STATE OF ARIZONA

ARIZONA INDEPENDENT REDISTRICTING COMMISSION

REPORTER'S TRANSCRIPT OF PROCEEDINGS

Phoenix, Arizona
June 21, 2001
7:00 p.m.

ARIZONA INDEPENDENT REDISTRICTING COMMISSION

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

COMMISSION convened in Public Session on June 21, 2001, at 7:00 o'clock p.m. in Maricopa County at Phoenix Community College, 1202 West Thomas Road, Phoenix, Arizona, in the presence of:

APPEARANCES:

CHAIRMAN STEVE W. LYNN
VICE CHAIRMAN ANDI MINKOFF
COMMISSIONER JAMES R. HUNTWORK
ENRIQUE MEDINA OCHOA, Executive Director
ADOLFO ECHEVESTE, Outreach Coordinator
AMY REZZONICO, Public Information Officer
AUGUSTA KNIGHT, Staff
TIM JOHNSON, Technical Computer Staff
MARGUERITE MARY LEONI, NDC Counsel
TRACI RICCITELLO, NDC Staff
LISA A. NANCE, RPR, CCR, Court Reporter

PRESENTATION BY: CHAIRMAN STEVEN W. LYNN

SPEAKERS FROM CALL TO THE PUBLIC:

Representative Leah Landrum Taylor
Greg Brownell
Heather Jenkins
Reverend Oscar Tillman
SPEAKERS FROM CALL TO THE PUBLIC CONT'D:

Steve Brittle
Faye Grey
Donna McHenry
Wink Weiss
Representative Christine Weason
Wayne Phelphs (via Power Point Presentation)
Jerry McCue
Klorinda Quiroz Lorizno
Bob Rosenberg
Kent Clark
Representative Bill Brotherton
Phyliss Rowe
Velma Sudyka
Delia Lowe
Greg Murphy
Calvin Goode
Dave Braun
Bert Tollefson
Dianne Post
Bev Cuthbertson
Alma Williams
Walter Dudley
Lucinda Montoya
Clutis Montoya
PHOENIX, ARIZONA
June 21, 2001
7:00 o'clock p.m.

PROCEEDINGS

CHAIRMAN LYNN: Good evening, ladies and gentlemen. I apologize if we're a little late. We had some technical difficulties. When we set up in a new town, we have to make sure everything works.

We have two crews tonight, one here and the other in another part of the state.

I ask you, as I start the Power Point presentation, if you can't see the Power Point from anywhere you currently are sitting, I'd ask you to move forward or center, if you can.

I'd also ask those of you that wish to address the Commission this evening, if you'd please fill out a speaker form which you'll find in the rear of the auditorium. And we also have, also have a Spanish translation of the Power Point.

(Chairman Lynn addresses the audience in Spanish.)

CHAIRMAN LYNN: We're in good shape.

Ladies and gentlemen, we are joined this evening by C Span. They are taping this presentation for showing at some time on their 24-hour station. If
you want to see yourselves or if you would like to
review the proceedings of the evening, you need to look
at their listing to look at when they're showing it.

We'll be starting in about one minute.

Good evening, ladies and gentlemen. My
name is Steve Lynn. I'm the Chair of the Independent
Redistricting Commission. I'll present the Power Point
presentation this evening.

Wherever we've gone across the state in
these 23 meetings, the first round of meetings of our
process, we have presented the Power Point presentation
first. And I'm going to do that.

The Power Point takes around 20 minutes.

And then what we'd like to do is ask the members of the
public who wish to address the Commission to do so.

If you would fill out the speaker card and
would turn them in, the speakers this evening are going
to be at the lectern which is midway back in the
auditorium. That's so both C Span and the auditorium
amplification can hear you.

We would ask that those addressing the
Commission making comments or presentations, that they
do so first. If you have questions for the Commission,
what we'd like to do is ask those be held until the end
of the meeting and we'll stay as long as you'd like to
ask questions and answer those.

In deference to the people who have come
to put something on the record, to address us in terms
of the purpose of the meeting this evening, we'd like to
ask them to go first. If that would be all right with
all of you, we would appreciate it.

I will make introductions after the
presentation.

Let me without further delay do the Power
Point.

The subject of this evening's presentation
is redistricting, or the drawing of new district lines
for the state's Legislative and Congressional Districts
for the first time under the provisions of Proposition
106.

Now, this is a very important difference
between Arizona's 2001 redistricting and those of the
past. Citizens in this state play a very crucial and
very different role in this process. These public
hearings are partly to educate you through the Power
Point but much more importantly they are to educate us
as you see your communities of interest and you will
tell us about them.

We'll be using these hearings to bring
this process to all areas of the state and involve as
many people as we can.

Last week, this week, and next week we will be completing a total of 23 of these meetings around the state. And we have heard from people all over the state with respect to their desires in the redistricting process.

We need to share with you our plans for redistricting, but more importantly, we need to hear your reactions to them.

The Commission is determined to make this as fair a process and to achieve districts that honestly represent the needs of the people of Arizona. That's the purpose of Proposition 106.

Now, often, in the past, redistricting has produced deeply divisive processes, raising charges of dirty politics, partisan power plays, incumbent protection, and racial discrimination. All those things are contained under the general heading of gerrymandering, or more correctly, gerrymandering.

Gerrymandering began in Massachusetts. Governor Eldridge Gerry, who was then the Republican Governor, then Republican, because the Republicans became Democrats, if you remember your civics lessons, he was famous for drawing very interesting districts, drawing them for his own and his cronies' needs. A
cartoonist for the Boston Globe in 1811 drew a cartoon of one of these districts in 1811. This was the first gerrymander or gerrymander. This was a depiction of the district in Massachusetts, so bizarre in shape and size as to represent this creature.

Now, there are several ways in which gerrymandering can be abusive in terms of political redistricting.

Consider redistricting four districts. I'm now on the left of the screen. And you have within those four districts pockets of minority party voters. It doesn't matter which party, minority or majority, it's the majority party voters' wish to dilute the influence of the districts, bisect, trisect their numbers so they turn out to have a small percentage of districts and voting power.

On the other side, you limit the influence of districts by drawing another way to do it, you concentrate, or pack, minority party voters in a single district. Either one of these creates a disproportionately low influence by the minority party.

The same thing can be done as a result of racial gerrymandering. Racial gerrymanders are done to achieve political results. On the left you have the creation of an ethnic district, largely Hispanic in this
representation, to assist the Republicans who are not in that area but occupy other geographic parts of the districts to be redrawn. On the right, you have the same kind of concept where here, a white Democratic incumbent could be preserved by carving out enough of the Hispanic vote to support that particular individual.

Now none of these examples is anything that this Commission will be working with this time around. The voters of Arizona wanted to clean up the redistricting process, so they passed Proposition 106. When they did, they created the Independent Redistricting Commission to be responsible for a new kind of redistricting process.

Here are the members of the Commission.

And I'd like to spend just a moment talking about not only who they are but about how they were selected.

Proposition 106 calls for an affirmative application process which means all of us filled out about a 14-page application and sent it off to the Commission on Appellate Court Appointments. 311 Arizonans put their name into the hopper and indicated they wished to be considered for the position. The Commission was headed by the Chief Justice of the State Supreme Court, Justice Zlacket. They met for a day and a half, two days, and took that list of 311 and pared it
down to a list of 25.

That list of 25 had 10 Republicans, 10 Democrats, and five Independents.

That list then was circulated among the leadership in the State Legislature. And each of the leaders, in turn, selected Commissioners.

The first Commissioner selected was Jim Huntwork. Jim is an attorney from Phoenix. He's Republican.

Jim, stand up. I'll do introductions as we go along. Jim Huntwork. He was selected by the Speaker of the House Jim Weiers.

The next person who made a selection was the House Minority Leader Ken Cheuvront. And Ken selected Andrea Minkoff. Andrea is called Andi. We don't want you to think there are five guys on the Commission. Andrea, please.

COMMISSIONER MINKOFF: I'm not a guy.

CHAIRMAN LYNN: Andrea is Andi. We call her Andi. She's the Vice Chairman of the Commission.

She also is from Phoenix.

Now, the proposition indicated that of the first four commissioners selected, no more than two could be from any one county. So with the first two selections being from Maricopa County, it had its two;
therefore, no other Maricopa County representatives could be chosen until the possible selection of the Chair.

The third selectee was Daniel Elder, the selection of Randall Gnant. Randall is from Scottsdale, a Republican. Dan Elder is from Tucson, Pima County. He's a landscape architect and consultant.

The fourth choice was by the Democratic Leader of the Senate, used to be called the minority, but the Senate is 15, 15, so it's co-equal. The Democratic leader in the Senate was Jack Brown from Apache County. And Jack selected Joshua Hall, a land title and real estate person from St. Johns. He lives in St. Johns, works in the White Mountain area, has a couple offices in that area.

So the first four commissioners, two from Maricopa, one from Pima, one from Apache County. Their first job after being sworn in was to select a Chairman. If you've never been interviewed in public, it's a real process. There were five on the list. Apparently somebody told the last guy the pay was lousy and hours were long. At any rate, one person dropped out. I don't even recall who it was. Four were interviewed.

After deliberation, the four members of
the Commission selected me. I'm Steve Lynn. I'm from Tucson. I am an Independent. I'll be very clear about a couple things. I used to be a Democrat. I used to be a Republican. I am an Independent. Now that there are open primaries, I don't think I'll be able to switch again.

So from a party affiliation, there are two Republicans, two Democrats, and an Independent; two from Pima, two from Maricopa; one from Apache County. Those are the five Commissioners through the affirmative application process.

We knew it was going to be difficult at best to achieve a fully representative Commission when you think about all the sorts of diversity that might be represented. But clearly we do not have much diversity when it comes to ethnicity on the Commission. That's been a source of discussion since beginning the Commission's work. The only thing I can tell you is in working with these individuals, there is absolutely full consideration for every citizen of this state.

I'm confident we'll do a good job for everyone in this state regardless of their affiliation.

What Proposition 106 did was an interesting thing when it established the Commission to create these districts and said we had to begin our
process by creating Congressional and Legislative
Districts of equal population in a grid-like pattern
across the state.

This is a new requirement for
redistricting and specifically unique to Proposition
106.

Now, Proposition 106 also talks about a
number of goals. First and foremost is compliance with
the US Constitution and United States Voting Rights Act.
The Constitutional provision is one person, one vote,
particularly important, because the state's population
in 19 -- in 2000 is divisible by eight, evenly divisible
by eight, so we have to come as close to absolute even
population in the Congressional districting as we can.

With respect to the Legislative Districts
we have a little more leeway. We still are going to try
to achieve near equal population.

Next, we are supposed to create districts
that are geographically compact and contiguous to the
extent practicable.

Notice, each of these carries this "to the
extent practicable" phrase. That means we're able to
take other things into account. If we can make a case
for making a change, we can do so. So geographically
compact and contiguous.
We're also supposed to respect communities of interest to the extent practicable.

The term "communities of interest" is an interesting one. It was coined by Justice Sandra Day O'Connor in an opinion she wrote on a voting rights case. The problem is she coined the phrase but she didn't define the phrase. We have two choices, either assume we know what she meant or, what we've chosen to do, we decided to ask the public to tell us what you think she meant.

It's up to you to tell us where you think your communities of interest are. That's the purpose of the meeting this evening.

Next, to the extent practicable, we'll draw district lines that use geographic features, such as mountain ranges, or rivers, that respect city, town, county boundaries, and undivided Census tracts.

The reason we don't want to divide Census tracts, those are the unit of analysis. When we divide them, our ability to analyze what we've done with pieces becomes less exact. We want to try to respect those as much as we can.

