

NASSAU COUNTY LEGISLATURE

FULL LEGISLATURE MEETING

RICHARD NICOLELLO, PRESIDING OFFICER

HEARING

CLERK ITEM 33-23

**

Local Law to Amend Annex A of the County
Government Law of Nassau County to Describe
the 19 Legislative Districts

**

County Executive and Legislative Building

1550 Franklin Avenue

Mineola, New York

Thursday, February 27, 2023

1:14 p.m.

TAKEN BY: KAREN LORENZO, OFFICIAL COURT REPORTER

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LEGISLATOR RICHARD J. NICOLELO
PRESIDING OFFICER
9TH Legislative District

LEGISLATOR HOWARD KOPEL
Deputy Presiding Officer
7th Legislative District

LEGISLATOR DENISE FORD
Alternate Presiding Officer
4th Legislative District

LEGISLATOR KEVAN ABRAHAMS
Minority Leader
1st Legislative District

LEGISLATOR SIELA BYNOE
2nd Legislative District

LEGISLATOR CARRIE SOLAGES
3rd Legislative District

LEGISLATOR DEBRA MULE
5th Legislative District

LEGISLATOR C. WILLIAM GAYLOR, III

6th Legislative District

LEGISLATOR JOHN J. GIUFFRE

8th Legislative District

LEGISLATOR MAZI MELESA PILIP

10th Legislative District

LEGISLATOR DELIA DERIGGI-WHITTON

11th Legislative District

LEGISLATOR JAMES KENNEDY (Late)

12th Legislative District

LEGISLATOR THOMAS MCKEVITT

13th Legislative District

LEGISLATOR LAURA SCHAEFER

14th Legislative District

LEGISLATOR JOHN FERRETTI, JR. (Late)

15th Legislative District

LEGISLATOR ARNOLD W. DRUCKER

16th Legislative District

LEGISLATOR ROSE MARIE WALKER

17th Legislative District

LEGISLATOR JOSHUA LAFAZAN

18th Legislative District

MICHAEL PULITZER

Clerk of the Legislature

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

PUBLIC COMMENT:

Jonathan Prevost
H. Scottie Coads
Meta J. Mereday
Dave Mejias
Doris Newkirk
Jonathan Ortiz
Lisa Ortiz
Pearl Jacobs
Judy Cataldo
Ellen Smiley
David Thomas
Lorraine Attias
Marie Jordan
Doris Hicks-Newkirk
Susan Kay
Kelly Johnson
Kevin McKenna
MArie Remus
Tristen Salley

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PRESIDING OFFICER NICOLELLO: Okay.
I'm going to call this hearing of the
County Legislature to order. I'll ask
Legislator Lafazan, please lead us in the
Pledge of Allegiance.

(Whereupon, the Pledge of
Allegiance is recited.)

PRESIDING OFFICER NICOLELLO: Mike,
could you please call the roll?

CLERK PULITZER: Thank you,
Presiding Officer.

Roll call. Deputy Presiding Officer
Howard Kopel?

LEGISLATOR KOPEL: Here.

CLERK PULITZER: Alternate Deputy
Presiding Officer Denise Ford?

LEGISLATOR FORD: Here.

CLERK PULITZER: Legislator Siela
Bynoe?

LEGISLATOR BYNOE: Here.

CLERK PULITZER: Legislator Carrie
A. Solages?

LEGISLATOR SOLAGES: Here.

CLERK PULITZER: Legislator Debra

1
2 Mule?

3 LEGISLATGOR MULE: Here.

4 Legislator C. William Gaylor, III.

5 LEGISLATOR GAYLOR: Present.

6 CLERK PULITZER: Legislator John
7 Giuffre?

8 LEGISLATOR GIUFFRE: Here.

9 CLERK PULITZER: Mazi Pilip?

10 LEGISLATOR PILIP: Here.

11 CLERK PULITZER: Legislator Delia
12 DeRiggi-Whitton?

13 LEGISLATOR DERIGGI-WHITTON: Here.

14 CLERK PULITZER: Legislator James
15 Kennedy?

16 (Whereupon, no response.

17 Not present at this time.)

18 CLERK PULITZER: Legislator Thomas
19 McKevitt?

20 LEGISLATOR MCKEVITT: Here.

21 CLERK PULITZER: Legislator Laura
22 Schaefer?

23 LEGISLATOR SCHAEFER: Here.

24 CLERK PULITZER: Legislator John
25 Ferretti is streaming and listening to

1
2 the meeting. Good afternoon, John.

3 Legislator Arnold Drucker?

4 LEGISLATOR DRUCKER: Here.

5 CLERK PULITZER: Thank you.

6 Legislator Rose Walker?

7 LEGISLATOR WALKER: Here.

8 CLERK PULITZER: Legislator Joshua
9 Lafazan?

10 LEGISLATOR LAFAZAN: Here.

11 CLERK PULITZER: Minority Leader
12 Kevan Abrahams?

13 LEGISLATOR ABRAHAMS: Here.

14 CLERK PULITZER: Presiding Officer
15 Richard Nicolello?

16 LEGISLATOR NICOLLELO: Here.

17 CLERK PULITZER: We have a quorum,
18 sir.

19 PRESIDING OFFICER NICOLELLO: Thank
20 you very much.

21 And now please read the call for a
22 public hearing.

23 CLERK PULITZER: The Nassau County
24 legislator will hold a public meeting on
25 Monday, February 27, 2023, at 1 p.m., at

1
2 which time the Legislature will address
3 Clerk Item 33-23, a Local Law to amend
4 Annex A of the County Government Law of
5 Nassau County to describe the 19
6 Legislative Districts based upon the 2020
7 Federal Census data and any proposed
8 amendments, thereto. Thank you.

9 PRESIDING OFFICER NICOLELLO: I'd
10 like to get a motion to open the public
11 hearing with respect to Clerk Item 33 of
12 23. Moved by Deputy Presiding Officer
13 Kopel, seconded by Legislator Ford.

14 PRESIDING OFFICER NICOLELLO: All in
15 favor of opening the hearing signify by
16 saying, "Aye".

17 (Whereupon, all members of
18 the Nassau County Legislature
19 respond in favor with, "Aye".)

20 PRESIDING OFFICER NICOLELLO: Those
21 opposed?

22 (Whereupon, no verbal
23 response.)

24 PRESIDING OFFICER NICOLELLO: The
25 hearing is now open.

1
2 So I have a brief statement that I'm
3 going to read. Then I'll turn the floor
4 over to our Minority Leader, and then
5 we'll open it up to public for public
6 comment. Again, anyone wishing to speak,
7 please submit a slip at the table over
8 there (indicating). Put your name on the
9 list and we'll call you in the order that
10 you submitted the slip.

11 Today's hearing will be the final
12 hearing of the Legislature regarding the
13 2023 redistricting process. We will vote
14 to adopt a final plan later on at this
15 evening's meeting of the Legislature. I'm
16 offering the following to be part of the
17 record. A report from Troutman Pepper,
18 dated February 27, 2023, titled "Proposed
19 Revised Redistricting Plan for Nassau
20 County Legislative Districts"; Second,
21 "Supplemental Analysis of County
22 Legislative Districts in Nassau County",
23 New York from Dr. Megan Gall, dated
24 February 22, 2023; A memorandum Dr.
25 Daniel Magleby, dated February 24, 2023.

1
2 I'm also offering for the record of
3 correspondence between myself and the
4 Minority Leader. There was letters from
5 me to the Minority Leader dated January
6 4, 2023, and February 10, 2023, and a
7 letter from the Minority Leader to me
8 dated February 14, 2023.

9 Also, for the record, I just wanted
10 to note that we met with the Minority on
11 January 13th and February 14, 2023, to
12 discuss the process and solicit their
13 input into the creation of new district
14 lines.

15 Our hearing today builds on the
16 record developed at both the Temporary
17 District Advisory Commission and through
18 our legislative process. It is from that
19 record, we have advanced the amended map
20 designed to incorporate many of the
21 proposals that have been voiced
22 throughout the process into a final
23 amended map that we filed on February
24 21st.

25 Specifically, we have heard from

1
2 Legislator Arnold Drucker and the
3 residents that Plainview and Old Bethpage
4 are a strong community of interest. The
5 amended map combines these communities
6 into a single district in proposed LD 16.
7 The change was not made for the purpose
8 of helping or harming any incumbent, but
9 based on the community of interest
10 considerations only. Legislator Solages
11 offered testimony in favor of placing
12 Elmont into a single district. The
13 amended map unifies the vast majority of
14 Elmont with a small portion contained in
15 District Eight. Legislator Solages also
16 asked that the Mill Brook community be
17 returned to District Three. The amendment
18 would restore a portion of Mill Brook to
19 District Three.

20 Based on testimony we heard from the
21 public and legislators, the amended map
22 reduces the number of times that the
23 Village of Hempstead has been split from
24 3 to 2. The amended map keeps South
25 Hempstead together, as requested by

1
2 Legislator Mule and residents; unites
3 Westbury and New Cassel, as requested by
4 Legislator Bynoe and residents; unifies
5 Baldwin and Uniondale, as was requested
6 by public testimony. And lastly, keeps
7 the Five Towns together, a concern that
8 was voiced at the TDAC hearings.

9 The map before the Legislature today
10 complies with all applicable federal and
11 state law, the United States
12 Constitution, the Federal Voting Rights
13 Act of 1965, the New York State
14 Constitution and New York State law in
15 all respects. In this regard, the
16 Majority has relied upon the advice of
17 Troutman Pepper, as reflected in the
18 report that's been incorporated into the
19 record. I will now turn the floor over to
20 Minority Leader Abrahams.

21 LEGISLATOR ABRAHAMS: Thank you,
22 Presiding Officer.

23 So first, I'm thankful for the folks
24 that are here today. Even though I know
25 snow is imminent, it's coming down;

1
2 hopefully, this process will come to some
3 type of resolution before the snow starts
4 to come in.

5 Though I have respect for my
6 colleagues to the right, I couldn't
7 disagree more. Let's start at the
8 beginning. They have made some changes to
9 the map. But let's be clear, the map
10 that's before us today is still an
11 illegal document. Why is it illegal?
12 Because you're going to hear a lot about
13 that back and forth today. Well, number
14 one, it violates the Federal Voting
15 Rights Act. How does it do so? Because it
16 dilutes minority votes across the board.
17 Lakeview, Freeport, across the board. The
18 minority vote cannot be diluted.

19 I was looking forward to questioning
20 Mr. Tseytlin, who was here at the last
21 hearing, again, because I still have a
22 problem with his approach by his own
23 testimony, that he does not look at race
24 when the map was drawn. However, race is
25 a major component when you're looking at

1
2 the Federal Voting Rights Act to
3 determine not diluting minority votes. He
4 can't reconcile that. That being said,
5 the map is illegal, but let's move
6 forward.

7 As I said before, the town of
8 Lakeview, the town of Freeport, where I
9 live, predominantly minority/majority
10 communities, their votes are being
11 diluted, 100%; you cannot spin it any
12 other way. There's going to be folks here
13 from Lakeview that are going to speak to
14 that. But just speaking on behalf of the
15 residents of Freeport, which is a lovely
16 community made up of all different races
17 and backgrounds. However, the areas of
18 northwest and northeast Freeport are
19 predominantly minority/majority, and now
20 those districts and those areas are now
21 being put into predominantly broader
22 communities that will dilute their vote.
23 So from that standpoint, I don't see how
24 their votes and how their power in this
25 particular process is not being diluted.

1
2 Second, the John Lewis Provision
3 indicates that when possible, which we
4 have demonstrated before and seen again
5 it is possible, that you have five
6 Minority/Majority districts. This map, as
7 by testimony by the Republican majority,
8 only has four. For some reason, they have
9 chosen not to include a fifth
10 Minority/Majority. I'm guessing it's
11 based off the testimony of Mr. Tseytlin
12 that indicates that he did not look at
13 race. However, the John Lewis Provision
14 is exactly doing that. It's asking you to
15 look at race to make sure it's applied
16 appropriately. So it doesn't make much
17 sense in terms of how that reconciliation
18 actually occurs.

19 We asked multiple times over and
20 over again for Mr. Trende, who put
21 together the analysis as per Harkenrider
22 v. Hochul, put together the analysis to
23 come here and explain that analysis so
24 that we can actually see exactly what he
25 tried to do. Dr. Magleby, who put

1
2 together an analysis for the TDAC
3 Democratic members, did that. He
4 explained that his analysis is very
5 similar to the analysis that was used in
6 Harkenrider versus Hochul. The one
7 difference, though, that no one will
8 really own up to is the measurement. In
9 the Trende analysis, he uses the
10 measurement of gubernatorial years, but
11 there's no one up here of the 19 of us
12 that gets elected in gubernatorial years.
13 So when you use that measurement and you
14 show a graph and a bar and you say that
15 we fall within the lines of being a
16 non-partisan or less partisan
17 gerrymandered map, you're using a
18 different measurement. The measurement
19 that Dr. Magleby used was a measurement
20 using local elections: County executive,
21 county clerk, district attorney. All
22 elections where this Body actually gets
23 elected. So, ultimately, it's not a
24 question of who's right and who's wrong.
25 It's what's more effective and what's the

1
2 most appropriate approach.

3 So from that standpoint, we stand to
4 believe that because we don't get elected
5 in gubernatorial years, unless it's a
6 special election or something of that
7 magnitude, it makes more sense to apply
8 the approach that Dr. Magleby has talked
9 about.

10 Look, I want to get to the folks
11 that are here today. I know there's many
12 people here from from the Lakeview
13 Community, Hempstead Community, Freeport
14 Community. Obviously, those are all
15 communities that are being impacted by
16 their votes being diluted. But most
17 importantly, the one thing I can stress
18 today to my Republican colleagues is
19 this: We have an opportunity. If the
20 disagreement is between Mr. Trende and
21 Dr. Magelby's approach, we have an
22 opportunity today, they have an
23 opportunity today, to instruct their
24 consultant to run the measurement based
25 off of what Dr. Magleby did. If they

1
2 don't do that, let me explain what
3 happens. If they don't do that, they are
4 putting their heads in the sand and,
5 therefore, saying that they do not want
6 to see what that those numbers look like.
7 Why? Why don't you want to see what Dr.
8 Magleby already generated? I'll tell you
9 why. The reason is very clear. It's
10 because it's going to show exactly what
11 Dr. Magleby is saying. If you change the
12 measurement to county executive, DA,
13 county clerk years, it's going to show
14 exactly what he's saying. But instead, I
15 read through Mr. Tseytlin's report -- or
16 I'm not too sure who drafted this from
17 Troutman Pepper -- and that indicates
18 that they're more trying to impugn his
19 work. They're trying to discredit his
20 work, when it's clear it's just the
21 measurement. That's the big difference,
22 of when we measure that particular
23 election. But if they choose not to run
24 that report the way Dr. Maglbey has done,
25 we are going down a path that's going to

1
2 ensure there will be litigation and suing
3 this county. Because that particular
4 measurement, that particular analysis
5 that needs to be done could very well be
6 asked to be done right now. We can take
7 the time, I'm sure, by a push of a button
8 on a computer, Mr. Trende can generate
9 that analysis, but we are choosing not to
10 have him generate that analysis. And the
11 bigger question is: Why? They won't give
12 you an answer why. They're going to say
13 that they stand by Mr. Tseytlin's
14 testimony that racial makeup should not
15 be incorporated into redrawing the map. I
16 look out into the audience today, I think
17 the folks here beg to differ.

