STATE OF ARIZONA
ARIZONA INDEPENDENT REDISTRICTING COMMISSION

REPORTER'S TRANSCRIPT OF PROCEEDINGS

PUBLIC COMMENT SESSION EXCERPTED

Phoenix, Arizona
June 12, 2001
7:00 p.m.

ARIZONA INDEPENDENT
REDISTRICTING
COMMISSION

LISA A. NANCE, RPR
Certified Court Reporter
Certificate No. 50349
THE STATE OF ARIZONA INDEPENDENT REDISTRICTING

COMMISSION convened in Public Session on June 12, 2001,
at 7:00 o'clock p.m. at South Mountain Community
College, 7050 South 24th Street, Phoenix, Arizona, in
the presence of:

APPEARANCES:

CHAIRMAN STEVE LYNN

VICE CHAIRMAN ANDI MINKOFF

COMMISSIONER JAMES R. HUNTWORK

JOSE de JESUS RIVERA, Commission Counsel

FLORENCE ADAMS, NDC Consultant

ALAN HESLOP, NDC Consultant

ENRIQUE MEDINA OCHOA, Executive Director

ADOLFO ECHEVESTE, Outreach Coordinator

AMY REZZONICA, Public Information Officer

AUGUSTA KNIGHT, Outreach Staff

TIM JOHNSON, Technical Computer Staff

ALICIA NIETO JACOBS, Spanish Interpreter

LISA A. NANCE, RPR, CCR, Court Reporter
PRESENTATION BY CHAIRMAN LYNN

SPEAKERS FROM CALL TO THE PUBLIC:

Supervisor Mary Rose Wilcox
Steve Gallardo
Marie Lopez-Rogers
Mayor Frances Osuna
Norma Munoz
Rachel Villanueva
Helen Trujillo
Jeff King
Jose Solarez
John McComish
Aaron Kizer
Joseph Ricarte
Senator Pete Rios
William Wiess
Carlos Avelar
Ruben S. Martinez
Danny Ortega
Ken Clark
Bradley Vandermark
Reverend Oscar Tillman
Lucy Logan
Rosie Lopez
Eric Ehst
Phoenix, Arizona
June 12, 2001
7:00 o'clock p.m.

PROCEEDINGS

(The following is an excerpted transcript from the public hearing containing only the public comment portion of the evening.)

CHAIRMAN LYNN: Let me at this point stop and move to the next part of the evening which is less from me and more from you. We want to hear what you have to say. Again, I'd ask if you have filled out a speaker form and have not yet turned it in, raise it and one of the staff will come by and pick it up and we'll get to you as quickly as we can this evening.

Thank you for your attention. That was a lengthy presentation, and I appreciate your attention for that portion.

Let me call on these in order. Again, I ask, if going to speak --

Let me grab these.

If you are going to speak, come forward, not so much so everyone in the room can hear you, it's more importantly so Lisa, our public reporter, stenographer, can see and hear you speak, get everything
you say down and use it in a form we can use later on.

I know the first presentation this evening
is a formal presentation from Supervisor Mary Rose
Wilcox speaking on behalf of the Hispanic Coalition for
Fair Redistricting.

Supervisor, with any luck, we're all
plugged up.

If you do this, you actually may get an
image here pretty quick.

Probably what we may want to do,
Supervisor Wilcox, the lights are on so we can see, or
lights off for the Power Point?

SUPERVISOR WILCOX: Off for the Power
Point presentation.

CHAIRMAN LYNN: We'll ask this evening, if
we can, there are a number of people that wish to speak.
I do not wish to curtail anyone's presentation. If you
have a written presentation, we'd ask to put it into the
record in its entirety. This particular presentation,
we're hoping it's about 10 minutes, a Power Point.

SUPERVISOR WILCOX: I have a Power Point,
elected official's comments to go into the record. I'll
try to be as concise as I can.

CHAIRMAN LYNN: Terrific.

SUPERVISOR WILCOX: It's organized to
flow.

Thank you very much.

I'm Mary Rose Wilcox, Maricopa County Supervisor, District Five, Maricopa County.

This is a very crucial time where a decade term ends of government, a crucial time for the Hispanic population. Proposition 106 overwhelmingly was passed --

MULTIPLE VOICES: We can't hear.

SUPERVISOR WILCOX: I'll try to talk as loud as I can.

I'll have to ask the Commission to bear with me. I'm not able to hear them.

CHAIRMAN LYNN: We hear you fine. If you'll project.

SUPERVISOR WILCOX: We have maps, a Power Point presentation.

Let me start over.

My name is Mary Rose Wilcox, Maricopa County Supervisor. This is a crucial time. This year is even a more crucial time due to the immense growth of the Hispanic population. With the onset of new population that overwhelmingly supported the Proposition, the Arizona voters thank the members of the Commission as hosting voters.
We Hispanics at these hearings, our voice will be heard. We don't have to tell you how appalled we were when we were not appointed to the Commission, when there was not a minority representative on the Commission. That's why we come here as a coalition of elected folks from the community to put on the record areas we feel must be considered because of commonalities.

I'd like at this time to introduce our group. We've come here, Mayor Osuna along with Margie Garcia from the Council of Guadalupe; Marie Lopez-Rogers, Councilwoman from Avondale; also Avondale, Norma Munoz, a member of the Roosevelt School Board; Rachel Villanueva, Dysart School District and Surprise Activist; Steve Gallardo and Rudy Perez, MALDEF.

Our coalition, Hispanic Coalition for Fair Redistricting Process, if our voice cannot be heard through an actual vote of the Commission, will be heard through the record at hearings.

