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STATE OF ARIZONA
ARIZONA INDEPENDENT REDISTRICTING COMMISSION

REPORTER'S TRANSCRIPT OF PROCEEDINGS

Avondale, Arizona
June 26, 2001
7:00 p.m.

ARIZONA INDEPENDENT
REDISTRICTING COMMISSION

LISA A. NANCE, RPR, CCR
Certified Court Reporter
Certificate No. 50349

1 THE STATE OF ARIZONA INDEPENDENT REDISTRICTING
2 COMMISSION convened in Public Session on June 26, 2001,
3 at 7:00 o'clock p.m. in Maricopa County at Estrella
4 Mountain Community College, 3000 North Dysart Road,
5 Avondale, Arizona, in the presence of:

6

7 APPEARANCES:

8 VICE CHAIRMAN ANDI MINKOFF

9 LISA T. HAUSER, Commission Counsel

10 FLORENCE ADAMS, President of NDC

11 ENRIQUE MEDINA OCHOA, Executive Director

12 ADOLFO ECHEVESTE, Outreach Coordinator

13 AUGUSTA KNIGHT, Outreach Staff

14 LISA A. NANCE, RPR, CCR, Court Reporter

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PRESENTATION BY: VICE CHAIRMAN ANDI MINKOFF

SPEAKERS FROM CALL TO THE PUBLIC:

- Priscilla Ann Gibson
- Representative Richard Miranda
- Mayor Marie Lopez-Rogers
- Representative Mike Gleason
- Jose Cortez
- Woody Thomas
- Francisca Montoya
- Dora Vasquez
- Mayor William Arnold
- Barbara B. Gatchell-Stephens
- Steve Gallardo
- Evelyn Shapiro
- Rosie Lopez
- Nancy J. Dorris
- Betty Lynch
- Mary-Jane Gibson

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Public Session
Avondale, Arizona
June 26, 2001
7:00 o'clock p.m.

P R O C E E D I N G S

(Mr. Ochoa makes an announcement in Spanish that translation services are available for Spanish speakers.)

COMMISSIONER MINKOFF: For those not left out, we have a translator in the back of the room. For those that prefer the meeting in Spanish translation, they are instructed to go near the translator who will provide that for them.

A VOICE: Do we get a translator to translate the translation?

COMMISSIONER MINKOFF: We can also provide it in Navajo, Yaqui, whatever.

Welcome all of you. My name is Andi Minkoff, Vice Chair of the Redistricting Commission. I'm here alone tonight.

A VOICE: Again.

COMMISSIONER MINKOFF: Commissioner James Huntwork was supposed to be with me. He's stuck in

1 California. He will not be with me.

2 The other Commissioners are in Safford
3 tonight. I'm it. By the end of the meeting, you'll be
4 very sick of my voice.

5 I'll keep my talking to a minimum to allow
6 you to use most of the meeting.

7 We want to welcome you to one of the many
8 outreach meetings that we are having all around the
9 state regarding Proposition 106, the initiative,
10 Constitutional Amendment passed by the voters last year
11 setting up the Independent Redistricting Commission to
12 redistrict the Congressional and Legislative Districts
13 in Arizona.

14 Before we begin, I want to introduce some
15 people to you.

16 First of all, one of the first things the
17 Commissioners did when we got together is hired staff.
18 We believe we have absolutely a phenomenal staff. It's
19 also a very large staff. This is an overwhelming staff.
20 Several are here tonight I want to introduce to you.

21 On my right, your left, is our Executive
22 Director, Enrique Medina Ochoa, who lives so close if
23 his car doesn't work, he can walk home tonight.

24 Next, I want to introduce you to Adolfo
25 Echeveste. Adolfo is our outreach coordinator. He and

1 his staff are responsible for setting up the meetings,
2 arranging the logistics, et cetera.

3 One of the truly outstanding people is to
4 my left, your right, Augusta Knight.

5 Incidentally, this would probably be an
6 appropriate time. You'll see Adolfo and Augusta kind of
7 wandering around the room a lot tonight. What they're
8 doing is making sure everyone who turned in a speaker
9 slip, who wants to speak, has turned in a speaker slip.

10 There are yellow speaker slips. If you
11 want to be heard tonight, we'd ask you please fill one
12 out, raise it up, and either Augusta or Adolfo will come
13 get it from you. If you have not filled one out yet,
14 now would be a good time to do so.

15 Is there anyone who wants a speaker slip
16 and doesn't have one?

17 Okay.

18 If you want to turn one in, just raise it
19 and they'll kind of be looking around. They'll see you
20 and pick it up.

21 At the table to my left -- one of the
22 other things we did very, very early is we hired primary
23 consultants. We looked around the country, had
24 proposals from one of the national consultants. We
25 think we picked the best, we know we picked the best.

1 We picked National Demographics Corporation.

2 Are you the president or chairman?

3 DR. ADAMS: President.

4 COMMISSIONER MINKOFF: With us is the
5 President of National Demographics Corporation.

6 Dr. Florence Adams is here tonight.

7 The other thing we needed besides
8 technical expertise NDC provides, we needed legal
9 advice. We follow both the laws of the State of Arizona
10 and United States, so we engaged two attorneys, one of
11 whom is with us tonight, Lisa Hauser. And she and our
12 other attorney, Jose Rivera, who is with the other group
13 in Safford, every time they have an answer for us, and
14 most of the time they even agree. It makes us feel
15 really good.

16 MS. HAUSER: We even agree with each
17 other.

18 COMMISSIONER MINKOFF: That's what we
19 meant.

20 Finally I want to introduce Lisa Nance,
21 who is absolutely invaluable. She's our reporter.
22 She's a court reporter. She'll make a verbatim
23 transcript of everything said tonight and provide it to
24 us. In addition to the notes we take and memory we have
25 of what you all said to us tonight, we'll have a

1 verbatim transcript we can refer to should we need it.

2 The main purpose of tonight's meeting is
3 to hear from you.

4 I want to tell you a little beginning
5 meeting you'll hear from me. We do have a Power Point
6 presentation. It's really important for the City of
7 Avondale I explain about the requirements of Proposition
8 106 and about the redistricting process we are involved
9 in and, by coming here tonight, you are involved in. So
10 I'm going to do the Power Point for you. It takes about
11 20 minutes. Then we'll throw it open to your comments.
12 And we will call you in the order we receive the speaker
13 slips and listen to what you have to tell us.

14 Following that, either formally, if there
15 is time, or informally, because we're committed to
16 staying as late as you want to talk to us, we'll answer
17 questions.

18 In other words, at the first part, we want
19 input, what you want districts to look like, what you
20 don't want districts to look like. If you have
21 questions about the process the Power Point hasn't
22 answered, save it to the end of the meeting. We'll
23 answer them. We promise we'll stay as long as it takes.

24 I'll move back to where it is to run the
25 laptop.

1 Excuse my back to those of you who will be
2 looking at it.

3 There's gotta be an easier way.

4 Okay. Okay. Thank you.

5 The subject of tonight's presentation is
6 redistricting, the drawing of new district lines for the
7 state's Legislative and Congressional Districts under
8 the provisions of Proposition 106. The main difference
9 between the 2001 redistricting process and those of the
10 past is that citizens, those of you in this room, and
11 those of you that have come to other meetings, and those
12 of you who have logged onto the website, and those of
13 you who have called us, really play a very, very crucial
14 role in the process.

15 The public hearings we've had are partly
16 to educate you but primarily to educate us. We're using
17 the redistricting process to bring it to all areas of
18 the state and involve all the people of Arizona. We
19 want this to be a fair process, and we want to achieve
20 districts that honestly represent the needs of the 5.1
21 million people who live in the State of Arizona. We
22 represent all of you.

23 Often in the past, and in other states
24 around the country, even in the present, redistricting
25 is a very, very politicized process, very divisive.

1 There have been charges of dirty politics, partisan
2 politics, discrimination against racial, ethnic
3 minorities.

4 The word for such racial redistricting is
5 gerrymandering. You may be used to calling it
6 gerrymandering. The word is gerrymandering.

7 This is a political cartoon from the
8 Boston Globe from 1811, and it shows the first
9 gerrymander. The Governor of the State of Massachusetts
10 at that time, a signer of the Declaration of
11 Independence, was a man named Elbridge Gerry. And he
12 wanted to make sure that his supporters continued to be
13 elected so that they would be in power in the state.
14 And so they drew districts that were very oddly shaped
15 in order to make sure that they continued to control the
16 state.

17 Adolfo --

18 MR. ECHEVESTES: Point it the other way.

19 COMMISSIONER MINKOFF: I hope I don't
20 vaporize anybody.

21 This is the actual outline, essentially
22 the outline of the district he drew, a very weird shape
23 he drew. The Boston cartoonist added a head, wings,
24 added fangs and feet, said "It looks like a salamander."
25 Remembering who was responsible, "Not a salamander, it's

1 a gerrymander." That name stuck. Because he pronounced
2 his name Gerry, it's a gerrymander, not gerrymander.

3 This is how a gerrymander works. This
4 would be a political gerrymander, partisan gerrymander.
5 What we've got is the green party and pink party. And
6 the green party has been in control, has been in the
7 majority. And they want to make sure that they stay
8 that way. So here are a couple ways they can do it. In
9 the one on the left, you see that there are two
10 concentrations of pink party adherents and the rest are
11 green party adherents. What they have done is split up
12 the pink party members in four different districts so
13 that there aren't enough of them in any one of these
14 districts to elect the people that they want. That will
15 give the green party that has all these parties control
16 of every single one of these districts.

17 What they've done is taken the pink party,
18 disbursed them, diluted the power of their votes, which
19 is why this is called dilution.

20 On the other side is another way to
21 accomplish the continued dominance of the green party.
22 In this case, they haven't split the pink party up among
23 four different districts. They packed them all in
24 district four. In a sense, they are conceding district
25 four to the pink party and giving them that district.

1 However, there are none of them in or very few of them
2 in the other three districts. There is no chance at all
3 of influencing the outcome of these districts. It
4 insures three of every four seats in whatever this body
5 is. That is called packing. Both parties have done it,
6 and it treats voters very, very unfairly.

