THE STATE OF ARIZONA INDEPENDENT REDISTRICTING

COMMISSION convened in Public Session on June 20, 2001,
at 6:00 o'clock p.m. in Pinal County at the Apache
Junction Senior Center, 1177 North Idaho, Apache
Junction, Arizona, in the presence of:

APPEARANCES:

VICE CHAIRMAN ANDI MINKOFF
COMMISSIONER JAMES R. HUNTWORK
LISA HAUSER, Commission Counsel
FLORENCE ADAMS, NDC Consultant
ENRIQUE MEDINA OCHOA, Executive Director
ADOLFO ECHEVESTE, Outreach Staff
AMY REZZONICO, Press Information Officer
AUGUSTA KNIGHT, Staff
LISA A. NANCE, RPR, CCR, Court Reporter
PRESENTATION BY:

VICE CHAIRMAN ANDI MINKOFF

SPEAKERS FROM CALL TO THE PUBLIC:

SENATOR PETE RIOS
MAYOR DOUG COLEMAN
ROSEMARY SHEARER
BARBARA GARDNER
SANDIE SMITH
DORA VASQUEZ
GEORGE DIEHL
NAPOLEON PISANO
CARLOS VALLEJO
COMMISSIONER MINKOFF: We're going to get started.

My name is Andi Minkoff. I'm Vice Chair of the Independent Redistricting Commission.

One of the other Commissioners, James Huntwork, was supposed to be here. I got a call from him this afternoon. He was tied up in a meeting. If he ran into the traffic I ran into coming out on the Superstition Freeway, he'll probably get here in time to say good night. When he does come in, I'll introduce him to you.

This is supposed to be his part of the meeting. Bear with me.

I wanted to thank you for coming.

This is one of 23 outreach meetings we're having throughout the state. This is round one of the outreach meetings. You'll hear round one, round two, when we do our outreach meetings.

The main purpose of this meeting is for us to hear from you. We have come to you because it is our
charge to draw new Congressional and Legislative
Districts. We want to hear from the people of Arizona
as to what districts will work for them, what districts
make them feel they are well represented in Congress and
the State Legislature, and what their communities of
interest are.

You are going to hear a lot about

communities of interest.

Community of interest was a term coined by
Supreme Court Justice Sandra Day O'Connor from Arizona.
In an election law case she referred to communities of
interest being considered in election issues. The only
problem was she didn't tell us what she meant by
community of interest. We and 49 other states are
trying to develop our own definitions of communities of
interest.

What we decided to do in Arizona is let
the people of Arizona define what these communities of
interest are.

So by telling us who you have common
interests with, who you link up with, who you want to be
part of a district with, you will define your own
community of interest. That's one of the main reasons
why we're having these meetings, to hear from you, hear
what you see as your community of interest that should
be kept together in a Congressional or Legislative
District.

Before we begin, I want to make a few
introductions. I'd like to introduce Jim Huntwork, but
he's not here.

MR. OCHOA: He is here.

COMMISSIONER MINKOFF: He is here. Drum
roll, please.

While waiting, incidentally, let me remind
you, we do have yellow speaker slips. If somebody, even
though you think you might want to speak, when we call
on you, you can say "pass" if you change your mind,
would like to change your mind.

In the meantime, other introductions. The
gentleman standing at the door is our Executive
Director, Enrique Medina Ochoa.

The gentleman next to him is Adolfo
Echeveste, our outreach coordinator.

Augusta Knight, equally terrific.

We feel we have the best consultants
in the country assisting the Commission.

Tonight we have the head of NDC, Dr. Florence Adams.

Our court reporter, who writes everything
down so we know who said what, and we're sure we know
what is what, is Lisa Nance.
And last but certainly not least --

COMMISSIONER HUNTWORK: Last.

COMMISSIONER MINKOFF: No, you are not. I mentioned the traffic on the Superstition.

COMMISSIONER HUNTWORK: Thank you.

COMMISSIONER MINKOFF: Your tardiness is understandable.

James Huntwork, the senior member of the Commission. He was the first one appointed. We'll talk about that later.

Do you want to do the Power Point or want me?

COMMISSIONER HUNTWORK: You.

COMMISSIONER MINKOFF: We have a Power Point presentation for you. I'll have to move around so I don't block the screen and so I can reach the laptop. Cut me some slack. They changed it since the last time I saw it. There are some I'll see for the first time since the last time I saw it.

I forgot one very, very important thing. Is there anyone here who needs Spanish translation? We do have it available.

Where is our translator?

Adolfo, would you repeat what I said in Spanish?
(Whereupon, the public was asked in Spanish if anyone desired a Spanish interpreter. No one requested Spanish interpretation.)

COMMISSIONER MINKOFF: Now we will start with the Power Point presentation which will give you a little bit of information about the task ahead of us. Then we're going to turn the meeting over to you.

We'll talk a little but listen a lot tonight.

The subject of the presentation tonight is redistricting. We have two tasks, drawing district lines for 30 state Legislative Districts, that number has not changed, and also eight Congressional Districts, two more than we have had for the last 10 years. We're doing this under the provisions of Proposition 106.

A very important difference between our redistricting and those of the past is that citizens, all of you sitting here, are going to play a crucial role in the process.

These hearings are partly to educate you but mostly to educate us.

MR. ECHEVESTE: Your hair is right on the edge of the screen.

COMMISSIONER MINKOFF: You are right. We haven't gotten to the meat of it yet. Hopefully nothing
was lost and my head looks okay on the screen.

We will be using these hearings to bring
the redistricting process to all areas of the state and
and to involve you.

We want to make this a fair process. All
of us on the Commission are committed to representing
the five, almost 5.1 million people in Arizona, fairly,
to make the process fair, and to come up with districts
that honestly represent your needs.

Often, in the past, redistricting has been
a deeply divisive process, a very political process,
raising charges of dirty politics, partisan power plays,
incumbent protection, depending on whether you were the
majority or minority party at the time, and racial
discrimination. The word for such abusive redistricting
we all learned newly this year is gerrymandering. We've
all been mispronouncing it.

