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6 NASSAU COUNTY TEMPORARY DISTRICTING

7 ADVISORY COMMISSION

8

9 FRANCIS X. MORONEY

10 CHAIR

11

12 Theodore Roosevelt Building

13 1550 Franklin Avenue

14 Mineola, New York

15

16

17 Wednesday, August 31, 2022

18 6:10 P.M.

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

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4 FRANCIS X. MORONEY

5 Chair

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7 PETER BEE

8

9 JOHN J. REINHARDT

10

11 MAUREEN FITZGERALD

12

13 CHRISTOPHER DEVANE

14

15 DAVID MEJIAS

16

17 JARED KASSCHAU

18

19 ANDRENA WYATT

20

21 JAMES MAGIN, JR.

22

23 MICHAEL PERNICK

24

25

1 Districting Advisory Commission

2 MR. MORONEY: Ladies and
3 gentlemen, I would ask you to please stand for
4 the Pledge of Allegiance.

5 Thank you all for coming out today
6 or tonight. I would like to, if I may, ask
7 David Mejias on my immediate left to introduce
8 the members of his delegation for the
9 commission.

10 MR. MEJIAS: We have Andrena
11 Wyatt on the end, Jim Magin, Jared Kasschau,
12 Mike Pernick and my name is David Mejias.

13 MR. MORONEY: And if I call on my
14 friend to the right, Peter Bee, if he could
15 introduce the members of the Republican
16 commission.

17 MR. BEE: Certainly. To my
18 immediate right is Maureen Fitzgerald and to
19 her right is John Reinhardt. To his right is
20 Reverend Eric Mallette. And then at the end
21 of the line is Chris Devane.

22 MR. MORONEY: If anybody has come
23 in and they wish to speak would you please
24 come forward to Crystal. Please give your
25 name and address and she'll give you

1 Districting Advisory Commission
2 everything you need if you want to be put on
3 the talk list.

4 Without objection, I'm going to
5 open this up by first giving a little
6 background on why we're here and what we're
7 doing here. And if I may take some time just
8 to read into the record some thoughts that I
9 had put down this morning.

10 This is the third time the
11 Temporary Redistricting Advisory Commission
12 has been assembled to fulfill its obligation
13 under the Nassau County charter.

14 As stated in the 1995 final report
15 on the commission on government revision, the
16 function of the commission is to recommend one
17 or more plans to the county legislature for
18 dividing the county into the legislative
19 districts.

20 The commission consists of 11
21 members with a nonvoting chair being appointed
22 by the county executive. There are five
23 members appointed by the presiding officer.
24 Those sit on my right, your left. And five by
25 the minority leader, which is on my left, your

1 Districting Advisory Commission
2 right.

3 The commission permits but does not
4 require public hearings. Prior
5 reapportionment processes establishes addition
6 of permissive meetings seeking public input to
7 be held around the county.

8 The county legislature allocated
9 \$985,000 to fund the work of the commission.
10 The allocation is divided equally between the
11 commissioners appointed by the presiding
12 officer and the commissioners appointed by the
13 minority leader.

14 However, a portion of that \$985,000
15 is set aside to pay for stenographic services,
16 American Sign Language interpreters and other
17 shared costs of the commission to each
18 delegation as those expenses arise.

19 Each delegation of appointees
20 divides the balance to the purchase needed for
21 mapping technology, software and the hiring of
22 experts, counsel and staff as each deem
23 necessary.

24 The developing of a map or maps by
25 the commission must comply with both federal

1 Districting Advisory Commission
2 and state law. The proceedings have to be
3 fair and transparent to the public. That
4 transparency is achieved by significant
5 outreach to the public and holding public
6 hearings on any maps or plans for
7 redistricting submitted by the commissioners
8 or others to the county legislature.

9 Once the plans or maps are drawn,
10 they will be turned over to the legislature.
11 Likewise, all transcripts, public comment that
12 are generated at these hearings by the
13 commission will be submitted to the full
14 legislature for consideration. That, by the
15 way, includes the streaming comments and all
16 of the other items that we are taking under
17 charge.

18 The full legislature will conduct
19 hearings on submissions by the appropriate
20 committee and then by the entire legislature.
21 The county legislature may reject, adopt,
22 revise or amend the redistricting plan or
23 plans recommended by the Temporary Advisory
24 Commission or adopt any other redistricting
25 plan that meets all constitutional and

1 Districting Advisory Commission
2 statutory requirements.

3 In an effort to achieve
4 transparency, all the meetings and hearings
5 will be public and streamed over our
6 internet. The legislative clerk will preserve
7 those records.

8 Further, this commission will
9 stream the hearings and keep the record open
10 for a period of time to be determined after
11 the last hearing for purposes of submitting
12 emails or regular mails or correspondence with
13 respect to items before the county. Any
14 correspondence, email or information received
15 after that date will be forwarded directly to
16 the full legislature for its consideration.

17 In preparation for this hearing,
18 notice of this meeting and others were sent to
19 the following. The office of the county
20 executive. Counsel to the minority
21 commission, Dave Mejias. Members of the
22 majority commission delegation. Nassau County
23 League of Women Voters. The City of Glen
24 Cove. The City of Long Beach. The Town of
25 Hempstead. The Town of North Hempstead. The

1 Districting Advisory Commission
2 Town of Oyster Bay. Twenty-two villages in
3 the Town of Hempstead. Thirty villages in the
4 Town of North Hempstead. Sixteen villages in
5 the Town of Oyster Bay. Fifty-five libraries,
6 57 school districts, 67 civic associations, 50
7 chambers of commerce and 150 news and media
8 outlets who service Nassau County.

9 Please note that the commissioners
10 appointed by the minority have asked for the
11 adoption of a series of resolutions. These
12 will be considered after all the people who
13 have requested time to speak have spoken.

14 The public may also send in written
15 requests or questions to the attention of the
16 Nassau County Legislature at 1550 Franklin
17 Avenue, Mineola, New York 15501 or email to
18 the commission at leg public comment at Nassau
19 County NY dot gov and that is posted on the
20 county website. All these communications will
21 be sent to each and every member of the
22 commission.

23 With that said, let me call the
24 first speaker to the microphone.

25 MR. MEJIAS: Just a point of

1 Districting Advisory Commission

2 order. We don't have an agenda.

3 MR. MORONEY: It was sent to you
4 yesterday.

5 MR. MEJIAS: I know but pursuant
6 to Robert's Rules of Order it has to be voted
7 on by a majority of the commission in order to
8 have a valid agenda. That's number one.

9 Number two, you referenced a public
10 notice that went out and we submitted a public
11 notice to the clerk's office as well. And I
12 would like to know if that was clocked in and
13 entered into the clerk's office and
14 disseminated and distributed to all the
15 governmental and community groups that you've
16 listed for your public notice.

17 I'll speak a little louder. And
18 I've never heard someone ask me to speak
19 loudly. Usually they tell me to quiet down.

20 There was a point of order as to
21 whether or not we actually have an agenda. An
22 agenda was not voted on by the majority of the
23 commission. Number one.

24 Number two, there was a reference
25 made to a public notice that went out and was

1 Districting Advisory Commission
2 disseminated to the governments, various
3 government entities in Nassau County as well
4 as community groups. The Democratic
5 commissioners submitted a public notice to the
6 clerk's office for dissemination to those same
7 groups, which the clerk's office would not
8 accept nor stamp at that time. And I would
9 like to know if it was accepted and stamped.
10 And I would like to know if that particular
11 public notice was given out to the public. I
12 can't imagine that it was.

13 As we sit here today, I just want
14 to make the record clear that the Democratic
15 commissioners were not consulted as to the
16 dates of the -- as to the date of this
17 particular meeting or any of the other
18 meetings that were in the public notice
19 disseminated by the clerk's office. There are
20 other meetings that we would like to have as
21 well.

22 This is a very important process.
23 There have been many changes in redistricting
24 law since our last redistricting in 2012
25 there's a New York Voting Rights Act and a new

1 Districting Advisory Commission
2 partisan gerrymandering prohibition. There
3 was the case, the Harkenrider case which
4 changed the landscape of redistricting in New
5 York State completely.

6 But it is important to have a
7 robust public hearing process. Ten years ago
8 we started our redistricting process in May.
9 On May 31st. We are now in the last day of
10 August. Three months later. However, the
11 election cycle has been compressed. Ten years
12 ago petitioning started in June. Currently it
13 starts in February. And other counties across
14 the state with the same election schedule have
15 begun the process and even concluded their
16 process. Many counties have already concluded
17 their process already.

18 We've been asking for a preliminary
19 organizational meeting since June and we've
20 been stonewalled. The Republicans and the
21 chairman have provided zero explanation for
22 this delay. I'm concerned that Chairman
23 Moroney's delay represents an intentional
24 strategy to exploit legal doctrine so that the
25 county has free reign and the Republicans in

1 Districting Advisory Commission
2 the county have free reign to adopt an
3 unlawful map for the 2023 election at a time
4 when it's too late for anyone to effectively
5 challenge the map under federal law.

6 The Democrats in the county
7 legislature have tried to prevent this delay
8 by introducing legislation to speed up the
9 deadline for adopting maps but no action has
10 yet been taken by the Republican majority.

11 In terms of the hearings themselves
12 in coming up with the dates for these
13 hearings, ten years ago when I served on this
14 commission, the Republican and Democratic
15 executive directors worked together to come up
16 with a hearing schedule. If the redistricting
17 process is not democratic, then the government
18 it creates cannot itself be democratic and the
19 redistricting process cannot be democratic
20 unless the voices of all the people are heard.

21 Our commission chair has
22 unilaterally tried to dictate the public
23 hearing schedule, which excludes great swathes
24 of Nassau County from effective participation
25 in the redistricting process. It's not only

1 Districting Advisory Commission

2 wrong it is illegal.

3 Furthermore, the chair lacks the
4 legal authority to unilaterally dictate such
5 an undemocratic hearing schedule. A hearing
6 schedule must be adopted by a majority of the
7 commission. Six votes out of ten. There are
8 five Democratic votes, five Republican votes
9 and the chair, who is appointed by the county
10 executive, does not have a vote. The whole
11 purpose of this requirement is that so both
12 sides have input into the process.

13 This hearing today was not
14 scheduled, not voted upon and not necessarily
15 legitimate. But we are here anyway because we
16 need to be heard and we need this process to
17 be started.

18 The hearings proposed by the
19 Republican delegation are not enough for
20 Nassau County. Nassau County is extremely
21 racially diverse. According to the US census
22 in the last ten years we have seen every
23 minority community with an increase of over 30
24 percent in our Latino community and an
25 increase of over 60 percent in our Asian

1 Districting Advisory Commission
2 community.

3 The only reason to limit the number
4 of hearings is to keep the people in the dark
5 and to prevent them from being heard. For
6 example, the Republicans' proposal for
7 hearings requires one hearing in Glen Cove,
8 which has 27,000 residents, and one hearing in
9 Hempstead which has 768,000 residents.
10 Literally 28 times the population of Glen
11 Cove. The idea that they each deserve the
12 same number of hearings is absurd. The Town
13 of Hempstead needs more hearings.

14 Furthermore, if you look at where
15 the hearings are and how long it would take to
16 get there through public transportation, a
17 hearing in Hempstead town hall would take an
18 hour and a half by public transportation from
19 Inwood to get to. And we see this all over
20 the county.

21 The hearing proposed in the Town of
22 North Hempstead would take over an hour and 15
23 minutes to get to by public transportation
24 from New Cassel or Westbury. The hearing in
25 the Town of Oyster Bay and of course

1 Districting Advisory Commission
2 Massapequa would take over an hour and 15
3 minutes to get to from Oyster Bay hamlet by
4 public transportation.

5 What's even more disturbing is that
6 the maps that the hearing on the maps
7 themselves that are proposed by both
8 delegations are to be made public by five p.m.
9 on November 10th and then sent to the
10 legislature three and a half hours later. The
11 hearing on those maps is the very same day.
12 So the public has one hour between five and
13 six p.m. to review the maps that may rule its
14 government for the next ten years. This
15 prevents public input. It takes days if not
16 weeks to analyze or understand a proposed
17 map. And what is the point of a hearing on
18 November 10th if the public hasn't had the
19 chance to even see the maps or analyze them?

20 This is inconsistent with how every
21 other commission operates. Suffolk County has
22 had its map out already for weeks. There are
23 counties upstate that have completed the
24 process. The process of setting the schedule
25 has been entirely partisan and one sided and

1 Districting Advisory Commission

2 we, the Democratic commissioners, have had
3 zero input into this schedule.

4 So, we're asking for a good faith
5 schedule on hearings that gives all
6 communities the opportunity to participate.
7 Right now there is no schedule of hearings
8 because the commission has been prevented from
9 adopting one. While the public notice
10 purports to claim certain public hearing
11 dates, you can't do that unless we vote on
12 them. And there has been no vote and no
13 request from the Democratic side on hearing
14 dates and locations.

15 We have some specific conflicts
16 with some of the dates. Particularly
17 September 14th proposed by the Republicans and
18 October 3rd which is on the eve of Yom Kippur
19 where some people are traveling.

20 This needs to be a more fair
21 process. The law has changed. There's a
22 New York Voting Rights Act now. There's
23 legislation and case law and federal law that
24 applies to this hearing.

25 So, I'm going to ask that the

1 Districting Advisory Commission
2 public address whether or not you want to have
3 input into hearings in your local communities
4 addressing these maps and how they affect your
5 representation in government. We're going to
6 pass out a preview of the resolutions that we
7 submitting to be heard and we would like
8 people to discuss some of the issues before
9 the legislature right now and how it is that
10 we're going to have a fair process and what it
11 is that you would like to see us do to make
12 sure that your input is taken into account.

13 We want open, transparent and a
14 collaborative redistricting process. We need
15 fair and legal maps drawn based on the current
16 New York State law. We want to hear your
17 concerns regarding the current legislative
18 maps and what you would like to see the new
19 maps take into consideration. Perhaps the
20 unmet needs of your community is something
21 that you want us to hear about. And any ways
22 you believe your community is underserved or
23 disenfranchised. Or any resources you believe
24 are unfairly allocated within a particular
25 community because of your representation in

1 Districting Advisory Commission
2 government.

3 We also want to hear any ways that
4 you're satisfied with your current
5 representation in government and what you
6 would like to see changed in the new maps.

7 In closing, we do want to be
8 collaborative. We want to work with the
9 Republican commissioners. We want to make
10 sure that the public is heard and has the
11 input that they deserve into a democratic
12 process which should be democratic and not a
13 process that is foisted upon us illegally
14 without a majority vote of the commission.
15 And it's up to the people in this room to let
16 us know how you feel and what you would like
17 to see done to make sure that happens. Thank
18 you.

19 MR. BEE: Mr. Chairman, candidly
20 I'm somewhat disappointed by Mr. Mejias
21 beginning the proceedings with a partisan
22 attack on the good faith and motivations and
23 contegrity of the Republican members of this
24 commission. What has happened here is really
25 very simple and straightforward. There's no

1 Districting Advisory Commission
2 question that Mr. Moroney has been designated
3 the chairman of the commission. He has set
4 forward a set of dates and locations and times
5 for which the public can be heard and that is
6 the purpose of this commission, to hear from
7 the public. Not to engage in partisan attacks
8 on each other's motivations.

9 So, from my standpoint, I
10 appreciate your efforts in having located
11 locations where this commission can convene
12 and hear from the public. So, rather than
13 attack each other's motivations let us do what
14 this commission is charged by law to do which
15 is to hear from the public. And may I suggest
16 that the next thing that happens is we start
17 hearing from the public.

18 MR. MEJIAS: I'm asking that the
19 commission perform its duties according to the
20 law. Which means that we all have input. If
21 we want to have a democratic process that
22 takes into account not only the public's input
23 you should take in the commissioners' input as
24 well.

25 When we ask for months to have a

1 Districting Advisory Commission
2 hearing, to discuss when we can schedule
3 hearings, to have a meeting about having a
4 meeting and we hear nothing other than
5 scheduling hearings without a majority vote of
6 the commission and public hearings dates that
7 is not legal. That is not the law. It's not
8 fair to begin with. It's dirty pool. But
9 you're telling us in advance something that
10 you've passed by fiat. We're just asking that
11 the rules be followed. That's it.

