

NASSAU COUNTY
TEMPORARY DISTRICTING
ADVISORY COMMISSION

MEETING V

Held at

CAROLINE G. ATKINSON SCHOOL

58 W. SEAMAN AVENUE

FREEPORT, NY 11520

THOMAS W. ALFANO

ACTING CHAIR

Nassau County Legislature

1550 Franklin Avenue

Mineola, New York

Thursday, October 13, 2022

6:07 p.m.

TAKEN BY: KAREN LORENZO, OFFICIAL COURT REPORTER

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

COMMISSIONERS:

THOMAS W. ALFANO, ACTING CHAIRMAN

PETER BEE

JOHN J. REINHARDT

MAUREEN FITZGERALD

CHRISTOPHER DEVANE

ERIC MALLETT

DAVID MEJIAS, VICE CHAIR, EXCUSED

JARED KASSCHAU, ACTING VICE CHAIR

ANDRENA WYATT

JAMES MAGIN, JR. (EXCUSED)

MICHAEL PERNICK

EXECUTIVE DIRECTORS:

ELISABETTA COSCHIGNANO

RACHEL WHITMORE,

BOARD ATTORNEYS:

VINCENT MESSINA, ESQ.

PETER CLINES, ESQ.

CLERK:

MICHAEL PULITZER

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

PUBLIC COMMENT:

Casey Marlowe

C. Griffin

Noah Burroughs

Stephanie Chase

Tim Rodgers

Barbara Epstein

Meta Mereday

Maria Jordan Awalom

H. Bortel

Frederick Brewington

James Hodge

Dr. Moore

H. Scottie Gourdine

Janna Rodriguez

Susan Cools

Debra Mule

Dewey Smalls

Donovan Ligonde

Linda Wright

Kevin Boone

Charles Robbins

AGENDA

1. Open meeting - Pledge of
Allegiance

2. Chairman's Statement

3. Introduction of the
Commissioner's

4. Public Statement

5. Other Business

1
2 ACTING CHAIR ALFANO: Ladies and
3 gentleman, please rise for the Pledge of
4 Allegiance.

5 (Whereupon, the Pledge of
6 Allegiance is recited.)

7 ACTING CHAIR ALFANO: Mr. Pulitzer,
8 can you call the roll, please?

9 CLERK PULITZER: Thank you,
10 Chairman.

11 The roll call for the commissioners.
12 Commissioner Peter Bee.

13 COMMISSIONER BEE: Present.

14 CLERK PULITZER: Commissioner John
15 J. Reinhardt.

16 COMMISSIONER REINHARDT: Present.

17 CLERK PULITZER: Commissioner
18 Maureen Fitzgerald.

19 COMMISSIONER FITZGERALD: Present.

20 CLERK PULITZER: Commissioner
21 Christopher Devane.

22 COMMISSIONER DEVANE: Present.

23 CLERK PULITZER: Commissioner Eric
24 Mallette.

25 COMMISSIONER MALLETT: Present.

1
2 CLERK PULITZER: Commissioner David
3 Mejias.

4 COMMISSIONER MEJIAS: Present.

5 CLERK PULITZER: Commissioner Jared
6 Kasschau.

7 COMMISSIONER KASSCHAU: Present.

8 CLERK PULITZER: Commissioner
9 Andrena Wyatt.

10 (Whereupon, no verbal
11 response.)

12 COMMISSIONER MEJIAS: She's parking
13 her car, she'll be here shortly.

14 CLERK PULITZER: Thank you.
15 Commissioner James Magin, Jr.

16 COMMISSIONER MAGIN: Present.

17 CLERK PULITZER: Commissioner
18 Michael Pernick.

19 COMMISSIONER PERNICK: Present.

20 CLERK PULITZER: The chairman today
21 is Thomas Alfano.

22 ACTING CHAIR ALFANO: Present.

23 CLERK PULITZER: We have a quorum,
24 sir.

25 CLERK PULITZER: Thank you, Mr.

1
2 Pulitzer.

3 Good evening, ladies and gentleman

4 --

5 COMMISSIONER MEJIAS: Can I have a
6 point of order? I don't believe there's
7 anything in the Charter and we have not
8 been put on notice that Chairman Moroney
9 has been replaced and anyone been
10 appointed in his stead. There's no
11 precedent to have somebody just replace
12 the Chairman. I believe the County
13 Executive would have to appoint a
14 replacement. There's been no notice of
15 that.

16 There's been a lot of irregularities
17 throughout this process. This is just
18 another one of them. For instance,
19 tonight's the first night we actually
20 have an interpreter and we barely got
21 that done. So I don't know that,
22 respectfully, Mr. Alfano, despite my
23 personal admiration for you, I do not
24 believe there is any legal precedent or
25 any authority for you to replace Mr.

1
2 Moroney, especially without notice either
3 to the public or to the commissioners.

4 ACTING CHAIR ALFANO: As it happens,
5 Frank Moroney is ill with COVID, couldn't
6 be here tonight. I received a letter
7 from the County Executive appointing me
8 as the temporary chairman. I stand
9 before you now prepared to preside over
10 these proceedings. I'm anxious to hear
11 what the public has to say about these
12 maps.

13 COMMISSIONER MEJIAS: Well, I
14 appreciate that. I would have loved for
15 you to come to all the other hearings so
16 you'd have at least some background as to
17 what's been happening so far at these
18 hearings and the various debates we've
19 had over when the public hearings would
20 happen, all of the resolutions that we've
21 proposed, all the votes that have been
22 taken. Without the requisite historical
23 background, I think it would be difficult
24 for you to serve as chair. Nonetheless,
25 the non-voting chairman of the

1
2 Redistricting Commission is appointed by
3 the County Executive through a filing
4 with the Clerk's Office, with the Clerk
5 of the Legislature. We've not been put
6 on notice that there was a filing with
7 the Clerk of the Legislature that there
8 would be a replacement of Mr. Moroney
9 this evening. This is the first we're
10 actually hearing of it. And just as an
11 aside, we've been communicating directly
12 with Mr. Moroney about various technical
13 issues and other information we want to
14 disseminate to the public. Him not being
15 here does not give any context to the
16 e-mails that have been going back and
17 forth about how this hearing was going to
18 be conducted today.

19 ACTING CHAIR ALFANO: Well, is your
20 objection that we proceed with these
21 proceedings?

22 COMMISSIONER MEJIAS: My objection
23 is not that we proceed; I want to
24 proceed. I want to actually have more of
25 these hearings. My objection is there is

1
2 an illegal authority for you to preside
3 over these hearings. Since there's no
4 legal authority for you to preside over
5 this hearing, then perhaps Mr. Bee and
6 myself can cochair the hearing since we
7 are duly appointed members of the
8 Commission and the public and the County
9 Legislators of the Majority and Minority
10 and the Clerk of the Legislature have
11 been put on notice for quite some time of
12 our appointment. So the lack of notice is
13 troubling and I don't know that you can
14 legal preside over this public hearing,
15 which is just another irregularity.

16 COMMISSIONER BEE: Mr. Chairman, my
17 understanding is you just represented
18 that the County Executive has, in fact,
19 appointed you to act in Mr. Moroney's
20 absence, so may I suggest that we go
21 forward and hear from the public? With
22 all due respect and without diminishing
23 your role in the slightest, there's not a
24 lot of chairing to do except to call on
25 members of the public to please tell the

1
2 Commission what their views are with
3 respect to how lines should be redrawn.
4 I believe we have a copy of the letter
5 here (handing).

6 COMMISSIONER MEJIAS: Well, I think
7 after the hearing's already begun is
8 probably the worst possible time to put
9 anyone on notice of what's going to be
10 happening at the hearing. There should be
11 advanced notice. The Chair is appointed
12 by the County Executive. The mechanism
13 for that is through a filing with the
14 Clerk of the Legislature and putting the
15 public on notice of who the County
16 Executive's appointing. Having failed to
17 file with the Clerk of the Legislature,
18 the requisite notice of any replacement,
19 and the very least advise us before this
20 very minute that that would be happening,
21 I don't think there's a legal mechanism
22 for a "replacement chairman".

23 (Whereupon, members of the
24 public encourage the Commission
25 to move on.)

1
2 ACTING CHAIR ALFANO: I'd like to
3 move on. Counselor, here's a copy of the
4 County Executive's letter to me
5 appointing me (indicating) as the
6 temporary chair due to the illness of the
7 Chair (handing).

8 COMMISSIONER MEJIAS: (Perusing) I
9 understand. It says by regular and
10 electronic mail. None of us received
11 that. Who was it mailed or e-mailed to?

12 COMMISSIONER MEJIAS: The cc's are
13 present on the bottom of the letter.

14 COMMISSIONER MEJIAS: So just for
15 the record, the only people who are on
16 this -- none of the commissioners were
17 made aware that there was going to be a
18 replacement chairman this evening. The
19 only person that was made aware that has
20 anything to do with this commission is
21 the Republican Executive Director. The
22 executive director for the Democratic
23 side was left off of this e-mail and the
24 letter.

25 ACTING CHAIR ALFANO: The minority

1
2 leader --

3 COMMISSIONER MEJIAS: Who is not a
4 member of this Commission.

5 ACTING CHAIR ALFANO: He's on the
6 notice.

7 COMMISSIONER MEJIAS: Yes. But he
8 is not a member of the Commission, nor do
9 the commissioners have pro se discussions
10 with the very legislators who these maps
11 will be affecting as a matter of public
12 policy. So I think the fact that Ms.
13 Coschignano was put on notice on the
14 Republican side and that no one on the
15 Democratic side was put on notice, I
16 think is a material defect in what you
17 claim to be notice. In addition to the
18 fact, the letter cites Nassau County
19 Chapter Section 113, which requires the
20 County Executive to file with the Clerk
21 of the Legislature any appointment.

22 ACTING CHAIR ALFANO: Well, just for
23 the record, as I said earlier, the
24 Honorable Kevan Abrahams, the Minority
25 Caucus Leader of the Nassau County

1
2 Legislature, is on this document and has
3 received notice.

4 I'd like to proceed now with the
5 first witness, if you will.

6 COMMISSIONER MEJIAS: I'd like to
7 say for the record, we have no choice but
8 to proceed under protest. Once again,
9 whether or not any particular Nassau
10 County Legislator was put on notice, no
11 Democratic Commissioner or staff member
12 was put on notice. The Democratic
13 Commissioners do not discuss matters
14 directly regarding the Commission as a
15 matter of public policy. I don't believe
16 any commissioner here should be
17 discussing the business of the
18 Commission, other than what's said in
19 public, with any legislator, since this
20 proceeding, these hearings, and these
21 maps that we will recommend directly
22 affect them. We do not have *ex parte*
23 communications with them.

24 Having said that, I have no
25 objection to proceeding under protest;

1
2 however, there is a matter, which you may
3 or may not know about. We do have, prior
4 to the public hearing this evening --
5 hearing from the public, we wanted to say
6 a few words about the redistricting
7 process. We have a PowerPoint for that,
8 as well, that we'd like to present.
9 Pretty brief, but I think the people here
10 at this public hearing should know what
11 the process is about, should know what
12 happens in terms of how the maps are
13 drawn, partisanship, science, and the
14 methodology behind the process as well.

15 I believe the Freeport School
16 District -- let me just thank everybody
17 from the Freeport School District that
18 made tonight possible, from the staff
19 opening/closing, everyone that's helped
20 us with our technical issues for tonight.
21 I want to thank the Freeport School
22 District, the administrators,
23 Superintendent, school board, and
24 especially the staff that is here as
25 well. Let's have a big round of applause

1
2 for the Freeport staff who's helped us so
3 much tonight (applause).

4 ACTING CHAIR ALFANO: With regard to
5 this video, which none of us have seen.
6 No one on the right side of this dais has
7 seen it, it's not on the Agenda, it
8 wasn't agreed to, we have no idea what
9 the content is. It could be anything. I
10 don't feel comfortable presiding over a
11 meeting that's opened to the public,
12 which is reserved for public comment.
13 That's your comment (indicating). Not
14 the comment of the Commission, not the
15 comment of the commissioners, not the
16 comment of me.

17 This is your time that we are
18 imposing upon right now, ladies and
19 gentlemen. I, for one, think this is
20 inappropriate and I would call this to a
21 vote.

22 COMMISSIONER MEJIAS: Well, first of
23 all --

24 COMMISSIONER KASSCHAU: Mr. Alfano,
25 if I can interrupt for a moment. You

1
2 don't have the benefit of hearing public
3 comment prior to today. You will note,
4 and we will explain to you, and you'll
5 probably hear by way of public comment
6 this evening, that the public has a right
7 and an expectation to hear the discussion
8 that's had amongst this Board and to be
9 educated on all issues regarding
10 redistricting so they can have a
11 meaningful opportunity to participate in
12 this process. Many people have gotten up
13 and explained the confusion and the
14 frustration that they've personally
15 experienced in connection with what goes
16 on here.

17 I totally disagree with what you've
18 just said. This is not a matter of just
19 the public coming up to speak. They want
20 to hear what we have to say, they want to
21 make sure this process is transparent,
22 and they want to make sure that we're
23 doing the job that we've been tasked with
24 (applause).

25 COMMISSIONER BEE: Mr. Kasschau,

1
2 respectfully, I disagree with you. There
3 has been time set aside for tonight to
4 hear from the public. That is what we
5 are here to do. As far as any
6 presentations that Commission members
7 want to make, as the Temporary Chairman
8 indicated, this time has been allocated
9 to hear from the public, not from us. We
10 reached out through our Executive
11 Director --

12 (Whereupon, interruption
13 from the public.)

14 COMMISSIONER BEE: If you would
15 kindly extend the courtesy of allowing
16 individuals to speak up here, your turn
17 will come.

18 ACTING CHAIR ALFANO: Excuse me,
19 please.

20 COMMISSIONER BEE: We asked through
21 our Executive Director to learn of the
22 content, the length, the nature of the
23 document beforehand and were met with
24 silence. So we do not know what it is you
25 propose to present. We are happy to

1
2 receive a copy, review it, and should we
3 also approve that this is appropriate
4 material for presentation by the
5 Commission, then it can be presented at
6 some subsequent hearing. But for
7 tonight, we have set this time aside to
8 hear from the public. I again ask the
9 Temporary Chair to call the first person
10 to the podium.

11 COMMISSIONER MEJIAS: I'm sorry.
12 Another point of order. The Temporary
13 Chair, Mr. Alfano, brought up the fact
14 that it's not on the Agenda. I would
15 call for a vote on the Agenda.

16 COMMISSIONER BEE: Are you making a
17 motion to make this presentation before
18 we hear from the public; is that your
19 motion?

20 COMMISSIONER MEJIAS: No. The
21 excuse for not hearing the presentation
22 is because it's not on the Agenda, but we
23 haven't voted on the Agenda. Nor, by the
24 way, did we vote on the initial set of
25 public hearings that were announced to

1
2 the public. There was no input from us
3 and there was no vote on when the
4 hearings would occur, initially.

5 So having said that, since Mr.
6 Moroney said that he wants a vote on
7 whether or not we can present information
8 to the public and Mr. Alfano is saying
9 it's not on the Agenda, we should have a
10 vote before we do anything on what the
11 Agenda actually is. So I'm calling for a
12 vote on the Agenda.

13 COMMISSIONER BEE: What,
14 specifically, are you moving? What is
15 your motion?

16 COMMISSIONER MEJIAS: Well, there's
17 some Agenda. Maybe I misheard. I heard
18 Mr. Alfano say there is an Agenda and the
19 PowerPoint we want to present to the
20 public is not on the Agenda. The Agenda
21 hasn't been voted on.

22 ACTING CHAIR ALFANO: Excuse me.

23 COMMISSIONER MEJIAS: I would like
24 to know what the Agenda is and whether or
25 not -- and I would like to call for a

1
2 vote on it.

3 ACTING CHAIR ALFANO: Is there a
4 transcript or a copy of this PowerPoint
5 that we can, perhaps, look at so that we
6 know what it's about and what content it
7 is?

8 COMMISSIONER MEJIAS: Sure.

9 ACTING CHAIR ALFANO: So let's take
10 a look at this. If you don't mind,
11 ladies and gentlemen. I'm sorry.

12 COMMISSIONER MEJIAS: So just to be
13 clear, before we present evidence to the
14 public, we have to figure out whether or
15 not we're okay with what's going to be
16 told to you. If you don't like it, do
17 you want to censor part of it? Is there
18 part of the PowerPoint that if you don't
19 agree with a part of the PowerPoint, are
20 you gonna then say -- you're more than
21 welcome to have a copy to follow along.
22 In fact, we'll give everybody a copy, if
23 you want, to follow along as we present
24 the PowerPoint.

25 COMMISSIONER BEE: No. You're

1
2 trying to use Commission time to
3 presentation at a point and time that has
4 been set aside to hear from the public.
5 We asked you for this in advance. You
6 declined to give it to us. At this point
7 and time, we think we should here from
8 the public. Show it to us in between
9 hearings, we will review it. If we think
10 it's a proper topic for the Commission to
11 present to the public, then we can do so.
12 Right now, you're trying to act on behalf
13 of the Commission.

14 COMMISSIONER MEJIAS: There's a
15 motion on the floor to approve or
16 disapprove the current Agenda. I vote
17 that any Agenda presented includes the
18 PowerPoint on it. That's my motion.

19 COMMISSIONER BEE: So you're making
20 a motion to add the PowerPoint
21 presentation to this evening's Agenda?

22 COMMISSIONER MEJIAS: I will take
23 the Agenda that you're putting forth with
24 the amendment that the PowerPoint will be
25 on it and put the entire Agenda up for a

1
2 vote, yes.

3 COMMISSIONER PERNICK: I'll second
4 that.

5 ACTING CHAIR ALFANO: Let's call for
6 a vote. Who's in favor of that motion,
7 the ayes, please? Sorry, Mr. Pulitzer,
8 please.

9 CLERK PULITZER: Commissioner Peter
10 Bee.

11 COMMISSIONER BEE: On the motion to
12 add an item to the Chairman's Agenda, I
13 vote nay.

14 CLERK PULITZER: Commissioner John
15 Reinhardt.

16 COMMISSIONER REINHARDT: No.

17 CLERK PULITZER: Commissioner
18 Maureen Fitzgerald.

19 COMMISSIONER FITZGERALD: No.

20 CLERK PULITZER: Commissioner
21 Christopher Devane.

22 COMMISSIONER DEVANE: No.

23 CLERK PULITZER: Commissioner Eric
24 Mallette.

25 COMMISSIONER MALLETT: No.

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2 CLERK PULITZER: Commissioner David
3 Mejias.

4 COMMISSIONER MEJIAS: On the motion
5 to vote on the Agenda with the amendment
6 that would allow the PowerPoint, which
7 means we're voting on the entire Agenda,
8 I vote yes.

9 CLERK PULITZER: Thank you.
10 Commissioner Jared Kasschau.

11 COMMISSIONER KASSCHAU: I vote aye,
12 yes.

13 CLERK PULITZER: Commissioner
14 Andrena Wyatt.

15 COMMISSIONER WYATT: Yes.

16 CLERK PULITZER: Commissioner James
17 Magin, Jr.

18 (Whereupon, no response.)

19 CLERK PULITZER: James Magin, Jr. Is
20 here or not here?

21 COMMISSIONER MEJIAS: He is not
22 here. He had a family emergency and had
23 to leave here. I don't believe he is
24 going to be here for the rest of the
25 meeting. Let the record reflect that Mr.

1
2 Magin had to leave for a family
3 emergency.