This is a cartoon from the Boston Globe in
1811, the first gerrymander. It was named after a man
named Elbridge Gerry. He was the Governor of
Massachusetts. He wanted to protect the people allied
with him. So they drew up a district that looked pretty
much like this. A political cartoonist for the Boston
Globe added a head, fangs, wings, and feet, and said it
looks like a salamander. Naming it for the Governor, it
was named the Gerrymander, and it's held this name ever since.

This is how some gerrymandering works.

There are lot of ways to gerrymander. These are two examples.

In the example on the left, you have an example of dilution, dispersal of minority party voters, a technique called dilution.

What is done here now, we'll call it the green party and pink party, the green party wants to make sure they control whatever this body is, so they've taken two concentrations of pink party adherents and split them among four districts so they really don't have a chance of electing anybody in any of the four districts and the green party would elect all four representatives because they have diluted the votes of the minority party by splitting them among four districts and making sure they don't have a lot of people in any one district.

On the right is a different way of handling minority voters and making sure they don't threaten the majority party. All pink party voters are concentrated in district four leaving districts one, two, and three pink party free, completely controlled by the green party. They are ceding district four to the
pink party. They'll control the other three districts; therefore, they'll control the legislative body. This is called packing. And it's another way of gerrymandering, to dilute minority party interests.

Another type of gerrymandering is racial gerrymandering, and it may be done by either Democrats or Republicans.

As an example, there is a group of Hispanics outlined in orange. Hispanics traditionally tend to vote Democratic; not all of them, but the overwhelming majority of them do. In this particular instance, the Republicans are trying to create a majority for them in this legislative body. And what they have done is packed all of the Hispanics and some other Democrats and a Democratic incumbent in district one. And that leaves district two and district three without significant proportions of Hispanic voters allowing Republicans control of those two districts giving Democrats district one and allowing Republicans districts two and three.

On the right side, you see they want a white incumbent, don't want the white incumbent defeated. They divide the Hispanic voters among all three districts, which means they really don't have a strong voice in any of the three districts, and they
will not have an opportunity to elect somebody of their choosing. And it protects the white incumbent's seat in district one.

Both parties are guilty of this in the past. And what the people of Arizona wanted to do in passing Proposition 106 was to hopefully prevent this from happening in the future. They wanted to clean up the process.

When they voted for Proposition 106, they created a new entity, the Independent Redistricting Commission.

There are five members of the Commission. We'll be responsible for a brand-new kind of redistricting process.

These are the members of the Commission. Now, selection of the Commission was what we call an affirmative process. That means we had to apply.

There were 311 people who applied to be members of this Commission. Those applications were sent to the State Commission on Appellate Court Appointments where they were narrowed down. And 10 Democrats, 10 Republicans, and five Registered Independents were selected as finalists, if you will.

Then, according to Proposition 106, the first selection went to the Speaker of the House of
Representatives, Speaker Jim Weiers. Speaker Weiers is Republican. He looked among the 10 Republican names and selected Commissioner Huntwork. He's our senior member, got the job first.

Commissioner Huntwork is an attorney in Phoenix and brings a lot of expertise and knowledge and even temperament to the Commission. And we're very, very glad to have him there.

The next Commissioner was chosen by the Democratic Leader, Minority Leader of House, Ken Cheuvront; and he selected me.

At that point, Commissioner Huntwork and myself, both living in Phoenix, both living in Maricopa County, that meant nobody else from Maricopa County could be selected. Proposition 106 states no more than two people could be selected from the same county.

The next selection was from the Senate, the President of the Senate, Randall Gnant. He selected Daniel Elder, a landscape architect and consultant on land use. He's terrific. He's worked with the State of Arizona before, helps us wade through governmental procedure, and also helped us design our offices.

The fourth appointment was made by the Democratic Floor Leader, can't say majority or minority since the Senate is divided evenly, 15, 15, Republicans,
Democrats, Jack Brown. His selection, the final partisan, was Joshua Hall.

Mr. Hall has a title company, is the only member of the Commission from a rural area. He really brings a very, very valuable point of view because of that.

Then the four of us got together and we were charged with selecting the Chair of the Commission from among the five Independents whose names had been sent on to us.

By the time we got around to selecting, one person had withdrawn from the selection. He took a position as a paid lobbyist. Proposition 106 says you cannot have been in office or a paid lobbyist within a certain timeframe. We were left with four people to choose from. From among those we selected Steve Lynn, a Registered Independent, who also lives in Tucson. He is a senior member of Tucson Electric Power and Unisource, which is their parent corporation.

And the five of us have the charge of drawing up new districts for the State of Arizona.

Proposition 106 says that "The Independent Redistricting Commission shall establish Congressional and Legislative Districts. The commencement of the mapping process for both the Congressional and
Legislative Districts shall be the creation of districts of equal population in a grid-like pattern across the state."

That's really unique to Arizona. And you are going to hear more about what that grid-like pattern means.

After that initial paragraph stating we have to create equal population grids, there are several other criteria 106 requires us to follow in drawing up districts.

First of all, we have to comply with the United States Constitution and the United States Voting Rights Act.

There is a clause in the Constitution that interpreted one person one vote. It's a Supreme Court decision from 35 years ago, Baker vs. Carl. That means districts have to be essentially of equal population so a voter in one district has the same weight to his vote as a voter in another district.

Secondly, the United States Voting Rights Act provides for minority representation, that the ability for minority groups to elect representatives of their choosing may not be diluted. Whatever their ability is currently to elect members to the Legislature and Congress of their choosing, the new district plan
has to at least preserve that level, if not enhance it.

And that's in the United States Voting Rights Act.

And also because of Section Five of the

United States Voting Rights Act, anything we do in the

State of Arizona has to be cleared by the Department of

Justice. It has to get their approval.

Primarily what we're looking for is no

dilution.

B. Essentially Prop 106 restates the

equal protection clause. Congressional districts shall

have equal population to the extent practicable; and

state legislative districts districts shall have equal

population to the extent practicable.

Districts shall be geographically compact

and contiguous to the extent practicable, nothing like

the salamander, a little more compact and contiguous.

District boundaries shall respect

communities of interest to the extent practicable.

We're here tonight for you to tell us

where you want lines to be.

To the extent practicable, district lines

shall use visible geographic features, city, town, and

county boundaries, and undivided Census tracts.