Finally, to the extent practicable, we want to have competitive districts. And those are to be favored where doing that would not jeopardize any of the
other goals you see up there.

There is in fact a hierarchy. You are looking at it: The Constitution, Voting Rights Act, other provisions of Proposition 106, in descending order.

Now here's where Proposition 106 is different than other states using independent commissions. I believe there are 11 who have switched from Legislative to Commissions doing redistricting.

Party registration and voting history data shall not be used in the initial phase and development of the grid and wasn't. In fact, the only thing used in developing the grid was population. It fails miserably in many of the other goals you can think of when you look at that grid.

It clearly does not respect communities of interest; clearly does not take into account any other goals up there a moment ago. But notice the last sentence in this section.

Places of residence of incumbents or candidates shall not be identified or considered. And what that means is that the outcome of this process may be a lot of things, but I can tell you one you can go to the bank on: Somewhere in this state there will be at least two Legislators, perhaps two members of Congress,
or more than two, in separate districts, that will wind
up in the same district. That is a likely outcome. Not
because we want it to be so but because we are in effect
drawing blind with respect to where those incumbents
live.

So our work is not political, is not
designed to insure any one person, Legislator or
Congressperson, is kept in any district. That's not a
part of what we're doing.

In April 2001 we began our work and
started with the changing facts of the Arizona Census.
Please be advised several communities have chosen to
challenge the Census Bureau with respect to the numbers
in their community. We respect that. For every
community that feels undercounted or they were poorly
counted, we respect that. We can use only Census data.
Therefore, what you see tonight and we'll use is the
official Census data.

Take a look. In 1990, the Census data was
3.665; 2000, 5.13 million. That's a 40 percent
increase. The state grew 40 percent. It's not the
biggest growth rate of certain counties. I'll show you
certain counties.

Mohave County, 65.8 percent. Notice now,
the 2000 Census, Maricopa County has almost as much
population as the entire state did in 1990. About 63 percent of the population resides in Maricopa County. And it would be reasonable to expect that a significant percentage of both Legislative and the Congressional Districts would be in and around Maricopa County: One person, one vote. It makes sense.

So the tasks of the Commission are these:

Develop districts in a grid-like pattern.

Now if you define "grid," it doesn't matter which dictionary you use, it's regular lines, even spacing, right angles, that are regular in shape, and that can populate a plane, a flat surface, like a map of Arizona.

So we decided to pick a method of drawing a random grid that would follow historical patterns in the state.

All property in the State of Arizona has a legal description. And the legal description begins with a township designation, it's the Gila and Salt River Meridian, 107th Avenue and Baseline. If you'd like to visit, there's a wonderful tour. I'm kidding. It's an intersection.

That's the place from which all property descriptions begin. And that place is an arbitrary place where we decided to start drawing the grid.
Remember, the goal of the grid is to be arbitrary, give a starting point, and to be done without bias.

We accepted a rule, set of rules for the grid construction. Our consultants accepted the rules and drew the grid.

June 7th the grid was unveiled and adopted as the grid. The Commissioners had not seen the grid prior to the time the public saw the grid.

Our feeling was follow the rules, do it randomly. Whatever happens, happens. They drew the grid.

Most Arizona follows townships. And now we'll talk about grids.

Here's an even kind of regular shape everybody can gravitate toward. If accumulating townships in cities, you have a six-mile square, there's a lot of population. As you move out into rural areas, the more townships you aggregate, population to aggregate into a district, you need either more townships to allow you to work in the rural areas to stay in the same regular fashion as we did in the rural areas. Those are townships used to aggregate.

Just to be clear on the randomness of the process, we needed a point to start on, and that point,
if you draw a line north to south and another one east
to west through that point, you have four quadrants in
the State of Arizona. We drew lots to see which
quadrant we'd start in. Northwest won.

We started in the northwest quadrant and
our consultants started aggregating townships until they
had enough townships for a Legislative or Congressional
District. Then they stopped and started the next
district, kept going until they filled up the whole
northwest quadrant. Then the question, finished
northwest, move south or east from that quadrant? So we
flipped a coin to see whether going clockwise or
counterclockwise. Counterclockwise won.

Northwest, southeast, northwest, northeast
was the system we used to develop the grid.

Anyone that has the same software, anyone
that follows those rules, will essentially draw the same
grid as we drew because it is without bias, without
prejudice, without any element other than the element of
population.

Townships provided the grid-like pattern.

Census geography checked for population. That's what
the grid is.

The purpose tonight, second major purpose
we have, is public hearings. This is an opportunity,
the subject is public hearings, is community hearings. We need you to tell us what you think communities of interest are all about.

This Commission, after hearing from the public in these 23 meetings, will begin to actually draw maps and have those maps advertised for a period of not less than 30 days. Now, during that 30-day period, not only will you be able to comment through a second round of public hearings like these on those maps, but the Legislature will be able, either by majority or minority report, to send recommendations from their point of view on those maps.

They, like you, are participating as citizens of the State of Arizona. We fully expect to receive maps from the Legislature they'll have drawn and take those maps into consideration.

We'll also ask if you wish to draw a map yourselves, we'll provide you material to do that and accept your map as well.

Once those maps are advertised for 30 days, the Commission will then make final adjustments to the plan. We will put them out for a final short period of public comment. We will then adopt them and send them to the Department of Justice.

If the Department of Justice approves
them, then they will be certified to the Secretary of
State and take effect for the 2002 elections.

Now, to get your input tonight, we're
using a citizen input form. I'd like to go over it
briefly. These are questions we're asking.

We certainly want to know who you are. If
you tell us something we don't understand and need
clarified, we'd like to talk to you, need to know how to
get in touch with you.

We'd also like to know how many people
have given input. It helps us keep track.

The second thing, let us know in as few
words as possible what you think the most important part
of this process is from your point of view. Your input
is important.

Thirdly, tell us what boundary lines you'd
like to see used in your area. If, for example, an area
of Phoenix seems to work together well where communities
have begun projects or have interacted in a very good
way, clearly we'd like to know how you see those
communities coming together.

I know we have some presentations tonight
that highlight some of those communities of interest
this evening.

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

There are a number of communities in this state badly divided when it comes to Legislative Districts: Casa Grande, Apache Junction, Nogales, two, three Legislative Districts that bisect those communities. We've heard from those communities. Many people feel it would be preferable to have a single Legislative District. That's more of a factor in terms of influence with the Legislature.

Again, another point view, two, three sets of Legislative Representatives are not that bad, either, depending on your relationship with those Representatives. We have heard both sides.

Finally, there are questions in the input form we'd like you to rank. We would like you to tell us which of these bears more or less importance in your mind.

Is it more or less important to keep the community intact or bring particular groups together such as neighborhood associations or minority concentrations?

Is it more or less important to use natural or man-made boundaries?

Is it more or less important when drawing
Congressional and Legislative Districts to include whole city boundaries, have whole cities included?

Is it more or less important than using local government boundaries when drawing Congressional and Legislative District lines?

Is it more or less important than keeping Census tracts from being split?

Is it more or less important than using freeways and major transportation routes for district boundaries wherever possible?

Is it more or less important drawing compact and contiguous shapes for districts?

When we get all the input in and when we do our maps, this is how we need to have your forms.

Complete and hand them in tonight. You can mail them in to us. You can load it from the internet, do it on line, and send it off through the web, www.azredistricting.org.

That website is kept relatively up-to-date. As we get information, it's posted to the site as quickly as we can get it there and available for your perusal at any time. We'll continue to get that site updated as best we can throughout the process.

If you would like to draw more detailed maps, like the Legislature and others may do, we have
provisions tonight and opportunities to talk to staff
people or Commissioners and get citizen kits which will
give you the opportunity to have a local, localized map
where you can actually draw boundaries and show us where
you think Legislative or District boundaries should go.
What is important here is not just draw a
line; rather, tell us why you've drawn the line where it
is, how you justify having it be in that location. That
helps us understand why you did it. If we choose to
incorporate it, then we know how we can defend it.
That's what is important.
The plans will be evaluated on the
following criteria: First, the federal mandates of
equal population, voting rights as viewed by the Voting
Rights Act, all the tenants of Proposition 106 which we
went over this evening.
Then the rest of the schedule looks like
this. We'll complete these public hearings next week.
By the middle to end of July we'll have draft maps we
hope to be circulating for that 30-day period. By mid
to late August, we will have heard from the public and
be in the phase of final plan making. And by early
September, we hope to have a submission ready to go to
the Department of Justice.
That gives the Department of Justice 60
days to review our work and hopefully to issue a
preclearance, which means by year's end, candidates that
wish to run for the 2002 election may be able to
identify the districts in which they're going to run and
begin gathering support.

    My computer is clapping. I think it's
finished, and so am I.

What I would like to do at this point is
go to the second phase of our evening. And I would ask
for anyone who has filled out a speaker's slip and
hasn't yet turned it in, if you just raise your hand,
I'd ask if staff is available to pick up speaker forms.
We'll take them in the order we collect them and get
through the speakers as quickly as possible.

    I would ask that those making Power Point
presentations, if you'd like to come set up at this
point, it will facilitate things.

    Come on ahead and get set up as best you
can, and we'll get at this as quickly as we can.

    We will keep the screen down for the Power
Points. As soon as the Power Points are completed, then
the Commissioners will take their position on the stage
and we will move ahead.

    As the evening progresses, Vice Chairman
Minkoff is going to run this meeting. She'll call on
those of you who have asked to speak.

We would ask you come to the podium in the middle of the auditorium to make your comments. Both C Span and the house amplification system will pick you up at that location.

We will call your names. If you will move to the podium, we'll hear what you have to say to us.

At the end of the public comment period, then we will stay as long as is necessary to answer any and all questions that you have of us.

We have nowhere to go tonight.

Ms. Minkoff and Mr. Huntwork live here, and I have a hotel room. Nobody is running out. We'll stay as long as you want us to stay.

We appreciate your attention for this portion of the program. I know it was a little lengthy, we started a little late, and it's a little warm. All those things are true. We thank you for your attention.

As soon as we get set up for the second part of the presentation, we'll get started with the second part of the meeting.

COMMISSIONER MINKOFF: Ladies and gentlemen, thank you for your indulgence. We want to thank you for being patient during the late start.

I want to ask very briefly, if any speaker
slips have not been turned in, please raise your hand. We
want to give everyone that wants to speak an opportunity
to speak.
Secondly, we've been made aware of two
Power Point presentations tonight, one from the South
Mountain Central Phoenix Plan, another one representing
Historic Districts. Are there any others?
We'll take these two presentations first.
Then we can raise the screen and go up and we can all
see each other, have eye contact.
The first presentation from South Mountain
Central Phoenix Plan is coordinated by Representative Leah
Landrum Taylor. Tell us when you are ready to begin.
We'll give you the floor.
The other thing I would ask of each
speaker, even if there are a number of speakers with a
particular group, when you come to the microphone,
please spell your name so Lisa Nance, our reporter, can
get the correct spelling of your name for the record.

REPRESENTATIVE LANDRUM TAYLOR: While
waiting for the technology there to boot up, since we
have a moment, I'll go ahead while waiting for the
computer to get started here, get the presentation
rolling.
First off, I'd like to thank the entire South Mountain Central Phoenix Community for really pitching in and helping with this plan, basically putting together all the input we needed to have in order to have a unified community. This has truly been an effort where many people throughout the community had input in this and wanted to participate. It's been a bipartisan effort, something we can all be very proud of. And the presentation you will see and speakers you will hear later on, I really feel all the work that has been put into this, we definitely have something to be proud of.

