THE STATE OF ARIZONA INDEPENDENT REDISTRICTING

COMMISSION convened in Public Session on September 4, 2001, at 1:00 o'clock p.m., in Maricopa County at Estrella Mountain Community College, 3000 North Dysart Road, Avondale, Arizona, in the presence of:

APPEARANCES:

CHAIRMAN STEVEN W. LYNN

VICE CHAIRMAN ANDI E. MINKOFF

LISA HAUSER, Commission Counsel

JOSE DE JESUS RIVERA, Commission Counsel

ALAN HESLOP, NDC, Consultant

MARIION PORCH, NDC Support Staff

ADOLFO ECHEVESTE, Executive Director

CINDY LE, Commission Staff

PAUL CULLOR, Outreach Staff

MIKE SAUNDERS, Outreach Staff

Spanish Interpreter

LISA A. NANCE, RPR, CCR, Court Reporter

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Phoenix, Arizona
PRESENTATION BY:
VICE CHAIRMAN ANDI MINKOFF

SPEAKERS FROM CALL TO THE PUBLIC:

MAYOR WOODY THOMAS
MAYOR WILLIAM ARNOLD
MR. BRENT HEISS
MS. NAME HOUX
MAYOR RON DRAKE
MR. RICHARD HOPKINS
COUNCILWOMAN BETTY S. LYNCH
GLORIA O'DONNELL
MR. RUDOLFO H. PEREZ, JR.
MR. DAVID JONES
ANONYMOUS SPEAKER
MS. SHARAYN HOHMA
MR. STEVE GALLARDO
VICE MAYOR MARIE LOPEZ ROGERS - Avondale
MR. BRENT HEISS

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CHAIRMAN LYNN: I'd like to call the meeting of the Independent Redistricting Commission to order.

I'd like the record to show Vice Chairman Minkoff and I are present with our consultant and legal counsel, Lisa Hauser.

(Whereupon the Chairman asks the audience in Spanish if anyone needs the services of an interpreter. No one indicates the need for an interpreter.)

CHAIRMAN LYNN: This afternoon we're here to hear from the public on the Congressional and Legislative draft maps published. We have, as is our usual custom, to give you a historical view of where we are and how we got there, a Power Point presentation.

We'd ask the Vice Chairman of the Commission, Andrea Minkoff, to present that Power Point presentation at this time.
This is Mr. Echeveste, our Executive Director. He has in his hand speaker slips which you need to fill out if you wish to address the Commission this afternoon. If you'd raise your hand if you need a speaker slip, Mr. Echeveste will get you one if you wish to be heard later this afternoon.

Ms. Minkoff.

COMMISSIONER MINKOFF: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Ladies and gentlemen, I want to add my welcome to those of the Chairman.

This is one in the second round of public hearings. We're holding these hearings in many parts of the state and we're going to begin with the Power Point presentation.

Tonight we'll be at South Mountain Community College at 6:30. I'd invite you to that meeting as well.

The purpose of these hearings is to obtain your opinions on the draft plans we've developed. We'll be showing examples of the districts we've drawn and explain why we drew them the way we did. There are also maps you may have picked up or you can pick up on the table near the entrance. There are maps up on the wall that you can look at after the meeting. And there are
also citizen kits that are in manila envelopes like this. I hope you each pick one up. They're full of all kinds of good information.

There are maps there with details and it explains each of the districts for you.

If you don't have one and want one right now, once again, raise your hand and someone from the staff can bring these in and get one to you.

Please remember, the maps we're going to show this afternoon are drafts. We know they can be improved. Some have already told us ways they can be improved. We know they can be improved. We believe they can be improved.

Last year the people voted by a substantial majority to establish the Redistricting Commission. Proposition 106 established criteria for drawing new districts. These are criteria as stated in Proposition 106.

The first two criteria listed up there as A and B, right there, are actually federal criteria. We have to comply with the United States Constitution, and we have to comply with the Voting Rights Act.

The United States Constitution says we have to have districts that are essentially equal in population. The Voting Rights Act says that we have to
protect the rights of minorities to elect candidates of
their choosing.

We are subject to Title V of the Voting
Rights Act. And before our districts go into effect,
the US Department of Justice will have to preclear them,
will have to approve them.

Rule C says districts shall be
geographically compact and contiguous to the extent
practicable.

D says the same thing about respecting
communities of interest, to the extent practicable.

E says that we should use visible
geographic features, political boundaries, city limits,
county boundaries, and undivided Census tracts.

The last of the rules, rule F, requires us
to try to make competitive districts.

Once we've addressed other criteria, we
need to address districts so long as it creates no
significant detriment to other criteria. I'll address
that specific criteria later on.

Proposition 106 had something unique in
it. No other state had such a requirement. We had to
begin designing a grid with geometric lines as a
beginning point with population equality as the only
consideration. The only thing we had to create was
eight Congressional Districts and 30 Legislative
Districts with essentially equal population.

In designing the grid we decided to use
townships and give you a pretty grid-like pattern of
building blocks. We then combined whole Census tracts
to combine whole population.

Here are the Congressional and Legislative
 grids. You may say she said townships and straight
lines and grid, all of that, and that doesn't look very
grid-like. That's because of the imposition of Census
tracts on townships to provide for equal population.
Census tracts never cross county boundaries. That's why
you see county boundaries as the lines. Census tracts
are usually irregular in shape. That accounts for the
nongrid like look of our grid.

New grids would have to be adjusted,
because the don't satisfy all the other requirements of
106. They are fairly compact and contiguous, use
undivided Census tracts, split cities, split counties,
split Indian Reservations.