18 That being said, we are seeing that
19 the community of Freeport, the community
20 of Lakeview, their votes are dramatically
21 being diluted in this process, and the
22 only thing that's stopping any level of
23 litigation is politics. That's it.
24 Nothing else. From our standpoint, the
25 Republican Majority is now being

1
2 forewarned. That if this analysis is not
3 to take place, very clearly, there's
4 going to be third party lawsuits out
5 there and the County will be sued on
6 various different things that I just
7 mentioned just now: Minority/Majority
8 districts, dilution of votes; it's clear
9 as day. We're going down a path where
10 we're going to be asking you, the
11 taxpayers, to pay the bill. Keep in mind,
12 law firms that sue the County, their
13 costs and expenditures are reimbursed by
14 Nassau County. The costs are not taken on
15 by them and then they forever stay with
16 them. Their costs are reimbursed by
17 Nassau County. So if Nassau County
18 generates a bill to basically defend this
19 case, they not only have to pay the
20 counsel that's here to represent this
21 Legislative Body and the County
22 Executive, and whoever else is named in
23 the lawsuit, they are also responsible
24 for paying the fees of the petitioner and
25 the plaintiffs millions of dollars just

1
2 because of politics.

3 So from that standpoint, we are
4 being forewarned today that we have an
5 opportunity to do everything we can, look
6 at the Trende analysis, ask for it to be
7 done a different way, as per Dr. Magleby,
8 just to cover ourselves as an
9 institution. But they're choosing not to.
10 The bigger question is why? Thank you,
11 Presiding Officer.

12 PRESIDING OFFICER NICOLELLO: Thank
13 you. We'll start with the public comment.
14 Jonathan Prevost.

15 MR. PREVOST: Good afternoon,
16 elected officials, residents of Nassau
17 County. My name is Jonathan Prevost, and
18 I'm here today to discuss the issue that
19 Minority Leader Abrahams has just brought
20 up regarding the redistricting.

21 Before I address my points, I like
22 to point out some of the demographic
23 changes that have occurred here in Nassau
24 County since our last census was taken in
25 2010. The African American community has

1
2 seen an increase of 11%, and between 2010
3 and 2020, there has been a 10% increase.
4 The Native American and Alaska Native
5 Community has seen a 96% from 2010; the
6 Asian American community has seen a 59%
7 increase from 2010; Native American and
8 other Pacific Islanders, 7.3% increase;
9 and those who self identify as other
10 race, 153.5% increase from 2010. What are
11 these numbers telling us? Nassau County
12 is changing. The demographic in which we
13 are being represented is consistently
14 being changed to reflect a changing
15 demographic. These maps that have been
16 proposed do not reflect that.

17 I'm a resident of LD-1. The LD-1 map
18 that has been presented, looks nothing
19 similar what the standard should be for a
20 fair and just Minority/Majority map that
21 should be representative of the people.
22 Similar situations for LD-2 and LD-3.
23 Three strong legislative districts with
24 strong minority communities.

25 According to the ACLU, the Supreme

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2 Court deems vote dilution as certain
3 electoral laws, practice or structures
4 interacts with social and historical
5 conditions that cause an inequality and
6 opportunities enjoyed by black and white
7 voters to elect their preferred
8 representatives. Furthermore, as Minority
9 Leader Abrahams stated, the John R. Lewis
10 Voting Right Act of New York -- now, I
11 know some of your attorneys, so Page
12 Four, Section Two, lines 10-12 for your
13 references -- states, it prohibits
14 against vote dilution. No Board of
15 Elections political subdivision shall use
16 any methods of election having the 12
17 effects of impairing the ability of
18 members of a protected class to elect
19 candidates of their choice or influence
20 in the outcomes of an election. Violation
21 of paragraph A in this subdivision shall
22 be established upon showing that a
23 particular subdivision used at large
24 methods in election in either voting
25 patterns of members of protected class

1
2 within the political subdivision of
3 racially polarized, under the totality of
4 the circumstances, the ability of the
5 members of the protected class to elect
6 candidates of their choice or influence
7 outcomes. What are we doing here? We are
8 setting precedent for the next ten years
9 of Nassau County. We are addressing what
10 will come next if we allow this map to
11 proceed. What message are we saying to
12 our changing neighborhoods? What message
13 are we sending to the future residents of
14 Nassau County when you come here, their
15 votes matter.

16 These people behind me have come in
17 today to share their opinions about the
18 situation at hand because they felt it
19 was important to them, and not only them,
20 the next generation of Nassau County
21 residents. So I implore you to please
22 reconsider this map and consider the
23 points I've made here today. Thank you
24 (applause).

25 PRESIDING OFFICER NICOLELLO: Thank

1
2 you. Thank you, Mr. Prevost. Judy
3 Cataldo.

4 MS. CATALDO: Can I speak later?

5 PRESIDING OFFICER NICOLELLO: This
6 is your opportunity, Ms. Cataldo.

7 MS. CATALDO: Hi, Judy Cataldo,
8 Bellmore. I'm just here to question. Why
9 won't you look at the constituents, what
10 we're asking for and redo the maps
11 according to what the Democratic
12 representative was speaking about. Like,
13 I don't understand why you just won't go
14 through the system and just explain to
15 us, maybe perhaps there's a different
16 perspective to look how you districted.
17 Do you get to answer or is it like a non
18 option?

19 PRESIDING OFFICER NICOLELLO: You
20 have you have three minutes.

21 MS. CATALDO: That's okay. I just
22 want an answer. I'll use my time for you.

23 PRESIDING OFFICER NICOLELLO: As I
24 indicated before, the number of changes
25 that were made with the input of the

1
2 Minority and with residents, that we had
3 made to the current map. So we have made
4 a large number of changes to our map, the
5 one that's being proposed today, based on
6 community input, based on the comments of
7 Legislators.

8 MS. CATALDO: So what if I'm
9 interpreting what you're saying, which
10 I'm thankful that you're responding, is
11 that you made certain provisions, but
12 you're not making total provisions and
13 taking total consideration of what the
14 impact of the area is?

15 PRESIDING OFFICER NICOLELLO: We've
16 taken consideration of everything that's
17 been said and every proposal and every
18 suggestion, but we were unable to
19 accomplish every one of those
20 suggestions.

21 MS. CATALDO: Well, okay. Thank you
22 for your time. I totally don't agree, and
23 I think everybody else won't agree with
24 that, too. Correct? Can we hear a loud,
25 yes?

1
2 (Whereupon, the public
3 responds.)

4 PRESIDING OFFICER NICOLELLO: All
5 right, Mr. Cataldo. Thank you. Ellen
6 Smiley.

7 MS. SMILEY: I'm here to protest the
8 map that was adopted by the Town of
9 Hempstead Board and the changes that have
10 come since that meeting. It breaks apart
11 communities and significantly dilutes
12 minority votes. Minorities now make up
13 47% of the population of Nassau. Yet,
14 that significant percentage of the
15 population, nearly half, has only one
16 representative district in Nassau, that
17 being Hempstead, which has now been
18 broken into two districts. This is, in
19 essence, voter disenfranchisement at its
20 worst. It's a terrible black stain on
21 the reputation of Nassau County that must
22 be rectified to ensure proper
23 representation for a large segment of our
24 population.

25 We must ensure that there are five

1
2 Minority/Majority districts to guarantee
3 full representation of nearly half of our
4 population. This map that has been
5 approved by the Town of Hempstead Board
6 doesn't do that and it's disgraceful. We
7 must do better for our residents. Thank
8 you.

9 PRESIDING OFFICER NICOLELLO:
10 Scottie Coads.

11 MS. COADS: Good afternoon,
12 everyone. I have a request. I want to
13 turn this microphone around, if that's
14 okay. I want to speak to the audience.

15 PRESIDING OFFICER NICOLELLO: This
16 is your opportunity to speak to us, not
17 the audience. So please direct the
18 comments this way.

19 MS. COADS: Well, I thought I would
20 ask first.

21 Before I begin, let me just thank
22 legislator Kevin Abrahams, our Minority
23 Leader; Siela Bynoe, our legislator;
24 Carrie A. Solags, our legislator; and all
25 who are on the progressive side, thank

1
2 you very much for your efforts and
3 fighting for us. Kevan, I don't have --
4 Legislator Abrahams -- forgive me if I
5 say Kevan, because I know you for so long
6 -- I thank you for being very explicit in
7 your explanation about how they misused
8 and abused their decision to crack and
9 pack our communities. I'm so upset about
10 what's going on in Lakeview that I don't
11 know how to describe the feelings that I
12 have. What I'm going to try to be as
13 diplomatic as possible.

14 This is my ninth time coming before
15 you, this Body asking you to be fair and
16 equitable in your decision in drawing
17 maps. The person who stood in front of us
18 last week or the week before, whatever
19 day you fumbled through things, it's a
20 disgrace that we had to hear all of how
21 he came to a conclusion of moving
22 Lakeview, cracking Lakeview, cracking
23 District Two. How did he come to that
24 conclusion? It's beyond me.

25 I'm not going to cry here because

1
2 I'm a big lady. I've cried at home. My
3 district that's been in play has been in
4 existence for 43 years. It took 2023 for
5 this body on the conservative side to
6 decide that we should not have a voice
7 anymore.

8 On August 31st, your very first
9 redistricting hearing, I, along with many
10 other Nassau County residents, stood
11 before you and passionately requested
12 that you keep our districts together. We
13 Lakeview residents, and other
14 organizations, and Nassau residents were
15 here from the beginning with the same
16 request. And here we are at the end of
17 the hearings, making the same requests,
18 pleading with you to keep us together.

19 This time, the majority legislators
20 have put Lakeview in the worst electoral
21 position since 1980, 43 years ago.

22 What is this redistricting? The
23 reason I asked if I could talk to the
24 audience. Many people know what
25 redistricting is about, but many don't.

1
2 I'll say it anyway. So they can hear me,
3 I'll speak loud. Redistricting is the
4 process by which states and the
5 jurisdictions within them, redraw the
6 lines that encompasses electoral
7 districts. These districts are
8 geographical areas from which political
9 representatives -- many of you sitting
10 there might understand what I'm saying --
11 are elected on local, regional, state and
12 federal levels. The residents of each
13 electoral district vote for who will
14 govern them and represent them in the US
15 House of Representatives, State
16 Legislature, county commission, city
17 councils, school boards and more.
18 According to the US Constitution, all
19 electoral districts within a given
20 redistricting map must contain
21 approximately the same number of people.
22 That's the starting of redistricting.

23 When it comes to redistricting, the
24 map drawing, there are three things
25 residents must be aware of in the map

1
2 drawing process: One, Cracking.
3 Fragments of minority population
4 disperses them among other districts to
5 ensure that all districts are white.
6 Perfect example is Lakeview. Lakeview was
7 cracked by being put in four conservative
8 districts where we have no common
9 interest, whatsoever. None. Yes, we have
10 a school district with Malverne,
11 Lynbrook, Lakeview, but school district
12 has nothing to do with fair drawing of
13 lines.

14 Stacking is number two. Stacking
15 combines large minority population with
16 great number of white voters in order to
17 ensure districts are majority white.

18 Packing. Packing concentrates as
19 many minorities as possible to minimize
20 the number of districts where the
21 majority are members of a majority. But
22 you all who did the maps know this
23 already. You really don't care. We, the
24 voters are supposed to choose candidates.
25 But when lawmakers draw districts line to

1
2 entrench one party, one political power,
3 some votes count more than others. We
4 want to have individuals elected already
5 in place with the fight to protect our
6 community.

7 I'm first to tell you, it's not
8 about the individuals who sit there
9 facing me. We happen to luck out in our
10 district. In District Two, we got a
11 fantastic elected official, in District
12 One and in District Three. Let me say,
13 however, maps should be drawn with
14 community cohesion in mind and not
15 division. You've divided us, and that's
16 not what you're supposed to do. Lines
17 should not be drawn that divides
18 communities of interests, which creates
19 difficulty to find representatives to
20 champion their cause and advocate for
21 them.

22 Yes, I'm supposed to speak to you,
23 but I hope everybody is listening.
24 Lakeview brings to the four districts
25 about six plus thousand votes. One of the

1
2 four districts got 20,000. How are we
3 supposed to ever elect anybody with
4 common interests if you keep this map
5 with Lakeview being where you have put
6 us? My request tonight is, however, that
7 the maps should be redrawn for Lakeview,
8 Freeport, Hempstead.

9 Legislator Kevan, I say again. I
10 take my hat off to you. I don't have to
11 speak any of the numbers because you
12 spoke them already and you step right up
13 to the plate. We realize also that our
14 minority communities are generally the
15 ones that must always fight for services
16 that many times are automatically given
17 with ease to other communities, such as
18 repairing roads and many entitlements of
19 federal, state and local services.

20 Let me go to gerrymandering that you
21 have done to Lakeview. We all are
22 familiar with gerrymandering. Back in
23 2013, I made a passionate plea on behalf
24 of the NAACP to our brothers and sisters
25 across the state of New York to join with

1
2 us and to support us as we continue to
3 fight against gerrymandered district maps
4 that were designed by Nassau County
5 Majority Party for the Nassau County
6 residents. The Majority map would have
7 moved more than 300 residents to
8 accommodate the gerrymandering effort and
9 control and power electorally. You have
10 taken a community that has been in place
11 for 43 years. I repeat, yes, 43 years.
12 And turning it upside down all in the
13 name of power. You that hungry for power
14 that you would destroy my entire
15 community, that we have no voting power?
16 None. None. We are conscientious voters
17 in Lakeview that have managed to choose
18 our representatives well, and we did. Now
19 you're taking the opportunity to select
20 our representatives that will not fight
21 for our issues.

22 I did an analysis. There are four
23 great election districts in Lakeview.
24 There's six altogether. But the four I'm
25 referring to, I can tell you the numbers

1
2 because I did the analysis. Blank voters,
3 39.5%; conservative voters, 85.71%;
4 Democrats, the true active voters:
5 2,502, 2,307 that voted in 2022. We had
6 a total vote. The republicans had 304
7 votes. Tell me why you put me, why you
8 put us, with four conservative districts.
9 Because you need our votes, but you're
10 not giving us a fair chance at the
11 representatives we want.

12 Yeah, I'm upset. I came to Long
13 Island in '78, worked my butt off to grow
14 the district. We all did. I don't like to
15 use I or me. We all worked hard to make
16 our community strong. Then you take it
17 away from us and throw it away where we
18 don't have any votes at all.

19 I learned from whence I came from
20 the deep south. Got on a train. And years
21 ago when I was a kid, scared to death of
22 being accused of anything, we could not
23 stop anywhere to eat. Anybody who
24 traveled from the south travel with fried
25 chicken in a shoe box. Yes, we worked

1
2 our way through boroughs. Now, fast
3 forward to '78, coming to Long Island up
4 South. Did I know I would end up up
5 south? This is definitely what we're
6 dealing with. North Carolina can do
7 better with redistricting than we're
8 doing in Nassau County. It's a doggone
9 shame.

10 We are sick. We are tired. We are
11 tired of fighting for everything that we
12 ever gain. And then you come along in
13 2023 and you take it away just like that
14 with the flick of the pen. I asked you
15 before, can you do something about
16 putting Lakeview back in District Two? It
17 can be done. Lakeview could have been the
18 fifth Minority/Majority district. But
19 instead, you took it away.

20 I guess I'm not going to have the
21 opportunity to speak to you again, but I
22 hope and pray that I don't have to worry
23 about the mere fact that this girl that
24 came from Charleston, South Carolina,
25 came to Nassau County to be mistreated

1
2 by. Some colleagues that I was at the
3 town board together with. And I remember
4 inviting you in 2013 to come to Kennedy
5 Park as I went from one community to the
6 next to explain to my community what
7 redistricting was all about. And then you
8 said to me, Majority Leader, see,
9 Scottie, I promised you I would come and
10 I came. This is the same Scottie that
11 invited you to come. And I know the party
12 persuasion was different, but what we do
13 is the right thing for our community and
14 for our people.

15 Please, do what you can to make me
16 gain some kind of confidence back in
17 Nassau County. Oh, yes. My folks over
18 here have done their thing. I appreciate
19 Kevan, Siela, Carrie A., and all of the
20 others. I'm just only talking about the
21 minority district right now and that you
22 have torn apart. You've torn Kevan
23 Abrahams' district apart. You put some of
24 it back together for Siela and some of it
25 back for Carrie A, but you left us

1
2 stranded with not even one iota of a vote
3 for anybody that can support us and
4 represent us.

