THE STATE OF ARIZONA INDEPENDENT REDISTRICTING

COMMISSION convened in Public Session on June 21, 2001, at 7:00 o'\textperiodcenteredlock p.m. in Maricopa County at Mesa Community College, 1833 West Southern Avenue, Mesa, Arizona, in the presence of:

APPEARANCES:

VICE CHAIRMAN AND I MINKOFF

COMMISSIONER JAMES R. HUNTWORK

LISA T. HAUSER, Commission Counsel

FLORENCE ADAMS, President of NDC

ADOLFO ECHEVESTE, Outreach Coordinator

AUGUSTA KNIGHT, Outreach Staff

LISA A. NANCE, RPR, CCR, Court Reporter
PRESENTATION BY: VICE CHAIRMAN ANDI MINKOFF

SPEAKERS FROM CALL TO THE PUBLIC:

Meg Burton-Cahill
Dale Despain
Mike Evans
Thomas Padilla
Mayor Neil Giuliano
Senator Harry Mitchell
Phil Amorosi
Dean Cooley
Scott Burge
Chuck Daggs
Kevin Adam
Jay Blanchard
Joe Miller
Evelyn Ensminger
Fritz Tuffli
Bill Bruno
Alan B. Kerman
Gary Pierce
Councilman Hugh Hallman
Chris Quigley
Chuck Gray
Dean Smith
SPEAKERS FROM CALL TO THE PUBLIC CONT’D:

Bill Regner
Gary Christensen
Kirk Adams
Stephanie Sivak
Monique Cordova
Creation Desautels
MR. HUNTWORK: Good evening, ladies and gentlemen. My name is Jim Huntwork. I'm a member of the Arizona Independent Redistricting Commission.

I'd like to call our meeting to order now. Please find your seats.

Before you say anything further, I would like to call on our outreach coordinator, Adolfo Echeveste, to make a brief announcement in Spanish.

MR. ECHEVESTE: (Whereupon, an announcement to the public that Spanish translation services are available for Spanish speakers.)

COMMISSIONER HUNTWORK: Thank you. There are a few more introductions I'd like to make before we get started.

Here at the podium to my immediate right, Andrea Minkoff, another member of the Redistricting Commission.

Seated at my far left, Augusta Knight, outreach coordinator.
Seated next to Augusta is Lisa Nance, a court reporter who will be making a verbatim transcript of everything that is said here this evening.

Next to her is Lisa Hauser, one of the two attorneys we've hired to assist us with this redistricting process.

And to my immediate left is Dr. Florence Adams who is President of National Demographics Corporation, the primary consultant we have retained, also, to help us.

I would like to point out to all of you that we have sign-up sheets that were handed out at the door as you came in. Anyone that wants to speak to us this evening needs to fill one of these out and hand it to one of our representatives who will bring it up here and we'll attempt to call on you in the order we receive these notices.

If, in the course of the evening, you hear somebody say something you want to respond to, make yourself known and someone will bring you the form and we'll give you the chance to speak before we're done.

Our primary purpose this evening is, of course, to hear from you. We'll give you ample opportunity to make your comments a little later.

Before we do, we have a brief presentation we want to
make to you to explain how our Commission has been set up, what our job is, and how we are going about it.

My fellow Commissioner, Andi Minkoff, is going to make that presentation.

COMMISSIONER MINKOFF: Thank you, Jim.

If I can direct your attention to the screen at the end of the room. We have a Power Point presentation.

Adolfo has given me a lovely laser pointer. He assured me if I point it at someone in the audience inadvertently, I won't vaporize you.

Let me explain how the Redistricting Commission came to be, how our task came to be, how we're approaching the task, and give you an idea what we're doing and what our time limit is.

The subject is redistricting. That's why we're all here. We're drawing new district lines for districts under Proposition 106.

An extremely important difference this year from the way it's been done in the past is that citizens play a crucial role in the process and the redistricting decisions are made by a group of independent citizens rather than by the State Legislature which is how it's been done in the past.

These public hearings are to educate you
about the process, but mostly they're to educate us about what is important to you and what you want to see in new district lines.

We're going all around the State of Arizona. We have 23 formal meetings and we have several other smaller informal ones.

We're really trying to cover this with you. We're trying to share our plans with you and find out what you think.

We want to make this a fair process and achieve districts that fairly represent the 5.1 million people that live in this wonderful state.

Often in the past states around the country involved in redistricting has been accused of being very, very political. It's been a divisive, highly political process. There have been accusations of partisan power plays, protection of incumbents, racial discrimination. The word for such abusive redistricting is gerrymandering. We'll explain why the real pronunciation is gerrymandering.

This is a cartoon from the Boston Globe in 1811. The Governor at the time was a man named Elbridge Gerry. He was very, very concerned about keeping his political supporters in power. A district was drawn. This was an actually district that went through the
various counties listed here. When the political
cartoonist drew the district, he added a head, wings,
feet, tail. He added these little bits and said it
looks like a salamander; no, not a salamander, a
gerrymander. The term stuck and is used today for any
district that is drawn with the idea of protecting the
party in power at the expense of other groups.

Here are a couple ways political
redistricting can be done for partisan reasons. On the
left you will see we've got a couple pockets of what I
call the pink party. Here and here is where they live.
The rest of it is the green party. The green party
wants to stay in power. They figure if they chop up all
the pink party areas and spread them among all four
districts, they'll be able to control all four of those
districts and the pink party won't be able to elect
anybody. In effect, what they've done is dilute votes
of the pink party so they keep all four districts.

On the right is a way of doing the same
thing. They've taken two pockets of pink party voters
and instead of spreading all the voters, they've packed
them into district four giving them that one district.
The green party controls the other four districts;
therefore, they control the majority of whatever
legislative body it is we're using for an example. Both
parties have done this. And both parties have done this
to the detriment of the voters in whatever group it's
being done, because it diminishes the vote.

Another type of gerrymandering, not
partisan gerrymandering, is racial gerrymandering. You
have a block of Hispanic voters here. Hispanic voters
traditionally tend to vote, traditionally, with the
Democratic party.

On the left is a tactic the Republican
party might use in creating one single ethnic district,
to pack all Hispanic voters and a Democratic incumbent
and the other Democratic voters all in one Democratic
district giving the Democrats control of two districts,
win two, three, and one.

On the right, that's what Democrats might
do to disenfranchise Democratic voters to preserve a
white Democratic incumbent, they'd spread them,
minimizing their voice, and protecting the white
Democratic incumbent.

Both parties do it. Both parties are
equally guilty. And it does dilute the votes of the
significant segment of people every time it is done.

The voters in Arizona wanted to clean up
the redistricting process and prevent this kind of thing
from happening, so they created a new entity, the
Redistricting Commission, to be responsible for a new kind of redistricting process.

These are the members of the Redistricting Commission.

We were chosen in an affirmative process.

That means we applied to be members of this Commission.

Prop 106 said that the four leaders of the two Houses of the Legislature each participated in the process.

What happened was 311 people were employed to be members of this Commission. The applications were sent to the Commission on Appellate Court Appointments. That Commission narrowed it down to 10 Democrats, 10 Republicans, five Independents as finalists, if you will, and sent those names on to the Legislature. The majority minority leaders of each of the Houses of the Legislature each selected one person.

The first selection went to the Speaker of the House of Representatives, Jim Weiers. He's a Republican. He selected the senior member of our Commission, Jim Huntwork.

Jim is an attorney living in Phoenix. And he was the first selection.

Then the Minority Leader of the House Representatives Ken Cheuvront made the next selection.
from the 10 Democrats and selected me. I also live in Phoenix. That meant that none of the next two appointees could be from Maricopa County. Prop 106 says no more than two could be from the same county. That meant any people from Phoenix, Glendale, Scottsdale, those finalists were no longer eligible to be selected which really narrowed the list somewhat.

The next selection was made from the Leader of the Senate.

He chose Daniel Elder, a landscape architect from Tucson.

The final partisan selection was made by Jack Brown, not the minority leader because the Senate is divided 15, 15, and he selected Joshua Hall.

Josh owns a real estate title company in the White Mountain area, Pinetop, Show Low area, and is the only Commission member from a rural area and brings an important perspective from that perspective.

The four of us, two Democrats, two Republicans, got together to select a Chairman. To select a chairman we got together to select a Chairman from the five names. All five were registered Independents for a minimum of five years. By the time we were ready to select, one of the five removed his name from consideration because he accepted a position
as a paid lobbyist. Prop 106 says you cannot accept a
position on the Commission if you hold office, hold an
office of a political party, or are a paid lobbyist. He
had taken a position as a paid lobbyist. His pay as a
lobbyist is much better.

We selected Steve Lynn to be Chairman.

Steve works for Tucson Power and
Unisource, its parent company, and is Chairman of the
Commission.

The five of us are charged with
implementing Prop 106.

