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NASSAU COUNTY  
TEMPORARY DISTRICTING  
ADVISORY COMMISSION

\*\*\*\*\*

MEETING III

Held at

HEMPSTEAD TOWN HALL  
ONE WASHINGTON AVE  
HEMPSTEAD, NY 11550

\*\*\*\*\*

FRANCIS X. MORONEY

CHAIR

\*\*\*\*\*

Nassau County Legislature  
1550 Franklin Avenue  
Mineola, New York

\*\*\*\*\*

Wednesday, September 21, 2022

6:00 p.m.

TAKEN BY: KAREN LORENZO, OFFICIAL COURT REPORTER

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A P P E A R A N C E S :

COMMISSIONERS :

FRANCIS X. MORONEY, CHAIRMAN

PETER BEE

JOHN J. REINHARDT

MAUREEN FITZGERALD

CHRISTOPHER DEVANE

ERIC MALLETTE

\*\*\*

DAVID MEJIAS, VICE CHAIR

JARED KASSCHAU, EXCUSED

ANDRENA WYATT

JAMES MAGIN, JR.

MICHAEL PERNICK

\*\*\*

EXECUTIVE DIRECTORS :

ELISABETTA COSCHIGNANO

RACHEL WHITMORE, EXCUSED

\*\*\*

BOARD ATTORNEYS :

VINCENT MESSINA, ESQ.

PETER CLINES, ESQ.

CLERK :

MICHAEL PULITZER

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A L S O A P P E A R E D:

PUBLIC COMMENT:

- Ann Leiter - LWV of Nassau County
- Abbey McHugh - Common Cause
- Robert Harris
- John R. Boyd, Sr. - Roosevelt C of C
- Dan Oppenheimer - (Self)
- Kevin McKenna - (Self)
- James Hoge - (Self)
- Daphne Mullaly - (Self)
- C. Griffin - Hempstead Vill. Trust.
- Noah Burroughs Hempstead Vill. Trust.
- Reginald Benjamin - ABBA Leadership
- A. Supreme Mathematics
- Doris Sharpe - (Self)
- Frederick Brewington
- M. Hobbs, Jr.
- H. Scottie Gourdine
- Meta Mereday
- Lyndell Senior
- Kiana Abbady
- Sanjeey Jindal

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Selina Henderson

Casey Marlero

Dr. Emily Moore

Alina Uzilov

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AGENDA

1. Open meeting - Pledge of Allegiance
2. Chairman's Statement
3. Introduction of the Commissioner's
4. Public Statement
5. Other Business

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CHAIRMAN MORONEY: If I could, would you please rise, we are going to start off with the Pledge of Allegiance.

(Whereupon, the Pledge of Allegiance is recited.)

CHAIRMAN MORONEY: Our clerk is under the weather today, so we have a bunch of amateurs trying to keep this thing going. Forgive us if we make any mistakes. I apologize ahead of time.

First, roll call.

Peter Bee.

COMMISSIONER BEE: Present.

CHAIRMAN MORONEY: John J. Reinhardt.

COMMISSIONER REINHARDT: Present.

CHAIRMAN MORONEY: Maureen Fitzgerald.

COMMISSIONER FITZGERALD: Present.

CHAIRMAN MORONEY: Christopher Devane.

COMMISSIONER DEVANE: Present.

CHAIRMAN MORONEY: Eric Mallette.

COMMISSIONER MALLETT: Present.

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CHAIRMAN MORONEY: David Mejias.

COMMISSIONER MEJIAS: Here.

CHAIRMAN MORONEY: Jared Kasschau.

COMMISSIONER KASSCHAU: Here.

CHAIRMAN MORONEY: Andrena Wyatt.

COMMISSIONER WYATT: Present.

CHAIRMAN MORONEY: James Magin, Jr.

COMMISSIONER MAGIN: Present.

CHAIRMAN MORONEY: Michael Pernick.

COMMISSIONER PERNICK: Present.

CHAIRMAN MORONEY: Myself. I'm  
present also.

First of all, I want to thank you  
for all coming out especially on a day as  
beautiful as this one.

I want to welcome to you to the  
third public hearing of the Temporary  
Districting Advisory Commission. There  
will be additional opportunities for the  
public to have input into the process.  
To date, the members of both the  
Republican and Democratic Delegations  
have hear from approximately 43 speakers  
with varying requests to keep various

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communities together. I trust that the public attendees and those streaming the proceedings will feel free to share their ideas and requests.

The Commission consists of 11 members with a non voting chairman being appointed by the County Executive. There are five members appointed by the presiding officer and five by the minority leader.

The Commission permits, but does not require public hearings. Prior reapportionments processes established the tradition that permissive meetings seeking public input should held, hence these proceedings.

There has been much concern with the County website and difficulty navigating the site. As a result, a team of IT specialists from the County have worked tirelessly to address the shortcomings of the current system. The improvements will make it easier to locate transcripts, prior hearings, and

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streaming. The IT team will take a look at this hearing and test the ease of use and implement any additional changes that are required.

The County Legislature allocated \$985,000 for this Commission split essentially in half between the two sides. Money is set aside from the whole to pay for stenographic services, American Sign Language interpreters, and the Language Line to assist non English speaking attendees, and other shared costs by the commissions to each of the delegations as they arise.

Each delegation of appointees divides the balance of the \$985,000 for the purchase needed for mapping technology, software, and the hiring of professionals, lawyers, and other staff.

In developing of a map or maps the Commission must comply with both Federal and State Law. The proceedings have to be fair and transparent to the public.

That transparency is achieved by

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significant outreach to the public and holding public hearings on any maps or plans for redistricting which may be submitted by the Commission or others.

Once the maps or plans are drawn, there will be an opportunity for the public to see and give an opinion as to the work product. The updated website will have the link to any and all maps that may be presented to this Commission or by this Commission, which will take comment on the work product.

Thereafter, the map or maps will be turned over to the Legislature. Likewise, all transcripts and public comment that are generated to the Temporary District Advisory Commission are submitted to the Full Legislature for their consideration. In addition, any items included in the record may also be delivered to the County Legislature.

The Full Legislature will conduct hearings on the submissions by the appropriate legislative committee and

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then by the entire Legislature.

The goal of the Temporary Districting Advisory Commission is to have our process complete its hearings so that the Legislature will have adequate time to review any submissions of maps and conduct their hearings as well.

The County Legislature may reject, adopt, revise or amend the redistricting plan or plans recommended by the Temporary Districting Advisory Commission or adopt any other redistricting plan that meets all the constitutional Federal, State, and statutory requirements.

In an effort to achieve transparency, all meetings and hearings will be public and streaming live over the internet. The Legislative Clerk will preserve all of those records.

Further, the Commission will stream the hearings and keep the record open for a period of time after completion of the public hearings by this Commission. It

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will include these submissions including any e-mails or correspondence received prior to the date of the record; however, if there is any correspondence or any other information, likewise, can be forwarded to the Full Legislature. So even if you don't make the deadline, you still have an opportunity to get it in.

In preparation for the hearing, a hearing notice is sent to several groups, many groups. They are as follows:

The Office of the County Executive; all County Legislators, Members of the Minority Commission Delegation; Members of the Majority Commission Delegation; Nassau County League of Women Voters; The City of Glen Cove; The City of Long Beach; The Town of Hempstead; The Town of North Hempstead; The Town of Oyster Bay; 22 villages in the Town of Hempstead; 30 villages in the Town of North Hempstead; 16 villages in the Town of Oyster Bay; 55 libraries; 57 school districts; 67 civic associations; 50 chambers of commerce;

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and 150 news and media outlets that service Nassau County.

The public may send anything written to 1550 Franklin Avenue and on that website is a link to send e-mails if that's what you wish. All communications will be distributed to each of the members upon their receipt.

There are additional meetings scheduled for September 28, 2022 at Long Beach City Hall; Glen Cove on October 18, 2022; and North Massapequa at Albany Avenue.

Before I open the floor to public comment, I understand that the Democratic Delegation has some resolutions they wish to put forth. For the record, those were sent by e-mail and received at 1:34 p.m. yesterday and sent to the Republican Delegation at 3:44 p.m. yesterday.

With that, let me turn it over to Commissioner Mejias for his explanation and, perhaps, address any questions.

COMMISSIONER MEJIAS: Thank you,

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Chairman Moroney. My name is David Mejias. I am chairman of the Democratic Delegation of the Redistricting Commission.

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We continue to have grave concern with the lack of transparency with this Commission and the lack of fairness in the process. Every agenda and every meeting has been dictating unilaterally by Chairman Moroney, a non voting member. This violates our County Charter which requires six affirmative votes for any action by the Commission including setting a hearing schedule or setting agendas. This is consistent of past practice of this Commission ten years ago when Mr. Moroney was the chair back then also.

We are participating in these meetings under protest because we don't want to let the unlawful action of the chair stand in the way of the hearing of he public. We are here under duress, because if we don't show up at these

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unilaterally dictated meetings, we will have zero input, just as we have had zero input in setting the agendas or the hearing schedule.

Input from all members of the Commission is important and it matters. The one sided process without any bipartisan collaboration is bad for the public and prevents our Commission from doing the important work of trying to work collaboratively and forge a compromise that can earn six votes.

I see here that there is a time limit of three minutes, I believe. In our first meeting there were a significant number of nonwhite community members in attendance. Our chairman enforced a three minute limit and even arranged for an alarm to cut off at the three minute mark.

As the second hearing where the attendees were mostly white, our chair did not issue the three minute limit at all and not a single voter or speaker was

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interrupted. Now we have a room of mostly nonwhite attendees and again, we've been told that the testimony will be cut off after three minutes.

In addition, the transparency of the Commission has been woefully inadequate. We have heard tonight that there is still testing being done to the website. This is our third hearing. The updates to the website in the last week are grossly insufficient and we have asked for substantial information to be posted publicly, because the website should be the best place for everyone to access information regarding redistricting. We have asked for resolutions to be submitted by the Democratic Delegation to be posted and it's been denied. We have asked for agendas submitted by the Democratic Delegation; minutes and transcripts from all previous hearings; items submitted into the record of all meetings; correspondence between the Democratic Delegation and the chairman;

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current map, data and shapefiles;  
relevant legal materials controlling the  
redistricting process be posted on the  
website so you either don't have to spend  
time away from your family here tonight  
or do research on you own to understand  
what the law is. You can access it on  
your own and in time. There are plenty  
of people who couldn't be here tonight.  
Some people didn't know how to get into  
this room, like me. I went to the front  
door of Town Hall, it's locked.

On August 31, Commissioner Pernick  
proposed a resolution calling for all  
this information and more to be posted on  
the website. The resolution was voted  
down. All Democrats voted in favor and  
all Republicans voted against.  
Democratic Commissioners have repeatedly  
asked for materials and information to be  
posted on the website, but our requests  
have been ignored.

We, therefore, are proposing a  
simple resolution stating that the Clerk

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shall post any information requested by either the Republican or Democratic Commissions allowing both Democrats and Republicans the opportunity to post material that's fair equitable and common sense.

We have Resolution 1, which calls for allowing Democrats and Republicans the opportunity to post material on the website and that the Clerk be required to post any information requested by either Republican or Democratic Commissions.

At this point, I move Resolution and submit it tonight for a vote.

CHAIRMAN MORONEY: In order to do that, let's figure out what's number one. These aren't numbered like the previous. You're talking about the Resolution 1, dated September 21, 2022.

COMMISSIONER MEJIAS: Yes.

COMMISSIONER BEE: Mr. Chairman, I am just going to briefly respond to Mr. Mejias' comments.

COMMISSIONER MEJIAS: There's a

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motion on the floor.

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COMMISSIONER PERNICK: I second that motion.

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COMMISSIONER BEE: On the motion, I'd like to address the motion. I note that in the course of making that motion, Mr. Mejias made allegations about the unilateral dignitorial manner in which we run these Commission hearings. I think that that needs a response.

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Classically, the chairman of a group of people can convene that body and that's what you have done. As far as an agenda, this is a public hearing. This hearing is designed to listen to members of the public and not necessarily an agenda for other kinds of actions. At the hearing, we listen to you and that's the agenda, and that was the agenda set by the Chairman.

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With respect to the comments that the three minute rule has somehow got a racial base, that charge is insulting, ludicrous, and deserving of no response,

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so I will not make any.

With respect to the motion itself, it is my view that materials to be posted on the website, in Mr. Mejias' own words, should be the result of a vote by the Commission. So if materials are to be submitted for posting, they should be submitted to the Commission. I'm sure the Commission would prudently rule on whether particular materials belong on the website or not. For that reason, the way the wording of the resolution is currently drafted, I intend to vote against the resolution and encourage my fellow Delegation members to do the same.

CHAIRMAN MORONEY: All in favor say aye.

COMMISSIONER MEJIAS: I'm calling for a roll call vote.

CHAIRMAN MORONEY: Okay.  
Peter Bee.

COMMISSIONER BEE: Nay.

CHAIRMAN MORONEY: John Reinhardt?

COMMISSIONER REINHARDT: Nay.

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CHAIRMAN MORONEY: Maureen  
Fitzgerald?

COMMISSIONER FITZGERALD: No.

CHAIRMAN MORONEY: Christopher  
Devane?

