

1. 10-26-2022 TDAC Public Notice

Documents:

[10-26-22 DIST ADVISORY COMM.PDF](#)

2. 10-26-2022 TDAC Agenda

Documents:

[10-20-22 TDAC.PDF](#)

3. 10-26-2022 TDAC Transcript

Documents:

[TDAC 10.26.22 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**

**WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 26, 2022**

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

**IN**

**ELMONT MEMORIAL LIBRARY**

**700 HEMPSTEAD TPKE.**

**ELMONT, NY 11003**

**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 19, 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>

**Majority Appointees**

Peter Bee  
John L. Reinhardt  
Maureen Fitzgerald  
Christopher Devane  
Eric Mallette



**Minority Appointees**

David Mejias  
Jared Kasschau  
Andrena Wyatt  
James Magin, Jr.  
Michael Pernick

**Francis X. Moroney, Chair**  
**Temporary Districting Advisory Commission**

Nassau County Legislature  
1550 Franklin Ave  
Mineola, New York 11501

**Agenda – Wednesday, October 26, 2022 at 6pm**

1. Open meeting – Pledge to the Flag
2. Chairman's Statement
3. Introduction of the Commissioner's
4. Public Comment
5. Other Business

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NASSAU COUNTY  
TEMPORARY DISTRICTING  
ADVISORY COMMISSION

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MEETING VIII

Held at

ELMONT PUBLIC LIBRARY  
700 HEMPSTEAD TURNPIKE  
ELMONT, NY 11003

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FRANCIS X. MORONEY

CHAIR

\*\*\*\*\*

Nassau County Legislature  
1550 Franklin Avenue  
Mineola, New York

\*\*\*\*\*

Wednesday, October 26, 2022

6:06 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 (excused)

JOHN J. REINHARDT

MAUREEN FITZGERALD

CHRISTOPHER DEVANE

ERIC MALLETT

\*\*\*

DAVID MEJIAS, VICE CHAIR

JARED KASSCHAU

ANDRENA WYATT (6:25)

JAMES MAGIN, JR.

MICHAEL PERNICK

\*\*\*

EXECUTIVE DIRECTORS:

ELISABETTA COSCHIGNANO

RACHEL WHITMORE

\*\*\*

BOARD ATTORNEYS:

TIMOTHY ELLIS, 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:

Mimi Pierre-Johnson

Barbara Epstein

Anthony Bonelli

Michael Turi

Marvin Amazon

Veronica Renta-Irwin

Amil Virani

James Hodges

Stephanie Chase

Maria Jordan-Awolam

H. Scottie-Coads

Carrie Solages, NC Legislator

Henry Boitel

Tamar Paoli-Bailey

Kevin McKenna

Malani Montgomery

Matthew Pasternak

Michael Steinke

Milagros Vicente

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AGENDA

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

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CHAIRMAN MORONEY: Can I ask you all to rise and join me in the Pledge to the flag.

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

CHAIRMAN MORONEY: I want to let everybody on the dais know that we're working with live mic's, so if you want to keep your thoughts to yourself, you shouldn't speak into this device. This works full time because the streaming is in the back of the room and they're tied together. Thanks.

That said, Michael, could you call the roll.

CLERK PULITZER: Thank you, Chairman. Roll call.

Commissioner Peter Bee?

CHAIRMAN MORONEY: Absent.

CLERK PULITZER: Commissioner John Reinhardt?

COMMISSIONER REINHARDT: Here.

CLERK PULITZER: Commissioner Maureen Fitzgerald?



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COMMISSIONER FITZGERALD: Here.

CLERK PULITZER: Commissioner  
Christopher Devane?

COMMISSIONER DEVANE: Here.

CLERK PULITZER: Commissioner Eric  
Malette?

COMMISSIONER MALLETT: Here.

CLERK PULITZER: Commissioner David  
Mejias?

COMMISSIONER MEJIAS: Here.

CLERK PULITZER: Commissioner Jared  
Kasschau?

COMMISSIONER MEJIAS: Mr. Kasschau  
is on his way.

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

COMMISSIONER MEJIAS: She's on her  
way also.

CLERK PULITZER: Commissioner James  
Magin, Jr.?

COMMISSIONER MAGIN: Present.

CLERK PULITZER: Thank you.  
Commissioner Michael Pernick?

COMMISSIONER PERNICK: I'm here.