This is what it says: Establish
congressional and legislative districts. Commencement
of the mapping process for both Congressional and
Legislative Districts shall be the creation of districts
of equal population in a grid-like pattern across the
state.

We'll talk more about this.

I want you understand what the grid is and
more importantly what the grid is not.

These are the goals of redistricting that
are contained in Prop 106.

First of all, we have to comply with the
Federal Constitution and the United States Voting Rights
Act. Equal protection of the Constitution requires
The Voting Rights Act protects the voting rights of minorities, makes sure no voting rights are diluted and electoral rights in the process.

Federal requirements are also restated in Prop 106, the state requirements. Congressional districts must be of equal population to the extent practicable and state legislative districts must be of equal population to the extent practicable.

The courts have held "to the extent practicable" is pretty much exactly equal.

The population of the State of Arizona in the 2000 Census, as provided to us by the Census Bureau, divides by eight. We have eight Congressional Districts. The government would like to see them have all exactly equal districts.

In 1990 they were divisible by six with three left over. Three districts one more person than the other three. And that is what they mean by equal population. We will come as close to that as we possibly can.

We have a little more leeway with the state than legislative districts. The courts traditionally have held within five percent is okay.
We believe Prop 106 will hold a stricter standard than that. We'll try come much closer than that.

Districts shall be geographically compact and contiguous to the extent practicable. They'll not look like the Elbridge Gerrymander.

They shall respect communities of interest boundaries to the extent practicable. And that's why we're here. Communities of interest is why we're here.

Communities of interest is a term coined by Sandra Day O'Connor in a voting rights case. The only problem was she didn't tell us what she meant. We have to figure that out. There are a couple ways to do that. We can sit down and figure out what we thought communities of interest are. We thought a better way to do it is come to you and ask that you tell us what your community of interest is. What group or groups have the same political concerns that you have. What group or groups should be represented by the same people so that there issues and concerns can be adequately prepared. And we're here tonight to hear from you and have you tell us what you believe your community of interest is.

Point E, to the extent practicable, district lines shall use visible geographic features, city, town, and county boundaries, and undivided Census
tracts.

To the extent practicable, competitive
districts should be favored where to do so would create
no significant detriment to the other goals.

Where we have the extent to favor A
through E, that's favored, or one through six. We have
to comply with A through E regardless.

These are a couple things we can't do.

First of all, initially, we can't consider party
registration voting history. It has to be excluded from
the initial phase initially but can be used to test maps
for compliance with the above goals.

Places of residence of incumbents or
candidates shall not be considered at any point in the
process.

We had a situation at one of the earlier
meetings where somebody stood up and started telling us
the address of an incumbent. Our attorney at that
meeting stopped him immediately. That is not part of
the process. And because of that, we don't know where
any incumbents live. It is highly likely when we're
through, we'll find new districts creating and combining
incumbents that are currently represented by other
districts. It's not intentional; cannot be intentional.

We don't know where incumbents live.
I'm sure we'll find districts where
incumbents people where it's possible some districts are
divided and to stay in the Legislature they have to run
against each other.

In April 2001, the Commission received
Census figures. And we knew we had grown, but this was
just astounding. 3.6 million people in 1990. Over 5.1
million people in 2000. That's a 40 percent increase.
Arizona is one of the fastest growing states in the
country, just unbelievable. However, as phenomenal as
40 percent is statewide, there's counties growing even
faster. Mohave County, unbelievable growth.

If you look at the population of Maricopa
County, the population of Maricopa County now is not too
far from the 3.2 for the entire state in 1990. That's
why we'll have two more Congressional Representatives in
the state.

The first thing we had to do is develop
districts in a grid-like pattern. The very first thing
we had to do is figure out what does "grid-like pattern"
mean. There are innumerable definitions of "grid" in
the dictionary. Straight lines, regularly spaced,
squares, rectangles, something like that, that's a grid.
That's what we set out to do.

We began to develop a grid. We actually
charged our consultants with that grid, and we decided
to use Arizona townships for the building block for the
grid. It made sense for a couple of reasons. First of
all, townships had a straight line, they are six miles
square. Secondly, all of the western states have been
surveyed on the basis of townships, so it seems like a
sensible, neutral building block to use for these grids.
It didn't have any political overtones, was simply a
matter of surveying real estate.

We chose the Gila and Salt River Meridian
as that was the traditional point where all townships in
Arizona began. All townships in the State of Arizona
relate to that number. That divided the state into four
quadrants. We picked a quadrant to start by lottery.
Northwest one. Then we flipped a coin for clockwise or
clockwise. And counterclockwise won.

On June 7th we saw the grid for the first
time. We saw it in a public meeting at the same time
the people who had chosen to come to that meeting saw
it. It is the starting point for the Prop 106 process.

All right. This explains we use
townships. This is a township. Now, in urban areas,
townships in many cases have more population than we
need for one district. But in rural areas, we need to
aggregate townships. First thing we did is create a
grid for townships. When that was not enough, four
grids, four townships became an intermediate grid,
intermediate townships; some really sparsely populated
areas, four intermediate townships became
supertownships. Then we took the Census tracts and
overlaid them on the township grid. If you've seen the
grid, and many of you received copies of it when you
came in the door, you'll say it doesn't look like
straight lines. And that's because Census tracts don't
have straight lines.

A Census tract was overlaid on the
township and looked at where the majority of the
population in that Census tract resided. Wherever the
majority of the population in that township resided,
that's where the Census tract resided. Census tracts
don't cross township lines, so you'll see they stay in
counties.

The grid, but the grid is only a division
of 30 districts of equal population for the Legislative
grid, eight districts of equal population for the
Congressional grid. It's not a map. It took nothing
into consideration other than equal population.

We know we have split cities, that we have
split towns, we have split traditional communities of
interest. We have split Indian reservations.
Traditionally that's not done. Indian reservations are kept together in a single district.

We did not consider minority voting patterns in developing the grid. Prop 106 said the only thing to consider is population.

A lot of people are concerned my district should hook like this or my district is divided into four districts. It is not. The grid is only a starting point, and many adjustments will be made to that grid before we have draft maps to share with the public.

The next part of the process is public hearings. That's where we are now. After the public hearings, after the input you give us and the input from the other 22 hearings you give us, we'll develop draft maps of the legislative districts. We'll advertise, put it in the newspaper, put it on the website, put it on television, put it anywhere they'll let us. And we'll allow for 30 days' public comment. You can come back during that time, come back around to the public hearing, at that point round to the public hearing. At that point if you don't like the lines, tell us. Those are the lines we'll be considering.

We'll be sending those lines to the Legislature, and they'll have time to send those to us.

At the end of 30 days, we will adopt a
semifinal map. Because what we are hoping to do at that point is have enough time to put that out for a short period public comment, a week or so, there may not be enough outreach meetings, on the website; and people can contact the Commission directly and let us know whether we've hit the mark or not.

And then we send that plan to the Department of Justice for their review and for their concurrence.

When you came in tonight you got a citizen input form, a very, very important part of the process. I encourage everybody here, whether you choose speak out or not, please fill out the citizen input form. We really want to hear from you.

The first thing we ask is name, telephone, address. We need this information in case there's anything we don't understand so we can call you for clarification, in case there's a asked question, so we can get back to you with an answer to the question. Tell us your name, address, telephone number.

Your major concern, whatever you think that it is.

What boundary lines would you like to see in your area?

What boundary lines would you not like to
see in your area?

    What groups, neighborhoods, should not be divided by new district boundaries?

    And then there's a series of questions that you rank in order of priority.

    What information would you like us to take into account in drawing boundary lines: Keeping a community intact? Bringing particular groups together? Using man-made or natural boundaries? Drawing congressional and legislative districts that include whole cities? Using local government boundaries when drawing Congressional and Legislative lines? Keeping Census tracts from being split? You'll tell us what is important to you. Using freeways and major transportation routes? Drawing compact and contiguous shapes for districts?

    SPEAKER FROM THE FLOOR: You went too fast there.

    COMMISSIONER MINKOFF: That should be on the citizen form when you came in.

    There are several ways to get the form to us. If you like, complete it, hand it in tonight. You can mail it in. You can take it home and mail it in. The address is on the bottom of the form. If you are going to do that, I encourage you to do it very, very
quickly. This is the last week of public outreach meetings. Our last meeting is Thursday night. Next week we start drawing lines. We need to hear from you as quickly as possible so we incorporate your input into the lines we draw.

If you want to take it home, take more time to fill it out, please get it to us as quickly as possible.

The other thing is use the website, www.azredistricting.org. The citizen input form is on website. You can fill out this and send it in electronically. We all get copies of those. Every day the web master e-mails all the citizen forms turned in so far. I look at them, print them out, read them, and file them so they're available for me to look at at any time. Every word written to us I take very seriously and take every single bit of input so far, and I'll read yours, too.

Use the website to complete the form.