12 This is not a partisan attack.
13 This is merely a request that we follow the
14 rules. That we be included. That we maximize
15 the potential for public input. Which means
16 that we have an equal vote also and that we're
17 heard as well. Not just on scheduling but
18 also what the agenda's going to be on.

19 This does not have to be partisan.
20 All you have to do is pick up the phone and
21 say let's sit down and figure out a schedule.
22 That's all we're asking for. We want to be
23 collaborative. We want to work together.
24 We've suggested hearing dates. If they don't
25 work for you or if you don't like those

1 Districting Advisory Commission
2 hearing dates and you have something going and
3 we can't schedule them that day we're glad to
4 look at other dates.

5 But to just call it a partisan
6 attack is very disingenuous and hyperbolic
7 because the reality is we're just asking for
8 the process to be fair and the rules to be
9 followed.

10 MR. MORONEY: If I may, can you
11 hear me back there? I'm talking to this
12 gentleman.

13 I have in front of me, and you will
14 have it later this evening if you're here, the
15 list of communities across Nassau County with
16 no vetting of the location, no determination
17 as to whether or not there is a facility that
18 could handle it but mere suggestions that
19 something happen in eight or nine
20 communities. And this came in some time ago.
21 So there's been no effort to set a schedule,
22 no effort to take your staff and have them
23 actually figure out a location.

24 We undertook that to have these
25 locations knowing that they have the necessary

1 Districting Advisory Commission
2 availability, the necessary accessibility that
3 they are in each of the three towns, in both
4 of the two cities. And likewise, that the
5 time that once the hearings are completed and
6 the information turned over to the county
7 legislature, that the county legislature then
8 starts additional hearings on the maps. So
9 there's plenty of opportunity to deal with
10 both the public input and the maps
11 themselves. Number one.

12 And number two, there has
13 traditionally been the prerogative of the
14 chair to set up these meetings and we've done
15 it all along. In fact, I will point out what
16 happened as an example of a better way of
17 putting it. Ten years ago, when Mr. Mejias
18 was on the commission at that particular time,
19 a request was put in I believe from Legislator
20 Carrie Solages, it may have been somebody
21 else, but they asked for one in the Elmont
22 library. They went out and took it
23 seriously. They vetted it. They set up the
24 whole thing and we turned out and we had a
25 meeting there.

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2 Giving us places from around the
3 county and essentially saying you go find them
4 and you put them in these places is not
5 cooperative, Dave, that's dictatorial and we
6 will not stand for that.

7 I would like to move along and hear
8 from the people instead of from us.

9 MR. MEJIAS: I just want to say I
10 completely agree with you on this Mr.
11 Moroney. What we did was make suggestions.
12 Suggestions. Had someone from your side
13 gotten on the phone with us we would have said
14 if these dates are okay with you let's get a
15 location. This is not dictatorial. This is
16 being collaborative and saying we'd like more
17 hearings in more locations that are easier for
18 the public to get to. We suggested dates and
19 we never heard from you. All we heard is that
20 you already scheduled hearings illegally
21 without a vote of the commission.

22 So, I completely agree with you.
23 We made suggestions. You never responded to
24 them, you never picked up the phone, you never
25 called us back, you never made suggestions to

1 Districting Advisory Commission
2 us. You just foisted on us with a public
3 notice hearings that were never approved by
4 the commission.

5 So, I'm again going to suggest that
6 we have more hearings in different locations.
7 The dates and times we could work that out.
8 But more importantly, the one thing we should
9 agree on, is before these maps go to the
10 legislature on November 10th the public should
11 be given more than an hour to review them.
12 We're asking for October 14th or 15th,
13 depending on your holiday schedule, so that
14 the public has almost a month to review them
15 before they go to the legislature. That's the
16 least that we can do. We're just making
17 suggestions.

18 MR. MORONEY: Before I call the
19 first speaker I just want to point out that my
20 phone rings too.

21 MR. MEJIAS: I know. I called
22 you.

23 MR. MORONEY: Once. Five days
24 ago. Timothy Rodgers, please come up and let
25 us know what your feeling are on this

1 Districting Advisory Commission
2 situation.

3 MR. RODGERS: Good evening to the
4 honorable committee gentlemen and gentlewomen
5 who committed to the serve the residents of
6 Nassau County and its redistricting effort
7 that will live with us for at least the next
8 ten years.

9 I'd just would like to do my mother
10 honor by acknowledging the people to my back.
11 Thank you all for coming, and I apologize for
12 giving you my back to talk to but I'm hoping
13 that you can hear me.

14 I am a Democratic 30-year village
15 resident that's also representing the New
16 Hempstead Democratic Club.

17 MR. MORONEY: I just want to make
18 sure that everybody understands we have a
19 three minute rule here. Please continue.

20 MR. RODGERS: I'm appealing to
21 this committee to be fair and equitable to
22 those Nassau County citizens who historically
23 have been disenfranchised of the services and
24 the resources. Consequentially, the
25 infrastructure in communities of Brown, Black,

1 Districting Advisory Commission
2 seniors, veterans and disabled folks who are
3 on fixed incomes are deteriorating.

4 The residents of Hempstead,
5 Uniondale, Roosevelt, Freeport and Lakeview
6 are being taxed at the same rate as their
7 other Nassau neighbors. But because of past
8 practices of packing and cracking these
9 communities continue to decay. And I would
10 like to also say -- and I don't see a clock
11 running so I think I still have three minutes
12 left -- so, I would like to also say that if
13 we get in our cars and drive from right here
14 on Franklin and Old Country Road, down
15 Franklin to the end of Franklin where Molloy
16 College begins and Hempstead Avenue begins, if
17 we did that blindfolded, once we get to the
18 Village of Hempstead you would say I'm in
19 Hempstead. You would know.

20 Once you drive out of Hempstead you
21 would say with the blindfold on I'm in
22 Rockville Centre because you can tell by just
23 the feel of the car that you're in and the
24 bumps and the infrastructure that's decayed in
25 our Black and Brown communities.

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2 Based on our last census, I'm
3 concerned about the imbalance of this
4 committee. Our census showed that over 50
5 percent of the adults are females. I see two
6 females represented on this committee. Our
7 last census tells us that almost 20 percent of
8 the residents are Latino, slash, Hispanic. I
9 see one represented here. Our last census
10 says that almost 20 percent are approaching 18
11 percent of its residents are Black and Brown.
12 I see two represented here. So, how am I
13 supposed to feel confident that you have my
14 best interests at heart?

15 I charge each and every one of you
16 to move from the notion that perception is
17 reality. Perception is not always reality.
18 We know that. But perception is reality when
19 it proves that it's going to happen time and
20 time again. When perception is in fact
21 reality and the inequitable distributions of
22 resources is continued then perception is
23 reality. So can we move from that to trust
24 and transparency? Can we move from perception
25 to reality to fair and equitable distribution

1 Districting Advisory Commission
2 of resources? Can we move from perception is
3 reality to equal representation vis-a-vis
4 equal taxation? Can we move from perception
5 is reality to truth, justice and the American
6 way? Let's do the right thing. Thank you.

7 MR. PERNICK: Mr. Rodgers, I have
8 a quick question for you if you can come back
9 up. My name is Michael Pernick. I'm one of
10 the commissioners.

11 First, I want to thank you for
12 coming out today and I want to thank you for
13 your powerful testimony. It spoke to me and I
14 appreciate the time and the thought and your
15 involvement in this process. I thought it was
16 very important. A question for you.

17 You said and you testified today a
18 really moving picture of driving from here
19 down to Rockville Centre and when you're
20 blindfolded you know when you're in Hempstead,
21 you know when you're in communities of color.
22 Can you tell us for the benefit of all of the
23 commissioners how do you think that issue,
24 that disgraceful issue might be addressed if
25 we have a fair district map.

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2 MR. RODGERS: Thank you Michael
3 for just asking me that question and that's
4 almost a no-brainer. But if we had a fair
5 district map then that means that our
6 communities of people of color will not be
7 dispersed among other communities and
8 therefore their vote has been co-optated and
9 not represented.

10 MR. PERNICK: Thank you
11 Mr. Rogers. Really appreciate your
12 testimony.

13 MR. MORONEY: Karen Moskowitz
14 representing the League of Women Voters in
15 Nassau County.

16 MS. MOSKOWITZ: My name is Karen
17 Moskowitz and I serve as cochair of the
18 redistricting committee of the League of Women
19 Voters of Nassau County. It's a pleasure to
20 speak with you tonight and to work together
21 for the best interests of Nassau County
22 residents.

23 The League is a nonpartisan,
24 grassroots nonprofit dedicated to empowering
25 everyone to fully participate in our

1 Districting Advisory Commission
2 democracy. While the league takes positions
3 on a variety of public policy issues it never
4 supports or opposes any political party or
5 candidate. As the redistricting process for
6 Nassau County legislative districts begin the
7 League is here to advocate on behalf of a fair
8 and transparent process.

9 As we have all seen the problems
10 encountered by the New York State Independent
11 Redistricting Commission it would be best
12 practice and the best use of taxpayer money if
13 there were one set of staff that worked with
14 all commissioners as opposed to separate
15 Republican and Democratic sets of staff,
16 counsel and mappers.

17 At the onset of the redistricting
18 process we note the special protections
19 afforded to racial and language minority
20 groups under the US and New York State
21 constitutions, the voting rights act and
22 New York statutes. We expect the new
23 legislative districts to fairly and equitably
24 represent Nassau's communities of color, which
25 now compromise 44 percent of county

1 Districting Advisory Commission
2 residents.

3 The new legislative districts
4 should fairly reflect the voting strength of
5 these communities and ensure their ability to
6 elect candidates of their choice.

7 We also note the new redistricting
8 requirements imposed under New York's recently
9 amended municipal home rule law and the John
10 R. Lewis Voting Rights Act of New York.

11 The amended home rule law requires
12 that districts shall not be drawn to
13 discourage competition or for the purpose of
14 favoring or disfavoring incumbents or other
15 particular candidates or political parties.
16 We need a fair, equitable and nonpartisan
17 redistricting process in Nassau County.

18 With respect to process, it's
19 essential that county residents be able to
20 freely observe the work of the commission and
21 actively participate in their process.
22 Redistricting is foundational to the right to
23 vote and as such the public must have
24 confidence in the fairness of the process.
25 The commission's website must be updated and

1 Districting Advisory Commission
2 reflect dates and venues for the public
3 hearings just announced. Which, by the way,
4 we only saw it in Garden City Patch. No
5 offense to Patch but Patch?

6 It should include meeting agendas
7 and minutes, press releases, a contact list of
8 staff and consultants, a timetable and maps as
9 well as serve as a portal for public comment.
10 All of the above should be posted to the site
11 as soon as possible.

12 The public should also be informed
13 of the dates of the commission's working
14 meetings which should be open to the public
15 and posted on the website at least one week in
16 advance.

17 All public, working and mapping
18 meetings must be publicized immediately via
19 all forms of local media. Particularly given
20 the short lead time for the bulk of public
21 meetings. And all meetings should be live
22 streamed on the legislature's link.

23 Additional public meetings must
24 occur after the districting commission has
25 proposed new legislative districts but before

1 Districting Advisory Commission
2 the legislature has voted on the adoption of
3 such maps.

4 Almost done.

5 Finally, know that the Nassau
6 League of Women Voters is part of a coalition
7 of community organizations. You may hear from
8 one or more of them tonight as well as future
9 public meetings. Thank you.

10 MR. MORONEY: Thank you Karen.
11 Again, for the record, if there's anybody here
12 who is non-English speaking we have a language
13 line, a representative sitting in the side of
14 the building which will have an interpreter
15 for you so that you may participate in this
16 proceeding.

17 MR. MEJIAS: Would you like to
18 say that in Spanish?

19 MR. MORONEY: Absolutely. Dan
20 Oppenheimer representing the Guidelines for
21 Population Apportionment.

22 MR. OPPENHEIMER: Good evening to
23 the members of the public. I'll try to speak
24 up. And good evening to all the
25 commissioners. I realize this is not a

1 Districting Advisory Commission
2 question and answer session but a public
3 comment but the comments that I'm making I
4 hope can be addressed in my contact
5 information that I provided when I filled out
6 the form.

7 There are 19 legislative districts
8 in Nassau County, and I'd like to know what
9 the legal allowable population variation among
10 the districts is. I know state by state it
11 varies. It may vary county by county in
12 New York State. I'm not sure. They are
13 supposed to be relatively close to the same.

14 If you had a district that had
15 85,000 people in it and another that had 45
16 obviously that would be inherently
17 discriminatory or improperly drawn boundaries.

18 My information I would like would
19 be the legal allowable population variation.
20 And if the county is currently following those
21 guidelines and if they will continue to follow
22 those guidelines in the new proposed
23 districts.

24 The chairman mentioned that
25 constitutional guidelines are followed. My

1 Districting Advisory Commission
2 understanding is that there are many
3 guidelines with some wiggle room as you are
4 doing this process. They refer to continuous
5 and contiguous communities. I'd like to just
6 give you a little geographic demonstration of
7 what my district looks like. That looks like
8 something out of a computer animation. This
9 is not a compact, contiguous district.

10 MR. PERNICK: Just for the
11 record, what district is that that you are
12 showing us?

13 MR. OPPENHEIMER: District 14,
14 Laura Schaefer, and that's a little piece of
15 Hempstead is carved out of that. I'm a proud
16 resident of the Village of Hempstead and this
17 has been taken into a district that includes
18 Garden City, Mineola, Carle Place, Bethpage,
19 etcetera, etcetera.

20 I'd would like to know a public
21 database of the population of each district.
22 For transparency purposes the map makers that
23 you have hired to do the districting have all
24 of this information. The public needs to have
25 this information as well.

1 Districting Advisory Commission

2 I'd like to finally know how will
3 the proposed new districts impact the
4 population distribution. There's about 1.4
5 million, at least, population in Nassau County
6 right now. It's never going to be an exact
7 distribution in each district but I certainly
8 would like to see the data as to how you
9 apportion them. Thank you.

10 MR. MORONEY: Mr. Oppenheimer,
11 just to answer your question. Deviation
12 between districts is five percent. They have
13 to be at least within five percent of each
14 other. The most populated and the least
15 populated. That's under the new statute that
16 exists in New York State.

17 MR. OPPENHEIMER: Is that
18 currently being followed?

19 MR. MORONEY: If it isn't
20 followed right now this process will correct
21 it so that it does fall within that five
22 percent deviation.

23 MR. OPPENHEIMER: And we'll be
24 able to verify that?

25 MR. MORONEY: Yes.

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2 MR. PERNICK: Mr. Oppenheimer,
3 thank you for your testimony today. You
4 raised some important points about public
5 transparency, posting information on the
6 website. I'll note that we have introduced a
7 resolution that does exactly what you have
8 called for, requiring posting of all the
9 demographic data. Requiring posting of all of
10 the current maps, the statutes and an
11 applicable laws and regulations.

12 We just spoke about one, the
13 municipal home rule law. There's also the New
14 York Voting Rights Act which was just
15 enacted. There's federal law. The equal
16 protection clause. The federal voting rights
17 act. There's significant requirements under
18 the municipal home rule law including a
19 prohibition on drawing maps for partisan
20 advantage.

21 Now, I've had in my career an
22 opportunity to be witness and involved in this
23 process across the country. And it is basic
24 practice at the outset of the redistricting
25 process to make this information public and

1 Districting Advisory Commission
2 easily accessible so members of the community,
3 such as yourself, can engage and understand
4 what the process looks like. And I hope that
5 we can do that as a commission. We'll
6 certainly ask the commission to approve the
7 resolution that does exactly what you are
8 asking. Thank you for your testimony today.

9 MR. OPPENHEIMER: Thank you. I
10 look forward to seeing that.

11 MR. MORONEY: Thank you very much
12 Mr. Oppenheimer. Karen Montalbano from the
13 Baldwin Civic Association.

14 MS. MONTALBANO: Good evening and
15 thank you. I just want to reinforce the idea
16 of need for transparency. The notice of
17 meetings went out so late. If I didn't have
18 somebody actually tapping me on the shoulder
19 saying hey, there's a meeting tonight I
20 wouldn't be here.

21 I also do not appreciate seeing
22 already the politics that is being bandied
23 around. This is something that you should be
24 doing for the people you represent not for the
25 parties you represent. We need fair

1 Districting Advisory Commission

2 representation.