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CLERK PULITZER: Good. Chairman Frank Moroney?

CHAIRMAN MORONEY: Present.

CLERK PULITZER: We have a quorum, sir.

CHAIRMAN MORONEY: Can you all hear us on these microphones?

(Whereupon, the audience acknowledged the audio.)

CHAIRMAN MORONEY: Okay. Many of the same faces are here tonight that have been here before, although I can't see anything over the podium.

In any event, I have, over the course of these events as the Chairman, taken the liberty of making some opening statements so that you all can be aware of what we've done and how this is proceeding, and please bear with me those of you who have heard this before.

I want to welcome you to the ninth (sic) Hearing of the Temporary Re-Districting Commission. To date, the members of both Republican and Democratic

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delegations have heard from approximately 99 speakers with varying requests to keep various communities together or apart. I trust that the public attendees and those watching this proceeding on the stream will feel free to share their ideas and their desires as far as the maps are concerned.

The Commission consists of 11 members with a nonvoting Chair, that's me, appointed by the County Executive. There are five members appointed by the Presiding Officer. They're on my right, your left and five appointed by the Minority Leader, they're on my left, your right.

The Commission permits, but does not require public hearings. The prior reapportionments processes established a tradition that permissive hearings take place seeking public input and this is the night of those hearings.

The County Legislature allocated \$985,000 to fund the work of the

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

Each delegation divides the balance of the money to purchase their needed mapping technology, software, the hiring experts, counsel and other staff as they deem necessary to this process.

In developing a map or maps, the Commission must comply with both the Federal and State Laws. The proceedings have to be fair and transparent to the public.

The transparency is achieved by significant outreach to the public and holding the public hearings on any maps from the districting so that we in the

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Commission can have an opportunity to provide you with something that's perfectly legal.

Once maps and plans are drawn, there will be an opportunity for the public to see and give an opinion as to the work product. The updated website will have a link once maps are produced and those maps will be placed on that link so they will be accessible to anyone who has the ability to go online.

Thereafter, the map or maps are turned over to the Legislature. Likewise, all the transcripts from the public and public comment generated by these hearings will be turned over to the Legislature.

In addition, all items not included in the record may also be delivered to the County Legislators. We want to make sure that people who come in late have the ability to have their desires heard.

The Full Legislature will conduct public hearings on the submissions by an

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appropriate legislative committee, which is the Rules Committee and then the entire Legislature will hold hearings on it and act on those maps or map.

The goal of a Temporary Districting Advisory Commission is to have our process complete and its hearings finished so that the Legislature has adequate time to review the submissions and conduct its hearings.

The County Legislature may reject, adopt, advise or amend any redistricting plan or plans recommended by the Temporary District Commission or adopt any other redistricting plan as long as it's constitutional and federally approved and meets all the statutory requirements.

In an effort to achieve transparency, all of the meetings and hearings will be in public and streamed live over the internet. You can see the cameras in the back. Further, the Commission will stream the hearings and

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keep the record open for those people who come in after the work of the hearing is completed. Nonetheless, any correspondence or other mail received after the end date will be included in the material turned over to the Legislature.

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, including this one we're in tonight; 57 school districts; 67 civic associations; 50

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chambers of commerce; and 150 members of news and media outlets that service Nassau County.

The commissioners, at their last meeting, agreed among themselves, with the remaining meetings that will be held in the Nassau County Legislature Chambers as follows: The dates that I'm going to give you right now have not yet been approved, but right now they're hold dates so that we can move this thing forward into the part of this process that means the most to you which is the production of maps.

After tonight, the Commission's delegations have agreed to have a working session on November 10, 2022. That is designed to start earlier in the day. That is a work session which means that the commissioners will appear at that event. They will then open up their maps. Their respective consultants will describe the maps. We'll go through the processes that they went through. We'll



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talk about all the issues relative to those, and then there'll be an exchange between and among the various commissioners. There will be no public comment at that session.

After the work session concludes, the maps will be posted on the website, as I stated earlier. There will be an opportunity for the public to have input into those maps. We're planning a hybrid virtual meeting tentatively. It's set for November 14, which is a hold date. We want to see if we can spread it out a little bit more than that. Public comment will be accepted on the content of the map or maps at that particular hearing.

A final meeting vote on the map or maps is tentatively set for November 17. Again, we are a little flexible with those things. We're going to see how we can deal with those.