COMMISSIONER DEVANE: No.

CHAIRMAN MORONEY: Eric Mellalette?

COMMISSIONER MALLETT: No.

CHAIRMAN MORONEY: David Mejias?

COMMISSIONER MEJIAS: Let me just  
say that this is a resolution that allows  
information to be posted to the website.  
That's all it is. The notion that we  
don't need a vote for when these public  
hearings are going to take place; where,  
what time, or how many -- we don't need  
to vote on whether or not -- the items on  
the agenda, but we have to vote and give  
an opportunity to sensor the information  
the Democrats want to put on the website  
is unbelievable.

I vote in the affirmative.

CHAIRMAN MORONEY: Jared Kasschau,  
absent.

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Andrena Wyatt?

COMMISSIONER WYATT: Yes.

CHAIRMAN MORONEY: James Magin?

COMMISSIONER MAGIN: Yes.

CHAIRMAN MORONEY: Michael Pernick?

COMMISSIONER PERNICK: I will just add to what Commissioner Mejias said. One other additional point. Our practice thus far appears to be unilateral control of whatever is posted on the website by the Chairman, possibly by the Republican members.

This resolution would give some balance, fairness. If there is a six vote rule, that would be fine if we actually voted to post things on the website, the one time we propose a resolution -- I proposed a resolution to post material on the website that was voted down. Ever since then we have operated on a unilateral basis dictated by the Chairman and the other members.

With that, I will vote yes on this resolution.

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CHAIRMAN MORONEY: The resolution fails.

Mr. Mejias you have another resolution?

COMMISSIONER MEJIAS: Yes.

On that issue, we're not just here to listen to public comment. We are hear, and I challenge Mr. Bee's notion that when my respected colleague, Mr. Bee, says we're here to listen to you. The reality is you should be here to listen to us. You should be here to learn about the process and what's going on behind closed doors that's going to affect your representation in government for the next ten years. That's why we want an open process. That's why we want open hearings. That's why we think the legislative maps that are proposed by each side, by this Commission, not be submitted to the Legislature with only an hour for the public to comment on it. That you should have at least a few weeks to come down and say, hey, my opinion is

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to divide it, or I don't like the way this is being done. It just goes straight to the Legislature without any input from you. That's the way this has been going. We all know what's happening. We knew this resolution would give you information. Knowledge is power. The more information you have, the more power. If we give you less information, you have less power to effect and change the system that has not done a great job of representing communities in this area in a long time.

Because we knew the resolution was going to fail, the Democratic Commissioners are left with no other choice but to take our own steps to provide information to the public.

The Democratic Commissioners are, therefore, releasing a public shared drive where we will post in one central location any information that we are able to get from members of the public. Our shared drive is separated into folders to

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provide information on past hearings, information on current legislative maps, relative communications, public notices, upcoming meetings, and relevant legal materials controlling the redistricting process.

During Covid we all learned how to use QR codes as menus in restaurants. We're going to make this very easy for you. You're going to have a QR code --

CHAIRMAN MORONEY: Commissioner, pardon me, you're free to go into that, but why don't we stick to the Resolutions that we have first and then you can circle back to that in the right time and opportunity?

COMMISSIONER MEJIAS: Well, this is directly relevant to that. That's why we are going to be handing out the QR code for our shared drive. They are cards to be handed out. You can visit our website at <https://bit.ly/DemRedistricting2022> or access it through the QR codes, which our staff will hand out now. We shouldn't

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have to do this. It's shameful that the official website is not fully updated. Our shared drive does not solve our problem. Most members of the public will go to the official website for their information. Sadly, we've been left with no other choice but to do this.

If you want to know how poorly the website is being managed, at our last meeting, the Legislature Website had the right place to go, North Hempstead Town Hall, and the wrong time. The Commission's website had the right time, but the wrong place to go. So if you sent to our website, we were sending you to the Legislature, but the meeting was in North Hempstead Town Hall in Manhasset.

So in regard to the second resolution, I'm going to ask Mr. Pernick to --

COMMISSIONER BEE: Mr. Mejias, before you proceed with that, you made one motion, I'd like to make a motion and

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see how the Commission reacts to our motion.

I would like to move that in addition to the current hearing dates of September 28 in Long Beach, October 18 in Glen Cove and October 20 in North Massapequa, that the Commission hold public hearings on October 13 in Freeport and October 25 in Elmont and on a date to be determined in Hicksville. It is my understanding that our staff executive director has spoken with yours and you would be on board with these dates and locations. Hopefully, that information is correct, and I move those additional hearing dates.

CHAIRMAN MORONEY: Is there a second?

COMMISSIONER MEJIAS: Second.

CHAIRMAN MORONEY: Okay. On the motion, all in favor?

(Whereupon, all members of the Commission respond in favor.)

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CHAIRMAN MORONEY: Opposed?

(Whereupon, no response.)

COMMISSIONER MEJIAS: I call for a  
roll call.

CHAIRMAN MORONEY: Peter Bee.

COMMISSIONER BEE: Aye.

CHAIRMAN MORONEY: John Reinhardt.

COMMISSIONER REINHARDT: Aye.

CHAIRMAN MORONEY: Maureen  
Fitzgerald?

COMMISSIONER FITZGERALD: Aye.

CHAIRMAN MORONEY: Christopher  
Devane?

COMMISSIONER DEVANE: Aye.

CHAIRMAN MORONEY: Eric Mallette?

COMMISSIONER MALLETT: Aye.

CHAIRMAN MORONEY: David Mejias?

COMMISSIONER MEJIAS: History is  
being made here. We are voting yes to  
pass a motion. Yes.

CHAIRMAN MORONEY: Jared Kasschau,  
absent.

Andrena Wyatt?

COMMISSIONER WYATT: Yes.

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CHAIRMAN MORONEY: James Magin?

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COMMISSIONER MAGIN: Yes.

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CHAIRMAN MORONEY: Michael Pernick?

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COMMISSIONER PERNICK: I'm going to

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vote yes, but first I'd like to explain a

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little bit of background about this

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motion which we did not know was going to

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be made tonight. I'm delighted that it's

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being made. We did not know it was going

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to be made tonight.

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At our first hearing on August 31st,

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we introduced a resolution calling for a

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more robust hearing schedule all across

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the county in communities including the

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three communities that are now being

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proposed today: Elmont, Freeport, and

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Hickville. That resolution was voted

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down. All five Democratic appointees

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voted for it, all five Republican

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appointees voted against it. Since then,

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we have heard nothing from our colleagues

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over on this side of the dais about

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additional hearing dates, additional

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hearing times; nothing, since August 31.

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We heard from the public that people wanted more hearings. People wanted more opportunities to be heard. More opportunities to engage with this process and we heard specifically from the public that it was important to have hearings in Freeport, Elmont and Hicksville. So we did the work of reaching out to locations in those three places. Reaching out to identify venues for those areas. We proposed yesterday three resolutions to call for hearings in those locations. Then we hear moments before this hearing that they're actually agreeing to hold these; that's great news. But this is not something that is just coming out of nowhere. We've been working and trying to push for these hearings for some time and it's a good thing that we've finally reached an agreement to hold these. Thank you for agreeing to hold these three hearings. With that, I will vote aye on this resolution.

CHAIRMAN MORONEY: The resolution

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passes.

COMMISSIONER MEJIAS: It would have been helpful if we would have done this in August and given the public more time and public notice these meetings, but thankfully, people have come out to these meetings and have their voices heard and have shamed our Republican colleagues into actually doing the right thing on this resolution. Thank you, everybody, for coming out tonight (applause).

COMMISSIONER PERNICK: I'm now going to speak to Resolution 2.

In the schedule initially proposed by our chair, there was a plan, I believe it is still the plan, I have heard nothing of a change, to release proposed maps, I believe it's on November 11. That's when these proposed maps would first be made available to the public. This plan also called for a vote in a subsequent meeting on those proposed maps on the very same day with a one hour break between those two meetings. An

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hour before the vote.

At the last two meetings, many members of the public repeated the concerns that we have raised with this schedule. In fact, at our first meeting, we proposed that same resolution that would provide for seven hearings after those maps were initially made public so the public had an opportunity to engage, the public had an opportunity to give feedback, the public had an opportunity to understand how those proposals would affect their community, and perhaps we'd be able impress those concerns before passing a map. That resolution was voted down on August 31. I am, once again, proposing a new resolution. This is labeled Resolution 2:

This resolution would require three weeks after initial maps are presented. Three weeks for the public to have to look at the maps. To understand the maps. To provide feedback to this Commission and also I will require at

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last hearing in that three week period so we can hear directly from the public any feedback, concerns, suggestions, and there's an opportunity for us to amend those proposals.

This is especially important for which the Charter requires us to have six votes to pass any map. That means we have to compromise. It means we have to agree. It means we have to look at the proposals and try to work together to reach a consensus. I know I'm interested and committed to have a collaborative process. I'm interested in trying to work together to reach a consensus, but it's not possible if we only have one hour after draft maps are proposed to have that discussion, to have that collaboration. It means that we're doomed to fail from the start. We need that time so this Commission can try and achieve it's mission of achieving six votes to recommend a map to the Legislature. A map that complies with

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the law. That's what this resolution is intended to do. To give us that opportunity to work together. To listen to the public and to move forward with a legal map that we can all hopefully get behind.

With that, I will make a motion to move forward Resolution 2.

COMMISSIONER WYATT: I would like to second that motion. I would like to add that this is very important to provide the necessary transparency that the public is asking for.

Again, this happens once every ten years. So we do need the time to give the public an opportunity to review these maps. And to know that the entire process is fair and we're not hiding anything.

With that said, I second the motion.

COMMISSIONER PERNICK: I'll move for a roll call on that.

CHAIRMAN MORONEY: Peter Bee.

COMMISSIONER BEE: Mr. Chairman, I

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share the Democratic's stated vision of collaboration and hope for consensus on compromised matters.

With that said, I think it's premature and unnecessary to set arbitrary deadlines for when maps would be available at this point and time.

I also would like to comment that once the map or maps are presented to the County Legislature, there will be plenty of opportunity to provide the public with comments and to address the County Legislature, keeping in mind that all this body does is give its advice, it's opinion. We as a commission think that x map or x, y, z map should be considered by the Legislature, after which, it is the Legislature's job to adopt maps. The Legislature will undoubtedly provide plenty of opportunity for the public to comment through its various committees and meetings. For those reasons, I propose to vote no on this particular resolution and encourage my fellow

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Delegate members to do the same. No.

CHAIRMAN MORONEY: John Reinhardt?

COMMISSIONER REINHARDT: No.

CHAIRMAN MORONEY: Maureen  
Fitzgerald?

COMMISSIONER FITZGERALD: No.

CHAIRMAN MORONEY: Christopher  
Devane?

COMMISSIONER DEVANE: No.

CHAIRMAN MORONEY: Eric Mellalette?

COMMISSIONER MALLETT: No.

CHAIRMAN MORONEY: David Mejias?

COMMISSIONER MEJIAS: We just heard  
that there shouldn't be arbitrary dates  
for maps and that is exactly what  
happened here. I would like an  
opportunity to comment on the maps that  
this Commission proposes to the County  
Legislature. It was completely arbitrary  
without any input from the Democratic  
Delegation which is why we had to make  
these resolutions, to try and have  
transparency and allow input from the  
public.

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So to say there should be arbitrary hearing dates when all we've had are arbitrary hearing dates and the Democratic Delegation being left out in the cold. I vote in the affirmative.

CHAIRMAN MORONEY: Jared Kasschau, not present.

Andrena Wyatt?

COMMISSIONER WYATT: Yes.

CHAIRMAN MORONEY: James Magin?

COMMISSIONER MAGIN: Yes.

CHAIRMAN MORONEY: Michael Pernick?

COMMISSIONER PERNICK: I need to address a comment made by my colleague Commissioner Bee. He seemed to minimize the importance of this Commission when he said we're only an advisory. We do have the word advisory in our Commission's title, but the Charter gives us serious and significant responsibilities. The Legislature is obligated to consider any map that we send. Yes, the Legislature can amend those maps, the Legislature can reject those maps, the Legislature could

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come up with its own maps. But the Legislature is obligated to consider anything that we send its way and our work is essentially important because of the complicated and overlapping statutes, Federal, State, Constitutional Law, that governs this process. It's important that we provide a map to the Legislature that we are confident that is legal. The critical part of understanding that process is understanding how the map affects the community. There are statutes including the Voting Rights Act, the Federal Voting Actions, the State Voting Rights Act that governs this process and a simple fact that is relevant if the courts ever evaluate the plans, is what members of the public -- how do the maps affect members of the public. There's no way we can get that information if we have one hour for the public to comment during this critical stage of the process. So it's concerning and disheartening to hear Commissioner

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Bee minimize the importance of this Commission, and I do hope we are able to reach an agreement and have more than one hour for the public to review draft maps and comment on draft maps before we take a vote.

With that, I will vote yes the Resolution.

CHAIRMAN MORONEY: Resolution fails. Any other resolutions?

COMMISSIONER PERNICK: No. But before we begin public comments I do have a document, a submission that I would like to add into the record that I will pass out to my fellow commissioners, and I believe our staff has copies of the document that we are submitting.

