

ARIZONA INDEPENDENT REDISTRICTING COMMISSION

Friday, July 22, 2011

6:05 p.m.

Location

Nogales Unified District 1
Administrative Building/District Office
Anita Lichter Board Room (Second Floor)
310 W. Plum Street
Nogales, Arizona

Attending

Jose M. Herrera, Vice Chair
Linda C. McNulty, Commissioner
Richard P. Stertz, Commissioner

Raymond F. Bladine, Executive Director
Buck Forst, Information Technology Specialist

Reported By:

Kenneth W. Schippers, CCR
Certified Court Reporter 50248
Az Litigation Support Court Reporters
www.CourtReportersAZ.com

1 VICE-CHAIR HERRERA: Let's go ahead and get
2 started, and we'll start the meeting at 6:05. My name
3 is Jose Herrera. I'm the vice-chair of this
4 commission. I would like my fellow commissioners to
5 introduce themselves and say a couple words.
6 Ms. McNulty.

7 COMMISSIONER McNULTY: Good evening, my name is
8 Linda McNulty. Thank you for coming out on a Friday
9 night.

10 COMMISSIONER STERTZ: My name is Rick Stertz.
11 I'm from Tucson, as is Commissioner McNulty, and thank
12 you for coming out. We're really looking forward to
13 hearing your comments and getting all of your comments
14 that you're putting on integrated into the record so
15 that as we take these things to the next step, we can
16 really build ourselves up a good base of background
17 information so that we can do the best we can to work
18 for all the citizens of the State of Arizona to draw a
19 good map.

20 VICE-CHAIR HERRERA: Thank you both. Let's go
21 ahead and do the Pledge of Allegiance.

22 (Pledge recited)

23 VICE-CHAIR HERRERA: Thank you all, and what
24 we'll do, we'll go ahead and limit the public comments
25 to four minutes a piece. Four minutes a piece and what

1 we'll do is we'll be asking you to come forward and if
2 you can speak clearly and take your time. The court
3 reporter is Ken schippers. Want to say hi.

4 THE COURT REPORTER: Hi.

5 VICE-CHAIR HERRERA: If you guys don't mind
6 spelling your first and last names, speaking clearly
7 and then we'll, if you don't mind, what we'll do is
8 we'll have a timer. Buck Forst, our IT specialist,
9 will be keeping time and we'll try to stop you after
10 the buzzer rings. We want to make sure we're fair and
11 we keep everybody to four minutes.

12 Also, I guess introduce some people in the
13 audience. We have our Executive Director Ray Bladine
14 and we have Mary O'Grady, our legal counsel. Buck
15 Forst and we have Willie Desmond. He's representing
16 Strategic Telemetry and, of course, I already mentioned
17 our court reporter, Ken Schippers.

18 This is the first round of interviews of
19 public hearings that we'll be doing. We'll also be
20 doing the second round later on after we collect all
21 the information and there's a first draft of a map and
22 you will be able to comment on that first draft so
23 please watch for those dates. We clearly don't have
24 them published; is that correct?

25 EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR BLADINE: That's correct.

1 VICE-CHAIR HERRERA: Also, I wanted to mention
 2 our interpreter. Theodora Estrella. So for you --
 3 any non-English speakers in the room? I meant
 4 non -- if you don't understand anything I'm saying,
 5 please have the interpreter interpret.

6 Does everybody understand what I'm saying? So
 7 we do have an interpreter.

8 (Spanish instructions then given to the
 9 audience)

10 VICE-CHAIR HERRERA: Now not all the
 11 commissioners are required to be at the meetings. We
 12 have obviously five commissioners, two of them are not
 13 here but they could be easy listening or watching via
 14 screen say hi to them and the reason we're doing this,
 15 we have the whole state to cover and it's easier for us
 16 to divide up the work among us and we'll attend as many
 17 as we can, all of us but we probably will not be at all
 18 of them.

19 So let's go ahead and start the meeting.
 20 What we'll we do for the meeting, the first part we'll
 21 have Willy Desmond from Strategic Telemetry talk about
 22 what is redistricting.

23 (Mr. Desmond then gave a PowerPointe
 24 presentation on redistricting)

25 VICE-CHAIR HERRERA: Thank you. What we'll do

1 next is we'll do the public comments, again four
2 minutes and Buck will be timing the speaker. And I
3 don't know if anyone watched the event last night
4 streaming. Anybody here in the audience?

5 The event actually went pretty smoothly. There
6 were more people there but, you know, for the most part
7 I think people were very respectful of each other and
8 their comments. I suspect it will be the same this
9 evening. You guys look like friendly folk. You like
10 each other and hopefully it will be the same, it will
11 be that case soon after you hear your neighbors'
12 comments.

13 So, yeah, you guys can respect each other and
14 listen to each other and not talk while other people
15 are speaking. It goes by quicker unless you want to
16 stay here all night which I don't think you want to do.