At this meeting, the commissioners may recommend a plan or plans to be

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forwarded to the full Legislature.  
Comments from the public will be accepted and this is the date that you need to get your stuff in if you have anything you want to go on the record would be November 30, 2022. That will be after the close of all of the hearings that we've had including the hearings on the maps to that point and that's the juncture at which everything is turned over to the Legislature and they have to hold their hearings and their proceedings at that particular time.

With that, Mr. Mejias, I know you have something to add to that.

COMMISSIONER MEJIAS: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. At the outset, I wish to note that the Democratic commissioners have repeatedly expressed our concerns about the deficiencies and the redistricting process so far. Although there has been some progress, we continue to have those concerns.

I truly hope that between the work

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session on the 10th, we have at least a week for the public to view the maps so that they can comment on them, not just four days and three days after that for a final vote. There's a lot of work being put into these maps. We had discussed having a week between the work session and the public hearing and some more time between that and the vote.

Our concern has been that there's been what appears to be an effort to suppress the public participation in these hearings, particularly, in minority communities through inadequate and misleading public notices on the Commission website.

The hearing notices have been completely insufficient; for instance, until yesterday, the Commission Home Page contained no notice whatsoever of tonight's hearing in Elmont. Instead it continued to display the notice for the October hearing in Massapequa which already took place a week ago, or where

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there's been an issue with language deficiency. Even the updated notice is posted only in English. There's no Spanish language or Creole language notice that appears on the Commission website. Despite the many members of the Elmont community who communicate in these languages, there's been nothing.

We have precisely the same issues with Freeport and Hempstead. Nothing has improved despite the notice issue being called repeatedly to the attention of the chair.

Our commission took it upon ourselves to create our own flyer for the meeting in all three languages and conduct an outreach to the Elmont community and beyond and has done so for every single meeting.

Inaccurate and improper public notices have been a constant problem since the September 8 Commission hearing early in the process. For that hearing, the Commission website and official

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agenda stated the wrong location while the County Legislature website stated the wrong time. One may be an error, maybe even twice, but the pattern of failure to post proper notices suggests that maybe there's something more than negligence that's happening here.

We have also posted notices on our own unofficial public shared drive which contains, in one central location, any information that we are able to get from members of the public. This is information that my Republican colleagues on the Commission would not agree to put on the public website. So we had to create our own including hearing notices, information on the current maps, information about our meetings, background on the redistricting process, each of the resolutions we've introduced, written submissions from the public, and even reports from our own experts.

I want to emphasize that we did disclose -- We have disclosed who we're

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using to make our maps and do the analysis to make sure that our maps comply with the Federal Voting Rights Act and then New York State John Lewis Voting Rights Act.

So I want to turn to the substance of the redistricting process. There were 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 is Dr. Daniel Magleby who has determined that the current County Legislative map is in extreme partisan gerrymander which violates New York State Law. Moreover, our demographic expert, Dr. Megan Gall, has made a preliminary determination that there is substantial evidence that the current map and any new map adopted by the county that is similar to the current map violates both the Federal and State Voting Rights Act and illegally dilutes voting rights of members of the minority

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community.

What this means: The current maps are completely and legally invalid and must be scrapped. We must start fresh with completely new maps and 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 propose legally compliant maps.

I'd like to turn it over to my colleague, Commissioner Pernick to speak about our experts' findings in more detail so that you can understand better what our experts' reports say.

COMMISSIONER PERNICK: Thank you very much. Thank you, Commissioner Mejias.

So as Commissioner Mejias said the Democratic appointed members to this Commission have done an analyses and contracted several analyses to look at the current map.

Now, everyone knows the current map

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2 is going to be changed. It's going to be  
3 updated. But it's extremely relevant to  
4 the process to understand what is  
5 acceptable about the current map, what's  
6 unacceptable about the current map and  
7 whether it can be used as a starting  
8 point. And as Commissioner Mejias said,  
9 we know as a result of these analyses,  
10 that the current map is illegal. It  
11 violates numerous provisions of State and  
12 Federal Law, and I'll go through those in  
13 a minute, and as a result of that, it  
14 cannot be used as a starting point. If  
15 it is, it will taint any map that we  
16 develop and it could be tainted by the  
17 same unlawful attributes that are current  
18 and present and obvious in the current  
19 map.

