

**Excerpts From the Independent Redistricting Commission Public Hearing at the Estrella Mountain Community College in Avondale, AZ on September 4, 2001**

1. Woody Thomas, Mayor of Litchfield Park: "My needs were met with your redistricting. That does seem to keep us in the southwest areas of Maricopa County, which we are much more aligned with. Any adjustments may occur from this hearing I also appreciate in keeping that flavor of Southwest valley."

2. Woody Thomas, Mayor of Litchfield Park: "Areas known as Sun City and Sun City West. Those areas don't reflect majority of Litchfield Park.... Some citizens of Litchfield Park felt strength having Sun City resident 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 type issues."

3. Mayor Arnold of Goodyear: "I'm delighted with the map as I see it here. Being from Goodyear, we're developing as a city, as with most of the cities in the West Valley, are fast developing cities, our needs are schools, better transportation, we don't necessarily share with a city area. I have one question.... I'm wondering why you would have split the City of Avondale and gone up there with your map and not had 83rd Avenue go 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."

4. Brent Heiss: "As Mayor Arnold addressed, the idea of North-South of I-10, I'm on redistricting the boundary of the Agua Fria as one thing being looked at, to trying to break up the stigma, perhaps have the boundary up the Agua Fria River, up north Dysart Road.... 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 agricultural land that will eventually become developed land, houses things like that, I think to give us that southwest flavor."

5. Jane Houx: "I've seen in the past two years this (Avondale) 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 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."

6. Mayor Drake of Avondale: "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."

7. Mayor Drake: "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."

8. Mayor Drake: "The median age is 27.9 years old. Education, 30 percent of the Avondale residents have college education. Median household income 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 shopping large mall. Avondale needs to stay together, to mirror the communities in the southwest valley rather than South Phoenix."

9. Richard Hopkins: "Looking at maps L, Y, Z. I heard of community of interest. DLZ separates the community of Buckeye in three separate Legislative districts. 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 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."

10. Councilwoman Betty Lynch: "I ask of you, Avondale goes to the north 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."

11. Rudolph Perez: "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 changes to the current drafts. The commonalties between residents of Cashion, Tolleson, the southern part of Avondale, Palm Valley, Pebble Creek northern 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."

12. Sharlyn Homan: "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 by and be heard by those citizens. Because the comment to me was I can't get enough votes by being there."

13. Steve Gallardo: "When we look at the different areas, we look at areas of community of interest different political interest, language, employment, housing. There are several types. We presented 13 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 versus 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."

14. Marie Lopez Rogers, Vice Mayor of Avondale: "Everyone here all get 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 of 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."

**NOTE:** These summaries and excerpts were developed for the Independent Redistricting Commission by its consultant, National Demographics Corporation, and have not been reviewed by the Commission prior to posting. They are not official statements of the Commission and represent only the consultant's best effort to identify major themes and highlights of each public hearing. The excerpts were chosen by the consultant in an effort to identify common themes and especially noteworthy statements.

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