3 Baldwin is an interesting
4 community. We are a diverse community. We
5 right now are with Freeport, which is a good
6 thing because they're also a diverse community
7 and they understand and we've had very good
8 representation for the most part. But we also
9 need to remain with other issues that are with
10 us. And that is, we're along the south
11 shore. We have waterfront. We have the Long
12 Island Railroad. We have Sunrise Highway.
13 These are issues that need to be considered
14 when you are drawing these maps as to when
15 something is within the communities that they
16 can be dealing with very similar issues.
17 Okay.

18 The only change that I would like
19 to see, Baldwin has always been divided with a
20 little piece off up here and a little piece
21 down there and a major piece over here. I
22 would love to see Baldwin have one
23 representative so that we know where we're
24 going. We don't have to know if you're on
25 this side of Grand Avenue you go to this one

1 Districting Advisory Commission
2 and if you're on this side of Grand Avenue you
3 go to the other one. I never liked watching
4 my neighbor have to go to a different polling
5 place to vote for somebody different.

6 Thank you.

7 MR. MORONEY: The next speaker is
8 Pearl Jacobs from Uniondale representing the
9 Nostrand Garden Civic Association.

10 MS. JACOBS: Yes. Good evening.
11 I would like to speak regarding the unmet
12 needs of our committee in Uniondale.
13 Uniondale is a community that suffers from
14 marginalization, disenfranchisement,
15 disinvestment and disrespect. Even the
16 identity of our community is being
17 threatened. We have to fight for every little
18 thing that is essential to a community's well
19 being. From getting our streets swept to
20 infrastructure improvement. While communities
21 in other preferential zip codes things just
22 get done.

23 Just take a drive through different
24 communities in Nassau County. The contrast is
25 glaring. The section of state road 102, a/k/a

1 Districting Advisory Commission
2 Front Street in Uniondale, is a roadway that
3 would rival any third world roadway for worst
4 in class. Empty lots permeate our landscape.
5 Store and business facades are in extremely
6 poor condition. And Uniondale stores in strip
7 malls were designed without a designated area
8 for garbage disposal leaving our main streets
9 with a sea of black contractor bags lining our
10 streets on sanitation pick up day. Which is
11 every day pretty much in Uniondale.

12 During the pandemic Uniondale was
13 one of the hardest hit communities in Nassau
14 County. But still Uniondale remains a medical
15 desert. Our neighboring community of East
16 Meadow, which is also a hamlet, has six urgent
17 care centers. One of which is directly across
18 the street from the Nassau University Medical
19 Center. Given the tax revenue that Uniondale
20 generates as a result of its vast corporate
21 neighbors, Uniondale should look magnificent.
22 But let's not forget that Uniondale is a donor
23 community. A donor community.

24 As I stated before, our community
25 identity is being threatened. Our collective

1 Districting Advisory Commission
2 civic associations, including our fire
3 department, has been fighting for several
4 years to unscrupulous renaming of parts of
5 Uniondale to East Garden City. And the US
6 census has officially removed it as a census
7 designated spot. Yet the struggle goes on.
8 And why is that?

9 Because the north end community
10 area holds primarily commercial, intellectual
11 and cultural assets of Uniondale in Nassau
12 County. It is my opinion that there is a
13 concerted effort to strip these assets from a
14 majority-minority community. The residential
15 area of Uniondale will continue to languish
16 until there is an outcry among our elected
17 representatives demanding that these wrongs be
18 made right.

19 As a civic leader in Uniondale I
20 request that redistricting pertaining to the
21 community of Uniondale be implemented with the
22 intention of keeping Uniondale whole as per
23 the US census designated maps now indicate and
24 the exclusion of redlining and gerrymandering
25 tactics.

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2 MR. MORONEY: Thank you. Laura
3 Mallay, South Hempstead Civic Association.
4 Laura, good evening.

5 MS. MALLAY: Thank you for the
6 opportunity to speak. I'm here representing
7 South Hempstead which is a very small
8 community. We're approximately five blocks by
9 ten blocks. Twenty years ago when the lines
10 were redistricted we were split completely
11 down the middle. We are currently in
12 Legislative District 5 but back then we were
13 split between two and five. Ten years ago
14 that was corrected and we were made whole
15 again.

16 We would like to stay in district
17 five. Stay complete. We're a small community
18 and we're continually divided. We have four
19 school districts, two water districts and when
20 you do that to a small community you lower our
21 voice. So, we would respectfully request that
22 you keep that in mind. You keep South
23 Hempstead together.

24 And I'd also like to point out that
25 I am joined by other members of my community.

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2 But representatives from the fire district
3 wanted to attend but because of the short
4 notice they were not able to be here. So, I
5 request in the future for the future hearings
6 you get those notices out a little quicker.
7 Thank you.

8 MR. MORONEY: For the record, we
9 are in the process and have in fact updated
10 the website. So, you should take a look at
11 the county website everything will be on that
12 if it isn't already.

13 MS. MALLAY: And will it be
14 shareable?

15 MR. MORONEY: Yes.

16 MS. MALLAY: Thank you.

17 MR. MORONEY: Thank you. Henry
18 Boitel.

19 MR. BOITEL: Henry Boitel from
20 Rockville Centre, New York.

21 I attended every meeting of the
22 commission ten years ago. And those meetings,
23 every one of them, were similar to the
24 meetings we're having now. And it occurs to
25 me that for the most part that was a waste of

1 Districting Advisory Commission
2 time. Why a waste of time? The people should
3 not just have to be called upon to talk in the
4 abstract about this community, that community
5 or general principals. There ought be things
6 on the table.

7 So, I suggest to you that tonight
8 might be called a preorganization meeting.
9 But the next time have an organization meeting
10 at which you discuss among yourselves and
11 debate what the principals are of
12 organization. How you're going to function.
13 Then another meeting about the principals that
14 are to be applied to the redistricting
15 decision. And your aim should be to come up
16 with plans not like last time. Last time
17 after months of nonsense, as far as I'm
18 concerned, the commission at the last minute
19 each side came up, literally the last minute,
20 I fault the Democrats and Republicans on this,
21 came up with plans which really the public had
22 no real opportunity to talk about.

23 And of course one plan won out and
24 one plan went to the legislature and the plan
25 was eventually adopted there by the majority.

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2 There's no semblance at all of what
3 open meetings are supposed to really be
4 about. No semblance at all of the concept of
5 fairness. Which I understand is at least one
6 of the principals that ought to be applied in
7 the decision making that you have to do.

8 So, my suggestion is that you
9 people who are all, as I understand it,
10 subject to the open meetings law, should in
11 open meetings one after the other, convenient
12 for the people as possible, but at least open
13 meetings, discuss these things openly and then
14 give the people an opportunity to comment upon
15 what you have discussed. Otherwise it's all a
16 sham. Thank you.

17 MR. PERNICK: Mr. Boitel, thank
18 you very much for your testimony. I
19 appreciate you coming out and taking the
20 time. I want to let you know that we have
21 introduced, we being the Democratic
22 commissioners, have introduced a resolution,
23 our resolution number one, that does precisely
24 what you're calling for. We are proposing
25 that we have seven hearings across the county

1 Districting Advisory Commission
2 after draft maps are introduced. That way
3 there's an opportunity, as Mr. Mejias said, an
4 opportunity for the members of the public to
5 look at those maps, give comment on those
6 maps.

7 There's an opportunity for the
8 members of this commission to try to find a
9 compromise that can earn the support and the
10 consensus of all of us. That's what we what
11 to do and that's what we're trying to achieve
12 and that's why we've proposed a schedule
13 exactly as you said that gives that
14 opportunity for real public comment on actual
15 draft maps and an opportunity for the members
16 of the commission to work together to achieve
17 a bipartisan or nonpartisan consensus. Thank
18 you again.

19 MR. BOITEL: I have one last
20 comment. If the acoustics, if the sound
21 system is the same in the future as it is
22 tonight that's not an open meeting. Most of
23 what the chairman had to say tonight where we
24 sat sounded like mumble. That's what I got
25 out of it. Mumble. I'm sure there's a

1 Districting Advisory Commission
2 technician around who can turn up a dial and
3 give us some volume back here. If there's not
4 you better have one next time.

5 MR. PERNICK: Has that been fixed
6 yet? Can people in the back hear us? I'm
7 hearing people say no, it has not be fixed
8 yet. I'm hearing somebody say it's like we're
9 underwater. It's not clear. The acoustics
10 aren't clear. Thank you.

11 MR. MORONEY: Caprice, I can't
12 read the middle name but Rimes is the last
13 name. Her Majesty. Madam Majesty welcome.

14 MS. RIMES: I'm going to say two
15 things my mother always taught me. Believe
16 none of what you hear and half of what you see
17 and excuses are skinnier reasons stuffed with
18 a lie.

19 We are the oldest county in the
20 nation. So we should set the example. Set
21 the example that we are in the 21st century
22 and we should not be continuing with this
23 antiquated process. We should be setting the
24 example. This time we should be educating
25 people on the census so that we should be

1 Districting Advisory Commission
2 getting the money back from our taxes that we
3 send to the state and federal government. We
4 should spend more time doing that than what
5 we're doing right now.

6 It's a misjustice to everyone
7 sitting here, all of you that have been voted
8 in as a legislator, all of us that are sitting
9 here with -- chairman, you spelled it out.
10 You spelled out all the villages. You spelled
11 out all the cities that we have. We should
12 spend more time teaching people how to do the
13 census so we can get our money back and we can
14 spend it right on these roads that we have
15 that you keep your eyes closed.

16 I have a Mercedes. I have to dodge
17 all these potholes in Hempstead, Roosevelt and
18 Freeport. I feel like it's a slave trade
19 again. It's terrible. We should start
20 looking into --

21 As far as the redistricting is
22 concerned, start with the people not with you
23 all. Start with the people that live there.
24 Have representatives from every district to be
25 a part of your committee. Start with the

1 Districting Advisory Commission
2 people. That's who voted you in. I'm sad to
3 say there's nothing -- it's called
4 transparency. That's a myth. Stop throwing
5 that word around because nobody's being
6 transparent. We want the same people to keep
7 voting so we can keep put the incumbent back
8 in. Because if I start running against people
9 you all not going to like it. We have to
10 change that.

11 It saddens me that people here --
12 he said Town of Hempstead. That place is too
13 small to host a meeting there. We have to do
14 things different. It's insanity doing the
15 same thing over and over again and expecting a
16 different result. I'm asking you do things
17 differently. We are the biggest, the first
18 county, am I correct, the first county in the
19 nation. Let's set the example. Let's do
20 things differently.

21 You asked the question, somebody
22 said just because you post it on the website
23 when you're running for reelection you don't
24 post anything on your website hoping that
25 people come vote for you. You get out there

1 Districting Advisory Commission
2 and you get the vote. So get out there and
3 ask people to come and come to your meetings.
4 How I found out about this someone came to me
5 and said there was a meeting tonight. That's
6 how you do it when you're running. Let's do
7 things differently. We want different results
8 let's do things differently. Thank you.

9 MR. MORONEY: Thank you very
10 much. I just want to point out that there are
11 no elected officials up here. But your
12 message is in no way diluted. Thank you.

13 Cristina Arroyo.

14 MS. ARROYO: I'm Cristina
15 Arroyo. I am a resident of Valley Stream. Is
16 this being recorded? That was a message for
17 people who actually know Spanish. My point
18 was that's just one tiny example of the fact
19 that I am not represented in our legislature.
20 I cannot say that my legislator from Valley
21 Stream he doesn't represent me today. He's
22 not the legislator of people in Valley Stream
23 ten years ago, not even 20 years ago.

24 So, I also teach prejudice and
25 discrimination in college, and I have two

1 Districting Advisory Commission
2 graduate degrees on industrial and
3 organizational psychological with
4 specialization in organizational justice and
5 pay equity. And I do that also
6 professionally. I can tell you right now we
7 have to dispel some myths here.

8 The first myth is that this
9 commission can operate or came about from a
10 vacuum. You didn't. You came about from a
11 system that is extremely partisan. From a
12 system that's incredibly inequitable. That's
13 where we're starting out from right now.

14 The second myth is that this
15 commission or what's going to happen will not
16 be affected by that system. It will. That
17 system carries decades of history of
18 discrimination and oppression of minorities
19 here in Nassau County and in history today.
20 We can see it today.

21 So, we have to set our
22 expectations. Of course we have to fight for
23 transparency, fairness and equity. But also
24 we have to know that this is not a short
25 game. This is a long game. And what I ask of

1 Districting Advisory Commission

2 you is drop the facade that this can be done
3 outside of the society and the systems we live
4 in. Okay? It is partisan.

5 I guess one of the questions I want
6 to ask is what is the role of this commission
7 when the maps that are actually voted on by
8 the legislature, which is majority Republican
9 and majority nonminority are unjust and are
10 accepted? Is there anything you can do?
11 That's it. Thank you.

12 MR. MEJIAS: Let me just say
13 that, you know, really to the last two
14 speakers, you go to the census and what
15 professor Arroyo said here today, from 2010
16 through today the Hispanic population in
17 Nassau County has increased by 61,150. A 31
18 percent change. There are now 256,000
19 Hispanic-Americans living in Nassau County.
20 There is not an Hispanic legislator and there
21 hasn't been for 13 years here. So your point
22 is very well heard here thank you.

23 I'm sorry. You did bring up the
24 Hindus, the Asians in this country. The
25 Asian-American population in Nassau County has

1 Districting Advisory Commission
2 actually increased by 60.5 percent to 164,000
3 people, and I do not believe we have an Asian
4 legislator either. So very, very well said.
5 Thank you.

6 MR. MORONEY: Marvin Amazon.

7 MR. AMAZON: I'm not going to
8 take up much of your time but I just wanted to
9 say that this committee has a real opportunity
10 to make changes for us now and in the future.
11 I would hope that this committee would take
12 this opportunity responsibly and do the right
13 thing the first time. This committee needs to
14 makes this process transparent as possible.
15 And as seen in the resolutions -- first and
16 foremost I think that you guys should adopt
17 the resolution because that is what's going to
18 make this process as transparent as possible
19 and get the results that we really need
20 instead of come November we're coming back to
21 the same process and, like you said, we have
22 hour to look at the maps. I don't think that
23 equitable. I don't think that we have a real
24 opportunity to change make the changes in our
25 communities if that's the way the process is

1 Districting Advisory Commission

2 going to be.

3 Now, you want us to come here and
4 speak about what's happening in our
5 communities or our concerns. But in reality,
6 if we all take a drive, like everybody said
7 today, if you take a drive through our
8 communities you can see it. It's clear. It's
9 very clear. We don't have to come up here
10 every time there's like a town meeting or a
11 legislative meeting and keep telling you the
12 same thing. Just run the records back. It's
13 time for change in this county. Time for
14 change in this country too but start off with
15 this county.

16 Now, I will speak about the future
17 because I recently just had my first born son
18 and as I sit there yesterday and I'm sitting
19 there looking at him and thinking about this
20 meeting I'm about to come to today and I'm
21 trying to figure out what can we do now to
22 change what's going to happened in the
23 future. Is he going to live in the same life
24 in Hempstead where like everybody's been
25 saying there's potholes all over the ground.

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2 We're driving up exit 21 we're just seeing
3 trash on the side of the highway. Is that
4 what we have to keep -- my son's going to have
5 to keep seeing in the next ten years? The
6 decisions you make in this process right now
7 will affect us for the next ten years. The
8 next ten years. My son will be ten in school
9 and dealing with the same problems I'm dealing
10 with today. That's not right.

11 So, I'm asking you again to adopt
12 these resolutions so that we can have a fair,
13 equitable, transparent process so that we're
14 not doing this again in another ten years.
15 Thank you.

16 MR. MORONEY: Thank you very
17 much. Marie Ellen Kreye. Did I pronounce it
18 correctly?

19 MS. KREYE: Thank you. Mary
20 Ellen Kreye, proud resident of Uniondale. I
21 am here to champion Uniondale's territorial
22 integrity during the redistricting.

23 In 1853 when Franklin Pierce,
24 everybody remembers him, right, president, he
25 was president, the New York Times reported the

1 Districting Advisory Commission
2 name of our area was changed to Uniondale from
3 Turtle Hook. So we were on the side of the
4 union folks. We are all about unity and
5 community. And urge redistricting be
6 performed to preserve our geographical area
7 and ensure it matches our legislative
8 districts.