We do have to take the reservations into
consideration, address the Proposition 106 requirements.

To help us adjust the grid, we had 24
public hearings in the first series of public hearings
across the state.

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We invited the citizens to complete the input forms, write to us, use the website, send us e-mails. We had an incredible amount of citizen input. And summaries of the input made it very clear Arizona had a firm belief respecting communities of interest, respecting boundaries of cities, towns, counties, and local governments. It was clear those should be the basic principles guiding our approach to drawing these district maps.

We also learned from this first round of public hearings what people saw as communities of interest. And there were three major communities of interest that came out loud and clear during these public hearings.

First, Native Americans and tribal reservations should be respected. Second was we should respect Hispanic communities of interest. And the third was that the interests of rural and urban communities were very different and to the extent possible they should be separated in the drawing of districts. We heard this, incidentally, from both rural and urban residents in input, they saw the interests as very, very different and meriting separation of districts.

The people who came to our first round of public hearings and provided input via mail and the

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website also helped us design the Arizona Units of Representation, AURs, and told us what their units of interest were, told us what the units of interest were and who they were. The interests of people around the state they felt were especially important in the region. These were people we looked at in drawing draft maps.

We'll be showing the maps, districts, in a minute. We think it's worthwhile to show the differences between these drafts and existing districts drawn by the Legislature 10 years ago.

The draft districts split less than half the cities and towns. The existing districts split 16 cities and towns. Our draft split only six.

Similarly, the existing Legislative Districts split 39 cities and towns. The draft districts split a third of that, 13 cities and towns.

That's also true of counties. I'll give you the county statistics. Keep in mind we're talking eight Congressional Districts. 10 years ago there were only six, six existing districts and they included five split counties. We added two, and we now have six counties split.

The existing Legislative Districts included 13 split counties. Our draft map split only nine counties. Two counties, Pima County and Maricopa,
would be split under any plan as they are too large to be contained in a single Legislative or Congressional District.

We truly minimized the splits in the draft maps.

The draft plans as mentioned before respect communities of interest.

We mentioned three major communities of interest before: Tribal reservations have been undivided, and in many cases various tribes are combined within the same district. Hispanic communities of interest are kept together in many cases. And rural and urban communities are separated as much as possible.

Many of the other AURs, Arizona units of representation, are also respected by the draft plan. Obviously not all are because some are in direct conflict with one another.

As much as we could, we respected all of the AURs.

We mentioned competitiveness earlier.

Proposition 106 does not allow us to consider competitiveness until the first stage of the mapping process is complete. That stage is now complete with the publication of the draft map. Under Proposition 106 we're now supposed to adjust the draft maps to provide
competitive districts when doing so would cause no substantial detriment to the other characteristics we already talked about, and that's one of the things we're going to be doing during and after this second round of public hearings. And that's one thing I'm sure many of you will have comments about.

We solicit comments, if you have suggestions as to how we should make districts more competitive.

Now is time to show you the draft plans beginning with Congressional Districts.

These are eight the Congressional Districts. I'm sure you notice it's very hard to see them because there's not a lot of contrast on that map. In the map in the citizen kit, you may have an easier time seeing these maps.

The contrast will show up much, much better if looking closer at the maps in your citizen kit.

These are the eight Congressional Districts in our draft plan. And these are the Legislative Districts that are in the greater Phoenix Metropolitan area.

These are the Congressional Districts in the Tucson Metropolitan area.

There's an example of something going

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across the county boundary, a little pink blip at the top, the community of Saddlebrooke at the top which is more connected to the southern suburbs that went with. That to pick up, a substantial portion of Tucson is in it.

Here are draft maps of the Legislative District. Once again, you'll probably have trouble seeing detail on this screen. I refer you to the maps in your kit.

These are drafts of the Legislative Districts in Tucson, and these are maps in the Phoenix area.

Now we are looking to you to help us in the next stage of the process. Our hope is you'll take the opportunity today to let us know your opinions, whether favorable or negative. If you like things the way they are, please tell us. I assure you, people that want changes will tell us. If you prefer things not be changed, we need to hear from you as well. Be as detailed as you possibly can. If you want to mention specific boundary lines, town limits, streets, specific areas, that's great. We love input like that. If comments are more general, that's all right as well. If you want to testify, let me remind you of what Mr. Lynn said. We need a specific speaker form. If you don't
have one, raise your hand. We'll remind you a couple
times during the meeting. If there's something you need
to say, we'll bring you a speaker form to fill out.

There is also in the citizen kit, I went
too far, in your citizen kit there is a form to fill
out. You can fill that out today and hand it in. It's
a very short form, won't take long, or you can fill it
out and mail it in.

If you prefer to go to the website, the
form is there, fill it out and send it in
electronically. The website is there,
www.azredistricting.org. There's lots of wonderful
information. It's very easy to use. Anything new,
anything updated is there.

If you want to find out what happened at
some other public hearings around the state, summaries
are posted on the website. You can find out what said
Sierra Vista said or they say tomorrow night in
Prescott, after a few days. Visit it soon and visit
often.

Now is the time to hear from you, see what
adjustments you'd like to have made.

CHAIRMAN LYNN: The rest of the meeting is
devoted to you.

Let me make a couple more introductions.
I'd like to introduce the rest of the staff and consultants with us today. On my right is Alan Heslop representing our consultant, National Demographics, in the process. At the far end of table to my left, first is Lisa Nance, the public stenographer. Next to Lisa is Paul Cullor, who is with the staff here. There are two staff members in back, or were two, Mike Saunders is at the back table. I'm sorry you weren't able to have met Cindy, the other staff person here helping setting up.