17 What we'll do is we'll hear from you guys and
18 then at the end before the meeting is over what I like
19 to do is have my fellow commissioners say a few closing
20 remarks. I would love to hear from them. Even though
21 Commissioner McNulty doesn't want to speak, she has no
22 choice.

23 The first person will be John Maynard and he's
24 representing himself. If you can speak clearly and
25 loudly.

1 JOHN MAYNARD: I'll do the best. My name is
2 John Maynard and I'm a resident of Santa Cruz County.
3 I'm also on the Santa Cruz County Board of Supervisors
4 but I'm not here tonight representing them. I'm simply
5 representing myself and my own thoughts.

6 My last name is spelled M-A-Y-N-A-R-D. My first
7 name is John. Also my father's and my grandfather's
8 name. I want to thank you all for coming here. I
9 think it's great that you are reaching out to different
10 communities in Arizona. I'm also very impressed with
11 the fact that you work on a Friday night. Personally I
12 believe you should be home with your families enjoying
13 television or doing some of the things most Americans
14 do on Friday night. When I leave here, I will do that
15 myself. As a matter of fact, my wife is waiting for
16 me.

17 I like things just the way they are, quite
18 frankly. That doesn't mean that I'm progressive,
19 liberal or conservative but it works well for Santa
20 Cruz County, and I do believe and, I might stand
21 corrected, that both the state legislative boundaries
22 and the congressional federal boundaries are the same
23 in our county. That makes it pretty simple for us.

24 We're represented in, I think, Legislative
25 District, state Legislative Districts 30 and 25 and we

1 also have two representatives in the U.S. Congress that
2 represent us, one for the northern half and the other.
3 I don't know the numbers for those districts. I
4 apologize for that.

5 Why it works for Santa Cruz County, we're a
6 small county. We, I think last time, had a population
7 of about 40,000. We're now at about 50,000 and it's
8 really difficult for us when we go to Phoenix to get
9 anybody to really listen to us because we are so small
10 and if we've got two sets of state reps to talk to, it
11 not only means we've got to spend a little bit more
12 time there but out of those number of representatives
13 we usually find one friendly ear depending upon the
14 piece of legislation that we would like to see put
15 through at the state level and depending upon their
16 party.

17 Currently there are both Democrats and
18 Republications representing us in Phoenix and currently
19 there are two Democrats representing us in Washington.
20 So I hope that as things work out, we will still be
21 divided or split or separated, however you want to put
22 it, into two legislative districts and two
23 congressional districts as you go forward with this
24 process.

25 So thanks again. I hope I've fallen within the

1 four minute deadline and I do appreciate you being
2 here.

3 VICE-CHAIR HERRERA: Thank you.

4 Liz Collier representing the SCC Democratic
5 party. I'm assuming that means Santa Cruz County.

6 LIZ COLLIER: Santa Cruz County. My name is Liz
7 Collier, C-O-L-L-I-E-R, like the old magazine and, yes,
8 I am part of the Democratic party and I want to thank
9 you all for coming down. I want to kind of support
10 what John Maynard said in that I like the way things
11 are. We are a very small county and right now we have
12 two representatives. It's kind of we're getting twice
13 the bang for the buck.

14 In our community we're very dependent on
15 international trade and under today's environment, the
16 emphasis has been on border security and there hasn't
17 been enough emphasis on legitimate trade that needs to
18 go through the border, and the two representatives that
19 we have now do understand that and are representing us
20 well in Washington, and my big fear is that when we get
21 redistricted, we'll lose one of those votes, so thank
22 you once again for coming down and once again I agree
23 with John, I like the way things are now.

24 VICE-CHAIR HERRERA: Thank you.

25 Barbara Mendoza representing herself.

1 BARBARA MENDOZA: Good evening. My name is
2 Barbara Mendoza, M-E-N-D-O-Z-A. I'm here today
3 representing myself. I am, however, a precinct
4 committee person with the Democratic party. I'm also
5 the Director of Industrial Relations in the American
6 Postal Workers Union from Tucson, Arizona. I'm a
7 former elected official to the school board in Nogales
8 and I just have a few comments that I would like to
9 make.

10 First, I would like to thank you for coming to
11 Santa Cruz County and Nogales. Although maybe in
12 Maricopa you hear this is not such a safe place, it's
13 probably one of the friendliest places you will visit
14 in your meetings. Thank you for coming here.

15 Our community has a vital stake in the outcome
16 of redistricting and I thank you for listening to our
17 concerns. Southwest Arizona needs a voice in
18 Washington. Our region of the state has a rich history
19 and culture that uniquely binds us from Nogales to San
20 Luis to South Tucson.

21 The financial health of our communities rely on
22 our nation's relationship with Mexico. The port of
23 entry infrastructure improvement and operations are
24 vital to these areas and more federal support is
25 needed.