We want to go ahead and show off our South Mountain Community Central Phoenix Plan and work towards moving in a more unified direction.

THE REPORTER: Would you please spell your name?

REPRESENTATIVE LANDRUM TAYLOR: Spell my name. Leah, L E A H, Landrum, L A N D R U M, Taylor, T A Y L O R. And I have a wonderful assistant,

Mr. Taylor, my husband, helping me.

As we were coming up with ideas as far as what should be put in place for our community, the main thing that we thought of and that we wanted to focus on were common issues that tied our community together. We
know this is something that is extremely important to us. And that's why we came up with the slogan of being sure we're building on our past, envisioning tomorrow.

I'm going to point out key issues we're focusing on. And later on you will hear from different speakers represented throughout our community to talk about these in detail.

We're going to touch upon areas of interest such as education; development and land use; crime and blight in our neighborhoods; noise abatement; environmental concerns; and, finally, maintaining diversity within the South Mountain Central Phoenix Community.

The first area of common interest is education that we're going to discuss.

Ms. Heather Jenkins will come up and talk in detail about district educational summits we've had, past summits as well as ones planned in the future.

Summits have done a great job of connecting different school districts and making sure we're keeping our districts unified, our community colleges as well as making sure that we have our skill center included in that as well.

We have seven elementary schools within the community that we have worked very hard in and that
we are proposing. We also have two community colleges. And there are two high schools within that unified district, one being South Mountain High School, the other being Cesar Chavez.

It's very important for us to make sure we keep those schools within the same district.

The other area we're going to talk about is common development and land use.

We want to make sure that there is a discussion that you will hear tonight to discuss how we're going to preserve South Mountain Park, the largest municipal park in the country. It's a beautiful area. We want to make sure we keep it preserved, areas like the Dobbins outlook.

You can see some scenic overlooks we have there.

If you haven't been there, get there. It's a wonderful environmental center within the community. This environmental center is wonderful. It's a wonderful center. And it's important trails are preserved.

These are things we want to make sure you are focusing on.

Another area to focus on deals with common development and land use.
For instance, the Rio Salado Project is a major project we've been working on within our district. This is a project that is going to definitely help unify our district even more than providing beautification and other opportunities, whether job opportunities or further economic development. I'm going to have Mr. Greg Brownell expand on this.

Other common areas to focus on with land use deal with housing issues as well as the Baseline Corridor Project, the Central Development Project, and Rio Monterey Project. Again, Mr. Greg Brownell will be discussing these issues.

Another issue is crime and blight in our neighborhoods. Ms. Grey as well as Ms. Donna McHenry will come up and discuss how our neighborhoods have really improved Block Watch Groups, neighborhood associations. With the strength we now, have within many neighborhood associations, many neighborhood association improvement projects are really proud of their basic amenities, making sure there are proper grocery stores to shop in. We want to make sure we are continuing with our improvements.

We do have still, of course, have a lot of work to do within our district. We're willing to put that work in.
Also here this evening on common noise abatement issues is Ms. Donna McHenry to touch on that, from the airport to freeways, as the city expands, grows, there are certain growing pains, of course. We've always had the issue within the district, how do we address working within these issues as we work very close to the airport and freeway. Should people be relocated? What if they don't want to be relocated? Should we have more sound barriers? What should be done? We're working on more issues and solutions to this.

These are some of the things we want to continue to work with.

Another common interest, of course, are our environmental concerns. Mr. Steve Brittle will be discussing that this evening. We have a lot of past efforts we've worked on as well as ongoing plans for improvement. Of course, climbing and standing on top of South Mountain and looking over the city, you used to see a nice, clear vision. Now you stand over and see a lot of brown clouds, brown clouds of pollution that has dust, waste materials, other unclean materials industries have been dumping on the area for a long time. It's a big fight we've had. Even as recent as yesterday I was reading in the paper about a common area
with an environmental concern, Cesar Chavez Park, 35th Avenue and Baseline, a park for the community, a park for community fishing, with toxins now in the water. They may have to drain that. There may not be any more fishing.

These are some of the issues we'll focus on and fight.

The bottom line is we want to maintain the cooperative diversity we've worked so hard to build within the South Mountain Central Phoenix Community.

Again, like I said, we may not have everything perfect, but we're fine. We know there's a lot of work we have to do. We know we have to continue towards unity. We have to continue towards solidarity and need to make sure when we look at a district, each individual has a shot at being represented equally.

That's our focus. And we want to look at common interests that have always tied our community together.

We need to stay together. This is why we go to the next slide.

This is the boundaries that we are proposing for the South Mountain Plan. The boundaries, as far as south, would go with the natural preserve of South Mountain Park, moving over as far west as 43rd Avenue, which encompasses just a little bit of Laveen,
the majority is Phoenix, up to the Salt River and Rio
Salado, moving over a little bit to 19th Avenue, going
up north to Roosevelt, at Roosevelt, 12th Street, some
areas, a few new additions to our district we worked so
hard with, communities that for a very long time we've
shared interest. A lot of districts definitely want to
be included. Go as far north as 12th Street moving over
as north -- into Oak Street. The next area we want to
look at, right close by, State Route 51, the Creighton
Edgmont Precinct. Ms. Creighton will speak on that.
That precinct should be added to the South Mountain
Plan. We've worked consistently with the schools within
that district as well as other neighborhood concerns.
Also as far east, McDowell to State Route 143, moving to
the 48th Street area, and on as far south as Baseline.
These are the proposed boundaries we have.
We know nothing here is set in stone.
This is what our group, South Mountain Community and
Central Phoenix Community, has worked so hard on. This
is what we'd like to see. There may be changes, may be
suggestions, whatever. We have our ears open, maybe
need to tweak it a little. That would be fine.
This is what we feel we should stick
together within as a community.
I'll call up now, in order, the speakers
coming, we'll have first Mr. Greg Brownell, one of the
longest members of the South Mountain Village Planning
Community, come up and speak; Ms. Heather Jenkins next;
Mr. Oscar Tillman; Faye Grey; Donna McHenry; and
Mr. Wink Weiss.

If Mr. Greg Brownell could come, please.

One thing before Mr. Brownell comes up.

After the plan, you did see with the South Mountain
Central Phoenix Plan, the numbers did total up to
171,264.

COMMISSIONER MINKOFF: Representative
Landrum Taylor, thank you very much for your
presentation.

Is this thing off again?

I'd like to ask the other speakers, remind
them once again, state your name, spell it for the
reporter.

And the other thing I want to remind you,
we are committed to listening to everyone who wants to
speak tonight. We want you to take all the time you
need to make the point you have to make. And we
certainly don't intend to cut anyone off. I also want
you all to be mindful of other people that want to
speak. We're just asking that we move the process
along, that you have everybody in place to come up one
right after another.

REPRESENTATIVE LANDRUM TAYLOR: Thank you for that. We'll keep our comments to two minutes.

COMMISSIONER MINKOFF: Thank you very much.


I'm here just to support the South Mountain Central Phoenix Plan as defined on there.

My points of discussion, Rio Salado, something called the Baseline Corridor Project, Central Development Project, and Monterey Master Plan.

My first point, the Baseline Corridor Master Plan. We've done a lot to bind east and west. Baseline runs east and west through Laveen. We're working hard drawing development guidelines so development goes through there to keep things consistent on the west side as well as on the east side.

The next point, the Rio Monterey Project. That's a development plan that runs from the mountain all the way to the river on the west side of Central all the way to 43rd Avenue.

Again, this is an area where we have to -- we have to incorporate recent migrants, people moving
from the suburbs back into the city, back into our infill. We have a lot of housing, and we're trying to keep that housing integrated with existing, existing communities, very diversified. We want to maintain that. There's a lot of effort in that already.

My second point is the Central Phoenix, South Phoenix development. We have long had a community north of the -- north of the mountain, south of the Salt River. In recent times we've really had a tremendous community of interest that has gone across the river. Part of our -- you know, part of the thing that happens in our community, people come down Baseline Road to visit our park, several, three million people a year do that. Unfortunately, they leave the park and go back east. What we're trying to do through the Rio Salado project is developing our ties north and south of the river to get people to head north, down to Central Phoenix. We're working very hard to do that.

That brings me to Rio Salado, a big part of the linkage on the north side and south sides of the city.

One of the things we're talking about is an interpretive center up on South Mountain, another interpretive center at Seventh Avenue in the river bottom, two interpretive centers in the City of Phoenix.
for people to visit, one geared to the other.

The mountain high is Sonoran habitat. The
other is riparian habitat, rare in Arizona, obviously,
an excellent one developing, developing there.

Thank you very much.

MS. JENKINS: Heather Jenkins,
HEATHER, JENKINS.

As Representative Landrum told you, I'm
going to talk about education in District 23.

I wanted to express my family has been in
Arizona since 1918. We are one of the oldest families,
black families, here. My great-grandmother was one of
the first black woman to head up one of the precincts in
District 23 and City Council 8.

It's important, education has always been
an issue within our community, black and Latino
communities, which are part of the South Mountain
Central Phoenix Plan.

One of the things we did last year, we put
together an educational summit because educational
problems exist in Arizona.

We want to focus on our district because
we have to start at home first. And in doing that --
I went to South Mountain High School where
overcrowding while I was there was a serious issue. And
we now have another high school within District 23 we
would like to keep there, Cesar Chavez High School.

It's important those two high schools stay in this
district. We work together. That's the way we plan to
better education for not only our community, we want to
expand into other communities as well.

We have seven elementary school districts
within LD 23. And one of those school districts is
Creighton. And one of the proposed plans was we would
like to see the Creighton Edgmont precinct be part of
23, because the students go to Creighton School, but
their parents vote in another district. They live by
the Grand Canal. It would move someone to make that
happen, that there parents have a vested interest in
that school.

If their children are going to school in
23 and they live in 25, something about that just
doesn't really make sense. And the parents have brought
concerns to us.

With our educational summit we also had
our two community colleges within 23.

And the things that happen at the summit
is we brought together all those schools to find common
goals and things that are working and things not working
to help better education, to help better our community.
It would move me to tell you that during this educational summit we had children bussed in from every school, every school participating, each of those parents participating, and so did teachers and administrators, and working together and keeping this a family, keeping 23 a family, not breaking up but expanding into boundaries where they live, to not go to a school somewhere else. We need to encompass all that. That's something we need to look at.

Education in Arizona right now, we rank pretty low.

I think with this plan, definitely we will raise the standard and we plan to continue with an educational summit in making sure that our community, we have a vested interest and definitely are looking out for the future of our young people growing up such as myself and another person you will hear from as well.

I just wanted to thank you for listening to us tonight.

I hope if this proposed plan does not go through, at least a portion of that goes through. We are definitely hoping it all goes through.

Thank you.

REVEREND TILLMAN: Good evening. My name is Oscar Tillman, T I L L M A N.
Again, thanks to the Commission and Chairman for allowing us to have a brief time to talk to you about something very important.

Under Proposition 106, under section D, it states in there that the district boundaries shall respect communities of interest to the extent practicable. Under the interest form, it says "Shall not be divided whenever they have common interests."

Recently, many of you sitting in this room were a part of a group that came together to deal with a major supermarket chain in the State of Arizona. We did not come together so much as to fight but to insure that regardless of where this chain went, that it would treat every business in the area that they would go into as fairly as they did in some of the different zip codes that they had been operating in.

That brought about something that I have been looking for ever since the day I set foot in the State of Arizona, and that is total cooperation across racial lines, across economic lines.

