

1. 10-18-22 DistrAdvisoryComm

Documents:

[10-18-22 DIST ADVISORY COMM.PDF](#)

2. 10-18-2022 TDAC Transcript Fixed

Documents:

[TDAC 10.18.22 KL PDF TRANSCRIPT.PDF](#)



## **PUBLIC NOTICE**

**PLEASE TAKE NOTICE THAT THE  
TEMPORARY DISTRICTING ADVISORY COMMISSION**

**FOR THE**

**THE NASSAU COUNTY LEGISLATURE**

**WILL HOLD A PUBLIC HEARING**

**ON**

**TUESDAY, OCTOBER 18, 2022**

**6:00 PM UNTIL LAST PUBLIC SPEAKER**

**IN**

**GLEN COVE CITY HALL**

**9 GLEN STREET**

**GLEN COVE, NY 11542**

**PLEASE CHECK WEBSITE AT LEAST 24 HOURS BEFORE MEETING FOR  
ANY CHANGES, POSTPONEMENTS OR CANCELLATIONS FOR  
UPCOMING MEETINGS. IF A MEETING IS CANCELLED OR POSTPONED A  
NEW PUBLIC NOTICE WILL BE POSTED**

Attendees will be given an opportunity to sign in to address the Legislature. Public comment will be limited to 3 MINUTES. Public comment on any item may also be emailed to the Clerk of the Legislature at [LegPublicComment@nassaucountyny.gov](mailto:LegPublicComment@nassaucountyny.gov) and will be made part of the formal record of this Temporary Districting Advisory Commission meeting.

**FRANCIS X. MORONEY  
CHAIRPERSON**

**DATED: October 11, 2022**

Mineola, NY

The Nassau County Legislature is committed to making its public meetings accessible to individuals with disabilities and every reasonable accommodation will be made so that they can participate. Please contact the Office of the Clerk of the Legislature at 571-4252, or the Nassau County Office for the Physically Challenged at 227-7101 or TDD Telephone No. 227-8989 if any assistance is needed. Every Legislative meeting is streamed live on <http://www.nassaucountyny.gov/agencies/Legis/index.html>

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NASSAU COUNTY  
TEMPORARY DISTRICTING  
ADVISORY COMMISSION

\*\*\*\*\*

MEETING VI

Held at

THE CITY OF GLEN COVE TOWN HALL

9 GLEN STREET

GLEN COVE, NY 11542

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FRANCIS X. MORONEY

CHAIR

\*\*\*\*\*

Nassau County Legislature

1550 Franklin Avenue

Mineola, New York

\*\*\*\*\*

October 18, 2022

6:05 p.m.

TAKEN BY: KAREN LORENZO, OFFICIAL COURT REPORTER

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A P P E A R A N C E S :

COMMISSIONERS :

- FRANCIS X. MORONEY, CHAIRMAN
- PETER BEE
- JOHN J. REINHARDT
- MAUREEN FITZGERALD
- CHRISTOPHER DEVANE
- ERIC MALLETT

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- DAVID MEJIAS, VICE CHAIR
- JARED KASSCHAU
- ANDRENA WYATT (absent)
- JAMES MAGIN, JR.
- MICHAEL PERNICK

\*\*\*

EXECUTIVE DIRECTORS :

- ELISABETTA COSCHIGNANO
- RACHEL WHITMORE

\*\*\*

BOARD ATTORNEYS :

- VINCENT MESSINA, ESQ.
- PETER CLINES, ESQ.

CLERK :

- MICHAEL PULITZER

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A L S O   A P P E A R E D :

PUBLIC COMMENT:

Karen Moskowitz - LWV of Nassau County

Dan Oppenheimer

Kevin McKenna

Stephanie Chase

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AGENDA

1. Open meeting - Pledge of Allegiance
2. Chairman's Statement
3. Introduction of the Commissioner's
4. Public Statement
5. Adjourn

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CHAIRMAN MORONEY: Good evening, ladies and gentlemen. We're going to start this hearing. It's now five past or six past six. Could I ask you all to rise with me and recite the Pledge to the flag.

(Whereupon, the Pledge of Allegiance was said by all.)

CHAIRMAN MORONEY: Thank you very much. Just so you know what's going on here, you see these little -- They look like dots from the candy store. I'm going to be running the machine. So if you forgive me if I hit it wrong. It's not my forte, but I'll do the best I can. We have a three-minute rule. When it comes to that time, we'll get a notification that, you know, wrap it up if you can and we'll move forward from there.

In the meantime, can I have the roll call.

CLERK PULITZER: Yes, sir.

Commissioner Peter Bee?

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COMMISSIONER BEE: Present.

CLERK PULITZER: Commissioner John Reinhardt?

COMMISSIONER REINHARDT: Present.

CLERK PULITZER: Commissioner Maureen Fitzgerald?

COMMISSIONER FITZGERALD: Present.

CLERK PULITZER: Commissioner Christopher Devane?

COMMISSIONER DEVANE: Present.

CLERK PULITZER: Thank you. Commissioner Eric Mallette?

COMMISSIONER MALLETTE: Present.