1 Our local economies are not the only thing
2 leading to Mexico. So are many of our families.
3 Working families and small minority businesses who are
4 struggling often don't know how to voice their concerns
5 and ideas but rely on us for protection and deserve
6 your consideration. Our families send their children
7 to public schools. They care for the future of our
8 environment and live in an area that experiences high
9 unemployment and too often low expectations. If we
10 care enough to be certain that all Arizonans have a
11 voice in the future of our state and equality, and a
12 good quality of life for all its citizens, a voice in
13 our government is the right place to start in
14 guaranteeing this. I believe the commission did a
15 great job 10 years ago in mapping competitive district
16 in community of interest.

17 We in Nogales share the same bond with the
18 border community of San Luis and the urban issues of
19 Tucson and I believe that, and hoping that we continue
20 to see that bond and community of interest.

21 I want to thank you again for coming to our
22 community and listening to our concerns and look
23 forward to seeing the results. Thank you.

24 VICE-CHAIR HERRERA: Thank you. The next
25 speaker is Eduardo Delci, Chairman of the Santa Cruz

1 Democratic party.

2 EDUARDO DELCI: Muchas gracias. Thank you very
3 much for coming to Nogales and Santa Cruz County. I
4 appreciate this opportunity to speak before your
5 commission and challenge you to continue maintaining
6 the integrity of the commission which is reflective of
7 the intentions of our Arizona borders as you indicated
8 in your presentation.

9 I would like to support Supervisor Maynard's
10 comments about Santa Cruz County maintaining its
11 current status and the satisfaction that the County
12 Board of Supervisors and the leadership and our
13 respective communities also enjoy by the current
14 designation that we have.

15 It's also extremely important as Ms. Mendoza
16 indicated, and Ms. Collier, although we're a small
17 county and we can't compete population-wise with the
18 two large urban areas that dominate the state, our
19 region is very unique because of its unique
20 relationship with both Mexico both commercially and in
21 our community of interest.

22 It's important to maintain that community of
23 interest in the designations of the districts, our
24 relationship along the border, with our Native American
25 community to the west and our Hispanic community to

1 Yuma County and that region keeps us within commercial
2 District 7 very solidly and it's a minority community
3 of interest as a voting pattern but culturally,
4 commercially and in our entire relationship
5 historically to the state I think is significant to
6 recognize that and to maintain it as a solid community
7 of interest in your considerations in delineating.

8 I speak as a fourth generation Arizonan. I'm
9 new to Santa Cruz County. I'm a retired higher
10 education counselor but my interest in working with
11 community has always been an interest that was
12 engrained in my background because of my parents'
13 interest in the state and I think that maintaining that
14 sort of quality and character in the delineation of the
15 districts that you draw should take, be taken into
16 consideration.

17 So thank you very much for coming to Nogales and
18 to Santa Cruz County and I challenge you to be creative
19 in your district. Thank you.

20 VICE-CHAIR HERRERA: Thank you. Our next
21 speaker is Manfred and I think it's Cripe?

22 MANFRED CRIPE: You've got it. My name is
23 Manfred Cripe. I'm named after my grandfather who was
24 born in 1888.

25 I oppose the way the district is put together

1 for geographic reasons. I looked at that list and that
2 was about the only one I could come up with, and the
3 reason is I'm a long time resident of Nogales, Arizona,
4 and I've lived here over 30 years and taught for 26
5 years in Nogales High School, and one of the classes I
6 taught was geography and I remember years ago taking a
7 geography class of the Southwest with Professor Hecht
8 (phonetically) at the University of Arizona and he
9 stressed the importance to Arizona of the Santa Cruz
10 River Valley and he mentioned that years ago there was
11 almost no one who lived between Tucson and Hermosillo.

12 Well, of course, that has all changed but I
13 think it would be a lot better for the community of
14 Nogales and even Santa Cruz County if we were able to
15 be joined with kind of areas along the river.

16 Of course, I don't mean to go all the way along
17 the river but maybe at least up through at least half
18 of Green Valley or if not up until parts of
19 southwestern Tucson. It seems that no matter whether
20 we are Republican or Democrat that we are interested in
21 this valley because this valley, well, not all of it,
22 but some of it is the gateway, of course, to Mexico,
23 the commerce, of course, that comes through here and it
24 seems that the people who live in this area would have
25 a much greater connection, I'm sure, than splitting us

1 up all over the place with, say, Fort Huachuca and
2 Sierra Vista who has an entirely different mind set,
3 and it just seems that geography would be a good way to
4 do some kind of correction of this gerrymandering
5 monster that you all have created. Thank you.

6 VICE-CHAIR HERRERA: Mr. Cripe, could you spell
7 your name for the record?

8 MANFRED CRIPE: Manfred, M-A-N-F-R-E-D, Cripe,
9 C-R-I-P-E. And if you have any connection with the
10 Midwest, you will know my name is a swear word.