Even when we were sitting down across from people unemployed, doctors, lawyers, state representatives, others, to work out and work on issues, I have seen and worked and lived in areas where homeowners' associations and neighborhood associations
were truly that and not somebody that acted as gestapos.

That we have reached. We do not want to lose that. We came away. We did not all agree, but we sat down at the table time and time again and with various, our community organizations, and we hammered out things we saw were different. We respected each other's differences and moved on.

This is where we're standing tonight.

We're asking you: Please keep this together.

This is something happening. This didn't happen overnight. This is happening in Arizona. This Native Arizona is one of the states the NAACP, National NAACP, and as President of the Arizona NAACP, are very much concerned about, because we do not want at the end of this to go through a long legal battle.

I think it can work. What we've seen is cooperation. People understand it and, working together, need to stay together. We ask you to keep that.

Thank you.

MR. BRITTLE: Hello. My name is Steve Brittle, B R I T T L E, like peanut brittle.

I live in South Phoenix and have lived there about 13 years.

I've become very involved over the years
in the environmental aspect. I'd point out part of the
problem here is we talk about a community of common
interest, a community of environmental racism, well over
house based on low-income, or ethnic, or a minority
community. It's very much in contrast with the rest of
the city, and the rest of, actually, the metropolitan
area of Maricopa County. There are also a number of
hazardous waste facilities that accept hazardous wastes
in the neighborhood, hazardous waste, large amounts of
dangerous chemicals.

It is designated a high-risk,
high-priority special study area for preparation of
chemical disasters.

There are spectacular fires when there are
chemical releases.

It's also been designated as an
environmental study area by the EPA.

The people of color and low income were
forced to live there years before desegregation. In
response to that, of course, they developed a tremendous
sense of community. They had to pull together because
of some of the inherent problems here.

One thing you won't find in the area are
the types of shopping opportunities you'd find in other
parts of the city. You won't find malls. You won't
find even a place to copy paper, in general. In a
different kind of community historically it's been that
way.

People all developed a common interest,
common awakening, worked together with the Environmental
Protection Agency, and others. It would be a travesty
to try to split us up particularly now that more and
more, after more and more of the spectacular chemical
disasters, after coming to stand up for that, solve the
problem, not only for ourselves but probably the rest of
the state and country.

I'm proud to live South Phoenix. It's a
much different atmosphere. I'm the only one of all my
friends with chickens in my back yard that raises his
own eggs and garden, something you can do when you live
in that part of valley, yet I live 15 minutes from the
State Capitol and have this going on.

I have been in the community a long, long
time, have friends of all ethnicities.

I'm anxious to see this stay together.

I'd hate to see this common interest, probably more than
any other community identified in America, be somehow
diluted to take away from the work they've been doing in
the last 10 years.

Thank you.
MS. GREY: I'm Faye, F A Y E, Grey, G R E Y.

I live in South Phoenix. I've been living in this district since 1964. I'm here this evening to let you know how we fight blight in our community.

We've been fighting blight since we started our neighborhood Block Watch. I'm a Block Watch person, started this in 1992. I've been working faithfully and we have a lot of people working with us.

A lot of people think we lived the way we did in South Phoenix because we didn't care. Not true. We lived the way we did because we did not have resources, did not have anyone to step up to bat to help us. Now because we've all began to work on the same page to support one another, help one another, we're not having the problems. We're working to keep Phoenix clean and beautiful, working with Phoenix PD, neighborhood services, working with Legislators. There are a lot of people backing us now. We're not having as many problems as we had in the past. That's not to say we don't have any.

If we don't stay together, work together as we had in the past, as we began to form the different programs we had, programs helping us to use -- getting grants to support kids, keep them off the street,
keeping -- help keep the neighborhood clean, helping us do a lot of things we should do. We do not wish to be divided. We wouldn't have the clout we have now.

We wish to keep the district as is, to continue to work to support ourselves.

Thank you.

MS. MCHENRY: Hello. My name is Donna McHenry, D O N N A, McHenry, M C H E N R Y.

Similar to Ms. Jenkins, my family has been here since 1908. We were the first McHenrys here. My grandmother's adobe home still resides in the area in which you see up on the Power Point.

I think Leah wanted me to speak about the aviation aspect because she found out I was a product of the South Mountain Aerospace Program in which I soloed out of Sky Harbor Airport.

One of the things we've found with this particular area -- let me back up some.

I was born and raised in the South Phoenix area, 20th Street and Southern, went to South Mountain High School. At this time I live in Westward Ho Precinct.

It's very important that not only do we keep the boundaries we have at this time but to include the precinct of Creighton and Westward Ho because of the
similarity of common issues and because of the work that has happened with the neighborhood associations.

A lot of the changes that have been able to take place is because of the unity and support that we've had, not only with the community members, but we have community members, city council, also state legislation, all working together to help with many of the issues that we have had in the area, whether it be education, environmental issues, or the noise pollution and blight.

One of the similar issues is the noise pollution that happens in the South Phoenix area. This is a similarity that takes place between the Westward Ho, which is right in the downtown area, and the South Phoenix area, because the planes fly over. Trust me, I hear windows shaking and I'm not sure if someone is trying to knock and come in or if a plane just landed on the side of my apartment building.

Many of the residents there have been working with both the city and state entities to take care of this issue. And our ability to do that needs to stay intact, because we're having to work together instead of separate.

One of the issues we're concerned about is by separating these entities, or having our
organizations, our boundaries in the state different,
we're not going to have similar issues or be able to
continue on in the process where we're at now.

A lot of the work that has gone on, has
gone on so far, is still being worked on. For us not to
be able to continue on in the process we have right now
would just take us back, back this far.

A lot of the time what has happened in our
area, we've been able to address that because of the
neighborhood associations in our area. We have the
Garfield, Roosevelt area, the Broadway, Peace community,
South Mountain Sierra Vista area, high crime area. A
lot has gone down because of the work neighborhoods have
put in to cleaning up the area. All have a vested
interest not just as residents but also as schools, also
as retail investors.

Many of us, many of the residents who live
right outside the boundaries of District 23, as probably
do a lot who live there, money is not staying there.
We're needing to keep recycling funds to help build
economic development to happen in that area.

A lot of this can stay intact if you stay
within the boundaries which have been presented.

Thank you for your time.

MR. WEISS: My name is Wink Weiss,
WINK, WEISS.

I'm a supporter of the South Mountain Central Phoenix Plan. It is a community of interest. I am a face of a minority, although a different type minority in a highly diversified area of Arizona.

Now that we're in the final phase of a grid overlay, this is drawing to a close, we must take a look at the next phase that is making this a community of interest, geographical political subdivisions.

Not so long ago, South Mountain was called South Phoenix, not a very nice place to live. But through 10 years of hard effort, many people you met here, Greg, Oscar Tillman, changed that for citizens and residents of the area.

It started for me at the Baseline Master Plan and on a Commission just like yourself. There was individuals who participated that were impacted by these changes. And yes, there were many different plans and concepts to it. We all came together on several major issues which united our community. In short, it was the work product of the South Mountain Village, as we like to call it, which was laying a foundation where there was nothing there before.

This established a roadmap of how the area developed. And I was part of that.
Other kind of changes were upon us, political reconstruction. This is what is facing South Mountain Community College. Again, there are many areas of agreement we have, a lot to move the community forward.

When I look at the Legislative District, I see the area as homogeneous. I see an area staying together to mature, to assure a minority base not be diluted, to prevent the break-up of coalitions, to conserve representational break-up of voters, and also to look toward a Congressional District which mirrors the setting.

In closing, in the next 10 years the district, the face of the district will change. This is something to take a look at. Again, I support the South Mountain Central Phoenix Plan.

Thank you very much for your time.

COMMISSIONER MINKOFF: Thank you all. There is one additional Power Point presentation.

I imagine it will take a minute or two to set up or are you ready to go?

REPRESENTATIVE WEASON: We're almost ready to go. In the meantime, let me introduce myself. I'm
Christine Weason, C H R I S T I N E, last name, W E A S O N, State Representative for District 25 serving my third term.

I'd like to introduce you to the Central Phoenix Historical District Plan. Our goal is preserving our past, protecting the future.

There are several components to preserving our past I'll address in detail later.

The Central Phoenix Historic District Plan features community property diversity. We focus on protecting the future, future common issues, transportation issues, environmental issues, developmental issues of the inner city, education, youth, and elderly concerns in Central Phoenix.

What is Central Phoenix? Central Phoenix is a community of Phoenix with cultural and social ties. There are many points of pride in Central Phoenix.

There is the Historic Preservation Commission, Historic Neighborhood, diverse cultural, retail establishments, the Willow Bread Company we're very proud of.

When it comes to preservation of homes, there is the Historic Preservation Commission, a Commission of nine individuals dedicated to preserving Phoenix.

There is also the Phoenix Preservation
District Office to help enhance those efforts in the community.

You see before you the map of the dedicated and historic neighborhood areas designated historic. You see how very closely they are located in terms of vicinity.

In terms of historic property, I'd like to show you the face of the Central Phoenix historic plan. You will see very unique homes. Each home is different, unique, showing a different story.

We will have Jerry McCue coming from the Historic Preservation Neighborhoods and he's also the designated historic spokesperson giving details about our points of pride here.

Here you see what a historic neighborhood is not. You'll never see in a historic plan the sea of tile rooftops. You'll never see the cookie cutter homes that exist in other areas of the valley. Instead you'll see unique homes, trees, and palm lines.

Again, this is what we do not want to become.

This is the Central Phoenix Historic District Plan.

When we focus on preserving the past, we are a community of unity. Unfortunately, it is those
issues that bring us together, the desperate times, crime, and blight.

District Legislators, myself, Representative Cheuvront, hosted summits on slumlord neighborhoods, historic neighborhoods, slumlord neighborhoods to the table to brainstorm solutions and come up with solutions, neighborhood solutions.

The president of the Coronado Neighborhood Solution, Lucinda Montoya, will describe in more detail the Coronado situation.

Reverend Tillman described the situation with the grocery store, a situation that transcended race and religion.

The Central Phoenix Historical District Plan, neighbors are looking out for neighbors. Seniors are looking out for next-door neighbors. That's what creates a more close-knit community.

Diversity, from the list up here we see, when it comes to a community of interest, it's truly a rainbow in the Central Phoenix Historic District, and we're very proud of that diversity.

Last mentioned is transients. Yes, they are part of the community. They do bring us together with how to deal with issues that surround the issues of transients and crime and blight.
Crime and blight. Unfortunately, the inner city has to deal with this issue. That is, with the groups coming together as I stated, neighborhood districts, city districts, slumlord districts, through work districts, we've developed the Neighborhood Revitalization Act. It's a piece of legislation to give legal standing when there is crime and blight in a neighborhood, crime, to bring it in when there is crime in a neighborhood. We're proud of this.

We also received Fight Back Grants to allow more community-based meetings for more safety in the neighborhood.

When it comes to Block Watch, we have in our Central Phoenix Historic District Wayne Phelphs. He's a member of St. Gregory's Association. He was unable to be here today, but he did want to make his opinion known. He has a few words for us.

(The following is Mr. Phelphs speaking via the Power Point Presentation.)

"MR. PHELPHS: I'm Wayne Phelphs, Director of the City of Phoenix Block Watch Advisory Board, St. Gregory's Neighborhood Association.

"We're totally supportive of the Central City Historic District Plan. With our Representative Christine Weason, we would certainly want you to take --
give us all the consideration you possibly can, please, because this is something that is very important to us. We are working hard to preserve our city, to keep us in a complete unit, and are working together to make it safer and better for all of our citizens.

"Thank you."