To the extent practicable, competitive

districts should be favored where to do so would create
no significant detriment to the other goals.

It seems to us, first work on A through E, and if we don't have to sacrifice any of those, then we should create competitive districts.

Then there are a couple things we're not supposed to do:

First of all, party registration and voting history data shall be excluded from the initial phase of the mapping process but may be used to test maps for compliance with the above goals and may be used to adjust those maps, if necessary, to achieve competitive districts.

Finally, one significant prohibition: Places of residence of incumbents or candidates shall not be identified or considered.

We had somebody in a prior meeting who stood up and started to give us the address of an incumbent. And our attorney stood up very quickly and said, "Please don't do that. We're not supposed to know that. We cannot take that into consideration."

With that caveat, we're not supposed to know that, take that into consideration in your remarks when you talk about communities of interest. If you love your Representatives, we all love our Representatives, don't tell us where he or she lives.
We're not supposed to take that into consideration.

In April 2001, the Commission received facts on Arizona's population as reported by the Census. Arizona grew from 3.6 million to 5.1 million, a 40 percent increase in over 10 years. That's pretty outstanding.

Some areas of Arizona grew even faster than that.

As you can see, Pinal County, where we're here tonight, was one of the leaders of the pack almost 54 percent growth in 10 years.

The tasks of the Commission:
First of all, we need to develop districts in a grid-like pattern.

We first looked at the dictionary definitions of a "grid." Most refer to two things: straight lines and regular spacing, right angles. In developing the grid, we went to our consultants and they said: Where shall we start? What shall we do?

To assure this was a completely neutral process and took nothing into account except population, what we were supposed to do in the initial grid, we developed a starting point, the Gila Salt River Base Line Meridian, at Baseline Road and 107th Avenue in Western Maricopa County.
The reason we used that starting point,
that's the point from which all of the State of Arizona
is surveyed. All western states are surveyed into
townships, and we did that on the basis of township
meridians. Townships are six miles square and base line
meridians are six miles apart. The prime meridian and
base line are neutral. It divides the state into four
quadrants, as you'll see up there, not of equal size,
not of equal population.

In deciding where to start, we drew
numbers by lot. And the northwest quadrant of the state
was selected. That's where we began the grid process.
Then we flipped a coin for counterclockwise or
clockwise. Counterclockwise won. So we finished up in
the northeast quadrant of the state.

Most of Arizona is divided into a
grid-like pattern of townships. There is one exception
that is not part of the township survey part of the
state. We tried to use this as part of the township
part of the grid.

In an urban area, a township may be large
enough to be a district, may be too large. In less
densely populated areas, we may need to aggregate
townships. If that is necessary, we make a township
grid of four townships. If we had to go still larger,
we take four of those township grids and take them, make
them into an immediate township grid, 16 townships; if
necessary, we move to a supertownship grid which
contains 64 townships in a grid-like pattern. And the
Census geography checks for population, the Census
tracts.

    You've seen the grid. It's not square.
And that's because Census tracts are not rectangular.
They do not cross county lines. We overlaid the Census
tracts on the grids.

    If the majority of the population in a
Census tract was in a particular township, that entire
Census tract was assigned to that township. That's how
we came up with some of the irregular lines you see.

    We adopted the grid and approved it at a
meeting on June 7th. And it is on our website and
published. And people have looked at it and said, "My
gosh, that doesn't work at all." We know. Because all
we used was population.

    We didn't consider communities of
interest. It split Indian reservations in half. That's
a no-no. It split communities of interest down the
middle. We don't want to do that.

    It is a starting point and that's all that
it is. And we're going to make lots of changes in the
People have come to us. Legislators have said, "You chopped up my district into four districts."
That's not necessarily the way it's going to stay. But the existing districts are our starting point. And new districts are probably going to look very different.

Now for the second stage of the process, the public hearings.

Then, after the public hearings, after we get your input, once we have your input, we'll prepare draft maps, one for Congressional Districts, one for Legislative Districts, and publish them on the web site, in the newspapers. They'll be, hopefully, in a zillion places.

Then hopefully we'll advertise those draft maps to the public and also send them to the Legislature. And for 30 days they'll be out for Legislative reaction and public comment to our draft map.

We will be coming back and having round two of the public hearings during that 30 days.

At the end of the 30 days, we will then develop a final map. And if we're not too late in the process, it's our hope this final map can have a very,
very short time for public comment. There won't be
public hearings anymore. There will not be time for
that. We'll put it up on the website, let people
comment on it that way, call the Commission, write the
Commission, so we have a little bit of public comment.
And then we'll establish the final
district boundaries, send it to the Department of
Justice for approval. And then once it is approved,
we'll register it with the Secretary of State, and
that's it.

Now, when you came in tonight you were
handed a citizen input form. That's really, really
important. We want you to fill this out tonight and get
it back to us. We hope you'll fill it out tonight and
get it back before you leave. If you want more time to
think about it, you can take it home and mail it to us.
The address is on the bottom of the form.

If you do that, I encourage you not to let
it get lost on your desk, because we'll be drawing lines
very, very soon. We need your citizen input quickly so
we can incorporate your concerns into the final process.

Another way to fill it out is going to the
website. Our website is www.azredistricting.org. The
citizen input form is there, and you can fill it out on
the website.
There are three different ways to get it to us.

The first question is your name, address, and telephone number, so if we need to communicate to you, we can in that way.

We really need that information to report back to you. If you have questions, concerns, we need to know how to reach you.

Then we want to know in a few words what your major concern is, what do you think is the most important aspect of this process. What boundary lines would you like to see in your area? What boundary lines would you not like to see in the area? If you feel a particular division point would not be appropriate and would be divisive and cut through a community of interest, please tell us.

Somebody at an earlier meeting was telling us an irrigation canal seemed like a natural boundary, but it would cut his community in half and please don't use it. That information is valuable as well.

What areas, groups, or neighborhoods do you think absolutely should not be divided?

Finally, there are a series of questions we ask you to react to, information you would like us to take into account in drawing boundary lines in your
area. We list a number of things and ask you to give numerical ranking:

   Keeping a community intact or bringing particular groups together, such as neighborhood associations and minority group concentrations.