7 This is another type of gerrymandering,
8 racial gerrymandering. It dilutes the influence of
9 racial ethnic groups. In this case the example uses
10 Hispanics. Now, Hispanics traditionally tend to vote
11 overwhelmingly Democratic. Here's a group of Hispanics.
12 In this case they do vote Democratic. The Republicans
13 want to make sure they control the legislative body.
14 What they've done is put all the Hispanics and other
15 Democrats and the Democratic incumbent in one district,
16 packed them in that district, conceding this district to
17 them. They are controlling districts two and three.
18 Therefore, they'll control two of three votes. They'll
19 control the body. This is what the Republicans might do
20 to dilute the power of Hispanic voters.

21 On the right, Democrats are not blameless,
22 either. What they've done here is they want to protect
23 a white Democratic incumbent, see he is not voted out of
24 office by a Hispanic candidate. They've taken the
25 Hispanic voters and divided them among all three of

1 these districts so there are not enough of them in any
2 one district to prevail and the white Democratic
3 incumbent in district number one will be re-elected and
4 cannot be defeated by the Hispanic candidate.

5 Both of those are racial gerrymandering,
6 and both of them dilute the opportunity of Hispanics to
7 elect candidates of their choosing.

8 The people in the State of Arizona want to
9 clean up the redistricting process and make sure we
10 didn't have situations like we showed you on those two
11 previous screens, so they voted for Proposition 106 by a
12 56 percent majority, a pretty overwhelming majority for
13 an initiative measure, and created a new entity, the
14 Independent Redistricting Commission, and charged us
15 with this new redistricting measure.

16 We had to apply to be on the Commission.
17 It was an affirmative process. We had to fill out an
18 application. 311 people applied for the five seats on
19 the Commission.

20 The applications were all sent to the
21 State Commission on Appellate Court Appointments, and
22 they selected from among the 311 applicants 10
23 Democrats, 10 Republicans, and five Independents to
24 forward on to the Legislature for possible selection to
25 the Redistricting Commission for the party leaders of

1 the Democratic Leader of the Senate Jack Brown. He
2 selected Joshua Hall. Joshua owns a real estate title
3 company up in the White Mountain area, has several
4 offices in the Pinetop, White Mountain area, and is the
5 only Commissioner from a rural area. He brings a very
6 important perspective to the Commission.

7 The four of us got together and we were
8 given the names of five Independents who had passed
9 muster that the Appellate Court Commission sent on to
10 us. By that time one had withdrawn from consideration.
11 He accepted a paid lobbying position. And Prop 106 says
12 you may not serve on the Commission if an office holder,
13 have been an office holder within the last three years,
14 if an officer in a political party, or if you are a
15 lobbyist. So he withdrew.

16 He realized a paid position as a lobbyist
17 made more sense than an unpaid position as a
18 Commissioner.

19 We chose from the other four candidates
20 Steve Lynn.

21 Steve Lynn is from Pima County. In prior
22 years he has been a registered Republican and registered
23 Democrat. He covers the spectrum. He's now a
24 registered Independent. He's a senior official at
25 Tucson Power, Tucson Power Company in Tucson and

1 Unisource, its parent company. He's the Chairman.

2 We're the five commissioners given the
3 awesome responsibility.

4 Proposition 106 says the Independent
5 Redistricting Commission shall establish Congressional
6 and Legislative Districts. The commencement of the
7 mapping process for both the Congressional and
8 Legislative Districts shall be the creation of districts
9 of equal population in a grid-like pattern across the
10 state.

11 You may have picked up the grids. I'll
12 tell you what the grid is and most especially I'll tell
13 you what it isn't. You'll never hear me use the term
14 map when I refer to the grid. I'll explain why in a
15 while.

16 These are other requirements of Prop 106.
17 First of all, they have to comply with the United States
18 Constitution and United States Voting Rights Act.

19 Of primary consideration, first, the equal
20 protection clause of the Constitution, which was
21 emphasized by the Supreme Court in a very important
22 court case, in I think 1965, Baker vs. Carr, the one
23 person one vote decision, districts must be equal
24 population. Everyone's vote counts the same.

25 Second, the Voting Rights Act, which was

1 also passed in the sixties and has been amended since
2 then, most importantly for our purposes, in the
3 midseventies, provides for protection of minority voting
4 rights.

5 We must be very, very careful about that,
6 too, that we do not dilute the rights of minority voters
7 to elect candidates of their choosing.

8 B is really sort of a restatement of the
9 equal protection clause of the United States
10 Constitution, and it also adds it to the Arizona
11 Constitution.

12 Congressional Districts shall have equal
13 population to the extent practicable. That means pretty
14 close to exactly equal.

15 The population of Arizona as determined by
16 the 2000 census is divisible by eight. We have eight
17 Congressional Districts. They would like to see us have
18 eight Congressional Districts of exactly equal
19 population. We're going to get as close to that as we
20 possibly can.

21 If you look at the 1990 Districts and
22 compare them with the 1990 Census, if you divide by the
23 six Districts, there were three people left over, three
24 Districts with one person more than the other three,
25 just as equal as they possibly can be.

1 We'll come as close as we possibly can.

2 The state districts also state equal
3 population to the extent practicable.

4 The federal government and courts have
5 allowed a little more leeway in state Legislative
6 Districts. They've allowed deviations of plus or minus
7 the five percent of the ideal population. We'll try to
8 come much closer than that.

9 C, districts shall be compact and
10 contiguous to the extent practicable. No Elbridge
11 salamanders if we can avoid them.

12 D, districts shall respect communities of
13 interest to the extent practicable.

14 That's the main reason we're here tonight.

15 The term "communities of interest" is a
16 term coined by Justice Sandra Day O'Connor in a voting
17 rights case she used in an opinion she wrote on that
18 case. The only problem was she didn't say what it
19 meant.

20 We felt well, we could sit down and decide
21 what it means or ask the lawyers what it means. We felt
22 a better way to determine communities of interest was to
23 ask you what it means, ask you to tell us what you
24 believe are your communities of interest.

25 What groups do you want to share a

1 district with?

2 What are your commonalities?

3 What binds you together?

4 Why do you want to be with particular
5 groups in a district?

6 You can determine that geographically,
7 determine it ethnically, demographically, whatever way
8 you want to determine it, whatever is important to you.
9 That's what we want determine tonight.

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

13 Finally, to the extent practicable,
14 competitive districts should be favored where to do so
15 would create no significant detriment to the other
16 goals.

17 It's our opinion we have to satisfy A
18 through E. And if we can make districts competitive as
19 well, that's fine. But the absolute requirements are A
20 through E.

21 These are a couple things we can't do. We
22 can't look at party registration or voting history data
23 in the initial phase of the mapping process, but we may
24 bring it in later to test for compliance we just talked
25 about, primarily competitiveness; but it cannot be part

1 of the initial process.

2 And finally, the places of residence of
3 incumbents or candidates shall not be identified or
4 considered. We observe this very, very seriously.

5 At one of the earlier meetings somebody
6 stood up and started to talk about one of the current
7 members of Congress, where that person lived. Before he
8 could get it out of his mouth, our attorney at that
9 meeting stood up and said, "No, please don't say that,
10 because we're not supposed to know."

11 We take that very, very seriously.

12 The reality of that is when we are all
13 through, because we cannot know, nor can we consider
14 where incumbents are, it is highly likely that when
15 we're all through with this, there are going to be
16 people previously represented in different districts now
17 in the same district that want to remain in the
18 Legislature that have to run against each other. It's
19 not intentional but because of other criteria we're
20 using to draw districts and because of lack of knowledge
21 of where these people live.

22 In April of 2001 we received the facts of
23 our changing, increasing population. And it's pretty
24 amazing, a 40 percent increase in 10 years. I think
25 we're behind only Nevada as the fastest growing state in

1 the country, 3.6 to 5.1 million people.

2 Many areas, Maricopa County included, grew
3 faster than that. Look at Mohave County, 65 percent,
4 almost 60 percent in 10 years.

5 If you look at the population of Maricopa
6 County, it's almost as large as the entire State of
7 Arizona was 10 years ago. That's explosive growth and
8 is really changing the look of the state and will change
9 the look of Congressional and Legislative Districts
10 because of where the growth is occurring.

11 These are our tasks. Our first task was
12 to develop a grid-like pattern. We gave our consultants
13 instruction do that.

14 The grids were shown to us and the public
15 at the same time at a meeting, I believe, on June 7th.

16 The first thing we had to figure out was
17 what does the term "grid-like pattern" mean. We went to
18 the dictionary and saw lots of different definitions of
19 grids, but all had certain things in common: Straight
20 lines, regularly spaced. Talking squares, rectangles,
21 something of that sort, being an appropriate grid.

22 We then had to decide how to translate
23 that to the grid that is required by Prop 106.

24 We began looking at what could be the
25 building blocks of a grid. Our consultants recommended,

1 and we thought it made sense, we use townships as the
2 building blocks of the grid. First of all, townships
3 are regular. They are square, six miles on a side.
4 They have straight lines. They are all the same size.
5 And they are historically the way the State of Arizona
6 and all other western states were platted back in the
7 19th century when they were all surveyed.

8 So we decided to build the grid using
9 townships as the building blocks.

10 To insure neutrality, we wanted to make
11 sure we had a starting point that didn't have any
12 political connotations to it. Since using townships, we
13 chose the Gila and Salt River Base Line Meridian, which
14 is at about 115th Avenue and Baseline Road. That's the
15 zero zero point in the State of Arizona.

16 If you look at a description of real
17 property it refers to township so many north, so many
18 east, so many south, so many west. It is from that
19 point everything is figured. That divides the state
20 into four quadrants.

21 We decided that's where we'd start.

22 In order to pick the quadrants, we drew
23 lots. Northwest won. Then we flipped a coin for
24 clockwise, counterclockwise. Counterclockwise won. So
25 we started at the northwest, then northeast, southeast,

1 southwest, using townships.