5 I thank you for listening and I
6 thank you for the extra time (applause).

7 PRESIDING OFFICER NICOLELLO: Thank
8 you, Scottie.

9 MS. MEREDAY: In honor of Black
10 History Month. I find it important at
11 this point, as I did at one of the
12 hearings, to share. This is the closing
13 verse, the last stanza of the Negro
14 National Anthem:

15 "God of our weary years,
16 God of our silent tears,
17 Thou who has brought us thus far on
18 our way;

19 Thou who has by Thy might
20 Led us into the light,
21 Keep us forever in the path, we
22 pray.

23 Lest our feet stray from the places,
24 our God, where we met Thee;

25 Lest, our hearts drunk with the wine

1
2 of the world, we forget Thee;
3 Shadowed beneath Thy hand,
4 May we forever stand.
5 True to our God,
6 True to our native land."

7 We stand here today on the blood,
8 sweat and tears of our ancestors. The
9 often free labor that built structures
10 that others felt it was their entitlement
11 to desecrate. And I'm talking about the
12 US Capitol.

13 I stand today on a structure that my
14 ancestors directly laid the concrete, the
15 foundation for. And I stand here today in
16 2023, 102 years since burning of black
17 business communities. The desecration of
18 the people who gave their very lives,
19 including one million who served in World
20 War II for what they felt was a double
21 victory, not just victory in Europe and
22 Japan, but victory in America. It wasn't
23 until 1948 after World War II was over
24 that blacks -- that the desegregation of
25 the armed forces. So needless to say, my

1
2 ancestors have more than a notion in
3 terms of how they have been disrespected
4 and disenfranchised.

5 But I stand here today to speak for
6 them and for the other voices of the men
7 and women of my community. I recently saw
8 a documentary that said from "Swastika to
9 Jim Crow" that spoke to the relationships
10 between the black and Jewish communities,
11 particularly during World War II, and
12 United Front when you had white
13 conservatives that were discriminating
14 against blacks and Jews, the coalitions
15 that were formed, the Freedom Riders who
16 couldn't travel. As Scottie Coads said,
17 they had to bring their chicken and their
18 bread in a shoebox. They could not use
19 public facilities.

20 And I stand here today in the midst
21 of a disenfranchised process, in the
22 midst of a country where you have state
23 leaders that are trying to say racism
24 doesn't exist, diversity is not
25 necessary, and we are all in a

1
2 post-racial society. The lies. The lies.
3 The lies.

4 I recognize Legislator Drucker's
5 impassioned speech considering the line
6 was drawn straight down his block, and he
7 had to cross the street to get in his own
8 district, and the residents of the now
9 reunited Plainview and Old Bethpage, I
10 recognize that. What I don't recognize is
11 the number of residents who stood before
12 you or stood before a Commission that at
13 one point the Republican Delegation left
14 the room, the stenographer refused to
15 record, and taxpayers braved the rain to
16 speak their issues, but Malverne's
17 voices, Lakeview's voices were not heard.
18 It's not addressed in this well
19 impassioned, one sided commentary. Where
20 is that? Where is the justice for that?

21 There's recognition of a district
22 that was formed or kept whole because of
23 the views of the Orthodox Jewish
24 community. I recognize that. They wanted
25 to be kept whole. They wanted to have

1
2 their common interests recognized and
3 supported. I'm fine with that. There was
4 a question that was asked of this Body
5 that was not answered. Because a number
6 of representatives on this side spoke to
7 the possibility of them not being seated
8 there come the next election with this
9 map. Not one person on this side spoke up
10 and said, yes, my position is
11 compromised. That is telling to me.

12 The two primary villages,
13 Incorporated Villages of Hempstead, is
14 still split. The accommodation is, well,
15 it was three, now we made it two. They
16 wanted one. There were four residents
17 that spoke about Plainview and Old
18 Bethpage. Four. There are anywhere from
19 30 to 40 to 50 residents from Malverne
20 and Lakeview. Where was their voice
21 heard? Because it will not be heard in
22 the election polls. It will not be heard
23 in the distribution of state and federal
24 funding. Why is that? Who is going to
25 speak for us. There are counties in

1
2 upstate New York that have maybe less
3 than 500,000 residents and they have
4 upwards of 40 districts. If the census
5 requires that, we are entitled to up to
6 five Majority/Minority districts, then we
7 need more than 19. We need to have our
8 voices heard. We need to have our votes
9 count.

10 It's interesting that the County
11 Executive can show up in Garden City for
12 no casino meeting, but refuse to show up
13 in Uniondale despite many requests to
14 come. That is telling to me.

15 My last statement. We know that
16 these maps, as was poignantly stated by
17 the Minority Leader, are illegal on its
18 face. We know the Town of Hempstead maps
19 are illegal. I commend you, Presiding
20 Officer, for at least making some changes
21 because the Supervisor gave us no
22 courtesy and no respect. These maps, the
23 work is not done. We will wait because
24 it's in violation. They do reinforce
25 racial stereotypes. They do undermine a

1
2 representative democracy. And we still
3 must overcome. Thank you (applause).

4 PRESIDING OFFICER NICOLELLO: Dave
5 Mejias.

6 Let the record reflect that
7 Legislator Kennedy is in the room.

8 MR. MEJIAS: Thank you, Presiding
9 Officer, for having me and letting me
10 speak. This has been a very vigorous
11 process. The Democrats and the Temporary
12 District Advisory Commission have done
13 everything we possibly could to be as
14 transparent as possible with everything
15 that TDAC has done. Our delegation
16 provided comprehensive reports from two
17 nonpartisan experts, including four from
18 demographer and racially polarized voting
19 expert, Megan Gall. She testified at the
20 TDAC Committee meeting. We provided five
21 reports from our political science
22 expert, Dr. Daniel Magleby, who we made
23 available to testify twice and openly
24 responded to any questions put forth. All
25 reports were put on the record and made

1
2 publicly available well in advance of any
3 hearing. This is starkly different than
4 the accessibility that the public and the
5 Legislature themselves had to the reports
6 submitted by Mr. Trende. I believe there
7 was one submitted today just before this
8 hearing started from your attorney. We
9 tried to do everything we can to make
10 sure the public knew what was going on
11 here, because that's the most important
12 thing in government, is to be open and
13 transparent.

14 The Democratic Delegation of TDAC,
15 used a separate Google drive that
16 included all information, data, maps,
17 reports, proposed resolutions, etcetera,
18 as the majority of the information
19 generated during the TDAC Commission
20 hearings was not made available on the
21 Nassau County website. We had hundreds of
22 members of the community come down to
23 speak about the importance of the maps
24 and their representation in this Body for
25 the next ten years.

1
2 The Majority in the Legislature has
3 refused to produce their voting rights
4 analysis, including the RPV analysis of
5 Mr. Trende. Dr. Daniel Magleby submitted
6 a rebuttal analysis to the Trende Report,
7 and we did so well in advance, proving
8 that Mr. Trende used the incorrect
9 elections to analyze partisan
10 gerrymander, and, therefore, his
11 conclusions are wrong. He uses what's
12 called a gerrymandering index referred to
13 in this Troutman Pepper Report as being
14 the measure used by the Court of Appeals
15 in Harkenrider. There is no reference to
16 gerrymandering index in the Harkenrider
17 Report. In fact, the court endorses the
18 very ensemble analysis that Dr. Magleby
19 used. Dr. Magleby analyzed all proposals
20 and concluded that this map is an extreme
21 partisan gerrymander and used the same
22 exact analysis that was used in the
23 Harkenrider case. Mr. Trende drew his
24 analysis without regard to race,
25 according to this report, which is a

1
2 clear violation of the Voting Rights Act
3 and the New York State Voting Rights Act.
4 Therefore, the entire analysis used for
5 this map is invalid. The Court in
6 Harkenrider, clearly endorsed the
7 ensemble analysis used by Dr. Magleby. We
8 don't know which elections we use to
9 calculate this gerrymandering index.

10 On Page 14 of this analysis of the
11 report today, we have this graph .1, .13,
12 .17. No one says, specifically, exactly,
13 what that means. What does that mean?
14 What do these measures mean on this map?
15 Dr. Megan Gall confirmed the presence of
16 Racially Polarized Voting, or RPV, in
17 Nassau and compliance with Section 2 of
18 the Federal Voting Rights Act and the New
19 York Voting Rights Act demands the
20 creation of five Majority/Minority
21 legislative districts and failing to
22 create five such districts, the
23 Majority's map does not comply with
24 Section 2 and the New York Voting Rights
25 Act's prohibitions on racial vote

1
2 dilution.

3 The cases that are cited and the
4 Troutman Pepper report failed to tell you
5 that it is a compelling government
6 interest to comply with the Federal
7 Voting Rights Act, which would require
8 five Majority/Minority districts. That is
9 a compelling government interest.

10 Troutman's own report says absent the
11 compelling government interest. That's
12 already been ruled to be a compelling
13 government interest. This map will not
14 hold up in court.

15 Additionally, Dr. Gall concluded
16 that it is possible to create an Asian
17 influence district with an Asian voting
18 age population above 40%. And she notes
19 in her report that the current map is an
20 egregious retrogression resulting in
21 dilution of the Asian vote. And just
22 yesterday there was a lawsuit filed by
23 the Asian American Defense Fund in New
24 York City because that map did the exact
25 same thing that this map does.

1
2 PRESIDING OFFICER NICOLELLO: Dave,
3 could you sum up? We've actually made
4 those reports part of the record, the
5 full reports.

6 MR. MEJIAS: While are on notice
7 that there should be five
8 Majority/Minority districts and Asian
9 influence districts, and the fact that
10 this map fails to comply with the Voting
11 Rights Act in regard to Majority/Minority
12 districts and an Asian influence
13 district, where in North Hempstead we see
14 an Asian American community split into
15 three different ways, an illegal map such
16 as this will not hold up in court, will
17 result in wasting millions of taxpayer
18 dollars on lawsuits that the County is
19 all but certain to lose. And we saw this
20 exact thing happen in Islip, where they
21 spent millions of dollars on defending a
22 lawsuit and paying the prevailing party
23 and in the Town of East Ramapo as well.
24 So I thank you for extra time, Presiding
25 Officer. I think this process is not over

1
2 yet. Somebody, anybody, could file a
3 lawsuit on this current map. And,
4 unfortunately, this it's a very simple
5 solution. This is something that's very
6 easy to do. But at the end of the day,
7 the Federal Voting Rights Act prevails,
8 and it's there for a reason. And this
9 this map fails and there's a compelling
10 government interest for this Body to
11 correct the errors in the current map.
12 Thank you. Thank you, all.

13 LEGISLATOR ABRAHAMS: Presiding
14 Officer, before you before you call the
15 next speaker, I think Chairman Mejias
16 brought up a point that I failed to
17 neglect and it was a very pointed
18 question to the Majority, which I think
19 deserves a response to the public, at
20 least, in terms of the metric that Mr.
21 Trende used. I just want to make sure we
22 establish for the record the metric that
23 he used when he developed his analysis.

24 PRESIDING OFFICER NICOLELLO: We
25 have submitted for the record a complete

1
2 report from Troutman Pepper, which
3 explains in detail exactly what was done.
4 So beyond that, we're not going to
5 comment.

6 LEGISLATOR ABRAHAMS: I understand
7 that the report has been submitted and I
8 get that. From what I understand from Mr.
9 Tseytlin, he indicated that yourself and
10 him put together the map. So I think it
11 would be very clear to understand that
12 when you were with Mr. Tseytlin putting
13 together the map, that it was with the
14 direction of Mr. Trende's report. So, Mr.
15 Trende's report, if I can understand it
16 correctly, the metric that's being
17 utilized is very important to be
18 established in the record, which I would
19 think yourself and Mr. Tseytlin would
20 have knowledge of, because you built the
21 map, at least, according to Mr. Tseytlin.
22 He indicated that you guys put together
23 the map together.

24 So that being said, I would like to
25 demonstrate just for the record and for

1
2 the public that we indicate the metric
3 that was used in Mr. Trende's report. I
4 understand that the report is part of the
5 record, but a lot of folks here, they
6 don't have access to the Trende Report.
7 Does anyone here have access to the
8 Trende Report or analysis?

9 (Whereupon, Public
10 responds.)

11 PRESIDING OFFICER NICOLELLO:
12 Regardless, that report speaks for
13 itself. We're not going to go into any
14 further detail with respect to that. So
15 I'm going to continue to call residents
16 to come speak.

17 David Thomas.

18 LEGISLATOR ABRAHAMS: As Mr.
19 Thompson comes to the podium, this is the
20 problem with the process. It's done with
21 secrecy. It's done in dark. When you try
22 to bring things to light, then you don't
23 get it. My colleagues, unfortunately,
24 this process -- I'm sorry to take away
25 from your time -- this process,

1
2 unfortunately, voters should always have
3 the opportunity to choose their
4 candidates and also to choose who elects
5 them. Unfortunately, my colleagues to the
6 right are setting up a process where
7 elected officials start to choose
8 candidates -- I'm sorry, to choose voters
9 -- and that's the wrong direction to go
10 in. But thank you. I apologize for taking
11 over here before.

12 PRESIDING OFFICER NICOLELLO: Before
13 your time starts, Mr. Thomas, I would
14 point out that the City University of New
15 York looked at the proposed map and found
16 that 15 of the 19 districts had Democrat
17 enrollment majorities. So I'm not sure
18 what it is the Minority wants, but
19 perhaps they're unhappy that you have a
20 map that's going to create fair fight
21 districts throughout this county, and
22 what they really want is a gerrymandered
23 map. So that's the only thing I can
24 conclude. If you if you have 15 districts
25 out of 19 that have an enrollment edge

1
2 for Democrats and they're not happy with
3 that, then it speaks to the motivations
4 of my colleagues on the left.

5 LEGISLATOR ABRAHAMS: Unfortunately,
6 I don't want to get into a back and
7 forth, but just to disagree more
8 vehemently with the Presiding Officer, by
9 the own analysis of their expert, Mr.
10 Trende, he basically conducted an
11 analysis that bases how the districts
12 perform in terms of a partisan
13 gerrymander based on performance, not
14 based on enrollment, not based on
15 enrollment. We know that, he knows that.
16 That's in their expert's report. That's
17 why this thing is being done in a fashion
18 where it's secrecy. There's no
19 transparency. It's being done in
20 darkness. You ask for a report, they're
21 telling you it's part of the backup, when
22 you can just very easily print it out and
23 give it to people right there. I asked a
24 very pointed question about the metric,
25 we don't get -- we get a stalwart answer.

1
2 So the fact remains this is not based on
3 enrollment. They know that. And their own
4 expert indicated that. This is based off
5 of performance in terms of how people
6 actually vote. There's a lot of people in
7 this room. You might be Republican or
8 Democrat, you don't always vote for the
9 Republican and Democrat. You may not like
10 the guy. More respect to you. So from
11 that standpoint, you vote the way you
12 want to vote. You vote Independent, you
13 vote for whoever. You may be a Blank,
14 somebody that's not registered to any
15 particular party, and you may vote the
16 way you want to vote. And that's why it's
17 based on performance. And they know that.
18 But they're going to try to cloud things.
19 They're going to bring up City of New
20 York, they're going to bring up all these
21 entities that try to validate what they
22 put forward. Unfortunately, the biggest
23 validation is, you had an opportunity to
24 ask Mr. Trende to be here today. He's not
25 here. You had an opportunity to ask Mr.

1
2 Trende to do an analysis. So if you want
3 to try to discredit Dr. Magleby, you
4 could do it in one stroke of a computer
5 stroke, one stroke of a computer key.

6 PRESIDING OFFICER NICOLELLO: And we
7 did. We did, actually. If you read the
8 Troutman Pepper Report, they ran his
9 numbers and indicated that his numbers
10 are as skewed as can be.