   Using a man-made or natural boundary.

   Drawing congressional or legislative districts that include whole cities or as much of a city as equal population permits.

   Using local government boundaries when drawing Congressional and Legislative District lines.

   Keeping Census tracts from being split.

   Using freeways and major transportation routes for district boundaries wherever possible.

   Drawing compact and contiguous shapes for districts.

You can rank them as highly important, of little importance, or somewhere in between.

As I said before, complete it now, mail it in, or use the website.

There's the website address if you didn't get it when I mentioned it.

If you want to get more involved, we have citizen kits available to you. Our consultant will assist you in you using it. If you want a citizen kit,
please turn in your name and address to Dr. Adams tonight. We'll see you get one mailed to you.

The citizen kit will include detailed maps. The map we gave you is like this one, this area of interest. If you happened to be here tonight and really live in another part of the state, let them know so they give you the appropriate citizen kit.

The citizen kit and area kit, in this case Pinal County, they'll give it to you so you can draw lines. You can redistrict the whole state for us, if you want to, say "These are my suggestions," understanding it has to be a viable plan that follows the considerations in Proposition 106: equal population, no dilution of minority interests, and the other requirements in Prop 106.

This is the schedule. This is the first round of public hearings. We'll then develop draft plans, hold more public hearings, create final plans, then have our submission to the Department of Justice.

The first round of hearings end next week, a week from tomorrow, the 28th of June. We'll then take probably two, three weeks or so to develop our draft plan. That will be sometime toward the mid or later part of July. We'll then have 30 more days of hearings and public comment. Toward the end of August, very
early part of September, we'll adopt the final approved
plan of the Independent Redistricting Commission and
submit it to the Department of Justice.

We need this much time because the
Department of Justice may take up to four months to
approve it. We need to get it done by the end of the
year so people who want to run for office next year know
who can sign their petition, who can't, and also if they
want to run under the Clean Elections Act can get
funding. The law lets you get small contributions.

It's applauding because I'm through
talking.

Now we want to hear from you.

We'd ask you use the microphone.

Adolfo.

MR. ECHEVESTE: Yes. Does anyone have a
yellow form? Have you turned in a yellow form, if you
wish to speak? If you do have one, hold it up and we'll
pick it up. And if you come over here to the mike,
state your name clearly for the record and spell it for
us, please.

COMMISSIONER HUNTWORK: Just before we
start, I would also like to introduce one of our two
legal counsel for the Commission, Lisa Hauser, counsel
for the Commission, who I think was late for the same
reason I was.

MS. HAUSER: I doubt it. Did you think

the meeting was at 7:00?

COMMISSIONER HUNTWORK: Lisa got here
early.

A couple other thoughts. First, as Adolfo
stated, state your name and spell it for the court
reporter.

Please speak up as much as possible so
people in the back of the room can hear you.

We want you to take as much time as you
need to express your point of view fully and clearly.
Take as much time as you need, but be succinct with the
time to provide -- leave as much time for your fellow
citizens to make comments as well.

If you have questions for us, we'll be
happy to try to answer them. We may defer questions to
the end of the meeting in order to make sure we give
everybody ample time for comments.

Certainly if there is a misunderstanding,
we'll try to clarify something in order to prevent a
misunderstanding. We'll try to do that.

With that in mind, I'll call on the names
of people that have submitted yellow forms.

I want to apologize in advance to anyone
whose name I might mispronounce. I'll do my best.

Just come forward and speak into the microphone here.

The first speaker is Pete Rios, a State Senator.

SENATOR RIOS: Thank you. I appreciate this opportunity to say a few words.

What I would like to initially start with is I appreciate the concept that the Commission is starting out with, and that is community of interest. You are going to find throughout the state there's going to be a lot of disagreement on what will constitute a community of interest.

Apache Junction will tell you in their district they are a community of interest. Kearny will tell you the same thing. Casa Grande will tell you the same thing. To a large extent, what they tell you is all correct. Pinal County will tell you everybody that resides in Pinal County is a community of interest. Now I begin to have a problem.

There are a lot of different varied interests in Pinal County. You cannot compare Eloy, Arizona, say they are alike in every way with Gold Canyon. You cannot compare Coolidge, Arizona, and say they are alike with Saddlebrooke in the southern part of
Pinal County north of Tucson, because they are as different as night and day.

We are going to have a major, major difficult time trying to define community of interest, the new buzz word.

I wish Sandra Day O'Connor had defined community of interest. It would have been nice but not as interesting.

Let me start reading. I did have an opportunity of testifying at South Mountain Community College. Why there and why here? District Seven spreads by and large all over. And while I do represent South Mountain, I do represent parts of Ahwatukee, parts of Chandler, parts of -- all of Guadalupe. It then swings out and picks up some Native American Reservations as well. I represent primarily Pinal County. That's the heart of District Seven.

Let me read a statement, if I may. I have an extra copy, too, I wish to present.

Your goal to comply with the US Constitution and US Voting Rights Act and the goal to use visible geographic features, city, town, and county boundaries and undivided Census tracts seems to me to be in conflict. For you cannot, and I repeat, you cannot maintain minority-majority districts if you insist on
political subdivision boundaries.

Although we would all like to see communities like Apache Junction and Casa Grande whole, how will this be done without violating the rights of protected classes, not other community interests, not water districts, not agricultural interests, not of urban interests, because they can all be considered communities of interest.

My concern right now is with Section Five of the Voting Rights Act and how are we going to insure that the protected classes in the State of Arizona, and Arizona comes under preclearance? Because we in the State of Arizona have proven that we can be bigoted and that we can be prejudiced. That is why Federal law requires preclearance. Any time we change any voting law in the State of Arizona it has to be precleared by the Justice Department. Any time we change anything to do with voting, it has to be precleared.

If you put all of A.J., Casa Grande, and all of Pinal County in one Legislative District, how do you justify to the US Department of Justice this was done at the expense of protected classes, especially when the new district you all are proposing, I understand what the grid is, nevertheless, that's what people are reacting to, the new grid would exclude, is
not inclusive, excludes Indian reservations, like Fort McDowell, currently part of this district, excludes Salt River Indian Reservation and the Pascua Yaqui Indians in Guadalupe, Arizona? Those would be removed from District Seven.