2 Here's how it worked. Townships are very
3 simple.

4 In an urban area, a township could very
5 easily be an entire district. Some, much larger, an
6 entire District had to be split in many parts. A
7 Legislative District is roughly 171,000 people or a
8 Congressional District is 641,000 people.

9 When you move away from densely populated
10 areas, you aggregate one township and then turned to the
11 township grid for townships. If that's not enough, you
12 go to an intermediate township grid, 16 townships; if
13 that's not enough, a supertownship grid, which included
14 64 townships.

15 Townships provide a grid-like pattern. If
16 you look at the grid, it's not very townshipecy. That's
17 because the census geography provided the population
18 figures, used Census tracts for that. Census tracts are
19 not as regular as townships. Those were provided by the
20 Census Bureau. None cross county lines.

21 A lot of districts on the grid follow
22 county lines. That's because that's what Census tracts
23 call it.

24 Our consultants overlay, take the grid,
25 overlay it on the township, and whatever township has

1 the majority of the Census, they aggregated to make up
2 the districts.

3 The grid is only the first requirement of
4 Prop 106. It is a starting point, not a map. It is not
5 a proposal for districts. Whether you like it or
6 whether you don't like it, I can tell you it is going to
7 be changed dramatically because it takes nothing else
8 into consideration. It bisects communities, cuts Indian
9 reservations, neighborhoods into several pieces,
10 includes none of the other criteria we'll now
11 incorporate into the districts we'll be drawing. It's
12 just a starting point and will be changed dramatically.

13 We're now at the public hearing phase.
14 We've been doing this for two weeks and will conclude
15 this week the 24 hearings around the state and give
16 people a chance to tell us what they want the districts
17 to look like, then develop a draft map of the
18 Legislative Districts, a draft map of the Congressional
19 Districts, based on that input. Those draft maps will
20 be publicized. We'll provide at least 30 days for
21 comment.

22 We'll come back, have a new round of
23 public hearings. At that point we'll ask you to react
24 to the draft map. Have we done it right? Missed
25 something? Does it work for you or do lines need to be

1 changed? You'll have an opportunity to tell us that.

2 We're also required by Prop 106 to send a
3 draft map to the Legislature so they can also give us
4 input. We'll take all that input, take the draft maps,
5 and establish final district boundaries.

6 Although Prop 106 doesn't require it, it's
7 our intention if time allows once we have the final map
8 to have a very short period for final input; not a third
9 set of meetings, there will not be time for that,
10 website calls, et cetera, try to give people a week, 10
11 days to respond to the final district boundaries.

12 We will then send it to the Department of
13 Justice where it will be reviewed for up to four months
14 and precleared. Once they preclear the plan, we'll file
15 it with the Secretary of State and it becomes the
16 districts for the State of Arizona.

17 There are several ways you can contribute
18 to the process. You can talk later tonight telling us
19 what you think. The other way is filling in the citizen
20 input form you were given when you walked in the door
21 which I want to go over with you.

22 The first question asks for your name,
23 address, and telephone number. We need that so if we
24 have any questions about what you've written, we can get
25 back to you and ask what you meant. If you have a

1 question for us, we can get back to you, ask you a
2 question. Put down your name, address, phone number,
3 some way we can contact you.

4 Then let us know your major concern, what
5 you believe to you is the important aspect of this
6 process.

7 Then please give us some idea of the
8 boundary lines your would like to see in your area.
9 Tell us the boundary lines you don't want to see in your
10 area.

11 One person said there is a canal in my
12 area we might see as pretty convenient. Don't draw a
13 line by that canal, don't use that to draw a line. My
14 neighborhood is on both sides of the canal. Those kind
15 of things we want to see.

16 What areas, groups of lines do you want to
17 see?

18 When you tell us, remember, 171,000 for
19 Legislative Districts, 641,000. If you tell us there
20 are 241,000, don't tell us, there can't be.

21 Tell us what should not be divided.

22 Then there are a series of questions and
23 we'll ask you to rank the importance of these.

24 What information would you like us take
25 into account when we draw boundary lines:

1 Keeping a community intact or bringing
2 particular groups together, such as neighborhood
3 associations and minority group concentrations?

4 Using a man-made or natural boundary?

5 Drawing Congressional and Legislative
6 Districts that include whole cities or as much of a city
7 as equal population permits?

8 Using local government boundaries when
9 drawing Congressional and Legislative lines?

10 Keeping Census tracts from being split?

11 Using freeways and major transportation
12 routes for district boundaries wherever possible?

13 Drawing compact and contiguous shapes for
14 districts?

15 Rank those one through five.

16 It's very, very important. There are
17 three ways to get this citizen kit to us. If you like,
18 complete it tonight and hand it in before you leave
19 tonight. I encourage you, if you can do that, do it
20 that way. If not, if you want take more time to look at
21 it, mail it in. The address is at the bottom of the
22 form. But because this particular meeting is at the end
23 of the series of meetings, please do it very, very
24 quickly. We'll meet next week and start giving
25 instructions to our consultants as to what we'd like to

1 see as districts in Arizona.

2 We want to make sure if you have something
3 to tell us, we hear about it before we start doing that.

4 Please, if you are going to mail it, do it
5 as quickly as possible.

6 Another thing to do, go to the website,
7 www.azredistricting.org. The form is on the website,
8 and you can fill it out there and send it out
9 electronically.

10 I encourage you to go on the website. At
11 any rate, there are interesting links, frequently asked
12 questions, a lot of information about Prop 106, about
13 what we're doing, members of the Commission, and so on.
14 If interested, I think you'll find it useful to go to
15 the website.

16 If want to provide geographic detail, you
17 can get a citizen kit. Everybody should have gotten one
18 when they came in tonight?

19 MS. KNIGHT: Yes.

20 COMMISSIONER MINKOFF: A manila envelope,
21 a map with instructions, an area map for western
22 Maricopa County. If you want to, put your own lines on
23 the map, send it in, and say this is what I think a
24 district should look like.

25 Once again, if you can, please follow the

1 same criteria we have to: Equal population, no dilution
2 of minority interests, so your district meets our
3 criteria and we can consider it seriously.

4 This is our schedule: Public hearings;
5 development of plans; more public hearings; final plans;
6 early September submit to United States Department of
7 Justice so we receive approval of plans by end of the
8 year.

9 It's really important for people that want
10 to run for Congress or the Legislature, they need to
11 know the boundaries of their district. They need to
12 know who can sign their petitions and who can't. If
13 they want to run under the Clean Election Law and get
14 funding for their campaigns, they need to know where to
15 collect the right kinds of small contributions to
16 qualify for clean campaign funding. That's why we have
17 such an aggressive timetable.

18 It's applauding because I'm going to be
19 quiet now.

20 Now you have the microphone. I'll just
21 try to talk loud. It's much more important at this
22 point for us to call on you.

23 I'm going to call names of the speaker
24 slips I have.

25 Are there any others? Any that any want

1 to turn one in?

2 What we'll ask you to do is speak clearly.
3 Please spell your name for the court reporter so she can
4 get it in the record correctly.

5 Take as long as you need to make your
6 point; however, be respectful of all of the other people
7 that want to speak tonight. So we're asking you keep
8 your remarks as concise as possible.

9 If you have written material, you don't
10 need to read the whole thing to us. Summarize it. Turn
11 in your written material. I promise I read everything
12 that comes to me. I take this very, very seriously. I
13 read it. There are summaries from the consultants.
14 We'll get input in writing as well as verbally.

15 If you have a rather long presentation,
16 you don't have to read the whole thing. Summarize it
17 and turn in written back-up material.

18 Now is the time to hear from you. Drum
19 roll.

20 The first person is Priscilla Ann Gibson.
21 If you'll come up to the podium, please, use the
22 microphone. The second microphone is just for recording
23 purposes. That one works.

24 MS. GIBSON: My name is Priscilla,
25 P R I S C I L L A , A . , G I B S O N . I live in Sun City.

1 I'm in Legislative District 15. I'm a public relations
2 director, also known as gopher, and District Co-Chair
3 for years. I was, I should say. I'm no longer that.

4 The area I'm concerned about that has a
5 common interest with the rest of District 15 is that,
6 and it concerns Luke Air Force Base and a lot of other
7 things that go with this, is the area from Camelback
8 Road to Thomas Road, between 91st Avenue and the Agua
9 Fria River. This area has much more in common than any
10 other area that has been excluded. We want to keep them
11 with us.

12 COMMISSIONER MINKOFF: Thank you.

13 The next speaker is Richard Miranda.

14 REPRESENTATIVE MIRANDA: For the record,
15 I'm Richard Miranda, M I R A N D A, and I'm a state
16 Representative for District 22.

17 I hope everyone has gotten a map that I
18 gave out so you can follow along. And I also have a
19 breakdown of the demographics of our district.

20 I won't go into it too much.

21 I want to let you know it's a heavily
22 Hispanic District, well over 50 to 60 percent of the
23 District 22 population. The median income of this
24 District is approximately 21,000. And the education
25 levels are on the very last sheet. And it will show you

1 just approximately how much of our adults achieve a high
2 school diploma and how difficult it is for some of them
3 to achieve a college degree. Five percent of the adults
4 achieve a college degree.

5 The reason why I gave you this --

6 Thank you for being here tonight. It's
7 very important for this community.

8 I wanted to let you know our district is a
9 blue collar district. It's adults and families trying
10 to make a living. By no means can we afford the newest
11 homes. By no means can they send their kids to private
12 schools like some other communities, I know their
13 parents can achieve.

14 I'll be very brief. We're a proud
15 community. I wanted to show you a map, how District 22
16 stands right now.

17 When I describe District 22 to people
18 asking what area I represent, I tell them Central Avenue
19 all the way to the Agua Fria River, Thomas to the river
20 bottom. As you can see, it's pretty much a rectangle.
21 We're a minority district, again. We have several
22 school districts. I know as you've been having
23 meetings, you're trying to keep school districts
24 together. One of the problems is Isaac School District.
25 Some of the school board members tonight may want to

1 speak on it, also.