REPRESENTATIVE WEASON: As you can see, Mr. Phelphs put in a nutshell the importance of communities working together.

From the pictures you see law enforcement in with neighborhoods, drawing neighbors out of their houses onto the streets to talk about issues that affect us all. Additionally, we see in the pictures summits hosted and even neighborhoods receiving awards for excellence in fights against crime. We also enjoyed Gang Night, Getting Back Arizona.

You'll be hearing testimony this evening of individuals that organize these events and made it happen. These are times that get neighborhoods involved, show children how important they are to the district and to the Central Phoenix Historic District Plan.

You can't really see the words on the dinosaur there, Recyclesaurus. District 25 received a $100,000 grant from the Arizona Department of
Environmental Quality to enhance recycling efforts.

Once again, you see the state, city, neighborhoods and law enforcement working together.

Now we'll focus on protecting the future of commonality that exist in Central Phoenix residents that want to live close to work, don't want to experience the transportation problems that exist due to traffic congestion, the North Canal Association, a serious problem on Highland Avenue, State 51 exits, with increased traffic on Highland.

Several little children were injured by automobiles because there are no sidewalks, no traffic mitigation on those roads. By involvement of the North Canal Neighborhood Association dealing with that issue, we have changed the Arizona Department of Transportation policy to get involved and also offer traffic mitigation.

Freeway problems are also present in Central Phoenix and District 25. State Route 51 runs right through the heart of Central Phoenix and the Montecito Association.

We do have a letter we're submitting to the Commissioners from Phillip Hacentieus (phonetic). He experienced major problems with transients around State Route 51, noise abatement needs occurred, and they
did change ADOT policy.

Now when ADOT is implementing constructing a freeway, they seriously consider the noise caused to communities and increasing the height of sound walls.

There's hope.

We've all been working together and have a height rule system going into effect within the next 10 years.

We have environmental concerns and know we're getting around where air quality concerns exist.

It's most important to have air quality for our children. We're focusing on living closer to where we work.

Brown fields, vacant lots exist in Central Phoenix. Many brown fields have contamination. Many people don't want the liability. We're seeking federal assistance. We're speaking of development, to go in and develop the inner city, organizing an effective land use, planning, mixed use planning, urban planning. It's a major victory all there. Not for politicians, no campaign signs, better uses, parks, recreation centers, retail, government grants do exist to help in neighborhoods and we're fighting back.

In fact, the City of Phoenix has a program that since 1995 71,000 single-resident, residential
family homes have been built with these grants.

Education and youth. Any large city experiences inner city schools. Crumbling, working communities and cities fund schools, better learning places for children.

We have an individual from the Coronado Neighborhood Association located in the Creighton School District to discuss community centers and youth programs they're instituting to create a better community.

Additionally, all communities are working on after-school programs and summer school programs. And the state is working with programs, working for enhanced funding for programs, increased funding for school safety programs.

It doesn't stop there. Elderly programs. Elderly programs, historic programs and concerns. A few days ago in the paper it reported two nursing homes were closing. Those were both in Central Phoenix.

This fall Representative Cheuvront and myself held a Senior Sunday, invited neighborhoods to come to the table to discuss issues concerning nursing care, viable mass transit for seniors, and safety and quality of life for all seniors that live in this area.

Our vision for the future is simple in this historic neighborhood. Those neighborhoods that
have achieved more reduced crime share in the lessons
learned by other districts, other neighborhoods, that
all may become one promoting revitalization and
preservation. That's the key we'll keep our eye upon,
all working together to protect the jewel of Central
Phoenix.

The jewel of Central Phoenix is history.

As we see once again, as this historic neighborhood on
the map tried to do, as we plot on the map similar
interests on the map, the northern point is Missouri
Avenue, the southern is Van Buren, western is 19th
Avenue, southern is I-17 in the east, going the
Camelback route, then Campbell, east to 32nd Street and
Thomas to 30th Street and McDowell to 32nd Street.

If you look at the maps side by side, what
you will see is a very similar shape in maps. What
we've strived to do, we've proposed a Legislative
District for the Central Phoenix Historic District Plan
to encompass all existing Historic Districts, Central
Phoenix Neighborhoods. No neighborhoods are divided in
this proposed plan. We've achieved that result.

You'll hear testimony this evening from
Jerry McCue, as I stated, representing the historic
neighborhoods; also Clutis Montoya on fund-raising for
the Coronado neighborhood, advancements the Coronado
neighborhood has made within the past few years; Lucindo Montoya, President, with serious concerns about crime, blight, and Creighton; additionally, we have a presenter from the Human Rights Affirmative Action Lesbian, Gay, and Transgender Coalition, showing the importance of diversity and community interest represented in all interests of the Central City.

Thank you for your attention and time.

COMMISSIONER MINKOFF: Thank you, Representative Weason. Thank you.

It's over there. I have to yell. I gave my microphone to the Power Point for part of the presentation.

Thank you.

Before the other speakers come up, I want to ask you, please keep your remarks as concise as possible. A lot of others want to speak. We want to give everybody that wants to speak a chance without cutting anybody off.

Thank you all for listening to these very impressive presentations. I'd ask we move as quickly as we can so we get some other public comment.

Thank you.

MR. McCUE: I'm Jerry McCue, J E R R Y, M C C U E.
I want to thank the Commission for providing a little time for sharing the pride and enthusiasm people have in their historic neighborhoods.

I live in Fairview Place. It's an area just east of the fair grounds, 15th Avenue and Encanto Boulevard and McDowell Road. It's 342 homes. I say I've lived there since 300 BC, that's 1962, before the coliseum.

During the 42 years I've been there, I've raised four kids in a very modest, cozy home. As the story of what is new, what is old is new again comes around, and people have become interested in the central city, and in the history, we have made it a point to work hard on the neighborhoods. Particularly I want to point out that the architecture in that area is of particular interest as evidenced by many publications that print and show pictures of the homes in the area.

Various slides you were showed a moment ago showed the ubiquitous red tile house, stucco houses side by side, not what you find in the map area of the map of Historic Districts.

What I'd like to give you is a brief run-down and interest in the homes.

You know back in the seventies and early eighties when the Moreland Corridor was being stripped
and preparations were being made for the freeway, I-10, and early eighties, when all of that took place, people fled from the downtown area. Retailers fled from the downtown area. And it became very difficult to shop and do things one would do on a day-to-day basis. However I'm here to speak for those people who stayed.

There were dedicated homeowners who stuck to their guns because they knew they had a nice piece of property that displayed the craftsmanship and skill of homebuilders of the time.

In 1985, the city opened a Historic Preservation Office. It certainly helped to support the renaissance of homes.

I usually start my story by saying twice upon a time Phoenix has come up to the forefront. And evidence of that is in a publication that came out in 1997. Interestingly enough, the National Trust for Historic Preservation put out a very nice booklet citing incidents around the entire country where preservation efforts to save some of those really beautiful old homes were worthwhile and for people to see.

And what they picked in Arizona was community revitalization. They picked a historic neighborhood here in the city on the map that worked as an all-volunteer grass-roots effort to do the work that
would make it designated as historic.

Now, I'm always telling people, you might have been my neighbors. You might live in a house in the National Register of Historic Places. George Washington didn't sleep there, but you do.

It's important the country know what it is that has been put into these homes. There's been a real excitement on the part of homeowners. That's something I think is proven -- is proven evidence of their interest in maintaining the diversity of architecture, the difference in the homes, so you don't have the constant repetition.

In 1997, a group of representatives from six of those historic neighborhoods, six historic representatives got together, and six people put out a map which I think many of you have seen. If you have it, I have a few I'll be glad to distribute.

What the map does is it invites people to come and see our homes.

Why would you want 1,000 people on a Sunday afternoon to peak in your medicine cabinet? They want you to know they've worked hard. They've committed their time, efforts, all sorts of communications between neighbors in order to make their neighborhood distinctive and give it a quality of life we all want.
I would invite you to come to our neighborhoods. We have a diversity of homes, a diversity of people and interests. And we would like to see you come and see our homes.

If you want, this will get you to my house. Ask for one. I'll see you get it.

Thank you.

REPRESENTATIVE WEASON: Mr. Chairman and Commissioners, in lieu of the time constraints and the need for folks to testify and go home, I and a few other presenters, they indicated they'd wait until the end so other folks got a chance to come up and give their opinions.

COMMISSIONER MINKOFF: Great.

We'll go immediately to the rest of the public comment.

Representative Weason, we will raise the screen and move.

CHAIRMAN LYNN: On the way.

COMMISSIONER MINKOFF: We'll up here.

By the way, so we won't have our back to you, the first speaker is Klorinda Quiroz Lorizno. Did I come close?

While waiting for the screen to come up, let me take the opportunity in advance to apologize for
all names I mispronounce. I'll try not to. Please, gently, let me know.

MS. QUIROZ LORIZNO: Good evening.

First of all, I would like to thank Phoenix College, the staff, organizers that helped with this. I'm really honored to be here. They have wonderful concerts. It's a wonderful college, excellent college.

I'm Klorinda Quiroz Lorizno, K L O R I N D A, Q U I R O Z, L O R I Z N O.

For the record, my family has been here since the 1870s, was a founder of Flagstaff, a pioneer. I represent Flagstaff, northern Arizona. I've also lived here in Phoenix, Arizona. It's a wonderful district here you are making representations about. I owned a business there, at 15th Avenue and Van Buren, lived in South Phoenix, did a lot of -- it's been trying times, difficult times. You did a good job. I wish them all the luck in the world.

Good luck, guys.

I want to make this real quick.

My concerns are that 10 years ago I was trying to do redistricting. Part of that was with Southwest Voter Registration Rights. At that time I lived in Flagstaff, had a business up in Flagstaff, in
northern Arizona. My topic of conversation in a barber shop, I've been a barber for 30 years, is why in the heck should we have those guys down in Phoenix trying to decide what is right for us in northern Arizona?

We have a problem with airports, economics, logging, tourism, highways, schools, economics. And just like why is somebody down there trying to help us when they are not here to represent us?

I won't mention names any ways. A lot of folks know the guilty parties throughout all the years.

Now is our chance to speak up for northern Arizona. I've been waiting for this moment for 10 years.

In northern Arizona, I'm speaking mainly about Williams, Flagstaff, and Winslow, and the surrounding area, those are the mountain cities. We are concerned with what is going to impact our vicinity, our area.

We have the beautiful mountains. We have -- it's the forest being burned down. My sister's house almost got burned down last week in the Larue fire.

More importantly, sweet and to the point, I don't think that somebody that lives in our area north
of Phoenix has any concerns of, pardon me, for them,
northern Arizona, especially central or northern
Arizona.

I recommend you draw lines for
congressional legislation in a certain area of northern
Arizona, the central mountains, central, not talking
southern Arizona, White Mountains, Pinetop. I'm not
talking Lake Havasu, that area.

Again, good luck, guys. I'm going home.

I'm tired.

You've done a good job. Sorry I couldn't
speak about more concerns.

You want one more last statement before I
go home to my bed? What looks good is knowledge. We
need to get more involved with our children's concerns.
Somebody made a statement we're very low with children's
concerns. Talk more for children. I got permission to
make an introduction of a bill for children's rights. I
can't wait for all of you to hear about it. If you
haven't heard about it, you have heard it from me now.

Thank you for being so patient and staying
awake now.

Any questions from the panel?

You want to go home, too.

Thank you so much.
COMMISSIONER MINKOFF: Ms. Lorizno, thank you for your comments.

I discovered one disadvantage to moving up here. It's more difficult to hear. I did hear, but it's more of a strain. I'd ask future speakers to get very close to the mike, please, and speak up so we hear what you've taken so much trouble to tell us.