11 LEGISLATOR ABRAHAMS: Rich, I've
12 known you for 20 years. Can we at least
13 have an honest discussion?

14 PRESIDING OFFICER NICOLELLO: Yeah,
15 we can.

16 LEGISLATOR ABRAHAMS: They ran his
17 numbers --

18 PRESIDING OFFICER NICOLELLO: But
19 you're not being honest.

20 LEGISLATOR ABRAHAMS: No, Rich.

21 PRESIDING OFFICER NICOLELLO: You're
22 not being honest. We know where you're
23 going.

24 LEGISLATOR ABRAHAMS: I'm not going
25 anywhere.

1
2 PRESIDING OFFICER NICOLELLO: Because
3 when we started this process back at the
4 time of the first hearing, one of the
5 first comments was made by one of the
6 Democratic commissioners, "this is going
7 to a lawsuit". So you're trying to
8 establish a record --

9 LEGISLATOR ABRAHAMS: I've never
10 said that.

11 PRESIDING OFFICER NICOLELLO: That
12 that will support your claim that all the
13 information wasn't provided. This has
14 been an incredibly transparent process.
15 We have taken into consideration comments
16 made by our colleagues on the left, we
17 have made changes, but none of us will
18 ever satisfy the Minority because they
19 want this go to court. They want to get a
20 void around the democratic process.

21 LEGISLATOR ABRAHAMS: I've never
22 once said -- and, the public, you heard
23 my opening statement, I've never once
24 said I wanted this to go to court. What I
25 did say was that because of your reckless

1
2 actions and because of what you're
3 demonstrating to in this process, it will
4 end up --

5 PRESIDING OFFICER NICOLELLO: I
6 think your comments are reckless. You're
7 going to call this process reckless. Your
8 comments are reckless.

9 LEGISLATOR ABRAHAMS: So what I'm
10 saying, what I'm saying --

11 PRESIDING OFFICER NICOLELLO: I
12 think we have the same opinion.

13 LEGISLATOR ABRAHAMS: That's fine.
14 What I'm saying, Presiding Officer, is
15 that basically you have the opportunity
16 to ask Mr. Trende --

17 PRESIDING OFFICER NICOLELLO: It's
18 all been laid out for you.

19 LEGISLATOR ABRAHAMS: No, he did
20 not.

21 PRESIDING OFFICER NICOLELLO: It's
22 all been laid out for you, number one.
23 Number two, none of us up here are
24 experts --

25 LEGISLATOR ABRAHAMS: Folks, folks.

1
2 See --

3 PRESIDING OFFICER NICOLELLO: None
4 of us up here are experts in analysis.
5 None of us are experts up here in
6 demographics. So all we could do is look
7 at all of the facts that we can
8 understand and put that forward to you.
9 All the information that you could
10 possibly need on these maps has been
11 provided to you.

12 LEGISLATOR ABRAHAMS: Folks,
13 they're going to keep trying to defend
14 what they did. The bottom line is you see
15 it for yourselves. You see the lack of
16 transparency and the secrecy that is
17 being done. And that's a fact.

18 What he's not telling you, and it's
19 in the report and we can cite the actual
20 page, is that Mr. Trende's analysis uses
21 a different measurement. The measurement
22 that he uses is gubernatorial years. He's
23 not going to say that because that hurts
24 their analysis. I don't understand why he
25 won't say it, because it's actually in

1
2 this Troutman Pepper Report. If you stand
3 by the report, you should be able to say
4 it on the record. Instead, you're saying
5 the report is part of the record and the
6 folks can look at the record and see part
7 of what --

8 PRESIDING OFFICER NICOLELLO: Mr.
9 Magleby was here talking about --

10 LEGISLATOR ABRAHAMS: Rich, I never
11 cut you off. I've never cut you off --

12 PRESIDING OFFICER NICOLELLO: He was
13 here talking about doing a --

14 LEGISLATOR ABRAHAMS: You don't like
15 what I'm saying, so you're going to cut
16 me off.

17 PRESIDING OFFICER NICOLELLO:
18 Different analysis and we pointed out the
19 fallacy in this analysis --

20 LEGISLATOR ABRAHAMS: Presiding
21 Officer, I never cut you off. I let you
22 speak, even though I disagree with
23 everything you said. I've never cut you
24 off. I never did.

25 PRESIDING OFFICER NICOLELLO: Look,

1
2 you're going on a monologue, so I'm going
3 to interject my comments.

4 LEGISLATOR ABRAHAMS: So basically,
5 it's okay. So now it's okay to interrupt.

6 PRESIDING OFFICER NICOLELLO: You
7 don't have an unfettered -- -

8 LEGISLATOR ABRAHAMS: So now it's
9 okay to interrupt.

10 PRESIDING OFFICER NICOLELLO: Wait,
11 wait. Look, this is the middle of public
12 comment. I was listening to the comments
13 of the people, which is what we are here
14 for. You interjected yourself. Now you're
15 upset because I counter to some of your
16 points.

17 LEGISLATOR ABRAHAMS: No, I'm not
18 upset because you counter my point. I'm
19 upset because there should be some level
20 of civility. I mean --

21 PRESIDING OFFICER NICOLELLO: You
22 just called us reckless. Is that civil?
23 Tell me how civil that is.

24 LEGISLATOR ABRAHAMS: Your actions
25 are reckless? Yes, they are.

1
2 PRESIDING OFFICER NICOLELLO: That's
3 very civil of you, Kevan. Thank you.

4 LEGISLATOR ABRAHAMS: How else would
5 you demonstrate the fact that you have an
6 opportunity as a Majority to --

7 PRESIDING OFFICER NICOLELLO: We--

8 LEGISLATOR ABRAHAMS: So we're going
9 to keep cutting off. So, folks --

10 PRESIDING OFFICER NICOLELLO: Unlike
11 --

12 LEGISLATOR ABRAHAMS: This is their
13 thing.

14 PRESIDING OFFICER NICOLELLO: Unlike
15 every democratic --

16 LEGISLATOR ABRAHAMS: Stop cutting
17 me off.

18 PRESIDING OFFICER NICOLELLO:
19 Throughout the state, we reached out to
20 the minority over and over and over and
21 over again. They would never, ever have
22 done that for us. But we did it for them.
23 We wanted their input. We took their
24 input. We changed the maps and now
25 they're calling us reckless. Thank you.

1
2 We appreciate it.

3 LEGISLATOR ABRAHAMS: First of all,
4 they keep saying that they took the
5 Minority input. And yes, they took some
6 suggestions that were presented by some
7 of the members on the Minority side, but
8 you heard -- and I think Ms. Mereday
9 said it best, you heard from 40, 50 some
10 odd people from Lakeview. I think
11 Lakeview probably came down here more
12 than any other community in Nassau, and
13 you didn't incorporate one single of
14 their changes. I've advocated for
15 Freeport. An area that vote is being
16 diluted. I don't see any changes
17 incorporated to Freeport. I know you're
18 going to I know what you're going to say.
19 You're going to say that it's a map and
20 it's hard. It's like looking at a bowl
21 of Jell-O. You push one thing and then
22 you go into the next, and it's very hard
23 to make everyone happy. We get that. And
24 I've never once said that we are
25 encouraging a lawsuit. What I'm saying is

1
2 that this institution should take every
3 measure possible to ensure one doesn't
4 happen. And we have experts on both
5 sides. Well, mainly, I would say, the
6 TDAC Democratic side, that are telling
7 that this map is illegal. We can change
8 that dynamic very easily, because the one
9 difference that Dr. Magleby testified to
10 is the measurement. Why wouldn't you
11 instruct your expert to change his
12 partisan gerrymander analysis based off
13 of that one metric? That's the part
14 that's so simple. The measure they're
15 using is gubernatorial years. Would it
16 make sense to put together an analysis
17 for a Body that doesn't get elected in a
18 gubernatorial year? Ask yourselves that
19 question. It doesn't make any sense. It
20 would be like saying I want to determine
21 traffic patterns on workdays, but I go
22 out on a Saturday and Sunday and do it.
23 That's what they're saying. So,
24 basically, they're not making much sense,
25 but they don't want to talk about that.

1
2 They want to confuse things. They want to
3 cut me off. They want to do all these
4 kinds of things. But you know what?
5 Bottom line is, we have a very pointed
6 opportunity to avoid litigation. I don't
7 want to see it, because I know who pays
8 for it and I care who pays for it.
9 Unfortunately, some folks don't. And,
10 ultimately, we have that opportunity:
11 Present the analysis. If Mr. Trende's
12 analysis shows that it's not a partisan
13 gerrymander, I'll back down. I'll vote
14 for your map. You have my word. I would
15 vote for your map, if it showed that. But
16 they won't ask Mr. Trende to do that.
17 Well, I wouldn't vote for that map.
18 Sorry, because Lakeview is not all in the
19 Minority/Majority. So just to be clear.

20 But that being said, they won't ask
21 Mr. Trende to do that.

22 PRESIDING OFFICER NICOLELLO: They
23 did. He did.

24 LEGISLATOR ABRAHAMS: No, he did
25 not.

1
2 PRESIDING OFFICER NICOLELLO: Number
3 one --

4 LEGISLATOR ABRAHAMS: It's not based
5 off -- we're going to cut off again --
6 it's not based off a measurement --

7 PRESIDING OFFICER NICOLELLO: This
8 is a public hearing.

9 LEGISLATOR ABRAHAMS: Here we go
10 again.

11 PRESIDING OFFICER NICOLELLO: How
12 much time would you like, Minority
13 Leader? This way we can judge as to when
14 your comments will be finished.

15 LEGISLATOR ABRAHAMS: My comments
16 will be finished when they're finished.

17 PRESIDING OFFICER NICOLELLO: I've
18 got 20 slips. I want to hear from the
19 public and don't I want to hear from --

20 LEGISLATOR ABRAHAMS: So now you
21 care about hearing from the public. But
22 when Lakeview was here and they poured
23 their hearts out, 40 or 50 folks, you
24 didn't really care what they said. But
25 now you want to hear them. Folks they

1
2 want to hear. You see, I talk to my kids
3 like this. The same way. They want to
4 hear you, but are they listening to you?
5 That's the difference. So they want to
6 hear you. But are they going to listen to
7 you? Are they going to come back later on
8 tonight and just vote through and ram
9 through this map? This illegal map. Or
10 are they going to basically make changes
11 in the next couple of hours? I think it's
12 going to be more the former. They're
13 going to actually make sure that they
14 just ram it through. And unfortunately,
15 that is going to lead to a lawsuit. I
16 don't want a lawsuit. I'm being very
17 clear for the record, I do not want a
18 lawsuit. But if we proceed down a path
19 that is illegal, you're bringing one on,
20 Just know that your actions are doing
21 that. Thank you.

22 PRESIDING OFFICER NICOLELLO: The
23 Minority Leader was presented with Mr.
24 Trende's analysis. In fact, the graph was
25 one of the backups to the report that he

1
2 submitted and a graphic was submitted as
3 well. And at our request, Mr. Trende
4 actually did an analysis using the
5 countywide races and it was the same
6 result. This this map is legal, it's
7 fair, it's equitable.

8 And again the issue the Minority has
9 with this map is they proposed a map that
10 was a complete and utter gerrymander. It
11 performed so poorly that it was so far to
12 the right of the scale where it should be
13 that it was obviously a gerrymander. So
14 don't make any mistake here that they
15 want a fair map. What they want is a
16 gerrymandered map. And unless we give in
17 to that demand to give them what they
18 want, they're not going to vote for it
19 and they're going to accuse us of being
20 reckless. These comments have no basis
21 in reality and no reason that we would
22 vary from the course that we're on.

23 Mr. Thomas, the floor is yours.

24 MR. THOMAS: When you say it's not
25 about the money, it is about the money.

1
2 This is racism to its core. If we do not
3 learn of our history, we tend to repeat
4 it. Somehow I think instead of living on
5 Long Island, I'm living in South Africa
6 before Apartheid was dismantled. I was
7 living in Rhodesia before the majority
8 took over. This is sad.

9 Promises were made to us -- I'm from
10 Uniondale -- that you would have kept it
11 whole. You decided now to take Uniondale
12 and mix it with somebody else. When would
13 you guys start listening? Is it, if you
14 can call yourself Douglas, that Long
15 Island was not made for black people?
16 Are we to just sit and just accept the
17 fact that, we have a right or we don't
18 have a right, to elect our officials?
19 When would this stop? Promises were made.
20 None was kept. We talk about
21 gerrymandering. Who is gerrymandering
22 what? Why can't we continue the votes
23 like we had it so we can choose our
24 representatives? We are in a situation
25 right now where you guys decide that

1
2 you're going to split us up. You're going
3 to make it easier for you guys to get
4 back into power. You guys are in power as
5 it is and it wasn't split up. What's the
6 problem? What you afraid of? We know that
7 that Long Island, the color is somewhat
8 changing. We are more we have more black
9 and brown people. What are you afraid of?

10 If we were not here, lots of things
11 would not have been in existence. You
12 would not have been able to go across the
13 country without a GPS system. You would
14 not have been able to answer your cell
15 phone without looking and see who called.
16 You would not have been able to drive
17 your car without understanding how it
18 keep the engine going. Please. What do
19 we have to do to make you guys understand
20 that together we can achieve more? What
21 would it take for you to understand that
22 you don't have to be afraid of me? I'm
23 here just like you to make a great living
24 and to raise a family. Why is it so sad
25 that you look at me and be afraid of me?

1
2 I'm human, just like you.

3 Gerrymandering is racism in another
4 term. It's racist.

5 PRESIDING OFFICER NICOLELLO:
6 Lorraine Attias.

7 LEGISLATOR ABRAHAMS: Just for the
8 record, Presiding Officer, I'm taking the
9 opportunity to go through the Troutman
10 Pepper report that you provided to us
11 five minutes before the legislative
12 meeting. Can you identify the analysis
13 again that Mr. Trende is using? Because
14 I'm going through the report and I don't
15 see it. I know Dr. Magleby has used the
16 ensemble approach. I know you had
17 indicated that you asked Mr. Trende to
18 change the measurement to reflect county
19 elected years, but I don't see that in
20 the report. Can you identify that by
21 page?

22 PRESIDING OFFICER NICOLELLO: Page
23 18. Lorraine Attias?

24 (Whereupon, Ms. Attias is
25 giving up her time.)

1
2 PRESIDING OFFICER NICOLELLO: Maria
3 Jordan?

4 LEGISLATOR SOLAGES: Presiding
5 Officer?

6 PRESIDING OFFICER NICOLELLO: Yes?

7 LEGISLATOR SOLAGES: Hi. Thank you
8 so much. You did state in your
9 introduction that Mill Brook in the Third
10 Legislative District, was you said
11 specifically, a portion of it was
12 concluded once again in the Third
13 Legislative District.

14 PRESIDING OFFICER NICOLELLO: Yeah.

15 LEGISLATOR SOLAGES: Yet the report
16 that you and your caucus rely upon, on
17 Page Two, it states that the proposed
18 revised map also accommodates this
19 request as much as possible, restoring a
20 significant portion of Mill Brook. I
21 stated again, you stated a portion. This
22 report states significant. I refer to the
23 map and it is not a significant portion
24 of Mill Brook. There are constituents in
25 Mill Brook that call our office

1
2 complaining that shopping carts from
3 Green Acres Mall are on their property,
4 and I would not be able to do so as a
5 legislator if I am not their
6 representative. And so I asked
7 respectfully that the map include the
8 entirety of Mill Brook and not just a
9 small sliver of Mill Brook. Thank you.

10 PRESIDING OFFICER NICOLELLO: Thank
11 you.

12 LEGISLATOR ABRAHAMS: Presiding
13 Officer, I'm sorry. I don't mean to cut
14 you off. I'm sorry.

15 But where's the actual analysis
16 breakdown that Mr. Trende did?

17 PRESIDING OFFICER NICOLELLO: It's a
18 description of his results.

19 LEGISLATOR ABRAHAMS: So he didn't
20 provide --

21 PRESIDING OFFICER NICOLELLO: All
22 right. All right. You've made your point
23 over and over again.

24 LEGISLATOR ABRAHAMS: No. I made my
25 point that your points are inconsistent.

1
2 PRESIDING OFFICER NICOLELLO: Right,
3 Exactly.

