MR. LYNN: Good evening. I am Steve Lynn, Chair of the Independent Redistricting Commission. Thank you for going to much further Spanish. okay we have trans his for anyone who comes in and would prefer Spanish prefnt taigs there evening. We are going to forte those {of|have} you be through presentation before I con dol ans he find {of|have} some {of|have} this material farm twer going through fren taigs eks ba dirk augs as week anel leave remainder {for the|forth} evening for questions and comments from tholese in attendance let's fir makes in pro dukes. Directly behind me fang going un Daniel endl der who other pleb every coneks Pima k damage tai entd people American** talk a little more about representation in a bit.

To Dan's right is one of our two legal counsel for the Commission, Lisa Hauser. Because we found that most of the attorneys in the State of Arizona who have a very good strong background in election law either are Republican or Democrat by nature and have affiliated with one group or the other over the years, we have two counsel, a Republican and Democratic counsel, and they are alternating these
meetings. Tonight we are pleased to have Lisa with us. She's the Republican representative, and our Democratic counsel Jose Rivera, is up in Hon Dah this evening meeting with the folks in the White Mountains.

To Lisa's right is Ralph Rawson, who represents our consultants. Dr. Ralph Rawson representing National Demographics corporation. He's also the current director of the Rose Institute for Public Policy in California, and thank you for coming.

And in the back we have Theresa Pulido. Theresa is our Outreach Coordinator for southern Arizona, she has done a great job of pulling this together.

Then we also have Manuel Gutierrez, who is our interpreter, and he is going to be just kind of cooling his heels this evening unless someone needs to have interpretation. So we appreciate all of them being here.

Let me start with this presentation, which is designed to talk about the subject this evening, redistricting. The drawing of new district lines for the state's legislative and congressional districts as provided for for the first time in history under Proposition 106.
Now, every 10 years districts have to be redrawn because of the new census and reapportionment. However, this is the first time that it's been done with Proposition 106 in place. So we will spend a little bit of time talking about that this evening. It's a very important different this year between the way we're doing redistricting and the way it's been done in the past. Citizens play a very different and a more crucial role in the process. First and foremost, there are five of your fellow citizens who make up the Commission, and we are responsible as the legislature has been in the past for actually drawing the lines, getting the district boundaries drawn and approved. And so we replace the legislature in the process based on the provisions of Proposition 106.

But these public hearings are very important because they are the means by which we are reaching out to the community and trying to get input from citizens so that you educate us as well as we educate you to the new law.

We will be using this hearings to break this process to people all over the state, and so far we have been literally all over the state. Dan and I
have traveled from the river communities on the west of the state, now into the central part of the state. We will ultimately be up in Window Rock and some of the other northeastern portions of the state and trying to get input from all 26 -- 23 meetings in all this round of public hearings. So we need for you to share your input with us and we need to share our plans with you.

Now, we're determined to make this a fair process and to do the best we can for the people of Arizona. And what that means is that we need to honestly represent the people of the state, all 5.1 million of you. And often in the past around this country when redistricting has been done, there's been a fairly deeply divisive process. There have been charges of dirty politics, partisan power plays, incumbent protection, racial and other discrimination.

All of these are part and partial of the abusive redistricting word that we have come to mispronounce. We call it Gerrymandering and it's actual Gerrymandering for those who want the history lesson. The Federalist Governor of Massachusetts, Eldridge Gerry, was found of drawing districts for his political cronies that were odd in shape and kind of
interesting to look at. So the Boston Globe cartoonist in 1811 represented these districts in the form of a salamander. And so it was Gerry's salamander or Gerrymander. Now we use that term to describe any political boundaries that have been drawn for a purpose that isn't readily apparent or might be suspect.

Well, let's take a look at some of the ways in which Gerrymandering can have an adverse effect on populations. On the example on the left is that if you have a minority party in an area that is being redistricted and you wish to dilute their impact on the four districts that we would be drawing, you cut through that minority party population and divide them among the districts in such a way that they really don't have enough clout in any of the districts being created.

The other way that you limit the impact of the minority party if you're doing political Gerrymandering is to pack all of the minorities into a single district, thereby seating that district to the minority candidate but making the other three districts available to others.

The same thing could be true if you are trying to achieve a racial Gerrymander to achieve a
pol i t i c a l result. Because of voting history of certain
groups i n the community, you can configure their
position i n the community through the same kind of
construct to either create an ethnic district to help
republicans elsewhere or to preserve a white and a

Democratic incumbent whose voting group that is in a
party that is isolated in one area. And again,
depending on how the lines are drawn, you can make both
of those things happen.

We're trying to avoid all of those things,
and the voters said they wanted to do thing differently
by initiating and passing Proposition 106. When they
passed Proposition 106, they created this Commission,
and the Commission is now responsible for the
redistricting process.

Let me talk a little bit about the
Commission itself and the representation on the
Commission. As you might know, there are five of us on
the Commission, and I want to talk about the process by
which we were selected because it has come under some
controversy that the makeup of the Commission is not as
diverse as it might be or reflective of the state in
terms of its composition.
First of all, the law says that this process will be a self application process. So any of us who were interested in serving on the Commission needed to affirmatively submit an application to the Commission on Appellate Court Appointments. And that commission is chaired by the Chief Justice of the State Supreme Court, Justice Zlaket.