2 We have a split north of Thomas and 47th
3 Avenue, part of Isaac School District is not part of
4 District 22. As you can see, when you dilute a school
5 district, you dilute its representation and influence.
6 One of the suggestions is to keep all of Isaac School
7 District in District 22.

8 The other part is we also have part of
9 Cartwright School District in our area and part is not.
10 One area I'll suggest to you, Ms. Minkoff, is you add,
11 you can see on the map 67th Avenue, go up to Indian
12 School, then go to 83rd Avenue. That will include if
13 not all, most of Cartwright School District. I'm also
14 suggesting that you add a certain area which is at 35th
15 Avenue and Southern, a community known as the Cashion
16 community, known in the public lately, we're also asking
17 be included in District 22.

18 I've seen the grid you've show. It's
19 proposing taking out 27th Avenue to 67th Avenue to the
20 I-10 freeway and putting the whole section with a
21 different area. As you can see, our community has no
22 commonalty with a community north of us, all the way up
23 to Northern or Bell Avenue. We have nothing in common
24 with them. We go to different schools, have different
25 type of families. We are hard-working, honest, don't

1 have that type of income.

2 If you put this community, put them up
3 with another community way up north, they just wouldn't
4 have anything in common. We're asking you not do that.
5 Keep this district together.

6 My suggestion, and I wanted to propose,
7 keep the area Seventh Avenue all the way down to
8 Southern to the Agua Fria River, plus traditionally we
9 always had Thomas Road as the cut-off point,
10 traditionally always had Seventh Avenue. If we were to
11 do some changes, those are my suggestions. I suggested
12 keep all Isaac School District in District 22. I
13 suggested one area, Seventh Avenue to 75th.

14 You talked a lot about racial
15 gerrymandering vs. community of interest. I think we
16 don't want to be accused of racial gerrymandering in
17 this process. We want to keep our community of
18 interest. We want to make sure that area I just
19 described on the grid map not be introduced.

20 We talked about being geographically
21 compact.

22 I believe our district is obviously
23 compact. It's almost a rectangle.

24 We also talked about protecting minority
25 rights and obeying voting rights, also. I don't see how

1 the Department of Justice could in putting the whole
2 section of the community with a different community with
3 no commonalities at all.

4 As you go through all this, be considerate
5 of ethnic backgrounds, median income, and education
6 levels.

7 If I can add, right now there are 171,000
8 people in our community already. We are a perfect
9 district already. If one needs minor changes in here,
10 I'm sure we can keep this community very happy, keep
11 this community of interest whole.

12 Might I also say we also have communities,
13 the City of Tolleson, Community of Cashion, also part of
14 Cashion, I know parts of Avondale in the past that have
15 wanted to join District 22, a lot of Avondale, people
16 from Avondale want to speak on that. I'd be supportive.

17 If there is some way to add those, we're
18 very supportive of that.

19 The other part I want to talk about,
20 Congressional Districts, I want to say I'm speaking for
21 the Mayor of Tolleson. Unfortunately they have their
22 City Council meeting tonight. He asked me to let you
23 know, Ms. Minkoff, the City of Tolleson is concerned
24 very much and would appreciate it if you keep the City
25 of Tolleson in District Two of the Congressional

1 Districts. They feel they have more commonalities with
2 District Two versus District Three, which they're at
3 right now. Hopefully Mayor Gamez and the City Council
4 will finish their business and come down here. Maybe
5 they won't. He asked me to stress that.

6 They really want to be included in
7 Congressional District Two.

8 Basically that's it. Thank you very much.

9 COMMISSIONER MINKOFF: The next speaker is
10 Marie Lopez-Rogers.

11 MS. ROGERS: Thank you for the opportunity
12 to speak.

13 I just wanted to speak in my home town.
14 I'm Marie Lopez Rogers, L O P E Z, R O G E R S.

15 Good evening, Commissioner.

16 One of the hats I wear is Vice Mayor of
17 the City of Avondale, another is a lifetime resident of
18 Avondale.

19 Thank you for the opportunity to speak to
20 you in my home town. My name is Marie Lopez-Rogers.
21 One of my hats is that of Vice Mayor of the City of
22 Avondale. The other is a lifetime third-generation
23 Avondale resident.

24 I urge you to use the information on
25 communities of interest as I submit them to you tonight.

1 As the Independent Redistricting
2 Commission, your mission is to administer the fair and
3 balanced redistricting of the Congressional and
4 Legislative Districts for the State of Arizona.

5 Having been born and raised in the
6 Avondale area and on your trip out here, you probably
7 were amazed as I am at the rate of growth we are
8 experiencing in the west valley. Avondale is a
9 community of 36,000 plus people with very distinct
10 neighbors and yet we try to maintain our rural,
11 small-town feel with as much open space as we can keep.

12 We have been encouraging economic
13 development in the city, so we can continue to provide
14 our residents with quality services. That is not to say
15 we don't still have poverty levels similar to Central
16 and South Phoenix and the City of Tolleson. For
17 instance, in the areas of south and east Avondale, the
18 average yearly income is \$15,500.

19 We were an agricultural town where
20 families like mine worked for Goodyear Farms.

21 Many families stayed in the area raising
22 their children and grandchildren.

23 Right now our community is divided in many
24 ways.

25 We are very similar to the communities of

1 Central and South Phoenix and Tolleson in that we share
2 human services, such as the justice court and the
3 primary care center, not to mention the county social
4 services funds. We have a crisis in education among our
5 Hispanic youth in this country. And these areas of
6 Central and South Phoenix, Tolleson and Avondale, also
7 need attention.

8 In the map of federal funds distributed
9 for food stamps, Avondale is one of the highest
10 percentages of recipients.

11 For several years our communities have
12 been developing a transit system that is designed for
13 our special needs in the west valley. Our counsel
14 member, Peggy Jones, was instrumental in pursuing the
15 funding with much resistance but with great enthusiasm
16 and determination from our Representatives.

17 We have worked diligently to include a
18 skill center next to this college for the populations of
19 the areas I have addressed.

20 We, as a city, are aggressively seeking
21 funding to upgrade these areas of Avondale to basic
22 standards.

23 We have worked with our Congressional and
24 legislative representatives for funding to create an
25 improved quality of life. We do not want that to

1 change.

2 I feel we will not be represented in the
3 best interest of Avondale if we are included with
4 districts such as Sun City or Ahwatukee.

5 In redistricting our community, I urge you
6 to consider our interests and similarities in these
7 areas.

8 Please, as you begin drawing the
9 districts, remember the needs that Avondale has as a
10 community of common interest along with Central and
11 South Phoenix and Tolleson.

12 Thank you for your time. I appreciate
13 your visit to our wonderful city.

14 COMMISSIONER MINKOFF: The next speaker is
15 Mike Gleason.

16 REPRESENTATIVE GLEASON: I want to preface
17 my remarks. I'm not interested in Congressional
18 Districts.

19 Thank you for coming to the west side to
20 hear what we have to say.

21 I'm presently in the Arizona House, but
22 I'm determined I'm not going to run again. What I say
23 is in the interests of my district. I think I know my
24 district, and I think my suggestions are valid.

25 One of the things when you look at your

1 grid, may I call it a map --

2 COMMISSIONER MINKOFF: I wouldn't --

3 REPRESENTATIVE GLEASON: -- it looks like
4 a map to me, the area as you go down the Agua Fria
5 River, as was spoken of before, as you come to Camelback
6 Road, Camelback Road east to the 101 and south to the
7 I-10, that is an area that has common interest with west
8 of there.

9 One of the common interests is Luke Air
10 Force Base. In that area, there are a lot of military
11 retirees. They've been in that area. They have that
12 common interest and are represented by that common
13 interest. Also their interest is in the areas west of
14 them that are the new home development in there. They
15 are somewhat in that area.

16 So I would say that that area should be
17 included in 15.

18 The other area I want to talk about
19 Representative Miranda talked about. And this is, you
20 have in 15 now south of the 85 highway west of, I think
21 now it's 63rd Avenue, or something like that, and over
22 to the Agua Fria River, that area, as Representative
23 Miranda says, that area is primarily an area that is
24 similar to Cashion and Tolleson. That area is where
25 their interest is. Their interest is not particularly

1 on the west.

2 What I suggest is that the boundary should
3 come down, you know, as I said, west on I-10 till it
4 hits the present District 15 boundary. The present
5 District 15 boundary hits Goodyear and Avondale. And
6 then as it goes on down south and finally hits Gila
7 River and then back to where the seven boundaries are.
8 Those will get the areas of interest back together.

9 I think in your data, 15 is about 1800
10 people too large. I don't have the exact numbers. I
11 think this will tend to diminish population in 15, get
12 it back to the 171,000 people, one area go in, one area
13 go up, make the area of communities of interest that are
14 needed.

15 Any questions?

16 COMMISSIONER MINKOFF: Thank you.

17 Next speaker, Jose Cortez.

18 MR. CORTEZ: J O S E, C O R T E Z.

19 I was raised in Tolleson. I attended
20 Tolleson High School. I also went to Avondale High
21 School. Later we moved to Phoenix, attended school in
22 west Phoenix. I currently work for an organization
23 called Chicanos Por La Casa, one of the largest
24 community development social service agencies here in
25 the State of Arizona. My title is community relations

1 specialist.

2 So even though I don't live in this area
3 anymore, we do a lot of work with the west side areas.
4 We work with Tolleson, Avondale, with Cashion, West
5 Phoenix, and South Phoenix. And working continuously
6 with these areas, I find that there are many
7 similarities, such as a high unemployment rate, a large
8 percentage of AFDC recipients, low voter turnout, high
9 minority population, large high school dropouts.

10 These are some of the things that are very
11 similar to this area. And one of the things that I
12 would like to see is to keep these areas together and
13 respect the communities of interest that exist in this
14 region and not to split them into multiple assembly
15 districts.

16 And again, our constant work with these
17 communities insures that we are currently involved in
18 helping these communities so we're aware of all the
19 problems that exist. In fact, we will be in Avondale
20 putting on a health fair coming up July 6 and working
21 with other communities.