4 LEGISLATOR ABRAHAMS: But thank you.

5 PRESIDING OFFICER NICOLELLO:
6 Reckless, too. You forgot to add that.

7 Maria Jordan?

8 LEGISLATOR ABRAHAMS: I think that's
9 evident.

10 PRESIDING OFFICER NICOLELLO: Yeah,
11 I think it's event as well, with respect
12 to your position. But that's all right.
13 Go ahead.

14 MS. JORDAN: Good afternoon. I first
15 want to thank Minority Leader, Legislator
16 Abrahams for opening remarks and for
17 always fighting for Freeport. Thank you.

18 My name is Maria Jordan Wallem and I
19 am a resident of Freeport. I attended all
20 of the hearings and made my voice heard
21 about what we wanted to see in this map.
22 I also submitted this via e-mail, just in
23 case.

24 I cannot, for the life of me
25 understand how the Republican Majority,

1
2 along with its experts, could even make
3 up this fantasy that Freeport has
4 anything of interest besides the same
5 line on the Long Island Railroad with
6 Merrick and North Bellmore. I don't care
7 how broad anyone wants to define
8 community of interest. Everything the
9 Majority's attorney pointed to in the
10 previous hearing that we have with these
11 communities are purely transactional in
12 nature and regarding government
13 operations. And, by the way, Freeport
14 does not share schools with any of these
15 communities like you state in your little
16 paragraph on District Five.

17 The communities you want to group us
18 with are the same ones who, in the summer
19 of 2020, when residents, mostly black and
20 brown, took to the streets to protest the
21 murder of George Floyd, we were told by
22 Merrick and Belmore residents to go back
23 where we came from. Go back to Freeport.

24 When the State was trying to give
25 Freeport Armory to a youth group run by

1
2 African Americans, Merrick residents said
3 they didn't want those kids to cross the
4 bridge and enter into their area. When
5 many don't even feel safe going into, or
6 walking the streets of these communities,
7 you are here telling us that we are to be
8 considered a community of interest.

9 When Freeport is already glaringly
10 segregate between north and south, what
11 the Republican Majority has done with
12 this latest map is basically erase us
13 from the political conversation in Nassau
14 County by aggressively diluting our vote
15 for the next decade. Thank you.

16 And just a quick question. Will we
17 be allowed to speak again at 6:30 p.m.?

18 PRESIDING OFFICER NICOLELLO: No.
19 That'll be a vote on the maps. Actually,
20 there is a public comment portion before
21 the meeting starts and then once the
22 meeting starts and we engage in various
23 items, including the item on the map,
24 there's no public comment at that point.
25 But there is a half hour/hour public

comment here before the meeting starts.

MS. JORDAN: Thank you.

PRESIDING OFFICER NICOLELLO: Pearl
Jacobs.

MS. JACOBS: Good evening, everyone.
I'm sorry. Evening. I don't even know
what time it is. I've been at 12 meetings
the last two weeks.

Good afternoon. So I was sitting
there and I was just going in my phone
looking at a few synonyms for
gerrymandering: Trickery, treachery,
crookedness. My question is: Why would
Nassau County in 2023 want to be
associated with these terrible words?

Although I am pleased that Uniondale
was kept whole on the Nassau County map,
I definitely feel the pain and
disappointment of my fellow
Majority/Minority communities. Because
the struggle is real for all minority
communities.

Scottie, I just want to turn to you
and say, thank you, Scottie. That's why I

1
2 call you the queen. Scottie Coads taught
3 me everything I know about redistricting,
4 gerrymandering, disenfranchisement. Many,
5 many years ago, I went to a class that
6 she gave, and she gave it her all. And I
7 called her, and she's just such a giving,
8 nurturing and educating person. Thank you
9 so much, Scottie. I stand with you for
10 Lakeview.

11 I have something -- even though this
12 is bad enough, I'm happy that Uniondale
13 remain whole on this map and I wish my
14 other minority communities would be
15 recognized and have the changes they want
16 for their communities -- but I have
17 something even worse. Because the Town of
18 Hempstead map is an abomination. And I
19 want to put this on public record, I am
20 disappointed, but not surprised that Ms.
21 Goosby, who I can no longer call
22 councilwoman, voted with the Majority to
23 cut off Uniondale, north of Hempstead
24 Turnpike. The only minority councilperson
25 on the Town of Hempstead board votes

1
2 against a minority community, which will
3 result will result in further
4 marginalization and disenfranchisement
5 for Uniondale. Like I said, I am
6 disappointed, but not surprised. I don't
7 know what they promised her to sell out
8 like that, but I could never do that.

9 And Legislator Abrahams, you
10 mentioned something about traffic
11 patterns and all of that. And I just have
12 to say that I noticed that the day after
13 Super Bowl Sunday, they were doing a
14 traffic study on Hempstead Turnpike, the
15 Monday after Super Bowl Sunday, which is
16 consistently a light traffic day. And I
17 would say, I would just assume that they
18 were doing that traffic study for the
19 coliseum, the proposed coliseum over
20 there, and they probably pick, oh, well,
21 we'll do I don't know -- they could have
22 been doing a Sunday as well, on Super
23 Bowl Sunday. But I know I saw it the day
24 after Super Bowl Sunday, one of the
25 lightest travel days in the year. It's an

1
2 unofficial holiday, pretty much. And so
3 they're doing it for, I'm sure, for that
4 proposed casino. Which I made it clear
5 and I'm still making it clear, I don't
6 want. The vast majority of residents, no
7 matter what you're hearing in Uniondale,
8 the stakeholders, I'm not talking about
9 the millennials. I'm talking about the
10 people who own their homes, pay high
11 taxes and have vested interests in
12 Uniondale, we do not want a casino in
13 Uniondale. Thank you.

14 PRESIDING OFFICER NICOLELLO:

15 Jonathan Ortiz.

16 MR. ORTIZ: Good afternoon,
17 Presiding Officer, Minority Leader and
18 legislators. My name is Jonathan Ortiz. I
19 am in the seventh grade. Today I come
20 before you to share my concerns and
21 thoughts about the redistricting and how
22 it will impact my community; Lakeview.

23 Over the past few years, I've had
24 the pleasure of participating in events
25 in which our local elected officials have

1
2 sponsored and attended. My parents have
3 always talked about voting and the
4 importance of voting. In fact, every
5 Election Day, my parents make sure we go
6 to vote as a family. They have shared
7 with me that my great grandparents have
8 not always had the right to vote, and now
9 we are able to vote and actively
10 participate in the election process, we
11 should do so.

12 My mother shared with me that our
13 community is in jeopardy of losing our
14 representatives that we have had almost
15 my entire life, and it does make me feel
16 sad. When I may not fully understand why
17 these maps have to be redrawn every ten
18 years, I do understand the importance of
19 being able to select the representative
20 you want to represent our community.

21 Today, while I am not old enough to
22 vote, one day I will be able to do so.
23 God willing, I will go with my parents to
24 the election polling site, as we do every
25 year to cast my first ballot. My hope is

1
2 that when I turn 18 and can select a
3 candidate, a candidate who will advocate
4 for my community and engage with us just
5 as we have been afforded by our current
6 elected officials. I hope that when I
7 turn 18 in just a few short years, that I
8 will be able to elect a candidate within
9 a district that shares similar values. I
10 hope that as I enter an election booth, I
11 will be able to select a candidate for
12 Lakeview that desires to maintain a
13 presence within our community. These
14 desires can become a reality if Lakeview
15 is placed in a district with other
16 communities that share similar values.
17 This reality can be achieved if we are
18 placed in a district that does not dilute
19 our vote. And this can be achieved if our
20 community remains whole.

21 So today I ask you to only vote for
22 a map that will make it possible for
23 myself and my peers to look forward to a
24 day that we are able to vote in favor of
25 representatives like ones I have been

1
2 fortunate to have as long as I can
3 remember, and reject any map that dilutes
4 my community's ability to participate in
5 the process that my great grandparents
6 were unable to participate in when they
7 turned 18. Thank you (applause).

8 PRESIDING OFFICER NICOLELLO: Thank
9 you, Jonathan.

10 Doris Hicks.

11 MS. HICKS-NEWKIRK: Good afternoon.
12 I am Doris Hicks-Newkirk. This is my
13 third time appearing before you. I asked
14 the question -- and before I begin,
15 Jonathan, thank you. I've known Jonathan
16 since a baby. That's a strong young man.
17 He lives around the corner from me. And
18 you're going to hear from him later in
19 years. He knows what he's talking about.
20 He's at meetings and he enjoys what we do
21 in our community of Lakeview. He's there.
22 He knows.

23 I have a question for you. As a
24 resident of Lakeview for 37 years, I
25 stand before you knowing that so many

1
2 people came here how many times? I know
3 this is my third time. Have you not heard
4 us? What does it take for you to
5 understand who we are as the Lakeview
6 community? I just don't understand it.
7 What does it take? We're not asking you
8 for money. We're asking you for
9 representation so that we are equally
10 represented.

11 You say that we have commonality
12 with the Malverne School District. Let me
13 just remind you, I worked for that
14 district for 15 years as a regular
15 teacher. After retiring from Verizon for
16 30. I went there after 30 years of
17 Verizon, and went there and taught for
18 15, and then they call me back to sub for
19 four until COVID hit.

20 The Malverne residents, let me
21 school you in on this, they don't use our
22 school, their school district. It may say
23 Malverne, but you know who uses it?
24 Lakeview. Go back and look at your stats.
25 How many people from Malverne go to the

1
2 Malverne School district? Check it. Do
3 your homework. We don't have commonality
4 with them. We were forced over there
5 because we didn't have any. You need to
6 really understand there's no commonality
7 there. Not with Lynbrook. Stephanie Chase
8 told you that a week ago. As she
9 delivered mail, they called her out the N
10 name, but yet you're putting us over here
11 with these people that don't care. Where
12 my kids went to the store to get pizza
13 and they say, Ns, we don't serve you. Why
14 aren't you hearing us? What does it take?

15 When you have your recess, you need
16 to go back and look at that map again.
17 I'm asking you to. I'm not telling you
18 to. I'm asking you, as we have done all
19 along. We have nothing in common with
20 these people that you have put us with,
21 even the new one. And may I say, I know
22 my time is just about up and I'm not
23 going over, but may I say thank you to
24 the legislators that have supported us
25 all these years. Jonathan is right. We

1
2 see the people there. They come to our
3 events. They support us. You don't want
4 that? You don't want a happy community
5 with a minority population? I know you
6 don't want an unhappy community in a
7 minority population. Be careful. I'm not
8 threatening you. But I'm telling you, my
9 people will not stand for this forever.
10 Thank you.

11 PRESIDING OFFICER NICOLELLO: Lisa
12 Ortiz.

13 MS. ORTIZ: Good afternoon,
14 everyone.

15 I, like many other Lakeview
16 residents, have been here for several
17 meetings. We were here throughout the
18 TDAC process, and we voiced our thoughts
19 and our concerns and our requests and our
20 desires. And here we are today at the
21 final hearing on redistricting in the
22 Legislative Body.

23 The last time I was here, myself and
24 several other residents from the hamlet
25 of Lakeview came out and we asked if it

1
2 was possible to place us in the closest
3 Minority/Majority district. And today we
4 come back and the lines have been
5 redrawn, the maps have been redrawn, but
6 not in favor of Lakeview. Today, we're
7 now finding out that East Rockaway,
8 Lynbrook, North Lynbrook, Malverne, West
9 Hempstead, portions of Valley Stream,
10 North Valley Stream and now portions of
11 Oceanside have been included in this new
12 proposed 14th District, and then you have
13 Little Lakeview also included in that new
14 14th District. This is disheartening.
15 This is disturbing. This is every synonym
16 that you could think of to describe how
17 heartbreaking this is to our community.

18 As my son Jonathan mentioned, we
19 have had great representation within the
20 Second Legislative District. And while we
21 understand that the maps do have to
22 change every ten years, we also
23 understand that there are communities
24 that we share commonalities with that are
25 very close to Lakeview. There were other

1
2 maps that were presented that show if you
3 put Lakeview with them, you would have an
4 additional Majority/Minority district.

5 Last time I was here, I listened to
6 some of my neighbors speak about their
7 experiences within the neighboring
8 communities. And while they were not
9 favorable, they were not pleasant, they
10 shouldn't have even been warranted
11 experiences that they've had to live
12 through. This is our reality,
13 unfortunately.

14 Our only request is that, well, two
15 requests, is that we be placed within a
16 district that we share commonalities
17 with. Not that you assume based on the
18 narratives that are presented: We share
19 a school district, we share a train line.
20 I mean, naturally there's not many train
21 lines in Nassau County. So if you're
22 adjacent to a one community, you're going
23 to share a train line with them. But
24 that's not a reason to say that we have
25 common interest. Our churches are not in

1
2 East Rockaway. Our churches are not in
3 Lynbrook. Our churches are not in West
4 Hempstead. Our churches are in Hempstead,
5 Westbury, our churches are in Baldwin.
6 Our churches are in other communities,
7 not one of them that are listed in
8 District 14. Those are not communities
9 that we share common interests with.

10 Again, I'm going to ask for the -- I
11 don't know how many times this is -- do
12 not vote this map in. And I'm going to
13 ask that you reject it. And anyone who
14 votes for this, we will go ahead and be
15 sure to remember that. We'll take note of
16 that. And we're watching. And this next
17 generation of young voters, they're
18 coming up. And while they may not be able
19 to vote in this upcoming election,
20 they're coming, and they're going to
21 remember. Times are changing,
22 demographics are changing. They're
23 shifting. And we're asking at this moment
24 that you vote down any map that keeps
25 Lakeview in a diluted, disenfranchised,

1
2 cracked map that does not have our best
3 interests at heart. Thank you. And keep
4 us in District Two, if possible. Have a
5 good day.

6 PRESIDING OFFICER NICOLELLO: Thank
7 you, Lisa.

8 Susan Kay.

9 MS. KAY: We've heard a lot about
10 change in Nassau County. I saw the
11 revolution nary change. I used to live in
12 North Valley Stream from 1956 to 2010.
13 When I was very young, the area was a
14 strictly white Jewish, Italian area.
15 Suddenly it changed. It became
16 multicultural, black, Hispanic, Indian,
17 Muslim. Three blocks away from where I
18 used to live there was a Muslim mosque.
19 That change brought a very strong change
20 in the Third Legislative District. For
21 years we had John Ciotti get re-elected.
22 Suddenly Carrie Solages got in, because
23 of change. Your maps that you have are so
24 gerrymandered. The Town of Hempstead in
25 this map, it is disgusting. We can get

1
2 red flag laws in New York State, but how
3 come we can't get a map that's cohesive
4 to what is going on with the population
5 and the Nassau County Legislature? These
6 maps should be voted down. It is
7 absolutely disgusting.

8 Gerrymandering hurts people and
9 elections. A good example was the last
10 year of the New York State Senate. We had
11 lost good people because the maps were
12 gerrymandered and we ended up with
13 garbage.

14 I suggest anybody who votes on these
15 maps, your next election, you will be
16 voted out of office. Thank you.

17 PRESIDING OFFICER NICOLELLO: Kelly
18 Johnson.

19 MS. JOHNSON: Good afternoon. This
20 is my first time here. I am a recently
21 retired New York City Department of
22 Education, public school principal,
23 grades seven through 12. My school was a
24 high performing school.

25 I feel confident in speaking to you.

1
2 The population of my school did not look
3 like me, so I'm accustomed to speaking to
4 people whose experiences in life do not
5 do not look like mine, but with whom I
6 can establish some common ground. And
7 what I am concerned about is this: I've
8 heard speakers being cut off; I would
9 never be permitted to do that in my
10 school. I've heard that suggestions are
11 being dismissed; I could never do that in
12 my public school. I've heard it intimated
13 that we've spent enough time. What I do
14 know is that when people are not heard,
15 when they feel they're not valued, where
16 they feel that their viewpoints don't
17 count, don't matter, they become
18 dissatisfied. What I do know is that if
19 information is presented and decisions
20 are made, at least people can say, hey, I
21 don't like it, but I see how that was
22 done. But what I'm hearing is that it's
23 quite possible that everyone's not seeing
24 what's done. But I could be mistaken.
25 Because when people argue, fight back and

1
2 forth and talk over one another, I can't
3 hear what the individuals are saying. It
4 sounds to me like there may have been a
5 process that could be used for
6 redistricting that was not used. But then
7 I think I heard that maybe it was. But
8 the data didn't come up or present itself
9 in a way that another member wanted it to
10 look like. And I can't myself explore
11 what's being said because it's not made
12 available. Does that make any sense? And
13 that's disturbing to me.