Also use the website for other things. Find out more about Prop 106, see draft maps when we have them, find out a little bit about the Commissioners. There are Frequently asked questions there, Census information on existing districts, information about the State of Arizona. Just browse it. There is a lot of information
about the redistricting process.

If you want to provide more detail, if you want to draw a map, you received information when you came in to help you do that.

You received some area maps, a map of the State of Arizona, some instruction. If you want to draw some lines and turn it in and say "This is what I think a district should hook like, this is where I live and this is what I see as the district that should best represent me, please do that; because we want that input. But when you are doing that, please keep in mind that we have to follow the criteria in Prop 106.

So if you draw a district that doesn't meet that criteria, it won't be much good to us: Equal population, 641,000 people Congressional; Legislative, 171,000 people. If you give us 172,000, we can't use it, it's too big. If you give us a Congressional District with 571,000, it's too small.

Keep in mind the Voting Rights Act, be cognizant we're not changing the voting rights in the redistricting plan, and be aware of the other requirements in Prop 106.

The schedule of the public hearings, that's what we're doing now; development of plans; more public hearings; final plans; and then submission of
plans to the US Department of Justice. We hope to do that by about September 1st. They can take about four months. We need to have plans in place by September 1st. People running for office need to have it in place by the 1st of the year. They need to know who can sign their petitions. And if they want to get small contributions, they need to know who they can get contributions from.

And now it's clapping, so it's time for me to stop talking.

COMMISSIONER HUNTWORK: Thank you, Andi. And now it is your turn to talk to us.

Before I call on the first speaker, there are a few simple rules or suggestions I'd like to make to make your presentation more effective. Come to the podium and speak into the one connected to the amplifier so everyone can hear you. And the other one is a tape recorder. We're also making a tape-recorded transcript of the meeting.

Secondly, before you start to speak, please state your name and spell it for the court reporter unless the spelling is completely obvious.

When you speak, take as much time as you need to make your point. At the same time, be as brief as you possibly can in courtesy to your fellow citizens.
here tonight. Andi and I will stay as long as is
necessary to hear everybody anyway, but we have over 20
people registered to speak, so this could take quite
some time.

We appreciate your cooperation as much as
possible.

When you make your presentation, please do
not identify the address of a candidate or incumbent.
If you happen to be a candidate or incumbent, please
don't write your home address on the speaker slip or any
other written material you file with the Commission.
The proposition states this information not to be
identified or considered. Our is job not to consider
it. It's your job not to identify it. We'd appreciate
your help in scrupulously helping complying with the
Arizona Constitution.

Lastly, I'd say if you have a question
you'd like to ask us, please hold off until the end.
We'll stay with the consultants as long as necessary
afterwards and answer questions you have.

The primary purpose of this gathering is
to allow you to give input and make statements. I'd
just as soon hold questions until the end.

With those suggestions and no further ado,
I'll call on the first speaker, Meg Burton-Cahill.
I didn't plan to speak. Of course I'd be drawn to be the first person.

It deals with the whole state and my personal community.

One of the things I heard since November, a complaint I heard not about the Commission, the fact we have some areas of the state, Casa Grande divided into three districts, or Bullhead City in also more than one district, that when you have a very small part of any community taken and put into a separate district so most of the community is in one district and a small part of the community is in another district, at least from what I've heard, people feel very disenfranchised.

Case in point, my community, Tempe, one of the things I've heard, people West of Mill Avenue and North of, I think, 13th Street and North of the lake have been in, in the last 20 years, I believe, in two different districts. One went to way east Mesa. One way into north Scottsdale, and didn't feel they were part of their community. And that's that.

I wanted to say one other quick thing.

And that is I think look at the school districts in Tempe and the elementary school districts. The percent
of population broken down is roughly 39 percent, I believe, Hispanic; 39 percent white non-Hispanic; and the other 22 percent or so is a mixture.

I think we have a very diverse community.

I hope the sense of community would be respected by the Commission.

Thank you.

MR. DESPAIN: It must be fortuitous I follow Mrs. Cahill. I'm representing the Tempe Elementary School District. She alludes to that.

I notice with interest one of the areas, the guidelines you look at, or places, guide marks, whatever you want to call it, you use to draw boundary lines, would be freeways. I wanted to call your attention to that the freeways in Tempe are hooked together. There are a lot of them because they begin converge there. I wanted you to be aware in Tempe Elementary School District, if you follow freeways, our school district, which is six miles by six miles, a small area like that, 202 and Red Mountain Freeway, our district lays north of that and part south. The Superstition Freeway, part is north and part is south. The 101, the Price Freeway, part is east and part is west. And the Maricopa freeway, the same situation. So when you get to that part of the area and look at
drawing lines, you might want to look at something other
than the freeway.

Now that I have some information, we'll
try to draw a suggestion and get that to you. Thank
you.

COMMISSIONER HUNTWORK: Thank you.
The next speaker is Paul Petersen.

MR. PETERSEN: Thank you, Commissioner,
members of the public. P E T E R S E N, get the O N a
lot; it's not O N.

I appreciate the time you are taking to
have public hearings. It adds credibility. I'm nearing
my last year at ASU of law school. I had the pleasure
of taking an election law class taught by Scott Bales in
his wisdom or sense of humor, he gave a redistricting
question on the final exam. We won't talk about what my
score was.

I'm a student, have grown up in Tempe,
between district 29 and 21. I think the most important
thing for you to consider, it looks like all you are
taking into consideration is townships. For example,
Tempe has -- is, as has been alluded to, very diverse.
Student population, another area that generally
residents have lived there a long time, Mesa, usually a
lot of Mesa residents, and they're drastically
different.

As long as you take those things into consideration, Mesa is huge, will be divided into four districts. Dividing townships, historical, legislative lines, natural boundaries or whatever, it was difficult, I had to do it on the test. It's hard.

I came to voice my concerns as just a citizen, someone concerned in the political process.

I appreciate your time. Thank you.

COMMISSIONER HUNTWORK: Mike Evans.

MR. EVANS: Good evening. Thanks for the tonight to speak.

I'm here to talk about minorities of interest. I'm a minority in the East Valley, a Democrat. Please take that as a community of interest into consideration when you start drawing lines. There are a few others of us scattered around.

I guess what I really do want to talk about is communities of interest. Having lived in the state 30 some years, this is now the third process I've watched come through; no, the fourth one. I was paying attention when we did it in 1971.

Clearly what Meg Cahill was talking about is splitting up towns. It also gets to be a problem in the Phoenix metropolitan area. I realize, of course,
what you have generated so far we have to look at is the grids.

I used to be the Executive Director of Common Cause. I was in on the first set of meetings that came up with the idea for the initiative. If you look at this, you have Mesa on the Congressional map. You have Mesa, Gilbert, and Queen Creek basically lumped together. Mesa is four times the size of Gilbert and, what, 200 times the size of Queen Creek. Clearly we would be dwarfed for representation.

I live in Gilbert. It would be best, if we're going to have to group the municipalities like that, from my point of view, having something like Tempe, Chandler, Gilbert grouped together better than being lumped in with Mesa so we don't get dwarfed by Mesa.

Much the same way with the grids for the Legislative Districts, one situated south of the Superstition Freeway West of Gilbert north of Chandler and Central Tempe and lumps them in together. So you would have none of the Chandler, Tempe, Gilbert, none of the municipalities in the east valley that, again, are dwarfed by Mesa individually; but, together, we could hold our own against the metropolis to the north split up.
So, again, there's not enough of us in Queen Creek and Gilbert to make a district. There will be. Keep in mind, Gilbert grew to 74 percent in the 1990s from 9,000 to 90,000; today, 225 thousand now. Is roughly growing today 20,000 a year.

I think when looking at it in the metropolitan area, communities of interest make the most sense as municipal boundaries. You can't really do it with the school district boundaries, because the school district boundaries don't make any sense.

The Gilbert School District likes to remind the Town of Gilbert they existed before the Town of Gilbert was even thought of. The railroad uses that argument, too. I don't think it holds any water. The police try to respect the municipalities so we're not dwarfed.

I'm sure the Phoenix metropolitan area, west Phoenix cities, don't want to be dwarfed by Phoenix like we don't want to be dwarfed by Mesa. If you can do that, we'd appreciate it.

COMMISSIONER HUNTWORK: Thank you.

The next speaker is Thomas Padilla.

MR. PADILLA: Good evening. What I'd like to do is just read a letter I sent to you into the record. I sent this letter.
MR. PADILLA: Thank you for the opportunity to provide input on the new Legislative and Congressional Districts. It's changes in Congressional Districts that may have greater impact on. I think you've heard that from other speakers already. I'm deeply concerned about the impact on the process in my city, Chandler; therefore, I want to offer my idea for consideration.

As a community activist Hispanic, I ask you not divide our downtown surrounding area. This area is the nucleus of our Hispanic community, contains the oldest neighborhoods, and a very heavy concentration of Hispanics reside there. This section is a cohesive area of the Chandler community. In many cases, generations and generations make this part of the city their home.