Our record today is put together, besides elected officials, the Mexican American Legal Defense Fund, MALDEF; National Association of Latino Elected Officials, NALEO; WCVI; and also VULAC, will present areas where commonalities lie, also share why areas of common interest are so important to communities.
After the 2000 census, Arizona received two new congressional seats because of the enormous growth. We believe this voice should include all of Arizona.

More than 36 percent of the state is minority population. 25 percent of the state is Hispanic. Two majority-minority Congressional Districts and a possible third majority-minority district should be created.

What we've done, we've used resources to create this.

We'll be creating a summary of the laws involved in the process, maps showing communities of commonalities, and testimony to verify commonality. We'll have several people presenting these maps.

Let me first of all talk to you about the law. This section requires the Department of Justice to perform a federal review.

We passed the Voting Rights Act in 1965. Section Two protects voters from any practice that deprives them of their right to vote based on race, color, or language minority.

Section Five applies to certain jurisdictions with a history of discrimination. In Arizona, Greenlee County, Maricopa, Pima, Santa Cruz,
and Yuma. Section Five requires the Department of Justice to perform a federal review.

By law, redistricting criteria includes the following, having equal population, being contiguous, compact, observing geographic and natural boundaries, and share common communities of interest.

Today we're focusing on communities of interest. Common communities in common geographic socioeconomic, voting behavior, educational, cultural.

What we've done is use all our resources to present common commonalities in Maricopa County. Later we'll see subcommonalities in the state. In conjunction, we'll show how they relate to commonalities.

I'll kick off the map presentation. I'll put maps here and hope the Commission can observe them. We'll submit them all, what you are seeing now, plus maps from our consultants.

The first map I'd like to show, party majority by precinct. Blue is all Dems and red is Republicans. This is what you are looking at, party majority by precinct. Clearly you see a delineation, and blue Democratic, red Republican.

Number of registered voters is next.

Lighter red areas show the percentage of registered
voters. And almost red show high registered voters. Again, these maps clearly show there is a delineation. And lighter colored shows red number, very low registered voters.

Next map we show is the number of food stamp recipients in March 2001. Darker green, and as you progress out, darker green, some looks almost, you know, as dark as you get, forest green, those are areas of most food stamp recipients per zip code. Again, the area clearly pointed out commonalities. Areas we are covering, we were advised MALDEF and also LULAC by the Justice Department will take into account commonalty.

Amount of cash assistance needed per zip code in 2001. I think that's the next one, Terri -- I'm sorry, this is food stamp --

Terri, let's go back to food stamp. This is food stamp. Areas, dark are ones predominantly areas applied for food stamp once. Darker ones, that is cash assistance. Put that back up.

What this means is cash assistance is one-time assistance, may be a weatherization program, may be a utility assistance program, one time or sometimes twice, very rarely, people go in and get cash assistance because of need.
Those four maps start setting the tone for commonalty in Maricopa County.

Now I'd like Steve Gallardo to come up.

He'll speak about the primary home language other than English map.

MR. GALLARDO: Thank you.

Commissioners, my name is Steve Gallardo, Redistricting Chair, Latino Coalition for Fair Redistricting, G A L L A R D O.

In the year 2000, the 2000 general election, a proposition was put on the ballot that affects the Hispanic community dramatically, Proposition 203. For you folks that don't remember it, the proposition eliminated bilingual education and put in a one-year English emersion.

This map illustrates where the proposition was supported, where defeated. Although passed by the State of Arizona, it was overwhelmingly voted against by the minority and Hispanic community.

The dark colored, green, avocado green, those areas passed the proposition, 50 percent. The lighter shade green, pink areas, voted against the particular proposition by more than 30 to 40 percent.

This shows the difference between a real minority community and nonminority community. This is
an area of a Hispanic community, particularly striking
against this particular case.

The second map, primary home language
other than -- school districts that have homes that use
more than one language, more than likely more than one
language, Roosevelt School District, dark red, those
homes have more than 60 percent in the school district
have homes that speak more than one language, more than
likely Spanish, Spanish speaking school districts.
Lighter shade of orange, anywhere from 30 to 35 percent
of the households have more than one language in the
home. Roosevelt, more than 35 percent of the homes in
the school district.

The commissioners do not want us to bring
up the grid. With the grid, Tempe Number Three, the
grid, it's in the same legislative grid. The white area
are grids with 25 percent or less of households that
that do not have -- that do have second language homes.
So you can see the big difference between Roosevelt
School District and Tempe Three regarding language.
It's not a common interest. They should be kept
separately.

Also, regarding the grid at the
congressional level, Roosevelt level, the same
congressional level, Kyrene the same level white,
representing less than 25 percent of homes, these do not have any kind of commonalty and should be kept separate, should not be kept in the same jurisdiction.

That's it.

SUPERVISOR WILCOX: Next speaker is the Vice Mayor from the City of Avondale, Marie Lopez-Rogers.

MS. LOPEZ-ROGERS: Thank you, Commissioners. I'm Marie Lopez-Rogers, R O G E R S. As Vice Mayor of Avondale, I urge you to use this information as we're submitting it to you. Having been born and raised in the City of Avondale, I'm amazed at the growth of the City of Avondale, 36 plus people in every district, yet we're trying to maintain the rural, small-town feeling, encouraging small town people, similar to West Phoenix, South Phoenix, and the Tolleson area. Like the Cashion-Phoenix area, the average yearly income is $15,500. Agricultural, families like mine worked the Goodyear farms. Many families stayed in the area raising children. Families of West South Phoenix, share human concerns, the justice force, child care. Avondale has one of the highest percent of recipients of assistance in the community. For several years we've been developing a transit system designed for our special needs. In
redistricting our special needs, I urge you considering
our special needs.