We're very fortunate to have the kind staff support we have.

As you know, this is temporary work. We're to be finished in mid-October, and the quality of the staff we've been able to put together has been really superb. We're very appreciative.

CHAIRMAN LYNN: With that, I have four speaker slips. If more wish to speak, I invite you not to wait too long to get those in.

Let me take the slips as you turned them in. If you would, spell name for the stenographer, if you complete remarks, remain at the podium, if you might. If necessary, we may engage you in conversation, if we might. We may have questions or might want further explanation of some things you've told us and

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appreciate that opportunity.

Without further adieu, I'll call on Woody Thomas, Mayor of Litchfield.


Thank you coming to Estrella Park. Here in Litchfield Park, we appreciate your adjusting the schedule to hear from us. Thank you for the maps as the Legislative comments are prepared.

My comments, I don't know how much is incorporated, my needs were met with your redistricting. That does seem to keep us within the Southwest areas of Maricopa County, which we are much more aligned with. Any adjustments that may occur from this hearing I also appreciate in keeping that flavor of the southwest valley, more of cities, less county areas, especially county areas unincorporated yet filled with a large populous.

The Congressional Districts, I guess when I first looked at it, sure, fine, a large Congressional District. It didn't necessarily, it got thrown with some areas that don't necessarily reflect a majority of the community of Litchfield Park. It's still acceptable. Statistics have shown it seemed you did quite a bit of work to narrow the splits.

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CHAIRMAN LYNN: Comments or questions for Mayor Thomas?

Mayor Thomas, back to your comments on the Legislative map, if we might. I know you are expressing in general appreciation or agreement with the maps as you see it, but you made a comment relative to placing Litchfield Park more with areas incorporated rather than unincorporated areas of the county.

MAYOR THOMAS: Yes.

CHAIRMAN LYNN: Would you be specific where you see Litchfield Park's interests at work?

MAYOR THOMAS: More and more of the communities' areas are yet to be developed, areas known as Sun City and Sun City West. Those areas don't reflect the majority of Litchfield Park as it's brought up. The current Representatives, two, a Representative and a Senator, are currently in Sun City. I do wish to be cautious with that. As well, we've met with some citizens in Litchfield Park that felt strength in having Sun City residents in the district. I'm not of that opinion and believe most members of Litchfield Park are more in tune toward families, school needs, growing community needs, and these types issues.

We've had an issue before the Council, some fair housing rights and discussions. The past
history of Sun City, their view toward housing would not
necessarily be consistent with ours.

CHAIRMAN LYNN: Thank you.

Other comments or questions for Mayor
Thomas?

MAYOR THOMAS: Thank you.

Unfortunately, I have to get back to work.

CHAIRMAN LYNN: I can well appreciate
that. My company thinks I should get back to well as
work.

The next speaker is Mayor Arnold, Mayor of
the City of Goodyear.

MAYOR ARNOLD: Thank you, Commissioners.

Like Mayor Thomas, I'm delighted you set
aside the time. As Mayor Thomas said, I'm sorry you
have to be away from your job for a while.

I'm delighted with the map as I see it
here. Being from Goodyear, we're a developing city. As
with most of the cities in West Valley, we are fast
developing cities, and our needs are schools, better
transportation, which we don't necessarily share with
the Sun City area.

I have one, I guess, question. I'm
wondering why it's happening this way on the map. I'm
wondering what used to be District 15, I don't know what
district number it will come out, 83rd Avenue to 43rd Avenue right around Northern Avenue, there's a jog in there. I know you have to abide by population. But I'm wondering why you would have split the City of Avondale and gone up there with your map and not had 83rd Avenue, gone all the way down to Yuma Road and follow State Route 85. It seems like Avondale is a developing city just like the City of Buckeye and Goodyear and Litchfield Park. I wondered why that went on there.

CHAIRMAN LYNN: Let's be specific there, 83rd Avenue going south?

MAYOR ARNOLD: Yes.

CHAIRMAN LYNN: Down to 85?

MAYOR ARNOLD: Go down west, follow State Route 85 to where it goes down. Seems like the population there would be about the same as what the jog is in the central part of the map there you see from the floor there.

COMMISSIONER MINKOFF: So the area you are talking about you feel maybe doesn't fit the extreme eastern end of the district, that little, narrow band.

MAYOR ARNOLD: Absolutely.

COMMISSIONER MINKOFF: District M, which includes the area you are talking about possibly moving in, from Yuma Road over to 83rd Avenue, also includes

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the community of Tolleson. Does that split Tolleson or
is it outside the limits of Tolleson?

MAYOR ARNOLD: Probably splits Tolleson,
goes further south, which is probably why you picked the
map the way it was. Just seemed like the way it was
now, if grouping development, developing cities,
Avondale considered -- I understand the Mayor of
Avondale is here, too. I'm sure he'll speak on the
issue.

Other than that, I'm totally delighted to
get our community out of extreme north area of Sun City,
Sun City West.

CHAIRMAN LYNN: We've heard community
testimony to the effect of the interstate highways, they
don't split neighborhoods, they do split neighborhoods,
or they should be ignored. The I-10 neighborhood, part
area fairly broad swaths that cut some communities. Can
you speak, we have that part of the valley that used
I-10 as a significant part of the border between M and L
as we go west. Do you have an opinion as to how that --
how the Interstate impacts in terms of whether or not it
really is an artificial barrier and should be ignored or
whether it should be respected?