14 Let me make a correction. There are
15 children in my school that look like me,
16 some of them, but the majority of them do
17 not, and somehow we were able to have a
18 good, cohesive school community but it
19 was because we made things transparent.
20 And my gut is telling me that's not
21 happening here, but I could be wrong. And
22 if I'm not wrong, please show me where I
23 can get that information, because I would
24 like to understand what's going on. I
25 hear what people are feeling, but I don't

1
2 see all the data. Does that make any
3 sense?

4 I'm also going to add that, I
5 believe they called her Miss Scott, when
6 my great aunt, who is now 96, when
7 driving her to the family reunion in
8 North Carolina, I had to take the piss
9 pot out of her bag because she was
10 accustomed to not being able to go to the
11 bathroom. So I had to argue with her
12 about the piss pot. And of course, she
13 put it in the trunk of my car. But at
14 least she didn't have to use it. So I
15 understand.

16 I also understand, I was shocked to
17 hear that people are being called the
18 N-word. I used to work at the Burger King
19 on Merrick Boulevard. And I recall coming
20 in one day and the youngsters, people
21 younger than myself, I was age 17, a
22 little younger than me, were upset
23 because black people weren't wanted at
24 the front counter during dinner hour. And
25 I said to my manager, who did not look

1
2 like me, I said, wait a second, you
3 always have me at the front, no matter
4 what time of the day. And he said,
5 because you're different. I didn't know
6 how to take that, didn't feel so
7 comfortable. But that was over 40 years
8 ago. I'm 59. We shouldn't still be
9 experiencing that same thing. I'm 59. I
10 was 17 at the time. We shouldn't be
11 experiencing that same thing.

12 And one last point. Somehow my
13 parents raised me to believe that all the
14 black is beautiful and I should be proud.
15 It doesn't diminish the shine of anyone
16 else. But when we play the games, it then
17 makes us feel like you're diminishing.

18 Please answer me. Is that data
19 available that you spoke of? Because I
20 would like to see it. I don't know about
21 the argument. I don't know which way I'm
22 going to go, but I would like to see what
23 the discussion is about. It's not clear
24 to me because I don't see that data. Is
25 that available online or in a packet

1
2 here?

3 I lied, one more. Is there a rush to
4 make a decision? Because one thing I did
5 learn in order to have successful school
6 where they want me to come back as
7 principals, that I delayed stuff to the
8 chagrin of my superintendent and the
9 powers that be. I wanted to make certain
10 that my school community was all on board
11 to whatever it was. Even if they said, I
12 don't like it, but I get it. So I'm
13 recommending that if you are rushing to
14 have a vote at 6:30, that given the
15 discord and the discomfort that's in the
16 community, that maybe it be delayed, some
17 information made available and maybe a
18 vote take place a little later on; is
19 that possible?

20 PRESIDING OFFICER NICOLELLO: By
21 Charter, the plan has to be adopted by
22 next week.

23 MS. JOHNSON: Who made that
24 decision?

25 PRESIDING OFFICER NICOLELLO: It's

1
2 in the Nassau County Charter?

3 MS. JOHNSON: Can that be amended?

4 PRESIDING OFFICER NICOLELLO:

5 Secondly, the Democratic --

6 MS. JOHNSON: Can that be amended?

7 PRESIDING OFFICER NICOLELLO: No, it
8 cannot be amended by us at this point.

9 MS. JOHNSON: Who's the us?

10 PRESIDING OFFICER NICOLELLO: The
11 Legislature. We can't amend the Charter
12 on the fly. We cannot do it. The date is
13 the date, number one.

14 Number two, the Democratic
15 Commission to the Board of Elections has
16 threatened a lawsuit --

17 MS. JOHNSON: I'm not asking
18 about --

19 PRESIDING OFFICER NICOLELLO: I'm
20 answering --

21 MS. JOHNSON: I'm not asking about
22 the individuals, just the data.

23 PRESIDING OFFICER NICOLELLO: I'm
24 answering your question as to why --

25 MS. JOHNSON: Can we not mention

1
2 Democratic and Republican?

3 PRESIDING OFFICER NICOLELLO: It's
4 relevant to the point I'm making.

5 MR. THOMAS: It is? Okay. I'm
6 sorry. Go ahead.

7 PRESIDING OFFICER NICOLELLO: So the
8 question you had with respect to the
9 urgency to move the Democratic Commission
10 to the Board of Education (sic) has
11 threatened to bring a lawsuit because he
12 says if we delay any further, it will
13 have an impact and the Board of Elections
14 roll out for this coming election. So it
15 has to be done and it will be voted on
16 tonight.

17 MS. JOHNSON: And can that
18 Democratic Commission then make a change
19 in their decision? Because it sounds like
20 if it's a group of people that did
21 that --

22 PRESIDING OFFICER NICOLELLO: The
23 time to start circulating petitions for
24 this cycle for all offices and local
25 elections is tomorrow. So we cannot delay

1
2 this any further. It has to be done.
3 This has to be done now.

4 MS. JOHNSON: And can the data be
5 made available so people can see it
6 before 6:30?

7 PRESIDING OFFICER NICOLELLO: There
8 is a description of the analysis in the
9 report that's available, right there,
10 from Troutman Pepper.

11 MS. JOHNSON: So when you say
12 description, we do know that we make
13 decisions based upon our own filter,
14 right, and our prior experience. So is it
15 possible that the numbers itself, not
16 someone's interpretation of the
17 numbers -- one of the things I never did
18 as a principal was to tell my teachers
19 the number of children that must pass the
20 course, because I knew that data could
21 always be skewed and I would prefer that
22 children learn as opposed to my teachers,
23 be concerned about the end of the
24 semester numbers. So that's why I don't
25 like description. I like to see the data

1
2 myself. I'm pretty bright. I can go over
3 it and make some understanding of it for
4 myself and if I'm incorrect, I can voice
5 my incorrect and it could be heard. Can
6 that data be seen?

7 PRESIDING OFFICER NICOLELLO: We
8 have provided a description of the
9 analysis --

10 MS. JOHNSON: So the answer is no.
11 The numbers can't be seen. I can't be
12 given --

13 PRESIDING OFFICER NICOLELLO:
14 Whatever --

15 MS. JOHNSON: I'm sorry. I can't
16 hear everybody. I'm sorry.

17 PRESIDING OFFICER NICOLELLO: We
18 have provided this description and that
19 is all that we are able to provide at
20 this time.

21 MS. JOHNSON: And you're not able to
22 provide the numbers because?

23 PRESIDING OFFICER NICOLELLO: We
24 have a description of what he did --

25 MS. JOHNSON: I got you. And we're

1
2 not able to provide the numbers because
3 -- so like, you know how you have a score
4 in terms of your economic stability, and
5 that fluctuates. My dollar amount of my
6 bank account, I love it because it may
7 not fluctuate as often as my credit score
8 does. Right? So it's based upon who's
9 interpreting information at the time. So
10 that's why the data itself is important.
11 And are you saying to me -- and if you
12 are, it is what it is. If you're saying
13 to me that we're not going to make the
14 data available, just let me know that,
15 then I can stop the argument.

16 PRESIDING OFFICER NICOLELLO: We are
17 not providing anything beyond the
18 description that we provided today.

19 MS. JOHNSON: To anyone. Do they
20 have it that? Wait, wait. They don't
21 have it either? I'm sorry. I don't want
22 to hear from the Democrats. The
23 Republicans don't have it either?

24 PRESIDING OFFICER NICOLELLO: We
25 have all the information we need to vote

1
2 on this map. And anything else that we're
3 talking about is simply a pretext. We, as
4 legislators, are here to decide on
5 whether these lines meet our
6 requirements. We have the expert who was
7 used in the case before the Court of
8 Appeals, who did an analysis and said,
9 yes, this performs very well right in the
10 middle of --

11 MS. JOHNSON: So the people sitting
12 beside you on either side, they all had
13 the numbers and could then understand if
14 the description of the numbers is aligned
15 with --

16 PRESIDING OFFICER NICOLELLO: I'll
17 tell you what, one of the things that Mr.
18 Trende did --

19 MS. JOHNSON: No, no.

20 PRESIDING OFFICER NICOLELLO: I'm
21 going to answer your question. One of
22 the things you did is run 50,000
23 variations. It's called an ensemble of
24 potential elections in Nassau County to
25 see where this map performed in terms of

1
2 whether it was a gerrymander or not. So
3 do we have 50,000 versions that he did?
4 No, we don't.

5 MS. JOHNSON: Can they have access
6 to it?

7 PRESIDING OFFICER NICOLELLO: No,
8 No. I mean, no, it's not what we have
9 today.

10 MS. JOHNSON: Have you seen it?

11 PRESIDING OFFICER NICOLELLO: No, of
12 course not. Of course not. You think I'm
13 going to go through 50,000 computer
14 simulations and look at each one of them?
15 Of course not. That's why we hired an
16 expert. They got the same person whose
17 analysis was accepted by the Court of
18 Appeals of New York State. And I want to
19 thank you, Ms. Johnson, for your time.
20 You're over the three minutes I'm calling
21 the next person.

22 MS. JOHNSON: I got you. I'm going
23 to leave. But I suggest that, even though
24 it's 50,000 iterations, what we would
25 often do is randomly select some of the

1
2 iterations just to confirm that the firm
3 that we hired was doing their job
4 appropriately. And I myself didn't go
5 through that. I had math teachers who did
6 math in their sleep. So I have people who
7 would do that.

8 PRESIDING OFFICER NICOLELLO: Thank
9 you very much, Ms. Johnson.

10 MS. JOHNSON: Okay. Thank you.

11 LEGISLATOR ABRAHAMS: Presiding
12 Officer?

13 PRESIDING OFFICER NICOLELLO: We
14 have two more speakers and then you can
15 make whatever comments --

16 LEGISLATOR ABRAHAMS: Mrs. Johnson
17 made, she asked the Minority. We don't
18 have the data. I can't speak for the
19 Majority, but we don't have the data in
20 the Minority. That's all I wanted to say.

21 PRESIDING OFFICER NICOLELLO: Kevin
22 McKenna.

23 Just for the record, note that
24 Legislator Ferretti is with us too.

25 LEGISLATOR ABRAHAMS: And just to

1
2 add before Mr. McKenna.

3 Mrs. Johnson, just to make sure we,
4 the Minority, do not have all the
5 information to make a decision on a map
6 today. We do not have all the analysis,
7 just to make sure that's clear -- in the
8 Minority, I can't speak for them.

9 PRESIDING OFFICER NICOLELLO: I
10 completely disagree. I think we all
11 collectively --

12 LEGISLATOR ABRAHAMS: That's why I
13 spoke on behalf of the Minority.

14 PRESIDING OFFICER NICOLELLO: Well,
15 I was just --

16 LEGISLATOR ABRAHAMS: I didn't say
17 the Legislature.

18 PRESIDING OFFICER NICOLELLO: You
19 just complained ad nauseam about my
20 interrupting you. I went three, three
21 words and you interrupted me.

22 LEGISLATOR ABRAHAMS: How can you
23 disagree with what I just said when I say
24 we in the Minority do not have the data?
25 Are you going to tell us what we have

1
2 now?

3 PRESIDING OFFICER NICOLELLO: I
4 completely disagree. I think every
5 legislator here has more than enough
6 information to make an informed decision
7 on whether or not to vote for this map.
8 Every one of us, there's no question in
9 my mind.

10 LEGISLATOR ABRAHAMS: So the
11 Presiding Officer is now telling the
12 Minority what they should think.

13 PRESIDING OFFICER NICOLELLO: And
14 I'll say this also, if anyone doesn't
15 have enough information, that's an issue
16 with that person or a pretext in which
17 they're going to say they're going vote
18 against the because of that.

19 As legislators, we have been
20 provided an incredible amount of
21 information. The hearings, the TDAC alone
22 went on for months. We we had access to
23 those. You can view those online. We had
24 reports from Democratic experts. We have
25 reports from Republican experts. We have

1
2 gone through it all. We have as much
3 information as any person, any reasonable
4 person could ever possibly need to make
5 an informed decision on these maps. And
6 tonight, when we make that vote, each one
7 of us will be making an informed
8 decision, whether we vote yes or no.

9 LEGISLATOR ABRAHAMS: Again, we
10 cannot make the decision for the same
11 reasons that Mr. Johnson just brought up.
12 That's just one of the reasons. In
13 regards to the fact that the same
14 analysis that was done by Mr. Trende,
15 that expert analysis, not even the public
16 can get it. No one can get it. It's
17 secret. It's somewhere in the corner of
18 this building. Somehow. I don't know
19 where it is, but the bottom line is, we
20 can't make a decision on that.

21 PRESIDING OFFICER NICOLELLO: What
22 specific? What specific?

23 LEGISLATOR ABRAHAMS: Here we go
24 with the cutting off again. I sat here
25 patiently waiting for you to finish.

1
2 PRESIDING OFFICER NICOLELLO: Let me
3 ask you this about Mr. Trende's analysis.
4 Tell me what specific --

5 LEGISLATOR ABRAHAMS: So --

6 PRESIDING OFFICER NICOLELLO: What
7 specific --

8 LEGISLATOR ABRAHAMS: We get it. We
9 get the tactic, Rich. We get it. Okay.

10 PRESIDING OFFICER NICOLELLO: What
11 specific?

12 LEGISLATOR ABRAHAMS: You don't like
13 what I'm saying, so you're going to cut
14 me off.

15 PRESIDING OFFICER NICOLELLO: I'm
16 going to ask you a question: What
17 specifically?

18 LEGISLATOR ABRAHAMS: Rich, I'm not
19 going to answer your question --

20 PRESIDING OFFICER NICOLELLO: Mr.
21 Miles, step back. He can answer the
22 question on his own. He doesn't need
23 legal advice.

24 LEGISLATOR ABRAHAMS: Rich, we're
25 not going to answer your question when

1
2 you want me to answer it. I'm making a
3 point on why we cannot vote on this
4 because we don't have all the
5 information. I'll get to the part of the
6 analysis, when I do my summation after we
7 have these two speakers. But the
8 Majority is going to try to tell us what
9 we should think.

10 PRESIDING OFFICER NICOLELLO: You
11 can't answer the question.

12 LEGISLATOR ABRAHAMS: And then the
13 other two --

14 PRESIDING OFFICER NICOLELLO: It's
15 all a show, folks.

16 LEGISLATOR ABRAHAMS: So we're going
17 to keep cutting --

18 PRESIDING OFFICER NICOLELLO: It's a
19 show. You can't answer the question.

20 LEGISLATOR ABRAHAMS: You're right.
21 You're making it a show.

22 PRESIDING OFFICER NICOLELLO: You
23 can't answer the question. What specific
24 part of Mr. Trende's analysis do you
25 need? Do you want to see the 50,000

1
2 iterations?

3 LEGISLATOR ABRAHAMS: Rich, what we
4 want --

5 PRESIDING OFFICER NICOLELLO: You
6 can't answer the question.

7 LEGISLATOR ABRAHAMS: I'm gonna
8 answer it right now.

9 PRESIDING OFFICER NICOLELLO: It's a
10 pretext.

11 LEGISLATOR ABRAHAMS: Yeah, it's a
12 pretext. What we want, folks, is the same
13 analysis that Mrs. Johnson asked for
14 broken down by index, very similar to
15 what Mr. Trende did when he did the
16 gubernatorial analysis.