SUPERVISOR WILCOX: The next speaker is
Frances Osuna, Mayor of Guadalupe, who will show the
minority, particularly Hispanic populations, in Maricopa
County.

MR. OSUNA: I am Frances Osuna, O S U N A.
This shows Latinos, culturally and
racially, for the Town of Guadalupe, South Phoenix and
maybe go with the Gila River Indian Reservation, 60
percent Latino and 40 percent Yaqui Indian. Strong
ethnic identity, sets them apart, many bilingual or
Spanish speaking.

The language issue is a special needs for
residents other communities may not be sensitive to.
For this town I urge you, the town of Guadalupe, South
Phoenix, the Gila River community should not be in a
congressional and legislative district with Ahwatukee,
Tempe, or Chandler. Guadalupe has very little
culturally in common with these communities. Also, with
respect to political subdivisions, precincts, the town
of Guadalupe congressional and legislative districts.
Mary Rose's areas, the peach, blue, green areas,
predominantly minority, a very segregated society,
communities I'd point out. Guadalupe is, Steve pointed
out -- this is Guadalupe, more commonalities with minorities.

SUPERVISOR WILCOX: Norma Munoz will speak to the cash value per parcel map.

MS. MUNOZ: Thank you this evening for allowing us to have this opportunity, the chance to express our feelings, have them show a bit and hopefully encourage our chances.

I'm Norma Munoz, a resident of South Phoenix, have been a resident for 36 years or more. I am also a member of the Roosevelt School Board.

We're here to present issues that may not have been considered by you.

I have come here today representing the South Phoenix community because we are concerned about some issues that might not have been considered by this committee. The main issue is the lack of likeness with the communities that may be considered for merging with South Phoenix. For example, I'll use our neighboring neighboring area of Ahwatukee. They have very little like concerns or issues with South Phoenix. Merging South Phoenix with a community without likeness, for any community, would be very harmful and wrong to us.

Because there are no minorities on the Board, we are especially concerned. Our community is
over 70 percent minority. We feel this community --
this committee cannot possibly understand our needs.
Our fear is that through the redistricting efforts and
plans to merge our area with unlike areas like Ahwatukee
or Tempe, we will be left out with no voice or political
support.

Unlike areas like Ahwatukee, South Phoenix
is one of the oldest areas in Arizona. The average
homeowner's roots go back 50 to 100 years. Some homes
have been occupied by generations of the same family for
many, many years. There is a rural atmosphere
throughout the area south of the river to the mountain.
Horses and other animals are permitted in many of our
properties. It's not unusual to hear a rooster's
wake-up call in the early morning in the early morning
hours and there are no no neighborhood associations,
except maybe in some new home developments.

Cash values are very different. Again,
I'll use an example. Ahwatukee, Tempe, the average cash
values are 115,000 to $150,000, approximately. Us,
we're more like 50,000 to 115,000. This will cause
isolation for South Phoenix and we'll become outvoted
with these inequities. I don't have to tell you the
outcome for our community.

Even if you consider other areas to the
north of us, unlike and uncommon figures would be evident.

Merging very drastically different communities with ours, concerning properties of unlike commonalities is a horrendous mistake.

I'd like you to consider likeness, commonness. I'd like for us to maintain as much of our own personality as possible. We'd like to consider our own rights to equal voting power and representation.

We'd like to consider our own voting power and representation.

Rose Mary's final map will be presented by Rachel Villanueva from the Surprise and El Mirage area, a voter map outlining voter turnout in areas. She'll outline a situation that occurred in Dysart Unified School District that goes directly to the point.

MS. VILLANUEVA: Rachel Villanueva

I'm a citizen from the City of Surprise, a very vocal member. I'm a very concerned citizen and express my views to let you know exactly how our area is working out and our stress we've been putting up with.

In the past, two board of supervisors that represented the City of Surprise, Jan Brewer and Mary Rose Wilcox, talking about the original town site, only
not talking about the whole City of Surprise, that
Surprise is a different issue because we are so spread
out.

The original town site was a Hispanic
community. And we've felt we've been left out in many
areas. I'll give you a few areas. We've been
overlooked by our representative, but we are not even
able to represent our schools. We're not able to
represent our children, even the parents from our own
community. This apathy in communities has gotten to
dismay. Parents don't even talk about running for the
school board or any other office because they've been
outvoted many times in many elections in the past by Sun
City West retirees helping to fail three bonds and
override elections for the children. Voters voted to
keep Sun City West elections, to help retirees, to bail
out retirees in the State of Arizona.

In 1976, Sun City West decided to step
down from the position. It was a tax. They were
involved with their own community at that time. And
they decided to run for the Dysart School Board. At
this time there were four parents. They won four seats,
and four parents were voted out from the school board.
There was no representation of any parent, minority or
otherwise. The four retirees, they wanted five seats,
not four, so they recalled the fifth parent. And now they hold five seats. This has not changed in the last five years. They even have the majority on the board. One of the humiliations that continues is they do not listen to parents. So it doesn't matter, our feelings. We are not represented by them. And I feel that our representatives are not there for us, either.

For that reason, the Surprise, and again I say the old town site in El Mirage, I'm asking you even throw in an isolated area, and the isolated area is way on the top, you consider our request very seriously and consider putting us in the Congressional and Legislative District with Tolleson, Avondale, or any other districts. I come before you because I care, come before you because I'm concerned, and hope you are concerned about our area as well.

CHAIRMAN LYNN: Thank you.