4 CLERK PULITZER: Fine. Commissioner
5 Michael Pernick.

6 COMMISSIONER PERNICK: I vote yes.

7 CLERK PULITZER: That would do it.

8 ACTING CHAIR ALFANO: The motion
9 fails. We'd like to proceed with the
10 public hearing.

11 COMMISSIONER MEJIAS: Well, since we
12 don't have an Agenda.

13 (Whereupon, public
14 interruption.)

15 ACTING CHAIR ALFANO: Casey --

16 COMMISSIONER MEJIAS: Hold on a
17 second. I still have the floor by the
18 way. Since we don't have an agenda and
19 you're not gonna let us show the
20 PowerPoint -- can you give everybody a
21 copy of the PowerPoint, please? Okay.
22 Let's all get a copy of the PowerPoint
23 and since we can't do this the right way
24 and put it up on the big screen to make
25 it easy for you, everyone, including all

1
2 the commissioners are gonna get copies
3 and we're gonna read along with it so
4 that you guys understand. So the public
5 understands, right, what's happening
6 here. What's going on.

7 (Whereupon, copies of
8 PowerPoint is distributed to
9 public.)

10 COMMISSIONER MEJIAS: Because just
11 to say, we're here to hear from you, when
12 you haven't been told what we're doing is
13 wrong. How are you gonna comment on
14 something that you haven't heard about
15 and you don't know anything about?
16 That's one of the ways that speech and
17 the public and your input is stifled. We
18 keep you in the dark and then say, we're
19 gonna give you all the time that you want
20 --

21 ACTING CHAIR ALFANO: This is out of
22 order.

23 COMMISSIONER MEJIAS: It's not out
24 of order. I have the floor.

25 ACTING CHAIR ALFANO: Yes, it is out

1
2 of order.

3 COMMISSIONER MEJIAS: I have the
4 floor and we don't have an Agenda. Your
5 side just voted the Agenda down. So now
6 we're gonna do this a much different way.
7 Everyone is gonna get a copy of the
8 PowerPoint.

9 ACTING CHAIR ALFANO: Including us,
10 I hope.

11 COMMISSIONER MEJIAS: Of course
12 including you.

13 ACTING CHAIR ALFANO: We requested
14 it prior, hereto, and we never got it.

15 COMMISSIONER MEJIAS: You didn't
16 because we didn't know you were gonna be
17 here.

18 ACTING CHAIR ALFANO: My colleagues
19 didn't receive it either. Sorry about
20 that. My colleagues didn't receive it
21 either.

22 COMMISSIONER MEJIAS: You can't
23 complain you didn't get a copy when we
24 didn't even know you were gonna be here.

25 ACTING CHAIR ALFANO: The Minority

1
2 Leader knew I would be here.

3 COMMISSIONER MEJIAS: Okay. We
4 didn't get notice that there was gonna be
5 -- there were hearings already scheduled
6 until they were scheduled and there was a
7 vote. There was not vote.

8 COMMISSIONER BEE: Your vote to add
9 to the Agenda was voted down.

10 COMMISSIONER FITZGERALD: I voted on
11 the Agenda Mr. Alfano said was presented
12 to the public with an amendment to the
13 entire Agenda. We didn't vote on the
14 Agenda. We did not vote on the Agenda.
15 There's no agenda that's been voted on,
16 right? One vote took place on an agenda
17 that your side voted down. Now we don't
18 have an Agenda. So now, since I have the
19 floor, we're gonna do the PowerPoint
20 (applause).

21 COMMISSIONER BEE: Mr. Mejias, I'm
22 asking the Chairman to rule--

23 COMMISSIONER MEJIAS: Thank you.
24 Thank you.

25 COMMISSIONER BEE: To rule you out

1
2 of order.

3 COMMISSIONER MEJIAS: If that's a
4 request to yield the floor, it's denied.

5 We will wait until everyone has a
6 copy. Does anyone need a copy in
7 Spanish?

8 (Whereupon, Mr. Mejias
9 translates prior question into
10 Spanish.)

11 ACTING CHAIR ALFANO: We'll take a
12 ten minute recess.

13 COMMISSIONER MEJIAS: Is there a
14 motion for a recess.

15 ACTING CHAIR ALFANO: Is there a
16 motion for a recess.

17 (Whereupon, public
18 interruption.)

19 COMMISSIONER MEJIAS: Is there a
20 motion for a recess?

21 COMMISSIONER BEE: Mr. Chairman, I'm
22 asking that you declare a brief recess.

23 COMMISSIONER MEJIAS: I can tell you
24 now, there's not gonna be six votes for a
25 recess. So here we go.

1
2 ACTING CHAIR ALFANO: All right. Now
3 may we call Mr. Casey Marlow, please?

4 COMMISSIONER MEJIAS: I'm not sure
5 how you're proceeding when I have the
6 floor and there's no Agenda. You voted
7 it down.

8 COMMISSIONER BEE: We do not take
9 the position that you have the floor.
10 The Chair has called for --

11 COMMISSIONER MEJIAS: You don't have
12 to. I have the floor and there's no
13 Agenda, I'm sorry. I'm not yielding the
14 floor to you.

15 ACTING CHAIR ALFANO: If you're not
16 going to allow for the parties to take
17 turns, there's not much point to this
18 discussion.

19 COMMISSIONER MEJIAS: You'll have
20 your turn. Trust me. You can say
21 everything that you want to say when I'm
22 done.

23 Just for the record, this PowerPoint
24 presentation --

25 ACTING CHAIR ALFANO: I'm declaring

1
2 a recess.

3 (Whereupon, recess is
4 declared by the Republican
5 Delegate, 6:37 p.m.)
6

7 (Whereupon, the following
8 portion of this transcript is
9 produced from the recording.

10 This portion, therefore, is not
11 certified by the court
12 reporter.)

13 COMMISSIONER MEJIAS: So since the
14 vote on the recess did not pass, we're
15 going to continue. While certain
16 commissioners have abdicated their
17 responsibility, we're going to continue
18 with ours. This is on the record. This is
19 all on the record. Thank you.

20 Just for the record, there was a
21 motion for a recess which did not pass.
22 So we are still on the record.

23 There was a motion to put the
24 PowerPoint up on the screen which was
25 denied by the Republican Commissioners, I

1
2 believe.

3 (Whereupon, public requests
4 to display.)

5 COMMISSIONER MEJIAS: So I don't
6 think that'll be proper. I'm sorry, but
7 I don't think it would be proper to do
8 that. And we're trying to play by the
9 book here. We are trying to play by the
10 rules.

11 (Whereupon, public
12 interruption referencing the
13 court reporting being off the
14 record.)

15 THE COURT REPORTER: I need to know
16 what to do.

17 COMMISSIONER MEJIAS: This is a
18 public hearing. The Commission is not in
19 recess, and we need to continue on the
20 record, please.

21 MR. BREWINGTON: I have a question.

22 COMMISSIONER MEJIAS: Okay. Yes?

23 MR. BREWINGTON: I'm asking that
24 this Body that's now currently on the
25 dais right now, contact the County

1
2 Attorney by telephone and ask for an
3 ethics evaluation of what just happened
4 when half of the Commission that's been
5 appointed has walked out on the public
6 and that that call be made immediately by
7 the Dems (sic) that are on the dais right
8 now asking for a ruling and placing them
9 in context of being actually dismissed
10 for walking out on their constitutional
11 duty. I ask that that take place right
12 now.

13 COMMISSIONER MEJIAS: Well, I'm
14 going to direct our counsel to make that
15 call so that we can continue with the
16 presentation.

17 MR. BREWINGTON: I appreciate that,
18 and I think that's appropriate.

19 COMMISSIONER MEJIAS: Thank you, Mr.
20 Brewington. So does everyone have a copy?

21 And I want to confirm that our court
22 reporter is taking is putting is keeping
23 the record of this.

24 Respectfully, respectfully -- So the
25 commissioners have the authority over the

1
2 meeting. I know -- I realize Mr. Pulitzer
3 is here, the Clerk of the Legislature,
4 but he is not a voting member or a member
5 of the Commission. So the members of the
6 Commission that are here are asking this
7 to be on the record. Please. Thank you.
8 And if there's an objection to that down
9 the road, they can make an objection and
10 they can have the record stricken. So
11 they could have been removed from the
12 record, but --

13 CLERK PULITZER: The Commissioners
14 do not want it on the record.

15 COMMISSIONER MEJIAS: I understand
16 that. But you have not been recognized by
17 anybody to speak. I don't recognize you.
18 The Commission has asked -- the
19 Commission is directing the court
20 reporter to take the minutes of the
21 meeting. And if the Republican Delegation
22 has a problem with it, they can make they
23 can make a motion to strike the record or
24 go to court and do whatever they want to
25 do to prevent the public from

1
2 understanding what's actually happening
3 during this process. So that madam
4 reporter --

5 DEPUTY COUNTY EXECUTIVE WALSH: You
6 don't have the votes to proceed.

7 COMMISSIONER MEJIAS: Sorry, you're
8 not recognized. So you can take a seat.
9 I understand that, but you have no
10 authority here. And you can take a seat.
11 Thank you.

12 DEPUTY COUNTY EXECUTIVE WALSH: You
13 don't have the votes. You need six votes
14 to proceed.

15 COMMISSIONER MEJIAS: Sir, sir. Sir,
16 you do not have the authority.

17 DEPUTY COUNTY EXECUTIVE WALSH: You
18 need six votes to proceed.

19 COMMISSIONER MEJIAS: Please sit
20 down. Be respectful of the public's time.

21 DEPUTY COUNTY EXECUTIVE WALSH: I
22 think you should be respectful.

23 COMMISSIONER MEJIAS: Okay. We would
24 have -- we would have been -- this
25 PowerPoint would have been over with

1
2 already. So I don't -- for the life of
3 me, I do not understand. I do not. This
4 is an eight page PowerPoint. You guys
5 will have a copy. The PowerPoint. I do
6 not understand. What is it that they
7 don't want you to know? Why are they
8 fighting us so hard on informing the
9 public about how this process works?
10 What's happening behind the scenes when
11 we're not on the record and not in front
12 of you? So we're going to tell you
13 exactly what we're doing right behind the
14 scenes and how this works. And we're
15 going to ask the Republican Delegation to
16 do the same.

17 So we're going to continue. We are
18 on the record. Okay. And once we're done,
19 the public comment period can begin. So I
20 want to turn to the topic at hand today.

21 So I just I just want to be clear
22 here. Okay. The court reporter is to
23 continue taking the record of this public
24 hearing. The only person with authority
25 up here are the commissioners. So there's

1
2 no member of the public. There's nobody.
3 This hearing has begun.

4 THE COURT REPORTER: With all due
5 respect, Commissioner, the Acting Chair
6 called a recess.

7 COMMISSIONER MEJIAS: Okay. But
8 respectfully, respectfully, Madam
9 Reporter, you're not a parliamentarian.
10 I asked for a vote on the recess and we
11 didn't have a vote on the recess. So
12 since the the vote in the recess didn't
13 pass, there's no recess. So just like we
14 have to vote to end the meeting, we vote
15 on a recess. So. Please. Just. Please,
16 please, just take the record, and if
17 there's a problem later on, then the
18 record could be stricken. Okay.

19 COMMISSIONER MEJIAS: That's not
20 what I was told.

21 (Whereupon, public is
22 yelling at the court reporter.)

23 THE COURT REPORTER: I don't need
24 your direction either.

25 (Whereupon, public is

yelling at the court reporter.)

COMMISSIONER MEJIAS: So let's
everybody be respectful.

(Whereupon, public yelling
at the court reporter.)

(Whereupon, this concludes
portion of hearing obtained
from audio/video file.)

(Whereupon, Republican
Delegates return from recess,
6:43 p.m.)

COMMISSIONER MEJIAS: Are we on the
record?

(Whereupon, court reporter
confirms.)

COMMISSIONER MEJIAS: So if we can
all open up to the PowerPoint.

Redistricting can be confusing and,
naturally, many of the people in this
room tonight are not familiar with the
legal process of redrawing legislative
district maps.

To help people better understand the
process, we did inform the Chair and our

1
2 Republican colleagues that we planned to
3 give a brief PowerPoint presentation --

4 ACTING CHAIR ALFANO: Excuse me, Mr.
5 Mejias. I want to say something on the
6 record, if you don't mind. I'd love to
7 call the first speaker. The public has a
8 copy of this PowerPoint which you've
9 disseminated. They're all capable of
10 reading it and I don't think you have to
11 go through it point by point for them.
12 They're capable of --

13 (Whereupon, public
14 interruption.)

15 ACTING CHAIR ALFANO: Casey Marlow,
16 please.

17 COMMISSIONER MEJIAS: So -- I still
18 have the floor. I'm not really sure what
19 you're doing. I haven't ceded the floor.
20 I do still have the floor.

21 To help people better understand the
22 process, we did inform the Chair, Mr.
23 Moroney and our Republican colleagues
24 that we planned to give a brief
25 PowerPoint presentation with Spanish

1
2 translation this evening. Quite
3 unbelievably, Chairman Moroney told us
4 that we are not permitted to show a
5 PowerPoint presentation. He claims that
6 we need six votes to make a simple
7 presentation to the people here in this
8 room. I don't believe Mr. Moroney has the
9 authority to prohibit any member of the
10 Commission or commissioner from using
11 PowerPoint to communicate information to
12 the public during the hearing, so I'm
13 going to ask our staff to continue to
14 hand out the PowerPoint to anyone else
15 that walks in the room and doesn't have
16 one.

17 So on the first page, the general
18 redistricting overview, which actually is
19 after the cover page says "Redistricting
20 Overview" at the top. So redistricting is
21 the foundation upon which our democracy
22 is built, and the redistricting process
23 occurs every ten years following the
24 decennial census across the country.
25 Districts must be redrawn at every level:

1
2 Congressional lines, state legislative
3 districts and even local districts. This
4 process concerns the redistricting for
5 the Nassau County Legislature. The last
6 time Nassau County redrew its legislative
7 districts, was for the 2013 election.

8 On the second page, the Nassau
9 County. The Nassau County Temporary
10 Redistricting Advisory Commission is made
11 up of ten members. Five appointed by the
12 presiding officer of the Legislature is
13 Presiding Officer Nicoletto, Republican,
14 by virtue of filing with the Clerk of the
15 Legislature. Five Appointed by the
16 Minority Leader, Kevan Abrahams, by
17 virtue of a filing and upon notice to the
18 Clerk of the Legislature, and a
19 non-voting member who serves as Chairman
20 was appointed by the County Executive by
21 on notice, by filing with the Clerk of
22 the Legislature.

23 The Redistricting Commission is
24 charged to submit recommendations for a
25 new map of the 19 legislative districts

1
2 to the Nassau County Legislature, and
3 according to the Nassau County Charter,
4 every action by the Commission is
5 required to have six votes, and that's
6 very important. The Commission's process
7 includes hearings from members of the
8 public to comment on the process, the
9 current maps and the proposed maps.

10 Note: The Commission's current
11 schedule denies the public denies you the
12 opportunity to comment on the maps
13 proposed by the Commission.

14 If you go to the next page, the new
15 proposed maps must comply with both the
16 Federal and State law: Among other
17 things, the United States Constitution,
18 the Federal Voting Rights Act, the New
19 York State Voting Rights Act, which is
20 new since the last legislative districts
21 were drawn and the New York Municipal
22 Home Rule Law.

23 Next page, slide four. The process
24 and concerns: We have repeatedly
25 expressed our concerns about the grave

1
2 deficiencies in the redistricting process
3 so far. This slide has some basic
4 information about Nassau County with its
5 population, its towns, cities and the
6 extreme racial diversity. According to
7 the U.S. Census, in the last ten years,
8 Nassau, as a white population, has gone
9 from 73% to 58.5%.

10 In the last ten years, we have seen
11 increases in every minority community:
12 An increase of over 30% in the Latino
13 community, and an increase in over 60%,
14 the Asian community.

15 This Commission has continued to
16 provide inadequate and misleading hearing
17 notices. As of this Tuesday morning, the
18 Home Pages Commission's website still
19 failed to give notice of tonight's
20 hearing, despite the Democratic
21 Delegation's demand that such notice be
22 clearly posted. Until a few days ago, the
23 homepage made it seem that the next
24 hearing was not tonight in Freeport, but
25 on October 20th in Massapequa. Nor did

1
2 the homepage contain any notice of the
3 meeting to be held in Elmont on the 26th.
4 So no notice of the hearing in Freeport,
5 no notice of the hearing in Elmont, but
6 notice of the hearing in Massapequa. I
7 wonder what the correlation might be.

8 To you find any notice of tonight's
9 hearing on the Commission website,
10 members of the public would have to know
11 to click on the link entitled "View All
12 Agendas and Minutes" on the County
13 website. Not on our website, on the
14 entire County website, and the notice of
15 tonight's hearing was completely buried
16 on that page. Although the homepage was
17 finally updated yesterday, the damage has
18 already been done.

19 Up until the very evening of this
20 hearing, the website obscured the public
21 notice. This is why the Democratic
22 commissioners have been left with no
23 choice but to release our own unofficial
24 public shared drive, which contains in
25 one central location any information that

1
2 we are able to get from members of the
3 public; background on the redistricting
4 process; each of the resolutions that we
5 have introduced; and written submissions
6 from the public and more. You can access
7 our shared drive by scanning the QR code
8 on the card -- I believe the QR code is
9 on the this page of of the PowerPoint.
10 Similar to when you went to a restaurant
11 to look at the menu and the PowerPoint
12 during COVID. Now we can make everything
13 available to you in one central location.
14 We have asked the Commission and the
15 Commissioner do to do this on the County
16 website, and they have refused.

17 There's been not only deficient but
18 dysfunctional language access. At our
19 last commission hearing, it was pointed
20 out that the Spanish language services
21 available to the public were essentially
22 nonfunctional and completely unsuited to
23 the task of translating at a public
24 hearing. The Democratic Delegation has
25 insisted that for this hearing, the

1
2 County administration provide meaningful
3 translation services via headset
4 technology that would give full access to
5 the entire proceeding, including the
6 testimony of every witness and all of the
7 discussion by the commissioners, as well
8 as the ability for members of the public
9 with limited English proficiency to
10 address the Commission. This is the only
11 way to provide real language access for
12 people that do not speak English or
13 perhaps people that speak Spanish.
14 Freeport has a very high Spanish speaking
15 population. It makes it difficult to
16 reach out to the Hispanic community and
17 to come to these meetings when we don't
18 know until basically today that we will
19 have translation services from them.

20 The administration denied our
21 request and said the best that they could
22 do is provide an interpreter to translate
23 for individuals who wish to make a
24 statement to the Commission, which was
25 inadequate and unacceptable. They could

1
2 not even commit to providing a certified
3 translator. So the Democratic Delegation
4 has done with the administration and the
5 commission chair, Mr. Moroney, not Mr.
6 Alfano, should have done in the first
7 place. At our request of Freeport's
8 School District has graciously allowed us
9 to use their headset technology. Thank
10 you. We were only able to provide this
11 thanks to the cooperation of the Freeport
12 School District. The Republican
13 commissioners were responsible for
14 setting up most of the upcoming hearings,
15 and we are concerned that we will not
16 provide adequate translation at those
17 hearings. Freeport has a very large
18 Spanish speaking population.