MAYOR ARNOLD: It should be ignored.

There's needs on both besides, agriculture, 17 and a
half percent per year, population will double in four
ers, needs will double. That population picks up a
fast growth area also.

CHAIRMAN LYNN: Other comments or
questions for Mayor Arnold?

Thank you very much.

MAYOR ARNOLD: Thank you.

CHAIRMAN LYNN: I remind you, I have two
speaker slips left. Please make sure we get a speaker
slip for you.

Brent Heiss.

Mr. Heiss.

MR. HEISS: I'm Brent Heiss, B R E N T,

I live at 8212 West Rowland Avenue. I got
I'm glad Mayor Drake got you here, commend him for
getting you guys back out here.

As Mayor Arnold addressed, the idea of
North-South of I-10, I'm on the committee redistricting
the boundary of the Agua Fria as one thing being looked
at to -- trying to break the stigma, perhaps, of the
boundary up the Agua Fria River up north Dysart Road.

I hope the citizens approve the hard work.

The stigma of North-South I-10, I think
really, if you look at the map, what could really help,
if you brought it down, included Tolleson, and Goodyear
and Litchfield Park, the Southwest Valley Chamber of
Commerce out here, Avondale has been working very close
with Goodyear, Litchfield Park, Tolleson to bring things
to the community. There's a lot of ag. land that will
eventually become developed land, houses, things like
that, I think, to give us that southwest flavor.

The only other comments I had, on the
Congressional map, I'm sure Ed Pastor will do a great
job. I'm sure what Bob Stump has done, Luke Air Force
Base, Mr. Stump's the Chairman of the Armed Services
Committee right now. In doing the research, the
Chairman, Vice Chairman, when it's your base, does not
vote. A lot of people in Arizona do not want that base
closed. Mr. Stump has done a lot along with Pastor.
Arizona has three Representatives. I'd like Avondale to
be able to save the two Representatives we have so to
have a greater voice. Once Arizona does, and Goodyear,
along with Buckeye, there's a lot of land and everybody
seems to be moving this way.

Those are my comments.

Thanks to Mayor Drake.

And that it on splitting, too, the stigma,

North-South, as well.
COMMISSIONER MINKOFF: I appreciate your comments about the freeway.

Would it be possible for you to explain to us what you'd see as better lines between M and L?

MR. HEISS: Yeah. If you went out to 83rd Avenue and came down through Tolleson and went all the way down Baseline and took that N and just added, add that area to the N. And then N, moved the O over, or something, or possibly, I guess you have to have those districts, but I think there might be some other areas. I haven't had a chance to go through your whole packet, where you can possibly do some things. Possibly push the packet through what the Southwest Valley Chamber of Commerce is trying to do, kind of separates things.

COMMISSIONER MINKOFF: I can understand perhaps seeing things for the first time. It would be very helpful to us, help us react to your comments, if not necessarily right now, you have a citizen kit. The boundaries are in it. Keeping in mind if we pull any population out of a district, we have to put essentially the same amount back in. Districts are fairly balanced populationwise. Perhaps respond by e-mail.

MR. HEISS: Happy to.

COMMISSIONER MINKOFF: Let us know how you'd work to achieve equal population populationwise.
CHAIRMAN LYNN: Next speaker is Jane Houx.

MS. HOUX: Houx.

CHAIRMAN LYNN: "Houx."

MS. HOUX: Jane Houx, H O U X.

I've been a citizen of Avondale about 12 years. I've seen it grow. I've seen in the past two years, this city council try to unite the south and north part.

The freeway is a stigma. We fight that.

I am in the oldest housing development, the southwest housing development in Avondale.

When you divide us, the north freeway in this district, south is going to be in this district, you are tearing the heart out of my city. We need to be united. We are one city. We need to be in one district.

Years ago I marched against segregation.

That's what you are doing now, putting it in. One neighbor thought it was an entirely different ethnic group. That's something we don't want to address. We want to move forward. We want to go forward.

We need, and I feel, as some other ones do, we have been with Goodyear, Litchfield Park, as a whole. In time, when you cut something in half, you do damage to it, no matter how you do it.
This city has to be united in its
district as well in every other way.

I'm just an average citizen. That's how I
feel. My neighbors and I, some were not able to come.
A lot work, some are sick. And they asked me to express
this. We want to be whole, to be kept as a whole city
so we can work as a whole city, so we can be represented
by the same Legislator. Don't split us up.

My one neighbor wanted me to ask what the
majority of the ethnic group would be and what the
annual income is when you split us up.

But like I say, I like my town. And I
don't want the heart tore out of it.

We're working to get past that stigma and
I'm asking you to reconsider and regroup us.

CHAIRMAN LYNN: Ms. Houx, how far north of
I-10 does the Avondale city boundary go? If you don't
know, I'll ask the Mayor, and he should know.

MS. HOUX: This is a test, Mr. Mayor.

I know it goes to 107th and Thomas, but
I'm not really certain how far. Like I say, I-10, you
go onto that, you are still on it; over that, still in
Avondale.

Keep us in Avondale.

CHAIRMAN LYNN: Thank you. I appreciate

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Speaking of the Mayor, that's the last slip I have.

MS. HAUSER: One more.

CHAIRMAN LYNN: Mr. Mayor.

MAYOR DRAKE: I'm Mayor Drake, and I live at 3134 West Safe Circle in Avondale, 85253.

I don't know why I'm so nervous today. I am. I think it's my passion for the City of Avondale and the changes that have occurred in the last two years.