11 VICE-CHAIR HERRERA: Thank you. Morris Farr
12 representing the Santa Cruz Democratic party and
13 vice-chair and also a board member of the Arizona
14 Borderlands Democrats.

15 MORRIS FARR: Thank you. I have a statement
16 which the board of the Arizona -- my statement will be
17 basically from the Arizona Borderlands Democrats and we
18 have just a slightly different opinion from a couple of
19 the Democratic speakers so far.

20 This is a situation I'm sure that you've never
21 confronted, Democrats who have some little
22 disagreements, but this is a little one, seriously.
23 The Arizona Borderlands Democratic party club that has
24 operated in Santa Cruz County since 2003.

25 We would like to thank the commission for having

1 this meeting in our county and appreciate the
2 opportunity to provide input to the redistricting
3 process.

4 While the Arizona Borderlands Democrats welcomes
5 members from throughout Santa Cruz County, our primary
6 geographic region is the northeast section of the
7 county, the areas of Patagonia, Sonoita and Elgin. We
8 have over 180 persons on our e-mail listserv and
9 approximately 100 active members.

10 The Patagonia, Sonoita, Elgin area contains five
11 precincts with total voter registration of about 2,230.
12 We presently reside in Congressional District 8 and
13 Legislative District 30. We're happy with having those
14 assignments. District 8 is fine. We're not so happy
15 with District 30.

16 Party registration within our geographic region
17 is evenly divided, 37 percent Democrat, 36 percent
18 Republican and 27 percent Independent and others.

19 Here's what we would like to say about the
20 redistricting process. First, we wholeheartedly
21 support the work of this commission in its mission to
22 administer a fair and balanced redistricting of the
23 congressional and legislative districts for the State
24 of Arizona

25 We believe it is vitally important to produce a

1 fair and competitive map for political districts in the
2 state. We strongly oppose any efforts to undermine the
3 work of this commission by anyone who would seek an
4 unfair political advantage through the redistricting
5 process.

6 Second, we would like to comment on where our
7 geographic region fits in terms of communities of
8 interest. The Patagonia, Sonoita, Elgin region is
9 largely rural. Our residents, many of whom are retired
10 or semi-retired, enjoy the natural beauty of the area
11 and its rural, small town atmosphere. We have more n
12 common with other rural small town areas in Santa Cruz
13 County and similar areas in Cochise County than we do
14 with urbanized areas in Green Valley and Tucson.

15 In the current legislative district map,
16 we probably fit better in LD 25 than LD 30. However
17 the commission chooses to configure districts in the
18 new map, we urge you to consider the placement of our
19 region with compatible areas.

20 Our small community illustrates one of the great
21 problems associated with non-competitive districts. In
22 legislative races we generally vote slightly Democratic
23 in a district that is overwhelmingly Republican, where
24 the real race, if any, is in the Republican primary.

25 As a result, we have rarely had a visit to our

1 community by a sitting legislator. If we were in a
2 competitive swing district, one in which every vote
3 makes a difference, we are certain that our community's
4 needs and aspirations would have a much greater chance
5 of being addressed.

6 Thank you for the opportunity to provide input.
7 And I urge you to consider our comments, and I'm sure
8 you will make the best decision you can.

9 VICE-CHAIR HERRERA: Thank you. Next person is
10 Peter Bengtson representing himself.

11 PETER BENGTON: Hello. My name is Peter
12 Bengtson, B-E-N-G-T-S-O-N. I live in Pima County, LD
13 26. This is the third IRC meeting I have been to. The
14 first one was June 30th in Tucson so my comments start
15 out based on that impression.

16 I support the current IRC. The two Democrat and
17 two Republican commissioners were appointed exactly as
18 required in Proposition 106. At the March 1st, 2011,
19 IRC meeting Ms. McNulty made a motion to appoint
20 Colleen Mathis as the chair. Mr. Stertz seconded the
21 motion and it was unanimous.

22 I certainly support Ms. -- the Chair Mathis. I
23 think she's doing an excellent job. I also support the
24 selection of Strategic Telemetry for the mapping
25 consulting.

1 The role of a mapping consultant is a technical
2 one. The role of the IRC and the comments you're
3 receiving today are to insure that Strategic Telemetry
4 develops a map and meets the six goals set forth in
5 Section 14 of Proposition 106 that you described today.

6 One of the things that hasn't been covered, and
7 I think is important, I'm particularly interested in
8 the Section C Geographical Compactness. Communities of
9 Interest Section D and on the list and competitive
10 districts.

11 The problem with a lot of that is that there are
12 various ways of measuring geographical compactness.
13 That was mentioned at the recent board meeting up in
14 Phoenix and I would like to see some description of the
15 measures that Strategic Telemetry in the IRC is going
16 to be using to measure what the competitive -- excuse
17 me, geographical compactness.

18 I understand there are a number of different
19 ways to do that and I think that would be a key thing
20 that the public should be able to comment on.