MS. QUIROZ LORIZNO: For the record, I filled this out. I'll mail it, fax it.

CHAIRMAN LYNN: Also, if anyone has sun screen, send it forward.

COMMISSIONER MINKOFF: Fans are important.

CHAIRMAN LYNN: If you can dim the lights, that would be lovely.

Thank you so much.

COMMISSIONER MINKOFF: The next speaker, Bob Rosenberg.

MR. ROSENBERG: Thank you, Madam Chairman, members of Commission.

For the record, my name is Bob Rosenberg, Bob with one O, not two. Rosenberg -- Can you hear me?

COMMISSIONER MINKOFF: Yes.

MR. ROSENBERG: R O S E N B E R G.

First I want to welcome the Commission to
what is now Legislative District 25. I want to welcome Brian Lamb and his able crew to LD 25. And as an alumnist I want to welcome everyone to Phoenix College.

Secondly, my parents and/or I have lived in LD 25 continuously since 1933, so I'm another of those of us who can bring historical perspective to our discussion of these neighborhoods.

Finally, please, please, keep our historic neighborhoods together and keep our school districts together.

Thank you.

COMMISSIONER MINKOFF: Thank you, Mr. Rosenberg.

The next speaker, Kent Clark.

MR. CLARK: I'm Kent Clark, K E N T, C L A R K, an easy name.

Can you hear me?

I'm on the Board, Chair the Phoenix Art District CDC. I spoke at Phoenix South Mountain very briefly on two points, said at that meeting that the Central City District, Camelback, just about at I-17 south, 19th Avenue to about 40th Street. I wanted to add to that comment that the arts is a growing, growing aspect of downtown Phoenix. It's something we at Phoenix Art District CDC, we believe actually generates
income and attracts people to South Phoenix whereas, you know, there are empty parking lots for major sports arenas alone that they have not been able to do. We think it's a catalyst for change down there. We believe that should be incorporated along with the Historic Districts. You saw the Phoenix area, historic district plan. I wanted to add that.

Downtown Phoenix is distinctly different from different parts. If you take a look at the economic data by zip code, it's obviously different from north Phoenix, south Phoenix, west and east. I just wanted to add those brief comments.

Thank you.

COMMISSIONER MINKOFF: Thank you, Mr. Clark.

The next speaker slip I have, Bill Brotherton.

While Mr. Brotherton is going to the podium, I'd ask you if anyone else wishes to speak, fill out a speaker slip. Just raise your hand. Staff will come around and get them from you.

REPRESENTATIVE BROTHERTON: Hello. I'm State Representative Bill Brotherton from District 20. What I've handed out to you, sorry I don't have a Power Point presentation, but this should be
shorter, is a current map of District 20. I kind of
just wanted to start out with the idea that I would
prefer, as an early supporter of redistricting, the
Independent Redistricting Commission, not to see a
district like the one there, the one in red.

As you can see, we have kind of the main
loop of District 20, and then the Hawaiian Island part
in El Mirage and Surprise.

It's been difficult the last 10 years
because of the nature of how district 20 is set up to --
for representatives to do a good job of representing the
communities out there.

The island out there, the entire city of
El Mirage, the older part of the City of Surprise which
is largely Hispanic, I've made an effort to be out in
that community. Luckily my law office is out in the
Peoria area. I'm close during the working day to that
portion of the community even though live on the
mainland.

I think certainly your -- there is
justification for the Commission being put in place. If
District 20 isn't justification, I don't know what is.

But I wanted to also speak just to the
issue of community of interest. I think in looking at a
portion of District 20 I have now, the El Mirage,
Surprise area, that's a very different community of interest from the area surrounding it, basically Sun City.

I think the Sun Cities are a, based on just CC and Rs, are a community of interest from the standpoint of the types of issues that are important to them.

And I think what we need to do is look on a state level, too. Many issues raised have been kind of local issues. At the state level, things we look at, say like prescription drug coverage, things like this, are issues I think that go to certain types of communities and are certainly of great concern to retirement communities where prescription drug use is higher than perhaps the normal population.

I ask when looking at drawing these maps you take into account that the area I now represent, Surprise and El Mirage, really has different, a much younger community, growing family community in comparison to the Sun Cities that surround it.

Also, I think that the area, Maryvale, I think it's been kind of charted out to some degree on the maps here, west of 19th Avenue, even to some degree in your grid LD 17, although it does sprawl all the way across, it looks like, to State Route 51, I think the
area of Maryvale having been developed almost exclusively by John F. Long, there are areas west of 19th Avenue having been developed in the fifties and beyond, although they look young, they are third generation, native, have seen a lot since 1962, changes in particular in the Phoenix area. So I would suggest that as another area of community interest that you should take into account.

But the last thing I kind of want to hit on is -- I know it's not really the focus here but a portion of it is competitive districts. I want to hit on that because I may not be able to attend future meetings. As a known member of the Legislature, I know when you have a chance to speak, you better take your shot now.

One of the things that distressed me as a member of the Legislature, when the state seats were created, certainly I'm sure state seats will come out of this process, what it does is makes primary elections basically the only time voters have a true opportunity to make their voice heard. Because when it gets to the general election, the truth is unless you happen to have screwed up and pushed through an alternative fuels bill, you're not going to lose. That doesn't happen very often.
I know, have had conversations with colleagues, current colleagues, and they've said on issues that have really impacted the entire state, that they said "All I really have to worry about is those folks coming out and voting for me in my primary."

As we know, voter turnout was 42 percent of adults in the last election. The number of people voting in the primary is significantly less than it is in the general. That means, in many cases, especially for state seats, you have a situation where the representatives in government are being chosen by a narrow portion of the two political parties.

Typically a party loyalist will come out, especially when it's uncontested primaries, even.

I think although I know where that is on the list of priorities there, I would ask you to stress that. Because as I'm a Democrat in the Legislature, Republican colleagues say, are fond of saying, competition is good.

Competition from the standpoint of elections is good. It brings about accountability. We would see individuals in there who, I think, with more competitive districts, would have to look at what is good for the mainstream of the individuals in our state as opposed to small, extreme groups on either side of
the coin.

And I ask that when you are looking at this later on in the process, that that be something you take into account.

I really believe that most people fall somewhere in the middle, bigger, or smaller, middle, when it comes to political views.

That being so, I think the majority of representatives in the State Legislature should fall there. You'll have some of the extremes, but what I have seen is we have far too many on the extremes where we waste time on things like talking about succeeding from the union. Frankly, those never have come up from my district.

I ask you take that into account. And I don't envy your task. It's a difficult one at best for legislators when they do it fussing among themselves.

I wish you good luck with it and I thank you for your time.

COMMISSIONER MINKOFF: Thank you, Representative Brotherton.

The next speaker is Phyliss Rowe.

MS. ROWE: I'm Phyliss Rowe.

COMMISSIONER MINKOFF: Please speak louder.
MS. ROWE: I'm Phyliss Rowe, PHYLLISS, ROWE. And I have lived in the same house since 1956 in Central Phoenix.

Five times I've seen redistricting. The district went from District 28 to District 8 A to District 18 and now it's District 25. Two times we were major examples of gerrymandering the newspaper used.

Right now I have a map here showing what District 25 looks like, and it goes from -- okay. It goes from Orangewood Avenue and Black Canyon Highway to the crosscut canal in Tempe. And it's a great example of gerrymandering.

The most successful of these divisions have been north and south, not east and west. They seem to be more continuity and more contiguous districts when north and south and they also provided quite -- a correct group for the -- for the requirements of the Justice Department.

I once testified on the gerrymandering before the Justice Department.

Now, I suggest you use the freeways as natural boundaries. I-17, Squaw Peak, and 202, and then go north as far as is necessary for the population, possibly Northern, Glendale Avenue, going in that direction. Because I think the freeways provide a
natural boundary. And I believe they also meet the
federal boundaries.

I'm Co-Chair of the Squaw Peak Heights
Neighborhood Association, am also working with the Block
Watch groups. I urge you, do not make extreme changes
in the political group interests. There are many group
interests. We know some will be necessary. Also,
there's an issue you need to take into consideration in
your develop has been these boundary lines. But you
have a tough job using your guidelines, and I wish you
good luck.

COMMISSIONER MINKOFF: Thank you.
Since I watched the first inning of the
Diamondbacks Rockies game, I'll use a baseball analogy.
I'll call one speaker to be at the plate, another to be
on deck to speed things up.

Next speaker, and speaker after, if the
second speaker would move toward the podium to move
things along.

The very, very next speaker, the next
speaker, I need help with the last name, Velma Sudyka.

MS. SUDYKA: Sudyka.

COMMISSIONER MINKOFF: Following
Ms. Sudyka, Delia Lowe.

MS. SUDYKA: Is this the mike here?
My name is Velma, V E L M A, Sudyka, S U D Y K A.

I have been a resident of Phoenix since 1960. So I have watched this city grow tremendously. I am now living in District 24 and have been for the last 16 years. Our present boundary lines are pretty much like a box with our district meetings being held in the center. And we are able to communicate with each other very well. We have Paradise Valley Unified School District in our district. And it is one of the most efficient districts in the city. And the state and has had excellent education training and good leadership.

I have seen a chart in the current issue of Capitol Times that shows that our district is only about 1,300 people over your 176,000. If we ended District 24 on the south end on the north side of Camelback, and on the north side of District 24 at just above Beardsley, at Highway 101, it would maintain our box situation and an ability to talk and deal with each other.

Thank you.

COMMISSIONER MINKOFF: Thank you.

I'd ask Greg Murphy to move up.

MS. LOWE: I'm Delia, D E L I A, Lowe,
L O W E, the Arizona Director of the Human Rights Commission to Influence Legislation on Sexual Orientation and Gender Expression.

I'd like to briefly talk about two areas, gay, lesbian, and transgender people geographically disbursed. Some live in particular areas, like District 25, in lieu of a centralized District, retail GLBT area. District 25 has always been known informally as the gay district. Revitalization of a historic district is not uncommon for gays and lesbians to take the call, take care of, and contribute to such revitalization. We've been proud to do so. Many of our members live in that particular district.

So we encourage you to preserve the historic district. We have been part of the neighborhood associations. We've invested in the zoning policies. We've again invested in renovation of that particular area. Every year we hold a pride event and are proud to be part of the heterogeneous population working with the people as a part of that community.

In addition to that, many of us gays and lesbians, transgender people, relate more closer to the class race people, not specifically to sexual orientation.

I'm here to speak in favor of the
Coalition, with the Latino community.

It surprises me, makes me take pause, to know 35 percent of the population is not represented on the Commission. This is not at all to point out to one specific elected official, to point any blame, nor is it to question your integrity in this process. I think we all should be held accountable that Latinos are not represented.

I want to say that with the increase of the Latino population, we are particularly concerned about the dilution of Districts 22 and 23 and want to hold close the majority population in Districts 18, 16, 13, and 4. It's my understanding that the Hispanic Coalition will come up with maps in those areas and come out to participate and support those when they come up for review.

Thank you very much. Good luck in your efforts, and see you soon.

COMMISSIONER MINKOFF: Thank you.

Following Mr. Murphy, the next speaker is Donna Neal.

If you'll move closer to the microphone, Mr. Murphy.

MR. MURPHY: I'm Rick Murphy, R I C K, M U R P H Y.
I've lived in Glendale District 16 for most of the last six years in Glendale, in general, for most of the last six years. Currently I'm precinct committeeman and proud to serve in that capacity.