CLERK PULITZER: Commissioner David Mejias?

COMMISSIONER MEJIAS: Present.

CLERK PULITZER: Thank you. Commissioner Jared Kasschau?

COMMISSIONER KASSCHAU: Present.

CLERK PULITZER: Okay. Thank you. Commissioner Andrena Wyatt?

(Whereupon, there was no response.)

CLERK PULITZER: Commissioner James



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Magin, Jr.?

COMMISSIONER MAGIN: Present.

CLERK PULITZER: Commissioner  
Michael Pernick?

COMMISSIONER PERNICK: Present.

CLERK PULITZER: Chairman Frank  
Moroney?

CHAIRMAN MORONEY: Present.

CLERK PULITZER: We have a quorum,  
sir.

CHAIRMAN MORONEY: If anyone is  
interested in speaking at this evening's  
event, right over here on my right, your  
left (indicating) you'll see the table  
where Michael Pulitzer is sitting. He's  
the Clerk for the County Legislature. So  
if you want to speak and you want to get  
on the list, please go over there and  
sign in, okay?

In the meanwhile, in each of these  
proceedings, I have taken the opportunity  
to put some thoughts on paper. Those of  
you who've been here upon multiple  
occasions, and there are a few of you

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that I recognize, will recognize a few of the things that I'm saying so we can all work from the same page.

First, I want to thank Tom Alfano for subbing for me last week. He did a heck of a job under difficult circumstances.

I'd like to welcome you to the sixth public hearing of the Temporary Redistricting Advisory Commission. This is an opportunity for the residents and taxpayers to suggest and to tell the commissioners what they want to have and what they want to see in their maps.

There will be additional opportunities for the public to have input into this process. To date, the members of both the Republican and Democratic delegations have heard from approximately 95 speakers with varying requests to keep various communities together.

I trust that the public attendees and those streaming this, watching this

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from stream, are free to share your ideas. We are open to receiving e-mails and the like.

(Whereupon, there was an un-mic'd unidentified speaker from the audience.)

CHAIRMAN MORONEY: The Commission -- Mr. McKenna, you're out of order. You're out of order. You're out of order.

(Whereupon, unidentified audience member continues to speak.)

CHAIRMAN MORONEY: If I could, the Commission consists of 11 members with a non-voting chair being appointed by the county executives. There are five members appointed by the Presiding Officer and five by the Minority Leader.

The Commission permits but does not require public hearings. The priory apportionment processes established the tradition that these hearings will be happening on a regular basis.

The County Legislature has allocated

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\$985,000 to fund the work of the Commission. The allocation is divided equally between the commissioners, both appointed by the Presiding Officer and the Minority Leader; however, a portion of the \$985,000 is set aside for services such as stenographic services, American Sign Language interpreters and Spanish-speaking interpreters and other shared costs of the Commission.

Each delegation of appointees shares the balance equally for the purchases of the needed mapping technology, software, the hiring of experts, counsel and other staff as they may deem necessary to this process.

In developing the map or maps, the Commission must comply with both federal and state law. The proceedings have to be fair and transparent to the public.

The transparency is achieved by significant outreach to the public and holding public hearings on any map or maps or plans for redistricting that may

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be submitted to the County Legislature by these commissioners or others.

Once maps or plans are drawn, there will be an opportunity for the public to see and give an opinion as to the work product.

We are looking forward to a full hearing in early November at a date to be determined.

The updated website will have a link to any and all maps that may be presented by any commissioner or anyone else. Thereafter, any map or maps are turned over to the legislature. Likewise, all the transcripts from the public and public comment that are generated by these hearings from the TDAC will also be sent over.

There'll also be an opportunity after these hearings close for input, and that date will be announced as and when we get to the last hearing.

The full legislature will conduct public hearings on submissions by an

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appropriate legislative committee, then the entire legislation. The goal of the temporary Redistricting Commission is to have our process complete and complete its hearings so that the legislature has adequate time to review any submissions of maps and conduct its hearings.

The County Legislation may reject, adopt, revise or amend the redistricting plan or plans recommended by the Temporary District Advisory Commission or adopt any other redistricting plan that meets all constitutional, federal and state statutory requirements.

In an effort to achieve transparency, all of the meetings and hearings will be in public and streamed live over the internet, which I believe I said earlier, and the Legislative Clerk will preserve those records. Further, this commission will stream the hearings and keep the record open for a period of time once these are completed which has also been referenced. It will include

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the submissions including e-mails and correspondence received prior to the date that the Commission record is closed. Nonetheless, any correspondence or e-mail or information received after that date will also be forwarded to the full legislature for its consideration.

In preparation for this hearing, a notice of this meeting and others was sent to the following:

- the Office of the County Executive; all the County Legislators; members of the Minority Commission Delegation; members of the Majority Commission Delegation; Nassau County League of Women Voters; the City of Glen Cove; the City of Long Beach; the Town of Hempstead; the Town of North Hempstead; the Town of Oyster Bay; 22 villages in the Town of Hempstead; 30 villages in the Town of North Hempstead; 16 villages in the Town of Oyster Bay; 55 libraries, like the one we're in tonight; 57 school districts; 67 civic associations; 50

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chambers of commerce; and, approximately, 150 members of news and other media outlets that serve Nassau County.