22 Bottom line, we'd like to see these
23 communities of interest stay together because they're so
24 similar.

25 Thank you.

1 COMMISSIONER MINKOFF: Thank you.

2 The next speaker is Woody Thomas.

3 MAYOR THOMAS: Thank you. I'm Woody
4 Thomas. One of my many hats is Mayor of Litchfield
5 Park. I'm also involved in other issues throughout the
6 state.

7 When I look at the redistricting, I can
8 only imagine what kind of difficulty you'll have in
9 drawing these lines. As I sit here and here where they
10 want lines to come in and go out of and I consider what
11 I had drawn, if they get their wishes, my map is no
12 longer valid. So somehow, to get all of them added
13 together will be a tremendous task.

14 I did draw a map that showed my city
15 joining in with many of the other Southwest valley
16 mayors or other cities. And that's probably because of
17 the commonalty of our interests. We're in the growing
18 edge of Maricopa County. We have school children that
19 attend the same districts. We have a Mayors' Breakfast
20 of five mayors of the southwest valley, Tolleson,
21 Litchfield Park, Buckeye, Avondale, even Gila Bend has
22 commonality, common interest in changing. The Southwest
23 Chamber of Commerce incorporates four areas.

24 Income, Litchfield Park has high income,
25 but I don't believe that separates us from some of our

1 southwest valley neighbors.

2 I'll leave the map.

3 To the extent practical, for district
4 lines, use visible geographic features.

5 One of us, those of us that chose to
6 incorporate into a city, like to remain with other areas
7 that incorporated as cities. As we know, there are
8 different interests by those that chose not to be
9 members of cities and those forms of governments.

10 I'll leave it at that. Thank you very
11 much.

12 COMMISSIONER MINKOFF: Thank you. Thank
13 you very much.

14 The next speaker is Francisca Montoya.

15 MS. MONTOYA: Commissioners and staff, Mi
16 Amigos (a further word is spoken in Spanish), welcome to
17 the west side. I'm Francisca, F R A N C I S C A, last
18 name Montoya, M O N T O Y A.

19 I'm here tonight to speak on behalf of
20 someone who was brought here to the West Valley at the
21 age of five years old. We moved from the State of Idaho
22 to Surprise, Arizona. And when I lived here, Surprise
23 was perhaps less than 1,000 in population. And if you
24 look at Surprise today, it doesn't look anything like
25 what it looked like when I grew up here.

1 I'm here tonight to speak -- hopefully
2 other people are here from Surprise. Just in case I
3 needed to make sure I came.

4 Surprise has the older district, what is
5 known as the Square Mile. And if you look at the
6 statistics of what that community looks like, it's very,
7 very different from all the new surrounding development
8 communities. So it's very hard for us in Surprise to
9 have any kind of political clout or power or
10 representation when we don't look, feel like the rest of
11 the surrounding communities, those being Sun City, Sun
12 City West, and the new development areas.

13 As you know, Surprise is projected to grow
14 at an alarming rate. It's now one of the cities in the
15 state growing at a very fast rate and is only expected
16 to continue to grow.

17 As you look at the west valley and the
18 expected growth in the next 20 years, I was reading the
19 newspapers during the stadium vote, it's projected to be
20 the center of Maricopa County in the next 20 to 30
21 years. I'm very concerned about my people in the Square
22 Mile, Old Square Mile.

23 If you look at families who speak another
24 language other than English, if you look at voter
25 registration rates and voter turnout, if you look at

1 incomes, property values, if you look at their needs for
2 public assistance and also for public transportation,
3 it's very different.

4 I'm here to speak not just for the old
5 residents of the Old Square Mile, also residents -- I
6 live in west Phoenix, grew up on the west side, and
7 consider myself very much a person very much from
8 Cashion, Phoenix, Tolleson, have very similar
9 demographic information and statistics about the people
10 that live in these pockets. And as you go about your
11 business of drawing up these legislative and
12 congressional districts, I urge you to keep in mind
13 these pockets of population have commonalities, very
14 similar; that you keep them intact; that you not divide
15 them; that you not split them; because that will only
16 continue to make people feel that there is no hope. If
17 I live somewhere where it doesn't matter what I say or
18 what I vote, where I never will have any victories, it
19 will make it very difficult.

20 I applaud you for what you are doing. I
21 urge you to keep thinking about the west side and think
22 about the west side, not divide, hope for the future,
23 our families.

24 Many of us come tonight from areas where
25 we've grown up and hope for the future. Many of us have

1 tried to increase the graduation rates. We try to give
2 people hope, a sense of renewed hope. We need your
3 hope. Only with your help will we be able to accomplish
4 something like this.

5 COMMISSIONER MINKOFF: The next speaker is
6 Dora Vasquez.

7 MS. VASQUEZ: D O R A, V A S Q U E Z.

8 This is the third time I've spoke to you
9 at these meetings. I appreciate the opportunity to do
10 so.

11 I speak to you about retrogression, the
12 minority-majority retrogression that appears on the
13 grids. There are currently seven majority-minority
14 districts. The grids allow five. We consider that we
15 should have 15 based on the population, knowing the
16 population, the age of voters, and youthfulness of
17 voters. We'll probably only get 10 minority-majority
18 districts out of that.

19 In addition, there is minority-majority
20 dilution in some districts: District 22, which was
21 Representative Miranda's district; District 21; and
22 District 7. I know there are a few others.

23 And I'd ask that most of South Phoenix be
24 moved on the grid to a district that encompasses
25 Ahwatukee and that Gilbert loses that community of

1 interest and place South Phoenix back in that
2 minority-majority district.

3 Specific to the area, specific to
4 Tolleson, I believe Tolleson has commonalty with South
5 Phoenix. The West Phoenix area should be placed in a
6 district that shares its commonalty of interest: Low
7 voter turnout, services, bus routes go along there, and
8 we can better serve the elderly and minority population
9 better if grouped into that district.

10 Finally, I'd like to ask if there is a
11 date set from which the public can submit a map to the
12 Commission. Is there a specific date?

13 COMMISSIONER MINKOFF: You can submit them
14 any time. The sooner the better.

15 MS. VASQUEZ: A week or two? When will
16 you consider maps?

17 COMMISSIONER MINKOFF: Late next week.

18 MS. VASQUEZ: Wednesday or so?

19 DR. ADAMS: We're starting now. Late next
20 week is fine.

21 MS. VASQUEZ: I'd ask the public be
22 informed a week or so many days. If the public is given
23 a deadline, maybe they'll move faster, get moving
24 faster.

25 I'm sorry to be redundant, but thank you

1 for giving me an opportunity to express my views.

2 COMMISSIONER MINKOFF: The next speaker is
3 William Arnold.

4 MAYOR ARNOLD: Good evening, Redistricting
5 Commission members and the audience, too. My name is
6 Bill Arnold, William Arnold, A R N O L D. I'm a Citizen
7 of the southwest valley and Mayor of the City of
8 Goodyear.

9 I wish to thank you for being here and
10 giving us the opportunity to speak. I think -- I've got
11 quite a few pages. I won't read them all. I'll go
12 through the most important parts I need to make.

13 Those of us in the public trust are
14 elected to represent the residents living in this
15 die-hard government, and we have the reality of their
16 day-to-day representation to help us keep listening.

17 Needs are great, but we are comprised of
18 communities of interest that bind us together in vision
19 and partnership as local governments and regional
20 organizations.

21 What do we need? We need Legislators that
22 listen.

23 And because of the common needs in the
24 west valley of very rapid growth, we are losing our
25 agricultural heritage.

1 Day by day we lose more farm land to
2 houses and commercial. And we -- we share in school
3 districts.

4 I know I've heard this from several
5 different people. We share school districts, and we
6 share shopping centers. We share quite a few other
7 things including responsibilities to our community.

8 We know that we can't, as local
9 governments, afford some of the big items that we
10 desperately need. And we need the partnership on these
11 items.

12 We also know that in order to partnership,
13 we need the help of our Legislators.

14 And that's the whole point of why I'm up
15 here today, to ask if we could look at the west valley
16 and common cities that are in the very high growth mode.

17 I'd like to mention some of those things.
18 Surprise was mentioned as one of them. Avondale is
19 another one of them; Goodyear; Tolleson is very
20 productive in development; Buckeye is getting ready to
21 enter a large development state.

22 We desperately need the representation.
23 And we need to speak with one voice.

24 We know that we've talked a lot
25 Mayor Thomas in Litchfield Park mentioned how we talk

1 and try to solve our problems on a regional basis.

2 We have many issues out there, including
3 transportation, including education.

4 We mentioned we are bound together to have
5 a skill center, Estrella Mountain Skill Center, an
6 integrated Chamber of Commerce, so we have greater
7 representation. And we also, in order to improve
8 delivery of skills in government, we have Southwest
9 Valley Academy, about 10 weeks of classes and take turns
10 teaching and give a certificate for that. That's taught
11 here at the community college.

12 There's a lot of farming industry we'd
13 like to protect. We'd like to go into this.

14 I know most of us are in District 15.
15 District 15 goes from Gila Bend to Wickenburg and takes
16 in most of my city of Wickenburg. I think it also takes
17 in Sun City and Sun City West, the population base in
18 those areas. They really have very little in common
19 with the rest of the West Valley and what we need.

20 What I'm asking is if you could consider
21 the boundary so that it would include the cities of Gila
22 Bend, Goodyear, Buckeye, Tolleson, Avondale, Surprise
23 and exclude the communities of Sun City out of District
24 15 or put it in their own district.

25 COMMISSIONER MINKOFF: Thank you very

1 much.

2 MAYOR ARNOLD: Thank you.

3 COMMISSIONER MINKOFF: The next speaker is
4 Barbara, is it Gatchell-Stephens?

5 MS. GATCHELL-STEPHENS: My name is Barbara
6 Gatchell-Stephens, resident.

7 COMMISSIONER MINKOFF: Spell it.

8 MS. GATCHELL-STEPHENS: G A T C H E L L -
9 S T E P H E N S .

10 I'm here to request redistricting of
11 Tolleson and Cashion to District 15, because we sit on
12 the border of Phoenix. And whatever Phoenix does,
13 Tolleson seems to get the overflow or no consideration
14 whatsoever. If we go out to District 15, we might have
15 better representation.