21 Competitive districts is also a major interest
22 of mine. As a previous speaker said, it's important to
23 have a district set up so that each party has a
24 reasonable chance of winning and I know there are
25 various ways you can define competitive districts and I

1 would like to see some statement from Strategic
2 Telemetry and the IRC on how that is going to be
3 measured so that we know in advance what kind of
4 measures will be used. Thank you.

5 VICE-CHAIR HERRERA: Thank you. Next speaker is
6 Mohur Sidhwa and can you pronounce it but also spell it
7 for us, representing herself.

8 MOHUR SIDHWA: Yes, my name is Mohur Sidhwa,
9 M-O-H-U-R S-I-D-H-W-A, Tucson. First of all, once
10 again, thank you all for doing this. It is a tough
11 job. Turn by turn you will be vilified and in turn I
12 will hug you all simply because I've seen the way you
13 are working and how hard and dedicated you all are.

14 Stay strong, go with whatever the needed
15 criteria is for doing what you're doing, and as long as
16 you can do that, nobody can harm you or touch you. I
17 am the drum banger on the competitive district so once
18 again I'll talk about that.

19 Competitive districting, as the previous speaker
20 said, forces those working elected to talk to those
21 beyond their base and readily represent the community
22 and not just a tiny subsection of the community. If we
23 are to compete nationally or even internationally, we
24 have to learn competition early and why not at the
25 voting place also because that lends itself to more

1 diversion, a different way of thinking and without a
2 sense of intellectual diversity, we cannot have a good
3 economic diversity, therefore, we cannot have a good
4 economic state.

5 I may be putting it badly but competition is
6 essential. It's such an American phenomena how can we
7 not expect competition from an electoral process of all
8 places. So that's all I have to say. Thank you.

9 VICE-CHAIR HERRERA: Next person is Jim Rushford
10 representing himself.

11 JIM RUSHFORD: Hi, I'm Jim Rushford,
12 R-U-S-H-F-O-R-D. I'm here representing myself. I'm
13 here to support Prop 106 and the Arizona Independent
14 Redistricting Commission. I support the redrawing of
15 competitive district lines by means of the laws,
16 procedure and criterias set forth by Arizona's
17 constitution.

18 I support competitive districts because
19 competition is the essence of both capitalism and
20 democracy. Thank you.

21 VICE-CHAIR HERRERA: Thank you. The next
22 speaker is Danielle Rushford representing herself.

23 DANIELLE RUSHFORD: My name is Danielle
24 Rushford, R-U-S-H-F-O-R-D. I'm representing myself,
25 and the next time I would like to go first and not

1 speak after all these great speakers.

2 I'm here today to support the IRC and
3 Strategic Telemetry and really just to say I'm here to
4 speak my support of competitive districting. Thank you
5 all for doing the job you're doing. Thank you.

6 VICE-CHAIR HERRERA: Okay. Thank you. The next
7 speaker is Michael Liburdi and he is representing the
8 Fair Trust.

9 MICHAEL LIBURDI: Good evening, Mr. Vice-Chair,
10 members of the commission, I'm Michael Liburdi. That's
11 spelled M-I-C-H-A-E-L L-I-B-U-R-D-I. I'm an attorney.
12 I represent the Fair Trust. The Fair Trust exists to
13 insure that Arizona's new congressional legislative
14 districts are drawn fairly and in an impartial manner.
15 I just wanted to takes a few moments to go over some
16 principles of what we believe are fair redistricting.

17 First, the U.S. Constitution, the Voting Rights
18 Act and the Arizona Constitution must be followed
19 strictly along with the laws that govern this
20 commission's process.

21 We believe that native American communities
22 should never be split among districts. Latinos make up
23 29 and a half percent of Arizona's population. This
24 means that they should get at least two congressional
25 districts in which Latinos are able to elect a

1 candidate of their choice, meaning in which they have a
2 majority of voters in those districts. They should
3 also get one more congressional district in which they
4 have a strong voice or influence, if not a majority.

5 We also believe that this also means that they
6 should get nine Latino majority legislative districts.
7 If geography and demography permit it without resorting
8 to a legal journey in that regard.

9 District population should be equal with no more
10 than one voter apart. This is required by the Arizona
11 Constitution, Prop 106, and it is a deviation from
12 federal law. The software exists to accomplish this
13 result.

14 The commission should define what might make the
15 communities of interest so the definition can be
16 applied evenly all around Arizona, neither favoring nor
17 disfavoring any particular community or any part of the
18 state.

19 Communities of interest should be placed in the
20 same district to the extent possible, particularly in
21 rural areas of the State of Arizona. Joining voters
22 with common interest adds weight to their vote, adds
23 their strength in numbers.

24 Districts should be drawn compactly. The number
25 of independent voters has grown significantly and their

1 voices must be heard. The best way to keep whole
2 communities of interest in which they live -- pardon
3 me, the best way is to keep whole communities of
4 interest together in the areas in which they live.