There are additional hearings scheduled for October 20 at the Albany Avenue Community Center and the Elmont Memorial Library on the 26th of October.

With that, I'm going to call upon our first speaker.

COMMISSIONER MEJIAS: Mr. Chairman, if I may.

CHAIRMAN MORONEY: Sure.

COMMISSIONER MEJIAS: We do have serious concerns at the silence of the Republican Delegation and the disregard they've had -- they've demonstrated for the integrity of this process.

First, at the last meeting, we proposed that in the spirit of transparency that both delegations disclose any experts they have contracted to analyze and develop maps. The Republican delegation, to date, still claims they have not contracted any



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2 experts and have no one working to  
3 analyze or develop maps. Assuming that  
4 they are being transparent in that claim,  
5 this is even more concerning as it shows  
6 that they are either counting on the  
7 Republican control legislature to develop  
8 the maps and choose their voters rather  
9 than their voters choosing them and  
10 choose what district lines they want to  
11 run in, or it's a clear neglect of their  
12 responsibilities to the public.

13 The Democratic Delegation has  
14 disclosed their experts and initial  
15 findings to the public and we've put our  
16 initial reports and findings into the  
17 record from both Dr. Daniel Magleby and  
18 our expert on demography, Dr. Megan Gall.

19 Secondly, as it is now October 18,  
20 at the onset of this process, the  
21 Democratic delegation had proposed a  
22 resolution that both delegations put  
23 forth their proposed maps by October 14,  
24 four days ago. Not only did the  
25 Republican delegation vote down the

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resolution but they continue to propose the maps are released the same day that they would be submitted to the Nassau County Legislature. This is unacceptable and an insult to the process and the people as it gives the people of Nassau County zero time to review the maps and put any concerns or questions they may have on the record.

Our experts, Dr. Magleby and Dr. Gall, in their reports had two key findings that should cause alarm and show the seriousness of the redistricting process and the threat of the current maps.

Our first expert, Dr. Daniel Magleby, has determined that the current county legislative map is an extreme partisan gerrymander which violates New York State law. In other words, we need to start from scratch with our new maps.

Moreover, our demographer and expert, Dr. Megan Gall, has made a preliminary determination that there is

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substantial evidence that the current map and any new map adapted by Nassau County that is similar to the current map violates both Federal and State Voting Rights Acts and illegally dilutes the voting rights of members of the minority community.

What does this mean? The current maps are completely, legally invalid and must be scrapped. We must start fresh with completely new maps. If we do not, the maps we propose to the County Legislature will be illegal and the Commission will violate its duty under the County Charter to properly propose legally compliant maps.

At the last meeting we attempted to show a PowerPoint to the public in order to educate the public better on the redistricting process. We were thwarted and not allowed to present our PowerPoint; however, we did hand out the PowerPoint deck to the public and we do have copies of that deck tonight, which

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we'll hand out to the public and was already put into the record. So I'll ask our Democratic staff to hand out to the public, anybody that wants a copy of the PowerPoint which talks about what the redistricting process is and what our responsibilities here of this Commission are.

Since the current maps are illegal and must be scrapped, we must start fresh with completely new maps. If we do not, there is a serious threat that the maps and new legislative districts will not only be illegal but members of minority communities will be under represented in government.

So I would ask you to look at the PowerPoint that we presented last week in Freeport because redistricting can be confusing. Naturally, many of the people in this room tonight are not familiar with the legal process of redrawing legislative districts. I'll ask that if you have any questions, we'd be glad to

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answer them.

When we did try to present the PowerPoint at the meeting last week, the five Democratic commissioners all walked out on the public in an illegal recess. The five Republican commissioners all walked out in an illegal recess despite the public's outcry to see the presentation. What you're going to have here today is a copy of the presentation. I'm still not really sure why the Republican delegation didn't want to provide the public with as much information as possible, but I will draw your attention to the PowerPoint that we've handed out today so that you can familiarize yourselves a little bit more with what the process is.

Having said that I'll turn it over to Jared Kasschau, my fellow commissioner.

COMMISSIONER KASSCHAU: Good evening everyone. Thank you, Dave.

I don't want to go into -- to repeat

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much of what Commissioner Mejias said, but the one thing that stands out in my mind that bears repeating and it's something that I've repeated at every meeting to date is with respect to the opportunity for the public to review draft proposed maps that are put together by this body.

As it stands now, as the Chairman had mentioned, they're planning on having the maps put together and as it stands a matter of hours between the time that those maps were published and the times that they're transmitted to the County Legislature.

As Commissioner Mejias had just mentioned, redistricting is a very complex process. It requires expert analysis. There's absolutely no way that the public can have an opportunity to meaningfully review those maps and experts have an opportunity to review those maps before they're transmitted to the Legislature.

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I've gone on multiple occasions about our efforts to have the agreement with my colleagues on the other side of the table with respect to producing maps at least one week in advance of those maps being transmitted to the Legislature to no avail and it's extremely frustrating. I think we're doing the public a great disservice by trying to compress the amount of time within which the maps are transmitted, published and then transmitted to the Legislature. I strongly believe as my colleagues do, that those maps should be vetted carefully by not only this Commission and the experts that we've engaged, but also by all of you.