That commission took 311 applications which had been received by the deadline, and they pared those 311 applications down to a list of 25, 10 Republicans, 10 Democrats, and 5 Independents. Those 10 Democrats, 10 Republicans, and 5 Independents were circulated -- the names were circulated among the political leadership in the House and the Senate, and in turn, the leadership made appointments for the first four slots on the Commission.

The Chair of the Commission is to come from the Independent list. However, other Independents could have been appointed by the political leadership. As it turned out the political leadership, 2 Democrats and 2 Republicans, selected 2 Democrats and 2 Republicans to serve on the Commission.

Now, let me talk about each of the persons appointed. Starting at the bottom of the list, James
Huntwork was the first appointee. He was the appointee of Speaker of the House, Jim Wires. He’s a Republican. He’s an attorney from Phoenix, and he was number one on the appointee list.

The second appointment is actually the second name on this list, Andrea Minkoff. Andrea often goes by Andy, and therefore, people we think we’re even less diverse than we are. We don’t even get credit for having one female member of the Commission, and in fact, there is one. And Andy or Andrea is also serving as Vice Chairman of the Commission. She was the appointee of the Democratic leader in the House of Representatives, Ken Chevron. And she is also from Maricopa County. She is a community activist in Maricopa County.

And after those two appointments were made, there were no other opportunities to appoint anyone from Maricopa County since no more than two of the first four representatives can come from any one county of the state. So two appointments down, Maricopa County is done for the first four.

The third appointee was the appointment of Senate President Randall Gnatt. He is a Republican.
from Scottsdale, and he chose Daniel Elder, my cohort here this evening from Tucson. And so now the representation on the Commission is two from Maricopa County and one from Pima County.

The fourth appointment was the appointment of Jack Brown, who is -- I can't call him the minority leader. The Senate is 15-15. So he's the Democratic leader in the Senate. And he appointment Joshua Hall, who is in the land title business in Apache County, Arizona and lives in St. John's, works in Show Low and

has offices around the greater White Mountains area. He would have paid for this commercial, but I wouldn't take his money.

At any rate, those are the first four appointments, two Republicans, two Democrats, two from Maricopa County, one from Pima, and one from Apache County. Those four individuals were sworn in, and they then have the responsibility to interview and select the Independent who would become automatically the Chairman of the Commission.

The five people who were on that list were (A) all male, (B) all Anglo, and came from all over the state. It is possible then that there could have been three members of the Commission from Maricopa County
had it gone that way.

Of the five people on list only four interviewed. One person withdrew his name before the interviews took place. Apparently he found out how much time this was going to take. He also found out what we were going to be paid. And even if they doubled the salary, we would not be able to buy coffee anywhere.

So please understand that there were four people who were interviewed for the Chair's position. The four people who made the selection, deliberated for some hour and a half, and the process was quite public. Those of us who were interviewed, were interviewed in public. If you've not been through a public job interview process, I highly recommend it not. It's not a lot of fun, but it was an interesting process nonetheless.

And the four chose me. I'm from Tucson. I work at Tucson Electric Power and Hughes Source Energy Corporation. I'm in charge of their corporate relations and corporate communications. I've lived in Arizona for 37 years. No. Lived in Tucson for 37 years. In Arizona for 47 years. Came here when I was
Okay. So that's the Commission. Proposition 106 states that the Commission shall establish congressional and legislative districts, and that the beginning of this process will start with the creation of districts of equal population in a grid-like pattern across the state.

Now, the grid was released a week and a half ago, the grid-like pattern across the state. For those of you who don't remember what it looked like, it's back on the wall over there, and you can have another shot at it tonight. But I want to emphasize that this is the starting point, not the ending point of the process. It is a grid, not a map. And let me make the distinction.

By the time we draw maps, those maps will have a number of characteristics already factored into them. Those characteristics will conform with the Voting Rights Act and other requirements that we have in terms of drawing districts. The grids are only equal population and regular in shape, or more regular than otherwise would be the case if you know the process.

So here are the goals of Proposition 106
in terms of redistricting. Number one, first and foremost, we have to comply with the Constitution, one person/one vote. And what that means is that the district shall be as nearly equal in population as practicable. In the case of the congressional districts, we are drawing eight of them because Arizona gets two new ones this year because of the population change.

The census of Arizona is divisible by eight. Therefore, the congressional districts may very well be down to the very last person equal in population. The 30 legislative districts that we were also drawn need to be as nearly equal as possible, although there is some reason to believe there's a little more leeway, and we may be able to, for local reasons that we will explain to the Department of Justice, have some variation among those.

Districts shall also be geographically compact and contiguous, again, to the extent practicable. The purpose here was to make sure that the districts looked more regular in shape, that they did not take on some bizarre salamander-like or other configuration, that they not follow odd connective
points between parts of the district that made them
either look like barbells or other configurations, and
that they basically contain the right number of people
who are in a contiguous fashion able to be in the same
district.

The boundary that we create shall also
respect communities of interest to the extent
practicable. Communities of interest is a very
interested term. It was coined by Justice Sandra Day
O'Connor in a case that she wrote for about election
law. The problem is that while she used the term she
did not define it.

And therefore, we have a couple of
choices. We can either define it ourselves and go
forward as if we knew what she meant or we can take
this point to the community, which we've chosen to do,

and ask you to define your communities of interest for
us. You tell us what you think your communities should
look like. We will try to respond to what you tell us.
And so that's where we are this evening.

To the extent practicable, these district
lines shall also use visible geographic features, city,
town, and county boundaries and undivided census
tracts. That allows us to keep communities intact. It
allows us to do the analysis that we need to do on a better basis and allows us to justify our districts to the Department of Justice when it comes time.

