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
THE STATE OF ARIZONA INDEPENDENT REDISTRICTING

COMMISSION convened in Public Session on June 26, 2001, at 7:00 o'clock p.m. in Maricopa County at Estrella Mountain Community College, 3000 North Dysart Road, Avondale, Arizona, in the presence of:

APPEARANCES:

VICE CHAIRMAN ANDI MINKOFF
LISA T. HAUSER, Commission Counsel
FLORENCE ADAMS, President of NDC
ENRIQUE MEDINA OCHOA, Executive Director
ADOLFO ECHEVSTE, 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:

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
(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
California. He will not be with me.

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

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

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

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

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

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

Next, I want to introduce you to Adolfo Echeveste. Adolfo is our outreach coordinator. He and
his staff are responsible for setting up the meetings, arrangement logistics, et cetera.

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

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

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

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

Okay.

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

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

Are you the president or chairman?

DR. ADAMS: President.

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

Dr. Florence Adams is here tonight.

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

MS. HAUSER: We even agree with each other.

COMMISSIONER MINKOFF: That's what we meant.

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

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

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

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

In other words, at the first part, we want input, what you want districts to look like, what you don't want districts to look like. If you have questions about the process the Power Point hasn't answered, save it to the end of the meeting. We'll answer them. We promise we'll stay as long as it takes. I'll move back to where it is to run the laptop.
Excuse my back to those of you who will be looking at it.

There's gotta be an easier way.

Okay. Okay. Thank you.

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

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

Often in the past, and in other states around the country, even in the present, redistricting is a very, very politicized process, very divisive.
There have been charges of dirty politics, partisan politics, discrimination against racial, ethnic minorities.

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

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

Adolfo --

MR. ECHEVESTE: Point it the other way.

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

This is the actual outline, essentially the outline of the district he drew, a very weird shape he drew. The Boston cartoonist added a head, wings, added fangs and feet, said "It looks like a salamander." Remembering who was responsible, "Not a salamander, it's
That name stuck. Because he pronounced his name Gerry, it's a gerrymander, not gerrymander.

This is how a gerrymander works. This would be a political gerrymander, partisan gerrymander.

What we've got is the green party and pink party. And the green party has been in control, has been in the majority. And they want to make sure that they stay that way. So here are a couple ways they can do it. In the one on the left, you see that there are two concentrations of pink party adherents and the rest are green party adherents. What they have done is split up the pink party members in four different districts so that there aren't enough of them in any one of these districts to elect the people that they want. That will give the green party that has all these parties control of every single one of these districts.

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

On the other side is another way to accomplish the continued dominance of the green party. In this case, they haven't split the pink party up among four different districts. They packed them all in district four. In a sense, they are conceding district four to the pink party and giving them that district.
However, there are none of them in or very few of them in the other three districts. There is no chance at all of influencing the outcome of these districts. It insures three of every four seats in whatever this body is. That is called packing. Both parties have done it, and it treats voters very, very unfairly.

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

On the right, Democrats are not blameless, either. What they've done here is they want to protect a white Democratic incumbent, see he is not voted out of office by a Hispanic candidate. They've taken the Hispanic voters and divided them among all three of
these districts so there are not enough of them in any
one district to prevail and the white Democratic
incumbent in district number one will be re-elected and
cannot be defeated by the Hispanic candidate.

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

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

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

The applications were all sent to the
State Commission on Appellate Court Appointments, and
they selected from among the 311 applicants 10
Democrats, 10 Republicans, and five Independents to
forward on to the Legislature for possible selection to
the Redistricting Commission for the party leaders of
each of the two houses of the Legislature who made the selections.

The first selection was made by Jim Weiers, Speaker of the House of Representatives. He's Republican. He selected James Huntwork who was supposed to be here tonight. I'm sure he would be rather be here. Jim's Republican, an attorney. He lives in Phoenix. He was the first appointment to the Commission.

Next was the Leader of the House, Ken Cheuvront, Democratic. He selected me. I'm a Democrat. I also live Phoenix.