How do you justify to the Justice Department that particular move?

These were tribes that when they joined with the Salt River Indian Reservation and the Ak-Chin Indian Reservation, it provided the tribes a solid political base to give them an opportunity to try to elect their own candidates.

Ladies and gentlemen, we're talking about Native Americans, talking about Indians, a major protected class in the State of Arizona.

Additionally, your new proposed district lines bring in areas like Gold Canyon with Jack Nicklaus golf courses and retains areas like Saddlebrooke, a Sun City-like retirement resort community, that have very little in common with mining, Indians, Latinos, and blue collar working families in Pinal County.

Where is the community of interest to bring those areas in and exclude the ones I mentioned previously?

The new proposed districts reduce
protected classes, specifically in District Seven, now
District Eight under the new maps, from 54 percent of a
protected class to approximately 41 percent. I guess I
have to ask the question: Is this not retrogression and
in violation of the Voting Rights Act?

If the Commission wishes to make Apache
Junction whole, and Casa Grande whole, and most of Pinal
whole, I ask you consider moving the district lines for
Globe, Miami, Morencie, Clifton, certain areas of
Chandler, insure the protected classes in the district
truly are protected. Include the Native American areas
I referred to earlier.

At the Phoenix hearing at South Mountain
Community College, Chairman Lynn stated "equal
populations is our primarily goal." Shouldn't
compliance with the Voting Rights Act also be a primary
goal, one of the primary goals?

One final note. I know you indicated
earlier and showed on a slide incumbents' residences,
addresses for legislators and congressional people ought
not to be included. Then my question is: Why were we,
as legislative incumbents, asked to provide our
residential addresses because the Commission wanted
them? Maybe it was your consulting firm that requested
them, but we were told they were for the Commission.
And that, we all know, is clearly in violation of the law. We were asked to provide our residential address.

COMMISSIONER HUNTWORK: I want to look into that right now. Who asked you to do that?

SENATOR RIOS: Our staff people in the Senate asked that, prior to you hiring staff, after you all were nominated to your post.

COMMISSIONER HUNTWORK: Was it the -- Democratic staff.

COMMISSIONER HUNTWORK: The Legislature is doing a parallel process. That is the confusion.

SENATOR RIOS: Way before anybody was drawing maps.

COMMISSIONER HUNTWORK: We intend to live and die by the rules.

SENATOR RIOS: That's why I bring it to you and why I brought it.

DR. ADAMS: Probably Legislative counsel.

MS. HAUSER: One other Senator wanted to fill out a citizen input form. I suggested to simply use a business office address, home phone number, but at least, you know, NDC could go ahead and contact you.

That's the way to get around that on the form.

SENATOR RIOS: I use my part-time Apache
Junction residence, not my permanent residence, because I have resided in Apache Junction since 1990. And you'll hear from a lot of people Apache Junction doesn't have a voice. Yet when they dealt with major issues impacting Apache Junction, this is the voice there fighting for them. When somebody wanted legislation on issues that had to do with the development of fees for schools, it was Senator Rios that introduced that legislation twice. When people wanted the Superstition Mountains protected as primitive areas, it was Pete Rios.

MS. GILL: Are we going to have a campaign speech here?

SENATOR RIOS: I'll quit here. As far as Apache Junction not having a voice, my point is they do have a voice. The other voice is the Floor Leader of the Senate, Jack Brown.

Let me conclude by saying if we make the communities whole, which I hope we can, I hope the majority of this Commission agrees the primary goal is protected classes not be reduced in numbers. That is clearly something the Justice Department will be looking at.
With that I will conclude and thank you.

(Microphone feedback was heard.)

COMMISSIONER HUNTWORK: Thank you. Thank you, but not for the last.

The next speaker is Doug Coleman, Mayor of Apache Junction.

MAYOR COLEMAN: Get rid of all the politicians first.

COMMISSIONER HUNTWORK: You turned yours in first is the reason.

MAYOR COLEMAN: I'm pleased you came to our community to get our input. I, in talking about communities of interest, one of the things -- I'm pleased to see that is one of the six goals is to keep municipalities, as far as possibility, within the same region.

Senator Rios brought up a lot of points where he has helped us. One of the things --

Sorry. I'm Douglas Coleman, DOUGLAS, COLEMAN.

One of the things that I know I feel like is that when they split us up before, part of the community is represented by District Four, which is, you know, the representative lives up in the White Mountains; District Seven, Senator Rios claims part-time
residence here, although I believe his permanent address
is Dudleyville. And District 26 --

A VOICE: Russell Bowers.

MAYOR COLEMAN: -- Russell Bowers. Shows

how much I know.

Talk about local representation, which I
believe -- there's a feeling that we don't have local
representation. Whether that is a fact or not I'm not
going to argue. There's a feeling there's no one from
our community in the State Legislature.

Because Jack Brown, there's totally
different problems in the area he's from than we have
down here.

He mentioned the mining communities. Back
in the 1890s, they did a lot of mining out here; but we
don't have mining, copper mining, per se.

When I think of communities of interest, I
think of taxing authorities, municipalities, and school
districts, which their boundaries do not -- more often
than not do not match a municipal boundary, counties,
those types of entities.

People are very interested in their taxes.

And government represents, to a lot of people, their
taxes. And that's one reason why I believe
municipalities shouldn't be divided up.
When you put up the gerrymandering thing,

I thought: That's Apache Junction. Minority, three
different Districts. We have to talk to three different
Senators and six -- but we're a minority in each one.

Also, when I think of a community of
interest, we have common problems, like transportation.
You know, what regional council, you know, is the
community represented by, as far as transportation
dollars. Some of the federal funding that comes down
from that.

Those are things I would like to be
considered.

My main reason for standing today was to
ask that when you consider areas, and I know that the
Justice Department has their requirements, but let the
Justice Department determine that, I think, as much as
possible. Try to let those that live and associate and
work together be together so when we have discussions
about what is going on with the State Legislature we
know who we're talking about and don't have to try to
find out who the people are, where they live, who is
represented by whom. Let people who may live next door,
a block over, be in the same zip code, and the same --
you know, we work next door to each other, but we're in
two completely different districts. And it's only the
district that is different as far as the taxing
authority.