And then to the extent practicable, and notice where this places on the list, competitive districts should be favored where to do so would create no significant detriment to the other goals. And so competitiveness is on the list, but it is at the end of the list.

Proposition 106 is different from the way other communities are redistricting in a couple of very specific ways, and I want to point those out to you. First, it is to say that party registration and voting history data shall be excluded from the initial phase in the mapping process. And I want to emphasize that because the grid did not include this. It couldn't, so it didn't. The grid is simply the grid, and it's population only.

When we get to the point of drawing maps and using all of those criteria that I listed for you a moment ago, that kind of data can be used in order to assess compliance with the goals. But notice the last statement in this section. "The places of residence of
incumbents or candidates shall not be identified or considered." And what that means is that when we're finished drawing 8 congressional and 30 legislative boundaries, it is absolutely the case that there is a high likelihood that incumbents that now represent two different districts will find themselves living in the same new district. That is not by intent. That is not by design. It is not even by chance. It is simply the case that we can't know where incumbents live. So we simply can't address their residency. They will have to figure that out when we are finished with what we are doing.

In April of 2001, the Commission began the process by receiving facts on Arizona's changing population. And I want to make the point here that we're using the official census data. There are several communities that have challenged the official census result. They believe that there was a significant under count in their community, and we think that that's important for them to deal with the Census Bureau on and to get that resolved. But we are obligated to take official census data to use in the process. So until the Census Bureau changes its data, we will use the data they give us.
Here’s some facts about Arizona over the last 10 years. Arizona as a state grew about 40 percent over the last 10 years. We went from 3.6 to 5.13 million people in this state. Now, I want you to keep your eye on that 1990 population because this next page proves very instruction.

If you look at the counties that grew more rapidly than the state did beginning with La Paz County at 42 percent going up to Mohave County at 65 percent, take a look at the current population 2000 of Maricopa County. It is almost the same as the entire state population 10 years ago. Maricopa County grew at 44.8 percent. Pima County does not appear on this list. Pima County grew at a little over 25 percent in the last 10 years.

And so the population centers have shifted to the extent that Maricopa outgrew Pima. That means in all likelihood that the legislative districts that used to be in Pima County will have to be reconfigured so that at least one of them migrates north to where the population is currently seated. And that’s simply the way the one person/one vote rule is going to work this time around.
Well, the tasks of the Commission are these. First, to develop that grid-like pattern, which we released a week and a half ago and which everyone has certainly taken to task and parsed in every way that they could conceive of parsing it. And we appreciate the interest in it because it is, again, a starting point, a place to begin, a place to start making the kinds of changes we need to make.

You will note that the definition of a grid is depending on the definition you use basically horizontal and perpendicular lines in some uniform pattern on a plane that divides it in a fairly equal way. And I'm not going to show you these with any degree of -- I'm not cutting out parts of the program that you really need to know.

The Arizona Republic published a number of maps, none of which would pass the Department of Justice. They're not worth talking about, but it was nice of them to do our work before we even had a chance to do it.

At any rate, what we are trying to do at this point in the process is conduct a series of public meetings so that you can tell us what your communities of interest look like. We're going to take that
information and go back and actually draw some maps for you to look at.

This public review is the first step in the process. Later in the process there will be a public review of draft maps. And the draft maps will circulate for 30 days. The legislature and the public get the same 30-day review, and we know that the legislature is prepared to draw its own maps to supply to us. We expect to have that input. We welcome that input. We went to see what the legislature wants to tell us about the way they think the legislative and congressional maps should look like.

Again, we will also take maps and suggestions from the public, and they will all be treated with equal weight. So the public has the ability during that 30 days to also weigh in on their recommendations as well.

At the end of that period, once the maps are drawn, now that's not this public hearing but another set of public hearings, on the maps that we will draw. We will then make final adjustments to the maps. The congressional and legislative maps that are then ready to be adopted by the Commission will have a
final review period of time where people can comment. They will be widely published. And at that point we will submit them to the Department of Justice to achieve a review and hopefully preclearance by the department. I will answer questions in a minute. And when we get that preclearance from the Department of Justice, we will certify those maps to the Secretary of State. And those will then go into effect.

Now, I haven't mentioned lawsuits. I'd prefer not to mention lawsuits. I'm confident we will get lawsuits. There always have been and there's no reason to think there won't be this year. Those will have to be determined on their own merit based on individual filings and we have a plan to deal with that as well. But we're not contemplating it at this point. We are making the decisions based on our representation of the public and doing the work for you.

How can you help us tonight and through the process? Well, in the material that is available this evening, there is something called the citizen input form. And this form is our mechanism for asking you to tell us what your communities of interest look like. We ask a series of questions.

First, we would like to know who you are so that we can either follow up and clarify something
that you've said to us if we don't understand it, or if you're making a suggestion as to how a district ought to look, we want to respond to you and tell you what we think your suggestion looks like in terms of our ability to use it. And so we want to respond to people, so we need to know who you are.

Secondly, we would like you to tell us your major concern in as few words as possible. Just what do you think is the most important aspect of this redistricting process that we are going through.

Third, what boundary lines would you like to see used in your area. This gives you an opportunity to tell us which communities you feel most akin to, which areas should not be divided, which areas should be included in boundaries.