Once Commissioner Huntwork and I were appointed, that meant any other people from Maricopa County on the original list of 20 Republicans, 20 Democrats, were no longer eligible for the first four partisan appointments. Since Commissioner Huntwork and I both lived in Maricopa County, no one else was eligible.

The next one to make a selection was the Senate President, Randall Gnant, a Republican. He selected Dan Elder, also a Republican. Dan is a landscape architect. He lives in Tucson, Pima County.

The final legislative appointment was by
the Democratic Leader of the Senate Jack Brown. He
selected Joshua Hall. Joshua owns a real estate title
company up in the White Mountain area, has several
offices in the Pinetop, White Mountain area, and is the
only Commissioner from a rural area. He brings a very
important perspective to the Commission.

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

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

We chose from the other four candidates
Steve Lynn.

Steve Lynn is from Pima County. In prior
years he has been a registered Republican and registered
Democrat. He covers the spectrum. He's now a
registered Independent. He's a senior official at
Tucson Power, Tucson Power Company in Tucson and
Unisource, its parent company. He's the Chairman.

We're the five commissioners given the awesome responsibility.

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

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

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

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

Second, the Voting Rights Act, which was
also passed in the sixties and has been amended since
then, most importantly for our purposes, in the
midseventies, provides for protection of minority voting
rights.

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

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

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

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

If you look at the 1990 Districts and
compare them with the 1990 Census, if you divide by the
six Districts, there were three people left over, three
Districts with one person more than the other three,
just as equal as they possibly can be.
We'll come as close as we possibly can.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

What groups do you want to share a
district with?

What are your commonalities?

What binds you together?

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

You can determine that geographically,
determine it ethnically, demographically, whatever way you want to determine it, whatever is important to you.

That's what we want determine tonight.

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

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

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

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

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

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

We take that very, very seriously.

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

In April of 2001 we received the facts of our changing, increasing population. And it's pretty amazing, a 40 percent increase in 10 years. I think we're behind only Nevada as the fastest growing state in
the country, 3.6 to 5.1 million people.

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

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

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

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

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

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

We began looking at what could be the building blocks of a grid. Our consultants recommended,
and we thought it made sense, we use townships as the building blocks of the grid. First of all, townships are regular. They are square, six miles on a side. They have straight lines. They are all the same size. And they are historically the way the State of Arizona and all other western states were platted back in the 19th century when they were all surveyed. So we decided to build the grid using townships as the building blocks. To insure neutrality, we wanted to make sure we had a starting point that didn't have any political connotations to it. Since using townships, we chose the Gila and Salt River Base Line Meridian, which is at about 115th Avenue and Baseline Road. That's the zero zero point in the State of Arizona. If you look at a description of real property it refers to township so many north, so many east, so many south, so many west. It is from that point everything is figured. That divides the state into four quadrants. We decided that's where we'd start. In order to pick the quadrants, we drew lots. Northwest won. Then we flipped a coin for clockwise, counterclockwise. Counterclockwise won. So we started at the northwest, then northeast, southeast,
southwest, using townships.

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

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

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

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

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

Our consultants overlay, take the grid, overlay it on the township, and whatever township has
the majority of the Census, they aggregated to make up
the districts.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

The first question asks for your name,
address, and telephone number. We need that so if we
have any questions about what you've written, we can get
back to you and ask what you meant. If you have a
question for us, we can get back to you, ask you a
question. Put down your name, address, phone number,
some way we can contact you.

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

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

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

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

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

Tell us what should not be divided.

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

What information would you like us take
into account when we draw boundary lines:
Keeping a community intact or bringing particular groups together, such as neighborhood associations and minority group concentrations?

Using a man-made or natural boundary?

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

Using local government boundaries when drawing Congressional and Legislative lines?

Keeping Census tracts from being split?

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

Drawing compact and contiguous shapes for districts?

Rank those one through five.

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

    We want to make sure if you have something
to tell us, we hear about it before we start doing that.
    Please, if you are going to mail it, do it
as quickly as possible.