Another concern is Chandler is divided among a number of Congressional Districts.

Again, I think that is something you'll hear all over tonight.

Two Legislative Districts have a meaningful influence on the legislative process. If the population of Chandler is carved up into two districts, our community's voice is greatly diminished at the Legislature.
Based on these concerns, our first concern is to divide Chandler into two districts using Dobson Road as the center dividing line. If this concept is not feasible, putting all of the City of Chandler into a single district. A single district somewhat limits our representation but is far preferable than many legislative districts at the bottom core of the community.

I hope you'll consider these remarks as you consider the City of Chandler.

Thank you.

COMMISSIONER HUNTWORK: The next speaker is Neil Giuliano.

MAYOR GIULIANO: I'm Neil Giuliano, G I U L I A N O.

I appreciate the opportunity to comment on our community of interest, having been in Tempe almost 10 years now. I support and appreciate the work you are doing.

There are different ways to look at the topic of community of interest. One way to look at it is geographic boundaries, which I know you are looking at. Another way is look at issues of communities of interest you've have had to address over a period of time.
The greater region as a community of interest had to address the issue of transportation awhile a back. The greater community in the region voted down the VAL Transit. Tempe supported it. Voters in the region, the community, did not support Rio Salado in mid '80. Voters of Tempe did.

I would say the voting patterns of individual areas, especially our community of interest, Tempe, is very important to consider when looking at potentially dividing a community of interest.

I, in looking at some of the current concepts out there, Tempe is being divided much more than we are right now. I think that would dilute the community of interest we have as a community.

More and more as a region grows further and further into the desert, Tempe more and more is in the center of the region. That's why we, it's very important our community of interest be contained rather than further split.

Since we have communities of interest different than quickly growing parts of the region, it's different than growing parts of concern. As you take an opportunity to look at goals, and so forth, the concept of the grid, Tempe is basically laid out in the grid. You can easily choose one of the east-west streets in
the northern part of the community, one of the major
east-west streets in the southern part of the community,
one of the north-south streets on the east and west, and
find a pretty self-contained rectangle, very
geographically compact, and meet the goals.

I appreciate the opportunity to comment
and the difficult task before you.

Thank you.

COMMISSIONER HUNTWORK: The next speaker
is Harry Mitchell.

SENATOR MITCHELL: Thank you very much.

And a great deal of what I today say has been said by
those people from Tempe.

I've lived in Tempe all my life, gone to
school 28 years, same high school, served that community
in a governmental capacity for 24 years. I feel I know
the community very, very well.

One of the things I kind of alluded to, it
may be hard to determine what is a community of
interest.

When I was a child growing up in Tempe.
Tempe was all off on its own, separated by the river.
All the towns in this area are pretty distinct
communities.

One thing Tempe has noted been for since
many years ago, it's a small sleepy college town and you could know Tempe because of all the smells, lots of feed lots, lots of sewage disposal plants along the riverbed. Only those that had a good feel is those that lived there.

One of the great places in Tempe, I'm proud to live there, have done that, I've spoken as a choice, as said before, on traditional issues. Tempe is the most densely populated city within the state.

When you look at the freeways, as Dale pointed out, it's not a good test where the communities of interest are. I don't think anybody identifies themselves as north, south, east, west of the freeways. Those are not the boundaries that identify the city or communities of interest.

Our City Hall is symbolic, it's upside down and yet not upside down. We're a point where this community and the valley meet. That's why you find so many freeway miles, thoroughfares through the community. Looking at some, the grid map as laid out, it's all different districts or areas Tempe could be involved in.

I think it's important we look at schools. Dale mentioned Tempe Elementary School. It's one of the few schools that pretty much are the boundaries of a city. And some of the other districts that sever Tempe
go over. Tempe Elementary is pretty much within the city boundaries.

I guess what I'm here to say is after listening to the presentation, this is not the time to comment on particular areas.

Communities of interest is a very difficult thing. People intend to be feeling, feel different from other communities.

Tempe is one not growing very fast. It's highly, densely populated. I'd say the City of Tempe right now, the population is about the same as you are looking for in the numbers for Legislative Districts, about 170,000 people. It's not the time -- this district is as effective as it will be.

Thank you.

COMMISSIONER HUNTWORK: Thank you.
Next speaker is Phil Amorosi.

MR. AMOROSI: Phil Amorosi, A M O R O S I. I've lived in the City of Tempe since 1975. And it pained me to see that initial grid, see Tempe drawn and quartered. We're not really like Mesa, not like Gilbert. The last Census showed the City of Tempe to have 160,000 people. If a Legislative District is 170,000, we could easily add to that, City of Guadalupe adds to Tempe, that adds another 6,000
citizens. Guadalupe gets discounts at parks and
recreations in the City of Tempe. We consider them a
good neighbor. I consider them a good neighbor.

Keep the City of Tempe together.

Thank you.

COMMISSIONER HUNTWORK: Dean Cooley.

MR. COOLEY: I'm Dean Cooley, C O O L E Y.

I want to commend the Commission for the
difficult task that you are taking on for yourself here.

I do have a few suggestions. I was born
and raised in Mesa. The last 40 years I've lived in the
Lehigh area of Mesa, which is on the north side. That
area is commonly known as the area north of McKellips,
east of Country Club, and west of Gilbert Road.
Currently there are some precincts left north of
McKellips which takes them out of the Lehigh community
of interest. This is a community of a more rural area,
and I would like to see that maintained.

As far as gerrymandering, 10 years ago, I
was -- had the opportunity to look at maps when those
decisions were made. The Salt River Indian Reservation
was part of the Legislative District in northeast Mesa.
And with the changes that were made 10 years ago, there
was a significant, as you all know, significant
gerrymandering to create a safe district, District
Seven, which included the Salt River Indian Community and went all the way around to Laveen. That is extreme gerrymandering.

I appreciate the guidelines that you have. I'm not sure that they will stand up when it's taken to the Justice Department, but I personally have lived in the Lehigh area for 40 years. We have close relationships with the Indian community. I personally have. I have no problem personally with the thing about the Indian Community, Salt River Indian Community being associated with northeast Mesa as it is currently drawn on the maps that I have here.

There are a couple of areas that I wonder about, north of the Salt River Indian Reservation boundaries, there is a certain section between the north boundary and Shea Boulevard, which is white man's land, not Indian reservation, part of Scottsdale, or some other part that is absolutely not part of the community of interest of Mesa nor the Indian Community. I think that's improper to have that section north of the Indian reservation included in this particular district.

Also, on the south and west corner with Pima Road being the west boundary of the Indian reservation, there appears to be a block of land that goes into south Scottsdale or north Tempe that is being
thrown into the northeast Mesa district, again. And I
think that is improper. Those people do not have a
community of interest with the major part of the
district. And, therefore, that little section that is
east of Pima Road, somehow, ought to be left in those
districts that are in Tempe and Scottsdale.

If, in fact, there is a problem with the
Salt River Indian Community becoming a part of this
northeast district that you are proposing in your grid
here, and that has to be gerrymandered to create some
other thing to satisfy the Justice Department, then, of
course, I would prefer to see the eastern boundary of
that particular district moved on out to Ellsworth or
so. Because that -- there's still a community of
interest, northeast Mesa moved on out to North Power
Road. Those people are still part of Mesa, east Mesa.
If you have to draw the Indian reservation out of east
Mesa, you'd do well look at Ellsworth as a dividing road
rather than Power Road as you now have that map drawn.

Thank you very much.

COMMISSIONER HUNTWORK: The next speaker
is Scott Burge.

MR. BURGE: I must be a kook. I didn't
grow up in Tempe.

When I got out of college, got out of the
service, I moved to Tempe. I knew how to like people, there were more hugs than critics. It was a city with 100,000 people, a diverse group.

Most people run to the Tempe section of the paper than run to the headlines. That's unique.

I don't think we should be split up.

Look at what we have, two Democrats, one Republican. We're not supposed to talk about that. One Democrat, one Republican. That's what happens. Parties don't matter.

Look at the schools. Look at things that impact our lives.

We have a nice community. Don't divide it up.

COMMISSIONER HUNTWORK: Can I ask you to spell your name for the court reporter?

MR. BURGE: Last name is Burge, B U R G E.

COMMISSIONER HUNTWORK: The next speaker is Chuck Daggs.

MR. DAGGS: It's spelled D A G G S.

Thank you. I'll be brief.

First of all, I'm glad to see you recognize municipal lines in some of the grids you drew.

The second thing, I live in Mesa. I'm one of the millions that came in the last 10 years.
I like Mesa. I think we have a lot of common problems we deal with and our community of interest ought to be maintained.

On that account, I do not believe Scottsdale and Fountain Hills should be included with Mesa. You can hardly get there from where I live. Also, if looking for a line, Salt River makes a good line. There are no bridges there. You don't generally cross it. And also, by the same token, Power Road is not a good divider. It doesn't divide anything, really.