SUPERVISOR WILCOX: As you can see from the map, the Dysart area we're concerned with is darker brown. Dark and red are low areas of turnout, surrounded by Sun City West, as she said, and they are outvoted continually.

What we've intended do with the maps is show you clearly areas of commonalities. We've done it
one step further and superimposed all these areas. And
what we have, and we did not draw lines, because we know
this is a stage where you want areas. These are the
areas in Maricopa County where over 60 percent of these
areas are common in areas, food stamp assistance, cash
one-time assistance, low voter turnout, to again show
the voting trend patterns Steve emphasized. These are
your areas.

You can very easily take these areas, and
population is such it is approximately 700,000. You can
get a Hispanic Congressional District, Minority
Congressional District in Maricopa County. Under the
Voter Rights Law, areas of commonalty do count.

We've taken one other area. We have a
group simply working in Southern Arizona. At the first
presentation it looked very hard to get Congressional
Districts. The possibility of a third influence in
Southern Arizona, taking the issues we presented, we
believe in Maricopa County we have showed you the areas
of commonalities, including going up the river including
Arizona and Surprise.

In Pinal, Graham, Pinal, and Santa Cruz.
The same areas of commonalities could be configured into
a Congressional District. And the populations of these
districts is close to approximately 650,000. These two
areas, Maricopa and Southern Arizona, the issues that we talked about, these also have the same commonalities.

We leave you with areas of commonalities that you as a Commission will take your job very, very seriously, ask your consultants to look at these commonalities.

We'd ask you to make two congressional districts where there are these areas, Ed Pastor, even luckier to have a minority from southern area. Influence districts, the Native American community, add in enough numbers. But we think Maricopa and Southern Arizona, and a configuration that not lines but areas we have drawn give you a Hispanic Congressional District and a third leaning Native American District.

We will leave you, give you copies of everything we have presented. And we're available for any of your consultants to talk to us.

We tried very hard to follow the rules you laid out and Prop 106. We did not draw outlines, draw out -- oh, coincidentally, for in Pima, we combined with Yuma parts of Santa Cruz, Gila, and Pinal. These would give us ample representation, and it is our due because of our population.

CHAIRMAN LYNN: Thank you.

The next person who had asked to speak is
Helen Trujillo, president of the Garfield Organization.

Ms. Trujillo, are you here?

MS. TRUJILLO: Yes.

TRUJILLO.

I am here because I am the president of the Garfield Organization. I live at 1322 East Pierce, and I have been there for over 50 years. The Garfield Neighborhood is one of the oldest residential areas in the City of Phoenix.

Most of the houses between Seventh Street to 16 Street on the East, and North, it's Van Buren north to the freeway. Many of the homes, including my own, were built before 1920. We wish to make it very clear and point out the neighborhood does not want to be split either in Legislative or Congressional District lines.

Twelve years ago Garfield was one of the worst areas of the city. Drug pushers, prostitutes, gangs invaded the streets and homes. Today we have a neighborhood that works, one we take pride in, one we do not intend to let move backward even one little inch.

The reason we succeeded is we united, regardless of whether Hispanic, black, or Anglo. We speak to the government with one voice. This is the power of a neighborhood. And we've discovered ourselves and each
other and will not surrender. If you cut Garfield in
half, you've endangered it, diluted it. Our problems
getting elected would be doubled.

On behalf of the 3,200 families in
Garfield, please don't cut Garfield.

CHAIRMAN LYNN: Next, Mr. King, also on
behalf of Garfield. Mr. King.

MR. KING: My name is Jeff King, K I N G,
executive director of the Garfield Organization. I live
at 1029 East Garfield, Arizona, 85006.

As you've heard, the Garfield neighborhood
is among the oldest residential neighborhoods in the
City of Phoenix, not quite one square mile, and extends
from Seventh Street on the west to 16th Street on the
East. The northern boundary is the Interstate 10 loop
202 right-of-way and Van Buren on the south. There are
approximately 3,200 families, mostly Hispanic, that call
Garfield home.

The boundaries are not arbitrary. Over 10
years ago, our neighborhood association, its businesses,
civic groups, and churches, came together to form the
Garfield Organization, an alliance of neighborhood
interests. The challenge then is the same as now: We
are a small, low income, inter-city neighborhood trying
to lift ourselves out of crime and blight by our own
boots. 

Although we are a City of Phoenix Initiative area and recipients of a United States Department of Justice Weed and Seed Grant, we need all the help we can get. To have Garfield bisected by a Congressional or Legislative District line would be potentially disastrous. Our efforts to work with elected officials on needs for a single, unified neighborhood could be doubled. We are apprehensive we might have only half the support and grant program applications we'd need. Or worse, dividing our common voice might well mean that it becomes inaudible to our congressional and legislative representatives. Certainly a divided community would have a much more difficult time qualifying for federal funding.

Please consider carefully as you prepare your district maps. Allow Garfield and other a small, impoverished inner-city neighborhoods that retain the unity they have fought so hard to attain as a community of interest to stay together.

CHAIRMAN LYNN: Those speaking, if you mind leaving your written material, that will give added assurance we get everything on the record. Thank you very much.

The next person to speak, Jose Solarez.
Mr. Solarez.

MR. SOLAREZ: Jose Solarez, SOLAREZ.

I'm President of South Phoenix presently, Guadalupe, and have concerns with regard to the grid system, that take into effect the grid system, that ways of connecting the grid and El Mirage, Guadalupe, are illegal.

Consultants are not always correct. City of Phoenix wanted to divide part of South Phoenix, hook up the Ahwatukee area and west of East Phoenix. The proposed plan was working with MALDEF and other communities. Phoenix would follow a gas line that runs along East Phoenix and connect Ahwatukee with East Phoenix. The consultant said, that would never past muster. Today it exists and kept South Phoenix together, contiguous.