9 We understand it is often a
10 historical fact that communities of color and
11 diversity are often fractured during
12 redistricting. We will be observing carefully
13 to see that our votes and our representatives
14 and representations are fairly apportioned. I
15 am further urging that the new districts have
16 contiguous boundaries and avoid
17 gerrymandering. Thank you.

18 MR. MORONEY: Thank you
19 Ms. Kreye. Noah Burroughs. Did I pronounce
20 it correctly?

21 MR. BURROUGHS: Good evening. I
22 am here as not as an elected official but as
23 an educator. And I'm here to, like everyone
24 else, urge this chamber to do what's right
25 within the community.

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2 As a teacher, I like to speak
3 clearly and frankly with children. I like to
4 explain to them things in a way that I think
5 they can grasp it. I'm going to do the same
6 thing here without being rude.

7 I think when we say that we want to
8 change things, if you think about how this
9 country was founded we know that there were
10 things that were done inappropriately and just
11 unfairly. So, we ask for things to be done
12 differently.

13 You heard the word gerrymandering
14 being tossed around a lot. You heard the word
15 transparent being tossed around a lot. The
16 two words that I see -- those two words are
17 the ones that I see used more accurately is
18 gerrymandering because there's no
19 transparency. The way you guys are designing
20 to redistrict these maps it's not fair. We
21 know, like I said, how the country was
22 founded. The country was founded in a way we
23 don't need to speak of. We need to fix the
24 issues of what has gone on in the past and
25 what can happen in the future. Things that

1 Districting Advisory Commission
2 can happen in the future can be fixed if we do
3 it the right way and we do it honestly and do
4 it decently.

5 I'm just here for the residents of
6 the Village of Hempstead and other neighboring
7 villages just like it. So that you guys can
8 do what's right so that we can all live
9 harmoniously at one point in time. Because
10 things are going to shambles and it's not
11 fair. It's not fair to a lot of people.
12 People in this community they should stay here
13 or leave here but they should have the option
14 to stay if they want to and not leave because
15 they have to because of what's going on
16 through things like this.

17 I just plead to you guys to do
18 things fairly, openly, honestly and appease
19 the people in this crowd and appease the
20 people in the county. Thank you.

21 MR. MORONEY: Thank you very
22 much. James Hodge.

23 MR. HODGE: As you stated, James
24 Hodge. I thank you for this opportunity of
25 being able to address you chairman and

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2 commission.

3 I'm a little saddened to hear some
4 of the things that I'm hearing already in this
5 first meeting about how unfair some things are
6 when this is supposed to be a fair group. I
7 know some people on both sides. So I'm very
8 optimistic that this will get fixed. Maybe by
9 the next meeting. I'm a little shocked and
10 I'm a little surprised to hear some things. I
11 know some good people on this side over here
12 and I know some great people on this side over
13 here. And I don't know all of you, but I know
14 that you're God's children and no matter what
15 everybody here is saying I know that God is
16 watching each and every one of you for what
17 you do until the least of these.

18 So what you do -- thank you for the
19 applause, I'm going to take my time now -- so
20 what you do I want you to understand that we
21 don't have to go over CRT and critical race
22 theory. But you know the history and I thank
23 God for the young lady that got up and spoke
24 about women because women have only been able
25 to vote for 102 years and they should be more

1 Districting Advisory Commission
2 represented on here. All black people have
3 only been able to vote since 1965. None of
4 you probably were born then but it's only 57
5 years ago.

6 So, I want all of you to understand
7 that people and minorities have been treated
8 very wrong. But this group right here you
9 have an opportunity before this county and
10 this country to do what's right. I don't care
11 who appointed you. You can throw your towel
12 in and say I'm not doing wrong. But to hear
13 that this side has been asking this side and
14 they ain't really heard from too many people
15 on this side to hear that all of these things
16 are going on and we're not given fair
17 opportunity to communities that are still
18 going through all of these changes is unfair.

19 I plead with you in my 54 seconds
20 to say that there's a great man, Jerry Wise,
21 he knows all of this stuff, he's sitting right
22 there, you didn't know I was going to put you
23 on there, but he's all over the country. I
24 know everybody on the commission knows a lot
25 about redistricting.

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2 So, if you do what's right and not
3 what your party wants you to do because
4 somebody appointed you, somebody you know, do
5 what's right and you will do what's right on
6 behalf of everybody. No matter what color, no
7 matter who they are, do what's right and do
8 what the law say you should do.

9 And whether you get kicked off or
10 not, you will say I did what was right. Your
11 children, your grandchildren, your family
12 members that's watching you all over TV, and
13 this needs to get on the internet, everywhere,
14 so everybody can see who's on this
15 commission. You have a right to do what's
16 right.

17 Chairman, you have a right to lead
18 right no matter who appointed you. You have a
19 right to do what is right.

20 And so, I'm sorry but I ended my
21 last couple of seconds, chairman, because
22 there was clapping that took my time.

23 So, there comes a time when one
24 must take a position that is neither safe nor
25 politic nor popular but he must take it

1 Districting Advisory Commission
2 because conscious tells him it is right. And
3 that's by the late, great Dr. Martin Luther
4 King.

5 And remember this, chairman,
6 systematic racism doesn't simply rear its ugly
7 head. It's voted on. It's enacted with
8 policies and used to disenfranchise. God
9 bless you. My name just happens to be James
10 Hodge.

11 MR. MORONEY: James, thank you
12 very much from a person who was born long
13 before 1965. Sanjeev Jindal.

14 MR. JINDAL: Good evening
15 gentlemen and all the commissioners who are
16 sitting to hear us here and what we need to
17 say and all the Nassau County residents who
18 come in. Thank you so much.

19 Nassau County is a melting pot.
20 Different color, different allegiance,
21 different background, different ethnicity,
22 different food, different culture. We are all
23 living together. And we always proclaim and
24 we are the oldest democracy in the world. And
25 what we understood with the word democracy

1 Districting Advisory Commission

2 mean is, there is absolutely no right to the
3 politician to choose their voters. Let voters
4 choose their politicians.

5 If each of you go to the Nassau
6 County legislative website you find out there
7 is a snake. It starts from Floral Park and up
8 Sands Point. And if you drive a car it took
9 you 30 minutes. And one part of the district
10 divided in four parts. One part of the city
11 is divided in four parts. And if you look at
12 the district number 4 starts somewhere ends
13 somewhere. If you look at district 9 starts
14 somewhere ends up somewhere else. We all need
15 to understand that.

16 We are part of the democracy and
17 democracy is let the voter choose their right
18 to elect their leaders. That's how the
19 democracy works. And I urge you, I request
20 you, please look into that one when it comes
21 you are going to redraw the districts.

22 As one of the commissioners said,
23 Asian population increase by 60 percent. What
24 it means, when people come to this county we
25 are coming for the safety, about the future,

1 Districting Advisory Commission
2 about the education for their kids. But
3 people need to understand, the leaders need to
4 understand that it has to get it done the
5 right way. We need to have the shoulder to
6 lean on if we have problems.

7 I understand I have 30 seconds but
8 I have a lot to say.

9 But please, we are all here. We
10 took our time out also and you guys took our
11 time out also to hear us. So please do the
12 right thing. As one of my friends said, God
13 is watching you whatever you're doing right
14 now. Thank you so much.

15 MR. MORONEY: Thank you very
16 much. I'm going to do the best I can because
17 this is written over. Susan Gottehrer. I
18 apologize.

19 MS. GOTTEHRER: That's okay.
20 Hi. My name is Susan Gottehrer. I'm the
21 director of the Nassau County New York Civil
22 Liberties Union.

23 As you know, there's already a
24 problem in a lot of this process. The
25 deadline of March versus the timing of the

1 Districting Advisory Commission
2 petitions having to be filed and advocates,
3 many advocates learning of the scheduling of
4 this meeting alone from news media outlets and
5 not from the website. I went on the website
6 yesterday and again this morning and I really
7 didn't see much about the other meetings that
8 are scheduled.

9 We don't really know what the
10 process is going to be. We need to know if
11 and when you have hired mappers and staffers
12 and what that hiring process looked like. We
13 don't know if you've met previously or how
14 many times you're going to meet without having
15 public hearings. We need to know the
16 process. We don't know if there are going to
17 be hearings after the maps are drawn. How
18 many. How much time is the public going to
19 look at those maps. I hear you all talking
20 about how we're going to try to create that
21 sort of a process. But we don't know is
22 really the answer because you guys haven't put
23 together that process yet as far as how to
24 work together as a body.

25 We are curious as to why this is

1 Districting Advisory Commission

2 getting started so late. The commission was
3 seated in May.

4 What are you going to do about
5 interpretation services other than Spanish?
6 We have, as you've heard many people say here
7 tonight, we have many different languages and
8 many different kinds of people here in Nassau
9 County and we're offering a little bit of
10 Spanish interpretation tonight. I encourage
11 you all to think very carefully, those of who
12 don't speak Spanish, how it felt when Cristine
13 came over and spoke Spanish. How did that
14 feel? I'd just like you to sit with that for
15 a couple of minutes. How did that feel?
16 Because that's the way so many people feel all
17 the time in this county.

18 So, your meetings all over the
19 county are going to need to have language
20 access in languages other than Spanish and
21 hopefully in Spanish.

22 As advocates, we'll be looking for
23 cracking and packing and care taking to given
24 communities of interests. They're due.

25 We'll also going to be watching

1 Districting Advisory Commission
2 carefully for the skinny bridges and those
3 weird shapes that we see in gerrymandering.
4 As you can see, we have a lot of questions
5 that are not answered yet and we really want
6 you to know that we're watching.

7 The other thing is that I just want
8 to say is what we heard here tonight at the
9 start of this meeting it reminded me of trying
10 to referee bad college group work. If
11 somebody makes a phone call they've made a
12 phone call. That's reaching out. If somebody
13 doesn't return the phone call that person
14 doesn't want to collaborate. That's my
15 decision as a professor when that crap
16 happens.

17 So, I also want to say that anybody
18 organizing here tonight the League of Women
19 Voters and myself and other people can provide
20 public education to your communities on this
21 process. We demand transparency and it
22 doesn't look like we're going to get a lot
23 from this crew the way you've been operating
24 already. Thank you.

25 MR. PERNICK: May I ask you a

1 Districting Advisory Commission
2 quick question? I apologize for the acoustics
3 and apologize that you couldn't hear me.

4 As the Nassau County lead for the
5 ACLU, do you have recommendations on best
6 practices? Recommendations on the
7 redistricting process that you would like to
8 share with us that we should take into account
9 as we consider the resolutions, as we consider
10 what process we want to establish here on
11 out? Do you have recommendations, specific
12 recommendations that you'd like to share with
13 us now?

14 MS. GOTTEHRER: There's a lot and
15 I will be more than happy to forward all of
16 them. I think a really good starting point is
17 making sure that maybe you can post notices
18 way in advance of the meetings instead of the
19 legal open government threshold. That shows
20 good will. Okay? Really, you know what this
21 is. You know what's been done, right? You
22 know how this has been done in the past.

23 One of the best practices would be
24 to get a commission that reflects the
25 population of the county. That might be

1 Districting Advisory Commission
2 important. Make sure that this is
3 transparent. Make sure you have a process
4 going into this so this bickering doesn't
5 happen in advance. Make sure you have a
6 process.

7 Other than that, the technical
8 aspects we have a lot of recommendations that
9 I will be more than happy to forward for sure.

10 MR. PERNICK: That would be
11 terrific. Thank you.

12 MR. MORONEY: By the way, just to
13 make sure that everybody knows, we have
14 Language Line which I believe goes up to 165
15 different languages. It's over here on the
16 wall. That's been here since we started this
17 day and it's available to anybody who does not
18 speak any one of those 165. Whether it's
19 Spanish, Farci, Hindi or any other language we
20 might be --

21 MS. GOTTEHRER: Does that mean
22 that they would get headsets and be hooked
23 into Language Line?

24 MR. MORONEY: Right over here
25 they have the tablets that can be used.

1 Districting Advisory Commission

2 You're welcome to give it a shot just to look
3 at it. Maybe because of the bad acoustics you
4 didn't hear it but now you have heard it.

5 MS. GOTTEHRER: I would recommend
6 that you actually post that on the website in
7 advance then as well because you might get a
8 different representation of people if they
9 understood that they might understand what's
10 going on here. That might be a best practice
11 as well.

12 MR. MEJIAS: I would like to ask
13 you to come back at some point to one of the
14 hearings whenever we decide the hearings dates
15 are to put your recommendations, if you do
16 have them in writing, so we can put them into
17 the record. Some of the other speakers have
18 talked about districts that look like snakes
19 that are going through different communities,
20 little bridges. And compactness is a very
21 important part of this process and part of the
22 legal analysis that's going to be done for
23 these maps.

24 If we look at the maps today that
25 exist for the county legislature, any

1 Districting Advisory Commission
2 political scientist using statistical analysis
3 and the methodology and the formulas that they
4 use analyzing these maps they do not meet any
5 of the acceptable standards. So the maps
6 today and the compactness today under
7 acceptable statistical analysis through the
8 lens of political science are illegal and
9 unacceptable.

10 MS. GOTTEHRER: Correct.

11 MR. MORONEY: I'm going to take a
12 little personal I think for you have here. I
13 wish you were around in North Hempstead when
14 they did their redistricting and maybe you
15 share your best practices with them as well.
16 I know the skinny lines and the odd little
17 things might be helpful in the future. Thank
18 you.

19 Now Susan Cools from Baldwin.

20 MS. COOLS: What I would like to
21 say to you is this. I know that personally I
22 am so sick and tired to death of this red and
23 blue nonsense. This has got to stop. This
24 has divided and is ruining our country. It is
25 ruining our municipalities. And at some point

1 Districting Advisory Commission
2 people that are supposed to be involved in
3 public service have to take some
4 accountability and realize that this is not
5 what you're supposed to be doing. Because you
6 know what? The money that pays for everything
7 that gets done is not red or blue, it's
8 green. We're sick of this.

9 And many of us work hard every
10 single day to teach our young people to
11 collaborative, to be respectful, to listen to
12 each other's ideas. That is the only way you
13 can make progress and that you can move
14 forward. But none of the people that seem to
15 be in a position that's supposedly work for us
16 and represent us do any of these things that
17 we are trying to teach our kids. It's a
18 horrible example. It's got to stop.

19 When you lay your head on your
20 pillow at night are you at peace? You should
21 be. So, when you're going forward with this
22 process think about what you're doing and how
23 it is going to affect people in their homes.
24 Not just overall in general. People in their
25 homes. Working hard to try to make life work

1 Districting Advisory Commission
2 and how what you're going to do will affect
3 that. All people. Not red. Not blue. All
4 people. Thank you.

5 MR. MORONEY: Thank you very
6 much. Maria Jordan Awalom. Did I pronounce
7 that correctly?

8 MS. AWALOM: Good evening. My
9 name is Maria Jordan Awalom. I'm a Freeport
10 resident and I'm president of the Freeport
11 school district board of education.

12 I'm here today because once again
13 we are in a critical moment where immigrant
14 and communities of color are still asking
15 themselves how can we assure our voices are
16 heard? I cannot think of a more important way
17 for us to do so then to engage in how our
18 representation is developed and carved out.

19 We live in one of the most
20 segregated areas in the country. Is this
21 really what we want to be on the top ten list
22 of nationally? Our public schools continue to
23 be segregated creating even more inequities
24 along racial and social and economic lines.
25 Many of us already live in areas where we

1 Districting Advisory Commission
2 constantly have to fight to be heard. We have
3 to fight to achieve environmental justice for
4 our children. We have to fight for the
5 availability of resources. We even have to
6 fight for basic quality of life services. We
7 shouldn't also have to fight to simply have a
8 right afforded to us as residents and citizens
9 of this country, the right to fair
10 representation.

11 As an educational leader in my
12 community, I stand before you all tonight to
13 implore upon this body to create a process
14 that the people can believe in and that we can
15 trust in for a brighter and more equitable
16 future for all of our children.

17 We live in a democracy and as such
18 we need our representatives to lead with
19 transparency and to represent us all. We will
20 continue to show up, engage and fight for fair
21 maps that will result in legislative districts
22 that accurately reflect Nassau County in 2022
23 and for the next ten years. Thank you.