That's all I wanted to say. Thank you.

COMMISSIONER HUNTWORK: Thank you.

The next speaker is Sharron Gill.

MS. GILL: S H A R R O N, G I L L.

I have to kind of ditto a lot of what
Mayor Coleman said. I wasn't going to give what my
title is. I was going to be just Sharron Gill citizen.
I'm Chairman of the Pinal County Republican Committee,
travel the county quite a bit and know quite a few
people in different areas of the county.

I see a county that is almost split in
half. Like Senator Rios was saying, communities of
interest, Gold Canyon, I too have much of the same
interests as Eloy. Quite a few people in Eloy have
similar interests as mine. But you have Gold Canyon,
Apache Junction, in a contiguous area which has very
like interests to East Mesa, Gilbert, whatever, that
area.

A lot of people in our area shop, work, do
a lot of things in East Mesa.

Saddlebrooke, you might as well draw a
line down Pinal County almost. Saddlebrooke is another
community like Gold Canyon. Senator Rios so eloquently
separated us from the rest of the community, like
Saddlebrooke found in the Northern Pinal County Tucson
community.

It's very difficult, as the Mayor said.

We have a county split up in numerous representations.
The east -- western part of our county has, you know --
we don't even -- those people don't even come to the
county and they represent part of Pinal County. The
county is just chopped to smithereens with, again, as
the Mayor said, people representing us that have no idea
what is going on half the time.

I would like to see some more contiguous
areas be made and communities that are like-minded.

As I said, the county, they almost split
it in half, and Saddlebrooke down one end.

Another thing I wanted to mention, as long
as the Senator made a little campaign speech there,
Pinal County demographically, and has been for years and
years and years, has been predominantly one party.
Speaking as a person from the minority party, I'd like
to be given a little chance to run for office and win.

Thank you.

Oh. I want to keep my Congressman.

COMMISSIONER HUNTWORK: Thank you.

The next speaker is Rosemary Shearer.
MS. SHEARER: I really don't --
Oh, ROSEMARY, SHEARER.
I live in a terrible place, Gold Canyon.
I happen to be of another party stripe. I
do not feel we've been represented at all under the
current gerrymandering, which is a new word to me, too,
tonight.

We did bring one of our Representatives
down, as a matter of fact, to introduce that person to
our area. And I don't believe that he had driven off
Highway 60 in 15 years. So it was quite enlightening
for him and all of us.

I have to say once he was here and his
eyes were open, we were able to work with him rather
successfully.

What is it, 150 miles away and he lives
practically in New Mexico and is representing us? It
just doesn't wash at all.

I definitely would like to see this as an
area of interest here. I think we are in this portion
more urban than rural.

I have to say I don't agree with the East
Mesa people very often, either.

You can't go by party lines either.

My question tonight is one thing. And
that is what is the basic or minimum number or target
number per district? I haven't seen that stated
anywhere.

COMMISSIONER MINKOFF: It's on our
website. I don't have the exact number. But a
Legislative District is about 171,000 people.

MS. SHEARER: Okay.

COMMISSIONER MINKOFF: For a Congressional
District it's a little over 642, 643 thousand, something
like that.

MS. SHEARER: That would make a tremendous
difference in geographical size. If you identify the
geographical difference of District Four, unless you
have a helicopter, tires alone, let alone gas, would
make it be prohibitive.

I think contiguity is important. That's
why the number is important to me.

That's all I had. I did want to know what
that was.

I have another question on the website. I
notice now there are two rectangles that are
interactive. Will you enlarge the interactivity of
the maps so we can look more closely as you move down
the line here with the redistricting?

COMMISSIONER MINKOFF: Yes. We'll enhance
the maps. As we have drafts of maps, we'll try to put
them on there. We'll put as much information on there
as we can.

MR. PISANO: Your comments are very weak.
If you could speak up, we'd appreciate it.

COMMISSIONER HUNTWORK: Okay.

MS. SHEARER: I keep clicking, and guess
what, there's Maricopa County and Pima County.

COMMISSIONER MINKOFF: It's a grid. We
took pains to emphasize they are grids, not a map.
Proposition 106 required we start with a grid. In
developing the districts under Proposition 106, they'll
be there. As we develop more detail, people will see
where districts would be.

COMMISSIONER HUNTWORK: I'm wondering if
it's possible to bring chairs up, if possible. This
room is a very disbursed room in the back. We have no
amplification.

We'll do our best. If you can't hear back
there, you might try to move forward a bit.

Thank you very much.

The next speaker, Barbara Gardner.

MS. GARDNER: B A R B A R A,
G A R D N E R, 685 Tepee Street, Apache Junction.

I'm here speaking on behalf of myself, my
personal voice.

I'm President of the Apache Junction Library Board.

I'd like to share with you different experiences. I won't go into all my experiences. It's hard to go into the issue we need to address.

To have to figure out who all the different representatives are, who all the different people are you need to contact, especially if not all the people live in the different areas, I have had occasions where I need to contact people, and it's very difficult if representing the City of Apache Junction to figure out who to contact.

I'd like to see the City of Apache Junction kept together, work with the City of Apache Junction staff, look to areas designated as potential incorporation areas, and I'd also like to consider those in keeping them in the same area.

Thank you.

COMMISSIONER HUNTWORK: Thank you.

The next speaker is Sandie Smith.

MS. SMITH: I, too, am not going to draw lines. I would like to call your attention to some things.

My name is Sandie Smith, S A N D I E,
SMITH. I live at 10211 East Rising Sun Place, but my office here in Apache Junction is at 575 North Idaho.

I would like to tell you that the three districts we have here in Apache Junction, 21, 7, and 4, there are five Republicans and four Democrats that are Representatives in the state, you know, and two in the State Legislature, but 21 kind of looks like -- it looks weighted. And 21, it's just one or two precincts; it's a very small precinct. That precinct I'd like you all to look at. There's one precinct left on the little map, just boundaries, left into the east valley.

I'm not afraid of having some of the east valley put into Pinal County to make sure we guarantee the minority rights. I would welcome that.