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

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

    If want to provide geographic detail, you
can get a citizen kit. Everybody should have gotten one
when they came in tonight?
    MS. KNIGHT: Yes.
    COMMISSIONER MINKOFF: A manila envelope,
a map with instructions, an area map for western
Maricopa County. If you want to, put your own lines on
the map, send it in, and say this is what I think a
district should look like.

    Once again, if you can, please follow the
same criteria we have to: Equal population, no dilution
of minority interests, so your district meets our
criteria and we can consider it seriously.

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

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

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

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

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

Are there any others? Any that any want
to turn one in?

What we'll ask you to do is speak clearly.

Please spell your name for the court reporter so she can get it in the record correctly.

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

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

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

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

The first person is Priscilla Ann Gibson.

If you'll come up to the podium, please, use the microphone. The second microphone is just for recording purposes. That one works.

MS. GIBSON: My name is Priscilla, PRISCILLA, A., GIBSON. I live in Sun City.
I'm in Legislative District 15. I'm a public relations director, also known as gopher, and District Co-Chair for years. I was, I should say. I'm no longer that.

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

COMMISSIONER MINKOFF: Thank you.

The next speaker is Richard Miranda.

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

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

I won't go into it too much.

I want to let you know it's a heavily Hispanic District, well over 50 to 60 percent of the District 22 population. The median income of this District is approximately 21,000. And the education levels are on the very last sheet. And it will show you
just approximately how much of our adults achieve a high
school diploma and how difficult it is for some of them
to achieve a college degree. Five percent of the adults
achieve a college degree.

The reason why I gave you this --

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

We talked about being geographically
compact.

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

We also talked about protecting minority
rights and obeying voting rights, also. I don't see how
the Department of Justice could in putting the whole
section of the community with a different community with
no commonalities at all.

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

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

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

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

   The other part I want to talk about,
Congressional Districts, I want to say I'm speaking for
the Mayor of Tolleson. Unfortunately they have their
City Council meeting tonight. He asked me to let you
know, Ms. Minkoff, the City of Tolleson is concerned
very much and would appreciate it if you keep the City
of Tolleson in District Two of the Congressional
Districts. They feel they have more commonalities with District Two versus District Three, which they're at right now. Hopefully Mayor Gamez and the City Council will finish their business and come down here. Maybe they won't. He asked me to stress that. They really want to be included in Congressional District Two.

Basically that's it. Thank you very much.

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

MS. ROGERS: Thank you for the opportunity to speak.
I just wanted to speak in my home town.

I'm Marie Lopez Rogers, L O P E Z, R O G E R S.

Good evening, Commissioner.

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

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

I urge you to use the information on communities of interest as I submit them to you tonight.
As the Independent Redistricting Commission, your mission is to administer the fair and balanced redistricting of the Congressional and Legislative Districts for the State of Arizona.

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

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

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

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

Right now our community is divided in many ways.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

COMMISSIONER MINKOFF: The next speaker is Mike Gleason.

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

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

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

One of the things when you look at your
grid, may I call it a map --

COMMISSIONER MINKOFF: I wouldn't --

REPRESENTATIVE GLEASON: -- it looks like

a map to me, the area as you go down the Agua Fria
River, as was spoken of before, as you come to Camelback
Road, Camelback Road east to the 101 and south to the
I-10, that is an area that has common interest with west
of there.

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

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

The other area I want to talk about

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

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

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

Any questions?

COMMISSIONER MINKOFF: Thank you.

Next speaker, Jose Cortez.

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

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

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

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

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

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

Thank you.
COMMISSIONER MINKOFF: Thank you.

The next speaker is Woody Thomas.

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

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

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

Income, Litchfield Park has high income, but I don't believe that separates us from some of our
southwest valley neighbors.

I'll leave the map.

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

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

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

COMMISSIONER MINKOFF: Thank you. Thank you very much.

The next speaker is Francisca Montoya.

