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NASSAU COUNTY TEMPORARY DISTRICTING  
ADVISORY COMMISSION

FRANCIS X. MORONEY  
CHAIR

Theodore Roosevelt Building  
1550 Franklin Avenue  
Mineola, New York

Wednesday, August 31, 2022  
6:10 P.M.

1

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

3

4 FRANCIS X. MORONEY

5 Chair

6

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.

1 Districting Advisory Commission

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.

1 Districting Advisory Commission

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.

1 Districting Advisory Commission

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.

1 Districting Advisory Commission

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.

1 Districting Advisory Commission

2 MR. MORONEY: Thank you. Laura  
3 Mally, 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.

1 Districting Advisory Commission

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.

1 Districting Advisory Commission

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.

1 Districting Advisory Commission

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.

1 Districting Advisory Commission

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

1 Districting Advisory Commission  
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.

1 Districting Advisory Commission

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.



1 Districting Advisory Commission

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.

1 Districting Advisory Commission

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

1        Districting Advisory Commission  
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

1        Districting Advisory Commission  
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

1        Districting Advisory Commission  
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.

1 Districting Advisory Commission

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.

1        Districting Advisory Commission  
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

1 Districting Advisory Commission  
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

1        Districting Advisory Commission  
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.



1        Districting Advisory Commission  
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

1 Districting Advisory Commission

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

1        Districting Advisory Commission  
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

1 Districting Advisory Commission

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

1        Districting Advisory Commission  
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

1 Districting Advisory Commission

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

1 Districting Advisory Commission  
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.

1 Districting Advisory Commission

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.



1 Districting Advisory Commission

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

1        Districting Advisory Commission  
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

1 Districting Advisory Commission  
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

1 Districting Advisory Commission

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

1 Districting Advisory Commission  
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

1 Districting Advisory Commission  
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

1           Districting Advisory Commission  
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

1 Districting Advisory Commission

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



1 Districting Advisory Commission  
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

1        Districting Advisory Commission  
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

1 Districting Advisory Commission  
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

1        Districting Advisory Commission  
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

1        Districting Advisory Commission  
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.



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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.

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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.

1 Districting Advisory Commission

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. MALLETT: 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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4 CERTIFICATION

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8 I, FRANK GRAY, a Notary

9 Public in and for the State of New

10 York, do hereby certify:

11 THAT the foregoing is a true and

12 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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20 FRANK GRAY

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