Make sure, whatever the consultant says don't work, look twice, three times before --

Secondly, I'm a strong believer in a separate House District not following the same boundaries as Senate boundaries. Minority groups have stronger representation at the state level than they would presently. As an example, Mesa is predominantly Republican Anglo Saxon districts, always in the same districts. South Phoenix, for no other reason than the fact is you have a cultural and racial type. The fact
still remains along the Tempe-Mesa boundaries, including Southern Scottsdale, a minority district formed within the House structure.

I believe having districts in the House not following existing Senate districts to provide minority, both native people, both Hispanic and American Indian communities more voice to have an opportunity to elect more individuals of their choosing, not pushing have to be Hispanic, not pushing to have to be American Indian, these voters have the opportunity to choose whoever they want to vote for.

Yuma County, predominantly changed the District of Yuma County, took three, four years before they saw results, had a person of their choosing. The Census facts exist now, and there's a growth pattern for the future.

Factors looked at by the US Department of Justice are in process. Folks, I don't know if you know this, the State of Arizona state legislative plan was rejected not once, twice, but three times for failure of both individuals in control of the Senate side and House side for not being able to work with community groups that had special interests.

We also need to make sure we reaffirm ourselves that every piece of legislative software or
design of these districts be made available to community
groups. This needs to be accessible so we can have good
use of the same data in order to establish our plans as
well. We feel this is necessary.

I strongly believe, going back to my same
statement, House Districts don't need to follow Senate
Districts. Give them the opportunity to rule, maybe the
minority have elect officials maybe represent special
districts.

CHAIRMAN LYNN: Thank you, Mr. Solarez.

For those that have come late, if you
filled out a speaker form, hold it up, get it to us.
We'll take all speakers this evening.

Next to speak, John McComish, President of
the Ahwatukee Foothills Chamber of Chamber Commerce.

MR. McCOMISH: I thought I should speak,
since no one wants us.

CHAIRMAN LYNN: I can assure you, you will
have a district when we're finished.

MR. McCOMISH: As an aside, if I may, the
gentleman said what was done with City of Phoenix, his
portion of City of Phoenix, was a disaster, for
Ahwatukee Foothills, what helps one doesn't help
everybody. We have a barbell district, two areas done,
one way south, one way north, connected by a spaghetti
strip. Good for him, wasn't so good for us.

That having been said, my only point is a simple one. The Ahwatukee Foothills area is a community of interest, hopefully a community of interest. It's a community of interest bounded on three sides by south mountain, Gila River, bounded by the mountain with three zip codes. 80,000 people, if it were a city. There are larger cities in the State of Arizona. If were a city, there are no legislative representatives that live within our boundary. And that is because we are divided, represented by three folks in Tempe District and three folks in Chandler District and no folks in Ahwatukee District.

My message, I hope we are a community of interest. It's a tough job figuring out where we go if we go, a tough proposition.

Thank you, folks, for the good work you are doing.

CHAIRMAN LYNN: Thank you.

Next wishing to speak, Mr. Aaron Kizer representing Friendly House.

Mr. Kizer.

MR. KIZER: Thank you. It's K I Z E R.

I'm appearing as an attorney for Friendly House, a community-based organization in Maricopa
There is a lot of concern with the grid map issues and the redistricting process itself. Let me give you specifics. Contrary to what the Chairman issued, the grid maps violated many cases. Clear geographical boundaries were considered when drawing the grid maps. For example, Yavapai County, what you call Legislative District Number One was put together in one grid. Mohave, La Paz Counties, you called Legislative Number Two, another grid. And at this stage they're not supposed to be considered a community or county boundaries that we see on grid maps.

Second, there are bigger problems with the grid maps. I did an analysis of the Hispanic representation, dilution. The grid maps have five majority-minority. Presently there are seven majority-minority. The reduction from seven to five majority to minority is retrogression. The population of 36 percent minorities in this state, we should be getting nine to ten minority districts. The question is why are they not being shown at this stage?

There are other problems. Reservations. Native Americans are being split in two districts. At a cursory review, seeing Mohave reservations, Hopi, Gila,
Tohono O'odham being split, South Phoenix being put with Chandler, Ahwatukee.

Finally, even though they say this doesn't take place, addresses of incumbents have been considered in drawing these grids. Ed Pastor lives at 11th Avenue --

MR. RIVERA: We should not hear this evidence at all.

CHAIRMAN LYNN: We're not able to take this into account. I assure you, we cannot take that into account. We can't take that into public comment.

MR. KIZER: I'd like to make my comment. Why can I not make my comment?

CHAIRMAN LYNN: The Commission is, under Proposition 106, not able to know where candidates and incumbents live. It's not something we can know. It's not something we can take into account thus far.

MR. KIZER: Let me move on to another point.

If you look at the Congressional District in West Maricopa County, see just in between 115th Avenue and 83rd Avenue in Tolleson. If you look at why there is a funny jig-jag, call it a gerrymander, and want to know where Congressman Stump lives, look in that area.
We believe these problems reflect lack of minority representation on the Independent Redistricting Commission. Because of this belief, we feel the concerns of the minority community are not being addressed.

I'd like to submit my written comments.

CHAIRMAN LYNN: If the address of Mr. Pastor is on that, would you like to excise that? Forgive me, I'm not sure I can read it.

Joseph Ricarte.