20 So let me go through what this  
21 means. There have been some big changes  
22 in New York Law. Since the redistricting  
23 process ten years ago, there have been  
24 amendments to the Municipal Home Rule Law  
25 and one of those amendments makes it



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unlawful to draw maps to advantage one political party over the other. It makes it illegal to draw partisan gerrymander, and there accepted methodologies for evaluating whether a map is a partisan gerrymander. The most broadly accepted methodology is to do what's called an ensemble analysis where you draw random simulations of large numbers of maps and measure how the map that you're looking at compares to those random simulations of large numbers of maps.

So we had one of the leading experts in the country under these methodologies do an analysis of Nassau County. He generated 10,000 random simulated maps and what did he conclude? He concluded that the current Nassau County map is a more extreme partisan gerrymander and has more Republican advantage built into the map than all 10,000 randomly simulated maps. That is clear cut evidence that the current map is an illegal partisan gerrymander, and if we use the current

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map as a starting point, any map this Commission recommends, any map adopted by the County Legislature would also be tainted by that same unlawful partisan intent.

Here's the other thing, we need to measure and evaluate any map that we propose as a commission, under these same methodologies before we make the recommendations, because if we don't, we are at risk of falling into that same trap of passing an illegal map.

So we've offered to do that analysis for any draft maps that anyone else on this commission wants to send us and that offer still stands. We're also on notice. We're on notice that if we don't take these steps, we risk violating these new laws under the Municipal Home Rule Law.

Now I want to turn to our other report. Dr. Megan Gall, a leading expert on demographics, on racially polarized voting, on compliance with the Voting

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Rights Act. She looked at our current map from a racial justice perspective. Does the map ensure the communities of color have an equal opportunity to participate and elect candidates of their choice? Based on her analysis, there is substantial evidence that the current map violates the legal standard set out in Federal Law for the Federal Voting Rights Act and in State Law for the brand new John R. Lewis Voting Rights Act of New York. That means that this current map -- It's not just mal-apportioned. It doesn't need to be tweaked. It is racially discriminatory. Full stop. We know that. And that means that if we use this current map as a starting point, any map that emerges from the process that's similar to the current map is also racially discriminatory and would very likely violate the Federal and State Voting Rights Act. Full stop. We know this. We have the evidence. It's in the record. We're all on notice.

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In doing this analysis, Dr. Gall also looked at what would be possible and what type of map might comply with these requirements and the answer is clear. We've had significant growth in communities of color in Nassau County over the last ten years and she's confirmed that it is possible, in fact, easy to draw a map with five districts in which black and Latino voters comprise a majority of the citizen voting age population and the voting age population. Five districts where black and Latino voters have an opportunity, an equal opportunity to elect candidates of their choice. And that means that if we, as a commission, only draw a map with four, we're probably going to violate the Federal Voting Rights Act. We're probably going to violate the State Voting Rights Act because we know it's possible to draw five. It's not only possible to draw five, it's possible to draw five districts that do a better job

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of complying with all of the traditional districting principles than the current map. It's possible to draw five districts where those districts are more compact than the current map. It's possible to draw five districts that don't fracture communities across Nassau County.

The current map fractures the Village of Hempstead. The current map fractures the communities of Valley Stream and Elmont; fractures Freeport into four districts; fractures the Five Towns into four districts. We know, based on the preliminary analysis, it doesn't have to be that way. We can draw five majority/minority districts and we can do it while respecting the communities here in Nassau County in a much better way than the current map does.

So I think we all agree that the current map needs to be updated, needs to be changed, and I hope that we can all

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agree that the current map cannot be used as a starting point. We need to start from scratch and that's the best way to ensure compliance with Federal and State Law because we're on notice that if we don't do that and if we don't learn from the issues with the current map, there's a significant risk that this county is going to be dragged into expensive litigation and a significant risk that communities of color in Nassau County will continue to be under represented and disenfranchised.

With that, I'll turn it back to Commissioner Mejias.

COMMISSIONER MEJIAS: Thank you. Since -- We have expressed our own concerns with the deficiencies and transparencies with regard to the experts the Republicans are using to develop their maps and any data they have collected thus far, the failure to provide for timely publication of draft maps and grossly inadequate information

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on the commission website, et cetera;  
however, redistricting is a technical  
process in which experts and consultants  
play a critical role. The Democratic  
delegation strongly believes that the  
public deserves to know who is doing this  
important work on behalf of the  
Commission.