19 The need for effective translation
20 services was clear from the beginning, as
21 well as the need to prevent a fiasco
22 similar to what occurred in Long Beach
23 when the language line failed to
24 function. Yet Chairman Moroney, the
25 Republican Delegation and County

1
2 administration, failed to finalize the
3 arrangements to have a Spanish language
4 interpreter for this hearing until the
5 very last minute. This is substantially
6 hindered our ability to conduct fully
7 effective outreach to the Spanish
8 speaking community.

9 In addition, the secrecy that has
10 occurred with this Commission, especially
11 when it comes to outside consultants and
12 experts. Redistricting is a technical
13 process in which experts and consultants
14 play a critical role.

15 The Democratic Delegation, we,
16 strongly believe that the public you
17 deserve to know who is doing this
18 important work on behalf of the
19 Commission. And after all, by the way,
20 it's your tax dollars that are paying for
21 it, so you should know who they are.

22 From the very beginning of the
23 process, we have advocated for
24 transparency and full disclosure of the
25 identities of experts by both the

1
2 Republican and Democratic Delegation. At
3 the very first meeting of this
4 commission, Commissioner Pernick proposed
5 a resolution that would require that
6 disclosure, that resolution failed. Each
7 and every one of the Republican
8 commissioners voted against it and made
9 sure that the disclosure failed, that
10 there would be none. There would be no
11 requirement that we tell you what's going
12 on behind the curtain.

13 We have now tried to reach an
14 informal agreement on expert
15 transparency. We have written Chairman
16 Moroney requesting a mutual exchange of
17 the identities of each delegations,
18 experts and consultants, and a
19 description of the work they are
20 performing. In Response, we have received
21 the carefully worded response by the
22 Chair stating that the "Republican
23 Delegation has not engaged any
24 consultants and experts", but they still
25 haven't told us who is drawing the maps

1
2 for them.

3 Next, we asked Republican outside
4 counsel point blank, who is drawing your
5 maps? But we still could not get a
6 straight answer. We know someone's
7 drawing their maps. We know someone is
8 drawing the maps for the Republican
9 Delegation, but they refuse to say who it
10 is.

11 In contrast, the Democratic
12 Delegation has been an open book
13 regarding the people that work for us. We
14 have not only disclosed our political
15 science expert, Dr. Daniel Magleby, we
16 have even introduced into the public
17 record his preliminary report, so that
18 everyone knows exactly what he is working
19 on. In addition, in a few moments,
20 Commissioner Pernick will introduce a
21 preliminary report from our demographic
22 expert, Dr. Megan Gall.

23 I call upon the Republican
24 commissioners to disclose tonight in
25 public the identities of the experts who

1
2 are drawing maps or will be drawing maps
3 on their behalf, so that the full
4 Commission and the public have the right
5 to and have a right to know.

6 Now I'm going to cede the floor to
7 my colleague, Commissioner Kasschau to
8 address the refusal from the Republican
9 Commissioners to disclose maps.

10 COMMISSIONER KASSCHAU: Thank you,
11 Commissioner Mejias.

12 What I'm about to say will come as
13 no surprise to folks who have attended
14 the previous four meetings, and that is
15 the Commission currently has set -- Well,
16 I should say the Chairman has
17 unilaterally set a schedule, whereby,
18 draft redistricting maps will be released
19 to the public and transmitted to the
20 legislature on the same day, leaving the
21 public a mere 60 minutes between hearings
22 on November 10th to review those maps. I
23 submit, and my colleagues on the
24 Democratic side, submit that that
25 schedule makes a mockery of the

1
2 transparency and openness that this
3 Commission ought to abide by. Clearly,
4 that schedule is intended to shield the
5 proposed Republican map from any
6 meaningful scrutiny by the public or the
7 Democratic Delegation. One at one hour is
8 ludicrous proposal, which is both an
9 affront to the public and in conflict
10 with the Commissioner's duties under the
11 Charter.

12 The Charter requires this Commission
13 to ensure that the maps presented to the
14 County Legislature comply with all
15 applicable laws, including the Equal
16 Protection Clause of the United States
17 Constitution, the prohibitions on racial
18 vote dilution in the Federal and State
19 Voting Rights Acts, and new prohibitions
20 on partisan gerrymandering under the
21 Municipal Home Rule Law. No map can go to
22 the legislature unless the Commission
23 determines that each one of those
24 provisions and all the legal standards
25 they contain have been complied with. It

1
2 hardly needs to be said that such a
3 complex determination cannot even begin
4 to be completed within 60 minutes.

5 The schedule also prevents any
6 opportunity for the Commission to come to
7 a bipartisan consensus on maps. It has
8 been reported in the press, as many of
9 you have seen, that in Suffolk County.
10 Both the Democrats and the Republicans
11 were able to come together and reach
12 consensus and unanimously approve a map.
13 Apparently, they had time to negotiate,
14 to go back and forth and eventually agree
15 an approach that could be earned
16 bipartisan consensus.

17 It is literally impossible for our
18 Commission to reach a similar bipartisan
19 agreement in 60 minutes because the
20 current schedule is structured to prevent
21 any opportunity for us to work together,
22 and the schedule is dooming this process
23 to fail.

24 Now, numerous members of the public,
25 some of whom may be in attendance this

1
2 evening, have strenuously objected to the
3 current schedule. In response to this
4 pressure, Chairman Moroney, who was
5 unfortunately not here this evening and I
6 wish him a speedy recovery, has
7 grudgingly stated that the schedule is
8 not written in stone. However, while the
9 Chair's words are hopeful, the actions of
10 the Republican Delegation suggest the
11 opposite. The Chair and the Republican
12 commissioners have refused every
13 opportunity to set a reasonable schedule
14 for the release of any draft maps.

15 At the very first commission
16 meeting, Commissioner Pernick proposed a
17 resolution that provided for the
18 publication of maps by October 14th and
19 for seven further public hearings after
20 their release. As with every other common
21 sense resolution we have proposed, this
22 one was rejected by all five Republican
23 commissioners.

24 We tried again at the Commission's
25 hearing on September 21st, when

1
2 Commissioner Pernick proposed another
3 resolution that would have required
4 proposed maps to be presented to the
5 public and published in draft form no
6 later than three weeks in advance. Again,
7 the Republican commissioners refused to
8 support our three week proposal.

9 We tried again at the Commission's
10 September 28th public hearing when I
11 proposed that the maps be released two
12 weeks in advance. But the Republican
13 Delegation once again refused to commit
14 even to those two weeks. We are now
15 making one last ditch effort to have some
16 semblance of public disclosure. I once
17 again ask my Republican colleagues, will
18 you at the very least agree to release
19 draft maps one week prior to any
20 commission action to transmit such maps
21 to the Legislature? And one week is
22 certainly not sufficient. In fact, it's
23 far from submitted sufficient. But in the
24 interest of giving the Republican
25 Delegation at least one opportunity to

1
2 have give an inch and restore some
3 measure of transparency and
4 bipartisanship to what is a culmination
5 and the most important step in our
6 process, I ask them to agree at least to
7 one week.

8 And with that, I'll make a formal
9 motion to it, to that effect, and ask for
10 a roll call vote.

11 COMMISSIONER PERNICK: I'll second
12 the motion.

13 COMMISSIONER KASSCHAU: The motion
14 is to require that both the Democratic
15 and Republican commissioners transmit an
16 exchange at least one week in advance of
17 the deadline to submit the map to the
18 Legislature to one another and to publish
19 it to the public for a review and
20 comment.

21 CLERK PULITZER: We will have a vote
22 on the motion.

23 Commissioner Peter Bee.

24 COMMISSIONER BEE: Now that the
25 political mudslinging, speechifying that

1
2 was ruled out of order is apparently
3 over, a motion has been made to set a
4 arbitrary timeline for the presentation
5 of maps. I, again, as I have said on
6 prior occasions, feel that the executive
7 directors should engage in a dialog as
8 these public hearings unfold and that a
9 timeline be set. As the chairman has
10 previously said, the tentative timetable
11 was not carved in stone, and it is my
12 hope that the two executive directors can
13 work out a timetable. But for the present
14 motion, which I think is untimely and
15 inappropriate, I vote no.

16 CLERK PULITZER: Thank you.

17 Commissioner John Reinhardt.

18 COMMISSIONER REINHARDT: No.

19 CLERK PULITZER: Commissioner
20 Maureen Fitzgerald.

21 COMMISSIONER FITZGERALD: No.

22 CLERK PULITZER: Commissioner
23 Christopher Devane.

24 COMMISSIONER DEVANE: No.

25 CLERK PULITZER: Commissioner Eric

1
2 Mallette.

3 COMMISSIONER MALLETTE: No.

4 CLERK PULITZER: Commissioner David
5 Mejias.

6 COMMISSIONER MEJIAS: Yes.

7 CLERK PULITZER: Commissioner Jared
8 Kasschau.

9 COMMISSIONER KASSCHAU: Yes.

10 CLERK PULITZER: Commissioner
11 Andrena Wyatt.

12 COMMISSIONER WYATT: Yes.

13 CLERK PULITZER: And Commissioner
14 Michael Pernick.

15 COMMISSIONER PERNICK: Yes.

16 CLERK PULITZER: The vote is five
17 no, four yes.

18 ACTING CHAIR ALFANO: Motion fails.

19 COMMISSIONER MEJIAS: So I want to
20 put the Republican Commissioners on
21 notice. The Democratic Delegation will
22 not supply the six vote to transmit any
23 map to the Legislature until there has
24 been an opportunity for meaningful public
25 review of the map and an opportunity to

1
2 determine whether the map applies to law.

3 So without six votes, a Commission
4 can send no maps to the Legislature. For
5 you to have just one hour to review a map
6 that's going to determine your
7 representation in government for the next
8 ten years is just simply ludicrous. So
9 I'd like to finish my -- we're going to
10 finish the PowerPoint. I will cede the
11 floor to Commissioner Pernick to discuss
12 the Magleby Report, which is one of the
13 consultants that we hired, and we want to
14 make sure you know exactly what we hired
15 them for and what they're doing and what
16 they've come up with.

17 COMMISSIONER PERNICK: Thank you
18 very much, Commissioner Mejias.

19 So if you turn to the next slide in
20 the deck, we have a few bullet points on
21 a report that we submitted a few weeks
22 ago from Dr. Daniel Magleby. Now, Dr.
23 Magleby, he's a professor of political
24 science up in Binghamton. He is one of
25 the leaders in the field of understanding

1
2 redistricting. He's testified before
3 courts. He specializes in this, it's his
4 expertise. So he is one of the people who
5 we trust, members of the public trust.
6 And he's not a partizan person, he's an
7 academic. And he looks at the facts, and
8 that's what we asked him to do.

9 Now, we've spoken about this before
10 and we talked about it today. There have
11 been some changes in the law. And one of
12 the changes in the law is that it's now
13 illegal in New York State to pass a
14 partisan gerrymander. It's now illegal in
15 New York State for the maps that emerged
16 from this process to be biased in favor
17 of one party over the other, to make it
18 more difficult for members of one party
19 to have their voices heard. And there are
20 standard, objective ways to measure
21 whether a map violates these rules, and
22 that's why we asked Dr. Magleby to look
23 at for us. The report that we put into
24 the record looks at the current map as a
25 starting point to see where is it that

1
2 we're at today? Where are we starting
3 from? And his conclusion was very clear.
4 His conclusion left no room for doubt:
5 That the current map is an illegal
6 partisan gerrymander.

7 Now, the way in which he did this
8 analysis -- for a nerd like me, I really
9 enjoy it. Maybe there are some folks in
10 the audience who think this is cool. What
11 he did is he used computer simulations
12 and generated 10,000 randomly simulated
13 maps, all of which comply with the
14 requirements of the law. And then what he
15 does is he looks at those maps and
16 compares them to the actual map and sees
17 what would the outcome be based on
18 projected election results. And the way
19 this analysis works of the map that's
20 being evaluated is more extreme than most
21 of those maps, Courts will conclude that
22 the map is an illegal partisan
23 gerrymander.

24 Well, what did Dr. Magleby find for
25 the current County Legislative map? He

1
2 found that it is more extreme than all
3 10,000 randomly generated maps, an
4 extreme in favor of Republican voters and
5 against Democratic voters. So it was very
6 clear cut. And that's exactly the
7 standard that the New York Court of
8 Appeals has adopted and relied on in
9 Harkenrider v. Hochul. That's the
10 standard the courts looking at partisan
11 gerrymanders, state courts and other in
12 other states have relied on as well.

13 So we know that the current map
14 violates that provision and that means we
15 need to start from scratch. If we use the
16 current map as a starting point, we're
17 going to be violating the partisan
18 gerrymandering rules.

19 Now I want to turn to the next
20 slide. So as Dave is pointing out to me,
21 the analysis that he's doing, it is a
22 neutral process. It's blind to party.
23 It's not favoring one party over the
24 other. It's it's a neutral process. And
25 the odds that a map could be drawn in a

1
2 neutral process that's this extreme, it's
3 less than one in 10,000. So we know we
4 know that map is an extreme partisan
5 gerrymander, and we know it based on an
6 academic nonpartisan middle of the road
7 report where we asked our expert to look
8 at the facts.

9 Now, today I'm going to introduce
10 into the record a second report. And if I
11 could pass this out. So we'll need six
12 copies and I have one for the clerk.
13 Should I walk it down to you? Okay, we'll
14 have one brought down to you. Here's some
15 colleagues copy from my colleagues over
16 here. And I believe we have copies of
17 this new report for members of the
18 audience.

19 (Whereupon, copies of Gall
20 Report are handed out.)

21 COMMISSIONER PERNICK: Now, this new
22 report is a preliminary assessment of
23 whether the current map, and maps that
24 are substantially similar to the current
25 maps, would comply with Section 2 of the

1
2 Federal Voting Rights Act and would
3 comply with the brand new John R. Lewis
4 Voting Rights Act of New York, which is
5 also called the New York Voting Rights
6 Act.

7 The takeaway from from this
8 analysis, just like the takeaway from the
9 first analysis, it's simple and it's
10 extremely important. There is substantial
11 evidence that the current map violates
12 both the Federal and the State Voting
13 Rights Act. And this means that if this
14 Commission recommends a map and the
15 County Legislature adopts a map that's
16 similar to the current map, we risk
17 violating first the partisan
18 gerrymandering rules and the Municipal
19 Home Rule Law. Second, the Federal Voting
20 Rights Act. Third, the State Voting
21 Rights Act. The brand new provisions in
22 the State VRA.

23 Now, let me take a step back and
24 explain what this means. The Federal
25 Voting Rights Act is, I believe, the most

1
2 significant civil rights legislation in
3 our nation's history. It's designed to
4 protect communities of color against
5 racial discrimination in voting. It was
6 adopted in 1965 to respond to centuries,
7 hundreds of years, of racial
8 discrimination in our country and ongoing
9 racial discrimination in the voting
10 context, not just in the South, but
11 across the country. It was a landmark
12 bill that provided sorely needed
13 protections across our country.

14 Now, courts have litigated Section 2
15 violations for many years. So we know
16 exactly what needs to be proven in the
17 redistricting context to show that a map
18 violates. There are three preconditions:

19 First, you need to prove that
20 there's an alternate map that gives Black
21 or Latino voters additional opportunities
22 to elect candidates of their choice.
23 Basically more districts, more majority
24 minority districts than there are;

25 Second, you need to prove that the

1
2 minority community is cohesive, tends to
3 vote for the same candidates;

4 And third, you need to prove that
5 without additional majority/minority
6 districts, Black or Latino voters would
7 be shut out of the process, except for
8 maybe a few districts, would be denied an
9 equal opportunity to participate in the
10 process and elect candidates of their
11 choice.

12 So the way that you do that
13 analysis, you walk through those three
14 preconditions. The second and third are
15 collectively referred to as racially
16 polarized voting. So you need to do
17 what's called a racially polarized voting
18 analysis. And that's exactly what we've
19 done here.

20 Now, the New York Voting Rights Act
21 is even simpler. All you need to do to
22 prove a violation of the New York Voting
23 Rights Act is show that there's racially
24 polarized voting. And if there's a
25 community with standing that could

1
2 benefit from from an alternate proposal,
3 they have that right if there's racially
4 polarized voting in the county.

5 So we asked Dr. Megan Gall, to do
6 that assessment for us, and that's what's
7 in this report. Now, I'll say Dr. Gall is
8 a national expert in doing this work.
9 She's a quantitative social scientist,
10 holds a Ph.D. in political science, a
11 master's degree in geographic information
12 science. She specializes in VRA
13 compliance with a focus on the Gingles
14 preconditions. So this is exactly what
15 she does. She's worked for the U.S.
16 Department of Justice, state and city
17 governments. This is what she does.

18 And she concluded that there's
19 substantial evidence that all three of
20 those preconditions would be satisfied
21 with respect to Nassau County. What does
22 this mean in simple terms? It means the
23 current map is racially discriminatory.
24 It means the current map harms
25 communities of color through cracking,

1
2 through packing, through denying
3 majority/minority districts. That's what
4 this means. That's what we're dealing
5 with right now. And if we continue to
6 have a map that has these same
7 characteristics, that map violates
8 section two of the Voting Rights Act.
9 That map will violate the New York Voting
10 Rights Act.

11 So Dr. Gall started working on
12 alternatives to see if it's possible to
13 draw additional majority/minority
14 districts, and here's what she concluded:

15 She concluded it would be easy to
16 draw a county legislative map with five
17 majority/minority districts that does a
18 better job of respecting traditional
19 districting and principles than the
20 current map;

21 Does a better job of having compact
22 districts, does a better job of
23 respecting political subdivisions. And it
24 provides five districts where Nassau
25 County's black and Latino voters would

1
2 have an opportunity and equal opportunity
3 to elect candidates of their choice.

4 That's what she's concluded.

5 Right now, when this map was drawn,
6 there were only three districts. Now,
7 over the course of the last ten years,
8 there's been a growth in the minority
9 community. So there was a fourth district
10 that became majority/minority, a Black
11 and Latino voting age population,
12 eligible voting population. Right now,
13 when this map was drawn, it was only
14 drawn with three districts in which black
15 and Latino voters comprised a majority of
16 the voting age eligible population. We
17 now know there should be five, and in
18 fact the law requires there to be five.
19 It is clear cut because these
20 preconditions are satisfied.

21 This also tells us that if Nassau
22 County fails to adopt a map with at least
23 five districts, we're going to be in
24 violation. So based on these two reports
25 that we've put into the record, this

1
2 Commission and the Legislature are on
3 notice of a few important things:

4 Number one, if we pass a map that's
5 like the current map, we're going to
6 violate the municipal home rule law.

7 Number two, if we pass a map that's
8 like the current map, we're going to
9 violate the Federal Voting Rights Act.

10 And number three, if we pass a map
11 that's like the current map, we're going
12 to violate the brand new John R. Lewis
13 Voting Rights Act of New York State.

14 So that's the submission. I'd be
15 very interested to hear what members of
16 the public think, and any comments or
17 questions about this.

18 I know that Commissioner Wyatt had
19 some comments on this as well. So I'd
20 like to ask Commissioner Wyatt to offer
21 her thoughts as well.

22 COMMISSIONER WYATT: Thank you,
23 Commissioner Pernick.

24 I just wanted to really emphasize
25 the importance of the hand out that you

1
2 have and I'm very grateful for the
3 Democratic Delegation for providing this
4 to the members of the public.