MR. RICARTE: Rick Ricarte, R I C A R T E. I'm here with Aaron Kizer, to reiterate what he says. One of the biggest concerns when looking at preliminary maps is diluting minority rights. The new Census comes up. It's talking about the increase in Hispanic voting rights. There's a lot of excitement. Something like this takes away all -- the small progress we've made over the years, our power within the community. And it's taking it right from us. I was really appalled by that.

I wanted to come in and reiterate what Mary Rose Wilcox and Aaron Kizer said and put that on the record.

CHAIRMAN LYNN: Thank you, Mr. Ricarte.

Thank you very much.
Next, Senator Rios.

SENATOR RIOS: Thank you all for taking the time. We appreciate it.

Let me start by saying the grid map, I know the intent of it. A lot of people out there in the real world have seen it on the internet, have seen copies of it in the newspaper. They believe that that exists. So I think we're doing a disservice to the public when we publicize it. It's part of the public when you publicize it. I make that point.

There are a couple points you have to go through in drawing districts. One, you comply with the US Constitution and Voting Rights Act. Additionally, to the extent practicable, you draw district lines and use visible geographic features, city, town, county features and undivided census tracts. To some extent, those two guiding facts contradict vis-a-vis minority districts.

The Chairman made a joke about District Seven which I represented. The Justice Department when they reviewed the plans didn't laugh. The majority-minority didn't laugh. Why you did it in the grid, reduced 52 percent minorities to 40 percent minorities? You've taken out the community, the town of Guadalupe. Guadalupe, we made an extra effort to give the voting base, Gila River, Guadalupe, Ak-Chin, 40
percent Pascua Yaqui Indians, you've taken many groups out, Avondale out of District Seven, and included Gold Canyon, Jack Nickelson, Winkelman, Hayden. That's what you have done. Designated a minority-majority. I don't find District Seven a joke. I don't find my constituents, if they reside, whether they reside in Avondale, funny, when they come to someone who understands the issues to represent them, especially when for the majority of my 10 years they had minority representation.

Let me move on to another point. I'm trying to be as brief as I can. And that is to ask all as you go around changing the map after input, once you come up with some real districts, what they look like, go out for 30 days for comment. I understand August 1st, September 1st, that's it, you want to go to the Justice Department. Let me ask once you've taken additional public comment, instead of September 1st, let people look at the map again, give another week or two before you go to justice. There will be a lot of additional input once you have, according to your layout, finalized it. Give people that additional opportunity.

Thank you for listening to me.

CHAIRMAN LYNN: Thank you, Senator Rios.
The next speaker is William Weiss.

Mr. Weiss.

MR. WEISS: William Weiss, W E I S S.

Thank you for your service. I have to admit this is politics, elections, a dichotomy I see.

As a Republican minority, I ran for Senate here and lost soundly, and deservedly so. The people of this district wanted someone else to represent them. I can live with that.

America is a melting pot, inbred, loose dynamics, of diverse culture. That's really what you are trying to do here. That's what America is about to me.

Thank you very much.

CHAIRMAN LYNN: The next speaker is Carlos Avelar.

Mr. Avelar.

MR. AVELAR: Good evening, I'm Carlos Avelar, A V E L A R. I'm a State Representative in District 23 and also a member of the Roosevelt School District in South Phoenix, have been for the last 18 years. It's my second term in the Legislature.

Last night I got on the computer, got on the website, it's easy to find, and also very disturbing in terms of whether you want to call it district maps,
want to call it a grid. In looking through the grid and
listening today in terms of the criteria supposedly used
to establish this grid, Mr. Kizer already pointed out
you may have violated laws already, he established.

You go across the state, "Trust us," in
terms of what you're doing. You've violated rules.
Mr. Kizer pointed that out. You're talking about
diluting minority voting rights. Going from seven
minority-majority districts to five. Forget about the
impact on the minority community, the impact on the
State of Arizona, look at my community, South Phoenix.
I represent a very large population here. I've been
here for more years than I care to count. My
grandfather, my children represent the fifth generation.
We have long ties with this community, this state.

Looking at what now is currently District
23 based on this grid map, it's divided into four
Legislative Districts. It has a semblance, I represent
not that it's not a final say, but if the first proposal
out of the gate is flawed, from our perspective, what
can we expect down the line?

Clearly it's another example why a
minority community may be disenfranchised on the
Redistricting Commission.

I understand we have individuals you
hired, Mr. Echeveste, Mr. Medina Ochoa, as some of your
top staff for the Redistricting Commission. I'd gladly
give up both of those positions for a voting member.

With that, I'll thank you for your time.

CHAIRMAN LYNN: Thank you.

For the record, I might want to mention as
has been pointed out, on the grid maps there's some
coincidence with county boundaries. And that's because
census tracts do not cross county boundaries. When you
aggregate by census tract by aggregation, you have to do
so. It's not a violation of the rules. It's
coincidental to the rules. It's merely coincidental to
the grid.

The next speaker is Mr. Ruben Martinez.

MR. MARTINEZ: Ruben Martinez.

I'd like to echo what Aaron Kizer said. I
grew up in the projects of South Phoenix. I finally
came to this position at this time to have a voice to be
heard in South Phoenix. And we have the numbers to
support us and to be able to get our own people elected
to some representation and to be able to be kept to
ourselves. And to take this away by dividing us up into
four districts here, what you are proposing now is
gerrymandering now. Think how that will make us feel.

Thank you very much.
CHAIRMAN LYNN: Thank you very much.

Next is Mr. Danny Ortega.

MR. ORTEGA: Mr. Chairman, members of the community, there are several subjects I was going to cover that have been covered well by Mary Rose Wilcox and Mr. Kizer.

I'm Danny Ortega, Chairman of the Campaign for Edward Pastor.

I'm understanding you are asking questions, and I'll try to stay within the questions.