The document that we are submitting into the record today is a preliminary expert assessment of whether our current map, the map that was adopted in 2013, complies with new requirements under the Municipal Home Rule Law. The takeaway from this assessment is simple and it's

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extremely important. The current map and any maps adopted by Nassau County that are similar to the current map would be an illegal partisan gerrymander. The results of this accurate analysis leave no room for doubts.

Now, for folks in the audience who might be new, and I expect that's most of you. Most people are not redistricting nerds like me. For folks who are new to this, partisan gerrymandering is where districts were drawn to fundamentally favor one party over the other. It's where districts are drawn to ensure members of one particular party have more of a voice than members of the other particular party and it leads to skewed outcomes in representation.

For instance, in a county that might be relatively even partisan line, it could lead to a skewed outcome where one party has 12 seats and the other party has 7. That's partisan gerrymandering. There are widely accepted methodologies

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that are very robust to evaluate a map constitutes a partisan gerrymandering.

Partisan gerrymandering violates the fundamental rule of democracy that voters should get to chose their elected representatives, rather than elected representatives getting to choose their voters.

Now we have new revisions in New York State Law that protect against partisan gerrymandering. It's a State Law the we didn't have ten years ago. It's in the Municipal Home Rule Law. We've spoken about these provisions as a Commission previously.

I'm going to read directly from Municipal Home Rule Law 34. This is a new statute that was just adopted last October. It says:

"Districts shall not be drawn to discourage competition over the purpose of favoring or disfavoring incumbents or other particular candidates or political parties". It's very clear. Districts

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2 should not be drawn to advantage members  
3 of one political over another. This  
4 language has been litigated here in New  
5 York. It went up to the Court of Appeals  
6 in a case of Harkenrider v. Hochul  
7 earlier this year. In that case, the  
8 Court of Appeals adopted a standard for  
9 evaluating when a map is an illegal  
10 partisan gerrymandering. It's the same  
11 standard that's been used by other  
12 states.

13 Essentially, what courts do is they  
14 look at what's called an ensemble  
15 analysis. What that means if you have an  
16 expert in political science who will run  
17 a simulation and generate tens of  
18 thousands of maps and evaluate how the  
19 map that is in contention compares to  
20 those thousands of maps. If the map  
21 that's in contention is more extreme than  
22 99% of those maps, or 90 or 80, a court  
23 may conclude that the map is an illegal  
24 partisan gerrymander because it was  
25 motivated by unlawful partisan intent.

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So we have a statute in New York that protects against this. We have a precedent from the Court of Appeals applying this evidence to identify when a map is partisan gerrymandering.

We, the Democratic members, asked an individual named Dr. Daniel Magleby, he's a political scientist at the University of Binghamton and is one of the leading experts, on this type of analysis, in the Country. He is wildly recognized in the field of redistricting. He has a PhD and a Masters in Political Science from the University of Michigan, MS in Mathematical Methods and Social Science at Northwestern, a BA in Political Science in Brigham Young University. He teaches courses on legislative politics and quantitative methodology. He conducts research of legislative elections, geographic information systems data, redistricting, voting rights, legislation and political geography. His work has been tested by academic journals

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and he has been relied on by courts for his expertise on these issues.

So we asked Dr. Magleby to perform an objective nonpartisan analysis of the current county legislative map. With the help of computer technology, he replicated the process that would be followed if the district map makers were using neutral criteria and not trying to favor one party over the other. He created an ensemble of 10,000 hypothetical maps and followed the representation, followed the requirements law, and did not take party preferences into account. Here's what he found:

The map that we have today is substantially more extreme and bias in favor of the republicans than all 10,000 randomly generated maps. All of them. That makes this just a partisan gerrymander, an extreme partisan gerrymander. The chances of arriving at a map this bias using neutral traditional districting criteria is less than one in

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10,000. It means it's significantly impossible. This pattern repeats using contests in countywide elections year after year, contest after contest and it's clear evidence that the 2013 map is an extreme partisan gerrymander in favor of republican votes.

So what does this mean for us?

Well, it means that we can't use this map as a starting point. Because if we use an illegal map as a starting point, it infects any map that we draw, any map that is substantially similar to the current map, it's going to have the same result. So it means that we cannot use this current map as a starting point and we need to start from scratch and draw maps based on the input from the public. Based on the feedback that we get, and that's why this process is especially important. You can't just tweak the current lines. We need to start from scratch.

This report also puts this

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Commission and puts the County on official notice. Official notice, that if we move forward with a map that's substantially similar, a map that shares characteristics, we would be in violation of law. That's what this report tells us.

So this is the start of the process. We're going to continue to do analysis. I am concerned, but not surprised, to see this outcome of the objective analysis of our current map. I look forward to hearing what people think about this preliminary reporting in today's comments and future hearings.

Commissioner Mejias, is there anything you want to add about this document that we are submitting into the record?

COMMISSIONER MEJIAS: I mean, even if you just look at the map. One of the reasons we have so many concerns, I believe in the Town of North Hempstead's meeting there was attention drawn to

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Laura Schaefer's district, but the thing that concerns us the most is, if you think about a gerrymander district and what it looks like, the presiding officer, Mr. Nicoletto's district, is incredibly gerrymandered so he can win the election and he's in charge of this process and the Legislature. He's the guy that's going to make the decision on what the Legislature votes on and he's gonna tell them how to vote.

So here is Legislative District 9 (indicating). This is Presiding Officer Nicoletto's district. As you can see, it's ridiculous and illegal. This is to make sure he wins his election and now he is in charge of making sure that the maps that they want get passed and that affects you very much so. There is not even a one in 10,000 chance that this current map is legal. This is not some Democratic consultant that we hired. This widely recognized expert, a doctor of political science at SUNY Binghamton

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who is relied upon by the courts to give a neutral opinion as to whether or not there is illegal gerrymandering. A one in 10,000 chance that that map is not an illegal gerrymandering. And the people that control the legislative redistricting process have the most gerrymandered districts and have the most to gain by it because they win their elections and keep control. That affects how you're represented in government. It is concerning, it's scary and that's why this should be a more open and transparent process, and you should have input as to what maps are recommended by this Commission to the Legislature so that we don't just keep the status or the power to the people that have been denied empowerment in this legislative redistricting process and in government for decades here in Nassau County finally can have some power of their own. That's why it's so important that we hear from the public.

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COMMISSIONER PERNICK: Thank you, Commissioner Mejia. One last point that is worth noting --

CHAIRMAN MORONEY: Can we hear from the public?

COMMISSIONER PERNICK: In our first meeting, August 31st --

CHAIRMAN MORONEY: Excuse me, can we hear from the public?

COMMISSIONER PERNICK: Yeah. One last point.

In our first meeting on August 31st, we introduced a resolution to prohibit this Commission from considering partisan data in the map drawing process. We did this specifically to ensure that the maps that emerged from the process complied with State Law to prevent a repeat of the illegal 2013 map. And it would, if we actually kept politics -- kept partisan advantage out of the process, that would give protection to Nassau County voters. That resolution failed. All five Democratic appointees voted in favor; all

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five Republican appointees voted against. I hope in light of this submission that we just received and just put into the record, we might reconsider that resolution at a future hearing.

Thank you.

CHAIRMAN MORONEY: Okay. Ann Leiter, League of Women Voters, Central Nassau.

MS. LEITER: Thank you for the opportunity to speak this evening.

My name is Ann Leiter, co-president of the Central Nassau Chapter of the League of Women Voters.

The League is a nonpartisan grassroots non-profit organization encouraging informed and active participation in our democracy. While the league takes position on a variety of public policy issues, it never supports or opposes any political party or candidate.

As it has already stated in public meetings of the District Commission, the

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League is here to advocate on behalf of a fair, transparent and inclusive redistricting process with a reminder that redistricting is foundational to the right to vote, and the public will only have confidence in the fairness of this process if it is able to observe the work of the commission. Yet the League is disappointed in the opaque manner of which the Commission has conducted the process thus far:

- holding its working meetings outside the public view;
  - compressing the timeline;
  - letting in the public input;
  - failing to update its website with relevant and pertinent information.
- as we mentioned earlier, all public working and mapping meetings must be open to the public and publicized with ample notice via all forms of media including, but not limited to, Town, County and Commission websites; newspapers such as *Newsday*, *Herald*, Long

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Island business news, WLIW; local radio stations and the numerous town and village publications that the County Clerk already uses with public legal notices, collectively known as designated newspapers.

- the Commission's website must reflect agendas and minutes including press releases, a contact list of staff and consultants, a time table and maps, as well as service a portal for public comment as soon as possible.

The Commission has to until January 7th to deliver its mapping plan to the Legislature, so there is no valid reason for the cutting the public comment off by October.

The lack of meetings for those physically challenged is unacceptable. The County Legislative meetings noticed earlier states the following:

The Nassau County Legislature is committed to making its public meetings accessible to individuals with

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2 disabilities and every reasonable  
3 accomodation will be made so that they  
4 can participate. You failed to  
5 accomplish this by holding no meetings  
6 virtually, which would enable the  
7 physically challenged to participate and  
8 make oral statements.

9 Most egregious is the fact that  
10 there are no scheduled public meetings  
11 after the Commission has released its  
12 plan. We have hours before delivering to  
13 the Legislature. As you all know, this  
14 will give the public zero opportunity for  
15 review and comment and no opportunity for  
16 the Commissions to incorporate any  
17 concerns or need to modify the maps.  
18 This is a sharp contrast in the process  
19 of the New York Independent Redistricting  
20 Commission which extended at least the  
21 appearance of the respect for the public.

22 Finally, I remind you of the new  
23 redistricting requirements imposed under  
24 the newly invented Municipal Home Rule  
25 Law and the John R. Lewis Voting Rights

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Act of New York.

The Home Rule Law states:

"Districts shall not be drawn to discourage competition or for the purpose of, or disfavoring incumbents or other particular candidates of the party.

Nassau's redistricting must be nonpartisan.

Thank you (applause.)

CHAIRMAN MORONEY: Thank you very much.

COMMISSIONER PERNICK: I want to thank you. I have a quick question for the individual testifying.

First, thank you for your testimony. Thank you to the League of Women Voters for the work and involvement in this process. We are grateful to have your input and feedback.

You mentioned the importance of having virtual hearings and how that might be important to the public. I'd like to note that in our first meeting on August 31st, I introduced a resolution

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calling for additional hearings including two virtual remote hearings.

Unfortunately, that resolution was voted down on a party line vote.

Could you explain to the Commission a little bit more about why the League feels that virtual meetings are an important step in this process and how that could be an important thing for us to do to ensure transparency hearing from the public?

MS. LEITER: Thank you. We have members in the League, as well as members in the public who are unable to attend because of the distance, because of the physical obstacles, and because of the timing. This is recorded and released later, but that's after the fact. So they don't have the opportunity to give you input by speaking, even by doing it by Zoom or virtually. We would like that opportunity for all the members of our community and especially for those have disabilities.

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COMMISSIONER PERNICK: Thank you.

CHAIRMAN MORONEY: Thank you. Abbey  
McHugh.

MS. MCHUGH: Hello. Thank you for  
the opportunity to be heard today. My  
name is Abbey McHugh and I am an  
organizer with Common Cause New York.

Common Cause is an actual  
nonpartisan advocacy organization founded  
in 1970. We are a group to ensure that  
every vote counts and that every eligible  
voter has an equal say and that our  
elections represents the will of the  
people and that our government is of, by  
and for the people.

Common Cause New York is one of the  
most active state chapters within Common  
Cause with tens of thousands of members  
and activists in every county of New York  
State. For every redistricting there is  
a major policy focus for Common Cause  
across the country and in New York State.  
Our national redistricting representation  
program helps members of the public play

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an active role in shaping their own representation who believe the efforts to be fair and impartial process when drawing districts. We also mitigate to challenge partisan racial gerrymanders in State and Federal courts around the country.

Common Cause New York has offered insight in local redistricting processes at the county municipal level, as well as statewide.

Today we are here with a few of what we believe to be fundamental recommendations that will help Nassau County's redistricting process be more transparent. Members of the public have had an opportunity to be heard and to engage with the Commission regarding the proposed map are less likely to resort to legal challenges to those maps.

First, it is imperative to hold public feedback meetings after any proposed map. We have seen in other counties that public input is mostly

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helpful to the redistricting commission after the proposed maps because people have something to base their comments on. We have traveled around the county to gather feedback for the draft map. We strongly urge you to do similar after releasing any proposed map. There is ample time as the Commission has until January 7 to deliver the mapping plan to the Legislature.

Second, several meetings that allow all to participate are essential to the process like our friends at the League said. Not only does this help Nassau constituents with disabilities to tell you their feedback, but also those who cannot find free time to participate, like parents.

Finally, the draft map that your Commission produces should reflect the changes to the County since the last census and put the priorities of the people ahead of the politicians.

Long Island continued it's

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decades-long habit of increasing  
(inaudible) in the 2020 Census. This  
ongoing shift is especially strong in  
Nassau County with those of voting age  
identifying the standard growth by 16.8%,  
Asian by 11.3% and black by 11.1%.

Protecting the political power from  
use of interest through the redistricting  
process is an important criteria in the  
New York Constitution redistricting  
provision. Thank you again.