5 This is very important information
6 here. This is not designed by us, this is
7 designed by experts. And the reports that
8 you just heard in the handout that you
9 have, it proves what we already know:
10 The current map discriminates against
11 communities of color in violation of the
12 Voting Rights Act. It is a violation of
13 the Voting Rights Act. For too long, for
14 far too long, communities of color have
15 been underrepresented. We've seen
16 tremendous growth, as you can see from
17 this report. We've seen tremendous growth
18 in the Black and Latino communities. Yet
19 we are underserved in our county
20 government. Why is that? That's because
21 the current map packs Nassau County,
22 current map packs, Black and Latino
23 voters into a handful of districts and
24 then cracks the remaining voters into
25 other districts. There's no question in

1
2 my mind that we cannot use the current
3 map as a starting point. It is
4 discriminatory. Thank you.

5 COMMISSIONER MEJIAS: Thank you. So
6 for the record, you now know the
7 consultants that we've hired, you know
8 the work that they're doing, and you have
9 their reports, and I hope you found --
10 well, I'll ask you: Did anyone find that
11 this was helpful and understanding the
12 process and what it is that we're doing
13 (applause)?

14 All right. Thank you. Thank you for
15 the applause. And we're glad that we're
16 glad that you were able. We're glad that
17 you feel that way. It's very important
18 that you know the process. It's very
19 important that it be transparent. So that
20 is why we're doing what we're doing, to
21 make sure that you know what's going on,
22 on our side at least, and who's drawing
23 our maps and how they're being drawn.
24 These are not democratic, like hit men.
25 These are respected academics drawing

1
2 with nonpartisan reports that are just
3 doing math. And if you do the math, there
4 should be five majority/minority
5 districts when there are now only three.
6 So you deserve more. The Black, Latino,
7 and Asian community deserve more
8 representation in government. You pay a
9 lot of taxes. You make up the big a big
10 part of the population. And the fact that
11 we take away your power by only having
12 three majority/minority districts in the
13 Legislature means that we can't even
14 start with the map. We have to scrap it
15 and start all over again. So I thank you
16 for your time. I thank you for listening
17 and I hope this was helpful. Thank you
18 very much. I cede the floor.

19 COMMISSIONER BEE: Well, I hope that
20 we can now move on to hearing from the
21 public. Although before we do that, I do
22 want to just make note for the record
23 that we are now at the fifth public
24 hearing of the Temporary Redistricting
25 Advisory Commission, and this was

1
2 designed as an opportunity for you to
3 suggest and to tell us what you want to
4 see in the maps, specifically, where
5 would you like to see the lines drawn?
6 There will also be additional
7 opportunities for the public to have
8 input in this process. To date, the
9 members of both the Republican and the
10 Democratic delegations have heard from
11 approximately 70 speakers with varying
12 requests to keep various communities
13 together. I would trust that the public
14 attendees and those streaming the
15 proceedings will continue to feel free to
16 share their ideas and requests.

17 As you have observed, the Commission
18 consists of 11 members with a non-voting
19 chair being appointed by the County
20 Executive. There were five members
21 appointed by the Presiding Officer and
22 five by the minority leader. The
23 commission permits but does not require
24 public hearings. But we have gone forward
25 with public hearings because the

1
2 reapportionment process from prior
3 occasions has established a tradition
4 that permissive hearings seeking public
5 input should be held.

6 You should know that the county
7 legislature allocated \$985,000 to fund
8 our work. The allocation is divided
9 equally between the commissioners
10 appointed by the Presiding Officer and
11 those appointed by the Minority Officer.
12 A portion of the \$985,000 was set aside
13 to pay for stenographic services,
14 American Sign Language interpreters,
15 Spanish speaking interpreters, etc. Each
16 delegation of appointees share the
17 balance equally for the purchase of
18 needed mapping technology, software
19 experts, counsel and other staff as
20 deemed necessary.

21 In developing a map or maps, the
22 Commission must comply with both federal
23 and state law, and the proceedings have
24 to be fair and should be transparent to
25 the public. Transparency is being and has

1
2 been achieved by significant outreach to
3 the public and holding the public
4 hearings on any maps or plans for
5 redistricting submitted by these
6 commissioners or others.

7 Once maps or plans are drawn, there
8 will be an opportunity for the public to
9 see and give an opinion as to the work
10 product. We are looking to have a full
11 hearing in early November at a date and
12 time to be announced. The updated website
13 will have a link to any and all maps that
14 may be presented to this Commission,
15 which will take comment on the work
16 product. Thereafter, the map or maps are
17 turned over to the Legislature. Likewise,
18 all the transcripts and all the public
19 comments that are generated by the
20 Temporary District Advisory Commission,
21 us, are submitted to the Full Legislature
22 for their consideration.

23 In addition, all items not included
24 in the record may also be delivered
25 directly to the County Legislature. The

1
2 Full Legislature will also conduct public
3 hearings on the submissions by the
4 appropriate legislative committees and
5 then by the entire Legislature. The goal
6 of this Commission is to have our process
7 complete its hearings so the Legislature
8 has time, adequate time, to review any
9 submissions and conduct its hearings.

10 The County Legislature has the power
11 to reject, adopt, revise or amend the
12 redistricting plan or plans recommended
13 by the Temporary Commission, or adopt any
14 other redistricting plans that meets all
15 constitutional, federal and state
16 statutory requirements.

17 In an effort to achieve
18 transparency, all meetings and hearings
19 will be in public and streamed live over
20 the Internet. The legislative clerk will
21 preserve the records.

22 Further, this Commission will and
23 has streamed the hearings and will keep
24 the record open for a period of time
25 after the completion of public hearings.

1
2 It will include theses submissions,
3 including e-mails, correspondence all
4 received prior to the date the record of
5 the Commission is closed. Nonetheless,
6 any correspondence, e-mail or information
7 received after that date will also be
8 forwarded to the Full Legislature for its
9 consideration.

10 In preparation for this hearing, a
11 notice of this meeting and others were
12 sent to the following:

13 The Office of the County Executive,
14 all county legislators, members of the
15 Minority Commission, members of the
16 Majority Commission, Nassau County League
17 of Women Voters, The City of Glen Cove,
18 The City of Long Beach, The Town of
19 Hempstead, The Town of North Hempstead,
20 The Town of Oyster Bay, all 22 villages
21 in the Town of Hempstead, 30 villages in
22 the Town of North Hempstead, 16 villages
23 in the Town of Oyster Bay, 55 libraries,
24 57 school districts, 67 civic
25 associations, 50 chambers of commerce,

1
2 and 150 news and media outlets that serve
3 Nassau County. There will be additional
4 hearings currently scheduled for October
5 18 in Glen Cove, October 20, at the
6 Albany Avenue Community Center and Elmont
7 Memorial Library on October 26.

8 Hopefully, Mr. Chairman, we can now
9 turn to the first speaker.

10 ACTING CHAIR ALFANO: Casey Marlow,
11 please.

12 MR. MARLOW: Hi. Thank you for
13 letting me speak today. I hope that
14 Chairman Moroney recovers quickly, but
15 tonight has been an utter embarrassment.
16 Following the letter of the law matters.
17 Following ethical procedures as Mr.
18 Brewington brought up before matters.

19 The acting chairman of dubious
20 legality, rejecting the educational
21 PowerPoint, which many members of the
22 public have requested at every single
23 hearing -- every single hearing, people
24 said we don't know what's going on. We
25 want to be educated on this. Do you have

1
2 anything to show us? And you guys
3 rejected it. For what? No reason. I don't
4 know why. It's just laughable. It's
5 laughable disrespect to the process, to
6 the public. And the irregularities,
7 complete lack of transparency, you guys
8 have lost the trust of the public, and
9 you should probably lose the respect of
10 the public.

11 I'm a former student of Professor
12 Magleby whose expertise and integrity are
13 unquestionable. And if he says that our
14 maps are gerrymandered, then they're
15 gerrymandered and we can't start out with
16 them; it's illegal. It's just illegal.

17 So I have no confidence in your guys
18 ability to do your jobs. And frankly,
19 when you walked out, that's probably the
20 best thing that you've done the entire
21 time serving on this Commission. So I
22 would encourage you guys to do that again
23 next time. Because you disrespect this
24 process, you disrespect us, you
25 disrespect the County, and you disrespect

1
2 the country. Representation matters.
3 This why we had the revolution.
4 Representation means resource allocation.
5 It has a tangible impact on people's
6 lives in the County. I just want you guys
7 to do your jobs. That's it. Thank you
8 for letting me speak. I wish I could
9 stay, but I have family obligations to
10 take care of. So have a great night.
11 Thank you.

12 COMMISSIONER BEE: Thank you for
13 your comments.

14 ACTING CHAIR ALFANO: Trustee
15 Clariona Griffith from Hempstead Village.

16 MS. GRIFFITH: Good evening. First,
17 I would like to also echo what the person
18 just said prior to. It was definitely an
19 embarrassment to get up and walk away
20 from us. As the public, you should have
21 stayed in your seat and act like a duck
22 and let everything roll off your back and
23 you should not get up and walk away from
24 the public. We have a right to hear and
25 see what's going on.

1
2 Today, I actually made a map because
3 I wanted you guys to see from the view
4 where we sit. And this map that I
5 actually made is to actually talk about
6 what you're doing, that it's not fair to
7 our community. And I know you probably
8 can't see it just like the maps you're
9 not allowing us to see. And it's probably
10 very difficult to determine what's on
11 this map right now. And that's how we
12 feel. So I get to explain it to you. This
13 map right here represent the fact that
14 you're constantly, every ten years taking
15 away from our community. The Black and
16 Brown community is constantly suffering.
17 Every ten years, we work together to
18 build our community up, and then you come
19 along and you take it. And I keep asking
20 the same question all the time: What is
21 fair about Garden City and Hempstead?
22 What is fair about Uniondale and
23 Massapequa? Last time someone came to the
24 meeting, they said they didn't understand
25 what wasn't fair. So I figured this time

1
2 I'll bring a visual for them. Just in
3 case they needed to see it. There's
4 nothing fair about this whatsoever. You
5 need to stop cracking. Okay. Why? Because
6 it's not fair that you divide us. Divide
7 and conquer. Then you turn around and you
8 park us. And this is what this map is
9 showing for those that might be able to
10 see. They have a whole bunch of white and
11 just a couple of black in between.

12 You pack us in. Okay. And that's not
13 fair. Now we become the minorities when
14 all of a sudden you turn around and you
15 stack it, and how you stack it is to your
16 benefit that now you turn around and you
17 choose our voters. You turn around and
18 you choose our politicians. And it's not
19 fair at all. This needs to stop. Stop.
20 Crack and stacking and packing. We need
21 to do this fairly. Where we also become a
22 part of the majority and have a right to
23 choose who we want. People like myself. I
24 can say this because, guess what? Not
25 only am I a politician, but I'm also a

1
2 resident. I'm also a business owner. I'm
3 also a grandmother. And ten years from
4 now, all you guys are sitting here.
5 You're going to ask yourself, was this
6 really fair? You get to see this map from
7 a bird's eye view, because that's exactly
8 what's happening right now. The people
9 are not seeing what you're showing us.
10 Thank you.

11 COMMISSIONER BEE: Thank you. Would
12 you be kind enough to give that map to
13 the Clerk so that we can have that as
14 part of the record?

15 COMMISSIONER MEJIAS: And just for
16 the record, that the Democratic
17 Delegation did not walk out, we stayed
18 here. It was the Republican Delegation in
19 the purported temporary chair who walked
20 out of the meeting.

21 ACTING CHAIR ALFANO: And just for
22 the record, we have returned and here we
23 are. And by the way, the dissemination of
24 the Democrats PowerPoint was distributed
25 and reviewed and explained to you and

1
2 painful detail.

3 COMMISSIONER MEJIAS: Yes, despite
4 the fact that you voted against everybody
5 being able to see it in the PowerPoint,
6 we persevered and we prevailed, just like
7 the people here will when these maps are
8 finally coming out.

9 ACTING CHAIR ALFANO: Stephanie
10 Chase, please.

11 (Whereupon, Mr. Burroughs
12 speaks next. Ms. Chase
13 follows.)

14 MR. BURROUGHS: I'm also one of the
15 trustees of the Village of Hempstead. I
16 was combined with Trustee Griffith.

17 ACTING CHAIR ALFANO: Name for the
18 record.

19 MR. BURROUGHS: Trustee Noah
20 Burroughs, Village of Hempstead. Just
21 some questions I have for the Republican
22 side:

23 Why are you guys are so against
24 transparency? I'm not expecting an
25 answer because you guys never talk. So it

1
2 was a rhetorical question.

3 Second thing is, why when there is a
4 such a simple motion me this is long
5 dissertation instead of just say yes or
6 no. You have an audience here. We have
7 lives. We don't want to sit in these
8 meetings for two hours listening to you
9 guys just talk to yourselves. It's
10 pointless for that.

11 So now that you know that there's
12 some work that has been done.
13 Commissioner Pernick presented you guys
14 with some information. I'm just so
15 curious to know, what is it you're going
16 to do with the information that you've
17 presented tonight? What were you in fear
18 of? This PowerPoint that he gave us was
19 very clear and the public needed that.
20 What was it? What was it you were hiding?
21 Is it that you now know that the public
22 can know a little more of what goes on?
23 No. Yeah, no. No answers. Again.

24 ACTING CHAIR ALFANO: We didn't see
25 it, Trustee. We did not see it.

1
2 MR. BURROUGHS: Okay. But you guys
3 didn't want it, right?

4 ACTING CHAIR ALFANO: How could you
5 say that? We --

6 COMMISSIONER BEE: We asked for a
7 copy.

8 MR. BURROUGHS: Okay. All right. So
9 I'm going to tell you this, as a Village
10 Trustee. I'm going to make sure it's my
11 business, that I make sure that I
12 disseminate the next meetings, the times.
13 And I hope you guys can somehow make sure
14 you get those times and those dates
15 available so that we can make it
16 available to not only our residents, but
17 also to the neighboring residents so that
18 they get all find time to make these
19 meetings, because I think they deserve
20 that.

21 COMMISSIONER BEE: Well, as I noted
22 a moment ago, all villages were given
23 notice of all of these meetings.

24 MR. BURROUGHS: Yes. But when you
25 checked those meeting times, sometimes

1
2 they're a little outdated and you guys
3 will change the times. And that's not
4 fair. People are working individuals,
5 and they need to know ahead of time. They
6 need to plan it. They may have
7 babysitters. There's a lot of things that
8 go into making a meeting, as you know.
9 When you guys plan this meeting, you
10 didn't plan this meeting with an hour
11 notice. Right? So the public needs time.

12 Now, after which you gave a
13 pre-written speech. Sounds great, right?
14 But that was a pre written speech. And
15 there's a difference between you guys,
16 Republicans and Democrats. What I love
17 is when I hear Commissioner Mejias speak
18 from the heart. I hear Commissioner
19 Pernick speaks from the heart. Ms. Wyatt
20 speaks from the heart. But you guys have
21 these pre-written speeches and no one
22 believes it. We know that you here just
23 the past time. The main reason we know,
24 because most of you guys don't speak. The
25 only thing you say is yes or no when

1
2 you're taking a vote. And so you know,
3 I'm just letting you know that the
4 public, we're aware of it and we're tired
5 of it.

6 And my last thing, what Commissioner
7 Pernick let you guys know there is no way
8 out of this. Right. You're going to
9 violate at least three voting rights.
10 What will you do when it's time for you
11 to go? Again, no answers.

12 COMMISSIONER BEE: Thank you for your
13 comments.

14 COMMISSIONER MEJIAS: Actually,
15 Trustee Burroughs brings up a good point.
16 While we're on the record, I would ask
17 the clerk, Mr. Pulitzer, can we get a
18 copy of all -- we keep hearing this list
19 of people that are put on public notice
20 of these meetings. So can we get a copy
21 of all the towns, municipalities, civic
22 groups, school boards, library boards,
23 and a copy of the correspondence that was
24 actually sent putting the public on
25 notice of these meetings? The Democratic

1
2 Delegation has never been given that. So
3 if you would kindly provide us with that,
4 that'd be great.

5 CLERK PULITZER: We will take care
6 of that, sir.

7 COMMISSIONER MEJIAS: Thank you, Mr.
8 Pulitzer.

9 ACTING CHAIR ALFANO: Stephanie
10 Chase.

11 MS. CHASE: Good evening. My name is
12 Stephanie Chase. I'm from Lakeview.

13 I have a couple of questions: Have
14 the maps been drawn yet?

15 COMMISSIONER MEJIAS: Ours have not.
16 No, we're still working on that. I don't
17 know about the Republicans.

18 MS. CHASE: I'm talking about them
19 because every time I'm here, I've been
20 here to four of the meetings, and the
21 public speaks and they say, no, every
22 little thing, no. You're not listening
23 to the public, then I don't understand
24 that. And it was definitely disrespectful
25 for you to walk off. I'm out here and

1
2 it's pouring rain and I walked from the
3 parking lot in the pouring rain without
4 an umbrella for you to walk off. Are you
5 kidding me?

6 Also. Shouldn't you? Shouldn't we
7 see the maps first? This seems kind of
8 backwards. How can we comment on
9 something that's not there?

10 COMMISSIONER BEE: Well, what we're
11 hoping --

12 MS. CHASE: It's like air. How can
13 we comment and make any kind of decision?
14 And also for us to only be given an hour
15 before the real maps are drawn. How is
16 that possible? It takes time to decipher
17 and look through the maps.

18 COMMISSIONER BEE: What we're hoping
19 to do is hear from you as to how you
20 would like the maps to be drawn before we
21 draw our map.

22 MS. CHASE: Well, this is like the
23 fourth meeting already. When are you
24 going to draw the maps?

25 COMMISSIONER BEE: We have a number

1
2 of public hearings scheduled, and at
3 those public hearings, we hope to hear
4 from the public as to how they would like
5 the maps to be drawn.

6 MS. CHASE: We keep telling you but
7 you say no every time. You say no, they
8 say what's in our hearts and you say no.

9 COMMISSIONER BEE: Thank you for
10 your comments.

11 MS. CHASE: Okay. Yeah. Okay. I pay
12 a lot of taxes, and if you guys think
13 that you going to dilute my voice and put
14 me out and I'm struggling to pay my
15 taxes, you got another thing coming.
16 You're going to see the biggest storm you
17 ever saw. We're going to rise up and
18 we're not going to take this.

19 ACTING CHAIR ALFANO: Timothy
20 Rodgers.

21 MR. RODGERS: Good evening. To the
22 Honorable Commissioners, the Commission
23 women, of which we have two represented
24 here tonight. My name is Timothy Rodgers.
25 I spoke at I believe it was the first or

1
2 second in Garden City. And the thesis of
3 my talk was simply: Is perception
4 reality: Well, it's a question. Is
5 perception, reality? And I honored each
6 and every one of you with the respect
7 that I felt you both you all deserved. By
8 talking to you face-to-face and giving
9 the audience my back. So today I'm going
10 to give you my back and give the audience
11 my face.

12 You know, my wife asked me, Tim,
13 please don't go out and say anything. She
14 begged me not to. And the reason why is
15 because when I spoke the first time about
16 cracking and packing, my supervisor who
17 sits to the right of me, Eric Mallette,
18 fired me the next day in less than 12
19 hours. He took the food off my table. The
20 money out of my bank account. And I'm a
21 black man that will not run. It will not
22 deter me from being persistent about what
23 I believe.

24 So I'm saying to each one of you
25 that are here now and the Commission may

1
2 hear me or not, but I'm talking to you.
3 And if you could just simply respond with
4 a yes or no. If you see a bird and it
5 wobbles like a duck and quacks like a
6 duck. What do you think it is?

7 (Whereupon, public
8 responds.)

9 MR. RODGERS: And so if you see a
10 Commission that is not represented by any
11 of the census, what do you think you're
12 going to get? The same thing that we've
13 been getting for the last 30 years.