I'd suggest, if you would, please, look at school districts. They do cross Power Road. They make better lines than Power Road would. Otherwise, I ask you to consider that.

I support you. Come up with good, contiguous, nongerrymandered districts.

COMMISSIONER HUNTWORK: Kevin Adam.

MR. ADAM: Thank you. I'm Kevin Adam, a representative for the City of Mesa, a public relations representative there. I appreciate you coming to the City of Mesa.

The first thing I would like to address is the level of public participation.

As we've been told, the grids look very much, or probably very far away, from what the final
product would be. I encourage the Commission to allow a high level of participation until we get to the end product.

In regard to Legislative Districts, the city is very much in favor of respecting city boundaries as well as communities of interest. In many ways, we consider the city to be a community of interest. Residents share common identity, rely on the same city services, rely on the same locally elected officials. We consider ourselves a community of interest. We want to make sure that is considered with the district boundaries.

Looking at Mesa's population, 400,000, if we were compacted, we'd make two Mesa districts plus possibly a third of another. We'd probably prefer to have representation in more than three districts, but at the same time we want to make sure we don't have small slivers of Mesa that are an insignificant percentage of a different percentage. We have that situation now in Dobson Ranch, are actually represented in District Six, but it's primarily the Chandler District.

We think those folks have more in common with Chandler than with their Mesa neighbors that reside in the other Mesa districts. We hope a situation like that will not occur with the redistricting.
In regard to the Congressional Districts, currently we have a heavy representation in two congressional districts right now, CD One and Six. Because of the explosive growth we're experiencing in Mesa, we clearly don't want to see our influence in two districts diminished. At a minimum, we'd like to stay in two districts. In fact, looking at the grid system to date, the grid that looks the closest to Congressional District Four appears to have a smaller portion of Mesa in it. And again, we would hope that we would have a significant percentage in at least the two districts.

With that, thank you.

COMMISSIONER HUNTWORK: Thank you.

The next speaker is Jay Blanchard, MR. BLANCHARD: Jay Blanchard, J A Y, B L A N C H A R D.

I'd like to talk about communities of interest from a slightly different angle.

As you are aware, 40 percent of the folks out there weren't here 10 years ago. They're here from somewhere else. Often they think they're on vacation with their furniture. They sometimes don't affiliate. In fact, life was better in Iowa. Life was better in Illinois. Everybody was above average somewhere else.
Their politicians were better than our politicians.
Life was great back there. And they don't affiliate.
And we face a difficult decision when our Legislative
and Congressional Districts break apart our cities.

Our mayors, city councilmen, city
councilwomen work hard to build affiliation, resources,
time, resources to build a sense community, and, sadly,
we look at some Congressional and District maps and it's
torn apart.

So we try to show folks life can be good
in Arizona and work as hard as possible whenever
possible to work hard to maintain cities in the
Legislative and Congressional Districts.

Thank you for your work.

COMMISSIONER HUNTWORK: Thank you.
The next speaker is Joe Milner.

MR. MILNER: M I L N E R.
I wish to speak to the point of community.
I want to speak particularly to the point of Tempe as a
community.

I lived in Tempe since 1967. I know
there's not another community in the valley like the
community of Tempe, because the community of Tempe is a
group that has worked together, never sought or been
helped by a caucus, but the people of Tempe has worked
together over the years, has come together over the years.

I'd like to mention a few of those:

Arizona State University Center; Arizona Merchants Association; Tempe Town Lake; Rio Salado; Tempe Historical Society; Tempe Pile Society; Hackett House; and one of the other things is the Tempe Sister City Octoberfest, 1,200 Tempeians, people that like Tempe, make Octoberfest such success. Although a lot of people that work in the valley would like to choose Tempe, I would urge the Commission to consider establishing Tempe as a unit itself, as a Legislative District.

Thank you.

COMMISSIONER HUNTWORK: The next speaker is Evelyn Ensminger.

MS. ENSMINGER: E N S M I N G E R.

I'm a five-year resident of Michigan -- Arizona, excuse me. My children preceded me here by 30 years, so I don't feel like I'm an alien to Arizona. I'm not one of those that didn't affiliate right away. I'm in that little corner of east Mesa split off. I can't imagine myself as involved as I am with community projects going out to Fountain Hills. I can't even get there. Like Chuck, I can't get there from where I live. And also up to north Scottsdale. I think that's an area
that just rips us apart and puts us with somebody else
that we just don't seem to fit with. I want to be with
what we're involved with, get back with the neighbors
I've been involved with.

COMMISSIONER HUNTWORK: This name, I
apologize in advance. I believe it's Fritz Tuffli.

MR. TUFFLI: Actually, you did a pretty
good job.

My name is Fritz, F R I T Z, T U F F L I.

First of all, I'd like to commend the
Commission for doing, I think, a very conscientious and
complete job of giving us a starting point with these
grids and adhering to the provisions of the proposition
that created this process. It certainly lacks a human
touch. And I guess that's what we're here for today.

Before I get into my point I'm here to
make, I have a couple concerns I'd like to raise I hope
you'll address.

One is I guess I've looked on the internet
you've put up. I've called the Commission, talked to
the executive director. I've asked for the mail piece
and gotten the maps, such as they are, from the
Commission, and sorted through all of this. I still am
at a loss to be able to, even as a starting point, to
have exact boundary lines I can make reference to.
That's a problem for me in anticipating this process.

The company produced these maps. The company explained how it was done: completely objective, in order to produce maps. They had to have exact boundary lines.

My first concern and my request is you post on the internet and provide in the material what exact boundary lines are these proposed grids so we have a little bit better starting point.

Another, not so much a concern but suggestion, is in the process, I understand how townships are used and how it's counterclockwise and from the center. That's all fine and good.

It seems something that might have made the process a little easier for a lot of us is missing, I've never heard. I've heard of gerrymandering of districts, certainly on Legislative and Congressional Precincts. I don't think that's a concern. I think it would be a lot easier if the existing precinct structure could be attacked so within these grid areas so we make reference to those in terms of defining an area, make it easier for me, and I think a lot of other folks, too.

Looking at the input sheet you provided us, question five, what information would you like us to take into account in drawing boundary lines in your
area, please rank order all you think should apply, one
being most important, and provide additional comments,
the very first one that appears there, this is one I
think is most important, keeping communities intact,
bringing particular groups together, such as a
neighborhood association or minority concentrations.
I'd put that as secondary importance to all issues you
put there, put that number one. That's really the
intent of the proposition.

And, unfortunately, with the completely
objective computer drawing that this computer came up
with, it doesn't really do that.

And in part I agree with some of the other
comments.

I'm one of the Tempe complainers. I'd
like to see Tempe more intact than this grid process,
I'd like Tempe more intact, closer than District 27.
I've lived in Tempe most of that time, now District 27.
Unfortunately, comparing this objective process that
you've gone through and comparing the current District
27 and what I just read as what I consider the most
important consideration, in terms of demographics,
racial mix, levels of -- income levels, and so forth,
and various other areas of interest that would unite a
community, the current District 27 boundary line comes a
lot closer to the area circumscribed than what I consider now the new District 27 by means of this grid. I'm talking about the area north of Baseline, west of Price, east of 19th Avenue, and south of McDowell.

One of the boundary lines I've been very frustrated with, the boundary line east-west from Price out of the river bottom close to Baseline, it seems close to University, I'm not sure what that is, I would like to know what that is.

Looking at the demographics, one of the things I agree with, I agree Tempe is as close as you are going to get in terms of the city meeting the criteria populationwise as one of these grids. Shapewise, it's almost perfect.

I'd disagree with one of the other comments someone made that Guadalupe is similar to Tempe and should be included there. I think it's as far away from Tempe as could be. That suggestion seems to me to look more like one of the gerrymandering maps Democrats do, rather than homogenous, 160,000 population, 170,000 with the current area of Ahwatukee; demographically, incomewise, otherwise they're very similar to Tempe. Contiguous, demographics, pretty much fit the whole piece together. Tempe and Ahwatukee fit together very nicely.
Unfortunately, starting at the start with
the computer and start to draw, it's hard to get there.
When you affect one area, you affect all 30
simultaneously. It's hard to get there. The closest
fit demographically to meet the criteria, what I told
you, my number one concern as far as keeping the
community intact, et cetera, would be -- I'm talking
about the area I'm considering District 27, the area you
see on the legislative map where I-10 is coming from
south, makes an abrupt western turn pretty much in the
center area I'm talking about right now. If you took
the area north of that on the east side with -- south of
McDowell, added that to what I'm calling District 27,
grew up to the district above that and gave that area
from the lower western boundary line to Highway 51 and
then went around again in a circle and included the area
north of Baseline and had it pretty much circumscribed
by freeway I-10 around and add that to that area in
turn, a circle like that, I think you come up pretty
close in population in those areas, make this a lot
closer to being where you want it to be in terms of that
criteria.