We also want to know which areas, groups, or neighborhoods you do think should not be divided by new district boundaries. If we're dividing a school district, for example, in half, and that school district has a lot of commonality because of the pattern of attendance and the way they've dealt with the schools, then you need to tell us that so that we try to respect that as we're putting the districts together. Other things may occur to you that don't occur to us because this is your community and you need
to be the experts here.

And then finally, what information would you like us to take into account when drawing the boundary lines in your area. Anything you can think of would be helpful. And people have already said, for example, that there are communities in the state that have been divided into several legislative districts. Apache Junction comes to mind. Nogales comes to mind. There are a number of communities that where the lines simply bisect the community into a number of districts, and these are mostly rural or certainly suburban areas that feel that they would be better off having single representation than divided representation. That's precisely the kind of information we need to hear from those communities.

When you use that citizen form you could complete it and hand it in this evening. We will be happy to take it. You can mail it to us. You can draw it down off the web electronically, fill it out, and ship it back to us. The website is up and operating, and it's www.azredistricting.org and there's also a lot of other information on the website that is available at any time you choose to go there.

If you would like to take a much more detailed role in drawing lines in your area, you can
specifically request this evening of us through staff or any of us up here a citizens kit. And that citizens kit will provide you, and there are examples over on the wall of some detailed maps that you can use to actually show us in more graphic detail how you think lines ought to appear in your community. Again, not a lot of people want to take this step, but if you do, it's available to you, and we would be more than happy to have you do it.

The criteria for any plans that we develop are these. There are federal mandates first and foremost, population equality. Second, the tenants of the Voting Rights Act. All of the tenants of the Voting Rights Act apply to Arizona. And finally, the requirements of Proposition 106, which I've gone over and were spelled out in very great detail in the act.

Now, this grid we've talking about, I want to spend just a minute talking about how we got it to be what it is. We wanted that grid to be extremely random. And so we used a set of rules. We never drew a map because it isn't a map. What we did is put out a set of rules to the consultant and said follow these rules which we will draw for you in a random fashion. And whatever you come up is fine with us as a place to start, recognizing that it would never have been
submitted as a final map of any kind.

So the first thing we said was to insure neutrality, we need to pick a point on the map that is recognizable and that has some basis as a starting point to start the process.

Well, we started with the point on the map that is the geographic center of the state with respect to land description. It is the Gila Salt River Baseline & Meridian. It actually exists at about 107th Avenue and Baseline Road in southwest Phoenix. That is the point at which all townships in the State of Arizona emanate from that single point. And so we picked that as a reasonable historical place to start.

Because most of Arizona is already divided into a grid-like pattern called townships which are 6-mile squares, we used the township as a building block to build our grid because it already exists, it's recognizable, and it certainly is regular in population, and we started building. But from this point, which direction do you go in to build first.

We put the four the points of the state in a hat and drew lots and northwest won. And so we started in the northwest quadrant of the state randomly and started accumulating townships until we had enough people in those townships to make a district. And then
we went on to make the second district, and the third, and so on. We did that with legislative and then with congressional with the right numbers to make each of the districts. And so when we got to 171,000 and change on the legislative or 641,000 and change on the congressional districts, that became a district, and then we moved on.

The next thing we needed to know was when you're finished with that northwest quadrant, which direction do you go. So we flipped a coin. Heads you go clockwise. Tails you go counterclockwise. Tails came up. We go counterclockwise. So we start in the northwest, then the southwest, then the southeast, then the northeast, and then you're finished. That's how the grid came to be. No more science than that.

We used the townships, and if you're in a community like Phoenix, the township has considerable population. As you move to the rural areas, you have to aggregate townships in a regular fashion to get more and more people because there are fewer people on a lot of land. So you have to bank grids out of groups of townships, which can be neatly done in sets of 4s and sets of 16s because they are all regular in shape.

The townships then were overlaid with the
factor was taken into account, and we came up with the grid that was published.

So where do we go from here. We are going to have more public hearings through next week just like we're having tonight. We are asking for input for the remainder of those public hearings. Then we working with our consultants will develop draft maps. And those draft maps or plans will be the subject of a second round of public hearings throughout the state with plenty of time for people to comment.

Once we've heard from the public on those draft maps, we will make final adjustments to those plans. Those will be available for a short period of time for final review. And then they will go to the Department of Justice for review.

At the end of the Department of Justice review, again, depending on where we are legally at that point with suits and other things going on, we will certify those to the Secretary of State and move on. That's our charge. That's what we're trying to do.

So with that in mind, let me end the show. And there was a question here. Before I turn it over...
to Dan, see if I can answer that one question.

SPEAKER FROM THE AUDIENCE: On your public

review slide that you have, there's a comment about the
state legislature, either or both bodies, the
legislature may act during this period to make
recommendation as the Independent Redistricting
Commission -- and here's the part I don't understand,
by memorial or by minority report. What is that?

MR. LYNN: It means as a total group or
there can be split opinions within the legislature, and
they can do it either way. So we expect to get -- at a
minimum, we expect to get maps from the Republican and
Democratic caucuses in both house. Is that fair, those
of you who are in those caucuses? I mean we're
expecting it, you know, and we assume that that's going
to happen. We may get more. But that's at a minimum

SPEAKER FROM THE AUDIENCE: Thank you.

MR. LYNN: You're welcome. Now, let me
ask Dan Elder to say a few words. And Dan's going to
conduct actually the public hearing. We would ask when
you do come up that you use the microphone up here so
everybody can hear you. We will move this out of the
way. And that you spell your name if it's anything
other than very easily spelled for the court reporter who will be taking down the transcription this evening.