14 I came to speak at the first meeting
15 thinking that as a man that is just
16 coming to speak for Ms. Williams, who
17 lives on my block, who's almost 90 years
18 old and who lost her husband, and for the
19 residents of my community, for the
20 Veterans that can't come out, for the
21 women that have children. I came out to
22 speak for them and in 12 hours I was
23 fired.

24 So you will not muzzle me. I'll turn
25 back to you, Mr. Mallette. You will not

1
2 muzzle me. You don't have the authority
3 to muzzle me. And I just everyone to know
4 that -- and I left you with thought the
5 last time. Spike Lee's a very dear friend
6 of mine: Can't we all get along? And I
7 guess the answer to that is, well, we
8 will see what the answer to that is.

9 But I just want to leave that with
10 you. And so my wife, Mallette, you scared
11 my wife. She's afraid. You want to run me
12 out of Hempstead? You want to run me out
13 of Nassau County? But I'm not scared. I'm
14 a black man in America. And I'm going to
15 face you straight up. Right.

16 COMMISSIONER MEJIAS: Thank you, Mr.
17 Rodgers. Not only did you speak at that
18 first meeting, you were actually the very
19 first speaker that we had. And at that
20 meeting, you expressed concerns about
21 social and racial justice here in Nassau
22 County. You addressed the commissioners.
23 You're the first speaker from day one.
24 First speaker said you're concerned about
25 packing and cracking districts and you

1
2 stood up for your community and to hear
3 that you were fired the very next day. I
4 only know what *Newsday* reports, but it
5 seems pretty suspicious to me.

6 And I want to tell you, I'm gonna
7 give you the highest compliment I can
8 give you. You remind me of my father. So
9 when my father spoke out against Fidel
10 Castro in Cuba, he was put in jail for
11 four years, that he watched his own
12 brother get tortured and killed in front
13 of him. But he wouldn't relent. And he
14 made it to America. And this means
15 something in this country. My father was
16 put in jail for pro-democracy activity,
17 and you were fired for pro-democracy
18 activity. So God bless you, Mr. Rodgers.

19 COMMISSIONER BEE: Mr. Mallette, as
20 much as I am sure you are bursting at the
21 seams in a desire to comment, I encourage
22 you not to comment as this is not the
23 proper forum. And, Mr. Chairman, I ask
24 you to call the next speaker.

25 ACTING CHAIR ALFANO: Barbara

1
2 Epstein.

3 MS. EPSTEIN: Good evening, ladies
4 and gentlemen. My name is Barbara
5 Epstein. I am member of the League of
6 Women Voters.

7 You've heard this before, but for
8 the public. The League is a nonprofit,
9 nonpartisan organization, encourages
10 informed and active participation in
11 government, works to increase
12 understanding of major public policy
13 issues and influence public policy
14 through education and advocacy.

15 Both Commissioner Moroney and the
16 Commissioner tonight, you have talked
17 about transparency and following all
18 applicable laws. Yet there is still
19 nothing on the website, and this is our
20 fifth hearing.

21 We suggest you follow the example
22 that was mentioned before of the Suffolk
23 County Bipartisan Commission, which is
24 structured similar to ours. The Suffolk
25 County Redistricting Commission,

1
2 Republican Chair, and I'm gonna quote.
3 The chairman Jesse Garcia said,
4 "Committee members came together in a
5 bipartisan manner. This is a result of
6 when you put transparency and
7 bipartisanship ahead of pure, unabated
8 politics".

9 Their Commission created four
10 minority/majority districts. We hope that
11 this commission keeps this in mind when
12 creating a map. We are also asking
13 residents to contact Mr. Nicolello who is
14 the presiding officer of the County
15 Legislature and Chair of the Rules
16 Committee, which will first vote on a
17 map. We are asking for a public hearings
18 before there is a vote on the map.

19 We suggest that residents go to the
20 next full legislative meeting, which is
21 scheduled for October 24th at 1 p.m., and
22 do the same. We're asking for public
23 hearings.

24 I'm listening and it's been
25 mentioned before and mentioned again

1
2 about submitting the map on November
3 10th. I'm glad to hear there are
4 possibilities that there may be some
5 adjustment to that schedule, but please
6 remember that the public must not only
7 tell you what they think about what their
8 communities need, but also they need to
9 be able to look at the maps and give
10 input for that as well. Thank you very
11 much.

12 COMMISSIONER PERNICK: Ms. Epstein.

13 I want to just take a moment to
14 thank you for being here and thank the
15 League for its involvement in this
16 process, for providing input and guidance
17 and suggestions. It is appreciated. At
18 least I can speak for myself when I say I
19 read and truly appreciate the suggestions
20 and the input and the involvement of the
21 league in this process.

22 I'm really glad that you raised the
23 Suffolk County precedent and encouraged
24 us to work bipartisan and try and find an
25 approach that complies with the law that

1
2 can earn bipartisan consensus in this
3 commission. And as I've said before, I'm
4 committed to doing that. Right now, it's
5 not possible. Right now it's not possible
6 because we don't have a schedule that
7 permits it under the current schedule,
8 which has not been changed. We don't have
9 that opportunity. We have one hour after
10 maps are introduced for us to try and
11 work together to negotiate a compromise.
12 How is that possible? We had no input in
13 that schedule. We had no say in setting
14 that schedule. It was not set by a vote
15 of the Commission, which requires six
16 votes, and it categorically precludes any
17 opportunity for bipartisan collaboration,
18 something that I know I'm committed to
19 doing and I know my colleagues on this
20 side are committed to doing.

21 So, again, as Commissioner Kasschau
22 has asked in this hearing and in the
23 previous hearing, and we've asked, get
24 rid of the schedule. That only leaves one
25 hour. It doesn't work. And it's designed

1
2 to prevent that bipartisan collaboration
3 that the League and countless members of
4 the public have been pleading for. And it
5 denies members of the public that
6 opportunity to weigh in.

7 So, once again, I want to thank you
8 for your involvement. I want to thank you
9 for the points to raising their important
10 points, their good points. And I hope
11 that what we haven't been able to do it
12 with our resolutions and our motions, so
13 perhaps your continued advocacy could be
14 helpful. Thank you.

15 MS. EPSTEIN: Let's put it this way.
16 Maybe you'll surprise us. Thank you.

17 ACTING CHAIR ALFANO: Meta Meredey,
18 please.

19 MS. MEREDAY: First of all, if this
20 is an actual hearing, where is the
21 swearing in? Where's the legitimacy for
22 something that seems to be so out of
23 order, illegal, disrespectful, time
24 consuming. And that near million dollars
25 that you mentioned, that's divided

1
2 between the two, the court reporter that
3 did not report when the other half of the
4 Commission stayed with the public. That
5 to me would be considered a deduction. Do
6 you understand what I'm saying? As a
7 taxpayer, you don't get paid for time
8 served. Okay. The job was not done and
9 the commissioners then walked out again,
10 as Mr. Brewington said, a call should
11 have been placed to the County Attorney.

12 All of this should be on the record
13 because we already know we're going to
14 court really know this. That's why I'm
15 speaking to this side of the room.
16 Otherwise, I'd like Mr. Rodgers and turn
17 my back. But I'm trying to remain
18 respectful and calm in this process.

19 We already know, it has been noted
20 by experts, not relatives, not friends,
21 not political influencers, that the
22 current map is illegal. It has been
23 dysfunctional. It has been detrimental to
24 communities of color. Clearly, only the
25 four of you and the one that we wish his

1
2 family emergency everything is okay care
3 about. We have heard here, and I haven't
4 been at every meeting but the majority,
5 that there are some on this side who have
6 said because there always seems to be one
7 or two people who are speaking. Everybody
8 else really should just have a stand in a
9 placement because there's really nothing
10 else coming out of that side. Where is
11 the fairness here? Where is the
12 representation? We want five
13 minority/majority positions, not the
14 shaky three that we already have.

15 We want to have input. Okay. So if
16 you want to know what we want, do we not
17 want input? Yes. Doing that more than one
18 hour.

19 (Whereupon, public
20 responds.)

21 MS. MEREDAY: And you've heard it.
22 You've heard it before. We don't need six
23 or seven additional meetings to say the
24 same thing. We want it now. When do we
25 want it? When do we want it? One more

1
2 time we want.

3 (Whereupon, public
4 responds.)

5 MS. MEREDAY: So it's been said.
6 It's been repeated. It has been restated.
7 I appreciate, Commissioner Mejias, you
8 breaking that down for us for the
9 information. It was valuable. That
10 presentation could have taken all of,
11 what, 10 minutes? So 30 minutes were
12 taken. I appreciate Commissioner Pernick
13 for breaking it down and outlining that
14 there are experts on your side of the
15 room. What do we have from this side of
16 the room? What do we have? What do we
17 have? What do we have? Because we're
18 going to get?

19 (Whereupon, public
20 responds.)

21 MS. MEREDAY: Lastly, when do we
22 want it? When do we want the maps?

23 (Whereupon, public
24 responds.)

25 MS. MEREDAY: Okay. We can't waste

1
2 any more time. We have other things that
3 we need to do. And if we can include VFW
4 halls. Oh, that's right. The majority of
5 them closed because the funding has been
6 lacking. The majority of those who are
7 now serving in our military are people of
8 color. So not only disrespecting the
9 residents, you're disrespecting the
10 military that half of you run around and
11 put your military flag pin on you, attend
12 a pancake breakfast, you sit in the
13 parade and you're disrespecting the
14 military veterans, the wives, the widows
15 and the family members. How do I know?
16 Because I fight for them myself on my own
17 time and dime every day. Do a better job.
18 We pay too many doggone taxes in this
19 county to be disrespected,
20 underrepresented.

21 The gerrymandering must stop. When
22 is it stopping? Are we ready to go to
23 court?

24 (Whereupon, public
25 responds.)

1
2 MS. MEREDAY: I'm done. Thank you.

3 COMMISSIONER MEJIAS: Thank you very
4 much. Just for the record. The Chair,
5 all the commissioners, Republicans and
6 Democrats, this is an unpaid position.
7 We are telling you who our consultants
8 are and they cost money, but so you
9 should know who they are.

10 And one of the ways they can hide
11 it, and it's been hidden from the public
12 in the past. Ten years ago, the
13 Republicans hired a law firm and that law
14 firm subcontracted and said, oh, we just
15 hired a law firm. But they subcontracted
16 out to all these consultants. Right. And
17 they didn't tell you who they were. And
18 that's I suspect that's what's happening
19 now. So that's why we want to make sure
20 that we tell you how your money is being
21 spent and what it's being spent on and
22 it's being spent, quite frankly, in a
23 nonpartisan way. If it was being spent in
24 a partisan way, I would imagine one
25 delegation that did that would want to

1
2 hide that from you. So we're doing it the
3 right way. You deserve to know how your
4 money is being spent.

5 ACTING CHAIR ALFANO: Maria Jordan
6 Awalom.

7 MS. JORDAN-AWALOM: Good evening,
8 everyone. My name is Maria Jordan-Awalom.
9 I am a Freeport resident and I am
10 president of the Freeport School District
11 Board of Education. So welcome to our
12 school district.

13 I am here once again because clearly
14 nothing has changed. I am here today
15 because we are in a critical moment where
16 immigrant and communities of color are
17 still asking themselves, How can we
18 ensure our voices are heard? I cannot
19 think of a more important way for us to
20 do so than to engage in how our
21 representation is developed and carved
22 out.

23 Our public schools continue to be
24 segregated, created even more inequities
25 along racial and social economic lines.

1
2 Many of us already live in areas where we
3 constantly have to fight to be heard. We
4 have to fight to achieve environmental
5 justice for our children. We have to
6 fight for the availability of resources.
7 We even have to fight for basic quality
8 of life services. We shouldn't also have
9 to fight to simply have rights afforded
10 to us as residents and citizens of this
11 country. The Right to fair
12 representation.

13 As an educational leader in my
14 community, I stand before you all tonight
15 to implore upon this Body to create a
16 process that the people can believe in
17 and that we can trust in for a brighter
18 and more equitable future for all our
19 children. We live in a democracy, and as
20 such, we need our representatives to lead
21 with transparency and to represent us
22 all. We will continue to show up. We will
23 continue to engage. And we will continue
24 to fight for fair maps that will result
25 in legislative districts that accurately

1
2 reflect Nassau County in 2022 and for the
3 next ten years. Thank you.

4 COMMISSIONER MEJIAS: Thank you.
5 Thank you for your service. Thank you to
6 the school board and to the
7 administration and staff for helping us
8 here tonight. Thank you very much.

9 While we're waiting, I just want to
10 be clear for the record. There was a
11 portion of what happened tonight that was
12 not on the record. Unfortunately, the
13 court reporter is kind of caught between
14 what to do, what not to do. The court
15 reporter is not a lawyer. She's not a
16 parliamentarian, so she was advised, by
17 my understanding, by Mr. Pulitzer, the
18 Clerk of the Legislature, to no longer
19 take a record of what was being said here
20 tonight. I would hope in some way there
21 is a videotape -- or somehow that there
22 be a transcript actually, and the record
23 be complete and not censored by directing
24 that there not be a record when there's
25 clearly things that are untenable and

1
2 inappropriate going on in a parliamentary
3 procedure, which prevents people from
4 having the information that they need
5 going forward. I would hope somehow what
6 was said that was directed not to be put
7 in the record, gets in the record.

8 I just want to make it very clear
9 that we never told the court reporter to
10 stop transcribing the events here today,
11 neither did the Republican delegation. It
12 was Mr. Pulitzer who did not have the
13 authority to do so. I want to make it
14 very clear for the record.

15 ACTING CHAIR ALFANO: Legislature
16 Debra Mule.

17 LEGISLATOR MULE: Good evening. I'm
18 Nassau County Legislator Debra Mule and I
19 am very proud to represent the beautiful
20 area that we are in right now.

21 It was not my intention to get up
22 and speak. I came to the first hearing.
23 I'm here now because this is where I live
24 and these are the people that I represent
25 and I wanted to hear what they had to

1
2 say. But I have to tell you, I was so
3 disturbed by what happened here tonight.
4 So disturbed.

5 But I'm going to keep my remarks to
6 one area, because you're hearing from
7 everybody else about a lot of other
8 things. As one of the people who's going
9 to vote on this map, I need to know that
10 it was done in a fair, impartial, and
11 transparent way. I need to know that the
12 people's input was heard. I need to know
13 that after the maps are put out, that
14 they have more than one hour to make
15 comments, which of course is ludicrous.

16 I did hear Mr. Bee say, yes, there
17 will be -- a calendar will be made
18 available; I guess we'll see. I hope we
19 can take you at your word. As a
20 legislator, you must do your job and make
21 sure that this is a fair process. Thank
22 you (applause).

23 COMMISSIONER PERNICK: I want to
24 thank Legislator Mule for her testimony
25 today. It is important testimony. I

1
2 appreciate it. I just want to thank you
3 for your leadership in this community and
4 for speaking out for your constituents on
5 this issue here today. We do appreciate
6 it.

7 I also want to turn back to the
8 point that Commissioner Mejias raised
9 prior to Legislator Mule's testimony
10 around the transcript.

11 I agree, the court reporter was
12 placed in an impossible position. It was
13 absolutely not the role of the court
14 reporter to make a decision over whether
15 or not to continue a transcript when
16 there was no motion to adjourn and that
17 should not have been put on the court
18 reporter. I want to apologize for myself
19 for the fact that you were in that
20 position. It was not on you.

21 I want to thank you for everything
22 you've been doing and being so diligent
23 and helpful and working really hard to
24 get a clear and good record. It's not an
25 easy job. I do want to thank you for

1
2 that and I want to ask everybody to join
3 me in thanking the court reporter for
4 being through all of this process
5 (applause).

6 And I would like to make a motion to
7 ask for the portion that was not
8 transcribed to be put in after the fact
9 so that we have a complete record and
10 there's a record of what actually
11 happened. There was never a motion to
12 adjourn. I would make a motion at this
13 point for us to have -- using the audio
14 recording -- have the transcript filled
15 in after the fact. I don't think this
16 should be controversial, but I'd like to
17 make that motion at this time so we have
18 a complete record of these proceedings.

19 COMMISSIONER MEJIAS: I second the
20 motion.

21 COMMISSIONER BEE: Well, just to
22 make the point, I don't think the motion
23 is necessary as we have repeatedly said
24 anyone who submits anything to the
25 Commission, will have that made a part of

1
2 the record.

3 Our objection earlier was to our
4 failure to have received an advanced copy
5 from something that was purportedly being
6 presented by the Commission rather than
7 by the public, and we had not opportunity
8 to review it. Had you given us that
9 courtesy, we might well have resolved the
10 issue.

11 Having said that, and now having had
12 a chance to glance through the material,
13 we do not take the position that we join
14 with you in the accuracy of the content,
15 that we leave to you. You have decided
16 to disseminate this material. It's from
17 the Democratic Delegation. But if you
18 want to submit an audio, a video,
19 type-written material, anything you want,
20 we have repeatedly said anything
21 submitted into the record, will be taken
22 into the record. We simply disagreed
23 with your timing and the manner in which
24 it was done.

25 COMMISSIONER PERNICK: Commissioner

1
2 Bee, that has nothing to do with my
3 motion. My motion is about the official
4 TDAC transcript. Right now it's not
5 complete. My motion is for us to have a
6 complete transcript of what actually
7 happened here today, so the official
8 transcript corresponds with the record of
9 what happened here today. I think you're
10 talking about something else. I
11 apologize if I wasn't clear.

12 My motion is very simple and very
13 specific. I am moving for us to have a
14 complete transcript of what happened here
15 today using the audio file from the
16 recording of this hearing. That's my
17 motion at this point and time and it's
18 been seconded. It has nothing to do with
19 other submissions.

20 COMMISSIONER MEJIAS: Second.

21 COMMISSIONER BEE: I'd like to
22 understand the motion. You're asking
23 that the audio be transcribed and that a
24 hard copy of that transcription be
25 submitted into the record?

1
2 COMMISSIONER PERNICK: And
3 incorporated into the official transcript
4 of this hearing. The transcript right
5 now -- my understanding is it's
6 incomplete because the court reporter was
7 not taking transcription for a portion of
8 this hearing. My motion is to direct the
9 court reporter to prepare a complete
10 transcript and use the audio recording
11 for the purpose of making that complete
12 transcript.

13 COMMISSIONER BEE: Understanding
14 that recording includes the Chair having
15 ruled it out of order, and that a recess
16 was declared, I'm not sure it's
17 appropriate to do it that way and I'd
18 like a moment to briefly caucus with my
19 fellow commission members.

20 COMMISSIONER PERNICK: And of course
21 that would be included in the transcript
22 as well. The transcript should be a
23 recording of what happens. So that would
24 be included in the transcript as well.

25 COMMISSIONER BEE: Then before

1
2 voting on the motion, I'd like a brief
3 recess to consult with my fellow
4 commission members.

5 ACTING CHAIR ALFANO: Recess
6 granted.

7 COMMISSIONER MEJIAS: All those in
8 favor.

9 (Whereupon, no response.)

10 (Whereupon, a brief recess
11 is taken, 7:52 p.m.)

12 (Whereupon, hearing resumes,
13 7:57 p.m.)