With that, I'll pass my time over to Commissioner Pernick.

COMMISSIONER PERNICK: Thank you very much.

As Commissioner Mejias referenced in his initial comments, the members of the Democratic Delegation have retained two

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experts who have been doing objective, non-partisan analysis of the current map to inform our process. They've prepared preliminary reports which we've submitted into the record and you can find them online. They are not on the official website, but they are on a shared drive that the Democratic members have made available to the public. A link to that shared drive is included in the PowerPoint presentation. So you can go ahead and look at the two expert reports that have been submitted to this Commission by the Democratic members.

The takeaway from the first report, submitted by Dr. Daniel Magleby, is extremely important. As Commissioner Mejias said, he concluded that the current map and any new map adopted by Nassau County that is similar to the current map is an illegal partisan gerrymander. The results of his analysis leave no room for doubt on that point. And this is important because the laws



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have changed over the last ten years.  
The Municipal Home Rule Law now has a provision that provides, "Districts shall not be drawn to discourage competition or to favor or disfavor incumbents or other particular candidates for political parties."

We know the methodologies the courts will look at when evaluating whether that standard has been met, has been complied with, and we know that the current map fails and any map that bears significant resemblance to the current map would fail.

How did Dr. Magleby do this? Well, it's pretty simple. He uses a computer simulation to generate 10,000 random maps that comply with the requirements into the law, and he measures the outcome of the map that's being evaluated against those 10,000 maps. What did he conclude? The current Nassau County legislative map has more bias in favor of Republicans and against Democrats than all 10,000 random

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simulated maps. That's evidence that courts across the country would look to. The map is an illegal partisan gerrymander.

His report officially places this Commission, officially places Nassau County on notice that if we don't start from scratch, if we use that map as a starting point, we will be in violation of the Municipal Home Rule Law's prohibition on partisan gerrymandering.

The second report, submitted by Dr. Megan Gall, is a preliminary assessment of whether the map complies with the Federal Voting Rights Act and the State Voting Rights Act. These are incredibly important laws designed to protect communities of color against racial discrimination in voting. The takeaway from her assessment is also really simple and incredibly important. There's substantial evidence that the current map and any map adopted by Nassau County that is similar to the current map

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would violate the Federal and the State Voting Rights Act.

How did she do this analysis? Well, it's, again, pretty straight forward. She walked through the preconditions, the standards laid out by the United States Supreme Court. She walked through the methodology that is in the New York State Voting Rights Act and concluded that there's an obligation that it's possible to draw a map with five majority/minority districts and there's, therefore, an obligation to draw a map in which voters of color have an opportunity to elect candidates of their choice in at least five districts. The current map was drawn with only three majority/minority districts.

In the last ten years because of the growth of the minority community in Nassau County, there are now four districts. She has confirmed that it's possible and, in fact, required to draw five. So any map that doesn't achieve

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that goal we're concerned would very likely violate the Federal Voting Rights Act and the State Voting Rights Act.

So what does this mean? This also puts us on notice. It puts this Commission and it puts Nassau County on notice that we have an obligation to comply with the Federal and State Voting Rights Act, and if we have a map that looks anything like the current map, we're probably going to violate those statutes.

So we have an opportunity to fix those violations now. I know that my colleagues on the Democratic side are committed to doing so and I hope we can work collaboratively with our colleagues on the Republican side to work together to develop a map that complies with all of these requirements that can earn six votes so we can send that to the legislature for a recommendation.

Thank you. Dave?

COMMISSIONER MEJIAS: We've

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repeatedly expressed our concerns about the grave deficiencies in the Republican delegation's approach to the redistricting process so far and we continue to have those concerns. We appreciate all the public input to date and look forward to hearing from you today.

Thank you for your time.

COMMISSIONER BEE: Mr. Chairman?

CHAIRMAN MORONEY: Yes, Mr. Bee.

COMMISSIONER BEE: I'd just like to note that I do agree that we seem to have different approaches to the process. My understanding is that we are here to hear from the public. Thus far, we have now spent 20 minutes hearing from the Democratic Delegation that their lawyer has told them that a 10-year old map is illegal. We're here to draw a new map. The first step in that process, we think, is to hear from the public as to how they would like the new map to look. That being said, I request that you call upon

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the first speaker.

CHAIRMAN MORONEY: Yes. Karen  
Moskowitz.

MS. MOSKOWITZ: Good evening. My  
name is Karen Moskowitz, Co-Chair of the  
Nassau League of Women Voters  
Redistricting Committee.

The League's a non-partisan grass  
roots non-profit encouraging informed and  
active participation in our democracy.

The League takes position on a  
variety of public policy issues, but  
never supports or opposes any political  
party or candidate. As it has at all  
earlier public meetings of the  
Commission, we're here to advocate on  
behalf of the transparent and inclusive  
redistricting process. Once again we  
remind you that redistricting is  
foundational to the right to vote and  
that the public must be able to observe  
the work of the commission, but to date  
what we lived with is an opaque  
procedure.