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

I'm here tonight to speak on behalf of someone who was brought here to the West Valley at the age of five years old. We moved from the State of Idaho to Surprise, Arizona. And when I lived here, Surprise was perhaps less than 1,000 in population. And if you look at Surprise today, it doesn't look anything like what it looked like when I grew up here.
I'm here tonight to speak -- hopefully other people are here from Surprise. Just in case I needed to make sure I came.

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

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

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

If you look at families who speak another language other than English, if you look at voter registration rates and voter turnout, if you look at
incomes, property values, if you look at their needs for
public assistance and also for public transportation,
it's very different.

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

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

Many of us come tonight from areas where
we've grown up and hope for the future. Many of us have
tried to increase the graduation rates. We try to give
people hope, a sense of renewed hope. We need your
hope. Only with your help will we be able to accomplish
something like this.

COMMISSIONER MINKOFF: The next speaker is
Dora Vasquez.

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

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

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

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

And I'd ask that most of South Phoenix be
moved on the grid to a district that encompasses
Ahwatukee and that Gilbert loses that community of
interest and place South Phoenix back in that minority-majority district.

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

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

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

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

COMMISSIONER MINKOFF: Late next week.

MS. VASQUEZ: Wednesday or so?

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

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

I'm sorry to be redundant, but thank you
for giving me an opportunity to express my views.

COMMISSIONER MINKOFF: The next speaker is William Arnold.

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

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

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

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

What do we need? We need Legislators that listen.

And because of the common needs in the west valley of very rapid growth, we are losing our agricultural heritage.
Day by day we lose more farm land to houses and commercial. And we -- we share in school districts.

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

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

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

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

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

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

We know that we've talked a lot Mayor Thomas in Litchfield Park mentioned how we talk
and try to solve our problems on a regional basis.

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

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

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

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

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

COMMISSIONER MINKOFF: Thank you very
MAYOR ARNOLD: Thank you.

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

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

COMMISSIONER MINKOFF: Spell it.

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

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

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

I would just like to see all of us in one, big group and away from Phoenix. Thank you.
The next speaker is Tom Brantner.

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

COMMISSIONER MINKOFF: The next speaker is
Steve Gallardo.

A VOICE: Visual aids.

MR. GALLARDO: Yeah.

Good evening. My name is Steve Gallardo.

I'm redistricting chair for the Latino Coalition for
Political Action. We did a formal presentation at the
South Mountain hearing, submitted not one, two, three,
17 different community interests with respect to South
Phoenix, West Phoenix. I did exclude a couple of the
West, West Phoenix, West Maricopa County communities of
interest for the purposes of this particular hearing.

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

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

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

For you folks not familiar with
Proposition 203, Proposition 203 was a ballot issue to
eliminate the current bilingual program with a one-year
emersion program. This was a proposition the Hispanic
community overwhelmingly opposed, in some areas by
almost 80 percent.

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

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

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

If you notice, the Southwest Phoenix area
and South Phoenix areas, also lighter color shade,
color, vigorously opposed this, more in this particular
map. They have more in common, in interest with South
Phoenix and the West Phoenix area.
Looking down here at the Tolleson area, Avondale area, again, these are areas of like interests with Surprise, El Mirage, and West Phoenix, South Phoenix.

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

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

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

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

Again, these are only three of 17 maps that were submitted to the Redistricting Commission. Not only talking language, home ownership was one of the 17 categories, and obviously, this map
was based on minority percentage voting, minority percentage by Census tracts.

Again, dark colors or purplish colors, lavender colors, anywhere from -- I'm sorry, lighter colors, 40 percent or more, 40 to 60 percent minority, darker colors, 60 percent above minority. If you look at El Mirage and Surprise precincts, dark brown, 60 percent minority, more in common. Again, it comes to minority, more in common with South Phoenix, West Phoenix.

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

The Avondale, Avondale, dark brown and purple. Again, anywhere, purple is 40 to 60. Brown, 60 and up percent minority, again showing three different illustrations of commonalty. These three areas have more in common with West Phoenix and the South Phoenix area.