16 I'm asking this committee to please
17 consider that. I don't know why the consideration of
18 Surprise. You know, I have a problem here. We live in
19 the southwest valley. That's south. South is not in
20 the northwest valley. And that's about as far north as
21 you can get outside of going into Sun City. I don't
22 know why it's considered in the southwest area.

23 I would just like to see all of us in one,
24 big group and away from Phoenix. Thank you.

25 COMMISSIONER MINKOFF: Thank you.

1 The next speaker is Tom Brantner.

2 MR. BRANTNER: With respect, I'll decline
3 for the moment. Perhaps later.

4 COMMISSIONER MINKOFF: The next speaker is
5 Steve Gallardo.

6 A VOICE: Visual aids.

7 MR. GALLARDO: Yeah.

8 Good evening. My name is Steve Gallardo.
9 I'm redistricting chair for the Latino Coalition for
10 Political Action. We did a formal presentation at the
11 South Mountain hearing, submitted not one, two, three,
12 17 different community interests with respect to South
13 Phoenix, West Phoenix. I did exclude a couple of the
14 West, West Phoenix, West Maricopa County communities of
15 interest for the purposes of this particular hearing.

16 I wanted to come back and, matter of fact,
17 I brought three of our maps we submitted to the
18 Commission to just demonstrate communities of interest.

19 If you look at all of the maps we did
20 submit at the South Mountain public hearing, you'll see
21 they all illustrate pretty much the same thing.

22 This particular map was a map of the 2000
23 general election, proposition 203.

24 For you folks not familiar with
25 Proposition 203, Proposition 203 was a ballot issue to

1 eliminate the current bilingual program with a one-year
2 emersion program. This was a proposition the Hispanic
3 community overwhelmingly opposed, in some areas by
4 almost 80 percent.

5 This particular map illustrates three
6 communities I wanted to point out, one is City of
7 Tolleson, City of Avondale, and, of course, the City of
8 Surprise.

9 Well, let me rephrase, part of the City of
10 Surprise. El Mirage is there as a large community of
11 Hispanic residents did vigorously oppose the
12 proposition.

13 In the upper first half, the City of
14 Surprise, not City of Surprise, a part of the Old City
15 of Surprise and the City of El Mirage. The light colors
16 here represent those precincts that voted anywhere from
17 60 percent and up opposing this particular proposition.
18 Darker green areas are those areas that voted in support
19 of this proposition. You can definitely see the
20 difference in those communities.

21 If you notice, the Southwest Phoenix area
22 and South Phoenix areas, also lighter color shade,
23 color, vigorously opposed this, more in this particular
24 map. They have more in common, in interest with South
25 Phoenix and the West Phoenix area.

1 Looking down here at the Tolleson area,
2 Avondale area, again, these are areas of like interests
3 with Surprise, El Mirage, and West Phoenix, South
4 Phoenix.

5 This area, this particular proposition
6 opposed this proposition anywhere from 60 to 80 percent
7 voters voted against the particular proposition.

8 In surrounding areas that voted in support
9 of the proposition, again, they supported it anywhere
10 from 50, 60, in some areas 55 percent.

11 If you look at the Tolleson area, dark
12 red, this is a community that voted almost 80 percent
13 opposed to this proposition.

14 If you look at the community around it,
15 the green represents anywhere from 55 percent and up.
16 The olive colors are areas of anywhere from 35 to 45
17 percent in support of the proposition. Again, the
18 commonalty between Surprise and El Mirage area, Avondale
19 and Tolleson precinct, when looking at this particular
20 issue, bilingual education in the West and South Phoenix
21 area.

22 Again, these are only three of 17 maps
23 that were submitted to the Redistricting Commission.

24 Not only talking language, home ownership
25 was one of the 17 categories, and obviously, this map

1 was based on minority percentage voting, minority
2 percentage by Census tracts.

3 Again, dark colors or purplish colors,
4 lavender colors, anywhere from -- I'm sorry, lighter
5 colors, 40 percent or more, 40 to 60 percent minority,
6 darker colors, 60 percent above minority.

7 If you look at El Mirage and Surprise
8 precincts, dark brown, 60 percent minority, more in
9 common. Again, it comes to minority, more in common
10 with South Phoenix, West Phoenix.

11 Tolleson precincts, Tolleson is dark
12 brown, 60 percent minority, more in common with South
13 Phoenix, West Phoenix.

14 The Avondale, Avondale, dark brown and
15 purple.

16 Again, anywhere, purple is 40 to 60.
17 Brown, 60 and up percent minority, again showing three
18 different illustrations of commonalty. These three
19 areas have more in common with West Phoenix and the
20 South Phoenix area.

21 When we got all 17 maps and overlaid them
22 together, could see how they hooked, this area --

23 Oh, by the way, I wanted to just put on
24 the record on minority tracts, the outlying area up
25 here, north areas, which is the City of Surprise -- I'm

1 sorry, the Sun City West, Sun City, part of Peoria,
2 white demonstrate 015 percent minority. Outer colors
3 here, anywhere from 15 to 25 percent minority.

4 Again, you can see the difference in
5 communities, okay?

6 These two areas have nothing in common
7 with each other.

8 Looking --

9 Again, when we took all 17 maps and
10 overlaid them together to see where the commonalities
11 were in the community, again, you see the Surprise, and
12 El Mirage precincts standing out, Avondale One and Two
13 precincts standing out, and again, Tolleson One and Two
14 standing out. These areas have more in common with
15 South Phoenix, West Phoenix, when you look at all 17
16 different types of categories.

17 I ask when you do look at the different
18 communities of interest, you take in the 17 maps we did
19 submit for consideration.

20 I also want to make one other request
21 publicly, and that is we add additional time to this
22 public comment. We have met with -- it's such -- I
23 understand the Commissions need to get this process
24 completed. You have candidates out there that want to
25 get going, different governments needing to get going

1 for different elections. In order to get the community
2 involved, we need more time.

3 I was involved in a conference that
4 involved the Inter-Tribal Council of Arizona, a
5 telephone conference call, and spoke with, out of the 17
6 that were supposed to participate in the conference
7 call, nine did participate. One of the questions that
8 came up: We need more time. 17 different Indian Tribal
9 Councils wanting to participate in the process, "We need
10 more time to look at numbers, talk to folks, just to get
11 communities involved."

12 I suggest and recommend to the Commission
13 we add additional, more time for public comment, more
14 time to get involved in the process.

15 Thank you.

16 COMMISSIONER MINKOFF: Mr. Gallardo, the
17 consultants informed me don't have copies of your maps.

18 MR. GALLARDO: I apologize. The entire
19 presentation was supposed to be submitted. I apologize
20 if it hasn't been presented.

21 DR. ADAMS: My understanding is it was
22 supposed to be submitted. I understand it was supposed
23 to be submitted after this meeting. If you are supposed
24 to be submitting --

25 MR. GALLARDO: I have copy of the maps in

1 the trunk of my car.

2 DR. ADAMS: I'd like to mention at this
3 time, I think it's appropriate at this time, we'll be
4 accepting maps throughout the process; but the sooner
5 the better. So as we move through the process, as we
6 come out with actual maps, rather than just the grid,
7 there still will be opportunities for input and a whole
8 other round of meetings so people can get involved.

9 It will be really important get people out
10 to the second round of meetings if you have other people
11 you want to get involved and interested.

12 MR. GALLARDO: I think community leaders
13 would like to participate before the first draft map
14 comes out. They don't want to be proactive in the
15 process, want to be active -- not retroactive,
16 proactive, want submit ideas in the process. That's the
17 idea.

18 MS. HAUSER: Are the maps this evening
19 identical to the ones presented previously?

20 MR. GALLARDO: The three maps here,
21 Proposition 203, the minority map, and this, the summary
22 is of all 17 maps together. These three maps are
23 included in the bundle. I'll bring them to you right
24 now.

25 MS. HAUSER: Thanks.

1 COMMISSIONER MINKOFF: Thanks.

2 DR. ADAMS: Great.

3 COMMISSIONER MINKOFF: The next speaker is
4 Evelyn Shapiro.

5 MS. SHAPIRO: Good evening, Madame,
6 S H A P I R O, and P like Paul. I'm with the Isaac
7 School District.

8 Mr. Miranda spoke to you earlier. My goal
9 is to see we have 8,700 children attending school at
10 this time with the Isaac School District. We're in the
11 process of building two more schools, in 2003 we'll have
12 an additional junior high for all elementary K-8
13 schools.

14 Our children have a lot of problems. They
15 are mostly -- 90 percent of them are Hispanic. Some of
16 the things this young gentleman was just speaking about,
17 our community needs to be together, Hispanic families
18 believe in working together, pulling together. We need
19 to have right now -- well, part is in District 20, part
20 is in District 22. We'd like bond issues, and different
21 issues like that, to be all in the same district, 22,
22 because the majority of us are there.

23 I kind of used your map and drew a little
24 grid of my own. I'd like to pass that on to you. I'd
25 like to see it from 27th Avenue and Van Buren to Indian

1 School. This way the whole school district is en force
2 up to 51st Avenue. And there are some cutaways through
3 there. Most of it right now is in the District 22
4 except for a little slot of it from Thomas to Indian
5 School to the west of 39th Avenue and east of 43rd
6 Avenue to Indian School, that little slot. We feel like
7 we're dismembered.

8 If you could please put us all together,
9 keep us all together so our children go to the same
10 schools.

11 We're in the process of getting our
12 children into better educational programs, track them
13 getting into high schools and everything, then Phoenix
14 Union District High School, and then on to college.

15 Thank you for taking the time for
16 listening.

17 MS. HAUSER: The map you showed here is a
18 map presented and put on the table, I think, by
19 Representative Miranda. Just to clarify, this is not a
20 map put out by the Commission. This is a map that came
21 by a participant.