I read the minutes from your meeting, and there was a comment about gerrymandering vs. the community of interest. And that point about community of interest struck a point in my heart. That's what we're about, community of interest.

I saw some things in the minutes worthy of mentioning again, probably truths. I don't think it represents the City of Avondale, necessarily, in that respect.

The median income of the east, south of Avondale, median household income was 15,500. That might be true. Similar to Tolleson, South Phoenix, human services, similar to all cities across the United Cities, all human services, the food stamps percentage
of residents is high as in other communities.

Financially the communities in Avondale are working to change that. Education, it's very true, we're very challenged. We're working to change that. We have two schools and a high school planned as well. It's a rural area now and quickly changing.

I think that's the point of us being here today and that's why I requested, along with other Mayors and Representatives and Supervisors, you come out today.

The community is changing. The community of interest vs. the interests of the community, the most important point, and the people here, I have counsel members here and hope they come up and address you today. The interests of the community is foremost in my mind.

I reiterate what we presented at the first hearing, and I thank you for being here. I think they are truths. I don't think the perception of Avondale has changed since seen in the first light.

When I look at the redistricting boundaries created, you took those into account. I'm glad the people stand up for the City of Avondale and believe they're true, working at breakdown that I-10 boundary. They are not demographic boundaries. They
are where their forefathers, previous leaders, chose to create and develop.

The leadership is in the north part, across I-10. We'll mirror what has been accomplished in the north part of Avondale in the south part.

If you look at what is going on now in the south part, the Chamber, Tolleson, Litchfield Park, Buckeye, Goodyear, Avondale, I don't think they mirror South Phoenix, what will go on, what is going to be going on in the future.

The letter I sent to you, I appreciate that you responded. It was signed by five Mayors from the Southwest Valley, the West Valley Fine Arts Council, supported by all five Southwest cities. We supported the football stadium, support the football stadiums, Southwest community cities.

The median age is 27.9 years old.

Education, 30 percent of the Avondale residents have college education. Median household is over 30,000.

Avondale is a vibrant community, economically sound. Residents are coming to Avondale, and they would not come if it were a gloomy picture.

Costco, Harkins Theatre is building their largest theatre in Avondale. We have an auto-mallplex building a large mall, and they are building a large shopping
Avondale needs to stay together, to mirror the communities in the southwest valley rather than South Phoenix.

CHAIRMAN LYNN: If you help us, identify the southwest valleys, take the point. If you need a copy of the map, we're happy to have you look at this one. Would you help us with the boundary lines in whatever detail you can identify for Avondale north of the freeway?

MAYOR DRAKE: Bell Road.

Indian Road to Dysart, almost to Litchfield Road, and almost to 99th Avenue. And we actually go over to a part of the Phoenix Trap and Skeet Club north of 99th School.

And any council members, if I make a mistake, please correct me.

COMMISSIONER MINKOFF: If we are able to unite Avondale in one district, would you prefer the part be moved in M or part in L be moved to M?

MAYOR DRAKE: I'll assume the light purple is L?

COMMISSIONER MINKOFF: Lighter purple is L.

MAYOR DRAKE: I believe that's the future
of Avondale and what is going on in Avondale today.

CHAIRMAN LYNN: Any other comments or questions for the Mayor?

MAYOR DRAKE: Thank you very much for having me.

CHAIRMAN LYNN: Anyone holding speaker slips?

MS. HAUSER: Yes.

CHAIRMAN LYNN: That's what they do, hold them.

MS. HAUSER: Surprise.

CHAIRMAN LYNN: I think I'm close to finished and then.

MS. HAUSER: Surprise.

CHAIRMAN LYNN: Next speaker, Richard Hopkins.

MR. HOPKINS: I'm Richard Hopkins. I live at 225 East of Buckeye, Arizona. I'm here today solely for myself. Nobody asked me to come except my own volition.

Looking at maps L, Y, Z, I heard of community of interest. D, L, Y separates the community of Buckeye in three separate Legislative interests. I done research, checked the website, and I can't fathom why Nogales and Buckeye is put together in the same
Legislative District nor can I fathom what Buckeye and Rainbow has to do with somebody at Rainbow and Northern or that a citizen in Buckeye has something to do with the great Ponderosa Forest outside of Prescott.

You have made a pie out of the community of Buckeye and separated neighbors, the same school district, same children — the high school district is split, which might be fine in one of the larger communities such as Phoenix or Mesa.

Population you have, it needs to be, looking at other maps, Yuma is all one district, Kingman, Lake Havasu City, to name a few, are all in one district.

I, honestly, can't figure out how this drawing came to show the community of Buckeye's needs to be in three separate communities of district with our neighbors of Wickenburg and Gila Bend.

I ask you to reconsider splitting Buckeye and in two and splitting Wickenburg into three separate Legislative Districts.

CHAIRMAN LYNN: The next speaker is Betty Lynch, a member of the Avondale City Council.

COUNCILWOMAN LYNCH: I've been a member of the Avondale City Council and also a resident of Avondale. If I sound nervous, it's because I just had
surgery, was given a shot anesthesia and I'm allergic.
I have my cell phone set to 911.

CHAIRMAN LYNN: I have a DPS officer ready

to get you anywhere where you need to go.

COUNCILWOMAN LYNCH: Thank you.