CHAIRMAN MORONEY: Thank you very  
much.

Robert Harris.

MR. HARRIS: Thank you to the  
presiding officers. My name is Robert  
Harris. Nassau County Civil Service  
Employee Association, Local 830 Union  
Vice President and Union President,  
member of Long Island Fed and a newly  
appointed member of the Ethics Board of  
the Village of Hempstead.

I come to you today impartial of  
politics. I am partial to the

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communities that I serve and live in. Those are the corridors such as the Village of Hempstead, Roosevelt, Freeport, Westbury, and such communities. We are talking about redistricting. I'm all for equity and equality, but we're talking about ethics. This is ethically wrong.

So what I'm saying is, when we talk about redistricting, a lot of y'all are talking today, but the people in the audience have no clue what you're talking about because you're rambling. We gotta get to the point.

The point is, it's all about power. That's what it's about. It's about power. Because let's just talk about a district like the Village of Hempstead, which the Census amount has gone up which would increase their voting power. What happens with redistricting, it takes people that's able to vote for that community out of that community. So they get less representation. What happens is

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those representing these communities are people that don't have the best interest for those communities. What happens is those communities are affected.

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Now you're talking about transparency and communication. Even if you're on the the other side, why are we just now seeing this map today. We can't decipher what is going on today. We are taxpayers. If it was time for you to be elected, we'd be getting all kinds of literature at our houses. Why didn't we get any literature about this? Nothing stops the other side from informing the public of what's going on. If you don't agree with the other side, start getting the information to the public, so the public can clearly understand what's going on.

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When we come here, a lot of times your mind has been made up. What I would like to say is, who is in charge of this redistricting? Because if you have somebody that's in charge, you have where

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the public and the taxpayers can send their information and concerns to.

(Buzzer) that being said, I know my time is run out. I don't want you to kick me off, so I'm done (applause).

CHAIRMAN MORONEY: Mr. Harris, for the record, we were asked to bring those maps from the last time we had a hearing. That's the current map over there (indicating) and another map floating around that you can take a look at for yourself.

MR. HARRIS: Okay. No problem. I'm just asking if maybe some literature can be sent to the home so we can take time and look at it in our own space. That's all I'm asking.

COMMISSIONER WYATT: Sir, I'm sorry. Thank you for your comments. It was all appreciated. I first want to explain for the record that we are not elected officials. None of us up here. We are donating our time for this cause.

I also want to point out that the

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Democratic Commissioners have been trying to get information out. We have been fighting to get information out. We totally agree with you and we will be doing our due diligence to work harder on that.

Thank you for your comments.

MR. HARRIS: Thank you (applause).

CHAIRMAN MORONEY: John Boyd, Jr.

MR. BOYD: Good evening, chairperson and board.

My name is John F. Boyd, Sr. I'm the president of the Roosevelt Chamber of Commerce. I also serve with the Roosevelt Fire Department as a volunteer fire peace officer. I also serve American Legion, 1957, and I do all that proudly. I'm a United States Army Veteran staff sergeant (applause). I say all that because I'm not trying to showboat. I'm trying let you understand the dedication that I have and the belief I have in our democracy.

I don't want this to go down the way think it's going to go down where one

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side is just gonna gain all the power and the other side's not. We want to make sure that our voices are being heard. We want to make sure that no one takes away all the hard work that our ancestors made through the Civil Rights Movement to get us to vote and so on and so forth. We want to have the same power that they laid their life down for.

As a Chamber president, I receive numerous phone calls from people that can't make it to the meetings. Like the lady said before, the virtual meetings, I'm all for that. I just want this Commission to put on the record that we want complete open and disclosures on these meetings so we would have an opportunity to have our voices be heard. Put on the record because we're not gonna lay down and we don't want to threaten anyone, but we're not going to stay back and let this go down the way you guys think it's gonna go down.

Thank you (applause.)

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CHAIRMAN MORONEY: Thank you and thank you for your service.

MR. BOYD: You're welcome.

CHAIRMAN MORONEY: Dr. Emily Moore.

DR. MOORE: Good evening, everyone. My name is Dr. Emily Moore. When I was in high school, the late President Kennedy said, ask not what your country can do for you, what you can do for your country.

I'm a proud resident of Roosevelt, Freeport and Hempstead in Nassau County and the United States of America. We as citizens of the United States of America pay Federal, State and Local taxes. Whether a republican or a democrat, we pay taxes. It's our money that you are spending, you're using, and you are mismanaging. It's your responsibility as elected officials and volunteers -- and I appreciate this Commission and and these other people here -- it's your responsibility to meet the needs of all the people and represent all the people.

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I had the opportunity to go to Morgan State College. Part of the Civil Rights Movement. John Boyd said you're a pioneer, you put your life on the line. You're the first group that said we staying in prison because we're not paying 90,000. That's our student tuition, but that's not the point.

I'm a former Peace Corp. Volunteer. You had to go to college. I lived through three -- many years ago. I lived the civil war -- three military tours in the civil war in Nigeria. I was a volunteer. I did a lot of crazy things. I had the opportunity to travel. I moved to Freeport, Long Island. I've been involved from high school. I attended Freeport High School. I grew up in the Village of Freeport. I didn't have one black teacher from elementary school to high school, but I had some good people that I was involved with. People who were fair who made it possible. People said, how you gonna go to college? Where

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there's a will, there's a way.

I don't want take up any more time.  
The people here -- it's your  
responsibility. And I've been all over  
the world. I've been in Israel, Turkey,  
Greece, Korea, Africa. I've been a  
pioneer in not only human rights  
struggle, but for a better America. You  
can Google (sic) my name and see some of  
the things that I've done, but that's not  
the point. How are we gonna train and  
raise and prepare the children so they  
can be successful so they can be able to  
accomplish what you accomplished here and  
everybody here; that's the challenge.  
The public school should be made  
available to everybody and these private  
organizations and charter school, it's  
our tax money that's paying for this  
stuff. You're probably gonna say you're  
not responsible or accountable.

I want everybody to think about why  
this county is zoned for so many  
challenges. I never thought at this

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point of my life that I would be dealing with basic survival and basic things for America. I'm a citizen of the United States, I pay my taxes. And this is the government and your responsibilities are all those people. And all those people need to educate the young children so they can be successful just as you are.

Have a nice day (applause).

CHAIRMAN MORONEY: Thank you, doctor.

Daniel Oppenheimer.

MR. OPPENHEIMER: Good evening, all, and good evening to members of the public. Thank you for coming out.

This is my third meeting, so I'm a little bit of a redistricting nerd also.

Transparency and collaboration, yes, is essential. But that's not the ultimate goal of this Commission. The ultimate goal of this Commission is about representation and resources for the community. What I'm seeing, unfortunately, tonight in the

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transparency is that you are not collaborating. I see Republicans collaborating with Republicans, I see democrats collaborating with Democrats. I tend to lean toward the Democrats, but this is not going to affect what you are having this Commission do. You are supposed to provide fair representation and resources to the people within the district. I guess I don't have to remind you. I'm just trying to remind myself when I see the infighting going on here. I implore all of you, whatever your political stripe is, somehow, and not just a 6 to 4 vote, I would love to see a unanimous vote on a fair redistricting map.

I'm a little confused. The chairman at the beginning said that the website will be updated with information and resources, documents, guidelines, but then when a proposal came up which to me sounded like that's what the proposal was, you unanimously voted against that.

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Let me just ask simply, please post on the website as soon as you possibly can and as accurately as you possibly can, the population of the legislative districts as of the prior redistricting with demographic information as well as population, and the same information from the current day that you would be considering in any new district maps and put that on there with clear visual maps with the data overlay: Boundaries, street makers, where every average member of the public can go and click on it and see what that district is about and to look at the demographic information. The ethnic population, age, political, racial population. We need to be able to see that.

I assume you're using that information in your discussions, but you're not disclosing that. That is transparency. I'll just briefly say, Mr. Pernick, the study that you referenced with the data running the 10,000

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scenarios, I hope that's on the website tonight. I hope that that gets there immediately. That is essential to have up there as soon as possible.

Thank you very much (applause).

CHAIRMAN MORONEY: James Hogen. Did I get your last name correct?

MR. HOGE: No. James Hoge.

How you doing? Welcome back.

CHAIRMAN MORONEY: Thank you for having us.

MR. HOGE: Okay. Thank you, Chair and Commission. I'm here again to ask about the fairness. When we talk about fairness, it seems like some of the same things that was happening before, is still happening now.

I'm here to say, are you just here to be a face? Are you just here to listen to somebody? When you think about history, do you want to be one in history that hurt people? Do you want to be one in history that they talk about? Why don't you take a look at the movie on

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Netflix called "Thirteen". When we talk about certain people that are getting treated certain ways, do you want to be those individuals? We are hearing they are trying to do things on a website.

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You can get someone from the college, an intern, to do your website. You got plenty of money for redistricting. What's taking so long?

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When we talk about moral compass, what is your moral compass? Where will you find yourself in history? You have time to make that right. Martin Luther King talked about bending. Where is your bend in the lane. We talked about disability. If people have disabilities need to be able to comment from the comfort of their home, that should be a vote tonight. If you really care.

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When you talk about maps, if those maps are wrong, if you want to wait for the court to make it right, that's sad when you understand and know what is wrong. Again, remember, the movie on

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Netflix, "Thirteen".

So I say to you, again, and again. You're hearing all the statistical data and you've probably done your own data. But if you're just here to be a body, why don't you tell them like I told you last time, I don't wanna be on this committee no more. When you talk about how much is going on in the beautiful Village of Hempstead, I got friends there, I know people there, I got family there. But when we talk about money distribution, if you want Hempstead to do even better, cut up the lines right and fair so more can go through the Village of Hempstead that have more African Americans than the whole county.

When we talk, we can smile, we can love. But when we're hurting people, look at history. Why does black people and Latinos and other minorities have to keep fighting for what you know is right? Wake up and think about what is right. When you look at your grandchildren and

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their nieces and nephews and their friends -- some of you probably have mixed races in your family -- think. And if you don't have to be a part of whoever appointed you, then tell them I'm not doing this no more. It's 2022.

CHAIRMAN MORONEY: Thank you.

COMMISSIONER PERNICK: Mr. Hoge, it seemed like you had a lot you wanted to say to this Commission. I really appreciate your testimony. At our last hearing, there were many speakers who went past three minutes. If there is anything else that you'd like to add, I'm going to invite you right now to continue your comments since we've had other speakers who have gone three minutes.

CHAIRMAN MORONEY: They have not gone past there three minutes. I'd love to hear from you. You and I can go out for coffee after this is over. I'd be happy --

MR. HOGE: I don't know if you want to drink coffee with me. Let me tell you,

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coffee is real strong when it was black.  
When did it get weak? I love all of you.  
What's right is right. I don't care if  
you republican, independent, green party.  
What's right is right. My only thing is  
this -- chairman, thank you for the extra  
ten seconds because people was clapping  
and laughing and it took my time -- I  
say to you, please look at the Netflix  
movie, "Thirteen". I just want all of  
you, please. It's gonna tell you that  
black people was considered not even a  
whole human being. Why are you, just  
because you are appointed by a friend in  
the republican party, why would you just  
do what they want you to do? You  
represent your family. My father and  
mother is gone in heaven, but I pray I'm  
representing them well because they  
taught me. They were from Alabama and  
worked in the cotton fields. I thank  
good for Mrs. Moore who works and did all  
she did. She is a legend around the  
world.

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Again, please, please do what is right. Don't let your name go down in history as something wrong and being a part of something wrong. You see that now. Of course they want to erase history and get history out of history class.

COMMISSIONER BEE: Mr. Hoge, we very much appreciate your comments and we have listened very carefully to what you have to say. I'm sure you'd agree with me in wanting everyone else to also have an opportunity.

MR. HOGE: All right. Let me finish. I do want everybody else to hear, but I hope you heard what I said to. Thank you very much. A nice way of cutting me off. Everybody have a good night. I'm James Hoge. If you did like me before and you don't like me now, take that up with God. I love you.

COMMISSIONER MEJIAS: Mr. Hoge, the way the demographics work now and the way the population has changed, there should

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be five majority/minority districts out of the 19 in the County Legislature and there is only three. There is only 3/5 of the power you should have. It's ironic.

CHAIRMAN MORONEY: If I may correct one thing on the record. This is being streamed live. I just want to make that known to you. People at home, if they have a television, they can see this live.

That said, Daphne Mullaly.

MS. MULLALY: I represent myself. I live in Massapequa. I just want to say I'm happy with my representation, but I certainly do feel for the people who are not happy with their representation.

Just a couple of things. I'm a little bit of a political junkie, but I don't follow all of this. I'm very happy for you people to volunteer. I appreciated the volunteering. It's your personal time. I like people to respect that because I volunteer and I know it's

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difficult.

I was hoping it would have been a little bit of a bipartisan committee. I don't know. It just seems like you're not really working together.