24 MR. MORONEY: Thank you very
25 much. Next is Carmen J. Pineyro. Did I

1 Districting Advisory Commission

2 pronounce that correctly?

3 MS. PINEYRO: Good evening
4 chairman and members of the community. My
5 name is Carmen Pineyro. I'm former deputy
6 mayor of the incorporated Village of Freeport,
7 lifelong resident of Nassau County and a
8 taxpayer.

9 The process of redistricting is an
10 opportunity that our community has once every
11 ten years with the goal of achieving equitable
12 representation that mirrors what our community
13 look like based on data from the latest
14 census. I can tell you that the Nassau County
15 demographics, particularly the fast growing
16 Latino population, as well as the Asian
17 population, have changed drastically in the
18 last ten years. And yet Nassau County has
19 zero representation of Latinos and
20 Asian-Americans. Either in elected office or
21 even in government leadership.

22 If I recall, the last Latino
23 legislator was one of the commissioners, David
24 Mejias, that's part of the commission here
25 today. This is not only disappointing but

1 Districting Advisory Commission

2 it's also a sign of how our communities have
3 been ignored and dismissed. Please know that
4 our community is paying attention. We will
5 continue to engage in this process because for
6 far too long those who stand to benefit from
7 the status quos have kept us in the dark and a
8 process that is supposed to produce maps that
9 continue to divide our communities.
10 Communities which share interests, concern,
11 culture to suppress our vote and silence our
12 voices in government.

13 As we know, this census was
14 affected by the pandemic and the fearmongering
15 tactics of selected few which hindered not
16 only the participation of members of our
17 representative communities for fear of
18 retaliation but also to not be counted. I can
19 tell you that those tactics, while used to
20 oppress a selected group of a few, actually
21 hindered not only our communities but the
22 county and state because we lose a vital
23 funding from the federal government as a
24 result.

25 As a resident of Nassau County, as

1 Districting Advisory Commission
2 a voter and as a stakeholder of this community
3 I demand this process to be open and
4 transparent and that it result in fair maps.

5 I just said in Spanish that I hope
6 that since it's being televised, and you
7 mentioned that there's 160 languages in
8 language access, that at the bottom members
9 that are watching live can actually see and
10 hear not only what I said, what you're saying
11 and the rest of the members that are here so
12 they can understand what the process is
13 about. That is what full integration of the
14 diverse community of Nassau County is. Thank
15 you.

16 MR. MORONEY: Thank you. H.
17 Scottie Gourdine-Coads representing the NAACP
18 New York State conference.

19 MS. COADS: Good evening
20 everyone. I have standing with me the NAACP
21 that we represent in New York State, branches,
22 presidents, different positions they hold. I
23 thank you commissioners for hearing us
24 tonight. My name is H. Scotti Coads and I'm a
25 chair of civic engagement New York State and

1 Districting Advisory Commission
2 the 2020 census and redistricting coordinator
3 for the NAACP New York State.

4 I came in tonight expecting to
5 explain what redistricting is all about, but
6 as I was walking in you were explaining,
7 someone was explaining, I'm not sure which
8 chairperson, what redistricting is. So we'll
9 skip over that.

10 What do we want NAACP? We want to
11 have individuals elected or already in place
12 with the fight to protect our community. It
13 is unfortunate that we are not privy to seeing
14 a map today. Let me say, however, maps should
15 be drawn with community cohesion in mind and
16 not division. Lines should not be drawn that
17 divide communities of interest, which creates
18 difficulty to find representatives to champion
19 the causes and advocates for them.

20 Our NAACP request tonight of you,
21 however, the maps be drawn in our Black and
22 Brown communities should remain contiguous and
23 intact. As all communities the same should
24 apply. With fair-minded representatives and
25 fairly drawn maps we will be afforded the same

1 Districting Advisory Commission

2 entitlement and services as other neighboring
3 communities. Let me digress for a second.

4 Ten years ago I was here testifying
5 and with me I have my grandson who we have to
6 protect with whatever maps you intend to
7 draw. He was just a baby. Now he's ten years
8 old and I want him to stand with me. He is
9 the third vice chair of the Lakeview
10 Democratic NAACP Youth Counsel. His name is
11 Parker.

12 We realize also that our
13 communities are generally the ones that must
14 always fight for services that many times are
15 automatically given to other communities.
16 Such as repairing of roads and many
17 entitlements of federal, state and local
18 services.

19 Although this is not the drawing of
20 the New York State assembly district lines, we
21 in the 18th Assembly District are concerned
22 that our communities remain intact
23 legislatively as was the assembly lines.
24 Partisan redistricting has a negative impact
25 on representative democracy.

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2 This brings us to gerrymandering
3 that we all are familiar with. Back in 2013
4 we made a passionate plea on behalf of the
5 NAACP to our brothers and sisters across the
6 state of New York to join with us and to
7 support us as we continue the fight against
8 gerrymandered district maps that were designed
9 by Nassau County majority party for the Nassau
10 County residents. The majority map would have
11 moved more than 300 residents back in 2013 to
12 accommodate their gerrymandering efforts of
13 control and power electorally. Our
14 communities will pay close attention to how
15 the lines are being drawn.

16 Finally, we want fair, the NAACP,
17 we want fair redrawing of these legislative
18 maps and we will continue to make our presence
19 known at every meeting that you put in place.

20 Let me add also it's most
21 unfortunate that this meeting was called in
22 such a short notice. And thank the Lord we
23 have the room pretty packed. And as the lady
24 spoke before, this is not about red or blue.
25 It's about people and we want to make sure

1 Districting Advisory Commission
2 that we are represented fairly when you draw
3 your lines.

4 Thank you. And on behalf of Hazel
5 Dukes, our leader, our state president, and
6 all of our branches that's present thank you
7 for the evening. Thank you.

8 MR. PERNICK: Ms. Coads, I have a
9 question for you but first I want to thank you
10 for being here tonight. I want to thank the
11 NAACP for being here tonight and I want to
12 thank you for your leadership in the NAACP and
13 all that you do to advocate for democracy.

14 My question for you, I understand
15 that you were involved in 2013. You
16 testified. You followed the process. How do
17 you feel that process went and what can we
18 learn from 2013, from the 2012-2013 process,
19 with how we do our work here today?

20 MS. COADS: Mr. Pernick, I must
21 say I am disappointed. From 2013 to now we
22 are not seeing the transparency and the
23 accountability that we expected to see ten
24 years later. We're not. There's still a
25 fight going on. We're still assuming that red

1 Districting Advisory Commission
2 and blue is all about. It's about the
3 people.

4 Someone testified before and said
5 when Mayor Wayne Hall was the mayor in the
6 Village of Hempstead he used to always say
7 when he drives through Garden City and goes to
8 Rockville Centre he doesn't want to know the
9 difference between what Hempstead looked
10 like. Unfortunately that didn't happen. It's
11 the same thing from even when he was mayor.

12 So, nothing has changed. The fight
13 continues. And we, the NAACP, will make sure
14 that we stay in the struggle and that we
15 continue the fight. We are not going to back
16 down. Thank you very much.

17 MR. PERNICK: Thank you.

18 MR. MORONEY: Matthew Ott.

19 MR. OTT: Thank you so much for
20 allowing me this opportunity to speak. My
21 name is Matthew Ott, and I currently reside in
22 Mineola. The main objective of this meeting
23 is to redraw the Nassau County legislative map
24 in a way that brings fairness. I think that's
25 the main theme of this meeting. Fairness to

1 Districting Advisory Commission
2 all residents regardless of political
3 affiliation.

4 We have seen both parties attempt
5 to manipulate, and in certain situations,
6 successfully redraw the maps in their favor.
7 A process we know as gerrymandering.

8 While independent committees are a
9 step forward, we're still seeing a divide
10 between two parties similar to what happened
11 during the New York State redistricting
12 process.

13 In order to ensure a fair process
14 for all residents of Nassau County we must use
15 mathematics to take out as much bias out of
16 the equation as possible. One equation that
17 has been used to measure compactness in a
18 district is the Polsby-Popper. Has anybody
19 heard of this equation?

20 So, as I said, it is a mathematical
21 equation that uses area and perimeter to
22 calculate the compactness of a district on a
23 scale between zero and 100. It is my
24 recommendation that this mathematical equation
25 be strongly considered during the

1 Districting Advisory Commission
2 redistricting process. All 19 districts
3 should have a minimum Polsby-Popper score of
4 30.

5 To put this into perspective,
6 during the New York State redistricting
7 process all nine state senate seats had scores
8 over 30. So it can be done.

9 In summation, in order to remove
10 bias and injustice from the redistricting
11 process we need mathematics not partisanship.
12 We need shapes not squiggles. We saw the
13 squiggle in LD 14. That is simply not
14 acceptable.

15 I do have a little bit more time.
16 I did want to mention, as people mentioned,
17 the systemic racism that has been going on. I
18 think one of them briefly mentioned the
19 founding of this nation and the history. The
20 founders of this nation were slave owners
21 straight up. And in this time I just want to
22 point out that people talked about the
23 percentage of Hispanic-Americans in Nassau
24 County, percentage of Asian-Americans,
25 percentage of African-Americans, there's about

1 Districting Advisory Commission
2 25 percent I believe, 20 to 25 percent
3 African-Americans, how many of those
4 African-Americans live in District 1 through 3
5 compared to Districts 4 through 19? Thank
6 you.

7 MR. MAGIN: I want to thank you
8 for your testimony. I especially appreciate
9 you bringing up the Polsby-Popper statistical
10 model. I agree with you. The current
11 legislative districts as drawn perform poorly
12 and there's about ten different models and I
13 think it's the responsibility of this
14 commission to reference all of them in drawing
15 fair and equitable districts for everybody.

16 Another way to determine
17 compactness is you will know it if you see
18 it. I think as the gentleman over here
19 demonstrated when he held that map up most of
20 the districts that you would expect fail that
21 as well.

22 So, I appreciate you bringing that
23 up and we definitely will be referencing these
24 statistical models in drawing the new
25 districts for the county.

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2 MR. MEJIAS: I think we're
3 agreeing with you because using math and the
4 various ten statistical models that political
5 scientist use, by any one of those standards
6 the maps that they have drawn today fail.

7 MR. MORONEY: Mimi Pierre Johnson
8 from the Elmont Cultural Center.

9 MS. JOHNSON: Good evening. My
10 name is Mimi Pierre Johnson from Elmont
11 Cultural Center and I'm also a member of the
12 League of Women Voters tonight. The
13 redistricting coalition.

14 Before I even say anything, and I
15 hope you indulge me with a couple of more
16 minutes since you gave other people some.
17 Before we started in 2011, when the whole
18 redistricting process was happening, many of
19 us in Elmont were excited about being a part
20 of the process here. The civic process. And
21 I'd like to say all of my -- that's from the
22 Haitian community.

23 So, in the Haitian community in
24 Elmont we started to be very civically engaged
25 and this is what our map looked like. This is

1 Districting Advisory Commission
2 what our district looked like. And then this
3 is what they did after. So we were
4 bamboozled. This is how we were before and
5 after we were this is what they did.

6 So talk about compactness. In
7 order for me to go through my entire
8 legislative third district I have to go
9 through another county, through the marshes,
10 the water, back into Rosedale and then back
11 into Nassau County. So already that's wrong.

12 I'm so happy that all of you
13 understand the redistricting laws and how
14 you're supposed to do it. Many of the people
15 that made those decisions ten years ago, many
16 of them are not even with us. Either no
17 longer elected officials or they have since
18 passed away. And that is super important
19 because when you think about what can happen
20 in someone's ten years, there's so many people
21 that are going to give you the stats and all
22 that. I want you to understand what happens
23 with the decision you're going to make on
24 these maps.

25 My daughter was in college,

1 Districting Advisory Commission
2 freshman. She's now a 31 year old married
3 woman. I am now 60. When I am 70 you think
4 that I want to go through this again? You
5 have the opportunity to make things right for
6 Elmont, Valley Stream legislative 13 and
7 everybody sitting in here. I'm going to tell
8 you why this was a bamboozle and this right
9 here to me is a sham. And until I see the
10 right thing happen then I will have faith
11 again in a redistricting coalition, a
12 redistricting panel.

13 When they said to us we're going to
14 hear you, meetings happen, we were here from
15 11 o'clock to 6 o'clock at night. The
16 shuffling of the papers happened with who
17 wanted to speak. I remember that. We're a
18 little bit older now. We're a little bit
19 bigger now. But I'm going to tell you
20 something. Please indulge me because you need
21 to understand what your decision did. Not
22 you.

23 After that redistricting process on
24 the state level my street, Crystal Street in
25 Elmont, look it up, my house, specifically my

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2 house, the line was drawn so that my neighbors
3 across the street was Senate District 7 and I
4 was Senate District 9.

5 On the legislative level I already
6 showed you what that was like. And now they
7 pushed all of us all the way to the Five
8 Towns. There were many residents from the
9 Five Towns here begging do not break us up.
10 They did it anyway. So, now we became a part
11 of the broken Five Towns.

12 So, on the state level we just won
13 because I don't know how many of you know this
14 in Nassau County but Elmont and Valley Stream
15 for the past 11 years was represented on the
16 federal level in Queens. In Queens. I'm
17 still paying Nassau County taxes. My taxes
18 didn't go down. But we were represented by a
19 Queens representative.

20 So thank God, and some of my
21 Democrats, fellow Democrats might get mad, but
22 the Republicans sued to give us another chance
23 so that we can get Elmont and Valley Stream
24 back in Nassau County.

25 And guess what? Five and a half

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2 hours later, five and a half hours to Bath,
3 New York is where that hearing was held.
4 Well, you know, I've been in this struggle for
5 a long time. I went to Bath, five and a half
6 hours to Bath, and I told the special master
7 and the judge what had happened in Elmont and
8 that we deserve to be represented the right
9 way. We deserve, as Nassau County taxpayers
10 and voters, to be represented in Nassau
11 County.

12 So, you can see why I don't have a
13 lot of faith in anything that you say because
14 you know the law. We know it too because we
15 have educated ourselves. Our coalition is
16 growing. And at the end of the day May 6th I
17 stood alone and I looked around and I said I
18 don't care. The only way that we can be made
19 whole is to put us back in Nassau County. I
20 went against a lot of my friends but you know
21 what? I care about my community more than
22 friendship, political party or anything else.

23 And I'm begging you don't do this
24 to us again. All you have to do is follow the
25 redistricting law. Follow the charter. And

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2 come into our communities. Stop making us
3 come to you. Come to us.

4 I am one of the trustees in the
5 Elmont library. Come to Elmont. Everyone
6 here has a library in their district. Go to
7 those libraries. Because, unfortunately, we
8 don't have the resources in the Black and
9 Brown communities for all of us to have a
10 community center. So that we could all do the
11 things we need to do for our community.

12 So, compactness. Right?

13 And lastly. We work very hard in
14 Elmont and in Valley Stream to make sure that
15 we're accounted well in the census. We raised
16 the response rate by ten percent from 2010.
17 That wasn't for anyone to stay in power or to
18 crack and pack the communities of color so
19 that they lose their voice. That was so we
20 would have enough population to have our
21 districts well represented.

22 And secondly, we have enough
23 minority-majority to have more districts and
24 you should start thinking about that. We will
25 be watching. Thank you.

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2 MR. MORONEY: Thank you very
3 much. At this point we're going to take a
4 ten-minute break and we'll be back at looks
5 like ten minutes after 8. Okay? Thank you
6 very much.

7 (Meeting recessed at 7:58 p.m.)

8 (Meeting reconvened at 8:20 p.m.)

9 MR. MORONEY: From this point
10 going forward we will stick to the three
11 minute rule. We have signing people who need
12 to be out of here by nine p.m. and there are
13 other matters on the record. If you please
14 take your seat. The next speaker on my list
15 is Jeffrey Daniels.

16 MR. DANIELS: Good evening.
17 Jeffrey Daniels. I'm the deputy mayor of the
18 Village of Hempstead. I think there were a
19 lot of great things said here tonight. So I
20 do thank everyone for coming out, including
21 yourselves, taking time out to participate.

22 But I just want to call out one
23 thing. That we should learn from the last
24 three years. We should learn about what
25 happens when you marginalize communities.