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Firstly, with respect to the current process, repeated requests for an inclusive process in statements to the Commission made by both the League and the public have fallen on deaf ears. There are a few public meetings and working and mapping meetings, if there are any, are held outside the public view.

An expanded calendar of public meetings could easily continue into December and still allow the Commission ample time to draw its proposed maps and meet the submission deadline to the Legislature.

Despite claims that public meetings are broadly publicized, the public must work to find meeting details. On the official Commission website, details of future meetings aren't posted in a timely manner or require layers of click-through to access. Full meeting information is, however, readily available on the Democratic Delegation's shared drive.

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Dates and venues must be publicized with ample notice and the County Clerk's officially designated newspapers.

Provisions still have not been made for those who are physically challenged despite that County Legislature and Commission meeting notices clearly state, "The Nassau County Legislature is committed to making its public meetings accessible to individuals with disabilities and every reasonable accommodation will be made so that they can participate." By holding no meetings virtually, the physically challenged aren't able to participate in real time with live oral statements or by responding to questions posed by commissioners.

Secondly, the current plan is for the Commission to introduce proposed maps at 5:00 p.m. on November 10 and submit them to the legislature three-and-a-half hours later. This effectively eliminates the public's ability to analyze and



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respond to the maps prior to their submission to the Legislature. It also means the Commission has no intention of holding public hearings to enable the community to express whether the maps meet their expectations.

The State Independent Redistricting Commission held a second round of public hearings after the release of its proposed maps and the court, hearing the Harkenrider v. Hochul litigation allowed a window of public comment on the congressional and New York Senate maps proposed by it's court-appointed Special Master.

The County Charter gives the Commission until January 7, 2023 to submit their mapping plan. The accelerated November 10 timing demonstrates gross disrespect for the public and is an obvious attempt to bypass community input.

The County's redistricting process has been opaque and the lack of

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responsiveness from the Commission on concerns raised show little regard for interest of its residents.

The League has suggested remedies so that communities of interest can be fairly served by the Commission's mapping plan. Let's make the efforts necessary for a fair redistricting process. Thank you.

COMMISSIONER PERNICK: Ms. Moskowitz, if I may, I first want to thank you for coming. I know that you and other leaders in the League have been deeply involved in this process. I am grateful for that --

MS. MOSKOWITZ: Thank you.

COMMISSIONER BEE: -- and I know some of the individuals up here are truly grateful for the involvement, the guidance, the testimony from the League throughout this process.

I want to elevate two of the points that you have raised. First, virtual meetings. I think you make a very

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important point that virtual meetings would be essential for many members of our community who cannot come out on a weekday evening to participate in person, who may not be able to come to in-person meetings at all and having virtual meetings is a critical step.

I introduced a resolution at the outset of this process calling for at least two virtual meetings, one before maps were introduced and one after maps were introduced so the members of the public would have that opportunity. I do hope that's something that we can reconsider in light of the advocacy from the League on that point.

Second, I think it's worth elevating the important point you raised overlooking what's happened in the State process even with the compressed timeline; even with the litigation; even with all of the challenges that have plagued the State redistricting process, they were still able to have not only a

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full set of hearings of the Commission after draft maps had been introduced, but a set of hearings in an extremely compressed judicial schedule where there is a week for members of the public to weigh in and participate on proposed maps and have their voices heard.

So I think it's really important, the point that you raised, that there's no good excuse for denying the public this opportunity to comment, to weigh in on proposed maps --

MS. MOSKOWITZ: And then as you say with respect to Harkenrider v. Hochul, the public was given a mere three days to respond. They either had to send -- e-mail something or drive up or fly up to Bath, New York.

In that short amount of time, 3,000 public comments were received and the Special Master actually took them into account and a point of fact did respond to something the Nassau League of Women Voters had suggested with respect to how

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Long Island is oriented, but 3,000  
comments in three days.

COMMISSIONER PERNICK: Absolutely.  
Well that, again, speaks to the role of  
and the impact that something like that  
can have.

Based on your testimony to this  
Commission, I would, at this point, like  
to make a motion for this Commission to  
hold at least one fully virtual hearing  
in addition to any other hearings that  
are scheduled for us to hold that after  
draft maps are released but before a vote  
is held so that members of the public  
will have that opportunity to do exactly  
what the media's been recommending, to  
participate virtually and have their  
voices heard in that mechanism.

I'll make that motion at this time,  
and if it's unclear, I'm happy to restate  
it.

COMMISSIONER MEJIAS: Second.

CHAIRMAN MORONEY: On the motion --

COMMISSIONER PERNICK: And I'll make

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a motion for a roll call vote.

CHAIRMAN MORONEY: Mr. Pernick, on that issue, at least two weeks ago, Mr. Mejias was sent an e-mail together with Mr. Clines and I don't know who else was on it, requesting whether or not we could set up a virtual hearing. So there's no reason that I can see why we can't agree to that. That is something that has been on the table. We have not been answered. We don't know where you stand on it. We know where you stand on it, and I'm assuming that this is going to get a positive vote on the part of Mr. Mejias. I don't think there's any objection to that; however -- That's all I have to say.