I just have a question on the maps. You say that the map now is gerrymandered. The map was made ten years ago, so obviously it's changed. I'm assuming that's why we are hear. To do the redistricting so that it's not gerrymandered. We were told it was done fairly. Everybody seems to come up here and say -- assuming it's not going to be fair. Assuming it's going to be gerrymandered. Assuming that's what's going to be done. I just think we should give the committee a chance to put the maps together. I think we learn from mistake that they did have a gerrymandering and it did go to the courts and it was overturned so there is a process. I think everybody needs to just be respectful of the process.

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Like I said, I appreciate your time. Hopefully, everybody will be happy in the end, but everybody will not be happy.

COMMISSIONER MEJIAS: Thank you for your time. The problem is, the process is flawed. If you run for office in a legislative district, you have to petition to get on the ballot. Petitioning starts in February. The Legislature doesn't have to vote on the maps under the law until March. They can vote on the maps at the very last minute which would prevent anybody from bringing a lawsuit that they think is unfair, and ram it down our throats. The problem is the process is completely flawed. As the Charter was written, the time for petitioning the primaries had been moved up, but the charter provisions have not been moved alongside in a parallel manner. That's why when people hear, just trust the process, they're looking at a map that's completely gerrymandered now. They're looking at the

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gerrymandered district where the  
presiding officer who alone controls the  
entire process and what maps get passed  
by the legislature. That's why people in  
this community especially are a little  
bit skeptical that they're going to be  
given an equal voice.

CHAIRMAN MORONEY: Trustee Clariona  
Griffith.

MS. GRIFFITH: I would like to first  
start off clearing up the last comment.  
How is this gonna be done fair? First of  
all, Hempstead, Massapequa; what's fair  
about that? Roosevelt, Franklin Square;  
what's fair about that? Uniondale, East  
Meadow; what's fair about that? Elmont,  
Rockville Centre; what is fair about  
that?

First of all, let's start off  
this -- and I thank you to the democratic  
chair for pointing out certain things. I  
actually took notes -- that you already  
give people of -- white people -- more  
time. Okay. You give us less time,

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which is not fair. Then to top it off, you can't even agree right now on the decision about what to do with the map, giving us an opportunity. This is not going to turn out right already, because if we gave you one hour to look at that map, I guarantee you couldn't make a decision on what needs to be done right away. So why is it that you're going to only give us one hour to look at it? Why can't you mail it to our home? Why can't you do Zoom? Why can't you do something where it's going to benefit our community for once?

When we talk about ten years, here's ten years for you; where you gonna be? You don't even know. You know why? Because no one knows what happens in ten years. Anybody that have any business knows that it takes five years to develop a business and when you develop a business in five years, ten years later now you actually start to see a profit. So every ten years you turn around and

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wait till we start to make our community

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grow and do certain things and then you

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take it away from us. That's what you

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do. You take away every ten years. You

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come in like this is monopoly and you

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take away everything that we work hard to

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put together to put it in your favor.

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It's not gonna happen anymore. Because

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we have people here that's tired of

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what's being done. Ten years from now

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you don't even know if your kids, and

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I've said it before, is going to marry my

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grandson and what's gonna happen? Guess

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yard that you now changed and redistrict

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struggling for the last ten years.

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Every time your turn around you

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redistrict to be in your favor. It's not

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in your favor anymore, because the people

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are speaking, we're gonna keep showing

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up. Once again, what is fair about

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Massapequa and Garden City? They are

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fair. But guess what, when you put

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Hempstead in the works, nothing's fair about that. But you keep using our demographic when they're trying to take money from us. That's why you keep us together.

Thank you. Have a good evening.  
To.

CHAIRMAN MORONEY: Thank you. Noah Burroughs.

MR. BURROUGHS: Thank you for the opportunity to speak.

I spoke last time. I just want to reiterate I'm speaking to you as an educator and not an elected official. The same thing goes now as I spoke before. Teaching American History I teach children I teach them to see the unseen and hear the unheard. Everybody here tonight, they see what's going on. You can close your eyes and split this podium right down the middle and you can see we're divided and that's pretty unfortunate. It's the course of the nature of this country since the founding

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of it. I think it's disheartening. Everyone sees what's going on. It's not -- we know this is gerrymandering. We know this current map you got is designed for us to fail. When I say us, I mean us in minority communities.

I teach to see the unseen. Everyone here can see it. It's just not fair. As Mr. Harris spoke earlier, you guys have to come in here and work together and come up with ideas and to work together. Not to have your minds made up and decide what you're gonna do before you even sit at the table. If that's the case, what's the purpose of sitting on the committee when you know you have your mind made up already? With that, I'm done.

CHAIRMAN MORONEY: Thank you very much. Reginald Benjiman.

MR. BENJIMAN: Thank you for the opportunity to speak this evening.

My name is Reginald Benjiman. I'm the Executive Director of ABBA Leadership Center. This is a faith-based

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organization.

I did have a whole lot that I wanted to say, but sitting here today looking at you guys and how you are so divided along the lines, it don't look like -- you can't even get along with each other so I don't think you're gonna be able to do anything to help us.

But we are watching you. I'm particularly concerned about my community. Particularly, the Village of Hempstead. We are making great strides there. We have a good population of people. We got good leadership. We don't want you guys to destroy it because you want to put us in a little box.

I had a whole lot I wanted to say. I'm just gonna cut it off and say ditto to James Hoge (applause).

CHAIRMAN MORONEY: A. Supreme Mathematics.

A. SUPREME: I just want to say thank you for the opportunity to speak. I'm here because I believe when they sat

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in this seat it was the first commission in 1994, 28 years ago. Twenty eight years ago, they developed the 19 legislative districts that we live in now. I want everyone to understand that we the people of Nassau County make this government. We the people need representation. What I want to talk about is basic. There's 42% minorities living in Nassau County without representation. There's 42% of minority people. We need more than just two recognized minority districts. Even there's a third district, it's never been recognized as a minority district. When Solages beat Ciotti, it was still known as a regular district. It was never known as a minority district and there's five or six minority districts in Nassau County. When you do these maps -- and I agree they're gerrymandered maps -- but when you do these maps, consider the areas that did not get representation like Massapequa, Massapequa Park and South Farmingdale and

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Hicksville. Let's make sure we give those people representation. The population is changing dramatically in Nassau County.

I just want to let you know that 20% of the population now is Hispanic. There is no Hispanic representation on the legislature now. And there's 17% African American. Then the Asians. The Asians don't have representation. The Indians don't have representation. Nassau County is growing and will continue to grow. Let's be real about the growth of Nassau County. Minorities are gonna grow and come to Nassau County because Nassau County has the great beaches. The greatest roadways. The greatest sports entertainment. People are gonna come here so make room for the growth. Make room for the growth, because it's gonna be here. Ten years from now it will probably be 55% minorities.

So what we're asking for you to consider those areas that need

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representation. The Asian population needs representation. The African American community needs representation. The Caribbean Community has grown so large in the Baldwin area, South Baldwin to Baldwin Harbor that they need representation. Uniondale, Roosevelt and Freeport, we have good representation, but there are more of us that need this. We need to be shown that Nassau Community is not only a white community, but it is a community of diversity. Show that diversity in your map drawing (buzzer). Do not be bias and one sided even though we know 53% white still live here, but that's shrinking rapidly.

CHAIRMAN MORONEY: Thank you. Doris Sharpe.

MS. SHARPE: Good evening. I want Mr. Brewington to speak on my behalf. Everything is rhetorical and repetitive. We don't have the maps. I don't see the purpose of this. The rules and regulations are clear; there's black and

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there's white. You'll showing black and white up here clearly to us. I don't know what more there is to say until we get the maps to see what's fair and what's not fair. It's all rhetorical.

Thank you. Mr. Brewington is going to take my 2:30.

CHAIRMAN MORONEY: If you want Mr. Brewington to join you --

COMMISSIONER BEE: Mr. Chairman, may I make a motion that at the request of the speaker, Mr. Brewington be allowed to speak on her behalf.

COMMISSIONER MEJIAS: Second.

CHAIRMAN MORONEY: All in favor?

(Whereupon, all members of the Commission respond in favor.)

COMMISSIONER MEJIAS: Can I get a motion to reset the clock --

MR. BREWINGTON: I think there are a number of people that want to yield their time to me. Are there any people that want to?

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(Whereupon, members of the audience respond in favor.)

MR. BREWINGTON: I will take their time too.

COMMISSIONER BEE: We don't have a rule on yielding time.

MR. BREWINGTON: You don't have a rule against it, do you? Don't try and play lawyer with me. I watched what you did in the other two communities.

COMMISSIONER BEE: What I did?

MR. BREWINGTON: No. Yes. You and everybody else: Laddi, daddi, and everybody. I'm not going to allow you to come in here and steamroll over a community that is going to be beset by what you plan to do. You're gonna hear me (pointing).

COMMISSIONER BEE: You're pointing to me.

MR. BREWINGTON: No. You're going to hear me.

COMMISSIONER BEE: I am hearing you.

MR. BREWINGTON: And you're gonna

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let me speak and you're not gonna interrupt me. The community here has been through decades of abuse. Your approach here -- I'm not even starting my comments. You should be ashamed of yourselves the way you have approached this process thus far. It's supposed to be a process where the people have the opportunity to be fully and fairly heard and to have an opportunity to be involved in a process. This is not a process. This is abuse.

And what you have done, Mr. Chairman, all due respect, there is no reason why you have done what you have done in terms of just shoving things down people's throats. This is not democracy, it's autocracy and you need to be ashamed of yourselves the way you're conducting yourselves. I would encourage you to hear the words of James Hoge. I would encourage you to hear the words of Sister Moore. I would encourage you to realize the fact there is a historical precedence

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going on right now that you will have to come to grips with at some point.

Commissioners, Dr. Moore, Mother Goosby, members of the Assembly -- my assembly, members of the clergy, everybody in this chamber room, needs understand that I'm a resident of Nassau County, born and raised. Came up from Lakeview and road the streets on a bicycle with holes in my sneakers, but because of the fact that there are people in this room today that decide when to stand up and fight when voting rights became important, we have change and brought change here. Goosby versus the Town of Hempstead; NAACP versus the County the Board of Elections; in Suffolk County Montano versus County of Suffolk; in Suffolk County Forlan versus the Town of Islip. Do I need to talk about the victories that we have had to stand up and fight for? And everyone of them because of what people did for me, I had the opportunity to stand in the courtroom

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before them and say this community will not be abused anymore.

On my wrist I wear a band that says, "Make every vote count" (buzzer). Is somebody gonna yield me their three minutes?

(Whereupon, audience members respond in favor.)

COMMISSIONER BEE: Can you identify which person?

MR. BREWINGTON: Sure. That would be Bishop Harvey.

COMMISSIONER BEE: Because we also have slips up here and I just want to make sure we have the right people.

CHAIRMAN MORONEY: Please continue.

MR. BREWINGTON: When we have discord in the house, the house cannot stand. When we have disrespect for one another even to the point of having full voice, the house cannot stand. And when you build a house with a rotten foundation, say it with me, family.

(Whereupon, the audience

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responds, "the house cannot stand".)

MR. BREWINGTON: And that's what we're doing right now.

On my wrist there's a bracelet that I wear that states, "every vote counts". That's been something that's been part of everything that I believe we stand for as a democracy. But as a democracy, this is not what we should be looking like. Right now, I am very concerned that as we look and deal with this petty partisan political process, (inaudible). That far too often we are finding ourselves taking a backseat. And in some cases having now seat when it comes to equity and justice. Those are words I haven't heard echoed in this chamber yet.

Equity and justice should rule the day. They should be on everyone of your lips to be able to be brought to the people and say we stand for equity, we stand for justice. Instead, we fight saying you can't put information out so

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that mothers who are at home and can't even get out of the house, can't figure out what's going on for their grandchildren. Shame on you and shame on the folks that vote against that. Every single one of you.

The reality is that Nassau County and the great opportunity before you to give the right starts with starting over. What happened ten years ago was wrong. Simply because you say, well, that's the way things are, doesn't mean that it's right. If that were the case, I'd be right now in a cotton farm and a factory doing something bad or something; you'd have to take me down. Because the reality is that what you have done right now, what you're creating right now is a bad history. The problem is that you're all on notice now. There's no hiding here. Don't think that I'm not paying attention. Don't think that in this situation when I ask you the question: How is it that given the monumental

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impact of the shift in the population of racial composition in Nassau County that you only have one hearing scheduled initially in the communities that are most affected?

I heard that you changed your mind tonight and I'm all or that. Initially, there were 17 that were proposed and now you're gonna give us three more (buzzer)? You can shut that one off too. Is someone gonna give me their time?

(Whereupon, audience member,  
Selina Henderson, yields time.)

MR. BREWINGTON: The corridor does count: Hempstead, Freeport, Roosevelt, Lakeview, Elmont, North Valley Stream and everybody else that makes up the corridor. You cannot make a determination that you're simply gonna give them lip service. Lip service is not enough. Here's a question: If you're in intent is to seek input, and properly and fully educate the most affected communities, how is it that your

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website even at this late stage in the redistricting process is not transparent and educational? Education is part of your job. You're supposed to not only hear from us, but you're supposed to give us information. There's not a single map, there's not a single chart, there's not a single piece of information about districts, no lines are drawn. And we, at this point, don't even know what we're talking about and neither do you.

The problem is, without that information, no one, not even a PhD can make a determination on what's important right now in this process. We're arguing in space. The space is so vast without any strictures.