MR. ELDER: Trade so that it gets a little bit closer to you folks. Steve, can you run it back to

those six or seven items?

As Steve said, we're looking for information. We're looking for you to educate us as to what your communities of interest are, what's your community, what's your sense of community, what holds you together, what's the fabric within this region.

Something that will help us that we've got this grid set up from the process that Steve just alluded to. When we make a change or recommend a change, you know, to that grid or to the line of the district, we want to know why we're making that change. We want -- it's self-serving because if we can document to the Department of Justice that the public said we would like to have this over here because of, that "because of" then holds weight.

The things that they will look at are these things right here based on the Voter Rights Act. So as you make your comments, if you can either take the citizen kits or the public or the citizens input forms and as you make comments, if you can also relate
your requests or your ideas back to some of these here, because this is what the Department of Justice is going to look at.

So with that, I would like to do a little bit of begging here before we get into the questions.

Again, I really appreciate you all coming out, and we're going to have another round here in about a month that's going to be looking at maps. So if you can chart your summer activities around coming out again, we really appreciate it.

We have some yellow forms for comments. We will take them in order. I have just one. We have two. And I don't want to be held just to two. If you've got a comment, come up and again spell your name for the court report, and we will take those.

The first one was Tom Prezelski. Almost got it right.

MR. PREZELSKI: Yes, you got very close. It's Tom Prezelski, P-R-E-Z-E-L-S-K-I.

I'm a little concerned about the arbitrary nature of the grid as it now stands. And I guess it had to be arbitrary given the nature of the process. The township and range system was pretty arbitrary in
and of itself, and the township and range system of
dividing land has caused problems in the past, access
to water and that sort of thing.

One of the things -- I'm a planner of the
Tohono O'Odham Nation. I'm not here on their behalf,
but I wanted to mention that because, for instance, you
can tell the map was -- I'm also somewhat trained as a

geographer. And you can tell the map was made by
someone particularly not training as a geographer
because there are certain cultural patterns that aren't
really respected by the map. The way that, for
instance, the Tohono O'Odham Nation is divided between
two districts, rather than being within one district,
which is certainly something the Department of Justice
wouldn't kindly look at.

One of the things that I think you should
look at is natural features. People -- a lot of people
these days kind of dismiss the importance of natural
features in geography, but they're still there.
They're still important. Especially in a place like
Arizona, which an inherent environment with topography
where everything basically runs parallel in the
southern and central part of the state.

And if you look on any map, like, you
know, population density map where everything is plotted with dots or if you take a similar map and plot an ethnicity group, different colored dots or something, you're going to see a pattern emerging. Or even if you used -- even if you plotted income on a dot density map, you would see patterns emerging where you have the corridors.

The upper Santa Cruz Valley turned out to be a different place than the lower Santa Cruz Valley. The Sulphur Springs Valley turned out to be a very different place than the San Pedro Valley. And people think that just because of our modern level of technology that those boundaries don't matter anymore and that we can just go by roads or some arbitrary boundaries, and that's something you have to keep in mind when you draw this and that's something you should look at is, you know, the historical, geographic corridors. I think that's about it.

MR. ELDER: Okay. Well, I think in summary from what I was hearing is that the community of interest, the Tohono O'odham in this case, would want to be as a whole in one district.

MR. PREZELSKI: Have -- yes.
MR. ELDER: So that's one issue is the community interest. The other was the compactness.

MR. PREZELSKI: Uh-huh.

MR. ELDER: You know, that could fall into your comments. So those are the kind of things that we need and respond to. Thank you. And we do take or will be taking -- I say will be taking. I as a planner, landscape architect, environmental consultant, do know edges very well as to where mountains are, where you can't there from here type of syndrome. You know, it would be detrimental to the representation of the Democratic process to have a community isolated and they couldn't get to their voting place riding 90 miles around a mountain or no bridge across the Colorado River.

So we will take edges. We will take geography into account as we're managing or trying to modify the grid on a one person/one vote basis that we had to begin with.

Deborah Norris?

MS. NORRIS: Good evening. I would just like to say a few words.

I saw the preliminary map. I have a couple of concerns.
MR. ELDER: Is the microphone on or could you speak up?

MS. NORRIS: Okay. Sorry about that. I did take a look at the preliminary map. And there are -- I understand this is not the final map, but there are some things that do concern me about it.

One point that Mr. Prezelski mentioned previously is the Tohono O'Odham Nation is actually put in three different districts in this map as far as I can tell. The Tohono O'Odham Nation also includes San Xavier, which is currently in a different district right now, but the way the map is here it's split up into three different areas.

The way I saw the map go up into the way north part of Tucson is an incongruity there. It doesn't make any sense to have the second largest Indian reservation in the whole United States to be the way, way northern part of Tucson, and I will give you a reason.

What we're dealing with here is a community that is one of the poorest communities per capita in the State of Arizona. To put it with one of the richest communities doesn't make any sense. And to
put the Tohono O'Odham Nation, which has had a lot of
power and influence as a vote particularly in
Democratic primaries, put it in the republican district
will only serve to dilute their political voice.

And this is a red flag. This is going to
be cause for the Department of Justice to look very
closely at this map, and I just want to give you a
heads up there.

If you've never been to the Tohono O'Odham
Nation, you need to come out and see it. There's no
connection with the way, way north parts of Tucson.
Nobody plays golf and very people are, you know, living
a happy retirement. And so we need to think about

those kinds of things.