17 PRESIDING OFFICER NICOLELLO: What
18 --

19 LEGISLATOR ABRAHAMS: So you're
20 going to cut me off again because he
21 didn't like what I'm saying.

22 PRESIDING OFFICER NICOLELLO: I want
23 to understand what you're saying.

24 LEGISLATOR ABRAHAMS: He's getting
25 his response, but he doesn't like what

1
2 I'm saying.

3 PRESIDING OFFICER NICOLELLO: I want
4 to understand what you're saying.

5 LEGISLATOR ABRAHAMS: Rich, are you
6 going to keep cutting me off?

7 PRESIDING OFFICER NICOLELLO: What
8 index?

9 LEGISLATOR ABRAHAMS: Are you gonna
10 keep cutting me off?

11 PRESIDING OFFICER NICOLELLO: I just
12 want an answer.

13 LEGISLATOR ABRAHAMS: No, no, I just
14 want to answer the question. Can you
15 answer my question? Are you gonna keep
16 cutting me off?

17 PRESIDING OFFICER NICOLELLO: I'm
18 going to answer your question. You said
19 you want an index. What do you want in
20 the index?

21 LEGISLATOR ABRAHAMS: Rich, you're
22 making a mockery of this place.

23 PRESIDING OFFICER NICOLELLO: Just
24 answer the question, please. I mean,
25 you've demanded this information. You

1
2 can't answer.

3 LEGISLATOR ABRAHAMS: Rich, are you
4 going to keep cutting me off?

5 PRESIDING OFFICER NICOLELLO: You
6 can't answer it. Okay, never mind. I
7 withdraw the question. You obviously
8 have no ability to answer it.

9 LEGISLATOR ABRAHAMS: So let me
10 finish my point. Jesus. Wow.
11 Unbelievable.

12 So the bottom line is, folks, the
13 same metric analysis that we're asking
14 for. He's breaking it down and saying
15 it's 50,000 iterations. Yes, it is. It's
16 a lot of iterations, but it's broken down
17 to an index.

18 The other thing is we haven't seen
19 -- at least I haven't seen -- there was a
20 racialized polarized voter information
21 that was supposed to be done. I haven't
22 seen it. It hasn't been done.

23 The third thing I haven't heard one
24 logical reason -- I know the Presiding
25 Officer and Mr. Tseytlin sat here and put

1
2 together at their computer a map. I
3 haven't seen a reason or justification
4 why Lakeview, why Freeport could not be
5 placed into a Minority/Majority district.

6 Third, other than -- fourth, other
7 than looking at Mr. Tseytlin's report,
8 which I got to tell you, I heard from him
9 and I wish he was here to defend himself,
10 he didn't really present well, I think
11 the public would admit to that. That
12 being said, Mr. Tseytlin's report, I
13 still can't reconcile and I wish he was
14 here to ask and I said this from the
15 outset, I still can't reconcile
16 violations in the Federal Voting Rights
17 Act and where you have to consider race
18 versus his report, which basically says
19 the opposite, that race should not be
20 considered. How can race not be
21 considered? When Judge Spatt created
22 legislative districts in this county, he
23 considered race. Legislative District
24 One and Two were created based on race.
25 That was a federal case. But now we're

1
2 saying that it's not considered. And we
3 have Mr. Tseytlin who doesn't even
4 understand communities of interest, who
5 writes in his report that communities of
6 interest are tied by train lines. But
7 we're relying on him, and this report
8 from Troutman Pepper?

9 So, yes, Mr. Presiding Officer, I
10 just made four points that we don't have
11 the information in regards to the data
12 analysis. We don't have the racialized
13 polarized voter information that we've
14 asked for. We don't understand why
15 Lakeview and Freeport are broken out and
16 cracked from their original legislative
17 district. So I got plenty of questions if
18 you just allow me to get them out. But
19 instead we are getting bogged down in
20 cutting people off because we don't like
21 what they say, or we're going to say, You
22 want a lawsuit? I've never once, folks,
23 you were here. He keeps saying that I
24 want that. Have you heard me say that I
25 want a lawsuit? They're smarter than

1
2 that, Rich. They really are. You have to
3 give them more credit.

4 The bottom line is I've never once
5 advocated for a lawsuit. All I advocated
6 for is that if the folks, the residents
7 of this county, do not see due process
8 per this process, that is their course of
9 action, which is unnecessary and not
10 warranted if we do the right thing.
11 That's it. It's that simple. Follow the
12 John Lewis provisions; Good. Follow the
13 state constitution; Good. Follow the
14 Federal Voting Rights Act; Good. That's
15 it.

16 Now, what that means for you folks,
17 it's very simple: Lakeview into a
18 Minority/Majority district. Let's just
19 make it clear so they can understand.
20 Because they're going to say, oh,
21 Kevaghn is just pushing for a map that
22 favors Democrats. Okay. He could say
23 that. But let's just be clear, a map,
24 what these folks want to see, is
25 something that puts Lakeview into a

1
2 Minority/Majority district. Can you do
3 it? That's simple. Freeport, a
4 Minority/Majority community of the areas
5 of northeast and northwest, which have
6 been in Minority/Majority districts for,
7 I don't know, the last 23 years into a
8 Minority/Majority district. Very simple.
9 Make it very clear for them so they can
10 understand. They're not going to do it.
11 Not going to do it. And if they do do it,
12 it's going to be with some other caveat.

13 The bottom line is we're not making
14 this process political. They are. I've
15 never once said I wanted any particular
16 map, any particular thing, never once
17 said that. But we're going to continue to
18 keep trying to cut me off, cut off
19 members, shut us down, then change the
20 question. Change the question, then tell
21 us how to think. I don't know which one
22 it is. But you know what? You are setting
23 Nassau County, and the records going to
24 show, that if this county is sued, that
25 this process is tainted. Thank you.

1
2 PRESIDING OFFICER NICOLELLO: Kevin
3 McKenna.

4 MR. MCKENNA: Kevin McKenna, Syosset
5 resident. I'm also an advocate for
6 honest, competent government, and
7 apparently we don't have that here in
8 Nassau County.

9 Thankfully, I'm broadcasting this
10 meeting on Nassau County NY News, and I
11 say thankfully because it is just
12 unbelievable to me. That News 12 in the
13 middle of Scottie's passionate,
14 intelligent comments, disrespected her
15 and packed up their camera in the middle
16 of her speaking. Thankfully, I'm bringing
17 this and I also brought all the speakers
18 to the attention of anybody who watches
19 Nassau County NY News on Facebook and
20 also NassauCountyNYNews.com.

21 Mr. Nicollello, Chairman Nicolello,
22 I don't know how you could say the word
23 transparency. You are making George
24 Santos -- and the Republicans -- you're
25 making Gorge Santos look like a

1
2 kindergartner with the display that you
3 personally have been putting on for the
4 last few meetings. And I want to thank
5 the officers here for allowing me to stay
6 this meeting.

7 I am very, very disappointed that my
8 legislator, Josh Lafazan, when he knew
9 that I was going to get up to speak, once
10 again, ran away. I have many videos to
11 show him running away. What's really,
12 really bizarre is that you have a bunch
13 of legislators to your right, and they
14 have nothing, nothing to say. I've got to
15 believe, I've got to believe, that they
16 understand a lot of what especially
17 Minority Leader Kevan Abrahams is saying
18 and some of the other Democrats -- I've
19 got to believe that they in their hearts,
20 understand the travesty that's taking
21 place here in Nassau County. And tonight
22 I urge, because there's a lot of people
23 that are going to see this, I urge every
24 legislator tonight before you vote, take
25 a few sentences to explain how you are

1
2 justifying your vote tonight in light of
3 what we have heard here, this meeting,
4 and the meetings before.

5 And I'll wrap it up. You know, you
6 all like to talk about and do photo ops
7 with each other and show how the
8 Democrats work with the Republicans. A
9 lot of times you you talk about that. You
10 take pictures together. You can't even
11 have a conversation in public on an
12 important issue. Where Kevan Abrahams
13 asks you important specific questions and
14 you shut down a Minority Leader on the
15 Nassau County Legislature in public, it's
16 disgraceful. It's disgraceful.

17 PRESIDING OFFICER NICOLELLO: Your
18 time is up. Thank you, sir. Marie Remus.

19 MR. MCKENNA: Well, of course my
20 time is up. You don't like what I have to
21 say, right?

22 PRESIDING OFFICER NICOLELLO: Your
23 time is up. You had an opportunity to
24 speak about the issue, but you chose not
25 to.

1
2 MR. MCKENNA: You gave others some
3 extra time. Don't discriminate against
4 this white guy. Don't discriminate
5 against me.

6 PRESIDING OFFICER NICOLELLO: You're
7 done.

8 Ms. Remus?

9 MR. MCKENNA: You know what, I pay
10 your salary. I'm not done.

11 PRESIDING OFFICER NICOLELLO: Yes,
12 you are.

13 MR. MCKENNA: No, I'm not.

14 PRESIDING OFFICER NICOLELLO: Yes,
15 you are, sir. It's three minutes, limit.
16 I have you some extra time.

17 MR. MCKENNA: Mr. Nicolello --

18 PRESIDING OFFICER NICOLELLO: I gave
19 you some extra time.

20 MR. MCKENNA: You are a disgrace to
21 the Republican Party. And as a registered
22 Republican, I am changing my party
23 registration because of the display that
24 you have put on in this non transparent
25 process. And I urge all Republicans out

1
2 there --

3 PRESIDING OFFICER NICOLELLO: You're
4 going to change your registration?

5 MR. MCKENNA: To consider the the
6 same. And I urge you all tonight,
7 Republican Legislators --

8 PRESIDING OFFICER NICOLELLO: You're
9 going to change your registration because
10 of me?

11 MR. MCKENNA: I urge you tonight to
12 justify your vote. Don't sit there like
13 the puppets that you look like.

14 Thank you very much.

15 PRESIDING OFFICER NICOLELLO: You're
16 going to change your registration. You're
17 going to change your registration because
18 to me, Mr. McKenna? I think there's a
19 lot of Republicans that are going to be
20 happy with me, Sir.

21 Marie Remus?

22 MS. REMUS: Good afternoon. I came
23 from a country that is called Haiti, and
24 dictatorship is nothing for you guys to
25 play with, because you don't know it

1
2 until you got to live it. Right now, you
3 remind me of Duvalier Papa Doc, and you
4 remind me of Duvalier Baby Doc. The way
5 you act today is a disgrace to humanity,
6 not to Kevan, not to anybody, not to the
7 public. But for your position. You don't
8 have no business talking to people like
9 that, whether you agree or disagree.
10 That's what makes the beauty of the
11 world. I am short, he is tall, this one
12 is medium, this one is black, this one is
13 white, yellow, green. The bottom line is
14 the blood is red for everybody, for
15 everyone.

16 So if people could just sit down and
17 think, what are you, black, white,
18 yellow, Republican, money, poor two eyes,
19 one mouth, one nose with two whole in it,
20 two arms, two eyes. That's what it is.
21 You too fresh for a public servant. Be
22 humble. Calm down, calm down. You
23 disrespect him, you disrespect us, you
24 disrespect your colleagues. You show me
25 that you went to school, but you don't

1
2 have education. Education is one thing.
3 Formation is another thing. You don't
4 have no right to talk to people like
5 this. All right? So it's look like right
6 now you guys want to do whatever you
7 wants to do. It might be able to you to
8 vote tonight and do it. But down the road
9 things would be reversed because the
10 demographic is changing, the world is
11 changing. It's not only United States.

12 And remember, United State is the
13 best democracy in the world, but the way
14 you guys are acting, the way you guys are
15 acting, you're starting to lose it. And
16 when you lose it, that's when you will
17 know what you had. You are a disgrace to
18 humanity.

19 PRESIDING OFFICER NICOLELLO:

20 Tristen Salley.

21 MR. SALLEY: I wasn't going to speak
22 today. Sat in the back for the last
23 almost two hours and I have grown
24 incredibly frustrated by this topic.

25 Minority leader, we got you. As a

1
2 community. We got you. And for those of
3 you who don't understand the hermeneutics
4 of my biblical exegesis of I got him.
5 What I mean is, as a community, we have
6 his back. Because this process from the
7 very beginning has lacked transparency.

8 And, Mr. Presiding Officer, if I
9 may, as a pastor in this community, in
10 this county, the display that you
11 continue to put on has been nothing short
12 of a dog and pony show. It's been
13 disrespectful of your colleagues and
14 taxpaying citizens who have simply asked
15 of you and both the Republican and
16 Democrats to provide information over and
17 over again. We've asked it across the
18 board to share it.

19 Now, some of you have been very open
20 and transparent and others have continued
21 to allow their process to be shrouded in
22 secrecy. Must I remind you of the old
23 proverb adage that said, what's done in
24 the dark comes to the light. And when it
25 comes to the light, when it's exposed,

1
2 this community, this county will see that
3 these maps have been disproportionately
4 drawn to disenfranchise and to dilute not
5 just minority votes, but constituents
6 across the board.

7 What I'm asking you for -- because
8 truly, I'm losing faith in this process,
9 I've lost hope and the integrity of
10 people -- is to help restore citizens
11 trust in government. Part of what's wrong
12 with this country, why we're so divided
13 on topics with the left is fighting the
14 right and the right is fighting the left,
15 is because everybody's trying to get over
16 on somebody. And ultimately, many of us
17 just want a community where we live in
18 harmony. Where our streets remain safe.
19 And where are our voices and our opinions
20 can be heard. I believe you want to be
21 heard. But you don't want to hear when
22 folks disagree with you, which is
23 "politricks" and not politics. Politics
24 is about coming to the table of
25 negotiation and asking it, requesting and

1
2 showing your cards in your hands and not
3 try to fool by sleight of hand.

4 Before you all vote tonight, I urge
5 you to reflect on this process. Reflect
6 on all the materials you've received.
7 What you've shared, and may not have
8 shared with us as the public, reflect on
9 it and come to a decision. But before you
10 do that, take an opportunity, one last
11 opportunity, before 6:30 tonight to not
12 only listen to the community, but to work
13 amongst yourselves to make sure that
14 Nassau County is fairly represented.

15 As a pastor, I proclaim hope, peace,
16 unity, and love. That's what I believe
17 Nassau County wants to represent. Do me a
18 favor, because I'm watching, prove me
19 right. Please don't prove me wrong. We
20 beg of you. We implore. We humbly
21 request. Do the right thing. Do the right
22 thing.

23 And lastly, and I'm headed back to
24 my seat, we're coming to the closing
25 hours of Black History Month. And right

1
2 after the close of 11:59 p.m. on February
3 the 28th, we will enter into Women's
4 History Month. Let us remember, as one of
5 my sisters quoted so poetically from what
6 is one of the greatest songs I've ever
7 heard, Lift every Voice and Sing, let us
8 remember the blood, the sweat, the tears,
9 the lives that have been lost from
10 minority communities and women's rights
11 groups throughout time that have simply
12 asked for rights to vote and to elect
13 candidates that represented them and not
14 to have their voices diluted or ignored.
15 Have a wonderful day (applause).

16 PRESIDING OFFICER NICOLELLO: Okay.
17 Anyone else have a statement to make
18 among the legislators?

19 LEGISLATOR ABRAHAMS: I think. Wow,
20 this is really tough. I was listening to
21 I was just reflecting on the young man,
22 Jonathan Ortiz, that spoke earlier. And I
23 don't think I mean, this is my third
24 redistrict. I think I share that
25 responsibility and that task with maybe a

1
2 few people up here. And I don't think
3 I've ever seen a young man, 12 years old,
4 say the things that he said.

5 Understanding the magnitude and obviously
6 a lot of this is much larger and hard to
7 comprehend, but that's a great civic
8 action that he was a part of. And I just
9 want to reflect on that just for a
10 moment.

11 So this is what we have today. And I
12 already know what the Majority is going
13 to say. They're going to disagree with
14 everything I'm going to say, and that's
15 okay, because that's part of this
16 process. I mean, they're going to say
17 what they need to say and we'll say what
18 we need to say, and let the public decide
19 for themselves.