And thank you very much.

COMMISSIONER HUNTWORK: Thank you.

This is a little like the parable of the
loaves and fishes, no matter how many speak, the pile is
the same size.

You are making excellent comments, very
much on point, very succinct. I appreciate that. There
are still quite a number of people that wish to speak.
The next speaker is Bill Bruno.

MR. BRUNO: BRUNO.

I want to thank the Commission, first of
all, as volunteers, I know you spent a lot of time on
this, and I appreciate your commitment to the process.

I'm from Chandler, and speaking as a
citizen not representing a group or special community
here.

I have to agree with Mr. Padilla's
comments. I live in Chandler and live in downtown
Chandler, and I've chosen to do so. I moved three
times. I live there because it's a neighborhood. I
urge you to at least keep that area together.

On the other hand, Chandler's size seems
to be at least ideal for one Legislative District. I'd
also like to see our town undivided, for several
reasons. I'm trying to think of things maybe you
haven't already heard.

Some other ideas. Our town has an
excellent public cable TV station, lots of TV programs,
lots of good, as most towns, community program, good community newspapers' service -- excellent forums for public dialogue.

It seems like it would be better if fewer politicians were representing us so we could concentrate on straightening them out.

Another reason would be there would be more districts in our town and that would mean more candidates. More candidates would mean more junk mail and more signs. Spare us. Thank you.

COMMISSIONER HUNTWORK: Thank you.

Next speaker is Alan Kerman.

MR. KERMAN: Good evening. I'm Alan B. Kerman, K E R M A N.

I would like to address one issue no one has raised here, that rural areas in general and urban areas in general are diverse and separate communities of interest. And really portions of one should not be lumped in with portions of the other, one with the other swamp the other. If you have small areas of a city with an urban area, the rural area can be swamped and vice versa. Rural areas should be kept separate as much as possible as far as maintaining representative government.

Thank you.
MR. PIERCE: My name is Gary Pierce, G A R Y, P I E R C E.

I want to make a few comments, and some are pretty much triggered by a lot of what we've heard here.

I looked at the grid when it first came out. I think it's a great start, especially the Congressional outlook, four broad Congressional Districts within Maricopa valley, the east valley its own CDs, northwest is represented, south central and west valley. That's a good thing, blocks those things up. I can see how those things came together.

I came a little late as far as where the starting point was.

As I tried to draw this, you have to determine a starting point and draw out. As I listen to comments here and think about Mesa, the planning area of Mesa, 400,000 with a planning area, probably enough for three districts, the starting point would have to be Mesa. Tempe is just enough, a starting point for Tempe. The starting point would have to be changed and everybody else gets gerrymandered. So that's the problem you deal with.
I truly understand that.

As I look at the grid, I live in northeast Mesa, pretty close to the line. I'll still be in Mesa, Mesa District. I think there are natural boundary lines.

The history of Mesa, I grew up in Mesa, lived there many years, lived in Yuma many years, Cochise County. Look at communities of interest. Mesa, Mesa had pretty much of a line on Gilbert Road when I was growing up, stretched out to Power Road, then went on to the county line.

I taught school in east Mesa almost to the county line. Folks out there, just sort of -- east Mesa is one to themselves, almost connected to Apache Junction, almost connects them to Apache Junction. That historical point of view is there.

I'm not sure. I need to slip these on pause I wrote a few comments down.

It would seem to me if in fact we started, for instance, in Tempe, we'd have oddly shaped districts in other places. And in the grid system, even though there are Ls and other things, the reality of it is there's not a lot of funny business going on in the grid. It really was a good start.

As I look at it, from an ease valley point
of view, it's not bad. It's really not bad.

I'm sure others would have issues.

One of the issues, when the proposition was on the ballot, initiative was on the ballot, it appeared to me they were trying to balance the initiative between party elections. How can you do that? If you could do that one, good luck. I'd be amazed if you could balance that one. That ranks down.

I don't know how you can do that.

The district in Mesa I live in is so much more heavily Republican than Democrat, if you were to change that, then reaching and affecting, the first thing would be community of interest.

I suspect, as mentioned before, community of interest is probably, if you stick to that, especially minority population, as best you can, will be odd looking lines. That's going to be the objective.

Rural areas, because I lived in rural areas for 20 years, don't have a lot of people, if you say we'll make the rural area Districts One and Two themselves, you have to reach across a lot of land, a lot of miles, to make those, even legislativewise.

If I lived in the rural area Queen Creek, it wouldn't be along the lines of Gilbert, those areas.

If I was doing it, was over there, I know I'd be doing
joint things, intergovernmental agreements, that tie us
together, I think, closer to Maricopa County, start
branching out. That's what the grid did.

You are on the right track. I look
forward to seeing where the lines actually are. It
would be nice if, in fact, when you clicked on the
screen, click on where the borders were, streets are,
there's a little finer. I'm sure that's coming.
There's still a lot to be answered.

I look forward to the maps. I hope for
myself a lot doesn't change because I think there's a
lot of integrity in what the grid actually did.

Thank you.

COMMISSIONER HUNTWORK: Thank you.
The next speaker is Hugh Hallman.

COUNCILMAN HALLMAN: I'm here to speak on
behalf of the Russian speakers and on behalf
Mr. Huntwork.

(Whereupon, Councilman Hallman spoke in
Russian briefly.)

COUNCILMAN HALLMAN: That's the community,
Russian community of interest that is important.
All people of Ukraine speak Russian and
should be in one group.

We danced around it. What did Sandra Day
O'Connor mean when she said "community of interest"? I wrote the best I can think of, "common ties that bind us, overriding interests we cling to."

I come from Tempe. You heard a variety of people speak from Tempe. You wouldn't know from the fact they stated that Tempe is some concept, some great community of interest observed. I come from the very far left, very far right, Republican legislative representatives, Democrat legislative, Democrat precinct, Democrat, Republican, Libertarian precinct committeemen, that's something very unique about the city called Tempe.

It started because of its historic aloneness in the east valley. It expanded to a certain set of borders and said, contrary to a certain set of order, Tempe made a decision not to annex to the south but instead to let Chandler annex south of the border to prevent Tempe from growing anyplace else. Why? There's a community of interest there that overrides school district boundaries, overrides other geographic boundaries, freeways, terrible geographic or community in Tempe.

The city council in Tempe knows there is one small neighborhood, less than a square mile, about a half a square mile, 800 residents, segregated them in a
piece, a geographic area by I-10 east of that neighborhood. That area is bounded by Phoenix on the west, Phoenix to the south, and by Phoenix to the north. It only connects to Tempe by the eastern boundary, and the eastern boundary is bisected by I-10. They are as committed as you will come.

My family owned house yet I had to go to school in Scottsdale. Could have gone to Tempe if we lived 50 feet south. All the other kids were in Tempe schools. Kids that went to Havasupai School and Coronado School still don't think or view themselves as Tempeians first.

There is something unique about that community that creates ties that bind us together despite the fact that for 20 years my neighborhood has been segregated off. I live in the far east Mesa Legislative District or into the Scottsdale Paradise Valley District. Talk about a way to moot your voice. Live in a district that makes up about one-sixteenth of a legislative community and be from a community that defines itself differently, and you will not be heard. So I ask you to listen to the folks here tonight who showed up from Tempe saying despite the facts we're liberal Democrats, Republicans, or Libertarians, despite the fact we're divided by
meaningless freeways, despite the fact we're divided by
school districts, the main one, Tempe Elementary
absolutely should not be divided, another one with
greater cohesiveness, by the same token, what all the
people are saying to you, Tempe is a special community
of interest even if we may not be able to articulate it
completely.

Maricopa referred to historic interests
they latched onto.

Mayor Mitchell, the previous Mayor said
communities of interest. Those mean something. One
gentleman said if you start with Tempe, you have to move
other district boundaries about. I ask you one thing,
to ponder one thing about the maps currently set by the
grids, the boundaries. Legislative Districts include
all of Tempe. They're not in all of the Legislative
Districts.

In creating that grid system, somebody
made a conscious choice that Legislative Districts not
abide by same the geographic boundary.

One of the reasons I suggest, where
possible, the Census tracts remain undivided. I can
think of no less important geographic boundary than a
Census tract to honor in making that first cut. I could
think of a variety of other things over a Census tract.
It certainly makes it easy to count, but I can't think of a single person or community concerns ever identifying with Census tracts.

Precincts. I can't think of anybody precinct gerrymandered.

Make the cut. But in redrawing lines, I hope the Census tract takes the furthest down the list as far as geographic distinction.

Do take the Tempe geographic boundary itself. Five, maybe six criteria as a base of distinction. Three are immediately met, the concept of Tempe, geographically compact and contiguous, and a variety of interests.

There are a number of people that want to say Tempe's District, or a Tempe district, most Tempe Districts are captured in Tempe.