COMMISSIONER PERNICK: My understanding is that the proposal was not to hold a virtual meeting after maps were released. My motion is for us to commit as a Commission to hold one virtual meeting after maps are released and not have that replace another

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meeting, but have a stand alone,  
additional virtual meeting that we  
schedule after maps are released. That's  
the motion that's on the table.

CHAIRMAN MORONEY: As to the motion,  
I don't know why you're afraid to turn  
this over to the County Legislature?  
There's certainly competent people,  
competent people in this audience who can  
figure out how to do that. You guys just  
want this thing to go on forever. I  
don't know why, but that's the reality  
that makes no sense whatsoever.

We have time right now to do a  
virtual meeting. It's been requested by  
the League of Women Voters. You have not  
agreed to send anything back to us. It's  
laid out there as frequently happens.

On another issue -- this issue. It  
seems that at every one of these  
meetings, instead of listening to people,  
a little ambush takes place. Two  
meetings ago the day before the meeting  
was held, we received a request for a

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resolution the following day. That's not providing anybody with a lot of notice. That's an ambush. Last week, PowerPoint, and all that was asked was tell us what's in it. Show it. We have no idea what you had in it. Yet, the second ambush accounts, and here we are today, a third ambush. We keep on upping the ante to keep this party going. When it's time to finish up, we're going to finish up. So that's all I have to say on it.

COMMISSIONER MEJIAS: First of all, just to make the record clear, my understanding is you wanted to make the last meeting virtual, which we want a virtual meeting in addition to the meeting's that are already scheduled. Second of all, I think it's ironic that you think it's an ambush that you didn't get our PowerPoint in time for the meeting a day or two before, but you want to give the entire county an hour to consider the maps that could determine who represents them for the next ten



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years. So the only ambush happening here is coming from the Republican Delegation on the people of Nassau County.

I don't understand why we can't give the people a week or two to look at the maps. Everybody works hard. Maybe you can't take off of work on November 10 to look at the maps in the hour and quickly tell us what you think. Why can't we give people time to look at these maps, to analyze what we've come up with? Why you can't tell us who's drawing your maps?

I'm sure you have a lot of faith in the Nassau County Legislature when you look at how gerrymandered the Presiding Officer's own district is. The Presiding Officer's district is illegal. It's illegal, and he is in charge of the redistricting process, and he will determine what the maps look like. He's going to determine what his district looks like so he can preserve his own power and he's going to determine who his

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voters are, not that the voters are going to determine who their elected official is.

If it's too much to ask to give the people more than an hour, don't complain that we didn't give you your PowerPoint a few days in advance, and the PowerPoint was just informing the public about the process. So if you want to talk about ambushes, maybe we should stop ambushing the people of Nassau County.

CHAIRMAN MORONEY: Call the roll on the motion.

CLERK PULITZER: Yes, sir.  
Commissioner Peter Bee?

COMMISSIONER BEE: Mr. Chairman, it's my understanding the motion calls for an additional hearing post map to be done by Zoom, and while I would encourage the Chair to arrange for Zoom to be available at one or more of our next meetings if it's technologically feasible to do so, I'm going to vote against this particular motion. I've repeatedly said,

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that at this point in time, I'm not ready to commit to additional hearing dates. So for that reason, I will vote no on the motion.

CLERK PULITZER: Commissioner John Reinhardt?

COMMISSIONER REINHARDT: No.

CLERK PULITZER: Commissioner Maureen Fitzgerald?

COMMISSIONER FITZGERALD: No.

CLERK PULITZER: Commissioner Christopher Devane?

COMMISSIONER DEVANE: No.

CLERK PULITZER: Commissioner Eric Mallette?

COMMISSIONER MALLETTE: No.

CLERK PULITZER: Commissioner David Mejias?

COMMISSIONER MEJIAS: Yes.

CLERK PULITZER: Commissioner Jared Kasschau?

COMMISSIONER KASSCHAU: I believe this body has a much more important role than my colleagues on the Republican side

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seem to. The Legislature saw fit to create this Temporary Districting Advisory Commission so that we can take meaningful testimony which means informed testimony from the public, get as much feedback as we can with respect to actual draft proposed maps and then provide informed analysis to the Legislature so that it can make its decision.

I don't believe that we're here just to listen to the public speak, and that's it. We have an actual role to play and I believe that we're not doing it right now. So I vote yes or aye on the motion.

CLERK PULITZER: Thank you.  
Commissioner Andrena Wyatt? She is absent.

Commissioner James Magin?

COMMISSIONER MAGIN: I vote yes.

CLERK PULITZER: Commissioner Michael Pernick?

COMMISSIONER PERNICK: I vote yes.

CHAIRMAN MORONEY: Announce the results.

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CLERK PULITZER: The results are 5 no's, 4 yes, 1 absent.

CHAIRMAN MORONEY: The motion fails.

Now before I move onto the next speaker, if any of you here wish to have your statement put on the record, we have Mr. Pulitzer over here (indicating) so you can fill out the sheet so that we know where you're from, we know what's going on and please go over, because we have very few speakers.