20 That being said, there are major
21 problems with the map that's being
22 proposed. This map has issues as it
23 pertains to dilution of minority votes.
24 This map violates federal voter rights
25 provisions. The John Lewis Provision, it

1
2 violates parts of the New York state
3 Constitution. The public has
4 demonstrated, I want to say on now
5 several occasions just this year that
6 they have requested that Lakeview and
7 Freeport be assimilated to
8 Minority/Majority districts.

9 We saw for periods of this map where
10 in some cases it could be argued I'm not
11 saying by me, but it could be argued that
12 this map disfavored candidates of this
13 Body and this Legislative Body. We've
14 seen in this map, again, a report that
15 was put together by Mr. Trende, the
16 expert of the Republican Majority.
17 Everyone asked for the report, and we all
18 we get is you can get a description on
19 Page 18 that summarizes his report.

20 When Mr. Trende was asked to do a
21 report before you go a few pages earlier,
22 Page 14, he did a very nice bar graph.
23 Where is the analysis based off of what
24 Dr. Magleby said in a bar graph? You're
25 not going to get it.

1
2 Then we asked for the polarized race
3 and voter information, the same
4 information we asked of Mr. Tseyltin, I
5 though we asked of Mr. Tseytlin. And Mr.
6 Tseytlin is not here today. Big surprise.
7 But not only is he not here, there's no
8 mention of it. And then again, folks,
9 you're going to be left in the darkness.
10 You're going to be left. There's things
11 done in secrecy. There's no transparency.
12 And then, luckily, I'm not being cut off
13 this time. Luckily, every single time
14 you're going to get cut off, you're going
15 to get shouted down. You're going to be
16 told that we did it. We did the analysis.
17 Trust us.

18 The bottom line is, I'm just going
19 to make this very clear, the way they can
20 make their map legal so that this could
21 be done in unanimous fashion is a couple
22 of different things. One, you have a
23 unique opportunity from the folks from
24 Lakeview, the folks that came from
25 Freeport, they have come here to include

1
2 in a Minority/Majority district, those
3 areas that are predominantly
4 Minority/Majority. They've made the
5 request. It's not that you should do it
6 because Lakeview is asking for it, even
7 though there are taxpayers and our
8 residents. You should do it because it
9 would ensure that we don't violate
10 federal voter rights legislation.

11 Secondly, you've had the opportunity
12 to create five Minority/Majority
13 districts. We came close. They fell short
14 by one. Now, this is a provision, this is
15 not what Democrats are asking for,
16 because I know they would try to paint
17 this issue, that this is something the
18 Democrats want because they want a
19 gerrymandered map. No. This is written
20 into federal law. It's in the state
21 constitution. The John Lewis provision
22 indicates that when possible, which
23 Nassau County is possible, and Dr. Gall's
24 report, which if anyone would care to
25 read her memo, indicates that. I have it

1
2 right here for everybody in the public
3 that wants to see it. And, obviously, we
4 will provide it to anyone that wants to
5 read it because we have nothing to hide.
6 But Dr. Gall's report indicates that that
7 is a reality as it pertains to Nassau
8 County, that we can have five
9 Minority/Majority districts. We have
10 four. For whatever reason, Lakeview and
11 Freeport, if put together in a certain
12 way with other communities, could easily
13 be five. But why don't they want to do
14 that? Because they did the performance
15 analysis that Mr. Trende did, and their
16 analysis shows that they still have 12
17 seats and they're trying to protect to
18 make sure they keep 12 seats. That's the
19 politics behind all this. So if they want
20 to make sure they keep 12 seats, but
21 they've got to give one to a minority
22 majority district, who loses out? The
23 Minority/Majority district loses out
24 every single time for the sake of
25 preserving 12 seats in the Republican

1
2 Majority. Let's just spell it out as
3 clear as we can. That's what this is
4 about. So it has nothing to do with
5 folks. Nothing to do with taxpayers. And,
6 ultimately, I hate to say it and I don't
7 want to see it, but if this is presented
8 in a court of law, they're going to see
9 it the way it is. They're going to ask
10 the question, well, how come the
11 community didn't get the data analysis
12 report that was done by Mr. Trende? And
13 how come it took 60 residents, 70
14 residents from the hamlet of Lakeview to
15 come down here and to explain once and
16 over again that they would like to be
17 placed in a Minority/Majority district,
18 and they're still not. And then we had
19 folks from Freeport do the same thing and
20 they're still not.

21 And then you have to explain, well,
22 why isn't there five Minority/Majority
23 districts? Did Mr. Trende do an analysis
24 based on that? Did Mr. Tseytlin from
25 Troutman Pepper do an analysis based on

1
2 that? So we asked a question over and
3 over again, well, what information you
4 don't have, Democratic Minority? There's
5 a lot. I just went through a litany of
6 things. Now I know what the Presiding
7 Officer is going to do. He's going to
8 say, you have the information, you have
9 everything. You have the same thing we
10 have. But if we're telling you we're not,
11 and we can describe and delineate it case
12 by case and point by point, then let's
13 have a working session and figure it out.
14 Because obviously there must be some
15 disconnect, because all I can see on page
16 18 is that Mr. Trende references and
17 described his report. I don't see a
18 report here. I don't see an analysis that
19 is very similar to the analysis that he
20 did when we had a legislative session, a
21 hearing sometime last week. I don't see
22 it. So just tell me where it is. If I got
23 to go to a hallway or closet somewhere in
24 this building, I'll go find it. But the
25 the fact remains, it's not being

1
2 produced. It's not going to come because
3 they rather keep folks in the dark. It's
4 a secret. When I asked a very pointed
5 question to Mr. Tseytlin, and I'm going
6 to wrap up, I asked him who drew the map?
7 Did you draw the map? He couldn't even
8 give me a response. He told me that it
9 was in conjunction with the Presiding
10 Officer. So they want us to believe that
11 the Presiding Officer, he can't read
12 through 50,000 iterations of the map, but
13 he sat at a computer and drew lines on a
14 computer program and drew the map.
15 Really? The folks of this community a
16 little bit smarter than that. But thank
17 you.

18 PRESIDING OFFICER NICOLELLO:

19 Legislator Bynoe and then Legislator
20 Ferretti.

21 LEGISLATOR BYNOE: Thank you,
22 Presiding Officer.

23 So I'll start out by acknowledging
24 and out of appreciation for the
25 constituents of District Two and Three

1
2 and 16 and Five. As referenced earlier,
3 you heard the voices of the legislators
4 and the individuals that came out and
5 spoke on the record and made changes to
6 the map. So, I am heartened by that. But
7 I do share the sentiments of my
8 colleague, Kevan Abrahams, that I don't
9 want to see this go to a lawsuit. And I
10 know that you've done a lot to close the
11 gap on some really big issues when this
12 map first met this Legislature. But I do
13 think we've got to push the envelope just
14 a little bit further. No one should be
15 left behind. Not Lakeview, not North
16 Freeport. But I'm going to today, in this
17 moment, speak specifically to Lakeview.

18 Lakeview has a historic value in
19 context here in Nassau County, that does
20 not mimic anywhere else in Nassau County.
21 It was because of the segregation the
22 black students went to the school at the
23 at the Woodfield Road School and the
24 white students of the same school
25 district only went to the Malverne High

1
2 School. And it was because of that
3 significant separation that Dr. Martin
4 Luther King came here on May, the date
5 varies, it could be the 12 for the 11th,
6 but, nonetheless, it was in 1965. And for
7 some of us, that was before we were even
8 born. But it was a historic time that
9 happened back in Lakeview to start the
10 desegregation. And it's that same moment
11 in time that was captured back in 1965 to
12 to this very day is still really, really
13 highly spoken about in the Lakeview
14 community. There is not one matriarch nor
15 patriarch in that community that you'll
16 ever spend any significant time with
17 where they won't share that story. They
18 either experienced it directly and
19 witnessed Dr. Martin Luther King come and
20 fight for their rights, or some of the
21 younger folks had the benefit of sitting
22 at a kitchen table and hearing that
23 story. And it's because of that fight
24 that you see individuals time and time
25 again from the Lakeview community show up

1
2 here and beg and plead for them to be in
3 a district where their voices will not be
4 diluted, where they will not be
5 disenfranchised. It's because that fight
6 is birthed in them because of their
7 struggles, the struggles of their
8 matriarchs and their patriarchs.

9 And I think it was a significant
10 value that Jonathan was here today.
11 Because we are now hearing generations
12 that will come after us, that will serve
13 in some way or another say, please, with
14 the same fight in them, don't dilute my
15 voice. Don't disenfranchise me. So it's
16 for the very reason that we want to
17 create opportunities for these hearings,
18 for us to hear from our communities, our
19 constituency, so that we can understand
20 the impacts of our vote, that I thought
21 it was important that Jonathan was here
22 today. I applaud his mother and his
23 father for making the decision to bring
24 him here today. Because our impact will
25 far exceed any immediacy in its moment,

1
2 it will have impacts down the road. It
3 will have impacts down the road because
4 disenfranchisement and dilution of votes
5 also lead to suppression of votes.
6 Lakeview is a community that votes
7 vigorously, regularly. As Ms. Coads
8 said, has just a few electoral districts,
9 but that district would rival many other
10 communities of larger size. So to lose
11 their voice, to lose their presence,
12 would be very, I think it would be
13 tragic. A community that was the
14 epicenter, the battleground for civil
15 rights would now be diluted. But more
16 importantly, the young people that would
17 have to come after us, they would seek to
18 serve, would not hit a glass ceiling, but
19 in fact, today we would pull it down on
20 them.

21 I, like legislative Kevan Abrahams,
22 can see how we can make I could see --
23 I'm not an expert, I can't draw a map for
24 you -- but I can see the pathway to
25 bridging those communities like North

1
2 Freeport with Lakeview and Baldwin and
3 South Hempstead. I can see it with my
4 mind's eye, without even looking at the
5 map in the moment.

6 And so, if there's a moment in time
7 that we can do something so that we don't
8 disenfranchise that community, a
9 community that's been very, very active,
10 that is very, very passionate about their
11 representation, now is the time. Thank
12 you.

13 PRESIDING OFFICER NICOLELLO:

14 Legislator Ferretti.

15 LEGISLATOR FERRETTI: Thank you,
16 Presiding Officer. I've said a couple of
17 times now, I find the entire process
18 fascinating. And I've watched the
19 hearings of the TDAC. One of the first
20 hearings, the chairman of the Democratic
21 Commission, maybe it was a slip, maybe it
22 wasn't, I don't know. But he said that --
23 and this is before any map was proposed.
24 And I know the Presiding Officer
25 referenced this earlier, before any map

1
2 was proposed by either the Democrat
3 Commission, the Republican Commission, no
4 map, that this was headed to court. And
5 at that point in my head, I said, oh,
6 boy, you know, when we're up there
7 voting, no matter what we do, I have a
8 feeling that the other side is probably
9 going to have a problem with it. That's
10 politics. I get it. I get why you're
11 saying and need to say what you're
12 saying. I knew it the moment I heard the
13 commissioner of the TDAC on the Democrat
14 side say this is headed to court. So I
15 get that.

16 But before we take the vote tonight,
17 I did want to thank the Presiding
18 Officer. I wanted to thank our entire
19 Caucus over here, the public, and I want
20 to thank the Minority as well.

21 Legislator Bynoe I know a few
22 minutes ago said that we've done a lot
23 since this map was first was first put
24 up. We really haven't. We have as an
25 entire Legislature. Those amendments were

1
2 at your suggestion on the Minority side,
3 many of them, many from the public, but
4 many were from you, from Legislator
5 Bynoe, Legislator Drucker. We heard from
6 all of you. And I would challenge anyone
7 in this room to find, since the new laws
8 passed down from Albany a map that's put
9 forward for a vote where more input has
10 not been taken from the Minority in a
11 Body. I would challenge you to find one.
12 I would challenge you to find a single
13 map that was put forward by a Majority
14 that had more districts with registered
15 voters from the Minority party. I
16 understand, Legislator Abrahams says said
17 it should be, you know, has indicated
18 that there's trending that should be
19 considered. I get that.

20 But I want to thank the entire
21 Legislature because like I said, like it
22 or not, I feel this map is a map that was
23 created by all of us. So thank you, all,
24 for your efforts.

25 PRESIDING OFFICER NICOLELLO:

1
2 Legislator Solages.

3 LEGISLATOR SOLAGES: Thank you very
4 much.

5 Legislator Ferretti, thank you for
6 your comments. And thank you everyone for
7 your comments, especially the public. It
8 was mentioned by you, Legislator
9 Ferretti, of party registration and how
10 the party registration shows that it is a
11 fair process. But that is assuming that
12 there is no phenomenon that we may know
13 of as party rating where one particular
14 political party intentionally has its
15 members reregister of the other political
16 party just to dilute the vote in certain
17 elections. We're assuming that doesn't
18 occur in Nassau County. The party
19 registration factor can't be considered,
20 not in a vacuum. It has considered that
21 as well.

22 Secondly, there was reference made
23 to my predecessor, John Ciotti. May he
24 rest in peace. I do want to point out
25 that that election in 2011 was a very

1
2 historic election, not just because a
3 16-year-incumbent was defeated, but also
4 it represented one of the very few times
5 in the history of this institution that a
6 Republican and a Democrat won on the same
7 lines that were drawn. And I believe that
8 those lines those lines were drawn by
9 Democrats when we had a Democrat as a
10 Presiding Officer. And those lines in
11 2011, a Republican won on those lines and
12 a Democrat won on those lines. And that
13 district was very different from the
14 district that exists currently. That
15 district expanded from west to east. It
16 clearly showed the trend of population of
17 individuals from Queens reaching the
18 American dream, buying a home. And as
19 they moved them from Elmont to Franklin
20 Square to West Hempstead, the district
21 expanded eastwards. The year after that
22 election, maybe because certain
23 communities were upset that a young
24 Democrat was representing them, the
25 district was changed and it didn't go

1
2 from west to east, it went from north to
3 south. And as we see under many
4 constitutional cases regarding
5 gerrymandering, that is a clear sign that
6 these districts have been gerrymandered.

7 And so, yes, I thank the Commission
8 and the Majority for changing certain
9 things in the map that were mentioned
10 regarding District Three, but it does not
11 truly reflect the true growth and the
12 communities of interests and their
13 growth. Respectfully, I'm thankful that a
14 sliver of Mill Brook has been included,
15 but, nevertheless, not the majority of
16 all of Mill Brook has been included. I
17 ask you to please keep Mill Brook whole.
18 I ask you please also to not just focus
19 on the Third Legislative District, but to
20 focus on all the districts in which we
21 see an example of packing and cracking.

22 For those reasons, I have various
23 concerns about this map. I have various
24 concerns that not only would have lead to
25 a lawsuit, but it will lead to many

1
2 things that we saw in the congressional
3 election last year in which people did
4 not know of the election date. It led to
5 a low voter turnout. It led to
6 frustration amongst voters feeling that
7 their vote was diluted or that their vote
8 was not respected. It was not the best
9 example of democracy in action when you
10 have a special master or a court not
11 issue sufficient notice to the public to
12 educate people as to how and what exactly
13 is going on in the process. For those
14 reasons that I have various concerns, not
15 just that this map will lead to a
16 lawsuit, but it would lead to conditions
17 in Nassau County becoming less
18 democratic.

19 Thank you very much, everyone who
20 came here to speak. God bless you.

21 PRESIDING OFFICER NICOLELLO: Okay.
22 Any other Legislators?

23 (Whereupon, no verbal
24 response.)
25

PRESIDING OFFICER NICOLELLO:

Deputy Presiding Officer Koppel
motion to close the hearing, seconded by
Legislator Ford. All in favor of closing
the hearing, signify by saying, "Aye".

(Whereupon, all members of
the Nassau County Legislature
respond in favor.)

PRESIDING OFFICER NICOLELLO: Those
opposed.

(Whereupon, no verbal
response.

PRESIDING OFFICER NICOLELLO: Thank
you, all, for coming down to our hearing
today.

(Whereupon, meeting is
closed, 3:46 p.m.)

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 27th day of February, 2023.

Karen Lorenzo
KAREN LORENZO

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