First of all, Proposition 106 says item D,
put in communities of interest. I'm adding, as the
Mayor did, interests of the community, into the plan.
It also says we'll try to honor city boundaries. I'm
going to be brief. I'm going to quote something in the
press, the West Valley Tribune. Headlines are
"Tri-Cities Belong in Same District," and talking about
all of the Tri-Cities. And it says these suggestions
would dilute a Hispanic make-up, south make-up, in the
south valley, and a Tolleson unified West Valley
district would give residents more voice in issues that
affect them, the Avondale, Goodyear, Litchfield Park,
Buckeye, Tolleson residents, than they do the residents
in the square mile bounded by Bethany Home Road, 43rd
Avenue to 51st Avenue, the road northeast of the
district.

Preservation of the district is a major
issue of the Arizona redistricting mission. A unified
district would preserve areas of the district.

I ask of you, Avondale goes to the north

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to Indian School Road. If we need to go as far as 83rd Avenue to keep Tolleson with us, then take that district all the way down to take it in. Move everything west of 83rd Avenue into L. If you need to take something out, go up to Northern or West Olive, El Mirage Avenue, Sun City West, the Sun City areas, use all those individuals as volunteers in their city and take that out and move it up with those people with whom they have more interest. That keeps Avondale together, keeps Tolleson with us, Goodyear, Litchfield Park.

As I said at the last hearing, when we go down to the National League of Cities each March and meet with Congressional people down there for the wants we have and bills we want done, it's very difficult to do that and get the support we need, particularly if that support comes back to the county and we're part of South Phoenix, and South Phoenix gets the funds we really asked for for the Tri-City Community.

CHAIRMAN LYNN: Ms. Lynch, thank you very much.

I don't want to keep you any longer in your postsurgical recovery.

COUNCILWOMAN LYNCH: No problem.

CHAIRMAN LYNN: We struggle with competing problems all the time.
If it were clear, simple, one community over another, nice, simple, we'd have done it a long time ago.

We ask a question, the three concepts we consistently juggle, ask you to take the three concepts and prioritize them from your position. One, the idea of community of interest. The second notion is competitive districts. And the third is voting rights compliance. Would you prioritize those?

COUNCILWOMAN LYNCH: Community of interest comes first. We worked 24 hours a day for two years to bring the city Avondale to a city not divided north and south. I don't want to break that up. Second is voting rights, voting rights of people to help build on the community of people, people voting. And the other is third.

CHAIRMAN LYNN: Ms. Minkoff.

COMMISSIONER MINKOFF: Ms. Lynch, it seemed you began speaking about the Legislative interest. I think I understand your concerns very, very well. Now I'm looking at the Congressional map. It looks like Avondale is not divided by the boundary of Congressional dealings up to Indian School Dysart a little west and puts Avondale and Tolleson as one you represented.
COUNCILWOMAN LYNCH: Yes.

COMMISSIONER MINKOFF: Does this work for you?

COUNCILWOMAN LYNCH: I much prefer that the Congressional District come down at 83rd and put it over with A, because as the Mayors pointed out, all the speakers pointed out, we don't look like South Phoenix. We have entirely different needs than Avondale does. As Avondale grows more, our Mayors of the West Valley meet once a month, city managers meet sometimes weekly, all the city aides are starting to meet weekly. All things are happening weekly. We're working together and planning together.

COMMISSIONER MINKOFF: Thank you.

CHAIRMAN LYNN: Speedy recovery.

Glo McDonald. Ms. O'Donnell.

MS. O'DONNELL: First of all, I don't envy your job. I don't understand all the boundaries. And I looked at them, and I know it's a big undertaking; however, the Southwest Lending Closet Group lends out hospital equipment to anyone in the southwest valley, to Tolleson, Avondale, Litchfield Park, Goodyear, Buckeye, and Luke Air Force Base. We loan this out to them for free. We started in May of 2000.

Over this past year and a half, I guess.

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you would say, we have seen everybody working together.

These particular southwest communities work well together. Yes, we are stationed in Avondale as our area, however, all the different Mayors of these towns have supported us. I'd say it would be awful to divide Avondale and not the rest. We're a southwest valley and growing.

I can tell you by the things we've handed out right now, we're up to 280 clients and have handed out over 3,000 pieces of equipment.

You see, everybody works together in the southwest valley.

I urge you to keep us together.

Thank you.

THE REPORTER: Could I have the spelling of your name?

MS. O'DONNELL: O'DONNELL, and.

GLORIA, and I go by Glo.

CHAIRMAN LYNN: I believe I have the last slip, Rudolfo Perez.

MR. PEREZ: I'm Rudolfo Perez, Director of the Phoenix program, the Mexican American Legal Defense Education Fund. It's to protect and promote Latino issues and their ability to elect Latinos of choice.

The current draft, Legislative Congressional draft maps,
respect the Hispanic AUR. We support the current, what
the principles are based on, would not make current
changes to the current drafts. The commonalities
between the residents of Cashion, Tolleson, the southern
part of Avondale, Palm Valley, Pebble Creek northern of
Avondale, Goodyear, we respect the residents of Avondale
Cashion, Tolleson, what the residents from the
communities presented to you, testified to you they'd
prefer to be in a Legislative District and Legislative
District with West Phoenix and believe their interests
lie better with that particular community. We urge you
not to make significant changes with the draft map. We
respect the significant AUR that has been one of the
current principles you base your AUR draft map on.

CHAIRMAN LYNN: Any other members of the
public wish to be heard at this time?

I wonder if I might engage you in some
nonsignificant discourse. Let's see if there's a sense
of consensus in the room.

As we go around the state, we hear from
communities: We want to be held together. That is as
we've heard today, as best we can do it, keep Avondale
in the same Congressional District. Don't split it in
any way. The other argument we've heard is when you
split the community, if you do it appropriately,

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whatever that means, or do it in a way that seems to make sense, what it does is gives the community more clout, the Legislature, to address another set of Senators and Representatives in such a way as to give that community more influence in the Legislature.

