is Santos Gilbert Thorton. I have been in the City Heights area for the last 15 years. I support a new Latino district because it's a very diverse area, where I raise my daughter, where my two brothers go to school, and where I plan to baptize my daughter– at the Sacred Heart church. I support empowerment for African-Americans and the LGBT communities, but I disagree with the APAC map because it disenfranchises many communities. However, I do support political empowerment for the API community as well. Thank you.

Comment 24: Lee Sandvick

Thank you, thank you. My name is Lee Sandvick. I'm a resident of Pacific Beach. I moved here when I was 16. Now, I would like to speak on behalf of this process, on behalf of the redistricting Commission, and what they must accomplish here today and forward. Now, there is a lot of good plans submitted, a lot of good comments. But what they need to do, notwithstanding any comments made, they need to follow the mandates set forth by San Diego and ICLEI, and to adhere to their policy and their agenda. They need to draw up the district that will elect the most liberal and progressive candidates that will further the agenda of San Diego and Agenda 21. What is Agenda 21? It was an agreement signed by President Bush in 1992 that by 2025 we will have a global government, one world order so to speak. And to do that they needed to have– redistricting is a very important part of furthering that agenda. And I just wanted to speak on behalf of the Commission, that is what they are mandated to do– is to draw up the districts that will give them the elected representatives that will further that agenda. Now in closing, I'd like to say that the original agenda was by 2025, and I just recently read that it's been kicked up to 2015, as told by the Clinton Sustainable Community committee in Washington DC. So, just so that everyone is aware of the bigger picture and full implementation of ICLEI mandates loss of private property rights. So the districts will be drawn along those goals. Thank you.

Comment 25: Nicolas Portillo

Hi, my name is Nicolas Portillo. First, I'd like to thank the panel for giving me the opportunity to speak. And like my brother over here, I do support the selection processes and I do think it was fair. I come here in support of the formation of another Latino council district, encompassing some of the communities in District 8 and in District 3 right now. I live in the Southcrest/Shelltown part of the city and I chose to buy a house there and raise a family there because it was a good fit between my hometown of National City and my wife's home neighborhood of Sherman Heights. Also, one of the other reasons, is that it happens to be by one of my favorite stores which is Northgate Market. In that market, and walking my communities I have seen and I have talked to all kinds of different people. I've talked to Eastern Europeans, you know Roma; I've talked to French-speaking Africans; Spanish; there's a big Hmong and Lao community right by where I live. I am a social worker for the county, and my route encompasses the 92115 and the 92105 zip codes of the city. A new district in the mid-city southern portions of the city would be great. The constituency would have a common culture and value system. I walk into the different stores and community buildings on my route and in my own neighborhood and I feel equally at home in both areas, where I live and where I work. Also, an added benefit to having

another Latino district, it would also consolidate the interests of the LGBT community and the African-American communities. Thank you very much and I do appreciate what you do.

Comment 26: Remigia Bermudez

Honorable Commissioners, Ms. Wong, staff and public in attendance, thank you for serving our communities with such an important and difficult task, because it is. Given the 2010 Census results all of the existing City Council districts are overpopulated and new boundaries are currently being proposed for a ninth district which will be created. And as you have been exposed, every area wants the new district to be in their neck of the woods– we all want it here, now!– and for their preferred community of interest. That makes it a tough decision for you and a tough decision for the residents as well. Thus, I appreciate that the San Diego Redistricting Commission holds pre-map hearings in the various council districts and that many of us are participating.

I am Remigia Bermudez, a resident of District 8 and reside at 2210 L Street in Sherman Heights. The results of the 2010 census indicate that my district, District 8, is currently overpopulated by 20,000 people. So district 8 has to give up territory that houses 20,000 people. As you heard the consensus in south San Diego, south San Diego does not want to be separated from District 8. And I believe all the communities in District 8 don't want to be split. We just don't. But we have to give up an area or areas with 20,000 people. WE in District 8 also do not want our current City Council member gerrymandered out of our own District 8. We've worked too hard to finally get an elected official who truly cares about our communities and is serving us with diligence.