I would like to talk to you about some of the problems we have that are regional, things you need to look at, communities of interest in my office I deal with.

First of all, even though we have urban pockets, we consider ourselves rural. We'd like to still identify with a rural lifestyle. There are forest lands, scenic beauty we seek to protect.

We'd like to be able to be with like parties.

We have farming, including in Queen Creek
right down from us here, still one of the major use of
lands spilling over as Maricopa County comes and grows
this way.

Ranching and ranching leases come right up
to the foothills of the Superstitions, comes right to
the south of the highway, city, and is bordered on
Ironwood, all ranching leases, active ranching. The
foothills, of course, we dearly love.

Tourism, economic development, is some of
our greatest challenges. There is a unit called AAG,
Arizona Association of Governments, two counties, Pinal
and Gila. That's where we look to for transportation
dollars and dollars to divvy out for federal projects.

We certainly could not compete with MAG,
Maricopa Association of Governments, in order to get
funding, or PIGLA, Pinal Gila, Gila Behavioral Health
Association, which delivers all behavioral health monies
for Pinal and Gila. That, again, is like interests.

I'd like you to consider health issues,
transportation issues, state land.

50 percent of us is state land.

And also our preservation efforts.

But as you look towards making this equal,
communities of interest, as you've heard, we're very
diverse in Pinal County and also very proud of being
diverse and would like to balance that diversity,
including with our minorities, retain the numbers we
have and still be able to be whole and be able to speak
as one voice.

Thank you very much for your efforts on
that part. Thank you.

COMMISSIONER HUNTWORK: The next speaker
is Dora Vasquez.

MS. VASQUEZ: Good evening. I spoke
before you in Casa Grande.

I'm Dora Vasquez, D O R A, V A S Q U E Z.

I'm here on behalf of my community of interest, Pinal
NAACP, Pinal Hispanic Community Forum, and I'm Chair of
the Arizona Civil Rights Advisory Board to you.

I want to make sure the other side of the
community comes up with issues, knows what we've come up
with, the Hispanic Forum, on the initial grids, not only
for Pinal County overall, but as to the retrogression of
minority-majority districts.

Currently there are seven
minority-majority districts. Logically, you said
population increased 40 percent. It would make sense,
particularly, as that has increased, Hispanics has also.
Minority-majority districts should increase, not
decrease. We're thinking as much as 10, not five. We
won't be happy with just seven, what we started with.
We'd like to see more.

The grids as represented indicate minority
dilution in several Legislative Districts in direct
violation -- not of Arizona, but of the Voting Rights
Act.

It appears in some areas, in the
Congressional District map, the western boundaries were
designed to protect a Congressman's district. I know I
previously addressed this, while they removed a
Congressman's residence in the southern part of the
state, therefore, the only minority Congressman may lose
his prime minority district.

There are questions I have about Pinal
County.

This evening there was a Democratic Party
meeting. Folks are not represented. Folks I spoke
with, speaking of the Chair of the Democratic Party, I
see the Queen Creek area, Superior area, moved to a
different district, moved back, while another area would
stay whole.

I have a personal question. On the
comment cards, community of interests are identified.
Is there a way for the public to have access to the
information before you create the maps so we understand
why the maps were created in the fashion they were,
posted on the web, say perhaps these statements came in,
these communities of interest were identified?

DR. ADAMS: There will be summaries of
each meeting available on the website. We'll defer to
the attorney as to whether full transcripts of each
meeting will be available.

MS. HAUSER: Full transcripts of each
meeting will be available. The main question, whether
or not they'll be on the website, I will double-check on
that.

But at minimum, they are available through
the Commission offices, if you would like to get copies
of the transcripts. Hopefully they will be on the
website.

COMMISSIONER HUNTWORK: Did the question
include other citizen copies?

MS. VASQUEZ: Citizen analysis
information, reading the judgments, the data this
community of interest was identified for this reason.

DR. ADAMS: Yes, absolutely, this area.
That's what we're doing currently. We're doing that.
All the information comes from each area, the citizen
input forms. As things come in from the website,
information comes in through these meetings via the
transcripts and summarizing information, so you'll have
an opportunity to see that on the website.

MS. VASQUEZ: Before maps are created at a
working meeting where the public can discuss that?

DR. ADAMS: Yes. Absolutely.

COMMISSIONER MINKOFF: There will be
several working meetings with public comment at the
beginning and end of the meeting.

MS. VASQUEZ: But this format won't be?

COMMISSIONER MINKOFF: After we have a
draft map, after the draft map, we'll go out before the
final maps.

MS. VASQUEZ: I don't want to lose the
interest. It's a long, drawn-out process. There's very
little minority representation at these meetings. I'm
hoping to drum up some more. I wanted to have the facts
straight to relay that to my folks.

Thank you.

COMMISSIONER HUNTWORK: Thank you.

The next speaker is Jerry Michaels.

MR. MICHAELS: I'll stand down. The folks
were real good. I don't think I have much more to say.

COMMISSIONER HUNTWORK: Thank you.

Landis Aden.

MR. ADEN: I'll pass, also.
COMMISSIONER HUNTWORK: Then we're down to the last slip I have.

I'd like to say before I read this name, if anyone else has been inspired or came in late and wants to make a comment, please raise your hand. We'll see you get one of the yellow forms to fill out and be sure you get a chance.

The next speaker is George Diehl.

MR. DIEHL: My name is George, G E O R G E, Diehl, D I E H L.

I live in the Apache Junction area, Legislative Area 21.

We have three legislative districts. Apache Junction is a joke, an insult at times that Apache Junction districting in Pinal County represents us. It's not the mining industry, not the dollar people. And also I find it an insult to get up here and say because Hispanic, black, white, green, whatever color, I thought we were all created equal. It's time we quit driving stakes between us and unite America. If we did that, 90 percent of the trouble would be over with.

Get up and continue with what we've done in the past 20 years or 25 years. What we've done in Arizona is also bad. Let's look to the future.
If we're going to make Arizona work, look
to what makes Arizona work.

I'm happy with our congressional
delegation. They're doing a good job. There are areas
of Pinal County throughout Arizona, rich with poor, and
poor with rich. Sooner or later, let's get somebody
that represents us.