Traditionally and historically, the Tohono
O'Odham Nation has always had a relationship with
Tucson. And there isn't -- that's not reflected in
this preliminary map at this time. Our whole economy
is connected to Tucson. We generate revenues through
cattle, through gaming, through government, and all of
that money now is recycled here into the Tucson
community.

So we have a very close relationship which
I think needs to be reflected in the legislative
district. We buy our cars here. We do our shopping here. We send our kids to school here. We've always been -- the Tribe has always had a good relationship as far as philanthropy with different areas. You can look at, you know, 88-CRIME, University of Arizona. It the second -- I think fifteenth largest employer in the whole United -- in the State of Arizona, and most of those people are living in central Tucson, southwest Tucson.

It makes sense to have a connection with the second largest reservation in the United States with western Tucson and southwest Tucson, the way it always has been. There's been a good relationship built up over the last few decades, and that relationship deserves to continue.

The issues that are shared between western Tucson and southwest Tucson and the Tohono O'Odham Nation are very, very similar. There's economy, number one. There are language issues. There are issues of economic development. And there's a lot more issues out there. And we can't just disregard that strong, close connection right now and sever that relationship.

So that is my main concern, and I'm sure
that you will hear from the Tohono O’Odham Nation and
hopefully from you know, western -- from Tucson. To
take away that voice is to take away one more
representative from the Tucson area. And since Tucson
is already losing a representative, that would be
detrimental at this point.

And I believe that the University area
should stay in the same district because there's a good
relationship there. There are some very heavily
Hispanic neighborhoods and black neighborhoods that are
very closely aligned with the Tohono O’Odham community
near A Mountain. And the issues are pretty much the
same.

So I would like to give you that
information in mind, and if you have any questions,
please let me know, and I will be happy to let you know

what I know. Thanks.

MR. ELDER: Let me assure you that we
understand there are major problems with the grid as
drawn now when we’ve only taken one factor, the one
person/one vote, into account. So we will be
addressing all of those issues that you brought forth.

I don't have any other speaker -- oh,

there's the speaker list.
MR. SPARK: Ron Spark. I'm a midtown resident. I've been very active in my neighborhood association.

And the way I see the map, I think it goes against a community of interest which has grown to my vision in the last 15 years, which is the midtown neighborhoods have a politically active participatory tradition that they have developed. There's a sense of cohesion, a sense of mutual problem solving and politically active. And the way I see this map, at least from the grid system there's a definite division, a dilution of that shared community, just as we heard previously. And I think it's, again, a denial of a political reality of a coherent midtown community who wishes to participate and have a consensus and adequate representation.

MR. ELDER: Thank you. A quick question.

Is there a dialog all the way through the community or is it a, you know, very strong political relationship or is it more of the issue of making it a whole?

MR. SPARK: The neighborhoods share common threads and have responded to that. There is a lot of grass roots participation in the individual
neighborhoods, as well as sharing of the leadership at all levels. And from my vantage point, this is 10, 15 years, there -- so that the concerns about the problems and issues that they would like to solve through the legislative process would -- it would be weakened if they didn't have a cohesive representation by a district.

By dividing them in the grid system just as you've heard here, you dilute that compared to let's say other neighborhoods who, for instance, may be characterized by being more suburban or snowbirds in orientation. They have different concerns. They don't share the same kinds of threats or sense of year round participation or vision of the future of Tucson that we would in the mid city neighborhoods.

MR. LYNN: Ron, would you define mid city for us as you understand it, how far east, west, north, south?

MR. SPARKS: Well, I think from Menlo Park, A Mountain, all the way to I would say passed San Clemente, out to I'm going to say Wilmot. And then from south of River down to probably the air force base. That group have been, whether you take traffic, schools, property taxes, crime, those -- we all share
the common cultural and subcultural experience, and
that's the group that works together, at least
politically to -- appreciate it. Thank you.

MR. LYNN: Thank you.

MR. ELDER: Thank you. Anybody else
wishing to speak this evening?

MR. MACKEY: My name is Paul Mackey.
Actually I have a -- it's really a question to the
Chairman based on a remark you made earlier this
evening. I just want to get some clarification.

Under the goals of the districting on
Proposition 106, the goal that says to the extent
practicable, competitive districts should be favored.
Free to do so it create no significant to the other
goals.

In the remarks that he was making, one of
the comments, I don't know whether he was trying to be
facetious or whether this was a serious comment where
he said that that's on the list, but it's at the end of
the list. And I don't know whether he was giving it a

lesser value or not because the Proposition certainly
doesn't give it a lesser value. So I wonder if you
could just clarify what his intent was there.
MR. ELDER: Let me give you a little anecdotal story. I was interviewed by in effect a Republican caucus. And about halfway through a question was posed. And the question was: if you were going to divide an area into two districts, would you go in there and try and divide it to where there was very strong Republican and a very strong Democratic district than may have been historically there or would you try and give it and make it into a balanced district.

And even though I've never been a politician, I've tried not to be a politician, I gave a political answer. I said if there had been a very strong Republican and a very strong Democratic district there, it may have very well been because they were getting excellent representation, you know, by each one of their respective parties.

But conversely, when you have districts like that, it's over in the primaries. The other party does not field credible candidate in those areas. So the discourse is over. You don't have the time between the primaries and the general election. And part of our democracy or republic is that discord, understanding issues, debating issues, being a
knowledgeable voter. So I said I think I would probably come down on the side of trying to develop fair or balanced districts as opposed to strong in one form or another. And I think the Commission to a member, whether it be Independent or whether it be a Republican, Democrat, so far has not had a bias for one party or another. And we have not used any data to generate the grid or anything else, so.