The decision is difficult. So as you look at the various maps that have been submitted to you, please remember that these maps are not set in stone but rather are moving targets that have to be refined time and time again. These pre-map plans basically establish a foundation for talking points and subsequent modifications as needed. It is crucial to present proposed maps and boundaries to you, to keep you informed of our wishes and to keep you accountable and to achieve the best outcome for all San Diego residents. The Commission has a difficult task.

As I participate in this hearing, community forums, and community of interest meetings, I can't help but be concerned. Let's not forget the silent majority. There are large numbers that are not being reached out to solicit their input. Who is speaking for them? I don't have an answer other than that each one of us has a responsibility to get the word out and include as many people as possible in this process. Above all, let's not forget the communities south of I-8 and south of 94 who have been historically underserved, underrepresented, and unheard. So as you start formulation plans for the new boundaries, do the right thing and deliver justice to our communities south of I-8 and 94. Create a ninth district comprising it with communities south of I-8 and 94. Support residents of District 3, District 4, and District 8, and do not add downtown to District 8. Thank you very much.

Comment 27: Clovis Honoré

God bless you and good afternoon. My name is Clovis Honoré. I reside what is typically called Paradise Hills but is actually Southbay Terraces. Three quick points and I hope I can do that before the little red light flashes. First, I heard a lot of people say that they don't envy you in the position and responsibility that you have. I'm not sure what that is supposed mean. You did volunteer for the positions, so you kind of knew what was coming down the pike and at the same time I think it's wonderful that you took on the responsibility to do for our city what needs to be done. So, while I don't envy you because I don't have

envy in the process, I think it's wonderful that you're doing what you're doing and I think it's the right thing to do.

Second, I was looking at the statistics that you have in terms of redistricting and I noticed that you don't have cumulative numbers on what you identify as race and ethnicity on the document. And I bring that up because quite frequently we hear the term minority used and I'm a little confused by what you mean when every ethnicity on this list is a minority in this city and in this county. There is no majority. Whites make up 45.1% based on the numbers you have here so I'm not quite sure what you mean when you use the term minority. And thirdly, I think I shared some of this during a previous meeting.... A lot of what we do in terms of redistricting is a result of some activity that took place in the 60s, in the civil rights era. I want to quote for you something from somebody that most of us will recognize, Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King, from his *I Have a Dream* speech. He said, "Let freedom ring." He said, "When this happens, when we let it ring from every village, from every hamlet, from every state, from every city, we will be able to speed up the day when all god's children, black men and white men, Jews and gentiles, Protestants and Catholics, will be able to join hands." And while the tenure of the conversation continues to be about what we call communities of interest where we highlight and define our differences and distinctions, which are important and very valuable, I hope that whatever comes out of this process, wherever those nine districts are drawn, and whoever ends up leading those nine districts, that they will remember to love and respect everyone in San Diego who they will actually represent. Thank you for your time.

(Transcript Ends)

ADJOURNMENT:

Chair Dalal adjourned the meeting at 11:49 a.m.

Julie Corrales, Executive Secretary
2010 Redistricting Commission

Written Comments Received at the April 30, 2011 Redistricting Commission Public Hearing

Comment 1: Silvia Leon, Sherman Heights

I support that our community remain what it is today. We have worked hard to unite as a community with the boundaries we have now. In the past people with personal interests have tried to undo what we've worked hard for by trying to make District 8 part of downtown San Diego. I do not support it because we don't want the problems from downtown to be ours. Keep downtown away and allow that district's representation to work as they should on fixing them. I do support another Latino district, but I do ask that you consider my opinions as a long time resident of District 8.

Comment 2: Ildifonso Carrillo, Sherman Heights

As a gay Latino couple, my partner and I have decided to live in District 8. This is where our friends and family live. The unique identity and strong Latino lifestyle defines our district. I do not support any action by the commission to join downtown or to separate our unique community. District 8 as it currently exists is where we would continue to live and self-identify.