So here's the problem, with no maps and numbers to relate to the maps not being available for review and analysis, how is it that you expect the public, from plumber to PhD to even come before you and speak to the core matters that are substantive in terms of

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2 representation? Because that's what it  
3 is about, representation. Fair. Equal.  
4 Proper. Respectful. Democratic.  
5 Constitutional. Statutory  
6 representation. What you have done thus  
7 far defies the Voting Rights Act of 1965.  
8 Defies the brand new Voting Rights Act  
9 under the State of New York. I can't  
10 wait until January 1st. It defies the  
11 Constitution; the 13th, 14th, 15th  
12 Amendments. We stand here because of  
13 those and yet America turned its back and  
14 ripped up the check and required the  
15 Voting Rights Act of 1965 and you still  
16 defy that.

17 What do you expect from the people  
18 that have been disenfranchised for so  
19 long? You cannot expect me to apologize  
20 for the way I fight back. Because when  
21 you do and disrespect people, you cannot  
22 expect them to pull back and say beat me  
23 some more (buzzer). Give me one more  
24 three minutes and I'll be done.

25 (Whereupon, Linda Wright,

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yields her time.)

MR. BREWINGTON: Thank you. I'll be done in three minutes.

John Pierce looms large in this room. I mention the name so we don't forget where we came from. They are our ancestors that stand over us right now. They say that you have a responsibility to hear those voices too, to care for your children who very well may end up marrying somebody else's daughter in here. But the impact it has on their families is not for tomorrow, it's for today. Because what you do today sets the history for tomorrow.

Home Rule Section 34(4) (e) does say, "districts shall not be drawn to discourage competition or for the purpose of favoring or disfavoring the incumbent or other particular candidates they want to try and lift up". If a partisan map like that one comes out, you can anticipate that every one of you will have to be called to give a deposition.

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I want to be clear, this is not a threat. I want to be clear, the world is watching little Nassau County right now. You've got an opportunity to get this right. You have an opportunity not to allow this time to be squandered away. You have an opportunity to make sure that history does not write you down on the wrong side. Do this with a heart of change. Do this with a heart of compromise. Don't do this with a heart of partisanship and racial gerrymandering. Because if you do, if you do, if you do, if you do, you have been warned (applause).

I will submit my written submission for you. I brought 25 copies. I don't like the way it came out after listening to this. I'm gonna write it again.

COMMISSIONER MEJIAS: Mr. Brewington, thank you very much for everything you've done for everybody in Nassau County and Long Island throughout your career; your legal career

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especially. You are a gift to us. You certainly have used your talent wisely. Thank you so much.

They say as much as you give is as much is expected and you've exceeded expectations. So you started out by talking about lawsuits that have actually been brought to bring justice for people here on Long Island. We use the legal system to bring justice to people, and those in power who want to stop people who are not empowered from getting more power, you rig the system so you can't bring the lawsuit. So now the maps aren't due to be voted on by the Legislature until March 7th, but petitioning starts in February, so at the last minute, the Legislature passes maps, it would significantly hamper your ability to bring a lawsuit because the judge could say it causes too much chaos this election, you're gonna have to wait until the next one.

MR. BREWINGTON: Let me stop you.

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Mr. Mejias. Mr. Bee, you represented the Village of Garden City, right?

COMMISSIONER BEE: At one time we did. Mr. Brewington, I just want to say --

MR. BREWINGTON: I just want to answer his question and I will come back to your question.

That's true in terms of the outcome, but it's not true in terms of bringing the lawsuit. What you're really talking about is the impact that would come particularly in state courts with regard to trying to deal with that election at that time. I don't necessarily run the sprint, I do the long run. The Voting Rights Act and the other statutory requirements that bring us into Federal Court don't allow the political partisanship and the appointed judges we have in State Court to rule the day. We go to a higher court. One that's higher than New York State and then eventually go to the highest court and we stand on

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that. There's a community here that is faith based and based on the faith we understand that this battle is not over yet. There are reasons why Fannie Lou's memory stands in my mind. When you ask that question, you're right. For the immediate election the timing is bad. But I tell you what, make the decision that's wrong, the timing is going to be bad no matter what you do.

COMMISSIONER MEJIAS: But for you to really get immediate relief from a bad decision or bad policy it is going to be significantly hampered by the current calendar. That's why the Democratic Minority submitted legislation to move up the dates.

MR. BREWINGTON: Every one of your rules, just so you know, I looked at each one of them by the way. I had a chance to study them. Everyone of them was intended to enhance democracy not stump it up.

Mr. Bee?

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COMMISSIONER BEE: Mr. Brewington,  
you and I have dealt with each other  
professionally for a long time --

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MR. BREWINGTON: The other side of  
cases.

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COMMISSIONER BEE: May I speak?

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MR. BREWINGTON: Yes, sir.

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COMMISSIONER BEE: I have always  
thought of you as not only an excellent  
attorney, but a person of integrity and a  
person who does right as God gives you  
the ability to see right. I thought you  
thought similarly of me. I would be  
disappointed to feel otherwise.

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MR. BREWINGTON: Sir, I'm not here  
to talk about personalities. Both you  
and I share a common interest. We are  
both "Trekkers", we like Star Trek. But  
one of the things that I know is, when  
actions defy logic, as Spock tells us,  
then all truth must come forward.  
Because there is no greater truth than  
the logic that follows the truth. I  
follow the logic that leads me to the

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truth. And the truth is that when you vote down a resolution that simply says let's give people more opportunity and information, that is not logical.

COMMISSIONER BEE: Thank you for your excellent advocacy.

COMMISSIONER PERNICK: Mr. Brewington, from the bottom of my heart I want to thank you for taking time out of your day to join us here. I'm very moved by your testimony and very grateful to have your involvement in this process and your voice here to educate this commission (applause).

I have said many times that I believe and I think many people believe that you are Thurgood Marshall of Long Island. Your record backs that up. You have litigated every voting rights case here on Long Island, successfully; it's remarkable. And the service you have provided to this County and to our Island is deeply important.

I also understand you have the role

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as professor. You teach law schools, you educate members of the community and I would like to ask you to take a few more moments to educate this body; specifically, on the requirements of the Voting Rights Act.

As you know, from your wealth of experience litigating cases under Section 2 of the Voting Rights Act, there are a variety of requirements. The law requires Courts to evaluate under the totality of the circumstances whether communities of color have less opportunity to participate in the political process and to elect candidates of their choice. I was hoping you could take a moment or two to educate this commission on what that means and educate this commission on the types of evidence that are relevant when courts make that determination.

MR. BREWINGTON: Thornburg v. Gingles Supreme Court case. Please write it down if you haven't read it. I encourage you

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to write it down.

COMMISSIONER MEJIAS: We are going to put that up. It's on the drive already. You have that QR Code, you can look up this case.

MR. BREWINGTON: If there was an interest in getting educated in this situation, I would encourage folks to take a pen and write it down; Thornburg v. Gingles.

In Thornburg v. Gingles the Court made it very clear that under the Senate, the United States Senate put out what are called conditions: The Senate Factors. The Senate Factors were some 12 or 13 different subcomponents of what could support a voting rights act case.

In the case, Goosby v. Town of Hempstead, the plaintiffs in that case did not prove 13, they proved 23. What they did was they look at things such as housing, school districts, voting records, access to the ballot. They dealt with issues of policing. They dealt with

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issues of distribution of monies including HUD funds that are meant for one community and goes someplace else.

They look at other issues relating to access to healthcare. I will tell you the numbers from the Corona Virus for the African American and Hispanic community are abysmal. They will make a case in the voting rights claims.

So all of those and many more are factors that help to make the fabric of what is evaluated by a court. Not just whether or not a map itself is disruptive to educate the process, but whether or not those communities have systematically and systemically been the deprived of access to full, fair, equal, and equitable representation.

That's what we are asking -- no, I'm not asking you, I'm demanding you. That you stop what you're doing. Stop this partisan policy practice and get down to brass tacks. Represent the people whether or not they're black, blue or

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polkadot in your work that when you turn something over to the Legislature, you give Mr. Nicoletto -- I gotta get reelected again, whatever his name is -- that it's not okay. It's not okay to play games with our children's future.

Because that's why we're standing here. That's why Emily Moore worked so hard to her fingers to the nub of the bone. Why Dorothy Goosby stays where she is so we don't lose what we have gained. Stuff just gets stolen from us. Thieves in the night. We're tired of that. Take the headlights off my house.

COMMISSIONER PERNICK: Thank you, Mr. Brewington. I very much appreciate how you walked us through all the different categories -- some of the categories of disparities that are relevant. You mentioned housing, policing, income disparities; all these different types of disparities. Could you explain to this commission why it is that all these disparities and all their

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areas of life: Unfairness in campaigns, racials appeals in campaigns, other sorts of limitations, barriers to the ballot; how is that relevant and how should that be relevant to us as the Commission when we think about what the maps should look like and how they should draw the lines?

MR. BREWINGTON: You are required in the Voting Rights Act to take those into consideration as you do your work. I'm not saying optional. It is a mandate because of the historical references that we deal with that brought us to reconstruction. Because of what took place that caused the need for the 13th, 14th and 15th Amendment. We started on an uneven playing field. It remains uneven. As long as you are looking at 48% of people of color in Nassau County only having three elective spots on a 19 person legislature, it still remains uneven.

By the way, I will just answer your question. What it does it it helps to

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demonstrate how unfair the processes are that are controlled by the political imaginations that are going on in that district. Because right now, everyone of you know. Every one of you. Some of you might know very personally, that five minority/majority seats are not possible, they are exactly true. You can draw five seats right now. Why? Because I've done it. I'm waiting for you not to do it. I'm waiting. That's not a threat. That's a truism. Please take that back to Mr. Nicoletto as well. Let them step in the caca and then try and wipe it off their shoes.

CHAIRMAN MORONEY: Thank you, Mr. Brewington and thank you, Counsel. If you don't mind, we have a lot more speakers that want to have an opportunity to talk without cutting you off, please.

COMMISSIONER PERNICK: Excuse me, Mr. Chair. I have one final question for Mr. Brewington.

Mr. Brewington, you had mentioned

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and talked about these Senate Factors that a court would consider whether a map violates Section 2 of the Voting Rights Act. You walked through many of the categories. In your view as the leading Civil Rights lawyer on Long Island, do you believe that there is evidence to satisfy the standard laid out by the Supreme Court case *Thornburg v. Gingles*, that those Senate factors are present here in Nassau County?

MR. BREWINGTON: I don't think so; I know so. As a matter of fact, under the Voting Rights Act, if there is partisan gerrymandering that takes place -- and as I see what's happening, about to happen, I understand where we stay with that as your standard, that map over there, racially gerrymandering is going to elevate the issues.

So to answer your question, Commissioner Pernick, is absolutely. Just so you know, this stuff isn't done overnight. We evaluate this as time goes

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on. When we saw there was an actual change in demographics from 73% non Hispanic White in Nassau County to 58% non Hispanic White in the past census, if you don't take that into consideration and consider the Voting rights Act requires you to know that the communities of color are now busting at the seams, that's troubling. That's troubling. I hope -- no, I pray that you wake up tomorrow morning and the grass will be green, the sun will shine, and you will say, I need to turn over a new leaf and hear the beck and call because this the time. This is the time (applause).

COMMISSIONER PERNICK: I would like to make a brief motion first to permit anybody who yielded time to Mr. Brewington to at least have an opportunity to come up and speak. I don't believe that anybody should be denied the right to testify before this Commission just because they wanted to allow Mr. Brewington an extra few

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minutes. I would make that motion and ask that my fellow commissioners to join me and at least invite those individuals to say a few words, if they would like to.

CHAIRMAN MORONEY: We have their cards here. I believe the Bishop has left. The only other person would be Selina --

COMMISSIONER PERNICK: Mr. Chair, there is a motion and a second.

CHAIRMAN MORONEY: I'm trying to put some substance to your motion, rather than just nice words. Is that okay? Bishop Harvey is not here. Is Selina Hendrickson here?

Your motion is that you want her to come up and speak?

COMMISSIONER PERNICK: My motion is any of the individuals who yielded time to Mr. Brewington to be permitted to have an opportunity to address this body.

COMMISSIONER BEE: May I suggest that after speakers who have not yet been

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heard from, either on their own or through Mr. Brewington, after those speakers have been heard, we could return. Anyone who yielded time to Mr. Brewington may then be heard again.

COMMISSIONER PERNICK: I'm sorry, Commissioner. I don't understand why this is so complicated. We are saying anybody who submitted a card to be invited to come up and speak. I would ask that we have a roll call vote on this resolution at this time.

COMMISSIONER BEE: I'm suggesting an amendment to the motion so that we hear from the people who have not yet spoken first.

(Whereupon, commotion from audience.)

CHAIRMAN MORONEY: Can we have some order, please?

COMMISSIONER MEJIAS: Our relationship status is, it's complicated.

CHAIRMAN MORONEY: I'm going to make this easier. The people who gave Mr.

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Brewington time, could you stand up?

(Whereupon, speakers in audience are addressed.)

CHAIRMAN MORONEY: You all want to come up and speak?

(Whereupon, speakers from the audience reject offer to speak.)