14 ACTING CHAIR ALFANO: The motion
15 having been moved and seconded, please
16 call the roll. We're back on the record.

17 CLERK PULITZER: Commissioner Peter
18 Bee.

19 COMMISSIONER BEE: I mentioned
20 earlier that I think the audio was during
21 a period of time that we were in recess,
22 and procedurally, I don't think it's
23 appropriate that be done this way;
24 however, we have also said that should
25 the Democratic Delegation or anyone wish

1
2 to submit anything to the Commission, we
3 will take it into the record. So rather
4 than stand on ceremony, I will vote yes
5 and take into the record.

6 CLERK PULITZER: Commissioner John
7 J. Reinhardt.

8 COMMISSIONER REINHARDT: Yes.

9 CLERK PULITZER: Commissioner
10 Maureen Fitzgerald.

11 COMMISSIONER FITZGERALD: Yes.

12 CLERK PULITZER: Commissioner
13 Christopher Devane.

14 COMMISSIONER DEVANE: Yes.

15 CLERK PULITZER: Commissioner Eric
16 Mallette.

17 COMMISSIONER MALLETTE: Yes.

18 CLERK PULITZER: Commissioner David
19 Mejias.

20 COMMISSIONER MEJIAS: Yes.

21 CLERK PULITZER: Commissioner Jared
22 Kasschau.

23 COMMISSIONER KASSCHAU: Yes.

24 CLERK PULITZER: Commissioner
25 Andrena Wyatt.

1
2 COMMISSIONER WYATT: Yes.

3 CLERK PULITZER: Commissioner James
4 Magin, Jr.

5 (Whereupon, no response.)

6 CLERK PULITZER: Commissioner
7 Michael Pernick.

8 COMMISSIONER PERNICK: Yes.

9 CLERK PULITZER: It is unanimous,
10 sir.

11 ACTING CHAIR ALFANO: Great. The
12 motion carries.

13 Henry Bortel.

14 MR. BORTEL: Henry Bortel from
15 Rockville Centre. I think this gentleman
16 here, I guess, is the Republican Chair
17 indicated earlier, as I heard him anyway,
18 that the Commission is permitted but not
19 required to hold public hearings. Is that
20 right, sir.

21 COMMISSIONER BEE: I believe so.

22 MR. BORTEL: Well, what are you
23 required to do since you were on that
24 subject?

25 COMMISSIONER BEE: Well, now is the

1
2 time actually for public comment.
3 However, I will comment that it is my
4 understanding that we have decided to
5 hold public hearings. So once we have
6 made that decision, we are required to go
7 forward with that decision. So we are
8 holding public hearings, taking the input
9 of the public, following which each
10 commission side will work to create a map
11 or maps, ideally jointly and
12 bipartisanly, but if not separately, and
13 submit our advice. That's all it is
14 advice to the County Legislature about
15 how new maps should be drawn. And then it
16 is up to the legislature to take more
17 public input on that advice and to
18 ultimately make a decision about what the
19 new maps should look like.

20 MR. BORTEL: Are the meetings of
21 this Commission subject to the open
22 meetings law?

23 COMMISSIONER BEE: Well, I'd rather
24 not be in the position of being your
25 attorney, but we are conducting them as

1
2 if they are.

3 MR. BORTEL: Well, are you saying
4 they are or they are not? Well, perhaps
5 the chairman can tell us.

6 COMMISSIONER BEE: What my answer
7 was, is that we are endeavoring to
8 conduct them as if they are. But I don't
9 want to be in a position of giving legal
10 advice.

11 MR. BORTEL: As I indicated, I'm a
12 resident of Rockville Centre. Rockville
13 Centre is a landmark community in Long
14 Island. I've lived there and raised a
15 family there for over 50 years. I was on
16 the Board of Education there. I know the
17 community well. Through some
18 manipulation, I have to say Rockville
19 Centre, which could itself fit within one
20 legislative district, is divided into
21 three legislative districts. And if you
22 look at them on the map, you see this
23 very clear gerrymandering kind of
24 formulation of what the district which
25 was the district saw.

1
2 I'm wondering have the Republican
3 members of this committee or commission
4 at all addressed the issue of the manner
5 in which Rockville Centre has been
6 apportioned along three districts rather
7 than one?

8 COMMISSIONER BEE: We hope to
9 address all of the communities and the
10 way they are currently divided and the
11 way that they ought to be divided.

12 MR. BORTEL: But I'm asking if it has
13 even been addressed superficially up to
14 this moment, because I was not able to
15 make some of the other commission
16 hearings. I went to the first one, but I
17 haven't been to the one since then. Have
18 you at all had a discussion in this
19 public forum about the way Rockville
20 Centre is divided?

21 COMMISSIONER BEE: I don't recall it
22 having come up at any of the public
23 hearings.

24 MR. BORTEL: Well, I'm raising it.

25 COMMISSIONER BEE: Thank you.

1
2 MR. BORTEL: I'm asking the members
3 of this Commission, the Republican
4 members at this point, because you've
5 been silent on these matters, if you
6 would comment now about the way Rockville
7 Centre is presently divided and whether
8 it meets with your approval.

9 COMMISSIONER BEE: The only comment
10 we can have at this point is that we're
11 still collecting information and we hope
12 to look at all of these issues before our
13 maps are drawn.

14 MR. BORTEL: So then you don't have
15 enough information to form an opinion
16 about the present structure of Rockville
17 Centre?

18 COMMISSIONER BEE: I am not making
19 any decision at this point in time. I'm
20 waiting to --

21 MR. BORTEL: Not decision, comment.
22 I think you're asking us for comment
23 without us having any opportunity to see
24 any maps. I'm asking you to comment about
25 the present structure of Rockville

1
2 Centre, an area that is smaller than one
3 legislative district having been divided
4 into three. Would you comment on that?

5 COMMISSIONER BEE: I can't comment
6 it or I'm not going to comment on it at
7 this point in time. But we will have, as
8 one of our goals, an effort to maintain
9 communities of interest in an integral
10 way. But we have not yet formulated any
11 final opinion.

12 COMMISSIONER MEJIAS: Mr. Bortel,
13 can I ask your question? You've been
14 you've been in Rockville Centre for
15 decades. You've come down to public
16 meetings. You're on the school board in
17 Rockville Centre. You know your community
18 well, your friends, your neighbors. Is
19 how do you feel about Rockville Centre
20 being in one district versus three
21 districts? What do you and your
22 neighbors, what would you like to see
23 happen?

24 MR. BORTEL: Well, Rockville Centre
25 is one village. It is one school

1
2 district. It is a broad variety of people
3 from different backgrounds. Some of them
4 been there as long as I have a much
5 longer and some more recent. It is an
6 ideal place to be characterized as having
7 a community of interest. It is the center
8 of of my church on Long Island, the
9 Diocese of Rockville Centre, and yet the
10 Dioceses of Rockville Centre, if you if
11 you talk about a few graphic area of
12 Rockville Centre, it's been divided into
13 three parts. We don't have a unified
14 voice. We don't have the ability to go to
15 "a" person on the legislature and say,
16 you represent us and say this is what we
17 want; this is what we don't want, which
18 we ought to be able to do.

19 Now, if Rockville Centre, a landmark
20 village in Long Island, can be so
21 gerrymandered in the way it has been
22 suggested, would be just failing to
23 accept what the actual obvious facts are.
24 To say that that is proper, and to say
25 that that is in compliance with the laws

1
2 of the state of New York with regard to
3 the Voting Rights Act, etc., would be
4 absurd. And I'm asking this Commission,
5 and when I do that, I have to be
6 addressing the Republicans on the
7 Commission. Because, in effect, you're
8 controlling this operation. You're
9 controlling it either by acting or by not
10 acting. And I'm asking you to confront
11 these issues directly and to give
12 Rockville Centre a fair voice, a unified
13 voice on the County Legislature.

14 COMMISSIONER MEJIAS: So Mr. Bortel,
15 what you're saying is that you and your
16 neighbors in your community would like to
17 have one legislator representing
18 Rockville Centre?

19 MR. BORTEL: Absolutely.

20 COMMISSIONER MEJIAS: Okay. Thank
21 you.

22 COMMISSIONER BEE: Thank you very
23 much.

24 ACTING CHAIR ALFANO: Thank you.
25 Kevin McKenna.

1
2 MR. MCKENNA: Good evening, Kevin
3 McKenna. I want to follow up on the
4 gentleman that just spoke before me. All
5 of you on the left side were at the
6 meeting when I spoke calmly about the
7 three legislative districts in
8 Hicksville. I explained to you, I gave
9 you examples, as to how residents in one
10 district were not given information from
11 the other districts. I spent three or
12 four minutes talking about that. Since I
13 spoke at that meeting, have any of you
14 had discussion, and said, you know what,
15 even though we can't stand Kevin McKenna
16 because he calls out all our nonsense,
17 he's right?

18 Did any of you have any discussion
19 about how blatantly gerrymandered
20 Hicksville is?

21 Mr. Bee, I'll give you a few
22 seconds. You look a little flustered
23 tonight, especially the last few minutes.
24 You look a little nervous. So have you
25 had discussion and said, you know what?

1
2 What he said, just like the gentleman
3 before me, even though even though we
4 were put here to be obstructionists for
5 the Republican Party, what Kevin McKenna
6 said makes a lot of sense and it doesn't
7 make sense to have three legislators in
8 Hicksville. So I'm going to give you a
9 chance to answer that.

10 COMMISSIONER BEE: I can assure you
11 that I have no recollection of a
12 discussion in which we said, as long as
13 we're only here as Republican
14 obstructionists, we should nevertheless
15 consider what Mr. McKenna had to say. We
16 don't have that kind of conversation. We
17 do hope to address all of the communities
18 and come up with a result that deals with
19 property --

20 MR. MCKENNA: Thank you very much.
21 Let me -- because I don't want to lose my
22 time.

23 Do you realize -- and I give the
24 right side of the room, I give you guys a
25 lot of credit for trying. Everybody come

1
2 in to this microphone asking you why
3 you're not doing this and why you're not
4 doing that is a waste of breath. At the
5 second meeting when I spoke about
6 Hicksville, actually it was a different
7 meeting. Mr. Moroney, who's not here
8 tonight? Can I ask you your name in the
9 in the middle?

10 ACTING CHAIR ALFANO: Thomas W.
11 Alfano.

12 MR. MCKENNA: Okay. Mr. Moroney,
13 actually on the record, said to a
14 resident that came up to this microphone,
15 he actually said, we're here to listen to
16 you, but we're probably not going to
17 change anything. That's on the record
18 (buzzer). Mr. Co-Chair, could you just
19 give me 20 more seconds? He actually said
20 that. So my question to you is -- to all
21 of you puppets and mutes, because most of
22 you are mute.

23 ACTING CHAIR ALFANO: Excuse me, Mr.
24 McKenna. I just ask that you please
25 not --

1
2 MR. MCKENNA: You could ask whatever
3 you want, but I have freedom of speech
4 and I can say whatever I want to say to
5 you. How do you like that?

6 ACTING CHAIR ALFANO: Well, so does
7 everyone on this panel have freedom of
8 speech.

9 MR. MCKENNA: Correct.

10 ACTING CHAIR ALFANO: No one is here
11 to be insulted.

12 COMMISSIONER MEJIAS: The court
13 reporter can't take two people speaking
14 at once.

15 MR. MCKENNA: Do you guys realize
16 social media has exposed you. Do you
17 realize how your reputations are being
18 viewed right now by thousands of people,
19 not just in Nassau County? Do you realize
20 how you're being viewed? Do you realize
21 how how arrogant? You know, a gentleman
22 before said that the people on the right
23 side of the room, they speak with heart.
24 And I've had my differences with them.
25 But they are speaking with heart

1
2 (buzzer). You guys look like fools to
3 the world. Do you realize that? Thank you
4 very much.

5 COMMISSIONER BEE: Thank you for
6 your comments.

7 ACTING CHAIR ALFANO: Trustee Noah
8 Burrows from the Village of Hempstead.

9 COMMISSIONER MEJIAS: Mr. Burroughs,
10 I believe, spoke earlier.

11 ACTING CHAIR ALFANO: Frederick
12 Brewington, Esquire (applause).

13 MR. BREWINGTON: I usually give my
14 appearance when I see a court reporter.
15 So I give my appearance to you right now.
16 But first I echo what my brother, Mr.
17 Pernick said. You were placed in a very
18 difficult position and you are a
19 professional. You wanted to know what to
20 do. And I want to just let you know from
21 everybody here that even though there was
22 anxiety in the room, you did still
23 maintain yourself as a professional as
24 hard as it was. And I just want to say
25 thank you to you.

1

Mr. Alfano, how are you?

2

3

ACTING CHAIR ALFANO: Good. Good.

4

How are you, sir?

5

MR. BREWINGTON: I'm good. I'm good.

6

All right. I have come prepared. And I

7

see there's a wonderful screen there to

8

do a PowerPoint. So I have my my thumb

9

drive. Permission to have the PowerPoint

10

activated, please?

11

COMMISSIONER BEE: Do you know how

12

long this presentation is?

13

MR. BREWINGTON: Yeah, it's like

14

five minutes. Not even. Not even five

15

minutes. Can we do that?

16

ACTING CHAIR ALFANO: By all means,

17

Mr. Brewington. By all means.

18

MR. BREWINGTON: Who do I give my

19

thumb drive to?

20

(Whereupon, thumb drive with

21

presentation given to

22

personnel.)

23

MR. BREWINGTON: Members of the

24

dais, I do have copies for you and I have

25

a copy for Mr. Pulitzer (handing).

1
2 And while that's setting up, let me
3 just tell you what you're going to be
4 looking at. I do think the members of the
5 commission that wanted to provide
6 something that would be educational,
7 because part of what your job is, and I
8 mentioned this last time I was with you,
9 is not only to get information, but also
10 to provide information so that the
11 community is fully and fairly educated
12 about the processes that go into this.
13 And I am not quite sure and, perhaps, my
14 brothers on the left side and my sister
15 on the left side can tell me. I don't
16 know if you've had a good presentation
17 about the Voting Rights Act, but I
18 thought it was important for me, other
19 than someone that may be on the opposite
20 side of a table from you, to provide
21 information about voting rights acts,
22 because that seems to be the subject this
23 evening. I saw Mr. Prenick's a submission
24 and I thought that that was excellent. So
25 and hopefully we'll be able to get get

1
2 this up.

3 COMMISSIONER MEJIAS: I just feel
4 that I have one objection, just that
5 yours is much nicer than ours. You have
6 graphics in here. This is really nice
7 (laughter).

8 MR. BREWINGTON: Thank you. I'm
9 sorry, but it only took me seven minutes
10 to put that together.

11 COMMISSIONER MEJIAS: It's really
12 nice.

13 MR. BREWINGTON: While we're waiting
14 for that, I just want to make sure that
15 members of the of the dais, since you are
16 in the general area of Freeport and
17 Rockville Centre, that the geographic
18 area. Not only is Rockville Centre
19 divided up between three districts, but
20 Freeport, which has such a concentrated
21 minority community. Let me say that
22 again, Freeport, which has such a
23 concentrated minority community, is
24 divided up in -- and let me just ask any
25 of you know how many districts Freeport's

1
2 divided up into? Four. That is the
3 epitome of cracking. It doesn't become
4 more clear. So what you do is you take
5 the Black and Hispanic population that
6 are communities of interest, that live
7 with each other, that that strive with
8 each other, that lift each other up on a
9 daily basis, and you divide them up so
10 that they cannot impact what's going on
11 in their own communities by electing
12 candidates of their choice. That's
13 cracking.

14 Then you've heard a term called
15 packing. Right now, there are three
16 districts, three minority/majority
17 districts. There are approximately 80 to
18 90%. Packed. Which means that no matter
19 what happens with regard to those
20 districts, their voices cannot be heard
21 any place else. And you say, well, how do
22 those two survive together? The reality
23 is, is that they shouldn't. They
24 shouldn't survive together. And the
25 Supreme Court of the United States has

1
2 said that they can't. So what I'm asking
3 you -- and I'm hopefully we'll get that
4 up if we can. If not, I'll wing it. But
5 I'm asking every member here to stop, as
6 I asked before, and coalesce, meet and
7 talk about what you can do to change the
8 course of history in Nassau County.
9 History.

10 And Mr. McKenna, well, you know,
11 he's right.

12 COMMISSIONER MEJIAS: You know, I
13 second that.

14 MR. BREWINGTON: Give credit where
15 credit's due.

16 Mr. Bee, you and I talked a lot
17 about things and we discussed the legal
18 issues. There's no way from a rational
19 standpoint that there should be this type
20 of divide. There's no way that there
21 should be no votes on whether or not
22 we're going to allow people to have
23 information. One of the things you just
24 did was prove the point. And I was so
25 glad when Mr. Bee said, let's go caucus.

1
2 Because you made a decision that you
3 could all agree. And the fact that you
4 agreed on a vote to have the record
5 clear, impacts the fact that you made
6 decisions in the past to not allow
7 information to go into the record. That's
8 a problem. That's a real problem. And I'm
9 encouraging you. I'm encouraging you at
10 this point to stop doing this partisan
11 dance; turn the music off. As they say in
12 that movie, turn that racket down, and
13 get to the work that needs to be done.

14 You can surprise everybody out there
15 in social media land. If you came back
16 tomorrow and said, you know what, I must
17 have hit my head on something last night,
18 but I've come to my senses and I'm ready
19 to let's talk and talk about the
20 processes that are intended to try and
21 lift our democracy up, not separate us
22 one from the other.

23 There's no reason why anybody should
24 be looking over here and seeing enemies,
25 but that's what's being created. You're

1
2 creating division within communities. You
3 may say that's not your intent, but the
4 reality is that that's what's taking
5 place. All right.

6 (Whereupon, technical
7 difficulties displaying Mr.
8 Brewington's presentation.)

9 MR. BREWINGTON: All right, you know
10 what? Don't worry about it. Let me just
11 tell you what you have here.

12 What you have here is a presentation
13 that talks about what the right to vote
14 is supposed to be. And the Supreme Court
15 of the United States says the right to
16 vote freely for the candidate of one's
17 choice is of the essence of a democratic
18 society, and any restrictions on that
19 right strike at the heart of
20 representative government. That's not
21 Fred Brewington speaking, that's the
22 Supreme Court of the United States in
23 Reynolds v. Sims, citation is in the
24 paper.

25 Then I provided you in case you

1
2 haven't really had a chance to read it,
3 the Voting Rights Act, Section 2. That's
4 right here in this document, you just
5 flip the page. It's the orange pages,
6 Section A and Section B. I wanted to make
7 sure that as you go into this endeavor
8 and as you provide things to the
9 Legislature, the record to the
10 Legislature, that there's no doubt that
11 you have the information, the actual
12 value of the words that make up Section 2
13 of the Voting Rights Act. Why? Because
14 when the lawsuit comes, that's what it's
15 going to be based on, in part.

16 Then Mr. Pernick mentioned about the
17 Gingles factor, the three preconditions.
18 That's here also on this page, and I give
19 that to you so that you understand that:

20 One, Freeport's a great example. The
21 minority group must be sufficiently large
22 and geographically compact to constitute
23 a majority in a single member district.
24 That's one.

25 Two, it must be politically

1
2 cohesive. You know that, don't you?

3 Three, the white majority must vote
4 sufficiently as a block to enable it in
5 the absence of special circumstances, to
6 defeat the minority preferred candidate.
7 That's happened over and over and over
8 again. And those records, those races
9 will be tested.

10 Last couple of slides. It's a
11 picture of John Lewis. Why do we hold a
12 picture of John Lewis up in this place
13 (applause)? Because New York State, with
14 a lot of help from good advocates, made
15 sure that they named the Voting Rights
16 Act, the New York State Voting Rights Act
17 after John Lewis.