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2 When communities go unrepresented you get
3 Charlottesville where people march chanting
4 that they will not be replaced. You get
5 hundreds of thousands of Black and Brown
6 people dying from coronavirus because they
7 have underlying conditions from a failing
8 health system. Lack of representation.

9 Our government is made up of checks
10 and balances for a reason. It's not just
11 security. It's also about representation.
12 And everyone up here today that's on this
13 commission you're at the front line. You're
14 the security of our representation. It
15 doesn't mean that your candidate may not win
16 in that election district. It just means they
17 need to listen to everyone in the district.
18 That's what's important. That you listen and
19 you represent the entire district and that's
20 what everyone here is looking for.

21 Because if you keep marginalizing
22 people and not representing them as you should
23 in today's day and age through social media
24 they unionize and you get January 6th. But it
25 stops here if you do what you're supposed to

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2 do. It's not a party thing, it's a people
3 thing. Thank you.

4 MR. MORONEY: Thank you. Again,
5 I'm going to ask people to keep themselves to
6 the three minutes. Our signing people are due
7 to be out of here at nine p.m. So, I beg your
8 indulgence and move forward with Olena Nicks.

9 MS. NICKS: Good evening. So,
10 I'm here to speak to you tonight, this
11 evening, to ask you for a fair redistricting
12 process. One that is well advertised and
13 encourages community participation. Often we
14 have seen across the country redistricting
15 processes where it has encouraged voter
16 suppression and we cannot have that here.

17 While the rest of the country is
18 advancing in diversity and inclusivity, Nassau
19 County, one of the most segregated places to
20 live, is regressing. In Uniondale, where I'm
21 from, we are facing the battle of East Garden
22 City, where it is a name change to make the
23 community seem more aesthetic pleasing to
24 live. But Uniondale is also already an
25 aesthetic place to live. Not many places can

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2 say they live where there are two colleges and
3 a very popular stadium in their backyard. And
4 a high school that gives an EMT program and a
5 prenursing program.

6 However, if the lines are
7 redistricted unfairly and that prevails East
8 Garden City will win that battle. For a
9 community that generates such high revenue and
10 assets we still receive such a lack of
11 attention and care. And we even see
12 disparities and things like unfair amounts of
13 homeless shelters where we are receiving over
14 50 percent of those. Where our counterparts
15 are not seeing those in other neighboring
16 towns.

17 As a volunteer fire fighter, a
18 captain, and a library trustee, I do not want
19 to see the consequences of unfair
20 redistricting process as it will not only hurt
21 our community but take away the things that
22 makes us great.

23 MR. MORONEY: Thank you very
24 much. Kristen Clodfetter.

25 MS. CLODFETTER: Good evening.

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2 As you said, my name is Kristen Clodfetter.

3 I'm here on behalf of the very small community
4 of South Hempstead, and I want to reiterate
5 what Mrs. Mallay said to you earlier tonight
6 to make sure you hear it more than once from
7 more than one resident. That we are a very,
8 very tiny community and we very much
9 appreciate the fact that in previous
10 redistricting efforts we were brought back
11 together as a community. So, we want to make
12 the very specific plea that our priority in
13 terms of issues is that South Hempstead remain
14 one community in terms of how it gets
15 districted and who our legislator is. So that
16 that way our voice is not diluted even
17 further.

18 Because we're not an incorporated
19 village s we don't have a mayor, we don't have
20 one person or one board of trustees
21 representing our interests. It's just us. We
22 are an engaged and active community as you can
23 see tonight given how small we are the fact
24 that we had four or five or six residents show
25 up is pretty impressive. I'm appreciative of

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2 everyone that came tonight.

3 As a secondary priority, if I can
4 dream, I would ask that you all implore logic
5 and practicality in how you address this issue
6 of the maps and redistricting. Right now one
7 of the biggest institutions in our
8 neighborhood is Molloy. I think it's
9 thoroughly odd that at some point in the past
10 the powers that be made so that Molloy is
11 considered to be a part of Rockville Centre.
12 As such, Molloy has a separate legislator that
13 they would go to for their interest and answer
14 to in terms of their responsibility and
15 accountability.

16 But the issues that arise from an
17 institution as large as Molloy University, now
18 university not college anymore, is as it grows
19 the parking issues, the traffic issues, much
20 of the fallout and the development that
21 happens with regard to that institution should
22 be addressed.

23 But as residents when we have a
24 concern. It's very difficult to figure out,
25 even as an active and engaged member of the

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2 community, who you talk to that's actually
3 going to respond to you. Because my
4 representatives in my community, whether it be
5 the Town of Hempstead or Nassau County or at
6 the state level, are not necessarily the same
7 folks that Molloy would be speaking to.
8 Because as of right now they have a different
9 legislative district than we do.

10 But if you look at it, if you
11 physically drive down the road or just engage
12 your own familiarity, they are for all intents
13 and purposes located in my community. The
14 traffic they generate, the parking situation,
15 the houses that they continue to buy up are
16 not impacting Rockville Centre. Even though
17 we like to pretend they are part of the
18 Rockville Centre village.

19 So, I would ask you to pay
20 attention to those kinds of issues should they
21 arise as a secondary concern.

22 I appreciate all of your service
23 and what you're doing for the community in
24 terms of examining the issue. Thank you.

25 MR. MORONEY: Thank you very

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2 much. Raja Singh.

3 MR. SINGH: Good evening to this
4 committee. Thank you for the opportunity for
5 having this meeting. I would encourage you
6 guys to make this more accessible. I'm not
7 sure if this is being live streamed. If it
8 is, where and how do people access it?

9 Secondly, the other question I have
10 is, is it possible for us to actually have the
11 district maps on display here? Although we're
12 all here for the reason of getting equitable
13 districts, some people want to visually see
14 these maps so they can better understand where
15 they're located and what district they're
16 from.

17 I live in Hicksville. I also work
18 in Hicksville as well and I know firsthand how
19 badly it's been separated. It's shared
20 between three different legislators.
21 Hicksville for the last ten years has changed
22 drastically. Especially with the
23 demographics. We've mentioned before the
24 South Asian population has grown by 60
25 percent. A large part of that population is

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2 moving to Hicksville. Me included. I know
3 this firsthand because of the business that I
4 am in, I'm an attorney. A lot of my clients
5 live in Hicksville, they work in Hicksville.
6 I see it every day their questions and
7 concerns why they can't get help. Why they
8 can't get representation because they don't
9 know where to go. They don't know who to
10 speak to. There's language barriers. There's
11 a ton of problems.

12 And Hicksville being the largest
13 part of the district is in the center of the
14 district. So, we make all the revenue in
15 Hicksville. We get all the taxes paid and the
16 other areas surrounding Hicksville benefits
17 because they get the new parks, they get the
18 new football equipment, they get the new
19 fields, new golf courses. The roads are
20 significantly better.

21 We have the train station in
22 Hicksville and we bear the burden of all the
23 costs and the maintenance but everyone else
24 comes and travels there. Same thing with
25 Hicksville roads and downtown. It looks like

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2 a ghost town.

3 But largely the South Asian
4 community that's growing there in crazy
5 numbers needs better representation. And I
6 know that because I ran for office last year
7 as a legislator for Hicksville. And the
8 reason I couldn't win because Hicksville, in
9 my community, the South Asians, are split up
10 into three different groups. Three different
11 districts. It's not fair to them. Being the
12 largest growing community in Hicksville why
13 don't we have our own representation? It's
14 not fair to us. It's not equitable to us.
15 And that goes for the same for the other
16 districts. Whether it's Uniondale or
17 Hempstead. They all have the same concerns
18 and the same problems.

19 And the one thing that you hear
20 again and again it's Black and Brown
21 communities that suffer the most. And you say
22 it time and again. It's been going on
23 decades. At some point something's got to
24 give. This is your chance collectively to
25 right that wrong and make these districts

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2 equitable. And it's not necessarily about
3 equity it's also about effectiveness. We want
4 representation that's going to be fair but
5 also effectiveness for the people that
6 actually live there. So, I encourage you guys
7 to consider all these things and thank you.

8 MR. MORONEY: Thank you very
9 much. Beatriz Braxton.

10 MS. BRAXTON: Good evening.
11 Thanks for this meeting. I just would like to
12 find out the outcome of this meeting later on
13 that we, the attendees, find out the result of
14 this meeting so they don't go on deaf ears.

15 I want to talk about Hempstead.
16 Like I said, I'm Beatriz Braxton. I'm a very
17 proud resident in Hempstead for the last 24
18 years. They talk about Hempstead in so many
19 negative ways. We support one of the largest
20 school budgets and highest taxes, real estate
21 taxes in Long Island. They call us poor
22 because -- our taxes really, we pay the taxes
23 but we don't have the representation. They're
24 not using our money the right way for all the
25 social issues that we have.

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2 I've been around. I've been
3 involved in the community. So, like you said,
4 the Hispanic community, the Haitian community
5 are growing. We don't see the support that we
6 need when we going to all the entities. Like,
7 I know for a fact that a Hispanic person can
8 go to the police department they don't have a
9 translator there to report a crime. They
10 don't have a translator. It's very hard for
11 them to communicate with the police.

12 You said they had telephone lines
13 to translate. They don't know this assist
14 here. So communication is power. And it's a
15 lot of misinformation to the Hispanic
16 community, the Haitian community. So, we need
17 support. We need to know the outcome of this
18 meeting. It's just like a meeting and we
19 don't know what happened afterwards. Thank
20 you.

21 MR. MORONEY: You're welcome.
22 Everything will be posted on the website, and
23 I would recommend you to take a look at that
24 on a regular basis because things will
25 change.

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2 Meta J. Mereday.

3 MS. MEREDAY: Where does one
4 begin? First, I'm sorry that I missed all the
5 eloquent speeches earlier today. I will
6 definitely try to keep on time but since I'm
7 almost a regular in this location sometimes
8 it's very difficult for me. I will do my
9 best.

10 I encourage all those who are here
11 or listening or streaming redistricting
12 granted is important. Budgeting much more
13 so. It would be my hope that we have as many
14 people if not more in the next couple of weeks
15 because Nassau County, which has a budget of
16 about \$3.2 billion, that's where the funding
17 comes for the police department, for those
18 that want translators in their local
19 districts, for those that need those roads
20 repaired, for those that need those resources
21 in the school districts. For those, like, I
22 live in Baldwin now. I've been there about 20
23 years.

24 I, along with Scottie Coads and
25 others, we were largely trying to fight for

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2 what we thought was right and equitable here
3 ten years ago knowing full well it was not
4 going to happen. But at the same time we were
5 at Hempstead town hall to fight for their
6 undercover, undertable redistricting process
7 that now in the community that I live in we
8 have three counsel people representing our
9 small little two mile wide, two mile long,
10 maybe a mile and a half wide district.
11 Three.

12 We still have bad roads. We still
13 have no development downtown. We literally a
14 couple of weeks ago had to fight to get access
15 to the \$10 million that took us almost ten
16 years to win from the state because the town
17 was going to put that on a moratorium. I know
18 that's not your discussion here but we're
19 talking about redistricting.

20 I, like somebody who said earlier,
21 I have very little confidence in this process
22 because the 19 that generally sit on that body
23 are the ones that are going to decide because
24 you're basically claiming that you're going to
25 tell them how it's going to operate but

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2 they're going to tell you what's going to
3 happen because they want to keep their jobs.

4 Because the trio and the triad in
5 Nassau County is patronage, nepotism,
6 cronyism, period. So, you can say whether
7 it's red whether it's blue and you're
8 squeezing what little green you can get out of
9 us, but the embarrassment comes when you have
10 a CEO of a major global financial institution
11 who has to come here to tell you and us what
12 we have been saying here for decades, that
13 Long Island, America's original suburb, is one
14 of the most segregated communities in the
15 country.

16 So, again, I have very little
17 confidence in this. And I will, with all due
18 respect, try to stay within the three minutes.

19 Lastly, I will say it is my hope
20 though that this format here does not
21 replicate the state's debacle that many of us
22 are still trying to recover from. Because we
23 can only rise from the ashes so many times.
24 But trust me, like the Swahili quote that says
25 the struggle will continue and we will still

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2 be here. Thank you.

3 MR. MORONEY: Thank you very
4 much. Justin Brown.

5 MR. BROWN: Good evening. So, we
6 had a great turnout and we had some powerful
7 speakers up here today. But I do want to say
8 that we do need to do our due diligence and
9 getting more of our communities to really
10 understand what's going on in this process.

11 Redistricting is probably one of
12 the most important things that can happen
13 within Nassau County. And the trickle down
14 effect is something that people really need to
15 understand because it affects so much within
16 our communities. It affects our schools. It
17 affects homes. It affects our kids. So, we
18 have to do our due diligence.

19 As a community, as people who are
20 on this board, we need to really get to the
21 communities, get to the people and really let
22 them know what redistricting is. Because many
23 people don't know what that is.

24 You know, I think we have a good
25 opportunity right now. We have a great

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2 opportunity. We have an opportunity to get it
3 right this time. We don't have to wait ten
4 years or five years. The time is now where we
5 can go out and we can provide the proper
6 things that is necessary for us to redistrict
7 and have our communities set the way it's
8 supposed to be.

9 Let's not go back to where we were
10 ten years ago by redrawing lines not for the
11 benefit of the communities and the students
12 and our kids and our residents but for the
13 benefit of people who are elected officials.
14 For the benefit of the parties. Because
15 that's not what we want at this time. We want
16 elected officials who have direct benefit and
17 who wants to invest in our communities and who
18 wants to really make change. Not have
19 individuals who are drawn to make sure that
20 they benefit.

21 So, please, let's get it right this
22 time and have everyone who needs to get it
23 done the right way. All right? Thank you.

24 MR. BEE: Justin, I just want to
25 say thank you for your remarks. You and I had

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2 the opportunity to serve together with the
3 institutional review board for some period of
4 time. I respect your words and I give weight
5 to them and say thank you very much for coming
6 tonight.

7 MR. BROWN: Thank you. I just
8 want to say our communities we don't want
9 to -- for so long our voices have been diluted
10 because of the way redistricting has been and
11 we don't want to further dilute that. We want
12 to make sure that it's equitable, that it's
13 fair and that we're given a chance where we
14 have representatives who can really represent
15 us and voice our concerns to everyone. Thank
16 you.

17 MR. MORONEY: Thank you very
18 much. Clarona Griffith.

19 MS. GRIFFITH: Good evening. My
20 name is Clarona Griffith. I'm also one of
21 Hempstead's village trustee.

22 I would like to just ask that when
23 you do this redistrict that you make the
24 corrections that need to be made. Because
25 what I want you guys to think of right now is

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2 think of what's going to happen ten years from
3 now. Things are changing and you don't know
4 who your kids' kids are going to marry. They
5 might marry my grandchild. They might marry
6 someone in my family. And guess what? When
7 you make these redistricting it might affect
8 them too.

9 Think of the businesses that's
10 going to be affected. Think of the vets that
11 are going to be affected. We don't want to
12 just check the box because of poverty reason.
13 We want to check the box because of the good
14 reason. We want the same opportunity that
15 every other district gets. And,
16 unfortunately, for too long we're always being
17 affected.

18 When we talk about going in from
19 one district to the next district and we talk
20 about that, you know what, it's fair. It's
21 not. Garden City, Hempstead it's not fair.
22 Rockville Centre, Roosevelt, there's nothing
23 fair about it. Mineola, Elmont, there's
24 nothing fair about that. We want that. When
25 you travel through the different districts

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2 that guess what? It's fair.

3 And remember what I said. Think
4 about the future generation. It might not
5 affect us right now but ten years from now do
6 we really know where we're going to be? Do we
7 know where our children are going to be? We
8 don't.

9 So that's why when you do this I
10 ask to please do it fairly. So that your
11 future generation, my future generation and me
12 and you don't suffer by this decision. It
13 needs to be done straight and it needs to be
14 corrected. Let's us fix the mistake that was
15 done prior. We don't want to check the box
16 any longer because of the poverty line. We're
17 tired of people coming in to our district
18 because they're trying to get the funds. We
19 want people to come into our district because
20 they want to have fun time not poverty time.
21 Thank you.

22 MR. MORONEY: Thank you very
23 much. Lisa Ortiz.

24 MS. ORTIZ: Good evening
25 everyone. My name is Lisa Ortiz. I am a

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2 resident of Lakeview and a member of the
3 Lakeview Civic Association.