5 Competitive districts should be favored but as
6 the Arizona constitution requires, only to the extent
7 that doing so causes no significant detriment to the
8 other redistricting criteria.

9 Districts cannot be gerrymandered solely for the
10 sake of competitiveness so voters clearly rejected this
11 principle when they passed Proposition 106 in the 2000
12 election. Thank you.

13 VICE-CHAIR HERRERA: Thank you. Next speaker is
14 Gary Gomez representing himself.

15 GARY GOMEZ: My name is Gary Gomez, G-O-M-E-Z,
16 G-A-R-Y, Gary. Representing myself. I live in Pima
17 County.

18 I have great concern about the fairness of this
19 commission. I've been following a number of disturbing
20 actions by the commission. I believe open meeting laws
21 have been violated in that after the Procurement Office
22 of the State of Arizona refused to be a participant in
23 the signing of Strategic Telemetry and walked out of
24 the meeting, that was the only reason given by the
25 commission for the private behind closed door meetings

1 in that you said you had to follow the procurement
2 procedures. Once procurement walked away, then you
3 violated the Open Meeting Act.

4 Additionally, there were phone calls, was stated
5 today on the radio by the Chair Colleen Mathis to
6 attempt to trade votes with the two Republicans so that
7 Strategic Telemetry was voted unanimously. That is
8 again illegal. The Attorney General's office is now
9 investigating many of these actions.

10 Strategic Telemetry has been solely a company
11 working for Democrats to elect Democrats throughout the
12 nation. They worked for the Obama campaign. They were
13 hired by the DNC after the November 10th or November
14 elections of 2010 to formulate a strategy to create the
15 ability for the Democrats to regain the House of
16 Representatives on the federal level. This all was
17 reported on the radio.

18 I am a Republican. I really would like to also
19 say that I agree with many of the Democrats that spoke.
20 All of us as Arizonans wish for the districts to be
21 fair, to look at the communities of interest. I don't
22 think Nogales should be moved over in into LD 8 just so
23 that LD 8 is stronger for my Congresswoman.

24 That communities of interest, I've never moved
25 someplace because I checked the voting records and I

1 strongly -- I was very upset at some of the earlier
2 meetings when several of the presenters for the
3 contract were talking about downloading voting history
4 of, down to the precinct level.

5 That to me tells me one thing, that at some
6 point they are going to start rather than communities
7 of interest weighing how they can gerrymander precincts
8 and districts for one advantage or the other.

9 We all want our own representation. I wish I
10 didn't have a Democratic Congresswoman but she's great
11 and I live in LD 8 and I'm not going to move out of LD
12 8 because I have a Democratic Congresswoman.

13 I don't know how many of you all would move out
14 of your district if it suddenly switched Republican. I
15 doubt if anybody buys their homes based on politics.
16 We want representation. We want somebody that listens
17 to us and we're all seeking the same thing.

18 I just hope that this commission renews their
19 efforts to make this fair, and right now there's not a
20 lot of trust. I don't know that the maps haven't
21 already been drawn in Washington, D.C., by Strategic
22 Telemetry. Thank you.

23 VICE-CHAIR HERRERA: Thank you. Our next
24 speaker is Faith Salzgeber. I'm butchering your last
25 name, I apologize, but if you don't mind pronouncing

1 your last name and also spelling your first and last
2 name. Representing yourself.

3 FAITH SALZGEBER: Hi, I'm Faith Salzgeber.
4 That's Faith as in as faith, hope and charity, and
5 Salzgeber, S as in Sam, A-L-Z, as in zebra, G, as in
6 George, E, as in Edward, B, as in boy, E, as in Edward,
7 R.

8 I'm a resident of Pima County. I live in
9 Legislative District 26 and I'm kind of an interloper
10 here because we didn't make any of the meetings that
11 were up in Tucson. So bear with me.

12 I'm here indeed to support the work of the
13 commission. I think you are appropriately selected
14 according to the wishes of the voters in 2000 and
15 selection and the regulations that you follow are
16 according to Hoyle, if you will.

17 We feel that it's perfectly good. We've got two
18 Republicans, two Democrats and an Independent just as
19 it should. I do also think it's somewhat inappropriate
20 for the legislative bodies of the state to be
21 attempting any interference with you in your job. I
22 support the work of the commission as it now stands and
23 thank you all for your service.

24 We are on the northwest side of Tucson and
25 indeed, as elections have shown, we're in a fairly

1 competitive district. Likewise, in LD 8, excuse
2 me -- Congressional District 8, clearly it was a fairly
3 competitive kind of race and so I think that in the
4 congressional district area we're looking at a place
5 where we are fairly comfortable having those two
6 districts.