When we got all 17 maps and overlaid them together, could see how they hooked, this area -- Oh, by the way, I wanted to just put on the record on minority tracts, the outlying area up here, north areas, which is the City of Surprise -- I'm
sorry, the Sun City West, Sun City, part of Peoria,
white demonstrate 015 percent minority. Outer colors
here, anywhere from 15 to 25 percent minority.
Again, you can see the difference in
communities, okay?
These two areas have nothing in common
with each other.
Looking --
Again, when we took all 17 maps and
overlaid them together to see where the commonalities
were in the community, again, you see the Surprise, and
El Mirage precincts standing out, Avondale One and Two
precincts standing out, and again, Tolleson One and Two
standing out. These areas have more in common with
South Phoenix, West Phoenix, when you look at all 17
different types of categories.
I ask when you do look at the different
communities of interest, you take in the 17 maps we did
submit for consideration.
I also want to make one other request
publicly, and that is we add additional time to this
public comment. We have met with -- it's such -- I
understand the Commissions need to get this process
completed. You have candidates out there that want to
get going, different governments needing to get going
for different elections. In order to get the community involved, we need more time.

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

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

Thank you.

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

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

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

MR. GALLARDO: I have copy of the maps in
the trunk of my car.

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

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

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

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

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

MS. HAUSER: Thanks.
COMMISSIONER MINKOFF: Thanks.

DR. ADAMS: Great.

COMMISSIONER MINKOFF: The next speaker is

Evelyn Shapiro.

MS. SHAPIRO: Good evening, Madame,

S H A P I R O, and P like Paul. I'm with the Isaac

School District.

Mr. Miranda spoke to you earlier. My goal

is to see we have 8,700 children attending school at
this time with the Isaac School District. We're in the
process of building two more schools, in 2003 we'll have
an additional junior high for all elementary K-8
schools.

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

I kind of used your map and drew a little
grid of my own. I'd like to pass that on to you. I'd
like to see it from 27th Avenue and Van Buren to Indian
School. This way the whole school district is in force up to 51st Avenue. And there are some cutaways through there. Most of it right now is in the District 22 except for a little slot of it from Thomas to Indian School to the west of 39th Avenue and east of 43rd Avenue to Indian School, that little slot. We feel like we're dismembered.

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

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

Thank you for taking the time for listening.

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

MS. SHAPIRO: Anyway, I'd like to thank Mr. Miranda, too. I spoke last Friday. I brought other people with me so they could understand, too, what's going on with the school district so they'd understand.
COMMISSIONER MINKOFF: I have two more
speaker slips. If other people, if you changed your
mind and decided you would like to speak, please let
Ms. Knight know and we'll get a speaker slip to you and
picked up so you can also be heard.
The next speaker, Tom Brantner.

MR. BRANTNER: You called me earlier.

Never mind.

COMMISSIONER MINKOFF: Can't persuade you.

MR. BRANTNER: No.

COMMISSIONER MINKOFF: The next speaker is
Rosie Lopez.

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

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

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

I have testified before, but I wanted to
urge you to keep the communities of interest together.
Francisca said it very succinctly. So did
Representative Miranda. Matter of fact, I live in
District 22. I feel the same way about Isaac School
District. It should be contained in the same district.
I don't see any way of splitting different districts. Parents can't talk to legislators in different places and have to -- it's just not feasible.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

MS. HAUSER: The last speaker asked for additional time during the public input process that
we're in right now. If I understand what you are asking for, you are asking for additional time after the maps come out?

MS. DORRIS: Yes.

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

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

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

MS. DORRIS: I'm asking for both.

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

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

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

We need to extend the time.

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

I don't know the time frame. I'm not the one reviewing the data. Some of our folks are reviewing that. They are the computer experts. I'm not.
Take that into consideration. Please do extend it. Okay?

Thank you.

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

A VOICE: She has a slip.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

We're a strong coalition.

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

This has come a long way. We have the same ethnic backgrounds as other communities have spoken of earlier. And I would just like to see this partnership continue and not sever the community, not
sever the boundaries, not sever the legislative area for these people.