You know, I know Steve fairly well from working with him now for about 3 months, and no, we have --

MR. MACKEY: Well, that was the reason for my remark because --

MR. LYNCH: Paul, to your point -- to your point, and you've known me for a number of years as well. The point is that it is lower on the list and does enjoy a lesser position in terms of the hierarchy of things we have to look at. Where it does not negatively impact any of the other things we are trying to achieve, our obligation is to make the districts competitive.

However, you can tell that from a number of stand points of past voting history, influence of
groups in the community in prior election cycles, that may not always be possible. So the idea is to wherever it's practicable, we may create a district that is competitive in nature.

MR. MACKEY: Right. I understand that. I was just looking up the actual proposition which seems to give it equal factors with the qualification, but you seem to, as you said, put it at the end of the list.

MR. LYNN: There is a hierarchy, and that one seems to fall at the bottom of the list.

MR. MACKEY: The proposition doesn't establish a hierarchy, does it?

MR. LYNN: I think it does in terms of the way it's laid out. I mean I would ask counsel to speak to that.

MR. MACKEY: It seemed like it gave it equal weight, but.

MR. HAUSER: If I could comment on that. The proposition lays out a number of different criteria, and at the very end of most paragraphs says do this to the extent practicable.

With respect to competitive districts, it says not only to the extent practicable, competitive districts should be favored where to do so would create
no significant detriment to the other goals. It is the only one of the criteria that specifically says don't do violence to the other goals.

So it is definitely something that will be worked toward, but it can't be done if, for example, it would cause a Voting Rights Act violation in a particular area where, for example, if there's a majority/minority district that's being created that's predominantly Democrat in registration. You can't go in and essentially dilute that population in order to achieve competitiveness if the plan is going to be approved justice.

So that's just one example. But it has that relationship to the other criterial that some of the others do not.

MR. MACKY: Right. I was just concerned whether or not Steve was doing violence to evaluating them

MS. HAUSER: He is not.

MR. ELDER: Any further comments? Yes.

Pamela Sutherland.

MS. SUTHERLAND: Hi. I just wanted to make a general comment, which is that I'm attending this and I'm respecting that this is a grid and the map that we're looking at isn't really a map. It's
actually just a series of grids. And when you come back to us with a real map, at that point you will be listening to what we have to say because at this point it doesn't seem as though there's that much input we can give other than to turn in our forms which say where we -- how we define communities of interest. Other than that, everything's influx still, right? Because I just want to be clear that the lack of additional comments being made tonight doesn't mean that people aren't interested and there are going to be other issues coming up. It's just that what you're giving us is just a very simple grid set up.

MR. ELDER: That's correct. I think, you know, one thing that you and everybody else that participates could do is even, you know, if in 2 weeks you say, wait a minute, that freeway out there really creates a strong edge. We would like to use that as a boundary or, yes, we don't have a road -- we have I think that's one road, Speedway goes through to the Tucson Mountains. That's not a real connecting point. You know, we would like to have the Tucson Mountains be.

Any time that you've got an idea, you can always download the citizen input form. You can go to a public library. All the libraries, I believe even

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Pima College, has the, you know, the library set up
where the librarian knows how to get into there, knows
how to set the thing up so that all you do is click on
the form and say send.

MS. SUTHERLAND: Right.

MR. ELDER: All of those input methods are
equal, whether you hand it to us tonight, whether you
download, and I'm not really concerned about having
multiple citizen input forms for the same person. Not
a problem  Okay. So that if something comes up, shoot
it to us.

MS. SUTHERLAND: And what's the deadline?

MR. ELDER: You know, the more information
we've got, the better we can do our job.

MS. SUTHERLAND: And how late will you
keep that door open?  How long will you keep that door
open?

MR. ELDER: Until the Department of
Justice clears -- no. Realistically, you know, we
will, you know, have to prepare the maps to bring back
for the next round, and I would wager by the mid part
of July we will have to take whatever data we've got.
NDC will have compiled the demographic information
about the comments we've got and develop a plan. But
that's only the information-gathering stage. At that
point then we're going to be having comments on the
plan and communities of interest, just like now
educating us will be the same things we will be looking
at when we're evaluating the plan and the comments
coming back. Or if we didn't respond to a particular
edge or, as Steve said, you know, maybe there's a
school district that we didn't really know was that
cohesive. When you look at Tucson District 1, you
know, we've got more in the legislative district in
Tucson Unified. So, you know, it's going to be divided
anyway.

  MS. SUTHERLAND: Okay.

  MR. ELDER: So no matter what we do, we
will be taking information really until I think we
submit the plans to the Department of Justice.

  MS. SUTHERLAND: Thank you very much.

  MR. LYNN: I think the important thing we
said, though, is don't let the fact that the grid is
just an equal population grid cause you not to make a
comment now. We need the input now on whatever subject
through whatever forum you think is important as we
move to the time when we actually draw maps. The more
you tell us now, the better we can respond to those
things prior to doing any mapping. And that's
important.
MR. ELDER: Come on down.

SPEAKER FROM THE AUDIENCE: Apache County in my opinion has very little to do with Tucson. That doesn't seem to go with Tucson. Pima County being split up the way it is right now, I'm referring to the congressional map, Pima County being split up, and particularly the division in Tucson doesn't make any sense. And I certainly echo Representative Norris's comment about the Tohono O'Odham Nation and also the Hispanic areas which are divided under this map which it should not be.