22 MS. SHAPIRO: Anyway, I'd like to thank
23 Mr. Miranda, too. I spoke last Friday. I brought other
24 people with me so they could understand, too, what's
25 going on with the school district so they'd understand.

1 COMMISSIONER MINKOFF: I have two more
2 speaker slips. If other people, if you changed your
3 mind and decided you would like to speak, please let
4 Ms. Knight know and we'll get a speaker slip to you and
5 picked up so you can also be heard.

6 The next speaker, Tom Brantner.

7 MR. BRANTNER: You called me earlier.

8 Never mind.

9 COMMISSIONER MINKOFF: Can't persuade you.

10 MR. BRANTNER: No.

11 COMMISSIONER MINKOFF: The next speaker is
12 Rosie Lopez.

13 MS. LOPEZ: Rosie Lopez, L O P E Z.

14 I'm the redistricting chair of the Arizona
15 Hispanic Community Forum.

16 10 years ago our organization was the
17 organization that did litigation against the Legislature
18 because we didn't like the lines and they were not in
19 our common interests. I just want to come back here.

20 I have testified before, but I wanted to
21 urge you to keep the communities of interest together.
22 Francisca said it very succinctly. So did
23 Representative Miranda. Matter of fact, I live in
24 District 22. I feel the same way about Isaac School
25 District. It should be contained in the same district.

1 I don't see any way of splitting different districts.
2 Parents can't talk to legislators in different places
3 and have to -- it's just not feasible.

4 I say that we need to -- I think you
5 really need to consider that. I think you've heard it
6 over and over again. I think you need to continue
7 hearing it.

8 I think our communities sometimes are
9 ignoring, I mention Surprise, for instance, Surprise and
10 El Mirage, they're really virtually ignored because
11 they're not in the right Congressional District. There
12 is no community interest there with the current
13 Congressional person that is representing them, really
14 not representing them, in my opinion.

15 I say -- I know Rachel Villanueva is not
16 here. She's the Chapter Chair of the Hispanic Chapter
17 Forum in El Mirage and Surprise, represents the west
18 valley, far west valley. I'll speak for her. She spoke
19 at the other meeting, South Mountain.

20 She strongly urges you keep her community
21 of interest within our own district. It has the same
22 poverty line, the same education level. She can never
23 even get -- she used to be a school board member, can't
24 get in anymore. Five Sun Citians are in there; there's
25 no way of having representation in their communities

1 there.

2 I strongly urge you take a hard look at
3 that and keep communities of interest there.

4 I also want to strongly urge you to extend
5 the time. I know you have some deadlines. I know you
6 want to have those maps ready for the Department of
7 Justice and also for the Congressional and Legislative
8 candidates. The reality is with litigation, it will be
9 a lot longer, extend a lot longer, once it's presented
10 to us. We need to analyze the maps. Won't take place
11 in the time given us. I urge you to give us an
12 extension on time. I think it's really going to be
13 needed. I think it's something very important to all of
14 us.

15 These Congressional Districts, these
16 Legislative Districts, are going to affect our lives for
17 the next 10 years. That means we may or may not have
18 representation with those policy makers. I really think
19 we're going to short change ourselves and communities if
20 we don't take the time to really sit down and look at
21 them. I urge you give us that time and yourselves that
22 time. It takes longer for litigation than if you give
23 us the time to analyze them.

24 MS. HAUSER: The last speaker asked for
25 additional time during the public input process that

1 we're in right now. If I understand what you are asking
2 for, you are asking for additional time after the maps
3 come out?

4 MS. DORRIS: Yes.

5 MS. HAUSER: There will be a 30-day period
6 until the maps come out.

7 MS. DORRIS: When I went to South Mountain
8 one day, that's when I saw them.

9 MS. HAUSER: Maps come out immediately and
10 are distributed immediately.

11 MS. DORRIS: I'm asking for both.

12 MS. HAUSER: How much time are you asking
13 for?

14 MS. DORRIS: Depends on how much time you
15 need to review the data. Maybe a couple months rather
16 than 30 days, sit down and take a look.

17 We'll also be submitting our own maps. It
18 takes time, these things.

19 We need to extend the time.

20 Also, for us to submit and analyze your
21 maps as well, see how to fit them in and arrive at
22 consensus with you. Okay?

23 I don't know the time frame. I'm not the
24 one reviewing the data. Some of our folks are reviewing
25 that. They are the computer experts. I'm not.

1 Take that into consideration. Please do
2 extend it. Okay?

3 Thank you.

4 COMMISSIONER MINKOFF: The final slip I
5 have, if there are any I'm missing, let me know, the
6 last one I have is Nancy Doris.

7 A VOICE: She has a slip.

8 MS. DORIS: I'm Nancy Doris, D O R R I S.
9 I represent the teachers of Isaac School District Number
10 5. Also represent the President of the American Isaac
11 Federation of Teachers, A F L I C O.

12 I'm second generation of this community.
13 I was raised in that area, went to schools there,
14 attended there where I also teach.

15 I'm really very proud of that district.
16 It really pains me to see the northern part of district
17 being cut off into another neighboring district. We are
18 a community, the Isaac family there. We collaborate a
19 lot with the community, work with the community,
20 incorporate the community with our academics. To
21 separate would be really unjust to the community.

22 We also write grants for the district
23 there. Some grants have a stipulation in how we write
24 and where they are used, what district they are used in
25 as well, too. That might have problems for us in the

1 future.

2 Also, I suggest we have District
3 boundaries of roughly 51st Avenue west; north, Indian
4 School Road; 27th Avenue east; and the southern boundary
5 being Van Buren.

6 I'm real concerned about the part being
7 cut off, the northern boundary couple schools. This
8 adds, there's a junior high couple schools being added
9 in that area.

10 We've taken a long road here working with
11 the community, bringing it together, collaborating,
12 working with children, and also helping them
13 academically grow in this area.

14 I see many changes through the years in it
15 being raised and also in my teaching time there and also
16 with the union things we've done for the children there.
17 I really hate to see anything separate us where we can't
18 have all the community helping this.

19 We're a strong coalition.

20 I agree with Mr. Miranda. To segregate is
21 unjust to the community.

22 This has come a long way. We have the
23 same ethnic backgrounds as other communities have spoken
24 of earlier. And I would just like to see this
25 partnership continue and not sever the community, not

1 sever the boundaries, not sever the legislative area for
2 these people.

3 We currently have eight elementary
4 schools, two junior highs, another Arcadia School being
5 planned there. And we are a district that has just very
6 small boundaries there. And it's really very hard to
7 find areas to build schools.

8 We're trying to make two levels, three
9 level schools, thinking of in the future to shorten the
10 area. It's being unjust to the future.

11 If you could please consider it, it's one
12 of the oldest districts there. We're very proud of it,
13 we're proud of the community working there. And please
14 consider not severing that district. I'd appreciate
15 that very much.

16 Thank you.

17 COMMISSIONER MINKOFF: Thank you.

18 Now the last speaker ship I have.

19 MS. LYNCH: Good evening. I did not
20 intend to speak tonight. As I sit here and listen to
21 what I'm hearing, I felt it very necessary I speak.

22 My name is Betty Lynch, B E T T Y,
23 L Y N C H. I'm a resident of Avondale, a wife and
24 mother. That all comes first. I'm also a City Council
25 Member. I'm speaking as a resident, however, that

1 happens.

2 I grew up in New England with a very, very
3 poor family. My father would have loved to have seen
4 \$15,000 as income. He got up at 2:00 o'clock in the
5 morning to drive 40 miles to pick up a milk truck and
6 deliver milk in the neighboring city, then came home
7 where we had a farm. During that time my brother,
8 mother, sister, and myself were harvesting vegetables
9 set up at a roadside stand and hoped enough people would
10 come out of New York City to buy vegetables to buy
11 vegetables.

12 Here people keep ethnicities together,
13 like things together. I'm who I am because I grew up in
14 a town that was mixed, learned from those people, grew
15 from those people, and went on to put myself through
16 college as an adult because I wanted to.

17 What I'm not hearing tonight is if we
18 separate the boundaries of Gila Bend all the way up to
19 Surprise, we are not going to be able to afford to
20 support our cities in order to garner the support to pay
21 for these cities, for roads, for sewers, for water. We
22 need the Legislators and we need the Congress.

23 If we cannot go there as a full body but
24 have to go in pieces, a little piece of Tolleson,
25 Avondale, all going individually as little districts,

1 we'll not be able to afford to maintain our cities. I'm
2 asking you to please keep our cities together.

3 Sitting on the Avondale City Council I see
4 how hard it is when the city is split into several
5 districts. When we don't have representation we need
6 because it's out in the Sun Cities. It's not where we
7 need it.

8 So help us, please. Help us go to our
9 Legislators and go to our Congressional Districts to get
10 the funding we need to be able to run and manage our
11 cities as a whole.

12 Thank you very much.

13 COMMISSIONER MINKOFF: Thank you.

14 And now maybe the last, last speaker slip,
15 Mary-Jane Gibson. M A R Y - J A N E, G I B S O N, very
16 straightforward, very stylish.

17 I'd like to get out first, like Betty, I
18 had no intention of speaking tonight. I was interested
19 in hearing what people had to say.

20 I'm an anomaly. I was born in Argentina,
21 grew up in Brazil of American parents. Being an
22 American in South America, I was a minority. Being an
23 American in South America with a father that worked for
24 an international company meant I was rich. When I came
25 to the United States, I was middle class. I lived in a

1 suburb of Chicago, I was bilingual.

2 But what I'm hearing from so many people
3 around here, because you understand I was a minority,
4 even though I'm Anglo, American, Caucasian, whatever,
5 what I'm hearing is divisiveness.

6 This country, when I was taught social
7 studies, geography, back in the old days when they had
8 such subjects, and civics class, this was the land you
9 came to to get away from restrictions, prejudices. You
10 wanted something more for yourself but especially for
11 your children, so you left people that didn't allow you
12 to do those things. You left someplace where you were
13 not allowed to think, to speak, to be yourself and not
14 be a representative of a group, whether it's religion,
15 ethnicity, or anything else.