First of all, our major concern is what has been talked about quite a bit, communities of interest.

It's important you keep them together.

Dilution of the minority voters in this state is also a major concern.

Competitive districts is of concern not because we don't like competition but simply because we believe it will have a discriminatory effect and will lead to what has been testified to as majority minority districts at legislative and congressional levels.

You asked what boundary lines we'd like to see. First of all, the plan the Congressman will submit, plans to submit to this Commission setting out his views, what are his Congressional views, you'll be
getting a full package and he'll be submitting those.

The only question I have for the Commission is how soon would you need to receive those maps in order to have those? We have deadlines. I don't want to be told they came in too late or in too early.

CHAIRMAN LYNN: I would say by the end of this month, Mr. Ortega, would be the appropriate time to have ample opportunity to look at the maps.

MR. ORTEGA: I know you didn't want us to talk about the grid. Not talking about it is like not talking about it and keeping it to yourself. It makes you very nervous. And keeping it to yourself, if you are going to use those grid maps in anyway for drawing lines or as a base map for drawing lines, I'll tell you right now, there's no way those lines will be upheld in any way, especially under the Voting Rights Act, anyway.

In our opinion, after looking at the maps and looking at everything else, you have divided communities of interest, grouped communities, grouped communities in ways that have never been done, in different ways.

For instance, Central West Phoenix with Sun City is a little strange. To put Central East Phoenix with Paradise Valley is a little strange. Just
an example. And, of course, Ahwatukee with Guadalupe is a little strange.

So if you look at your grid maps, I would think that if you really, and I know you are serious, that there's no way you could comply with the Voting Rights Act and the tremendous discriminatory effect on minorities.

Of course, what area groups, areas should absolutely not be divided, we'll say what others said: minority communities. I understand as a lawyer, you take into consideration compactness, contiguity, competitiveness, and voting dilution all into consideration.

CHAIRMAN LYNN: Ed Clark, C L A R K.

MR. CLARK: I agree with the previous comments about the majority-minority districts, although I'm more interested to speak to the downtown Phoenix area more along the lines of that Garfield neighborhood. I'd point to the current grid structure and say what you have in terms of downtown Phoenix is the right way to go, keeps the historic neighborhood together undivided, historic neighborhood, both downtown Phoenix, downtown, south of downtown, geographically similar in terms -- in terms of similar, south of Camelback, east of 19th Avenue -- well, taking most of
downtown Phoenix as you have here, and west of 30th Avenue, a distinctly different area, growing, has its own mentality and should be taken into account. I think parts of South Phoenix are oftentimes not included. People don't think of South Phoenix as part of Phoenix. It is, historically, and it deserves its own recognition as well.

CHAIRMAN LYNN: Thank you, Mr. Clark.

Next is Bradley Vandermark.

MR. VANDERMARK: Bradley Vandermark, V A N D E R M A R K. I'm a long-term resident of Arizona. There are a couple things. One, I urge you to consider for commonalty watershed boundaries for integrated groups of representatives. That's a common interest in Arizona, water.

Also, Arizona started out as a rural state, is now an urban state, and has changed. South Phoenix is no longer urban. It's rural. Phoenix has a center. Tucson has a center. Believe it or not, Mohave County, that's one of the most urbanized counties. Urbanized counties have commonalty. We're an urban state. Our boundaries are based on that type of state, they make us relatively small. We end up being urban with overrepresentation for rural representation.

And finally, one of the comments, the
other one deals with Tribal Native Americans. I urge you, at least at the legislative areas, to set up for the Hopi, Navajos, fundamental different areas. There are 21, 23 tribes, spread out, consolidated, 63 percent native, 12.5 percent Native American Indians. At best, we don't even have a majority-minority. Once a separate minority issue Native American, they are now part of the general population.

CHAIRMAN LYNN: I have three speaker slips left. Those that filled out a speaker slip and have not submitted it, raise your hand.

The next person presenting, Reverend Oscar Tillman, NAACP. Reverend Tillman.

REVEREND TILLMAN: Good evening. I am here somewhat dismayed. As you can look around and see, there are very few people that look like me here tonight.

One of the speakers here tonight stated in her presentation that our voting power has been diluted. No one wants to try.

From the outset, African Americans have had the doubts about the Commission. We took it in stride when we met with some of you and tried our best to trust. However, we're seeing more and more -- I do not have a coalition behind me. I live in Willow
Historical District. I do not live in South Phoenix. I've only been in Arizona since '87. If I remember correctly, I think it was today James Everett was assassinated.

Voting rights has been a part my people have died for. Whenever I see that we're beginning to move away from lobbyists and politicians. I want us to be very careful. Let's not move too far away. We reform it with a separation of the groups and the races. Then we're going many miles and many steps backwards. If we want to go back to segregation and segregated districts, my voice and the people of NAACP is not here. There was a message that came out of the 92 black churches over the weekend of how serious the this weekend is. The message and tone of the NAACP and tone of the church I'm a pastor of is: Who will care? They will do what they want to do.

The thing about it is I'm here to say:
It's in your hands now. We've pleaded. We've done everything possible to say: We were left out. It could have been corrected in many ways. It wasn't. Now we're leaving it up to you. It's up to you to do the right thing. The right thing is for the future of Arizona. The right thing is we don't have a coalition and don't have someone to whisper promises. It will be just like
tonight. We'll be Left out, invisible, because the fact is trust is no longer there. I'm asking you to put trust back in our community with you.

CHAIRMAN LYNN: Thank you, Reverend Tillman.

Next is Lucy Logan.

MS. LOGAN: I just represent myself. I just want to speak to the impact of how this districting is done and the concerns that minorities are not well represented.