18 And if you'll remember, I bent my
19 knees like I was --excuse me, Pastor --
20 getting ready to preach. I had to bend my
21 knees because I can't wait. When that law
22 comes into effect, it will change the
23 face of how we deal with voting rights in
24 the state of New York. And that's, as my
25 friends from Jamaica say, soon come.

1
2 John Lewis Voting Rights Act is then
3 delineated on the pages. Why? So that you
4 cannot say that you weren't not informed
5 that it dealt with voter dilution, voter
6 suppression, voter intimidation,
7 deception, and obstruction.

8 Then expanding language access and
9 preclearance, which brings back the old
10 Section 4 and 5 requirements under the
11 Voting Rights Act of 1965. Nassau County
12 has an opportunity to do the right thing
13 now.

14 The last two slides or last one
15 slide is a very simple slide, and this is
16 what I ask you to take to heart. It's a
17 picture of people standing on boxes. And
18 it's about equity. Not equality. The
19 concept of equity and equality has evaded
20 America for a long time. Equity is when
21 people are placed on the right level so
22 that they get a chance to be on the same
23 level. Equality is me giving you \$0.50
24 and you \$0.50, but you don't get two
25 extra inches. Equity is when I give you

1
2 \$0.50 and \$0.50 and I give you lifts to
3 lift you up. So on these boxes that are
4 on this page, the person in blue starts
5 out looking over the fence. The person in
6 red starts out barely looking over the
7 fence. But the person in purple is not
8 see over the fence. If we are, and that's
9 equality. They're all on the same level.
10 But equity changes the historical
11 components and gives the person in purple
12 two boxes, just like five districts. So
13 that they have a chance to see into and
14 be part of the game. You can't be in and
15 part of the game, unless they are
16 decisions made to make sure that equity
17 is provided to the communities who have
18 been oppressed and violated in such a way
19 that everybody that sees that should
20 simply say I want to change that, and
21 those who don't want to change that will
22 be convinced.

23 So my PowerPoint is not working, but
24 seems like there wasn't a plan for
25 PowerPoint anyhow. But I'm leaving my my

1
2 PowerPoint for the record, along with the
3 slide show, to make sure once again that
4 you are fully informed and that when you
5 make bad decisions, you have been given
6 information which tells you that your
7 decisions are indeed bad. Thank you.

8 COMMISSIONER MEJIAS: Thank you, Mr.
9 Brewington. The PowerPoint was working
10 earlier. I really apologize.

11 ACTING CHAIR ALFANO: Thank you.
12 James Hodge.

13 (Whereupon, Mr. Hodge
14 proceeds to podium singing
15 while using bullhorn.)

16 MR. HODGE: I do believe that we
17 shall overcome some day. I may not have
18 it -- James Hodge, Long Beach. I may not
19 have it in the right key that you may
20 think I should have it in. But there's
21 been many Republicans, Democrats, blacks
22 and whites that sung that song that came
23 together to make right decisions. When we
24 look at the atrocity that goes on meeting
25 after meeting, it is ridiculous. I'm

1
2 sick and tired. I got a bullhorn. I had
3 to go to the safety aisle because this is
4 a 9-1-1 call. And we've got Nassau County
5 great officers in the back. And we thank
6 God for what law enforcement and the
7 security is here in case there's a safety
8 issue. But there's a safety issue. Do you
9 see it? Do you hear the calls from the
10 Middle Passage to the Amistad? Do you do
11 you hear the black in white people
12 fighting?

13 Black people have only been able to
14 vote for 57 years. Do you hear? Or are we
15 just appointed to do a job?

16 Eric Mallette Pastor, I give you
17 great respect. You're a black man, but
18 stand up. You can speak for yourself. He
19 didn't have to tell you that you can't
20 answer to him. You can tell him, "I can't
21 speak about that". That's it. You're a
22 black man and you're a paster and we been
23 through too much. Nobody has to speak for
24 you.

25 I want everybody to hear the God

1
2 that you preach about every Sunday. I
3 want them to hear when he talks about the
4 people that are being treated wrong. I
5 want you to talk to them about what God
6 is going to do because he going to stir
7 things up. I want you to talk to them.
8 Everybody didn't have to walk out if they
9 didn't present something. Okay, sit down.
10 You don't agree with it. You don't agree
11 with it.

12 Mr. Devane, I know you a long time.
13 You was a prosecutor and now you're a
14 defense attorney. There's people calling
15 for you to defend them, Chris. You speak
16 well. You won a lot of cases. Win the
17 case for the people, Chris. How could you
18 guys have nothing to say? People are
19 coming in -- I came from Long Beach. How
20 could he speak for you, Pastor? He's
21 bursting at the seams to speak, but he's
22 not going to say nothing. This is not the
23 place. You can say that. This is not the
24 place. And I will say if you've got to
25 get fired, listen to what God is saying,

1
2 because God will give you a job better
3 than all of is. Nobody dictates to us
4 what to do when we serve a God as big as
5 we serve. Republican. Democrat. Nobody.

6 Women has only been able to vote for
7 100 years. Men listened to their mothers
8 and then men went and said their mothers
9 couldn't even vote. Young lady, stand up
10 and speak up. I say to you, there's
11 people heard. Do you care that people
12 hurt? Do you care if people are
13 perishing? Do you care? Let the people
14 hear you say so. This is history. It's
15 going around the country.

16 As I said before, what would your
17 families think? There were people back
18 then that said slavery was good. Those
19 people back then who said lynching and
20 brought their kids to see it.

21 There's 19 legislators, not one is
22 Latino. Do you think that's fair and
23 right? Do you think it's just good to get
24 them to do the jobs that we want them to
25 do (applause)?

1
2 Now, I know some of you. And as I
3 said before, you don't speak to me after
4 this, it's all right? God got me. You
5 hear me? God got me. Maybe. Maybe you
6 need to call Long Beach. Maybe we need to
7 show up at some of the houses and let the
8 neighbors know what's going on. Maybe we
9 need to show up with the bullhorn and
10 tell the neighbors what's going on.
11 Because people are hurting.

12 And as I close up, the decisions
13 that you make, it's not just a simple
14 vote, is votes. Who knows whether you'll
15 be here in ten years. Who knows if I'll
16 be here in ten years. One speak said,
17 you'll find out if the decision was right
18 or wrong. You know they're wrong. There's
19 tons of evidence right now. Pastor, say
20 that you don't want to be on this
21 committee. Because you see the wrong and
22 you still here. Don't be a part of
23 nonsense and corruption. Don't be a part
24 of it.

25 You're a pastor. That's over people

1
2 lives and you shouldn't be a part of this
3 nonsense. What's going on here? You
4 shouldn't be a part of. Right. And so I
5 put my bullhorn, because we shall
6 overcome. In the midst of all that we've
7 gone through. We are people that rise to
8 the occasion. And so if some don't
9 believe the God that we serve. And I
10 don't know whatever beliefs that we have
11 in here. But whatever you call him, I'm
12 calling on him every night to show a
13 shake up some ground that you walk on.
14 Because God will have the last say. God
15 bless you.

16 ACTING CHAIR ALFANO: Dr. Emily
17 Moore.

18 Amen.

19 (Whereupon, Dr. Moore
20 proceeds to podium singing.)

21 DR. MOORE: Good evening, everyone.
22 My name is Dr. Emily Moore. I grew up on
23 114 East Sunrise Highway in Freeport,
24 where Staples was. I'm in the first
25 graduating class of Freeport High School.

1
2 I'm a former Peace Corps volunteer.
3 Kennedy said when I was in high school, I
4 said this before, "ask not what your
5 country can do for you, what you can do
6 for your country". As a citizen of the
7 United States of America, we pay federal,
8 state and local taxes.

9 Whether it's a Republican in office
10 or a Democrat in office. It's the
11 government and elected officials from the
12 president, the congress, the senators to
13 that meet the needs of all the people. We
14 are considered the melting pot.

15 I've been all over the world. I
16 haven't been to Australia, I haven't been
17 to China, never been Japan, but I've been
18 to African many times, been to Israel,
19 Turkey, the Canary Islands, Mexico. I've
20 been trained and exposed. And we were
21 poor. My father said, that stuff will get
22 you nothing but trouble.

23 My sister said, memorize the book.
24 Don't count on the teacher to teach. And
25 my mother said, try your best and do your

1
2 best. But I grew up right down the
3 street. I walked the same schools, was
4 trained and raised by people from every
5 walks of life. So when they said, well,
6 how how did you go to those different
7 countries? You give people respect, they
8 respect you.

9 My thing is training young people to
10 be all they can be. You are somebody. You
11 have to be able to know that you come to
12 school to get education and listen and
13 learn, read, write. And when you fall
14 down, you get back up.

15 I'm not going to go on anymore. But
16 the thing is, you got the lawyer. You
17 got the guy from Long Beach.

18 We put our lives on the line in the
19 60's. I'm a pioneer in the civil rights
20 -- John Lewis. I've met him many times.
21 He told our class you don't know what
22 time is. You all said no bail, we stayed
23 in prison; a whole week in prison.
24 Arrested three times in Baltimore,
25 Maryland.

1
2 I'm a graduate of Milwaukee. The
3 president said you go down there and get
4 involved in that, demonstrators are going
5 to put you out of school. I was on
6 campus. I said, well, let me move off
7 campus because I don't show up at night,
8 they can put me out of school. So I took
9 two busses to get an education.

10 That's not the point. I'm an example
11 of overcoming obstacles. Making changes,
12 standing up.

13 When you talk about losing your job
14 -- I was denied -- I'm a part of the
15 school board now. I told the
16 superintendent when he did that, he said,
17 you know, you're not needed. I did
18 outstanding work. What does it mean when
19 people are afraid?

20 All for one and one for all. We are
21 people of the United States of America,
22 the United States of America. Do you see
23 what's happening all over the country? It
24 is not about a few individuals -- if I
25 have to pay federal, state and local

1
2 taxes, everybody should have to pay,
3 whether it's a Republican or a Democrat
4 in office. We have to be fair. We have to
5 make a change because he who fails to
6 organize, motivate, and educate and train
7 his young people, don't blame them when
8 they don't measure up or don't blame them
9 because you are afraid to say to
10 somebody, you can do it. I'm here to
11 train and talk to people.

12 I'm getting ready, go. I missed a
13 program at the school. I ran for the
14 school board. I ran three years and lost.
15 But I told the superintendent, I'll be
16 here when you gone. I seen 20
17 superintendents come and go in Roosevelt.
18 What does it mean that if you don't train
19 and educate children -- and I got over
20 five generation of kids, they all over
21 the country doctors, lawyers, engineers.
22 Why I told them, you can be smart if you
23 work hard and you demonstrate yourself
24 and don't give up when the going gets
25 tough. That's all I have to say.

1
2 I stayed here tonight. I will help
3 you with some children tonight because
4 that's where I put my time. But you have
5 children. You're the future. It's up to
6 you. This country. The world is waiting
7 for America. Not white folks or black
8 folks. United States of America, the
9 people of the United States to come
10 together and do what's right for the
11 world. Because you are you making
12 decisions that's going to reflect the
13 whole world. Everybody's watching. I've
14 been all over (applause).

15 ACTING CHAIR ALFANO: H. Scottie
16 Gourdine-Coads.

17 MS. GOURDINE-COADS: Good evening,
18 Commissioners. You've seen this face.
19 This is the third time. The message is
20 basically the same. I can't follow Mr.
21 Hodge. Mr. Hodge gave it to you like you
22 really deserved to get it.

23 To the commissioners, Chairman, and
24 to those of you that spent hours on end
25 to bring to our communities information

1
2 that hopefully will help many of us
3 understand the redistricting process.

4 I also must thank all of the
5 organizations and individuals who
6 diligently attend these hearings
7 expressing their concerns on how terribly
8 our community are constantly being
9 disenfranchised.

10 My community of black and brown
11 people are sick and tired. Sick and tired
12 of fighting for the things that other
13 communities automatically get without a
14 fight. Without a fight. No matter how
15 much we talk. No matter how much we
16 present, no matter how much we fight, it
17 never ends for us.

18 In my last statement to this body, I
19 requested that the lines should be drawn
20 to include five minority/majority
21 districts. That was spoken of quite a few
22 times tonight. We know the population has
23 increased over ten years because we can
24 just look at the community and see the
25 growth, but yet we only deal with three

1
2 minority/majority districts.

3 My request is on the basis of how
4 much our communities have grown since the
5 last ten years. This can be done without
6 interference of the present three
7 districts. Don't touch the three
8 districts, add two more.

9 In addition, let me speak about
10 gerrymandering briefly. Gerrymandering of
11 the lines will be watched closely by our
12 communities. Please know that things have
13 changed in our communities. We all are
14 aware that these lines drawings are not
15 as it was 50 or 60 years ago. People of
16 our community are aware of the trickery
17 and the blatant tact the Conservatives
18 have used in the past (buzzer). I say
19 conservatives and progressives because I
20 represent the strong 113 year old NAACP,
21 and I don't speak on parties.

22 Residents attending these hearings
23 are tending to see what your move will be
24 and what bipartisan effort is being put
25 forth to give our community what it

1
2 deserves to get. Let's show those lines
3 to the public so we can show the lines.
4 What's taken you so long? Four hearings
5 and you still haven't produced the maps?
6 Let's show the lines. So the public can
7 begin to see that government work for us
8 as well as other communities.

9 I beg of you. I don't believe I used
10 that word. Draw the lines with fairness
11 With fairness. We are people too. We
12 live here. We work here. We raise our
13 children here. We pay high taxes here in
14 Nassau County. We do the same thing that
15 other communities do.

16 And so, to let you know, we are
17 tired. When we say tired, we are tired of
18 fighting for everything that we are
19 entitled to get without a fight. And
20 that's across the country. New York is no
21 different, as a matter of fact. We're
22 seeing things in New York happening that
23 we didn't see ten years ago. Yeah, you
24 draw the lines terribly ten years ago and
25 we had to live with it. But this time we

1
2 are going to see you wherever we need to
3 see you. And if it's in court.

4 (Whereupon, addresses the
5 public.)

6 MS. GOURDINE-COADS: Everybody
7 listen: Whoever here we intend to see
8 you follow the progressives to court if
9 they have to. And that's what we will
10 do. This is no joke. We're not playing.
11 We're not playing. Everybody in this
12 room understand what redistricting is.
13 And if they don't fully understand, they
14 know when they're being mistreated. We
15 all know when we are being mistreated.
16 And so. Again, do the right thing. I say
17 to you, be fair when you draw the lines.
18 We want to see them and we're not going
19 to approve everything that you draw,
20 because I know you're going to
21 gerrymander like you don't believe. Yeah.
22 I'm upset. And I'm tired of fighting,
23 fighting, fighting for what we are
24 entitled to having: Fairness in our
25 communities. Thank you.

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ACTING CHAIR ALFANO: Thank you.
Janna Rodriguez.

MS. RODRIGUEZ: My name is Janna Rodriguez, and I am a lifelong Freeporter, a small business owner, a committed educator and a human being at heart, and I would like to echo the sentiments of the residents who have spoken before me. It seems, and it is critical that we, the people are told who are drawing these maps, because we understand the importance of transparency and we understand what equity is about.

I would like for the Commission to provide adequate time when it comes to the people being able to view these maps, which we understand is a constitutional and fundamental right.

As I've stated before, as a lifelong resident, I sat in this audience today and watched each and every one of you, those who spoke and those who didn't, be reflective of the type of leadership that I, an active voter, understands the

1
2 importance of. And so for me, being part
3 of this millennial generation that is
4 becoming powerful with our movement of
5 being part of the process, it is critical
6 that you take into consideration that the
7 communities of color are being impacted
8 the most. I am a reflection of this
9 community. And as much as I'm looking at
10 every single one of you that is sitting
11 on that stage, I don't see the diversity
12 that I wish to see. And I understand the
13 importance of bipartisan and working
14 alongside everyone to be able to do
15 what's right for all communities, not for
16 some, not for any political gain, but to
17 truly, truly respect our fundamental
18 right of protecting our right to vote.

19 And I would just like to say that I
20 was saddened when you got up and you
21 walked off the stage. Because I actually
22 believe being here at my first hearing,
23 as much as I'm involved in the community,
24 I would think that we would be respectful
25 enough to honor everyone here and to

1
2 honor yourselves. And as disappointed as
3 I am, I am hopeful that you will
4 understand the importance of being fair
5 when it comes to drawing up these maps
6 and letting the public know who is
7 drawing up these maps and again,
8 providing the adequate time for the
9 public to be able to look at these maps.

10 That one hour timeline or window
11 that you are providing is going to
12 continue feeding the systemic and racist
13 system that continues to plague our
14 communities every single day. And as much
15 as I can't preach like the ones that have
16 went out before me, what I can say
17 (buzzer), is that I am committed to
18 serving my community, and I'm committed
19 to doing everything that I need to do to
20 ensure that our future, those that will
21 come after me, have the right to vote.
22 Because that right was fought for, for so
23 many years. And even today it is still up
24 for debate if it's a constitutional right
25 for -- in the view of some not in the not

1
2 in the view of the law, and I am not an
3 attorney.

4 And so I would just like for each
5 and every one of you to please take into
6 consideration your important duty, your
7 duty to support all communities, and your
8 duty to be reflective of the way that I
9 view Nassau County, because I view Nassau
10 County as a diverse, inclusive,
11 accessible county that allows for
12 everyone to have an opportunity to
13 thrive. And as an educator, a committed
14 educator, I understand the importance of
15 our black and brown children. And their
16 lives are at stake today. And so I am
17 here when I was supposed to be at another
18 meeting because I understood the
19 importance of not just my presence, but
20 hearing from each and every one of you.
21 And so I think those that have provided
22 the adequate information regarding what
23 this process entails, because not
24 everyone does understand that process,
25 because access to information is

1
2 inaccessible in communities of color.

3 And so we thank you. I thank you.

4 And for those that have been silent, I am
5 not here to speak ill of you because I do
6 not know you. But I can only judge you
7 based off of your actions tonight. And
8 what I can say is that it isn't the
9 leadership that I would like to see lead
10 such an important cause, such as this
11 one, because you have the future of our
12 world in your hands right now, and we
13 have to do something. And if you don't do
14 anything about it, then we have to stand
15 up and be able to to do something because
16 it seems like nothing is being done. And
17 this is my first meeting.

18 So I just would like to thank each
19 and every one of you and to please,
20 please remember that there are children
21 that are watching and believing in the
22 American dream. And those dreams are
23 being shattered every day because of the
24 fact that this gerrymandering is
25 happening across all states across this

1
2 country when it comes to voting rights.
3 And it is a fundamental and it's a
4 constitutional right. Thank you
5 (applause).

6 ACTING CHAIR ALFANO: Susan Cools.

7 MS. COOLS: Good evening. I would
8 just like to make a few points.

9 First and foremost, I certainly hope
10 that there is going to be a full
11 investigation into Mr. Rogers possibly
12 losing his job simply for utilizing his
13 First Amendment rights. And if that, in
14 fact, is what happened, it's disgusting.
15 And anybody who had any part in that
16 should reap the ramifications that would
17 justly go with that act. That is
18 horrible. And it's a slap in the face to
19 everything that we are supposed to all
20 stand for and that our country is
21 supposed to stand for.

22 And speaking of a slap in the face,
23 anybody that could even so much as
24 propose that an hour be given for the
25 voters to review something as important

1
2 as what we are talking about, that is
3 nothing but disrespectful and an absolute
4 slap in the face to every one of us
5 voters.