Next is Dan Oppenheimer.

Mr. Oppenheimer, before you begin, I know you didn't have your address down on here. Maybe when you finish with your presentation you can fill that out with Mr. Pulitzer.

MR. OPPENHEIMER: Be happy to. Dan Oppenheimer. I'm a resident of Village of Hempstead. First of all, thank you to Mr. Pernick and the members of the Democratic commission for providing the shared drive. I was able to access that today. If any of you have had a chance

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to look at it I would recommend it. I just got a very quick overview of it. From what I could see it included the population of all 19 districts. Have you had a chance to look at it?

CHAIRMAN MORONEY: I haven't been graced with a copy of it, so I can't speak to that.

MR. OPPENHEIMER: Okay. I'm sure they could arrange that. Just as a -- Again, I can't verify all of the information on there so I'm not really going to speak about the drive, but it seems to me that that really is the substantial information that the public needs to help us with our opinions as you referenced.

All of us have opinions, Republican opinions, Democratic opinions, Independent opinions. The more information and data that we have to base these opinions on, to me, is the crux of the matter with this.

I wanted to use some of my time to

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read a portion of a story that was in  
*Newsday* published yesterday. The  
headline is, "Mineola Mayor and  
Republican North Hempstead Council  
Members Sue the Town Over New District  
Lines." The story goes in part, "The  
Mayor of Mineola Village along with two  
Republican North Hempstead Council  
members have filed a Federal complaint  
against the Town of North Hempstead  
asking a judge to invalidate the recently  
adopted redistricting map as  
unconstitutional. The complaint sites  
concerns that the new lines be drawn in  
accordance with the 2020 census favor  
Democrats in future elections and  
diminishes the power of certain voters in  
the town."

Now that sounded familiar to me.  
Fred Brewington, one or two meetings ago,  
made reference to there may be a lawsuit  
following this procedure.

I really hope that you're not  
wasting your time and that it's just

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leading to a lawsuit regardless of what decision you come to, and I certainly hope you're not wasting our time. I travel a little bit to get here. Many people have done the same for a number of meetings. If all that is going to happen from this is a lawsuit with a lot of lawyers getting paid a lot of money to figure out the result and a judge somewhere who also may not be technologically advanced enough to study the district but has to make a decision, I would say that would have been a tremendous waste of time.

Thank you.

CHAIRMAN MORONEY: Thank you, Mr. Oppenheimer.

Kevin McKenna.

MR. MCKENNA: Kevin McKenna, Syosset, New York.

Mr. Moroney or Mr. Bee, I'm not sure who it was, but you had talked about the fact that almost \$1 million has been allocated towards this committee; is that



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correct? I think it was \$993,000?

CHAIRMAN MORONEY: Nine hundred and eighty-five thousand.

MR. MCKENNA: Okay. It's posted up on the Nassau County website if you spend some time and you can find it. I'm not sure how senior citizens -- I'm not sure how many people have access to anything if they don't use a computer or whatever. I mean the Republican party you could send out millions and millions of dollars worth of mailers, but you can't send out a mailer to residents, especially seniors, letting them know about the importance of these hearings?

On your Nassau County website, you list out the names of all the committee members and you also, right below it, you also post the names of two individuals that you call Co-Executive Directors. One of them is Elisabetta Coschignano. I don't know whether she's ever present at these meetings, and the other one --

CHAIRMAN MORONEY: Stand up,

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Elisabetta. She's over there  
(indicating).

MR. MCKENNA: Oh, she is? Okay. I would think out of professionalism, in the beginning I would think that you would introduce all the people that are involved in this committee. The other one is Rachel Whitmore who sits over hidden behind the desk over there.

My question is: Are the co-executive -- and Mr. Moroney I thank you for finally answering my e-mail. I had to send about five e-mails to you trying to understand the purpose of the Co-Executive Directors, and your answer to me was in a line or two, "they assist the Board" -- I have a couple of questions.

CHAIRMAN MORONEY: The last part of that sentence was left out and that says, "with the daily operations of the Commission."

MR. MCKENNA: Okay. My question is do those two individuals, do they talk

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during this process? Do they work together to try to -- in other words, let me give you an example. The last meeting which was in Freeport, it was pouring, pouring rain and the parking lot was to the left of the building and people were getting out of their car going to a door that was locked, and there were no signs to even explain to the public which door -- so do the Co-Executive Director, is it a function of theirs to try to educate the public as to -- What's the purpose, I mean, in some detail, but my real question is I'd like you to tell me and tell us if they work together to try to make this process good? But my question is do they get paid?

(Whereupon, there were a couple of Commission members who said yes.)

MR. MCKENNA: They do get paid. I'd like to go on the record right now --

CHAIRMAN MORONEY: Before you continue, your three minutes are up. If

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you could wrap up, it would be appreciated.

MR. MCKENNA: Sure. They do get paid. Can you tell us how much they get out of that?

CHAIRMAN MORONEY: I'll be candid with you, I don't know any of the salaries on it at all.

MR. MCKENNA: I'd like to go on the record --

CHAIRMAN MORONEY: You can call and file a FOIL if you want.