Third, visible geographic features, city boundaries.

Finally, as a thumb on the scale, Tempe would then be one of the most competitive districts in the state given our registration mix.

Thank you for taking the very difficult task. It has to be one of the most difficult tasks. People praise you quietly in family rooms and come screaming at the high heavens at the microphone.
Thank you.

COMMISSIONER HUNTWORK: The next speaker is Chris Quigley.

MS. QUIGLEY: I don't envy your job whatsoever. I apologize for being repetitive. During Ms. Minkoff's presentation, I was busily scribbling notes, some comments.

If you bring one thing away, Tempe citizens here hammering away at communities of interest. I won't be any different.

Tempe voters historically think outside the box. You only need to look at that upside down pyramid to know so.

Neil talked about voting for Rio Salado. Maricopa County voted it down and Tempe citizens voted for it. Historically it was a dry, old river bottom.

People in Tempe were thinking. Instead of a geographic divider, all citizens of Tempe should take pride in that project and great interest in seeing it developed.

I'd like to see a little minority Chandler get put in their own community, a minority Phoenix, Ahwatukee, pull that in. If that's not enough geographically, let us know. We can improve.

Barring that, a natural community of interest would be to continue up to McDowell. People
live near McDowell, in Scottsdale south of McDowell
don't think the same way those that live in Scottsdale
north of McDowell do. I think we could make them happy.

The way the map is divided right now,
there are four districts. It's conceivable we'd have no
Representative in the Legislature or Senate within our
city boundaries. I would assume you think that's as
unacceptable as the rest of us do.

I'll just conclude saying very often Tempe
voters demonstrate uniqueness in the electorate by
dividing four, five groups which ignores communities of
interest. Once divided, loses interest. Voter apathy.
What greater way to divide people up so they don't care
about what is going on?

So, please, don't let that happen.

Thank you.

COMMISSIONER HUNTWORK: Thank you.

Chuck Gray.

MR. GRAY: Hello. My name is Chuck Gray,

Thank you for the opportunity to speak
tonight. I'll try to be brief.

I want the board to recognize, number
one, while I'm from Mesa, and from far east Mesa, I want
the board to recognize what I'm about to speak to you
goes along what all Tempeians said to you. I'm not from Tempe. They want their community held together. I agree with the premise, based on reasons they said, and Chandler, Gilbert, for other reasons.

You've seen tonight, and in Apache Junction, Apache Junction is tired of being divided into three, four different ways. It breaks up representation. The whole purpose of representative government is to be represented.

Like Mrs. Squiggly said, what greater way promote voter apathy than to break people up or sliver people off?

With that in mind, and recognizing the grid pattern is a starting point, there are certain things. Dividing the reservation won't hold up in the Justice review coming.

I would like to offer suggestions for boundary lines in Mesa that would try to alleviate some of those things and try to keep communities of interest in Mesa together.

It's obvious Tempe, as you heard tonight, is very big on education. It's a university town. They group together, talk about school districts a lot. There are, according to the grid map talked about so far, a chunk of people in Tempe that are in the grid
that is in Mesa. And so I would suggest as a boundary
line for that would be either the Tempe canal, which is
really the dividing line between Tempe and Mesa, rather
than Price Road, are people east of Price Road in Tempe.
They'd be divided out. The Tempe Canal was not talked
about. I used to live by the Tempe Canal on the east
side, grew up there for 20 years, was born and raised
there. Now I live in the other end of Mesa.

Now, I have that experience. Power Road,
while a long time ago was kind of the edge of Mesa and
now is nowhere near the edge of Mesa. Mesa goes clear
out to the county road on Meridian. Using that as a
starting point is fine but not an ending point. The
grid line that way should go at least to Ellsworth Road
because of the great growth done there.

If it's not possible, the CAP Canal takes
in more area. Ellsworth is still a better grid line
than dividing line.

Our areas of interest to the south are
quite a bit different from Gilbert and Chandler, I
agree. Baseline Road, generally speaking, runs along
there as it parallels US 60. Either one of the two
lines generally cuts things off. US 60 is a cut-off and
cuts off some people in Mesa. And they'll feel the same
way Tempeians feel.
I suggest Baseline Road to the south, Tempe Canal to west, Ellsworth Road to the east, and Ellsworth Road to Price Road, and such. Those would be my suggestions based on community of interest.

I agree with everything else. I have a list of reasons why different from communities. I recognize Mesa is so large it could be two districts and some extras shoved out somewhere else. I hope we keep those grouped together as much as possible.

Thank you for your time.

COMMISSIONER HUNTWORK: If you have comments written down, submit them to us and we'll make sure they're included in the record. Keep that in mind.

The next speaker is Dean Smith.

MR. SMITH: Dean Smith, S M I T H.

I'm here from Tucson. You get me because I'm up here for training for two weeks, so I won't be seeing you in Tucson.

I have a couple of comments on this.

The first thing is I don't believe the reservations should be cut up like they are. Even if you do, I don't think the courts will let you do it.

That concerns me greatly.

Another piece, as I listen to people talk and I get peoples -- get an impression on what people
think, is rural Arizona, I'm somewhat amused. I'm from Tucson. I actually live six miles outside the city limits of Tucson. I don't count myself as rural Arizona. I think anywhere within 20, 30 minutes.

I'm very concerned about rural Arizona and the lack of these meetings for rural Arizona, not that they're not -- you don't have several scheduled. You do. But I can get to one, one of several up here within 20 or 30 minutes, as I can where I'm from in Tucson. When I look at some of the other areas, it looks to me like you are talking an hour and a half, two hours to get to some of these meetings.

The reason I bring up the definition of "rural Arizona" is when look at the definition of Congressional Districts, I'll tell you, in a lot of other activities, talk about disenfranchising voters. I'm here to tell you the rest of the state does not revolve around the Phoenix area and does not revolve around the Tucson area. When I look at the Congressional Districts, that's exactly what they revolve around. I know if you don't have it that way, it's going to be very difficult. I also know someone had to tell you this isn't going to be easy.

I appreciate your coming here. Appreciate your efforts. Appreciate your volunteering for the
state. Also appreciate your taking a hard look at rural Arizona. Thank you.

COMMISSIONER HUNTWORK: Thank you.

The next speaker is Bill Regner.

MR. REGNER: Thank you very much. My name is Bill Regner, R E G N E R. I am turning in a form with most of my comments. It's pretty redundant.

I'm from Tempe. I want to talk to you about community of interest, actually two areas.

Points have been made, we've historically been split into two districts, at least two districts. I think we'd like to come together in one. Contrary to some of the opinions expressed previously, Guadalupe, it would be included in a district with Tempe. I think you would be forgiven since it is -- Tempe does completely surround that community. And I think gerrymandering would be very difficult to do in that instance. There is a very strong sense of identity.

Many of the aspects of Tempe were mentioned. It is a very progressive community. A couple were not identified I'd also like to talk about, one, the Fiesta Bowl, the New Year's Eve event, one of the premier events on New Year's Eve, the Kiwanis Tempe sponsored celebration July 4th Tempe Town Lake Premier Event for Fourth of July.
Tempe is landlocked. We're focused, strong, a community focused. The second area, we speak on Indian reservations and encourage Indian reservations not be over shadowed by an adjacent reservation that might be larger and try to protect the interests of the smaller reservations. Specifically I'm talking of the Hopi reservation.

Thank you very much.

COMMISSIONER HUNTWORK: Thank you.

Next speaker, Gary Christensen.

MR. CHRISTENSEN: I believe I come from a family Danish family, CHRISTENSEN.

I notice you have six stated goals of redistricting. And I would comment these aren't necessarily goals. These are sometimes constraints.

Without prioritization, how those constraints would be put together, there's no indication how some of those constraints have been given higher priority or lesser priority than others. Obviously I would assume that the judicial review is probably extremely high priority.

Many other constraints or goals may be given the same scrutiny.

I'd also say by the time King Solomon said "Divide the child in half" and the real mother said "No, no" to save the child, it didn't really matter, the true
mother was going to be disappointed either way the cut was made.

As a parent, I learned some wisdom. When there was one piece of cake on a plate and two children come in, give the knife to one of the children, let the other child choose which piece to choose.

I see no such decision.

I assume you'll have a difficult decision. You'll either lose your hair or have gray hair. At least half of us will look like you.

I don't know what a competitive district will look like.

And community of interest, there is the ASU community. A large percentage of the geographical environment is occupied by the campus and there are multiunit dwellings adjacent to that. Were you to divide that down the middle one way or the other, it might make a minority district, two different. If you leave it intact, that becomes an overwhelming majority district. Those are competing strengths and goals you're dealing with.

I assume by the time you understand all of the citizen input and can adequately take that into account and make recommendations, it is, in essence, it's no longer an illogical construction but a more
logical construction. And unlike a computer grid that
goes through dispassionately dividing lines and
territory to come up with the right numbers of people
and territories of people to come up with communities of
interest and special considerations, it's the same sorts
of pressures from a community which caused the citizenry
to vote for a separate, dispassionate redistricting
plan.