CHAIRMAN MORONEY: So there is no need for a motion.

COMMISSIONER PERNICK: I will withdraw the motion.

CHAIRMAN MORONEY: Thank you. Alina Unilov, your turn.

MS. UZILOV: Hi, everyone. I honestly think I came to the wrong meeting, but it was very enlightening.

I was asked by my community to come to a redistricting meeting.

Unfortunately, just like everyone was saying here, there is not enough information online to know where people should go.

I come from Roslyn Heights. I moved

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here seven years ago from Brooklyn. We are a community called Roslyn Country Club; however, we don't have a country club or any sort of club. We are just called that since 1940's we were named that.

Why I'm here, we are concerned. We looked at the redistricting plan and we see that it really affected our little neighborhood of Roslyn Heights. Being established in 1940's, as far as we remember we have never been a part of two districts. The adopted district map shows that now a chunk of our little tiny community will belong to District 1, while a smaller chunk will be District 2. That's particularly unacceptable because it will limit our little community's residents to have a single elected official who can effectively represent our interests.

In addition, as per New York State, Article III, IV, and V, State Law requires that the Redistricting

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Commission take into consideration and preserve communities of interest, which I think a lot of people here felt that as well.

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You have failed to take into consideration that we are a community with historical and environmental interests. We share social and historical background. We are not a village. We are not any kind of a township. All we have is this name, Roslyn Country Club, even we don't have anything that establishes that. And now we are being split into two. I'm here to represent our community. I hope this Commission and the Town Commission, the Town of North Hempstead, you guys can talk to them. I hope that it will keep this community of interest in mind when you guys do the legislative redistricting. The division of our community will really affect us.

I know the task of map drawing is a difficult one and concerns of all Long

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Island communities are important. Every single one that I have heard about here, I feel like I was at a Civil Rights event. I just truly hope that what everyone said here, you guys will do the right thing for all the communities. So I'm here to represent mine and I hope I'm at the right place.

I urge you to reassess the map and take action to ensure that our community and all the others that are represented here is not unduly divided. Thank you.

COMMISSIONER BEE: I have a question, if I may. You were talking about a proposed map that proposes to divide your community. I'm not familiar with what map that is.

MS. UZILOV: I gave the map to the lady. I printed two maps; the current one and the proposed one.

COMMISSIONER BEE: Who has proposed that?

MS. UZILOV: It's our town, Town of North Hempstead. So since 1940, we've

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been one community. We have never been two districts. We have now been divided and a chunk of our community is going to be District 1 and another is going to District 2 for the Council. I feel like it's the --

COMMISSIONER BEE: This is the Commission that will advise the County on --

MS. UZILOV: I got confused by the Instagram post that Legislator Arnold Drucker posted.

COMMISSIONER BEE: And I'm sure, as you may be aware, that the Town of North Hempstead is the democratically controlled commission that has proposed those maps.

MS. UZILOV: Honestly, to be honest, we are very 50/50 community. Fifty percent Democrat, 50% Republican so I'm not going to talk partisan here. I honestly don't want to. I feel that Republicans have done a lot of harm to black communities on Long Island. I'm

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here for my community.

COMMISSIONER BEE: I would also like to avoid getting into partisan mud slinging. Let's stick with --

(Whereupon, commotion from audience.)

CHAIRMAN MORONEY: Okay. Mayor Wayne Hobbs, Jr. -- Waylan, sorry.

MR. HOBBS: Thank you for giving me the opportunity to speak. I understand the wrong name, it's been going on all night. I won't take it personally.

I'm here as the Mayor of the largest village, not only in the State of New York, but in the Country. I'm just asking that this temporary committee would hear the concern and the voice of the people and do what's right. When I ran for office, I ran on the promise of making sure we brought resources to our community. The only way I was able to bring resources is when you have the right elected officials that understand the needs of the community and send them

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resources. We started fixing roads, our sewer, or infrastructure. So it's important that as we do this, we do what's right for our community.

Hempstead is a very diverse community. We have a large population of African American, Latino, we still have our Caucasians, we have Asians that's moving in our community. It's a diverse community. I can understand how innocently someone asked the question, why can't we trust the system of the process, but we felt when we look at the process of this country, what's happening in Mississippi, what's happening in Flynt, Michigan? The process does not always work for our people and so that's why we are passionate to make sure you do the right thing by our people.

Thank you (applause).

CHAIRMAN MORONEY: H. Scottie Gourdine-Coads.

COMMISSIONER MEJIAS: Mayor, I just want to thank you and the trustees.

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You're doing a great job in the Village.  
As a business owner here in the Village,  
you're doing incredible. Thank you.

MS. GOURDINE-COADS: So  
Commissioners, we meet again. No maps.  
This is your third hearing and we still  
don't see any maps. What we see is very  
gerrymandered.

I'm gonna get right to the point.  
My name is H. Scottie Gourdine-Coads. I  
was chair for NAACP in New York State.  
What do we want? What we want is to have  
individuals elected or already in place  
with the fight to protect our community,  
representatives that we can trust that's  
gonna fight for us. Fred and many of the  
other speakers said already what I will  
be saying. I should just ditto  
everything.

I'm gonna get right to the  
gerrymandering part of all of this. You  
can't seem to draw lines that would be  
fair to every community especially my  
black and brown community. So I'm

1  
2 concerned about that. The gerrymandering  
3 part, Commissioners, and I speak to all  
4 of you, we have three minority/majority  
5 communities. Everything has increased.  
6 The population has gone up and we know  
7 that we're entitled -- we feel we're  
8 entitled to more districts. I would say  
9 a minimum of five. That was said already  
10 by Mr. Brewington and I think Mr. Hoge  
11 spoke about it. The population was  
12 53,891 in 2010; the 2010 census revealed  
13 that. By 2019, we had 55,113. Population  
14 has increased to 59,169 (buzzer). I took  
15 three minutes already?

16 (Whereupon, audience member,  
17 Casey Marlero, yields his  
18 time.)

19 MS. GOURDINE-COADS: I would then  
20 request that we have more districts and I  
21 would say to the audience here, although  
22 my back is turned to you, be diligent  
23 with all of the dates that we have to  
24 show up to show these people that we're  
25 not playing. We're for real. We fought

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too hard to make sure that we get counted in every aspect of government. So we should make sure we show up. There are only five or six meeting places. We have 19 districts, but yet we only get allowed five or six places that our voices can be heard. Our senior citizens are the forgotten people.

You see this young man (indicating)? He stood with me at the hearing in Mineola. He was an infant in a stroller when we testified before. Of course, it meant nothing to any of you, but now he is the vice president of Youth Council of the Lakeview Branch of the NAACP (applause). That's right.

So I say to you, commissioners, I agree with the person who said it looks like you can't get it together. So if you can't get it together, how you gonna get it for us? You gotta do better. We're tired.

You know, the Voting Rights Act of 1965 was chopped away June 23, 2013.

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Some of the same people who are against it now, voted in 2006 (sic) to reinstate it. Why do we have to fight for everything that we get and accomplish. We have to fight.

I said to you, you gotta get it together. We're not playing. We're gonna show up wherever we have to. If we have to go to that special place in Mineola, we will pack the room too. We're ready. We're ready to fight.

Thank you and have a good evening.

CHAIRMAN MORONEY: Meta Mereday.

COMMISSIONER WYATT: I just want to say that I remember ten years ago, you said to this young man when he was in the stroller. I was on that side with you, if you recall and with Mr. Brewington. I just want to thank you both for keeping up the good feet for people in our community. Fighting for fairness and justice. I want to thank you both for that.

MS. GOURDINE-COADS: Thank you for

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that.

CHAIRMAN MORONEY: Ms. Mereday?

MS. MEREDAY: Meta J. Mereday.

Let's see. JP Morgan Chase CEO, Jamie Dimon, was recently out here on Long Island and he said, America's first suburb, which is Long Island, is sadly to his way of thinking, America's most segregated suburb and it continues to have toxic implications. That's coming from Corporate America today.

I'm proud to be in a state where we have a Voting Right's Law, John R. Lewis. It saddens me that our US Senate did not step up to the plate for its own former member. And lying in the battle field for civil rights, I stand on his shoulders. As Mr. Brewington said, thank you, Fannie Lou Hamer, I stand on her shoulders. I stand on the shoulders of the former representative from the state of Texas, Barbara Jordan, who said is this not America?

Again, I was at that first meeting.

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I was there with Scottie and with that young man ten years ago when we had high hopes and great expectations and they were dashed. I was at the meeting in August when I said to this body, I have no confidence in this process whatsoever. It will be rubber stamped.

I'm not going to waste too much more time with that discussion, but it was obvious that I should come to this hearing because we will be going to court, it is a give in. We already know this.

But as many have said more eloquently than I, we are ready. We are waiting. We will be there. My concern again, since I hope that more residents were here, because this, again, is not the group that makes the decision. You need to be at the Nassau County Legislature on a regular basis, every two weeks, because they're still going to be deciding a basic 3.4 billion dollar budget that will impact our communities.

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That's where you need to be.

My concern is that this body is going to present a bias gerrymandered package that the Nassau County Legislature, with the presiding officer that was so eloquently outlined by Mr. Mejias, is going to vote for that package. Not in January, but in November. They're gonna make it easy for themselves. We're not gonna have an opportunity to review the map. You think you have not time here? Trust me. You will have no time. So you need to step up now. You need to be in their face now and you need to let it be known now that we're not gonna settle for a crap map. We're not going to settle for gerrymandering and business as usual.

So for those of us who have other things that we have to do, caregiving, advocating, we have to get back on the battlefield because, finally, as John, the former Senator from the state of Georgia said, nothing can stop the power

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of a committed and determined people to make a difference in our society. Why? Because human beings are the most dynamic link to be divine on the planet with God on our side. No justice, no peace.

Thank you.

CHAIRMAN MORONEY: Kevin McKenna.

MR. MCKENNA: I'm Kevin McKenna.

I'm a community advocate here in Nassau County. I'm also the founder of Nassau County NY News. You want to know everything that these folks over here don't want you to know, just go on Nassau County NY News on Facebook. I have been working the last two weeks to get the meeting dates out and I've made some accomplishments with the Clerk of the Nassau County Legislature, Michael Pulitzer. But it's clear to me that Michael Pulitzer is being obstructed by whoever he needs to go to get the information put on the website. Okay.

Sir, first of all, I want to thank the democrats. I'm choking saying this

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right now, but I want to thank you for everything that you're trying to do. In the second meeting that took place, there was a recommendation by a resident that autobiographies be put up about all of you. I know who most of you are (indicating) and now I know who most of you are. All of your information, your background, is going to be posted on Nassau County NY News. These people here (indicating), on the left side, they were put here by the Republican party to protect the power, as we said before. They are not going to represent any of you. They have too much at risk. That woman right there, Ms. Fitzgerald, her family is employed in the Town of Oyster Bay. There are four family members that make over 1 million dollars a year, your family. Why don't you, if you don't mind, I'm going to relinquish my time. Why don't we start and just tell the folks the name of the town that you live in and let's just go across. What town

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do you live in? Would you mind saying the town?

CHAIRMAN MORONEY: This is for you to speak. Not for us.

MR. MCKENNA: Let me tell you right now, sir. You and I -- I came to know you on the phone the other day when you returned my phone call. Okay.

CHAIRMAN MORONEY: When you hung up on me?

MR. MCKENNA: I'm gonna tell the folks right now --

CHAIRMAN MORONEY: Is that the phone message when you hung up on me?

MR. MCKENNA: Let me speak.

CHAIRMAN MORONEY: Is that the phone message where you hung up on me?

MR. MCKENNA: Let me speak, please.

CHAIRMAN MORONEY: Okay.

MR. MCKENNA: Let me speak, please. This is my time.

The last meeting at the City of Glen Cove was canceled the day before the meeting. I want you all to know this,

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folks. People were going to the City of

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Glen Cove for the last meeting and the

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day before the meeting, at the last

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minute, the meeting got canceled. I

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called up City Hall and I got a person

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from Glen Cove City Hall on the phone and

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I told them that they should be concerned

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that people might still be coming to the

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City of Glen Cove because the meeting

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just got canceled. And you called me

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back and you had no idea who you were

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calling back and I got you on the phone

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and I tried to explain to you the

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problems with (buzzer) the website. You

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know what he said to me? This man right

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here said to me, I am not getting in the

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weeds with you. I don't want to know what

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the problems are with the website.

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That's what that man that's in charge of

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this committee told me on the telephone.

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All right. You said to me --

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CHAIRMAN MORONEY: And that's when

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you hung up.

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MR. MCKENNA: You're not getting

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into the weeds. Didn't you say that?

CHAIRMAN MORONEY: That's when you hung up.

MR. MCKENNA: Didn't you say that? Didn't you say to me that you're not getting in the weeds? Didn't you say that on the phone.

CHAIRMAN MORONEY: I will not elevate you higher than you think you are.