The committee lines are less than perfect. New boundaries are less than perfect. It's only been two days since I've seen the proposed new maps. That's little time to come up with fancy statistics. I see even more family members from Glendale, north Glendale, lumped in District 17, I believe, most of Sun City under boundaries as currently drawn for the new plan. I don't think that makes a whole lot of sense.

Even though different parties, we have to agree, I think, with Representative Brotherton on Sun City. They have different needs. They're not the same as Glendale, Peoria, where they're largely raising families, that sort of thing. For instance, health care and insurance, schools, there's other issues related to that. They don't -- they don't have need of schools, health insurance. They are not so pressing, not the same, for people in Sun City.

Whoever represented District 17 in Sun City is really beholden to the senior voters and will have to listen to those people. That's who is going to largely elect them.
Family population, people younger, people that have kids in schools, do not have the ear of the Ledgislature, a real principal, one person, one vote, and be diluted because their issues will not be the ones that get them elected.

In any case, I think that needs to be looked at more carefully. I think Sun City should be largely a district unto itself for their benefit as well as the benefit of other people in the area so they can be really listened to much more closely by their representatives.

COMMISSIONER MINKOFF: Thank you.

Following Ms. Neal, the next speaker is Calvin Goode.

Ms. Neal, Mr. Goode. Following that, I believe it's Jack Cruiso.

MR. GOODE: I'm Calvin, C A L V I N, Goode, G O O D E, 1508 West Jefferson, Central Phoenix, District Eight City Council.

Coming in I was asking if I was interested in this. I thought I was only interested in District Eight. I said to them, after 22 years on the Phoenix City Council, I'm also interested in the people that serve in the State Legislature. From that standpoint, I'm here tonight.
My wife is with me.

Representative Leah Landrum is the person that represents me as my State Representative.

I remember several years ago, there were several African Americans in the State Legislature, the same with the City Council. Several years ago we went through a restructuring at the City Council.

I remember the Justice Department talked about we must not impact minority voters or representation. I'm one that believes strongly in ethnic representation. I hope no matter what you do today, you keep that in mind.

I was very impressed by the presentation of the Arizona Redistricting Commission. I went out, found a copy of it. I'd still like to have a copy of the citizen input form, citizen input kit, if some staff could give that to me.

Thank you very much. That's what I call real government service.

I am also President of the Phoenix Elementary School District. This is a part of District 23. I'm certainly proud of it.

I could cite a number of different things in the downtown area in terms of how we would be able to build up the businesses. And I think most of you know
that. I could tell you about the carbon museum, the
child development center, development, housing, and so
forth, what we're doing in the central city.

Certainly I do support the presentation
made by the South Phoenix Central Phoenix Plan.

I certainly hope you'll keep in mind that
you will be fair. I know that. I commend you.

You have a difficult job. I certainly
hope all ethnic groups are represented in whatever you
come up with.

Thank you so much.

COMMISSIONER MINKOFF: Thank you,
Mr. Good.

CHAIRMAN LYNN: Following Mr. Cruiso is
Dave Braun.

Mr. Cruiso, he left early as well.

Mr. Braun. Following him, the next
speaker will be Bert Tollefson.

MR. BRAUN: Yes. My name is Dave Braun,
B R A U N.

I thank you, the Commission, for the
opportunity to speak to you here tonight.

Quite literally, you've been charged with
the task of drawing lines on a map, but you also, quite
literally, will be mapping the political future of
Arizona.

I'm an attorney for 26 years. Virtually my whole career has been here in Arizona. And furthermore, it was my privilege to serve more than 12 years as an elected Justice of the Peace to the Maricopa County Justice Courts. I served as Judge of the East Phoenix Number One Justice Court Downtown. And from January 1983 I served the Maryvale Justice Court. It's a matter of my background since I retired from the bench in January 1987, I practiced some law, but I also spent a substantial amount of my time and my efforts involved in a number of community activities, such as the Board of Directors of the Consumer Council, the Booker T. Washington Neighborhood Association, the Van Buren Association, and I recently joined the Valley Citizen League.

I'm a Democrat, somewhat involved in activities of my political party. The only party position I've ever held is precinct committeeman.

I'm involved in advancement of communities, advancement of the community and state, and was present when you have held two previous Commission meetings, South Phoenix and Scottsdale. I listened with interest to both the staff presentations as well as public testimony.
The crux of the issue facing you, as I see it, is how to define and quantify what are the various communities of interest and then and how you will comply with all the other requirements of Proposition 106 and the Voting Rights Act as you actually are -- take the task of drawing those specific map lines.

In all the testimony I listened to, there were at least two topics I've heard virtually no discussion about. One I believe is vital and essential to this process; and the second, as well, is significant and important.

First, I believe that partisan identification is probably the most important factor that the Commission by law will consider.

Prior testimony has claimed that communities of interest shall be based on ethnic heritage, race, socioethnic status, single resident status, city, town, county lines, primary residence, primary language, natural boundary lines, food stamp usage, party lines, people that register with a political party.

If an individual makes an explicit choice in her basic political beliefs and values, while obviously there are correlations between party correlation and some of the categories listed, party
identification is a trump card that generally controls
the outcome of most elections. To not exclusively
recognize that fact, to not confront it, is to deny
political reality.

How should the Commission think about
political affiliation in this part of the process?

The good news is there is usually a very
strong correlation between party registration and most
of the other categories of community of interest. That
is not particularly surprising. Political scientists
have known that forever and politicians have used it to
manipulate political district lines for personal
benefit.

You, the Commission, have the power to use
the same facts to actually achieve the specific goals
established by Proposition 106.

I believe that competition is good. I
concur with Representative Brotherton on that point. I
believe that competition in sports, in business, and
especially, especially, in politics is good. I believe
genuine competition was one of the prime motivating
factors behind the success of Proposition 106. Arizona
voted for both term limits and clean financing for the
political system, to have it shaken up and the status
quo shaken to bring competition to the political
process.

Arizona is a much more political state than perhaps most of us realize. Many of us still think this is the land of Goldwater, Rockwood Republicanism. The facts belie that view.

Now for some essential numbers.

According to the Arizona Secretary of State, as of April 1, 2001, statewise registration consisted of the following: Republicans had 43.19 percent of the registered voters. Arizona Democrats had 37.93 percent of the registered voters. The total of the other four ballotless parties, the green libertarians, and whatnot, form 0.8 percent, less than one percent. The category "others" had a balance of 18.02 percent registered as "others." "Others" includes all people that identify themselves as Independents as well as those people who failed to list any party identification whatsoever, and also those people who list themselves as a member of a nonballot qualifying party.

It's fair to assume most "others" are Independents or members of a party that don't qualify.

It's fair to assume Republicans, put in a number, Dem, put in number, the difference is 5.92 percent, a 5.92 percent Republican advantage.
If the Congress and State Legislature were constructed to match the statewide percentages, your task would be over. Of course, in reality, such districts would neither be compact nor contiguous, and they would not comply with the Voting Rights Act; and, thus, they would not survive Department of Justice review.

The reality is most districts would not be politically competitive. If those districts simply reflect communities of interest, most citizens identify with ethnic packing around city and county boundaries, social and county interests, the Voter Rights Act and Proposition 106.

For instance, the goal of a District in Mesa, one political identity, it's not possible to have enough Democrats to make it bipartisan; with a majority-minority in South Phoenix, it's not possible to have enough Republicans to make them bipartisan competitive districts.

COMMISSIONER MINKOFF: If I could interrupt one minute, because it's 9:30 and we have six more speakers, are your remarks in writing?

MR. BRAUN: They are in writing.

COMMISSIONER MINKOFF: If you'd summarize them, give a copy of your remarks, we'll put them in the
permanent record for our meeting. That will allow us to know what your thoughts are and also will allow others to speak before the hour is too late. If you'd summarize the rest.

MR. BRAUN: I was just finishing up with about two more minutes' worth.

COMMISSIONER MINKOFF: All right. Great.

MR. BRAUN: As much as I favor competition, and I really do, please do not as a Commission try to construct an impossibility.

The Commission is charged with the task of making partisan political choices to comply with Proposition 106. It's in your broad, appropriate power to make the whole, total electoral system competitive.

In other words, I charge you to take the system and take 30 Legislative Districts. Make 10 of them solidly Democratic. Make 10 solidly Democratic; the other 10 legitimately competitive, the district goals underlying the intent of 106; for instance, 10 Democratic Districts, 55 percent Democratic registration; 10 Republican Districts, 55 percent Republican registration. Even out the registration numbers. Viable, competitive districts. And, as well, in summary, do the same with the Congressional Districts, having two solidly Democratic Congressional
Districts, two solidly -- two solidly Democratic Congressional Districts; two solidly competitive Republican Districts; and the balance of four districts will then in fact be competitive.

That is more appropriate and more competitive and a fairer system than the current system we have which resulted in finding every minority and every Democrat and squeezing those voters into one district where the remaining four districts were won Republican and one of the districts remained theoretically a competitive district.

The second brief issue I wish to focus on is political boundaries of Phoenix. Phoenix is the sixth largest city in the country, well on its way to becoming the fifth largest, and is also the largest city in the United States without one clearly defined Congressional District to lie solely within its borders. The current configuration, split, is amazing, five separate gerrymandered districts, city districts, share representation with Kingman, Lake Havasu City, Tuba City, Window Rock, Globe, Strawberry, and Show Low. It is enough.

The urban issues confronting this metropolitan area are not the same concerns as the vast stretch of rural Arizona and small cities therein. This
great city deserves one Congressional seat solely within its boundaries. I suggest a district be created with the boundaries to comport with the east side and west side boundary lines of the City of Phoenix. Washington Street on the south and going north to reach the mandated number, 644,00 residents. I've made a brief analysis of that, and that line would fall somewhere between Bethany Home and Glendale.

The added benefit to that is the sort of district it is is also likely to be a very competitive political district.

The minority-majority district created south of Washington Street is still maintained and is certainly created in South Phoenix previously given the east valley Congressional Districts.

In conclusion, I'd suggest the measurement of success of your efforts will be measured by two specific and objective standards. First, essential fairness and openness of the process and by the numerous hearings you've conducted and manner in which you've allowed people to fully express their views. You are to be commended for that effort. You've been very patient.

But the most important analysis of the actual success of the Commission will be the electoral analysis of the product you actually produce as a whole.
When the final maps are submitted to the public and Department of Justice, the most significant question that will be asked is how will the district lines, as drawn, likely affect the outcome of the election? Of course, nobody knows who will win or lose or who the candidates will be.

Politics is an art, not a science. Significant results, electoral science can never be known or predicted. It's equally true of the rules of the game you'll be creating which will substantially, perhaps, and ultimately affect the outcome.

Make those rules fair. Create districts so the total result are in fact as competitive as possible.

I thank you for the opportunity to speak to you tonight.

COMMISSIONER MINKOFF: Thank you, Mr. Braun.

Following Mr. Tollefson, the next speaker is Dianne Post.

I'd ask the remaining speakers on the agenda, in consideration of our being late in starting the meeting and going long, if you do have written remarks, please summarize them for us. Give us a copy of the remarks. I can assure you every member of the
Commission reads whatever is given. We take this very, very seriously. If you've gone to the trouble to write it, we'll take the trouble to read it.

MR. TOLLEFSON: Bert Tollefson, B E R T, Tollefson, T O L L E F S O N.

I have been a resident of Arizona for 30 years selling real estate during that time. My children are here, all adults now. That's part of the thing I'd mention today. We are all God's children. We look at what is happening in terms of this cosmopolitan area, and I'll cite as an example my own family becoming a bit of a United Nations.