MR. MCKENNA: You know what? I think I'm going to withhold what I was just about to say.

I think there's a severe conflict of interest with both individuals in the positions that they hold getting paid for this co-executive situation.

Can you just tell me do they work together? Do they talk?

CHAIRMAN MORONEY: Of course they do. Now can you wrap it up, please? Now you're about a minute past.

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MR. MCKENNA: In closing -- Thank you for the courtesy of just a few extra seconds -- At the last meeting or the meeting before, I explained to everybody about the three legislators in Hicksville about how crazy it is to have three legislators in Hicksville. Guess what? I found out today that there's actually four legislators in Hicksville now because of the recent redrawing. I don't know whether you guys know this. I'm told that Legislator Siela Bynoe, who's on the Democratic side of the Leg, that her district that was recently redrawn goes into a certain part of Hicksville. So now Hicksville has four legislators. That's what I'm told, and he's (indicating) shaking his head yes and the co-director who's behind the desk over there, she's also concurring.

Thank you very much for your time and as the last speaker said, I hope that you save the taxpayers' money on a future lawsuit because we've had enough of you

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wasting our money. Thank you very much.

CHAIRMAN MORONEY: Thank you for your thoughts.

COMMISSIONER MEJIAS: I just want to state for the record that every meeting I've -- I missed one meeting -- but at every meeting that I've been at, Ms. Coschignano has been here as well. So I just want to put that on the record.

CHAIRMAN MORONEY: I think that any disagreement we may have amongst ourselves on the dais, I think everybody up here is acting in good will and I know that --

COMMISSIONER MEJIAS: They're not paid.

CHAIRMAN MORONEY: That's another point in favor, but I do know how hard the staff works because they really keep the thing buzzing along.

With that said, Stephanie Chase.

MS. CHASE: Hello. Good evening. Glad to see you're feeling better.

CHAIRMAN MORONEY: Thank you very

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much for saying that. I appreciate that.

MS. CHASE: Okay. As far as transparency goes, I've been to all meetings but one and so far, overwhelmingly, everyone has said the same thing, the public, that we'd like to see the maps at least two weeks before they're turned over, and we just hope you're listening to us. It's been the same thing all the meetings I've gone to. It's the same thoughts from the public. So it's more aligned with this side of the dais (indicating).

So I hope you're listening. I hope you'll take what we say, and we are not going into litigation or whatever you guys call it, and wasting money because if you're listening and you wanted the public's input, that's what they've said and also an extra district to represent us properly.

As far as you say that they ramble on, but if it wasn't for them, I wouldn't know which way was up. I really wouldn't

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they explain it in very -- lay term --  
where anybody could understand, because  
otherwise I would not have known and I  
wouldn't have traveled all the way from  
Rockville Centre to get here because I  
feel it's that important.

So I hope you take it into  
consideration and you listen, you listen  
to the public. They're telling you --  
Every meeting I've gone to, they're  
saying the same things.

Thank you.

CHAIRMAN MORONEY: Mrs. Chase,  
before you leave I have a question for  
you.

MS. CHASE: Yes.

CHAIRMAN MORONEY: You're from --  
what village did you say?

MS. CHASE: I'm from Lakeview,  
Rockville Centre section.

CHAIRMAN MORONEY: And who is your  
representative?

MS. CHASE: Right now it's Taylor --  
you're talking about Taylor Darling?



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CHAIRMAN MORONEY: I'm talking about your County Legislator.

MS. CHASE: Oh. It's Bynoe, Siela Bynoe.

CHAIRMAN BYNOE: Have you heard anything about her map being drawn out of the district?

MS. CHASE: I didn't hear yet about that, no.

CHAIRMAN MORONEY: Okay. Nor have I. I don't know if anybody else at the dais either.

MS. CHASE: Well, that doesn't mean --

CHAIRMAN MORONEY: I'm just curious. I know Siela very well. She's a fine legislator.

Thank you.

MS. CHASE: Okay. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN MORONEY: That concludes all the speakers who signed up. Is there anybody left in the audience who wishes to make a statement?

(Whereupon, there was no

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response.)

CHAIRMAN MORONEY: If not, I want to thank the Glen Cove Police Department as well as the Nassau County Police Department for their presence here today. Thank you very much for being here, and thank you all for coming out and participating.

COMMISSIONER MEJIAS: I'd like to thank the City of Glen Cove and the City of Glen Cove staff, the Mayor and the council members for helping us arrange a meeting here in City Hall and letting us use their chairs for the night.

CHAIRMAN MORONEY: Your three minutes are up. Thank you.

COMMISSIONER BEE: Move to adjourn.

CHAIRMAN MORONEY: Second.

(Whereupon, all members respond by saying, "aye.")

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C E R T I F I C A T E

STATE OF NEW YORK )

) ss.:

COUNTY OF NASSAU )

I, KAREN LORENZO, a Notary Public  
for and within the State of New York, do  
hereby certify:

That the above is a correct  
transcription of my stenographic notes.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto  
set my hand this 18th day of October,  
2022.

Karen

Lorenzo

KAREN

LORENZO

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