CHAIRMAN MORONEY: Sir, you are the most arrogant, corrupt individual that I have met in Nassau County after that conversation that we had on the telephone. You are not here to represent these people. You are here to represent the Republican party. They put you here to obstruct this process and these folks over here (indicating), are you allowed to speak. Do you talk? Do you talk? Ms. Fitzgerald, do you ever talk? Do you have a brain. You don't return phone calls, e-mails for the Town of Oyster Bay. You are the highest paid

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commissioner in the Town of Oyster Bay

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and you do not return phone calls and

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e-mails so why are you volunteering your

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time here, when you're not doing your job

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at the Town of Oyster Bay. Who are you.

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COMMISSIONER MEJIAS: All right.

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When you go to law school, they teach you

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if you use that facts of the law to

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attack a person -- the facts of the law

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are clearly on our side here. What Ms.

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Fitzgerald's family does or doesn't do

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for a living is irrelevant. I don't

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thing, personally, I'm sorry, sir, this

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is not a place to personally -- this is

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not a forum to personally attack people

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on this Commission regardless of their

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party. We are better than that. The

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facts of the law are on our side. Take it

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down a notch and let's not bring people's

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families into this discussion.

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MR. MCKENNA: I have a question for

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the Chairman.

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Mr. Chairman, you have the names of

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the committee people hidden on the

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website, which I found and now I'm gonna post it. Why don't you put your biographies next to your names so we know who is representing us? Why don't you do that?

CHAIRMAN MORONEY: Please finish.

MR. MCKENNA: Would you do that?

CHAIRMAN MORONEY: No.

MR. MCKENNA: Why not?

CHAIRMAN MORONEY: Please finish.

MR. MCKENNA: At the last meeting, you came this (indicating) close to saying -- I don't think you realize that I have that on video. You actually said at the last meeting that we're gonna listen to you, but we're probably not going to redraw any districts. You said that right out of your mouth. You are nothing but somebody to obstruct this process and you and every one of you, if we --

CHAIRMAN MORONEY: Please finish up.

There are other speakers that want to speak.

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MR. MCKENNA: If we want this to happen, every one of you need to be removed from this committee. Every one of you. There's not chance this is gonna get done fair with any of you on this committee. I suggest that you all resign and put people on this committee that are gonna do the right thing, because it's not you.

Thank you very much (applause).

CHAIRMAN MORONEY: Lyndell Senior.

MR. SENIOR: I'm not gonna take three minutes.

I do know that when I worked at my job and I had a presentation and I didn't have a power point or the information for that presentation, I'd probably be looking for another job. The fact that we're talking about redistricting and about a map and how it's gonna affect our lives for the next ten years and not have that information to provide for the public, is despicable.

The second thing is that you're

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gonna be affecting a lot of communities. When you redistrict the county and when you put communities of colors and you split them up, the thing is that you're talking about money. If you have large community and you're able to go to them, you're going to have to be responsible to them. However, if you split them up, you really don't have to be responsible.

I live in Lakeview and I (inaudible). If there was 50,000 over there, you're gonna want to be committed to those people and you're gonna hold them accountable. I just feel that if you split up these communities, you're not gonna really be committed to them. I think it is unfortunate that communities of color are going to be disenfranchised.

That's all I have to say.

CHAIRMAN MORONEY: Kiana Abbady.

MS. ABBADY: Good evening, Commission. I sent a letter to the committee during the first hearing. I will try differentiate my language.

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First thing I want to point out is there is only one door that's open to get into the building. Not only is that a fire hazard, we've already closed off access again. In addition to switching the dates, switching the locations, telling folks at the last minute when this information is happening, when this information is available, when they can come to speak about the districting, we've already flubbed that part.

I also want to uplift that it's 2022, I am 29 years old. I would like to think I am one of the very few tech savvy individuals. I had the hardest time using Nassau County's website about this Commission. I included that in my letter. When you had that meeting in Mineola, that's when I sent that letter. Today, during this meeting, it took me ten minutes, ten minutes, and not for nothing, my phone is real shitty. It took me ten minutes to get to the Commission's website to find individuals

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names. I don't even know if all of you have e-mails. When I sent my first letter, I was a part of a thread in which some of the commissioners didn't have accurate e-mails so I can't even accurately communicate to you what my concerns are. And there's a nice guarantee I got a nice response that my letter would be shared, but quite frankly, after the exchange that I just watched between a very clear motion being made. We understood what the motion was. What happened? But I'm supposed to trust you redraw my district? Absolutely not. Absolutely not. I will not allow you mess up again.

Apparently, it already happened 10 years ago. Like I said, I'm 29 years old. I have done the research myself. The City -- Long Island likes to talk a whole bunch a mess about The City -- they had numerous meetings about redistricting last year. Last year. I was able to get more information about how Queens, where

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my cousins live, how Bronx, how Brooklyn is going to be affected by redistricting, last year. Now I'm coming to a meeting in September to discuss maps that have not been presented to the public and to be voted on, supposedly, maybe in March. Unacceptable, disgraceful, an embarrassment.

I can only imagine that there are a bunch of legal minds. But let me tell you something, having a legal mind does not mean that you have a heart. It is very clear there is a little bit of love missing in this commission. It is very clear that there is a little bit too much of the legal jargon being thrown around and that's how you guys get stuck in the weeds. That's how ya'll mess up (buzzer). My time is up.

But the woman that was here from Massapequa, I really wish she had the courage to stay and sit with us and hear a little bit more about why we're upset. That's the other problem we have in this

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county. We know we are segregated. We know there's a problem. You like to pretend redistricting will not affect our schools, our housing, our environment. We had *Newsday* do an Op Ed two years ago about how housing was a problem. Those housing decisions, housing policies, are made at the legislature. Tonight there were supposed to be three other meetings in the Village and the Town. How is our community supposed to represent ourselves when you told us last week that there was supposed to be a meeting in which our district could be changed.

CHAIRMAN MORONEY: Kiana, Could you just wrap it up please?

MS. ABBADY: Of course.

CHAIRMAN MORONEY: Thank you.

MS. ABBADY: As I was saying, we have a lack of representation. I'm 29 years old. My community is not here. When I say my community I don't just mean the black community, I don't just mean women, I mean 29 year olds. I mean

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millennials. The next largest voting block of Nassau County. I am the next person that's going to be here and I have not had the opportunity to get my community to come out. I don't understand why there's not a virtual option. Even if there were virtual options, they suck currently.

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I don't understand why these commissions are not being held at colleges where more people can attend. Where there is more space. Where we can get the next generation of voters to participate. Because I will tell you something, both sides love to talk about the next generation, but you do absolutely nothing to get us here. You do absolutely nothing and it's embarrassing. It's a waste of time.

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Now we're gonna go to court wasting taxpayer dollars. You know what you're doing is wrong. You know what you're doing is wrong, but you would rather waste money, because apparently you'll

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got it. Let's be honest, if you were paying for this yourselves individually as commissioners, you'd have been done and you would've been done correctly.

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'Cause you don't want that bill on your heads, and now instead, you're putting on ours. That is not fair. Get it together, ya'll. Most of you are twice my age. I should not have to talk to my elders like this. Do better (applause).

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CHAIRMAN MORONEY: Thank you very much.

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COMMISSIONER MEJIAS: The County does control the Nassau County Community College, so maybe we should have a meeting so we can engage younger people. You know what the problem is when you gerrymander districts and people think the system is rigged, they don't want to participate. That's part of the problem we have here. With a lack of transparency, people don't believe the system works for them. They think this is all rigged and it probably is, quite

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frankly. So the districts that are gerrymandered, that's why young people don't think they can make a difference by voting because they think it's already been rigged. Maybe we should have a meeting at Nassau Community College to get your generation out.

CHAIRMAN MORONEY: Maryellen Kreye.

MS. KREYE: I would just like to commend that young lady for her passion. It gives me great hope for the future (applause).

I just wanted to say that this is the second hearing that I've attended and what I hear is that people want unity. I come from Uniondale, which is all about unity and working together. It is terribly important to us for that unity to be kept. We do not want to see the districts for our villages and hamlets to be separated, and we do not want to see any mythical, mystical beasts when they look at the map and realize that that represents their districts. It's

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extraordinarily important. I think you have a civic responsibility, and I hope that you are taking it more seriously than it appears. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN MORONEY: Thank you. Mimi Pierre Johnson.

MS. JOHNSON: Good evening. My name is Mimi Pierre Johnson from Elmont. I am so happy that Fred Brewington was here. He taught me how to fight in a way that all the way back in New York, we were able to bring Elmont and Valley Stream back to Nassau County.

Here's a little story, ten years, those of us in Elmont realized that we weren't being taken care of like most of the other affluent areas on Long Island, so we decided we were gonna run for office, we were gonna engage participate in our civic duties. I was rewarded by having two election districts on my street. If you look up Crystal Street in Elmont, you have Senate 7 on one side and Senate 7-9 on the other side. Just like

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right now, we had a commission. We had the Leg. Peter was there. So many others that are no longer with us. We told our story. We were all there. We were a little bit older now, but I am a little bit wiser. You're gonna look at me, you're gonna smile, and you're gonna say thank you.

You're probably don't understand the map I just gave you, but let me tell you, the little short one that's compact, that's how it was before they bamboozled us and gave us the snake that you see on the second half. So what the reward was for us to get involved in politics and our civic duty was to crack us. Crack Elmont before they get much smarter. Pack them into an area so that they don't have a voice. On the state level, give them three senators; on the congressional level, stick them in Queens; on the leg (sic), send them to Far Rockaway. Even those in the Five Towns, begged. They begged, please don't separate us, but

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they did. They cracked the Five Towns and packed all the black people together, put all the Jewish people together and made us into enemies. You know what happens when you do that? You have to fight your elected officials for what you need on your side and what they need on their side. So when you now have to fight for your school district, for resources, that elected official -- I'm gonna run out of time, just give me a little bit, this is ten years.

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CHAIRMAN MORONEY: Just finish up, if you can. Okay.

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MS. JOHNSON: Sure. When you do that, my district, our black and brown districts, close your eyes, open them up, you can tell the difference between Manhasset, Garden City, Floral Park, Stewart Manor. You know why, they don't have to fight like us. They show up, they vote and they tell you, this is what we want, and they get it. But us, we don't get that. You talk about what happened to

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us ten years ago? Do you know we did not

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have a choice in our Council in that

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district. We only had one person to vote

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for. One. And it wasn't a Democrat. Not

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that the Democrats are perfect either.

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The Republicans sued the democrats

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because the maps were wrong. It's like we

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have to fight for every little thing.

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Every little thing.

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I'm gonna say to you guys, you're

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not elected officials, right? You were

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appointed by the elected officials. You

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were elected by the parties. All of you,

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whether it was a Democrat or Republican,

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they chose you to sit up there and listen

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and then when you give it to them,

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they're gonna look at us, hear us, and

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they're not gonna do anything. They're

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not. You're not.

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But we're wiser and we have people

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like Fred Brewington. We have the Gen-Zs.

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Read up on what's happening in Elmont

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with the Gen-Zs. We're not standing for

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it anymore. Our work in the 2020 Census,

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we raised the response by 10% in Elmont and Valley Stream so that we have enough of a population to give us more districts. That population increase is not for any elected official to use to stay their power. It is for us to have more of a voice in our government. It is for us to pay our taxes and get the resources that we need, no matter what color, what zip code we are in. It's time for Long Island to shed the most segregated, racist place to live. It's time for you to shed that. I'm going to be a little optimistic. Let it be you. Let it be you that said to the country, we are gonna look at everyone equally. Equal.

We know it's a lot. It's probably not gonna happen, but perhaps you could think about it. What's gonna happen to all of the elected officials that are not standing for our rights?

CHAIRMAN MORONEY: Thank you.

Sanjeer Jindal.

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MR. JINDAL: Thank you so very much for all the commissioners and we, the audience, that be in depression for last ten years and we don't want to be in depression for next ten years.

I ask you as commissioners appointed by the parties, to look at the district maps. I think it's very funny drawn. It's a very fancy name, gerrymandering. And that fancy word does not belong in democracy either. What democracy stand for? I think the largest democracy in the world to the oldest democracy (inaudible). What democracy stand for? When we say freedom and justice for all; is that true? That we just say it or is it really happening?

What democracy mean is let the people elect their leaders. That is what democracy means. It's not the leaders that choose, this pocket is mine, that pocket is yours. It is not gonna happen like that. That time is gone. Now God is watching you guys. It's a fair share

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for everyone. We are looking that you are going to do your part, that's why if you look at District 2, it is like snakes on the roads. Come on. Please do the justice with the people. Let's not live by the zip codes that we use and send our kids to school by the zip codes. Please do you due diligence and let the district be drawn in a fair share for everyone. Do the justice as God gives you the power to do that. Thank you so very much.

CHAIRMAN MORONEY: Thank you very much.

That concludes the comments from the public. With that, motion to adjourn.

COMMISSIONER MEJIAS: Second.

CHAIRMAN MORONEY: All in favor.

(Whereupon, all Commission members respond in favor with, Aye.)

(Whereupon, the above matter is adjourned, 8:40 p.m.)

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C E R T I F I C A T E

STATE OF NEW YORK            )  
  :  SS.:  
COUNTY OF NASSAU            )

I, KAREN LORENZO, a Notary Public for and  
within the State of New York, do hereby  
certify:

That the above is a correct transcription  
of my stenographic notes.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set  
my hand this 5th day of October, 2022.

Karen Lorenzo

KAREN LORENZO

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