I make no claim on one side of that or the other. Ms. Minkoff doesn't either. We're responding to what we've been told, that is to say keep the community whole and have it under one set of representation and have it enjoy more representation because of that split.

Could we see a show of hands on whether you're on one side of the issue or another, not that it will mean anything other than give a sense of the room: Keep the community one way in the room.

(Many hands are raised.)

CHAIRMAN LYNN: How many think there is merit to the other methodology?

(Quite a few hands are raised.)

CHAIRMAN LYNN: Let me elaborate, if I may.

MR. JONES: May I please come up?

My name is David Jones. I'm an Executive Director, an independent contractor. I do not live in Avondale or the areas involved here today. I'm interested, to bring a good analogy, one I can
personally relate to, I was formerly a State Representative from another state, a multimember district. I had five different townships, 144,000 people. All of those individuals who were certain pockets of interest in an independent area, Marin County, the Metro Plexus Interest. We had multi representation. And the community I lived in represented only two percent of the population of the entire county. Therefore, the political and popular count was not there. Because of the multidistrict, the House of Representatives in the State of Indiana, my members of my district had six representatives they could address. But the final result was we still were in a position we only had two percent of the population. I was the only representative south of the 40 East-West boundaries for the City of Indianapolis. It also represents a percentage of clout in that district. With a fragmented Avondale, or City of Tolleson, any candidate will give it lip service. Clout is elsewhere.

CHAIRMAN LYNN: Point is well-taken.

Splits promoted, if you will, have not been, for example, a 50,-50 split where the community would have a significant percentage in two percentages, more lopsided, where we heard, just fine. Again, I think there's a legitimate divergence of opinion.

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ANONYMOUS SPEAKER: Could I say something and not tell you my name?

CHAIRMAN LYNN: Is that reflective of what you are going to tell me?

ANONYMOUS SPEAKER: I can speak from here, if you don't mind.

Some time ago, I'd say within a couple of months, a meeting happened. And it was about this imaginary split. And I thought about it. And I've come to the conclusion people that want to stay south of 10 and want their own community south of 10 but don't want to be told be south of 10 and fell into it, fell right into it. I didn't go to these schools, thank God. They're not all that bad, but -- I'm from the East. This is a new state here and, we've got grave that go back years and years back home, 1795. We're -- what they're doing here today we did years ago, out East, trying to segregate themselves, but they don't want to be told to segregate. I think the theory is more thought out if they stay united. That's all I want to say.

CHAIRMAN LYNN: Anyone else we should hear?

Yes, ma'am?

I think the microphone will dip, if you

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will give and spell your name for the reporter.

MS. HOHMAN: Sharlyn, S H A R L Y N,

Hohman, H O H M A N.

I am the President and CEO of the
Southwest Chamber of Commerce.

I wanted to make a comment on one of the
things you said about this person, this is a perspective
you had before. That is in talking to Legislators.
When you are only a small piece at a far end of their
district, they don't want to come be heard by those
citizens. Because the comment to me was I can't get
enough votes by being there. I think that's very real.
I don't hold that against them. Obviously they have to
spend the votes where the votes come from. That's
something that has to be set out and be considered.

CHAIRMAN LYNN: Thank you. Certainly that
is part of the reality.

Anything else that has to be heard?

Mr. Gallardo.

CHAIRMAN LYNN: Say and spell your name.

MR. GALLARDO: Steve Gallardo,

G A L L A R D O.

I'm the Redistricting Chairman for the
Coalition for Political Action.

I think it's important to know what

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exactly are Coalitions for Political Action? When we look at the different areas, we look at areas of community interest, different political interest, language, employment, housing. There are several types. We presented 13 different illustrations of communities of interest.

The City of Glendale, if you looked at it, it's two different areas, apples and oranges. The northern part of Glendale vs. the southern part of Glendale. You do see a difference when it comes to community of interest. You start looking at individual jurisdictional differences. You see the two different areas. And Avondale is no exception.

There are two different areas when it comes to communities of interest.

I'd ask the Commission to keep that in mind.

CHAIRMAN LYNN: In abstract, Mr. Gallardo, let's hypothesize. Subgroups with more affinity do more things together, are more reflective of cultural or fabric that you find in any community. If Glendale, Avondale are put together in isolation, we didn't have 30 districts, were trying to make one district, whichever community we're talking about of sufficient size could fit wholly within and there wouldn't be any
harm, would there?

MR. GALLARDO: Not looking at any harm, looking at areas of commonalty, what areas of commonalty are. There's a certain area, certain small part of Avondale that has a strong commonalty with West Phoenix, South Phoenix. That's why our proposal did have it together in one Legislative District or did support the Legislative map that had one Legislative District. That's what we're focusing on for the legislative point.

CHAIRMAN LYNN: I understand that point.

This is a hypothetic point.

If in drawing a single district, it doesn't have to be interactive, you drew that ring around Avondale as it currently is exists, all of Avondale, might that not be considered a community of interest if in fact it fit neatly within the ring, much the same as the discussion of the East Valley, Tempe? If Tempe did not fit completely in one district but pretty close, the question was divide at US 60 or don't. We heard both sides of the issue. If only drawing a line in the East Valley, the east side of Tempe or don't?

MR. PEREZ: Let me answer that.

It's which factor you want to weigh, respecting the political subdivisions to overcome.

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communities of interest. The Latino electoral and
voters and ability to vote for a Latino electorate and
the ability to elect a voter of their choice.