I certainly hope they are on your Commission. I would like to speak to some measures of what the outcome will be rather than exactly where lines should be drawn. And one of the things that I think is important is that local integrity, little groups, neighborhoods, not be divided.

If you are going to divide something, divide the bigger entities. I know you said it's hard to divide across county lines. Sometimes people live across county lines and then it does make sense to do that. One of the important things in a democracy like ours is we have representation that actually represents us. If you dilute a group so that a large portion of the people living within that group are not represented because it's lopsided, then you are creating a -- I mean
like some of the people have mentioned putting Ahwatukee
with South Phoenix. That doesn't give both groups good
representation. Those groups each need their own
representation. And the same people may not represent
both groups equally well. So it's really important that
some continuity, integrity of districts, be considered.

If the minority population is growing
greater in our state than the general population, then
the minority representation should end up being
stronger, have more representatives than they do
currently.

It sounds to me from what some of the
people have said that's not what some of the people feel
will happen from some of the lines you have considered.
I know I felt very disenfranchised when my little area
was put into Mesa. Then I didn't even feel like I was a
voter.

You know, I think people have a renewed
value of how much their vote counts now. I mean, we
aren't Florida, but we could be. It is just so
important that people feel it is worth voting. And
people don't feel it's worth voting if their districts
are skewed. So get some sort of similarity there so we
have representatives that really represent us.

CHAIRMAN LYNN: Thank you.
Are there any slips left?

Thank you.

Are there others that have submitted a slip that would like to?

Rosie Lopez, Redistricting Chair of the Hispanic Redistricting Forum.

MS. LOPEZ: I'm Rosie Lopez of the Arizona Hispanic Redistricting Forum.

Last time we did sue and got something better. We did a lot and there wasn't goodwill. We will watch closely.

I'll comment on Mary Wilcox, commend her group.

We'll make sure the lines are drawn up with a lot of integrity. I agree with her on the communities of interest. I enjoyed her presentation. It's very, very good. I think she brought the point good to you.

Those points are serious of ours.

I support what Senator Pete Rios said.

And you need to work hard. I have confidence you will.

If you want to -- as a presenter said, if you think it's so easy to just get preclearance from the Department of Justice, boy, it's not that easy. It's
not going to be that easy. If you want to make sure the lines are drawn, everything is in order, everyone has to -- everybody's input has to be noted and really move on it. You're not to let it haze over. Really do what you need to do.

I don't know if Rachel Villanueva, she spoke, a chapter member from Surprise and El Mirage. She ran several times. She used to be on the school board several times. Can't get on the school board now any time. Anybody that runs, since those developments, since the Anglos came on in Surprise, El Mirage, those came in, Jose Roy Delgado, now Mayor, City Councilman, he was almost ousted, it's very hard to get representation. Those are concerns we have.

Other representation, Phoenix Union is another example. It's a large district, forum, and NAACP, thanks to Reverend Tillman, got together with us and we sued and got them to break up into districts. Now we have a lot of representation because of our efforts.

If that's what it takes, I don't want, in reality, a lot of work for our community folks and don't want to do it. Demographics show we're 25 percent of Arizona's population in terms of Hispanics. Minority representation, 37 percent. If you take that into full
consideration, get rid of the grids you have, do them.

Over, I know it's a beginning point. Here seriously, we're not going to allow those kind of things to happen without fights. I hope you don't want to have fights.

I don't want to fight harder. I want to have good times as well as everybody else. Michael Belakowski (phonetic), worked with us back at the county, did redistricting with the county, city, and state, he and my daughter, Debbie Lopez, pushed hard to get representation there. We were unable to get a second County Board of Supervisor District. I have confidence you'll do it. Save us headaches. Save us headaches. Do the right thing.

CHAIRMAN LYNN: Thank you, Ms. Lopez.

Again, I have one speaker slip left. If anyone else wishes to speak, give it to us.

Eric Ehst.

MR. EHST: E R I C E H S T.

One criteria of Proposition 106 is competitiveness. We talked a lot about making a lot of what sounded like packed districts to me. My only comment is that when the outcome of a election is known before the votes are even taken, nobody has a reason to come out and vote. I want to make sure the Commission
does take into account -- is taking into consideration competitive districts.

CHAIRMAN LYNN: Is there anyone else wishing to speak?

If not, that concludes our meeting.

Let me state one more time, not that it hasn't been said enough this evening, there has been a lot of discussion about the grid maps. The grid maps are nothing more than a place to begin dialogue with the community. Every place pointed out about the grids going in needed to be pointed out about the grid. It means, to begin, we need information to begin about the final maps. As we move through the process, we hope to see you and all of your neighbors as we present draft maps for your consideration. I think you'll find we've listened and can understand the arguments made.

We very much appreciate your being here.

Thank you very much for being here and travel safely home this evening.

(Whereupon, the hearing concluded at approximately 9:14 p.m.)

* * * *
BE IT KNOWN that the foregoing hearing was

taken before me, LISA A. NANCE, RPR, CCR, Certified
Court Reporter in and for the State of Arizona,
Certificate Number 50349; that the proceedings were
taken down by me in shorthand and thereafter reduced to
typewriting under my direction; that the foregoing 48
pages constitute a true and accurate excerpted
transcript of proceedings had upon the taking of said
hearing, all done to the best of my ability.

I FURTHER CERTIFY that I am in no way
related to any of the parties hereto, nor am I in any
way interested in the outcome hereof.

DATED at Phoenix, Arizona, this 15th day

LISA A. NANCE, RPR
Certified Court Reporter
Certificate Number 50349