Working along county lines, like the Pinal County versus Gila County line seems to be an artificial boundary that needn't exist and doesn't exist as those communities were.

I like the idea that there's sort of a southern district being created. The brown section, the southwest Arizona seems to make a lot of sense. I expect that there are a lot of communities of interest in that area, but that should be continued up a bit north so that it encompasses more of the Indian reservations that are there, too, and perhaps continues all along that strip since there's a lot of commonalities with the border areas generally. There
MR. ELDER: Thank you. Anybody else wishing to speak? Come back, too.

SPEAKER FROM THE AUDIENCE: The comment you made earlier about -- I mean I know there's lots of balance here as far as communities of interest and trying to make balanced districts, but in many cases, in fact in a whole lot of cases, you're not going to be able to create balanced districts and preserve a community of interest.

For instance, in northeastern Arizona you cannot create a balanced district without being unfair to Hopis or unfair to the Navajos. You can't create a balanced district in certain parts of Maricopa County without disenfranchising certain people who happened to be conservative Republicans or certain people who happen to be moderate Republican, Democrat, whatever.

It's kind of -- in some cases you're going to be working across purposes, but I think, you know, preserving communities of interest is far more important than creating balanced districts. You're not going to draw a balanced district in the east valley of Maricopa County. That's just not going to happen.

MR. ELDER: Really?
SPEAKER FROM THE AUDIENCE: Even George W.

P. Hunt said you couldn't do it. So it's not going to happen.

MR. ELDER: No, we totally understand. And when I joke like that, I -- the very first day, you know, I said if I can't have fun doing this job, you know, it's not worth doing. So, you know, we are fairly light. We have a good time. But we're also very serious about what we're doing. So don't take frivolity or the banter back and forth as anything disrespectful or anything else.

Yes, sir?

MR. SMITH: I haven't filled out a form. I just came in a little late.

MR. ELDER: Just give me or spell your last name for the reporter, and we're all set.

MR. SMITH: Sure. My name is Walker Smith, and I'm principal planner for the City of South Tucson. And we haven't been able to have a number of people here tonight, but I just wanted to on the lines of the most recent comments that you want to hear now about reactions.

The way the line is drawn about along
Irvington, for example, in Long Park leaves the City of South Tucson in an area where I think that there may be less community of interest going north and west than typically goes south. I suspect that the social economic, ethnic, Hispanic, we're 85 percent Hispanic and 95 percent minority, majority/minority, and typical communities of interest have gone south. And so 22nd Street or 14 Street or something would be at least worth looking at in terms of likely both I think Voting Rights consideration and community of interest.

MR. ELDER: Okay. Thank you. Anyone else? All right. If we wait long enough, we will get you. Thank you.

MR. BOWEN: I would like to amplify a little bit more on this --

MR. ELDER: Excuse me. It's Tom Bowen?

MR. BOWEN: I would like to amplify a little bit more on this part of the grid precinct Pima, Cochise, Graham, Greenlee, and Apache.

While on the map that appears contiguous, in actuality it isn't because we've got a geographical figure in there called the Memorial Rim. Anybody that's driver Route 191 knows it takes about as long to go from Mbrenci Clift and up to Alpine as it does to go
from Tucson up to Flagstaff. The point being that anybody that has to represent that whole district is going to be unfair in their representation. Part of because while on the map is contiguous, because of geographical constraints, that really is not a contiguous grid.

MR. ELDER: And just one other, I believe it divides the White Mountain Apache in half. There's a couple other division --

MR. SMITH: Right.

MR. ELDER: -- of things there that don't quite work, so yes.

MR. SMITH: But I understand that you have quite a dilemma there because if you were to climate that part of that grid, that's going to drastically affect where you've got the division of the grid going through the Tucson area.

MR. ELDER: Yes. Thank you very much. Continuity or contiguity was not a factor in the grid. Let's put it that way. Anybody that looks at Tucson and knows I think as an example, like Sabino High School area and the Winterhaven area, it's with Pinal. And even though the U.S.G.S. map shows a road going down
the back side of Lemmon, I think I did it under the influence while I was in college, but I don't think anybody driven it since. So you can't get there from here, and that was one of my comments earlier.

Anybody else? All right. We're all --

SPEAKER FROM THE AUDIENCE: I wanted to know what's your target date for submitting plans to the Department of Justice?

MR. ELDER: We really would like to be submitting them by mid September. That gives us 60 days. Takes us September, October, November. If they get partway through their review and say we need more information on how you did X, Y, and Z, or what were your statistical analysis processes in relationship to this, they will then kick it back to us. We will respond. And then they get their 60 days to start all over again.

So we tried to build in a cushion to where we could still meet our goal of approval of the whole ball by the first of year. So we hope to submit mid September.

SPEAKER FROM THE AUDIENCE: Great. As you know, all the counties except Maricopa are also redistricting. So we're kind of waiting for you all.
Thank you.

MR. ELDER: I wanted to, since Maricopa was brought up, I use that as an example of thanking you all for coming out because Maricopa County held 11 meetings for their redistricting of their supervisor of districts, and they got 11 people total. So we're stripping the numbers here tonight just in Maricopa County.

So we appreciate your turnout. We will be here afterwards if you want to ask us questions, if you want to take a look at the map, point things out, or if you want to take your pen out and mark on the map any of those areas or any of those edges or say here's our community, it really works, we would appreciate having any kind of data, if you can. Thank you.