Thank you.

COMMISSIONER HUNTWORK: Thank you.

We have one more speaker, Napoleon Pisano.

MR. PISANO: Napoleon Pisano, P I S A N O.

I'm a resident of Mesa East Valley, pretty
close to the border. A lot of things that happen here
affect me.

You have a big task in front of you.

You've been asked to do something politicians have been
doing for a lot of years and oftentimes excluded the
population. We want to be included. We want to be
represented. We want to be heard. We want to be able
to express our needs, concerns, our interests. We're
all one.

I appreciate what you said about bringing
this country together. Absolutely. I was there. I
fought for you.

At the same time, I look across the
government in Arizona, and it's not reflective of the population at large. I look across the decision makers in the east valley, and they are not reflective of the population at large.

I look at different boards, commissions, and they are not reflective of the population at large. I'm concerned as we go forward, we're inclusive, not exclusive.

Keep us in mind. Provide a fair, equitable opportunity for all of us to participate. That's what I'd ask of you.

COMMISSIONER HUNTWORK: Thank you.

We have one more late entry.

Thank you.

The last speaker, I believe, Dr. Carlos Vallejo.

DR. VALLEJO: Good evening. As I was listening --

Carlos Vallejo, V A L L E J O. I live in Mesa at 4238 East Holmes Circle. I'm still trying to memorize my address because I just moved there. I hope I can find my way home.

Again, listening to comments, I think my contribution for tonight is we work together.

One of the things that we have done, I
have in the past few years served on a number of
initiatives for the City of Mesa that were designed or
are designed to bring people together collectively. I
think that's what we need to do.

I am presently the Chairperson of a newly
created Coalition or Chapter to the Arizona Hispanic
Coalition Forum. We represent a number of communities
in the southeast valley. I don't think it's intentional
that we drive wedges between us. I think these meetings
are designed to bring people together to the table as
equals. That's what we need to move forward with.

We can read the history. Let's look
forward.

And as Chair of the East Valley Hispanic
Chapter, I would like to put before this group that
we're here to help, not to do it.

Thank you.

COMMISSIONER HUNTWORK: Thank you.

Well, we don't appear to have any more
requests to speak.

I would like to offer you an opportunity
if you have any questions of us, to take advantage of
this opportunity to ask us. At some of our more formal
meetings, at our more formal meetings, we really don't
have an opportunity for interaction with members of the
public. There's an opportunity for the public to speak, but the opportunity for us to respond is not present because of restrictions of the open meeting law. So this is really a chance to talk to each other. I'd offer you the opportunity to ask us questions at this time, if you have any.

MS. SMITH: Are you aware of the CAG, Central Association of Government, MAG, all of them, PUF, regional deliveries of health care? Do you have those boundaries you are looking at?

I would encourage you to look at that, also, on how health services are delivered and how transportation issues are discussed.

COMMISSIONER HUNTWORK: Thank you.

Yes, sir.

MR. ADEN: Landis, L A N D I S, last name Aden, A D E N.

Do you have available definitions of the different terminology you're using, like natural boundary, man-made boundary, communities of interest?

COMMISSIONER HUNTWORK: You know, we were -- we received Proposition 106 just as you did. We read it just as you do. We do have legal counsel to advise us when we have questions.

We're just getting started. There is no
precedent for Proposition 106 and we're addressing
questions as they mature and as we come to them one day
at a time, one question at a time.

Communities of interest is a term, as
Senator Rios mentioned, used by Sandra Day O'Connor in a
Supreme Court decision. She didn't define it. We have
to work with that.

Natural boundaries, I haven't thought to
ask for that, a definition of that term.

We're looking at it intuitively as you
would, any other citizen would, as they read Proposition
106.

Our legal counsel might be willing to
offer us all her interpretation of the term "communities
of interest," and maybe some of the other terminology as
well. I'm sure we'll ask for other definitions as well.

MR. ADEN: I'd ask they be posted.

MS. HAUSER: Communities of interest, it
has come up in a number of cases since Justice O'Connor
coined the phrase.

It really is what you say it is. It is
self-defined. It depends on the area of the country or
the area of a state that is undergoing this kind of
process. Sometimes it focuses on economic issues.
Sometimes it focuses on -- sometimes it does involve
education, rural versus urban, those kind of issues. It really can be just about anything. Sometimes it's Native American tribal lands, all kinds of issues. So really, that's the purpose of these meetings is for us to define, through you, the communities of interest that exist out there. And it can be cities and involve geographic boundaries as well as fall over into another category.

Dr. Adams will say more about natural boundaries.

DR. ADAMS: Natural boundaries would be something like mountain ranges, rivers, streams, that sort of thing.

In California we had one legislative district from desert to mountain to sea district. It literally went through the desert, across the mountains, and across to the ocean, all the way across California. I would probably suggest that that might cross some natural boundaries.

You can define yourself areas and mountain ranges you think should be together.

As far as man-made boundaries, you're looking at canals, man-made boundaries, freeways, highways, those kind of things tend to divide communities, cut through communities.
You may find you have a freeway dividing a community. That is something we hope you tell us. If you don't think that freeway is a man-made boundary that should be respected or major road that should be respected as a community on either side self-identified, that's something else we'd like to know.

Mr. Aden: That does help.

Commissioner Huntwork: Thank you.

Anyone have any other questions?

Mr. Diehl: Does that include, talking about people running for election, state legislature, federal elections?

Commissioner Huntwork: We do federal districts and state legislative districts. Same rules apply to both for Proposition 106.

Mr. Diehl: All right.

Commissioner Huntwork: If there are no further questions, then, I once again on behalf of the Independent Redistricting Commission would like to thank all of you for taking your valuable time to come here tonight and share your ideas and insights with us. This is very helpful and exactly the kind of information we'll need in order to do our job properly.

Yes. Let me also say, we expect to put out our next set of maps, actually the first set of real
maps, in mid to late July and then schedule another
round of public hearings. We hope to see you all again
in about two months.

      Thank you all very much.
(Whereupon, the hearing concluded at
approximately 7:40 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 58 pages constitute a true and accurate transcript of all 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 23rd day of June, 2001.

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