CHAIRMAN LYNN: It's not a trick question.

It's a thought-provoking question, part of what we're
wrestling with.

I want to be clear. We don't want to be
in a position of somehow having voters, whether they
happen to be Latino or not, less a voter in Avondale
than they otherwise would be because they happen to be
in Avondale. It's not the point we're making or point
they're making. Voters, wherever they are, have
responsibility for all subdivisions they are in, a
supervisory district, part of a town, or city, or
ward, or district area. They have the responsibility
for all of those, regardless of whether they may or may
not be part of a group that stretches beyond the
corporate city they live in and have an affinity for a
lot of other areas. It is a philosophical discussion.

Ms. Minkoff.

COMMISSIONER MINKOFF: Let me pick up on
that. I'm interested both, Mr. Gallardo and Perez, in
your reaction.

Under the current map Legislative M it has
a fairly heavy Hispanic concentration, and the votes of

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the Hispanics in that district are very important and
very much respected by whoever is elected in that
District F. A Hispanic area out into -- Hispanic into
F, Hispanic influenced F, needs to address areas of that
or the now-increased Hispanic influence in L, that it
does not create another representative, may not be a
majority-minority district, don't have it right now, but
even if the population just increased maybe by five
percent, it doesn't create a majority minority, a
substantial Hispanic, that it hasn't enhanced the
ability of Hispanic voters to get representatives to
listen to them.

MR. PEREZ: We'd have to look at numbers.
One primary number is voting population, another number
is voting by Spanish surname, to see if it would have
any kind of influence on whether or not they would have
the ability to elect candidates of choice. I could not
answer the question without looking at the data.

ANONYMOUS SPEAKER: Aren't we all in
America here?

CHAIRMAN LYNN: I don't want to this to
start.

ANONYMOUS SPEAKER: Sir.

CHAIRMAN LYNN: I'm conducting the
discussion. This is a philosophical discussion.

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Yes, we're all Americans. We're all concerned about votes. This is a discussion.

ANONYMOUS SPEAKER: One man. One man, one vote. Vote for anyone they want.

CHAIRMAN LYNN: Any other slips this afternoon?

MS. HAUSER: We just got one.

CHAIRMAN LYNN: Mr. Heiss, I'll be happy to hear you again in one second.

Vice Mayor Marie Lopez Rogers, Vice Mayor of Avondale.

VICE MAYOR ROGERS: I'm Marie Lopez Rogers, R O G E R S.

Everyone here all gets along. We have a division, a barrier. It's not that we want it. I don't think anyone wants a barrier. However, it's there. When talking community of interest, and ability to elect our elected officials in the Hispanic community for us, that divides that choice for us.

I just wanted to talk about stigma. I think stigma, the Hispanic community see themselves, right, wrong, whatever it means, I think they may not see ourselves with the representation we want to include our best interests when it comes to voting.

I, myself, it's my personal opinion, is I
like the maps the way they are. I think it says what we
want it to say as a Hispanic community of interest.
Both Congressional and Legislative Districts are
important in what we're talking about.
I'd like to leave them or not change them
very much from what they are. I think representation is
what we're talking about and being able to vote for who
we want in there.
CHAIRMAN LYNN: Thank you. Thank you very
much, Vice Mayor.
Other members of the public that wish to
be heard?
Mr. Heiss?
MR. HEISS: Yeah. One thing I want to
suggest to you guys. As we did things in the Agua Fria,
we had a firm from Montana come down. There are
Hispanic people peppered all through the community. I
live in the most northern part Avondale. Homes are
300,000 and up. I was surprised there's over 35 percent
Hispanics living in the homes, Hispanic people.
Avondale is becoming, one of the things in
the breakdown, everything that went on with the I-10
boundary, there are three high schools. We went up, up
Dysart Road, get the socioeconomic road, get with
Dr. Hugh Howard, get -- it opened my eyes. Pebble

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Creek, kids are not supposed to be there, but they are.

CHAIRMAN LYNN: We do have the software and capability.

MR. HEISS: It opened my eyes to show that. Yes, it's all there. Arizona is growing, and being peppered, and everything.

I think, the position you are in, we were just doing a high school boundary. What you are faced with, as much data as you can gather, come with data.

Once we started showing people, this man and at that meeting September 10th, 11th, 12th, give their input, what the Latino want, they're not on our board. There's hardly any Latinos there. A couple people from LUVAC have shown up at the last couple meetings to make sure they touch all bases.

CHAIRMAN LYNN: Thank you, Mr. Heiss.

Anything else from counsel?

MS. HAUSER: No.

CHAIRMAN LYNN: NDC?

Ladies and gentlemen, thank you very much.

As you may have heard, the meeting was at the request of the southwest valley. We appreciate having had the request and being able to respond to the request.

Please stay tonight, as Ms. Minkoff said

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in her presentation. If you have access through the
website or in your own home or own business,
www.azredistricting.org will have all the presentations.
Final maps will be approved by the
district by the middle of October. That means the first
two weeks of October we'll be meeting on a fairly heavy
schedule beginning on or about -- I think it's about the
2nd.

COMMISSIONER MINKOFF: Yes.
CHAIRMAN LYNN: That's when the final
decisions are made. We'll be submitting to Department
of Justice for preclearance as required by the Voting
Rights Act.
Thank you very much for joining us, and we
wish you a good rest of the afternoon.
Thank you very much.
(Whereupon, the hearing concluded at
approximately 2:26 p.m.)

* * * *

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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 49 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 6th day of September, 2001.

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

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