My oldest son married one of my former staff, a farmer out here, Hispanic, who happens to look like -- I won't say who. She's very intelligent, raised two boys, is a widow. They're both in college now, 15 and 16. She's Hispanic.

I have a grandson, another branch, who is proceeding to get married to a lovely lady who is of the black persuasion. And we're very happy for them. That's what is happening.

We're thinking less and less of district lines.

I think that is what will happen to districts through the years. Some people, in 40 years,
will look a little differently.

We want to be fair to everybody. And

that's the purpose of this Commission.

I started out years ago an Assistant to
the Governor of South Dakota. Some of you are from
there. He was a man who succeeded in getting 71 percent
of the vote as a Republican. And that was in an area
where we had a fifty-fifty. Had a fellow named Ashbrook
who came out of that state, not many different people.
Shows people do work across preferences and across
objectives.

I want to emphasize the importance of
tonight having an opportunity to appear before you and
make suggestions that are realistic.

I think you've already done some tentative
things that are very realistic in terms of areas of
interest and also population to avoid the old abuse of
gerrymandering.

There was a time maybe it was necessary or
good. We heard talk about that tonight.

I think we need to be looking tonight at
people now, it has people coming from all over the
world. We're going to live in a time where we'll see
that more and more.

During the next 50 years, I won't be
around a lot of the time to see some of it. As it turns out, having run for Congress myself a couple times, including the US Senate, I'm not suggesting I'll do anything again, but part of the objective in running is to present issues, present choices. That's what we're doing here tonight, to give an opportunity to think about this and come in with additional ideas.

Do we visit in the halls and submit other ideas in writing?

I thank all of you for being here.

My wife is an example of how we're becoming an international city. We've been married 10 years. We worked together 30 years ago when she was an Ambassador in the State Department. Turned out she went to Iraq and Beirut, practically got killed in Beirut. It's not as pleasant a place to live as Phoenix.

We do have so many advantages here. We have people increasingly coming here from all over the world to live here. That's how I see it. There are a number of people nodding their head saying that's absolutely true.

Thank you, members of the Commission, tonight, for being here. I know you'll do good work, do the work fairly.

I could cite Iowa as an example, but I
won't do it. I was just up there, ended up there. Two members of the Commission, a similar system, for no reason, gerrymandered districts, put two outstanding members in one district. They now have to run against each other. I don't think it makes sense, either.

As a basic tentative way, you did the fair thing, following all the parameters specified in the presentation earlier. I commend you for it.

COMMISSIONER MINKOFF: Thank you, Mr. Tollefson.

The next speaker is Dianne Post.

MS. POST: I'm Dianne Post, D I A N N E, POST.

I live at Brentwood and 16th Street in the Willetta area, District 23. I moved there in 1988. My friends said, "Why in the world would you be buying a house in that neighborhood? It is a terrible neighborhood." They were wrong. I am right. It is a very good neighborhood.

I'm here to support the South Mountain Central Phoenix Plan. We have a very diverse neighborhood. Many people have spoken earlier on that. We've learned how to work with each other and how to develop a neighborhood where all different kinds of people live together, work together in harmony.
I do not think we should be punished for it. We should be rewarded for it.

I concur with the idea of keeping neighborhoods together, creating diversity. I don't live in a suburb. I don't live in a development. I don't want to. I appreciate diversity, all kinds of people. I urge you to keep those kinds of neighborhoods together.

COMMISSIONER MINKOFF: Thank you.

Thank you for your remarks and I also want to thank you for how quickly you spoke and the brevity of your remarks.

Bev Cuthbertson. Following Ms. Cuthbertson, Ms. Williams, then Walter Dudley.

Ms. Williams.

MS. CUTHBERTSON: I thought you said Bev Cuthbertson after --

COMMISSIONER MINKOFF: You are right.

MS. CUTHBERTSON: I'm Bev, B E V, Cuthbertson, C U T H B E R T S O N. You can tell I'm a school teacher. I spell in syllables.

I live in District 18 at the present time. I have many communities of interest around my home. I am a very major part of Shaw Butte, the 301 Grant for the neighborhood. I am a Republican, am very active in
Legislative District 18. I'm an active Maricopa Republican. In addition to that, I teach at the Challenger Learning Center.

My interests are wide and diverse. How can I say what my community of interest is? I look at the maps. I shouldn't say "map." I'm sorry, "grid." What I see is I-17 separating me out to go to the other side where I am now.

Velma Sudyka mentioned the Capitol Times. District 18 is 25,000 people short of where we belong. Take a few people out of 19, 16 north of me, you have your people. Keep us together. That's our community of interest. We have competition in 18. We had people run with clean elections and everything else. We all have opportunities to do this. Don't separate school districts. Don't take two little grids out of Creighton School District and put them somewhere else. Leave them all together. That's what school districts are all about, people working together.

I live in Washington School District. I'd like to see it that stay that way.

I thought it wonderful to say 25, go up to Missouri; the rest, start with 18 and go up to Bell Road along I-17 on the west. We'll be just fine, take the
natural barrier on the east of the mountain areas and
have a good district. And one has a community of
interest, diverse interest.

Thank you. Thank you for your work.

COMMISSIONER MINKOFF: Next, Alma

Williams, to be followed by Walter Dudley.

MS. WILLIAMS: Good evening. Thank you.

I appreciate your difficulty. I'm Alma, A

L M A, Williams, W I L L I A M S.

I do live in the Central Phoenix

neighborhood, Green Gables Neighborhood Association,
roughly at Squaw Peak Parkway and 32nd Street, McDowell
to Thomas.

I was a little surprised by the Power
Point presentations tonight. I had not planned to speak
until I saw them.

I am not certain communities of interest
are defined by homogenous real estate or freeways some
people suggested. Currently 25 runs the gamut in
ethnicity, housing, and a lot more. I'm not certain
historic preservation itself provides the glue for this
district.

Of the two plans provided tonight, the
Central Phoenix Historic Plan does the least damage to
my plan and district.
Green Gables District One is one of the first neighborhoods founded in the movement empowering citizens to act for themselves. It was founded in the fall of 1990. Our partner, Creighton School District, actually resides in the new Excellency of Schools. We work hand in glove with Creighton School District. Excellency in School, Creighton School District, is south of McDowell. The South Mountain Plan would split out the south part of the Creighton School District because it runs south of the canal, fifty-fifty in my neighborhoods. It would split it in two.

It seems somewhat, from what I heard tonight, I'm hearing myself talk asking for consideration of minutiae this small. It really sounds like micromanagement of issues of this nature. But neighborhoods that have been together a long time, as we have, celebrating our 10th anniversary this fall, it becomes very important for us to stay together and be able to continue the work we started.

So in looking at plans, perhaps even a look at the neighborhood boundaries of neighborhood associations within the City of Phoenix, could also be of instructive benefit.

Thank you very much.

COMMISSIONER MINKOFF: Thank you.
The next speaker is Walter Dudley.

Following Walter Dudley we'll hear the remaining speakers from the Central Phoenix Historic District Plan.

If there are any other speakers, now is the time to turn in your speaker slip.

Mr. Dudley.

MR. DUDLEY: My name is Walter Dudley, W A L T E R, D U D L E Y.

I wish to thank the Commission for allowing me to speak. One more thank you, and that's to Representative Weason for cutting it short, the people from her group.

I've been here in Arizona since 1959. And what I sense I'm hearing is, from many of the speakers, not all, including Representative Weason and Representative Taylor, is that there's support -- to support this, for maintaining existing legislative boundaries other than where obvious gerrymandering is politically put forth as suggested by Representative Brotherton.

I wish you well in your task.

Thank you.

COMMISSIONER MINKOFF: Thank you.

Representative Weason, do you want to
represent the other people that are going to speak in
your presentation?

While going back to the podium, I'll tell
you that the input we've had tonight has truly been
phenomenal. We've all been to a number of meetings.
It's now been going on for two weeks, 16 meetings. I'll
tell you Phoenix College wins the prize for the most,
the most diverse and most interesting public comment
that we have heard because of the length and breadth of
it.

Normally what we do at this point is
Commissioner Huntwork was going to moderate a
question-and-answer session if you had any questions to
ask of us.

Because of the lateness of the hour, what
we're going to suggest is after the final speakers,
we'll adjourn the formal part of the meeting. We'll
stay as long as you want to talk to us.

If any of you have any questions about the
Commission, procedures we're following, concerns you
have, please come up to one or all of us. We'll be glad
to stay, listen, and talk with you as long as you like.

Representative Weason.

REPRESENTATIVE WEASON: Thank you, Madam
Chairman and Commissioners. We'll Continue on with the
presentation of the Central Phoenix Historic District
Plan and introduce the dynamic duo from Coronado,
Lucindo Montoya, President of Coronado, and she'll
present on splitting neighborhoods and Creighton School
District and combating crime and blight, and her dynamic
husband will complete it, our fundraiser. And he had a
major accomplishment last weekend I'd like him to share
with you regarding the progress Coronado made enhancing
25 and its historic neighborhoods.

Thank you.

MS. MONTOYA: I'm Lucinda Montoya,
LUCINDA, MONTOYA.
I am President of the Coronado
Neighborhood newly elected. This is kind of new to me.
I'll ask the Commission not to break up
our neighborhood. As boundaries stand now, I live in
one neighborhood. About three-fourths of my people I
represent in my association live in another. We share
common ground in that we all face the same crime issues.
And we all face the same-youth-at-risk issues. My kids
go to the same school as District 25 kids go, even
though I live in District 23.

We held a crime summit not long ago, held
it at our community center, and the issues were,
throughout the board, again, the at-risk youth and the
elderly issues.

We shared a common goal. We also share a common vision.

My particular neighborhood is not historic. It's what we call a classic neighborhood. But we look to our historic neighbors to give insight in how to become historic. We need to be bound by that and need to stay together.

Thank you.

COMMISSIONER MINKOFF: Thank you.

MR. MONTOYA: I'm Clutis Montoya, C L U T I S, M O N T O Y A, a member of the Coronado Greater Neighborhood Board Association.

Lucinda, what she said is correct. We don't want the neighborhood split up. Thomas at the freeway, State Route 51, over to Seventh Street. Justice O'Connor did not define communities of interest. We all know it when we see it, interests we have that cross community lines, racial lines, interests that we share. Crime, blight, youth at risk, elderly issues, those are common interests we have that cross party lines.

Having a district that represents us and those interests specifically would make our Legislature more accountable to us, I believe more responsive to us.
The Greater Coronado Neighborhood is making fantastic strides. We don't do it alone. We've been working with Reverend Tillman, working with the Garfield Association just across the freeway.

I-10 cuts through, cuts us part way in half.

The Central District Plan is bringing us together to share community interests, not specifically, although historic interests are very important to the neighborhood, we're not specifically tied to that. We have common concerns that can be addressed through responsive Legislature.

I thank the Central Phoenix Historic Plan and definitely address that.

Thank you.

COMMISSIONER MINKOFF: Thank you.

Is there anyone else who wishes to speak?

I want to thank you all for being here.

You all should win a prize for staying with us so long.

It's really been an incredible meeting.

We thank you for all the input.

As I mentioned, we will stay. If you have any questions, we'll be happy to answer them.

I want to remind you, round two of the public outreach meetings will begin as soon as the draft
plan is adopted by the Commission.

We encourage you to come give us thoughts
and input as enthusiastically as you did tonight in late
July and more probably for several weeks in August.

Thank you for seeing us tonight.

(Whereupon, the hearing concluded at
approximately 9:55 p.m.)

* * * *

* * * *
STATE OF ARIZONA )
) ss.
COUNTY OF MARICOPA )

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 107
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 24th day

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