16 Most of us have to admit that we are
17 immigrants or descendents of immigrants. The only ones
18 who can claim not to be immigrants are the Indians. And
19 they were immigrants because they came across the land
20 bridge.

21 We are all immigrants or children of
22 immigrants.

23 Why do we want to segregate and not
24 integrate?

25 If your community is poor, is educated and

1 at lower levels, such as Senior Miranda spoke of,
2 wouldn't you want other people to help you come in to
3 change that?

4 I live in Sun City. I live in Sun City
5 because my folks lived there and when my mom and dad
6 passed away, I had no other home. So I stayed. But I
7 don't consider myself a Sun Citian. I don't consider
8 myself an Arizonian. I consider myself me.

9 I think the idea of living in an area
10 where the boundaries are determined by, quote, "where
11 you live" is fine. But to make it so that you separate
12 yourself is harming your children. Because your
13 children have to fit examples. But you don't want the
14 examples to be from Chicago, New York, Los Angeles,
15 South Phoenix, if you are in West Phoenix or East
16 Phoenix.

17 You don't want them to try to attend
18 something that they feel they have to have, nor do you
19 want them to feel that they don't deserve it.

20 So if you want to keep your communities as
21 a community, that is great. But you can do that without
22 the boundaries.

23 Your churches, your civic groups,
24 families, Hispanics, especially, have an extended
25 family. Your family does not mean it's your father,

1 brother, sister, your spouses. You have cousins who are
2 cousins of cousins of cousins, and they are still your
3 cousins but not really that closely related, a sister
4 back there in common.

5 To say Surprise and El Mirage should be
6 separated and segregated and down here is
7 gerrymandering, which is what happened in 1990 because
8 Washington, not you, but Washington said to you, "You
9 must have this percentage of this group or we will not
10 let you have this map of your state." So all of a
11 sudden we had this funny little state.

12 One of the ideas people voted against what
13 we had before is we don't want the state chopped up. I
14 understand, for instance, West Arizona and a part of
15 Eastern Arizona are together, but they have nothing in
16 common, are separated by the width of the state. But
17 right now, they are in the same -- is it Congressional
18 District, Andi?

19 COMMISSIONER MINKOFF: Probably.

20 MS. GIBSON: The Parker, Navajo
21 Reservation, the same Congressional District. Why
22 should they have to be that way?

23 Indians -- Navajos don't have anything in
24 common with the people of Parker. If you want to keep
25 your community of interest, think about making it a

1 community that is surrounded, that you can incorporate.

2 Some of you resent Sun City, but how many
3 people in Sun City go out of Sun City to work without
4 pay?

5 A VOICE: Volunteer.

6 MS. GIBSON: I heard something about five
7 people from Sun City people are on the Surprise School
8 Board. How can they be, because Sun City decided --
9 Peoria decided Sun City was now going to be in the
10 school district. Too many Sun Citians decided they had
11 spent their entire adult life raising children, were now
12 tired of raising children, don't want to support schools
13 anymore, don't happen to like the idea necessarily, and
14 did have the right to vote against the school bond
15 issues.

16 Peoria said: Hey, wait a minute. There's
17 too many of them. Let's face it. There's a large voter
18 turnout in the area.

19 Many communities have to work very hard
20 with that. Get your people who are eligible to register
21 to vote and to vote. Now we can vote by mail. How hard
22 is it? If you can't afford a 34 cent stamp, support the
23 34 cents or a drive to raise the 34 cents to send the
24 thing in; but get the people involved, get communities
25 to work.

1 If the income level is too low, you have
2 people who have an education, knowledge, experience, and
3 the interest and desire to help.

4 If you can't help you, maybe your kids,
5 with your help, can get that.

6 You can't look for instant gratification
7 or results. Work for it.

8 Let's face it. They worked for things
9 since the early 1600s.

10 You have to get together to divide this
11 state. Arizona still is considered a nothing state.
12 The only thing, quote, "good" about Arizona is Barry
13 Goldwater, who a lot of people think was too radical.
14 The Grand Canyon, I understand, was shown as being in
15 Colorado on a stamp. A US stamp came out with the Grand
16 Canyon in Colorado, one of the seven wonders of the
17 world.

18 Arizona is an example of the work to go to
19 be together, not divvy the state up.

20 COMMISSIONER MINKOFF: Is there anyone
21 else who wants to speak that has not yet had an tonight
22 yet?

23 Then this would be the opportunity to ask
24 if there are any questions you want answered.

25 MR. LYNCH: I have a question. Jack

1 Lynch, L Y N C H, J A C K. You had mentioned you were
2 going to take input from the Legislature.

3 COMMISSIONER MINKOFF: Yes.

4 MR. LYNCH: Because here we go again.
5 Think about it.

6 COMMISSIONER MINKOFF: Proposition --

7 MR. LYNCH: How you input it, legislators
8 or citizens, obviously the input of legislators, you
9 already saw that. My concern is your board, how much
10 weight will you give this input?

11 COMMISSIONER MINKOFF: Proposition 106
12 includes a requirement that we send the draft maps to
13 the Legislature and we allow them to comment. I believe
14 it even refers to majority and minority reports, if they
15 choose to do that. They may very well submit maps, say
16 submit maps and say this is our suggestion. I don't
17 know how much weight we'll give their maps.

18 MR. LYNCH: They represent people. Do
19 they count as one or do you know?

20 COMMISSIONER MINKOFF: We'll look at the
21 maps and see whether or not they meet the requirements
22 of Proposition 106. That's where we get our marching
23 orders. So the weight we would give to anything, I
24 believe, and I'm only speaking for myself, would be how
25 closely it comes to meeting the requirements of 106.

1 MR. LYNCH: Without gerrymandering.

2 COMMISSIONER MINKOFF: That's part of 106.

3 Lisa, anything to add?

4 MS. HAUSER: No.

5 DR. ADAMS: One more question.

6 COMMISSIONER MINKOFF: In the back.

7 MS. MILLER: Pam Miller, P A M,

8 M I L L E R.

9 This particular meeting drew my interest
10 because in the area where we live, whomever drew the
11 boundaries, and I have a school which is a half mile
12 away I used to vote at, now I have to go eight miles
13 away. I agree with the lady that just spoke about
14 needing to get out and vote. Citizens need to be
15 involved. It makes it real tough for people with maybe
16 only one car to have to drive eight miles because
17 somebody decided to use a road as a boundary and
18 everybody on this side of the road goes eight, ten miles
19 this way and everybody on this side of the road goes to
20 the school where I always voted.

21 My grandfather lived here like in the
22 1920s, has been here a long time, and I've seen the
23 evolution of this. That's what drew me to it.

24 I was at a meeting -- I'm not working
25 right now, so I'm not so busy -- and one of the people I

1 know real well right now, she said just called the state
2 department, voter place, whatever it is, and twist the
3 right person's arm. You can go vote where you want to
4 go. I said, "That isn't about being a citizen. I need
5 to go and need to talk to somebody and need to say the
6 schools are the hubs of the community right now and
7 people go to the school for everything."

8 I as a citizen volunteer to do voting,
9 when the voting thing came up. I was at the Ruth Fisher
10 School District, and I had people that expected to come
11 from Arlington, Palo Verde, and Buckeye to vote at Ruth
12 Fisher.

13 Had I not been living in the area so long,
14 people from places expected to come some 20 miles away
15 could have voted right there in the school district had
16 somebody been knowledgeable as to the areas they live
17 in.

18 COMMISSIONER MINKOFF: I'll have to give
19 you another number to call on that. Although we're
20 drawing lots of lines, we're only drawing lines for
21 Legislative and Congressional Districts. The issue you
22 are talking about is where the precincts are located.
23 That's the county precinct department for each county.

24 There's one requirement, that all ballots
25 in a particular precinct have to be the same.

1 You can't have the Legislative Districts
2 and Congressional Districting write through the
3 precincts until after we finish our task, which is
4 another reason we have to kind of rush.

5 After we're through, Maricopa County has
6 to redo all the precinct maps.

7 MS. MILLER: Thank God. Had I not been on
8 the voting panel watching people vote, people that came
9 Palo Verde, people came from Arlington people came from
10 Ruth Fisher, all had bond issues. People on the bond
11 issues didn't send Ruth Fisher the bond issues. They
12 say only two people voted. They didn't even realize
13 this was part of it, because they're so mixed up.

14 COMMISSIONER MINKOFF: Precinct lines are
15 not by state or county lines.

16 MS. MILLER: But it's off what you do. We
17 have hope.

18 COMMISSIONER MINKOFF: Yes.

19 MS. MILLER: Thank you.

20 COMMISSIONER MINKOFF: Another question.

21 MS. GATCHELL-STEPHENS: Barbara
22 Gatchell-Stephens.

23 Your complaint is not with here. You need
24 to call Helen Purcell at the Election Board and really
25 speak to her, go down, get into her face about this.

1 This is a complaint of everybody for a long, long, long
2 time.

3 A VOICE: A County Board of Supervisor is
4 right there in the red dress.

5 COMMISSIONER MINKOFF: So much for being
6 anonymous.

7 ANOTHER VOICE: She's on the board.

8 MR. PALMER: Steve Palmer, District 15
9 Precinct Committeeman.

10 Everything I heard today, Martin Luther
11 King in the 1960s fought to tear down segregation. What
12 we're doing here, everybody wants to put segregation
13 back, wants community together. We didn't get diverse
14 sticking together.

15 Why fight so hard to put segregation back?
16 Martin Luther King fought to tear it up. I don't
17 understand why the minority issue is such a priority or
18 seems like that's the ultimate issue, we have to keep
19 one group together. Everything should be diversified.

20 I don't see why we need to stick with one
21 ethnic group. I just don't understand.

22 COMMISSIONER MINKOFF: Anything else?

23 May I thank you for your time, for your
24 ear, for your concern, for caring.

25 Please don't make this your only point of

1 contact. Visit our website. Send us messages, mail.
2 Please come to the next meeting at the next stage of the
3 process.

4 Thank you.

5 (Whereupon, the hearing concluded at
6 approximately 9:25 a.m.)

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