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

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

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

Thank you.

COMMISSIONER MINKOFF: Thank you.

Now the last speaker ship I have.

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

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

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

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

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

If we cannot go there as a full body but have to go in pieces, a little piece of Tolleson, Avondale, all going individually as little districts,
we'll not be able to afford to maintain our cities. I'm asking you to please keep our cities together.

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

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

Thank you very much.

COMMISSIONER MINKOFF: Thank you.

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

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

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

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

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

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

    We are all immigrants or children of
immigrants.

    Why do we want to segregate and not
integrate?

    If your community is poor, is educated and
at lower levels, such as Senior Miranda spoke of, wouldn't you want other people to help you come in to change that?

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

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

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

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

Your churches, your civic groups, families, Hispanics, especially, have an extended family. Your family does not mean it's your father,
brother, sister, your spouses. You have cousins who are
cousins of cousins of cousins, and they are still your
cousins but not really that closely related, a sister
back there in common.

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

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

COMMISSIONER MINKOFF: Probably.

MS. GIBSON: The Parker, Navajo

Reservation, the same Congressional District. Why
should they have to be that way?

Indians -- Navajos don't have anything in
common with the people of Parker. If you want to keep
your community of interest, think about making it a
Some of you resent Sun City, but how many people in Sun City go out of Sun City to work without pay?

A VOICE: Volunteer.

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

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

Many communities have to work very hard with that. Get your people who are eligible to register to vote and to vote. Now we can vote by mail. How hard is it? If you can't afford a 34 cent stamp, support the 34 cents or a drive to raise the 34 cents to send the thing in; but get the people involved, get communities to work.
If the income level is too low, you have people who have an education, knowledge, experience, and the interest and desire to help.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

MR. LYNCH: I have a question. Jack
Lynch, L Y N C H, J A C K. You had mentioned you were
going to take input from the Legislature.

COMMISSIONER MINKOFF: Yes.

MR. LYNCH: Because here we go again.

Think about it.

COMMISSIONER MINKOFF: Proposition --

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

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

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

COMMISSIONER MINKOFF: We'll look at the
maps and see whether or not they meet the requirements
of Proposition 106. That's where we get our marching
orders. So the weight we would give to anything, I
believe, and I'm only speaking for myself, would be how
closely it comes to meeting the requirements of 106.
MR. LYNCH: Without gerrymandering.

COMMISSIONER MINKOFF: That's part of 106.

Lisa, anything to add?

MS. HAUSER: No.

DR. ADAMS: One more question.

COMMISSIONER MINKOFF: In the back.

MS. MILLER: Pam Miller, P A M,

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

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

I was at a meeting -- I'm not working right now, so I'm not so busy -- and one of the people I
know real well right now, she said just called the state
department, voter place, whatever it is, and twist the
right person's arm. You can go vote where you want to
go. I said, "That isn't about being a citizen. I need
to go and need to talk to somebody and need to say the
schools are the hubs of the community right now and
people go to the school for everything."

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

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

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

There's one requirement, that all ballots
in a particular precinct have to be the same.
You can't have the Legislative Districts
and Congressional Districting write through the
precincts until after we finish our task, which is
another reason we have to kind of rush.

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

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

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

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

COMMISSIONER MINKOFF: Yes.

MS. MILLER: Thank you.

COMMISSIONER MINKOFF: Another question.

MS. GATCHELL-STEPHENS: Barbara

Gatchell-Stephens.

Your complaint is not with here. You need
to call Helen Purcell at the Election Board and really
speak to her, go down, get into her face about this.
This is a complaint of everybody for a long, long, long time.

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

COMMISSIONER MINKOFF: So much for being anonymous.

ANOTHER VOICE: She's on the board.

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

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

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

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

COMMISSIONER MINKOFF: Anything else?

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

Please don't make this your only point of
contact. Visit our website. Send us messages, mail.

Please come to the next meeting at the next stage of the process.

Thank you.

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

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

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

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