7 Again, I want to thank you all for your work and
8 keep up the good work and thank you for coming down
9 here.

10 VICE-CHAIR HERRERA: Thank you. I think this is
11 our last speaker. I don't have any more requests to
12 speak so anybody -- did you fill out one of these
13 forms?

14 MALE SPEAKER: No.

15 VICE-CHAIR HERRERA: If you don't mind filling
16 it out and giving it to our Executive Director Ray
17 Bladine.

18 Our second to last would be this is Roger
19 Salzgeber. If you don't mind coming up and speaking.

20 ROGER SALZGEBER: Hello, my name is Roger
21 Salzgeber, that's R-O-G-E-R and Salzgeber,
22 S-A-L-Z-G-E-B-E-R. My wife just preceded me and I live
23 in Tucson. I missed the other meetings so I decided to
24 drive down here just to make a couple of comments.

25 And, first, I would like to state that I believe

1 that the redistricting commission has been constituted
2 according to the wishes of the voters that was cast in
3 2000. The selection of the commissioners has been
4 according to the approved regulations. Two
5 commissioners were selected for each county and the
6 choice of an independent commissioner was unanimously
7 approved.

8 I don't think that it's appropriate for the
9 state legislative bodies to be interfering with the
10 wishes of the voters and the work of the commission,
11 and I support the commission as it now stands and I
12 thank you very much for your service.

13 I guess my one point I want to make here is I'm
14 going to cast my vote and chime in for competitive
15 districts. I see that as probably one of the most
16 important things in elections where I think
17 non-competitive districts have the result of adding to
18 the gridlock that we're all familiar with in government
19 right now, entrenched beliefs and catering to a small
20 group of people.

21 Contrary to my wife's opinion, I think that I
22 live in a district in northwest Tucson that is not
23 competitive. I guess couples don't always agree but I
24 just want to encourage you to form competitive
25 districts and thank you for coming down and appreciate

1 it very much.

2 VICE-CHAIR HERRERA: Thank you, sir. We have
3 two more. Anybody wishing to speak would need to fill
4 out one of these yellow sheets.

5 So we have Bruce Bracker representing himself.
6 If you don't mind spelling your first and last name.

7 BRUCE BRACKER: No. Good evening and thank you
8 very much for coming down to Nogales. My name is
9 Bruce Bracker, B-R-U-C-E B-R-A-C-K-E-R.

10 I'm a downtown merchant, third generation, live
11 on the border and the border commerce is vitally
12 important to our -- within our region and our entire
13 state.

14 Right now we currently have three -- I apologize
15 for being late, I had to close our store. You guys
16 started at 6:00 so I missed your presentation.

17 We currently have three districts, congressional
18 districts, that are representing the border region. I
19 think it's vitally important that we continue to have
20 three congress people representing the border. There
21 are a lot of issues. Each region has its own unique
22 little issues and it's vitally important that there are
23 three people that can work together to bring the
24 attention of the problems of the border to the federal
25 level.

1 That's what I wanted to say. Thank you
2 very much again for coming to Nogales.

3 VICE-CHAIR HERRERA: Thank you. We have
4 Marcelino Varona representing himself.

5 MARCELINO VARONA: Good evening members of the
6 Commission, Marcelino Varona, V, as in Victor,
7 A-R-O-N-A, 826 North Linda Vista Drive.

8 I just wanted to come over and tell you that the
9 way the legislative districts and congressional
10 districts are setup right now I do support that. I
11 feel that they are very competitive the way they are
12 right now and it is nice when I, as Chairman of the
13 Santa Cruz County Provisional Community College
14 Governing Board have to go up there and talk about the
15 community college district legislation it helps when we
16 have two sets of representatives and two senators that
17 can go ahead and articulate on the floor on our behalf,
18 and the same with congressional, you know, our
19 community is very dependent on commerce in northern
20 Sonora. Very dependent on it. Without that, our
21 lifeline.

22 So I hope that you keep everything competitive
23 and I hope of that nine congressional districts instead
24 of us having three people individuals that can
25 represent us congressionally along the 2,000 mile

1 Mexican border, the Arizona-Mexico border, that you add
2 that Ninth Congressional District down here in the
3 southern part of Arizona so we could have more
4 representation and a bigger voice, especially for the
5 Hispanic community. Thank you.

6 VICE-CHAIR HERRERA: Mr. Varona, could you just
7 spell your first name?

8 MARCELINO VARONA: Marcelino, M-A-R-C-E-L-I-N-O.

9 VICE-CHAIR HERRERA: Thank you. Thank you for
10 the comments for tonight and I appreciate you guys
11 being here. I think this is a meeting that you will be
12 able to get home and watch your favorite show.

13 But before we close, I want to see if my fellow
14 commissioners want to say any words. Commissioner
15 McNulty.

16 COMMISSIONER McNULTY: Thank you all for coming
17 and for your thoughtful comments. This process is
18 going to continue for several more months. As I think
19 you know, it's a very complicated and difficult
20 process. A lot is at stake here. I'm doing this
21 because I believe everyone needs to have a voice.