4 Tonight I ask you to consider the
5 people that you are appointed to represent and
6 how the redrawing of lines can impact the
7 communities directly.

8 As a member of the hamlet of
9 Lakeview, which is a majority-minority
10 community with a rich history, Lakeview is
11 comprised of residents who have a zip code
12 either under Rockville Centre, which is 11570,
13 or West Hempstead, 11552, but yet we're still
14 Lakeview.

15 One way you can determine that you
16 are entering the boundaries of Lakeview or the
17 community of Lakeview is at our boundary
18 lines. The mere appearance of our boundary
19 lines is not comparable to anything that you
20 would see when you enter Rockville Centre,
21 when you enter West Hempstead or Malverne or
22 Lynbrook or any of the neighboring
23 communities.

24 Tonight I ask as you're drawing
25 these lines that you really consider what it

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2 looks like for us to have people that
3 represent us directly. We don't have a
4 mayor. We don't have anyone that represents
5 Lakeview specifically. We have many people in
6 our community will speak up, but we also need
7 people that will represent us and tend to our
8 needs as a community.

9 When you're redrawing the lines I
10 also would like to make sure that you
11 understand what we just experienced during the
12 state redrawing or redistricting process.
13 That time when Lakeview was split up into two
14 assembly districts. Lakeview was also split
15 up into two senatorial districts.

16 As of now, we currently share a
17 district with Malverne and that is also
18 divided. We're made up of three different
19 communities that utilize one district. We
20 also have a different senator that represents
21 one side of the street and another senator who
22 represents Lakeview. Or the other side of the
23 ocean as they call it.

24 When you're drawing the lines I ask
25 you to consider what it looks like for our

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2 community to have one member to represent the
3 community as a whole. So, I would ask you to
4 make sure that you maintain us in one district
5 so that we can have one voice speaking up and
6 representing our community not like we have
7 had in years past. Thank you.

8 MR. MORONEY: Thank you very
9 much. I'm going to skip down to item five on
10 the agenda which is the resolutions filed by
11 the Democratic caucus. Is there somebody here
12 to speak in regard to that?

13 MR. BEE: Did you fill out a
14 sheet? Bear with us just a moment, we'll look
15 for it.

16 MR. MORONEY: I have it here.
17 Casey T. Marlow.

18 MR. MARLOW: J.

19 Thank you for letting me speak. I
20 have heard the concerns of my friends and
21 fellow citizens about this commission and
22 about the Republicans in the legislature and
23 the fears that they will not respect this
24 process and pursue a scheme to gerrymander a
25 county that President Biden won in 2020 by

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2 76,000 votes. If they choose to do what my
3 friend Dave Mejias described, they can rig the
4 Nassau County legislature to have a Republican
5 super majority. A super majority in what is
6 bluish purple county. What we have here is a
7 lack of trust.

8 I find it hard to trust a
9 Republican political establishment in this
10 county who picked this commission. A
11 Republican establishment who accepted help and
12 money in the last election from the radical
13 far right New York State Young Republicans
14 Club who are hosting disgraced former Navy
15 officer Jack Posobiec, who was kicked out of
16 the navy for being a racist lunatic and the
17 insane 9-11 truther Majorie Taylor Greene to
18 their yearly gala.

19 How can I trust a Republican
20 political establishment that fundraises with
21 racist, seditious lunatics like that?

22 Back to the point. The Republicans
23 in the legislature and on this commission you
24 will show the people of Nassau County who you
25 are with how you handle this process. Will

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2 you be transparent? Will you respect our
3 American values of fairness and equal
4 representation? Or choose illiberal
5 partisanship and disrespect the voters of
6 Nassau County? The denial of representation
7 is why we had our revolution. To deny that
8 now to Black and Brown communities of our
9 county disrespects everything that America is
10 supposed to stand for.

11 Shout out to all my friends from
12 Hempstead, Uniondale, Elmont, Freeport
13 Hicksville, my friend Roger Singh. He was
14 definitely right about Hicksville being denied
15 representation. And Farmingdale. And also
16 East Massapequa where I have a lot of friends
17 who -- this is a school thing but it's
18 emblematic of this problem where in
19 Massapequa -- Farmingdale has a big chunk of
20 Amityville that goes to Farmingdale school
21 district because of redlining. And in East
22 Massapequa they are within sight of Berner
23 Middle School. They have to go to Amityville
24 school district across county lines.

25 That problem, while this commission

1 Districting Advisory Commission
2 has nothing to do with that, is emblematic of
3 this problem that we have all come out to
4 discuss tonight on such short notice.

5 So, that's all I got. Thank you
6 for letting me speak and have a great night.

7 MR. MORONEY: Thank you. Back to
8 the resolutions. Is there going to be someone
9 to present those?

10 MR. MEJIAS: Mike, why don't you
11 present the resolutions?

12 MR. PERNICK: I'll start with
13 resolution one. This is the resolution that
14 we have referred to at multiple points
15 throughout the day focusing on a schedule for
16 public hearings. This is a resolution that's
17 designed to have a robust public schedule
18 covering every corner of the county to give
19 members of the public a full opportunity to
20 participate in the process.

21 Now, we saw today there were over
22 120 people who showed up. Two and a half,
23 felt like almost three hours of testimony.
24 But a significant interest from people all
25 across the county in having their voices

1 Districting Advisory Commission

2 heard.

3 So, there's clearly an interest in
4 having a robust schedule. We've had requests
5 from some of the people who spoke today to go
6 into their communities. Into communities like
7 Elmont, into communities like Freeport, so we
8 can have an opportunity to meet people where
9 they are and hear directly from members of the
10 public.

11 Now, it is required under the
12 charter to have six votes to approve any
13 action. I can read from the charter.

14 The Temporary Districting Advisory
15 Commission shall take all action by not less
16 than six affirmative votes of its member. End
17 quote. That's from Section 113 of the
18 charter.

19 So we're proposing a resolution
20 that we hope can earn the votes of all members
21 of this commission so we can formally adopt a
22 lawful schedule that's robust, that goes into
23 all of the communities in our county.

24 Our proposal calls for 11 hearings
25 before draft maps are released. An additional

1 Districting Advisory Commission
2 seven hearings after draft maps are released.
3 That way we have an opportunity to hear
4 comments on the maps that we're considering.
5 It also ensures that we have an opportunity to
6 collaborate and compromise and try and reach a
7 consensus among this group to adopt a map and
8 propose a map to the county legislature that
9 we can all get behind.

10 With that, I would urge my fellow
11 commissioners to support this resolution. I
12 understand that there are some concerns over
13 the legwork, over the ability to actually
14 secure locations in all of these places. We
15 are very willing to collaborate to move
16 locations, to move times to accommodate any
17 concerns that you have.

18 We're also happy to do the
19 legwork. We've spoken with staff on our end.
20 Happy to do the legwork to find locations and
21 at our next meeting we can come back and
22 present specific dates, specific times. As
23 you know, our resolution lays out a framework,
24 basically an instruction to staff to go out
25 and find places that will work.

1 Districting Advisory Commission

2 So, with that, I would move for
3 adoption of resolution number one.

4 MR. MORONEY: May I ask you to
5 continue your explanation of the others as
6 well and we can vote on them as one block?

7 MR. PERNICK: I think we want to
8 have a roll call vote on each resolution. I
9 would move at this point for a roll call vote
10 on resolution number one.

11 MR. MORONEY: Is there a second?

12 MR. KASSCHAU: I'll second that
13 motion.

14 MR. BEE: Mr. Chairman, I have
15 spoken to my fellow appointees from the
16 Republican majority side and there seems to be
17 a consensus on our side of the table that
18 there was an implicit authority on the part of
19 the chairperson of the commission to convene
20 the commission. That is what you have done
21 and you have put forth a schedule of dates
22 that unless overturned by six votes would
23 stand. It is our view that at the present
24 time in the absence of any further
25 articulation of dates and locations that meet

1 Districting Advisory Commission
2 all the requirements, at this point in time I
3 believe that I'm going to vote no on the
4 resolution that's been proposed, and I
5 encourage my fellow Republican appointees to
6 vote similarly.

7 MR. KASSCHAU: Mr. Chairman, I
8 assume that this is now open for discussion
9 given Mr. Peter Bee's comments.

10 In addition to the hearings that my
11 colleague, Mr. Pernick, has mentioned with
12 respect to scheduling a fulsome opportunity
13 for the public to participate in many more
14 meetings than my Republican counterpoints have
15 proposed.

16 Our resolution number one also
17 provides for the transparency that we heard a
18 lot about this evening. Including posting
19 notices on the county website. Including
20 requiring that all of the meetings have a sign
21 language interpreters available and several
22 other critical components to make sure that
23 these public meetings are done properly and
24 transparently. So, I intend to vote for this
25 resolution.

1 Districting Advisory Commission

2 MR. MEJIAS: Just to be clear, I
3 think there was a representation that there
4 was certain information on the county website
5 regarding the Temporary Districting Advisory
6 Committee. The county website currently has
7 posted on it an agenda. However, it's from
8 2013. That was nine years ago.

9 I do take issue with my esteemed
10 colleague Mr. Bee. The charter does not
11 provide the chairman of the commission with
12 the authority to make hearing dates and rule
13 by fiat. In fact, the charter is very clear
14 that the chairman is a nonvoting member and
15 does not have that authority.

16 So, absent the explicit authority
17 of the chairman in the charter to set forth
18 hearing dates and especially as a nonvoting
19 member any suggestion that that is the law is
20 completely wrong. The charter is very clear
21 that any action taken by this commission
22 requires six votes. So.

23 MR. MORONEY: You want me to call
24 the vote by name?

25 MR. MEJIAS: Yes, please. A roll

1 Districting Advisory Commission
2 call vote.
3 MR. MORONEY: David Mejias.
4 MR. MEJIAS: Yes.
5 MR. MORONEY: Jared Kasschau.
6 MR. KASSCHAU: Yes.
7 MR. MORONEY: Andrena Wyatt.
8 MS. WYATT: Yes.
9 MR. MORONEY: James Margin, Jr.
10 MR. MARGIN: Yes.
11 MR. MORONEY: Michael Pernick.
12 MR. PERNICK: Yes.
13 MR. MORONEY: Peter Bee.
14 MR. BEE: No.
15 MR. MORONEY: John Reinhardt.
16 MR. REINHARDT: No.
17 MR. MORONEY: Maureen Fitzgerald.
18 MS. FITZGERALD: No.
19 MR. MORONEY: Christopher Devane.
20 MR. DEVANE: No.
21 MR. MORONEY: Pastor Eric
22 Mallette.
23 MR. MALLETTE: No.
24 MR. MEJIAS: It's a tie. I
25 believe it goes to the runner.

1 Districting Advisory Commission

2 MR. MORONEY: There's no sixth
3 person is there? Do you have any more other?

4 MR. MEJIAS: We do have other
5 resolutions.

6 MR. PERNICK: At this point I
7 would like to turn to resolution number two
8 which focuses on transparency. It basically
9 adopts all of the best practices from
10 redistricting commissions across the country
11 to ensure that we have a transparent process.
12 It's a statement of this body that we intend
13 to be open, we intend to be forthright and do
14 everything we can so that the public can
15 participate fully in the process.

16 It also clarifies that we are
17 subject to the open meetings law, which I
18 believe we are. So it confirms that that is
19 something that we all agree to.

20 It clarifies that every single
21 meeting must be live streamed. Every single
22 meeting must be posted online. And it also
23 sets out specific information that should be
24 posted on the county redistricting website.
25 And I think it's important for us to

1 Districting Advisory Commission
2 acknowledge some of this information.

3 First, a summary of the applicable
4 laws that apply to this body so members of the
5 public can learn about what legal requirements
6 apply to this body.

7 A schedule for all of the meetings,
8 all the hearings conducted by the commission
9 with notice at least seven days in advance.
10 We heard from many members of the public who
11 were very concerned that there was not
12 sufficient notice of this meeting. So we are
13 calling for posting at least seven days in
14 advance of every single meeting that this
15 commission will be having.

16 Agendas posted at least 24 hours in
17 advance online. Video recordings and
18 transcripts of all the past hearings of all of
19 the meeting that have taken place. Any
20 documents, draft maps, resolutions, analyses,
21 anything else that's going to be considered by
22 this commission we should make it our practice
23 to post online so that members of the public
24 have that same information as well.

25 We also should be posting

1 Districting Advisory Commission
2 information on the current map. And not just
3 an image of the map that's already on the
4 website but all of the data, the shape files,
5 the block equivalency files, all of the
6 technical data that will allow any member of
7 the public to give us feedback on the current
8 districts. That's really important to make
9 public and to be transparent.

10 A lot of redistricting websites,
11 and people talked about this, have the
12 capacity for people to submit comments through
13 the website, an online portal, so members of
14 the public can engage in the process. Our
15 resolution calls for that capability as well.

16 Biographies of the commissioners.
17 People should know who we are. Know what we
18 bring to the table. And we should be
19 transparent about this body, who we are and
20 our qualifications for this work.

21 And finally, many commissions have
22 mechanisms to allow members of the public to
23 put their email address into a list so they
24 can receive regular updates about the
25 commission's work. We should start that

1 Districting Advisory Commission
2 immediately so we can keep members of the
3 public who are especially interested informed
4 as we move forward.

5 This is not a controversial
6 resolution in my view. But if there are
7 things that are impractical, that might be
8 challenging to deal with, we're very happy to
9 accept amendments. We're very happy to adjust
10 this so it's acceptable and we can reach a
11 compromise that works for everyone.

12 With that, I would move for
13 adoption of resolution number two and ask for
14 a roll call vote.

15 MR. MORONEY: Do we have a
16 second?

17 MR. KASSCHAU: I'll second that
18 motion.

19 MR. BEE: Mr. Chairman, I believe
20 that much of what has been asked for is
21 already in practice and in play. I think it's
22 the intention of the Republican appointees to
23 honor and meet all state and federal law
24 requirements regarding this reapportionment
25 process. And this resolution is essentially

1 Districting Advisory Commission
2 either already embodied in the law or is
3 otherwise unnecessary to be embodied in the
4 new resolution.

5 Again, I think I will vote no and
6 encourage my fellow commissioners vote.

7 MR. PERNICK: Just to clarify the
8 record, when I went on the website most of the
9 items listed on our resolution were not
10 available on our website. So, current maps,
11 shape files, data of the current map, summary
12 and text of all applicable laws setting the
13 legal standards. The schedule of meetings
14 when I checked was not available and certainly
15 was not posted with the seven days notice that
16 we're requiring. Video recordings,
17 transcripts, there is no capacity for members
18 of the public to add their name to an email
19 list to receive updates about this process.
20 In fact, almost everything in this resolution
21 isn't currently on the website.

22 So, this is a statement of our
23 goal, of our commitment to transparency. And
24 if this is something that -- it sounds like
25 you share that goal -- there's no reason not

1 Districting Advisory Commission
2 to support this resolution so that we're all
3 on the same page and we make it clear to the
4 public that we are committed to transparency.

5 MR. MORONEY: David Mejias.

6 MR. MEJIAS: I vote yes.

7 MR. MORONEY: Jared Kasschau.

8 MR. KASSCHAU: Forgive me Mr.
9 Chairman, I want to be heard with respect to
10 the current motion.

11 To the rest of my commissioners on
12 the board I think one thing that we heard
13 consistently this evening from essentially all
14 of the speakers is the fundamental lack of
15 trust in the process. So, given the
16 fundamental lack of the trust I think there is
17 absolutely zero reason not to vote for this
18 resolution.

19 Given, Mr. Bee, your comments that
20 this is something that you intend to abide by
21 I think a vote against this resolution is a
22 vote against transparency and will not serve
23 to bolster our constituents' confidence in
24 this process.