I'm not sure what the solution is other
than to say that the citizen input seems to sway in many
different ways. And school districts, economic
concerns, the dividing lines of freeways, lakes, et
cetera, run very deep.

I saw Tempe for the first time in 1959 as
a child when I stood in the D wing of the engineering
building when they were putting the first computer on
campus. I looked out and just beyond that was the edge
of Tempe. I've seen it grow. I've lived in Tempe all
my life. I'm not sure any particular plan is better or
worse; because in the end, we're all going to be very
dissatisfied with many of the constraints put forth and
I was somewhat dispassionate. And logical
representation is going to be to complied with.

Thank you.

COMMISSIONER HUNTWORK: Kirk Adams.
DR. ADAMS: I appreciate the opportunity
to speak on this issue.

Much has been said on community of
interest in Tempe and we've heard lots about how Tempe
is special and unique. I'm a life-long resident of
Mesa. I concur. Tempe, you are different.

As a resident of Mesa, I'll say Mesa has a
community of interest.

I commend your interests in attempting to
do a difficult job. I'd point out a few areas you might
be able to better the map you've done thus far.

Currently you have much of Mesa lumped in
with the reservation to the north. I think it's fairly
unlikely that the Department of Justice will approve the
way that is drawn now. That being said, there are other
issues, hanger ons to the core of the mass, how you've
drawn the core of that district.

For example, a portion of that district
west of Pima Road, I would venture to say that that
neighborhood west of Pima Road has absolutely nothing in
common, nor would they like to be lumped in with the
core, the center of Mesa.

In addition, to the north of the
reservation, it appears it takes in what appears to be
areas of north Scottsdale. Again, that is not an area
that has much in common or a community of interest core
mass. You've drawn here Gilbert to Power Road as you
have it now. Rather, I would suggest what the
Commission do is extend the voters of Mesa district from
Power Road to approximately Ellsworth Road as this would
do two things for you. First of all, meet the first
goal of a geographically compact district. It would
nearly be a perfect square. The second thing it would
do is maintain community of interest.

    Power Road as it stands right now, there
is no significant dividing line between -- or in the
city. As a matter of fact, as it's drawn right now, the
district lines would actually divide the current high
school district at Red Mountain. The community right
there, Red Mountain High School, becomes two different
districts. That's a community of interest now being
split.

    In addition, the districts east of Power
Road are suddenly lumped in to Fountain Hills and all
the other areas of far north Scottsdale.

    As stated previously, you can't get there
from here. Those are not continuous geographically
because of geographically, an ability to get there.
Also, they are not communities of interest. They are
different communities.
As a life-long resident of Mesa, a proud citizen of Mesa, it would be my recommendation to the Commission that the eastern boundary be extended at least to Ellsworth Road so Mesa can maintain its community of interest and unique lifestyle.

Thank you very much.

COMMISSIONER HUNTWORK: Thank you.

We have three speaker slips left here. Is there anybody else that wants to speak that hasn't filled one in? We're rapidly coming to a conclusion.

The next speaker is Stephanie Sivak.

MS. SIVAK: I'm Stephanie Sivak, S I V A K, S T E P H A N I E.

I live in Keaons Canyon, Northeast Keaons Canyon.

My concern is the Congressional grid. We seem to be represented a bit by Maricopa County. It's wonderful Maricopa County is intact. Instead, we'd rather join Gila or Navajo. We just don't have a whole lot in common with Anthem Way. It would be really nice for us to be grouped with the Colorado River Community. Colorado Plateau, Black Canyon City, possibly Mohave County, keep us with the east counties, probably more communities of interest. I'm referring to the Hopi issue. I teach there.
Navajo, if you address that issue, it will look like gerrymandering, Navajo, Tonalea, the Moenkopi, the Hopi community outside of Tuba.

The Native Americans see themselves as a community of interest. They might get a greater voice as Native Americans, the Paiute, Hualapai, Havasupai voices might be heard better than being seen as separate tribes. Thank you.

COMMISSIONER HUNTWORK: Thank you.

The next speaker is Monique Cordova.

MS. CORDOVA: I'm Monique Cordova representing myself. I'm a citizen of the City of Tempe, born in Phoenix, my family goes back over a hundred years in the Phoenix area.

I'd like to make two points, first dealing with the city and people of Tempe and then with the issue of minority voting rights.

First, I join with my fellow residents of Tempe requesting you consider the City of Tempe as a small community of interest. Although I was born -- although my father was born in Phoenix, he fell in love with the City of Tempe when a college student in the 1950s. In the late 1960s, we moved to Tempe. He proceeded to get very active in community activities, Tempe Chamber of Commerce, Tempe Diplomats, various
Tempe organizations. He really wanted to see Rio Salado
developed, but due to his untimely death, he never was
able to see that developed. He'd be very proud to see
what has been accomplished.

A lot of people like my father feel very
passionate about the city. As for myself, Red Mountain
School, McClintock High, currently we're very involved
at church, the ASU service, the services are the oldest
church in Tempe, St. Mary's Church.

If some of the residents don't know me, I
work as a legislative auditor, and it prevents me from
getting involved in a lot of political types of
activities. I do work for people that represent us.

I'm very interested in state government.

I know I personally should make a point
getting to know neighbors better. This would not be
difficult to do. So I don't flaunt my fellow residents.

I fault myself for not getting to know neighbors better.

I'd like to discuss voter rights. I'm
fifth generation, and a Native American. I want, I
first identify as a citizen of Tempe, and I feel I
should first work to affiliate myself with my neighbors
as opposed to affiliating with the Hispanic community.

I am involved Hispanic affiliations and do
value these affiliations as well.
Grandfather, Jesus, was very active in the 1930s and 1940s with foreign franchisement of Hispanic voters. He ran for the House of Representatives in the 1940s. It was very important for him, the people of Mexican American descent to get involved with that part. He imparted those values to my father.

My dad, the first thing that happened when I turned 18, he took me to go register to vote.

Looking at the issues, though, I hope you consider neighborhoods first and that you work not to divide historic neighborhoods.

I guess my views are like the gentleman from Chandler where I think it would be a shame if you divided downtown Chandler given the long standing of the neighborhoods and especially since they did start out as strong Hispanic neighborhoods.

As far as the issue of Guadalupe, if I were wanting, I'd seek the input of the residents of Guadalupe, if they want to affiliate with Tempe or Chandler. Their views should come first.

COMMISSIONER HUNTWORK: The last one is Creation Desautels.

MS. DESAUTELS: My name is Creation, CREATION, Desautels, DESAUTELS. I have three brief comments.
I agree the redistricting is a little unfair to the Indian reservations. I think they should be lumped much closer together.

I'm not heavily involved, but I think if I were in their shoes, I would want to be lumped with like minds.

Secondly, I am in what will be legislative -- what currently is legislative District 18. And the reshaping of my district does cross I-17 the way it is currently drawn. I would much prefer it to go further south, not cross I-17.

The third thing, I think it's mutually exclusive to have competitive districts if you involve yourself in the concept of community of interest. If you get yourself with like minds very active in a community, you tend to have staunch political focus one way or another.

If not politically active, quite frankly, I want to be in a district staunchly Republican.

Other Democrats want to be in a district Democratic.

You can't look for Republican and Democrats and target heavily loaded districts.

By heavily loaded, I think you can look at the type of civic activities. Someone involved in
minority activities, heavily into the arts, it's not a mystery the way they vote.

Someone into the NRA, it's not a mystery the way they're voting towards.

Load towards people with like minds so they tend to contribute to easily definable groups or what their tendency in voting would be.

Load some heavily Republican; some heavily Democrat; some really fair, gut-wrenching, split Republican, Democrat, and let them be the ones to fight it out on the floor.

That's all I have to say.

COMMISSIONER HUNTWORK: Thank you.

Well, if no one else wishes to speak at this stage, I would like to briefly thank all of you on behalf of the Redistricting Commission for taking your valuable time for coming out this evening and help us participate in this experiment in democracy.

I think we'll adjourn this meeting as a formal matter and go off the matter.

I want to remind you Andi and I will stay up here with our consultants.

Feel free to come up and we'll speak on an informal basis.

COMMISSIONER MINKOFF: I'd like to thank
you. Mesa wins the prize for the most surprises. Tempe
is unique, as is Mesa, Gilbert, Queen Creek, and
Chandler.

Thank you all for being here.

(Whereupon, the hearing concluded at
approximately 9:26 p.m.)

* * * *
BE IT KNOWN that the foregoing hearing was
taken before me, LISA A. NANCE, RPR, CCR, Certified
Court Reporter in and for the State of Arizona,
Certificate Number 50349; that the proceedings were
taken down by me in shorthand and thereafter reduced to
typewriting under my direction; that the foregoing 81
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 28th day