22 I really appreciate hearing your voices tonight.
23 I would like to encourage you as you followed the
24 process that if you have questions at any time, we have
25 a great staff, I think we put together a great team of

1 people, we worked very hard at putting this team
2 together over the last four months.

3 I think it's a team that's smart, that's going
4 to do a very good job for the State of Arizona and I
5 encourage you to take advantage of them. If you do
6 have questions, feel free to contact our Executive
7 Director Ray Bladine.

8 I think we're going to be adding more
9 information to the website. Keep your eyes on that and
10 if you read something that you don't understand or see
11 things that don't make sense to you, please don't
12 hesitate to contact the IRC. We'll be having more
13 hearings and I hope you watch for those also. Thank
14 you.

15 VICE-CHAIR HERRERA: Mr. Stertz.

16 COMMISSIONER STERTZ: Thank you, Vice-Chair
17 Herrera. First of all, thank you very much for coming
18 out tonight. I'm honored to be a participant in this
19 task. It is -- when I was first approached by a friend
20 of mine, he is the owner of the Christian radio
21 stations in Tucson, to put in my application for this
22 redistricting commission, I wasn't exactly sure what it
23 meant and on a daily basis I'm learning more and more
24 about what it truly means.

25 It means there are six and a half million people

1 in the State of Arizona that are relying on five people
2 volunteering their time to capture information from
3 each one of them and to instill in each one of these a
4 confidence that you are hoping for us to be able to
5 instill in you.

6 We're hoping through our work to be fair, to be
7 independent, to be politically balanced and we hope
8 that we conduct ourselves in a manner that instills
9 confidence in each one of you at the end of the day.

10 I know there are people on each side of the
11 aisle that are going to be unhappy with the results but
12 we will do the best we can at drafting lines that
13 are -- that meet the criteria as we have been directed
14 to by the constitution.

15 The constitution gives us very clear mandates
16 about what the rules that we're supposed to be working
17 within and it is incumbent upon every member of the
18 community to come out and share. There's very
19 interesting words that came out, including the last
20 speaker, regarding representation along the southern
21 border. I've been living in Arizona for 30 years. I
22 transferred from the State of Wisconsin and after
23 living there for my youth and moving here after college
24 and Arizona is now my home of residence. I've raised
25 my children here and now my grandchildren.

1 I'm very excited to know that as Arizona has
2 progressed, that Arizona's southern border has become
3 the dynamic thing that we talk about on a daily basis.
4 The southern border of the State of Arizona has
5 impacted conversation through all 50 states and I think
6 that's the conversation that took place earlier
7 regarding having a third congressional representative
8 on our southern border is something that we as a
9 commission should dynamically discuss and debate.

10 I'm looking forward to getting more conversation
11 with the communities here of commerce, from the country
12 of Mexico into Arizona as it transports to the rest of
13 this country is dynamic and important and we have to
14 respect how much that affects what we're doing here and
15 I'm honored to be part of this group of people and
16 thank you very much for taking the time out of your
17 night, we volunteered for this, your coming out to put
18 forward your ideas. I want to thank you very much.

19 VICE-CHAIR HERRERA: Thank you both for your
20 comments, and I couldn't agree more. I think this, for
21 me, this is my favorite part, sitting hearing the
22 comments from the audience whether you're supportive or
23 in disagreement with what we're doing, it doesn't
24 matter to me. It matters. I enjoy hearing those
25 comments and I would encourage you to invite your

1 neighbors when we have our meetings our next round, if
2 you are in Nogales that you attend and make your
3 comments again. You know, you can say the same over
4 again. That's not to be I don't have anything else to
5 say. We enjoy hearing the comments and we want to make
6 sure you have a voice.

7 Again, we have a great staff and without them,
8 it wouldn't be possible. If you have any questions,
9 please contact them, and thank you guys for being here.
10 Our next one will be tomorrow at the City of Yuma,
11 Arizona Western College, starting at 1:00 p.m. so if
12 you want to travel to Yuma, my hometown, I welcome you
13 there. Thank you guys, and have a good evening.

14 (The meeting was then adjourned at
15 7:04 p.m.)

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1 STATE OF ARIZONA)
) ss.
2 COUNTY OF PIMA)

3 BE IT KNOWN that I, Kenneth W. Schippers, took the
4 foregoing meeting at the time and place stated in the
5 caption hereto; that I was then and there a Certified
6 Court Reporter (CCR #50248) in and for County of Pima,
7 State of Arizona; that my shorthand notes of said
8 meeting was reduced to writing under my direction and
9 the foregoing pages contain a full, true and correct
10 transcription of my notes of said meeting.

11 IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto subscribed
12 my name this 3rd day of August, 2011.

13 
14 _____
15 CERTIFIED SHORTHAND REPORTER
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