6 And then I'd like to say that I am
7 currently the president of the Baldwin
8 School Board, and I can tell you that
9 every time there's been one of these
10 meetings, we received the e-mail late
11 afternoon, the day before the meeting.
12 So, you know, that's not hearsay. That is
13 exactly what is happening.

14 And then the last point I would like
15 to make is actually not to you guys. It's
16 to everybody out here. It is absolutely
17 time that we stop putting our power in
18 the hands of politicians that care
19 nothing about us. They care only about
20 party lines because we need to all
21 realize it's 2022. And I don't know if
22 you've ever heard the term crowdsourcing.
23 Every single one of us has the ability to
24 go out. And it's our duty. And we should
25 be doing it. Speak to five people. Tell

1
2 them what is happening and tell them why
3 it's important to them and how it will
4 affect their lives. People don't
5 understand. They don't understand these
6 things are happening. They don't know how
7 it might affect their lives. We do. Let's
8 go tell them. You tell five people.
9 They'll tell five people. Get on your
10 social media. You make a post about it.
11 How many people in three minutes time
12 will see that? A lot more than five. Then
13 they'll share it. Then they'll share it
14 in a matter of a couple hours. You can
15 inform a thousand people about what's
16 going on. That's where the power lies.
17 And that's what we have to do.

18 COMMISSIONER MEJIAS: Thank you.
19 That was that was very cool. And I you do
20 make a good point. I would say that it is
21 ironic that, you know, my Republican
22 colleagues wanted more time to review our
23 PowerPoint, and they're going to give you
24 to review the maps.

25 ACTING CHAIR ALFANO: Dewy Smalls.

1
2 MR. SMALLS: Thank you very much for
3 holding these meetings. Transparency is
4 very important. You need to hear from us.
5 You need to see us. We need to see you.
6 But I also want you to recognize
7 something that's important to me that
8 I've been sensing and feeling for a long
9 time doing this political stuff.

10 It's important for you guys to
11 recognize that I'm not up here
12 complaining that I'm a black man and
13 you're not giving me a break and you're
14 turning me away. I'm not saying that, but
15 I am saying this. I have experienced on a
16 consistent basis, the inequity when it
17 comes to voting in our communities. And I
18 say that. Because I've seen from this
19 past mayoral election: Closed polling
20 sites to damage his opponent because that
21 opponent, that was the area where their
22 votes were. But he closed the polling
23 site and he cited that, well, it's for
24 COVID 19, but we're going to make you
25 walk a mile and a half to the free rec

1
2 center, get on public transportation and
3 go vote. We're always struggling with
4 this issue and it's and it's communities
5 of color. Why? Why is it just us?

6 I'm afraid, literally afraid. After
7 January 6th, I may wake up one day and
8 you just say, the voting rights, nix
9 that. We don't need it anymore. I'm
10 afraid of that. Because it's true. After
11 what we saw. After what we've seen. How
12 am I to interpret this?

13 I believe in you guys. I believe you
14 will do the right thing. Everyone should
15 be able to participate and not feel that
16 this right is taken away from them or
17 they're going to be challenged.

18 I've seen at polling locations where
19 the person didn't speak English and they
20 made the person feel bad because they
21 couldn't speak English. It's not their
22 fault that they came to this country. We
23 all came to this country. But let's just
24 be fair. Stop being greedy. Both sides.

25 We want to participate. We want you

1
2 to lead us there. But if you keep doing
3 stuff like this -- and I'm sorry, walking
4 out like that, that was just a childish
5 move. That was just -- why? Because you
6 want to go like, hey, guys, let's not
7 listen to them. No, you sit there and
8 take it because you're in that position.
9 And we want to support you.

10 But as a black male in this country,
11 I'm tired of this. Please understand. I'm
12 not whining to you, but I'm tired of
13 this. We deal with this every year. Why?
14 I'm going to sit and listen and and
15 debate and have conversations. Go out,
16 have coffee. Come on. It's only voting.
17 We all want to be counted, and when
18 you're not counted, you can't participate
19 (applause).

20 ACTING CHAIR ALFANO: Donovan
21 Ligande.

22 MR. LIGONDE: Hi. My name is Donovan
23 Ligonde. I am a senior in Freeport High
24 School. And I just wanted to ask a
25 question that I just feel like dying to

1
2 answer. More specifically to the people
3 that voted no for that hour versus one
4 week. I just wanted to ask why one hour
5 versus one week? I'm not really sure how
6 it's fair to the public, how they only
7 get one hour to look at the maps instead
8 of more than one week even, more than one
9 week, maybe two weeks or more time to
10 like look at the maps and check them out.
11 So can you just tell me why?

12 COMMISSIONER BEE: I don't know
13 whether you were here for the entire
14 evening, but I had mentioned before that
15 all we're doing right now is saying that
16 we don't want to fix any new timeline at
17 this point in time. It has already been
18 said that the tentative schedule is
19 subject to change. So I'm expecting that
20 there will be some modifications, but
21 it's not the time to set a new schedule
22 yet.

23 MR. LIGONDE: Okay. So, are you just
24 saying that it's not the time to have the
25 people use more time to look?

1
2 COMMISSIONER BEE: Well, this is an
3 overstatement to make the point. But
4 remember, it's the County Legislature
5 that draws the new maps, not us, the
6 County Legislature. We're asked to give
7 advice to the County Legislature on what
8 we think the maps should look like. Once
9 the County Legislature gets our advice,
10 they hold more hearings and they
11 ultimately can reject what we do. They
12 can accept what we do. They can modify
13 what we do. They're starting in a way,
14 from scratch. They have our advice, but
15 they are free to write whatever maps they
16 feel are appropriate and they have their
17 own hearing process, at which point in
18 time, the public will once again be able
19 to comment.

20 This process, again, I'm overstating
21 it to make the point, is a process in
22 which the Commission is supposed to give
23 advice to the Legislature, and that
24 advice in part comes from hearing from
25 the public: What changes do you think

1
2 ought to be made with the way things are
3 currently? Do you want a particular
4 village kept together? Do you want a
5 particular line split apart? Should a
6 line in a given district be moved more to
7 the east, more to the west?

8 Once we hear from the public as to
9 what changes you would like to see in the
10 existing maps, then we do our own study,
11 our own discussion, our own
12 conversations, our own consultation with
13 lawyers, mapmakers. And we ultimately
14 say, all right, we've heard from the
15 public. We've done our internal
16 consultation: Legislature, here's what
17 we think the maps ought to look like.

18 Then it's up to the Legislature
19 again to take those maps and send them
20 back out to the public for hearings and
21 ultimately decide what map to adopt.

22 COMMISSIONER KASSCHAU: We can do
23 better than that, I submit to you. If
24 our job is to, as Mr. Bee had said, is to
25 provide to the Legislature our

1
2 recommendations with respect to the maps,
3 our recommendations are best informed if
4 the public has a meaningful opportunity
5 to review the maps well in advance of the
6 time that they're submitted to the
7 Legislature.

8 So for my colleagues on the other
9 side of the table to say that they're not
10 going to vote today to afford the public
11 more than one hour because they're not
12 comfortable with the schedule, it should
13 be at least more than one week. We should
14 have that vote now so that the public is
15 ensured that they are at least going to
16 have one week to consider these maps. We
17 can do better than simply saying, here,
18 Legislature, do what you want.

19 I want us to come up with a
20 bipartisan plan, if we can, that is
21 well-informed, that includes all of the
22 public comment that we can muster and
23 present it to the legislature, because
24 that is the best product that this board
25 can produce. To just go through the

1
2 motions and have one hour of
3 contemplation over very important maps,
4 as everybody here well understands, is
5 ridiculous to me.

6 MR. LIGONDE: Thank you.

7 COMMISSIONER MEJIAS: Well, just
8 just to say just to tell you how
9 important it is. Why is your county
10 legislature important? Because your
11 county legislator is in charge of a lot
12 of different stuff: Your roads, your
13 parks, Nassau University Medical Center,
14 Public Safety, and the police -- who are
15 here tonight, by the way, and I just want
16 to thank, you know, Nassau County finest
17 for being here tonight. We haven't seen
18 you at the meetings before, but we're
19 glad you're here tonight. Thank you for
20 coming tonight. We really do appreciate
21 it. Hopefully, can come to the next
22 meeting, too. You've been missing out on
23 so much, I can't believe you guys haven't
24 wanted to come down to more these
25 meetings.

1
2 So public safety is important, you
3 know, whether or not your roads are paved
4 and how they're patrolled and your public
5 safety. Your county legislators have a
6 big impact on that.

7 So the difference of, you know,
8 majority/minority communities having five
9 versus three legislators out of 19 is a
10 tremendous difference. It could mean
11 bonding, borrowing money that you're
12 going to have to pay back with your taxes
13 when you get older.

14 So we really do appreciate you
15 coming down, you know, and hopefully
16 you'll bring some of your classmates with
17 you. It's probably I hope you did your
18 homework, it's after 9:00 tonight. So
19 thank you for coming down. I do
20 appreciate it.

21 COMMISSIONER PERNICK: I have a
22 quick question for you. Did you did you
23 say that you're a senior here at
24 Freeport?

25 MR. LIGONDE: Yes.

1
2 COMMISSIONER PERNICK: And how old
3 are you?

4 MR. LIGONDE: Seventeen.

5 COMMISSIONER PERNICK: So you're
6 here at 17 years old, giving us your
7 evening to testify. I just want to thank
8 you for not only testifying, but hitting
9 on one of the most important points in
10 this hearing. Thank you (applause).

11 MR. LIGONDE: Thank you.

12 COMMISSIONER PERNICK: Thank you for
13 being here. And it's especially
14 important because this process is going
15 to affect you and your generation more
16 than anybody else here, because this is
17 going to be a map that exists for a
18 decade, for the next ten years of your
19 life in everybody's lives. But it's your
20 future. It's the future of the other
21 17-year-olds, 18-year-old seniors of
22 Freeport and in high schools across the
23 county. So thank you for speaking out for
24 for for the next generation. I really
25 appreciate it. And I think I speak for

1
2 everybody when we thank you for your time
3 today. Thank you.

4 ACTING CHAIR ALFANO: Thank you.

5 Is there anyone else who would like
6 to be heard? Those are the only slips
7 that we have.

8 MS. WRIGHT: Linda Wright. I just
9 want to say this heartfelt thing. You
10 know, January six changed me. I always
11 felt there were two sacred things. The
12 church we worship and our capital. For
13 that to happen even now when I think
14 about it, it brings me to tears because
15 I've had military people in my family.
16 The last one was my brother. The younger
17 ones, you know how they are.

18 But anyway, I just want to say I
19 would love and I would embrace New York
20 if we would be the leaders. New York is
21 extremely powerful. We here in New York
22 can show the rest of the world how it's
23 done, and it will truly change the way
24 government is being run right now.

25 I'm begging you to stay away from

1
2 the political mayhem that has occurred in
3 this country. Thank you.

4 ACTING CHAIR ALFANO: Thank you.
5 Thank you. Is there anyone else?

6 MR. BOONE: Hello. How are you? Good
7 evening, everyone. My name is Kevin
8 Boone. I'm a Village of Hempstead
9 trustee. Nice to be here.

10 I've been at maybe three of these
11 meetings. We just keep hearing the same
12 thing over and over again. It really
13 seems like one side cares; one side
14 couldn't really give, excuse me, a damn.
15 And everybody keeps going back to
16 fairness. And I hope you can sleep with
17 yourselves at night with one group of
18 people trying to do the right thing. It
19 seems like some of you may be on the
20 fence. Some of you may want to do the
21 right thing because a part of you don't.

22 Again, I hope you just do this with
23 fairness in the way the lines are drawn,
24 because it affects everybody. And it
25 affects you. It affects your kids, like

1
2 you said, ten years from now.

3 So really think about what you're
4 doing because what you're doing could
5 backfire and backfire on your own, your
6 own children, your own relatives when you
7 go against doing the right thing.

8 So, again, I'm just coming here and
9 asking and praying that you work together
10 and doing the right thing for everybody
11 in this room, everybody in Nassau County.
12 All right. Thank you very much.

13 ACTING CHAIR ALFANO: Thank you.

14 MS. PIERRE-JOHNSON: My name is
15 Mimi Pierre-Johnson from Elmont. And I
16 wasn't going to say anything because I
17 can't wait. I'm salivating when you all
18 come to Elmont. But when I saw Tom Alfano
19 sitting there. I was actually very happy
20 because for those of you who don't know,
21 Tom Alfano, you used to be my assembly
22 person. Have you seen Elmont? You seen
23 what happened to us? You left right
24 before I think the Republican Party went
25 crazy. And I just need you to tell your

1
2 party how wonderful of representation we
3 used to have in Elmont before you left.

4 You used to speak to Democrats,
5 Republic -- It didn't matter. The thing
6 that was important to you was your
7 district. How are the schools? Used to
8 bring us a lot of money, a lot of funding
9 for our schools. When you left, they took
10 us to Queens. You used to care about our
11 roads; have you seen our roads? Used to
12 care about the garbage; have you seen the
13 garbage? We used to have this street
14 sweepers come twice, at least. I barely
15 see one. Last time I saw one, I took a
16 picture.

17 Things have gone really badly
18 because our parties have decided that
19 there are going to be partisan. I hope
20 that seeing you here means that there's a
21 glimmer of hope that you said. Uh-uh.
22 We're going to start working the way when
23 I was a politician.

24 I don't know where you have been,
25 but it was really better when you were

1
2 around. So as your former constituent,
3 please speak to that side. I don't know
4 them, but I know you, and I appreciated
5 the way Elmont was.

6 And I hope, I sincerely hope, the
7 the first Republican that invited me as a
8 Democrat to Women of Distinction at Clara
9 Carlson's Cafeteria. You did that. You
10 didn't care whether I was or not. Things
11 changed when you left. And what we see
12 here, that's what we get all the time.

13 I'm a little older, a little bigger,
14 but a little wiser. And I'm telling you,
15 I know my stuff now. And I'm asking you
16 to please, to talk to them. Look at
17 Scottie. Do you remember Scottie?

18 ACTING CHAIR ALFANO: Of course I.

19 MS. PIERRE-JOHNSON: Do you remember
20 her?

21 ACTING CHAIR ALFANO: Of course I
22 do.

23 MR. BOONE: So the next time this
24 happens, I'll be 70. So that's why when
25 a previous speaker said that he doesn't

1
2 want -- this has to stop. And I shouted
3 out. I said, Yeah, it is going to stop.
4 Because I don't intend to do this again
5 when I'm 70. The young people, we're
6 teaching them now to do this.

7 But I have hope seeing you sitting
8 there. So please don't act like them.
9 That was not the elected official you
10 were. I loved you then as my
11 representative. You were one of the
12 reasons why I got involved in community
13 work and bipartisan work. Until this day,
14 I still work bipartisan. But what I'm
15 seeing here and what I'm seeing across
16 this country now, that's garbage. And
17 we're not going to stand for it anymore.
18 We're wiser and we understand
19 redistricting.

20 So I thank you. And I hope, I hope
21 you remember the day's back and bring it
22 back to your party because they need you.
23 Thank you.

24 ACTING CHAIR ALFANO: Thank you.

25 COMMISSIONER MEJIAS: Thank you. And

1
2 for the record, I was surprised that I
3 was happy to see you too, Tom.

4 ACTING CHAIR ALFANO: I'm an
5 accidental participant as as you all
6 know, the chairman is ill.

7 But is there anyone else who would
8 like to be heard? And by the way, Miss
9 Johnson, I really appreciate those kind
10 words. And I wish my sainted mother was
11 here to hear it. And I'm sure she is.
12 Within the with the number of reverends
13 in this room and people of faith. I'm
14 sure she is here. But thank you.

15 MR. ROBBINS: My name is Charles
16 Robbins. I'm from Roosevelt, a little
17 small town, one square mile. And we
18 suffer all the time. Everything that
19 other communities have, we don't have.
20 Because the way how you got that map, we
21 can't vote. Our vote don't mean nothing.
22 Don't mean that one thing.

23 Well, anyway, listen. What I'm
24 saying to you is that young man that we
25 see, that 17-year-old, he's the one that

1
2 going to be ruled by the decision that
3 you make. Now, I don't know. Maybe you
4 don't have children. The black, the
5 brown, white, they all together now. And
6 they talk. They do not want to be given
7 anything. They want to earn it.

8 I coached football for 20 years. And
9 the black teams and the white teams come
10 together. First down, second down. I
11 don't want you to give me anything. I
12 want to earn it. Don't make these maps
13 where you would embarrass your children
14 later on in ten years because they're
15 going to see. Daddy did this because of
16 my color. Daddy did that because of my
17 color. You're talking black and white.

18 Listen, these kids are not separated
19 anymore. So now you don't do the right
20 thing. They're going to let you know. You
21 know, when your kid goes in his room
22 closes door and you ask him, no, Daddy,
23 you can't speak to me because you did
24 this. You make my friend angry. He told
25 me about it. I couldn't get this because

1
2 of that.

3 Come on, now. This not the 1920s.
4 You. This is not the 1962. You got to be
5 fair. If you don't be fair, you're going
6 to pay. Now. I mean, you can look at me
7 and think I'm crazy if you want to. I'm
8 telling you, your daughter might marry
9 one of the black friends. I'm telling
10 you, that's that's the way it rolls now.

11 So now you can act like this is not
12 -- you have the power to change all of
13 this? The young man came here preaching.
14 God is real. And he worthy to be praised.
15 If you don't see it -- I mean, you could
16 stand on the other side of the fence if
17 uou want to, but he's real.

18 Now, if you don't believe that your
19 child and my child and all the rest of
20 the children, they are not like the 1962
21 and the 1970 children. They are
22 different. They don't want you to give me
23 nothing. I want to earn it. They don't
24 want you to build a map where all of
25 these people over here get it and all of

1
2 these people don't. They don't want that
3 no more.

4 The ones that has the responsibility
5 of setting this straight, take that
6 responsibility. Stick to your chest out
7 and say, I did that. Don't hide behind.
8 This type of situation is because this is
9 not right. Make a map where it'll be fair
10 to everybody.

11 The voters. Our people died to vote.
12 I remember my father -- I'm from Georgia
13 myself. My father used to come home told
14 me, hey, you know, he gave me a bushel of
15 apples, man, to vote this way. I mean,
16 what is this? Come on. This is not like
17 that. No more. Everything is gone.
18 That's over. We are educated people
19 today, and we can earn our living. Give
20 us an opportunity and you'll see. I mean,
21 the world is turning. Thank you.

22 ACTING CHAIR ALFANO: Thank you.

23 COMMISSIONER MEJIAS: Thank you.

24 ACTING CHAIR ALFANO: I think that
25 closes our public hearing of for tonight.

1
2 I want to thank everyone for being here
3 and braving the elements and being heard.
4 And believe me, you were heard, each and
5 every one of you. And I think I speak on
6 behalf of all the members up here when I
7 say thank you, truly thank you for
8 lending your opinions to this very
9 important process.

10 If there's no other business, I move
11 to adjourn.

12 COMMISSIONER BEE: Well, I'm not
13 sure you could make the motion, but I'll
14 make the motion. And I believe it's going
15 to be seconded.

16 COMMISSIONER MEJIAS: Seconded.

17 COMMISSIONER BEE: And all those in
18 favor?

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

22
23 (Whereupon, the above matter
24 is adjourned, 9:18 p.m.)
25

C E R T I F I C A T E

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

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

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

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set
my hand this 13th day of October, 2022.

Karen Lorenzo

KAREN LORENZO

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