25 MR. MORONEY: Jared Kasschau how

1 Districting Advisory Commission
2 do you vote?
3 MR. KASSCHAU: Aye.
4 MR. MORONEY: Andrena Wyatt.
5 MS. WYATT: Yes.
6 MR. MORONEY: James Magin.
7 MR. MAGIN: Yes.
8 MR. MORONEY: Michael Pernick.
9 MR. PERNICK: Yes.
10 MR. MORONEY: Peter Bee.
11 MR. BEE: No.
12 MR. MORONEY: John Reinhardt.
13 MR. REINHARDT: No.
14 MR. MORONEY: Maureen Fitzgerald.
15 MS. FITZGERALD: No.
16 MR. MORONEY: Christopher Devane.
17 MR. DEVANE: No.
18 MR. MORONEY: Pastor Eric
19 Mallette.
20 MR. MALLETTE: No.
21 MR. MORONEY: Some order here
22 please. You have next resolution number
23 three. Can we have someone deal with
24 resolution number three?
25 MR. PERNICK: So, I understand

1 Districting Advisory Commission
2 that there has been an agreement that each
3 caucus has full discretion to retain experts,
4 full discretion to retain staff and
5 consultants. Mr. Chairman, you made that
6 clear in your opening comments.

7 That being said, this resolution
8 seeks to set out and formalize the procedures
9 for our interaction in dealing with
10 consultants, with experts and staff. And most
11 critically requires disclosure of who we are
12 retaining, the names of the people, the names
13 of the law firms, the names of the experts.
14 The contracting information. So that members
15 of the public know who it is that we have
16 engaged in this process to advise us. Who we
17 have engaged to develop maps.

18 It's also important to know this
19 resolution doesn't just call for disclosure of
20 the names but also subcontractors. So, if one
21 of our delegations goes out and retains a law
22 firm and that law firm subcontracts with
23 somebody else to draw the maps we tell the
24 public who that person is. Because the public
25 has a right to know who is drafting maps for

1 Districting Advisory Commission
2 our county legislature.

3 This resolution formalizes the
4 agreement that we already reached for both
5 sides to have discretion to retain experts and
6 consultants. But it also sets out a process,
7 makes clear that we all have an opportunity to
8 question and interact with any expert, any
9 consultant retained to advise us so there's
10 transparency openness in that process.

11 With that, I will move for adoption
12 of resolution number three and request a roll
13 call vote.

14 MR. MORONEY: Is there a second?

15 MR. KASSCHAU: I'll second the
16 motion.

17 MR. BEE: Mr. Chairman, I must
18 again find myself in disagreement with the
19 Democratic appointees. The Republicans
20 appointees do intend to comply with the law
21 and will follow the process that has been set
22 forth. But I see no purpose to this
23 resolution and I respectfully must agree to
24 disagree with my honorable Democratic
25 colleagues.

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2 MR. MORONEY: David Mejias.

3 MR. MEJIAS: Yes.

4 MR. MORONEY: Jared Kasschau.

5 MR. KASSCHAU: Yes.

6 MR. MORONEY: Andrena Wyatt.

7 MS. WYATT: Yes.

8 MR. MORONEY: James Magin, Jr.

9 MR. MAGIN: Yes.

10 MR. MORONEY: Michael Pernick.

11 MR. PERNICK: Yes.

12 MR. MORONEY: Peter Bee.

13 MR. BEE: No.

14 MR. MORONEY: John Reinhardt.

15 MR. REINHARDT: No.

16 MR. MORONEY: Maureen Fitzgerald.

17 MS. FITZGERALD: No.

18 MR. MORONEY: Christopher Devane.

19 MR. DEVANE: No.

20 MR. MORONEY: Eric Mallette.

21 MR. MALLETTE: No.

22 MR. MORONEY: Will someone

23 explain the fourth resolution? Yes. Fourth
24 resolution.

25 MR. PERNICK: So, resolution four

1 Districting Advisory Commission
2 calls for collaboration and cooperation among
3 this group in the simple act of setting
4 agendas. We were not consulted on the agenda
5 for today. We first learned of the agenda for
6 this meeting when it was purportedly decided
7 and distributed but we didn't have an
8 opportunity to weigh in on that agenda.

9 We, as Mr. Mejias said at the
10 outset, we did present a second agenda and
11 circulated that for consideration. I don't
12 know whatever happened with that agenda that
13 we prepared. But that was intended to be the
14 start of a collaborative discussion about how
15 this process should be run.

16 Moving forward, we think it's in
17 the county's best interest for us to all have
18 an opportunity to weigh in on the agenda and
19 to formalize the fact that we all have an
20 opportunity to weigh in on the agenda.

21 So, this resolution it's very
22 short, noncontroversial. It sets out a simple
23 process wherein the Democratic members and
24 Republican members each appoint a cochair, an
25 individual who is designated to be consulted

1 Districting Advisory Commission
2 on the agenda, add agenda items for
3 consideration.

4 It also again calls for all agendas
5 to be finalized, posted online at least 24
6 hours prior to each meeting and calls for a
7 new business item in each agenda that we have
8 moving forward. Again, nothing controversial
9 here. Just trying to formalize some
10 bipartisan cooperation.

11 With that, I will move for adoption
12 of resolution number four.

13 MR. MORONEY: Second?

14 MR. KASSCHAU: I'll second the
15 motion.

16 MR. BEE: Mr. Chairman, I'm again
17 speaking against the resolution for the simple
18 reason that our agenda is already set by law
19 and that agenda is that we start a meeting by
20 pledging our allegiance to the flag and that
21 we then listen to the public in a public
22 hearing. Eventually, after we've heard from
23 the public, we draft maps that we would be
24 prepared to recommend to the legislative
25 body.

1 Districting Advisory Commission

2 To the extent that each side thinks
3 that some particular procedural aspect needs
4 to be addressed I'm sure that that can be done
5 without the necessity for a resolution. So, I
6 propose to vote no on this resolution.

7 MR. MORONEY: Is there a second?
8 Did I ask for that already? I'm sorry. David
9 Mejias.

10 MR. MEJIAS: I would vote yes. I
11 want to be very clear that all of the
12 resolutions that my colleague, Mr. Pernick,
13 has put before a vote here today were
14 delivered in advance to the chairman.

15 And to the extent that there was
16 even an agenda item by the chairman to
17 consider the Democratic resolutions that we're
18 considering here today, these are not
19 resolutions that were just submitted today for
20 the first time. They were submitted in
21 advance in July I believe was the first time
22 we sent them out. Now we're at the end of
23 August. There was plenty of time to either
24 talk about these items, come to some sort of
25 consensus, some middle ground. If there was

1 Districting Advisory Commission
2 an issue with something we're more than
3 flexible and try to certainly amend our
4 resolutions and if there was a particular
5 concern. However, there was absolutely zero
6 outreach to us to try and build consensus
7 regarding these resolutions. So, as to this
8 resolution on the floor now I also vote yes.

9 MR. MORONEY: Jared Kasschau.

10 MR. KASSCHAU: Thank you
11 Mr. Chairman. I'd just like to point out
12 something that one of the public speakers this
13 evening, Mr. Boitel, had referenced and that's
14 the expectation that the public has an
15 opportunity to hear debate and discussion on
16 the importance of all things redistricting
17 among the commissioners of this meeting.

18 So, to suggest that our sole
19 purpose here is to listen to the public and
20 then just create a map I think minimalizes the
21 importance of this committee. I vote yes on
22 the resolution.

23 MR. MORONEY: Andrena Wyatt.

24 MS. WYATT: Yes.

25 MR. MORONEY: James Magin.

1 Districting Advisory Commission

2 MR. MAGIN: Yes.

3 MR. MORONEY: Michael Pernick.

4 MR. PERNICK: Yes.

5 MR. MORONEY: Peter Bee.

6 MR. BEE: No.

7 MR. MORONEY: John Reinhardt.

8 MR. REINHARDT: No.

9 MR. MORONEY: Maureen Fitzgerald.

10 MS. FITZGERALD: No.

11 MR. MORONEY: Christopher Devane.

12 MR. DEVANE: No.

13 MR. MORONEY: Pastor Eric

14 Mallette.

15 MR. MALLETTE: No.

16 MR. MORONEY: That fails now. Do
17 you have one more?

18 Without disrespect, I know you have
19 a large opinion. That's not a problem.

20 MR. PERNICK: At this point I'd
21 like to turn to resolution number five. As we
22 have discussed today, there have been a lot of
23 changes in the law in the last ten years. A
24 lot of changes. In particular this resolution
25 speaks to certain changes in the municipal

1 Districting Advisory Commission
2 home rule law. I'd like to read a line from
3 the municipal home rule law that was not
4 present when this commission convened in the
5 last redistricting cycle.

6 I quote. Districts shall not be
7 drawn to discourage competition or for the
8 purpose of favoring or disfavoring incumbents
9 or other particular candidates or political
10 parties. End quote.

11 This language is an expressed
12 prohibition on partisan gerrymandering. Plain
13 and simple. This language was litigated in
14 the Harkenrider case, which has been
15 referenced earlier today in which the New York
16 Court of Appeals set out a standard for
17 evaluating whether a map is an unlawful
18 partisan gerrymander.

19 We need to be very aware of this,
20 very cognizant of this and take steps as a
21 body to ensure that the county doesn't get
22 sued for adopting an illegal map. There's a
23 significant risk of that if we don't take
24 affirmative steps to protect the county from
25 unnecessary litigation.

1 Districting Advisory Commission

2 It's also common sense that as a
3 bipartisan body trying to do the right thing
4 for the county, trying to earn six votes that,
5 we really shouldn't be thinking about partisan
6 advantage. We should be thinking about fair
7 districts. We should be thinking about
8 communities of interest. We should be
9 thinking about communities of color that may
10 not be fairly represented today. And we
11 should be focused on the substance of the
12 testimony that we receive.

13 So, what this resolution does is
14 that it prohibits us from considering partisan
15 data when drawing maps. For example, we
16 should not be looking at election results.
17 Plain and simple. That should not be a
18 consideration that we should take into
19 account. We should not be considering
20 enrollment data. Democratic or Republican
21 enrollment data. That's not a consideration
22 that's relevant to our work.

23 We should be focused solely on the
24 merits. Solely on what's important for
25 communities in our county.

1 Districting Advisory Commission

2 So this resolution sets a
3 guardrail, sets a guideline that we will all
4 agree to adhere to. That we are not going to
5 consider partisanship. That we're not going
6 to consider party advantage when we draw our
7 maps.

8 This is not an unusual guideline.
9 This is not an unusual rule. There are states
10 across the country that have similar
11 prohibitions in their commissions, in their
12 redistricting processes that say you shouldn't
13 consider partisan data. We've put those in
14 the resolution. Iowa, Montana, Arizona,
15 California, all have limitations and
16 prohibitions on the consideration of partisan
17 data.

18 So, this resolution is designed
19 first and foremost to ensure that the maps
20 that emerge from this process are lawful,.
21 Ensure that the maps comply with the new
22 requirements under the municipal home rule
23 law. But it's also a mechanism for
24 disciplining ourselves. Making sure that
25 we're focused on the issues that matter and

1 Districting Advisory Commission
2 not on political partisan advantage in this
3 process.

4 With that, I would move for
5 adoption of resolution number five.

6 MR. MORONEY: Second?

7 MR. KASSCHAU: I'll second the
8 motion.

9 MR. BEE: Mr. Chairman, may I
10 speak to the motion? Once again I find this
11 more political grandstanding than substance.
12 The law dictates what criteria we must use. I
13 can assure you that all of the Republican
14 appointees intend to follow the law to the
15 best of their ability in the way they
16 understand the law to be. So, that is already
17 in the law. That's our charge. That's what
18 we are prepared to do. But I see no reason
19 for this resolution. I intend to vote no.

20 MR. PERNICK: Mr. Bee, would you
21 commit on the record to not consider partisan
22 data in the drawing of maps?

23 MR. MORONEY: That's out of
24 order. Let's deal with the vote that's on the
25 table.

1 Districting Advisory Commission

2 MR. KASSCHAU: I'd like to
3 comment, Mr. Chairman, if I may.

4 Another common theme given this
5 evening during the thoughtful testimony that
6 we heard from our constituents was the
7 frustration in everything devolving into the
8 red versus blue. And again, I think in order
9 to resolve that issue for the benefit of our
10 constituents and the fact that this resolution
11 serves to protect the county's interests and
12 protects the county against lawsuits, I
13 strongly recommend that commissioners vote in
14 favor of this.

15 MR. MORONEY: David Mejias.

16 MR. MEJIAS: This was another one
17 of the resolutions that was submitted in July
18 for distribution to all commission members and
19 it's been -- the opportunity for debate was
20 long before this evening. Again, we are more
21 than willing to compromise and amend part of
22 this resolution also to gain bipartisan
23 support. Having said that, I vote yes.

24 MR. MORONEY: Jared Kasschau.

25 MR. KASSCHAU: I vote yes.

1 Districting Advisory Commission

2 MR. MORONEY: Andrena Wyatt.

3 MS. WYATT: Yes.

4 MR. MORONEY: James Magin.

5 MR. MAGIN: Yes.

6 MR. MORONEY: Michael Pernick.

7 MR. PERNICK: I'll also add for
8 the record that nothing in Mr. Bee's comments
9 committed to refrain from considering election
10 results, partisan data. Nothing. And that's
11 deeply concerning. With that, I'll vote yes.

12 MR. MORONEY: Peter Bee.

13 MR. BEE: No.

14 MR. MORONEY: John Reinhardt.

15 MR. REINHARDT: No.

16 MR. MORONEY: Maureen Fitzgerald.

17 MS. FITZGERALD: No.

18 MR. MORONEY: Christopher Devane.

19 MR. DEVANE: No.

20 MR. MORONEY: Pastor Eric

21 Mallette.

22 MR. MALLETTE: No.

23 MR. MORONEY: Now, before we
24 adjourn I just have only one thing to say.
25 With respect as a generic proposition, the

1 Districting Advisory Commission
2 resolutions that just failed either contained
3 information that was outside the current
4 requirements of law or already in effect and
5 within it.

6 I would say that, and I don't
7 concede that it was received by me in July but
8 whatever the record shows is is. But all of
9 that, all of those were shared with the
10 members of the Republican delegation as well.
11 And with that, I will entertain a motion to
12 adjourn.

13 MR. MEJIAS: Just one more order
14 of business. That's it for the resolutions.
15 However, the public does know that both sides
16 do have equal budgets and do retain experts,
17 consultants, etcetera.

18 So, I'd like to make a motion for a
19 voice vote that the commission authorize the
20 respective Democratic and Republican
21 commission delegations to each retain staff,
22 experts and consultants of their choice within
23 the limits of their budgetary allocations and
24 to ratify such hires as have already been
25 made.

1 Districting Advisory Commission

2 MR. BEE: Mr. Mejias, if I may
3 suggest, I don't think a resolution is
4 necessary to do that but we acknowledge that
5 that is the case.

6 MR. MEJIAS: Belts and
7 suspenders. So we both have staff and
8 consultants and that as long as we are within
9 our budgetary allocation.

10 MR. BEE: That is also my
11 understanding of the budget process, yes. But
12 I do not think that a resolution is necessary
13 or appropriate. That is in fact the way the
14 budgets have been allocated and the operations
15 under which we have been given to operate.

16 MR. MEJIAS: I'm not asking for a
17 resolution. Just unanimous consent that you
18 can hire your staff and experts and we can
19 hire our staff and experts as long as it's
20 within the budgetary allocations.

21 MR. BEE: That is our
22 understanding.

23 MR. MEJIAS: So we all agree?

24 MR. BEE: Again, that is our
25 understanding of the budget process.

1 Districting Advisory Commission

2 MR. MEJIAS: I'm just saying we
3 have an agreement here because I don't want to
4 have a problem down the road. Trying to get
5 you guys to agree to something today.
6 Anything other than the motion to adjourn I
7 want to agree on one thing.

8 MR. BEE: We are here to agree on
9 our mutual understanding of the budget
10 allocation.

11 MR. MEJIAS: Thank you.

12 MR. MORONEY: With that, I
13 entertain a motion to adjourn.

14 MR. BEE: So moved.

15 MR. MORONEY: Second?

16 MR. MEJIAS: Second.

17 MR. MORONEY: All in favor?

18 MR. BEE: A bipartisan
19 adjournment.

20 (Meeting was adjourned at 9:20
21 p.m.)

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1 Districting Advisory Commission

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CERTIFICATION

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I, FRANK GRAY, a Notary

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Public in and for the State of New

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York, do hereby certify:

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THAT the foregoing is a true and

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accurate transcript of my stenographic

13

notes.

14

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have

15

hereunto set my hand this 10th day of

16

September 2022.

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FRANK GRAY

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