You heard from the Chairman earlier  
that there's a nearly million dollar  
budget for this Commission to do its  
work. That's why we felt that the  
taxpayer should know exactly who our  
demographer is and who our experts are  
and what they're saying and the data that  
they used, and we will be providing our  
maps with what's called a shape file so  
the public can see overlays of  
communities, villages, cities, school  
districts, towns. You can see which  
communities were kept together, which  
communities were divided in the  
redistricting process, and that's an  
important factor whether or not we're

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going have a map and legislative districts that are compliant with the law.

At the very first hearing of the Commission, Commissioner Pernick proposed a resolution requiring full disclosure. The Democratic Delegation voted for that full disclosure, that resolution, and each of the Republican commissioners voted against it and the measure was defeated.

When we tried to reach an informal agreement on expert transparency, we requested a mutual disclosure of experts and consultants several times and have continually been told that the Republican Delegation does not have any of the experts that we're talking about. They won't tell us who's drawing their map other than that they have hired an attorney for the process who most likely will hire the experts, himself, shielding it from the public under the guise of attorney/client privilege and attorney



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work product, and you'll never know who actually drew the Republican maps and what data they used and how they did it.

While the release of maps is necessary, the Republican commissioners' stance is highly concerning. We have to diligently carry out our most important public responsibility as commissioners; that is to recommend maps to the County Legislature. The primary reason for the Commission, to exist. The Republican delegation seems to have not even begun the process and that would be a grave disservice to the Legislature and the public.

In contrast, the Democratic Delegation has been an open book regarding the people doing the work for us, openly identifying our experts and sharing their preliminary reports with the public so that you can see as they develop their maps and as the process unfolds on the Democratic side of the aisle, you're with us every single step

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of the way. We're telling you everything that our experts are telling us. We're an open book.

You need to know who is performing these critical functions, the critical function of drawing the maps that will influence how representative government is structured in Nassau County for the next decade.

In the last meeting we tentatively set a schedule where we would have a week between the work session and the public hearing to hear from the comments. Now we're it's only going to be four days. I really hope that we can make it a week so people do have a week to digest the maps. One thing that we have constantly heard from the public is that we do want transparency and the public does want to have time to comment on the maps. They want to see the maps that both delegations present. They want to comment on them and they want to know exactly what went into drawing them.

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So having said that, I do appreciate -- It seems like we have a lot of people here today and it's been very well attended. We're coming sort of to the end of the process, but hopefully it won't be abbreviated so that you can have the input that you need. I want to thank all the other commissioners for being here tonight, Mr. Chairman. I want to thank -- I see Chief Deputy County Executive Arthur Walsh is here. He's been at every single meeting front and center from Bruce Blakeman's office. So thank you for coming. We appreciate it.

Again, as much as we do fight on every single thing, we also -- there's been a very high level of decorum and respect throughout this process and not making it personal, but the public has been very much been involved and informed and told us that they want to be involved and informed, so thank you.

CHAIRMAN MORONEY: Mr. Devane?

COMMISSIONER DEVANE: Good evening,

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everybody. My name is Chris Devane. You haven't heard much from me. My mom always taught me, especially, we're here tonight to listen to you; that if you're talking you're not listening. What we try to do is to listen. I just want to tell you than on behalf of the Republican Delegation -- we've heard from Mr. Pernick, Mr. Mejias as we do before every meeting. I want to tell you that in my background that I was on the Board of Ethics with Mr. Pernick, Mr. Kasschau for two years and we never once looked at each other as either Democrat or Republican. We did perform those duties in a very a-political way, non-political, and we hope to do that again here.

I do have experience with Mr. Kasschau. I do have experience with Mr Pernick. I have the utmost respect for them as far as that's concerned. I've known Mr. Mejias probably for about 30 years. When I was a young prosecutor,

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he was a young defence attorney. I've become a defense attorney and I don't see him in the hallways anymore. He's become a big shot with nicer suits, so I don't see him anymore, but I do have tremendous respect for him, and when I say to him, "How are you doing? How is your family," I mean it. We don't change when the lights go off.

I'm bringing this up for a reason and the reason I'm bringing this up for is that my hand is extended on the Republican side to the Democrats to work together. You haven't heard from us because this is about you. It's not about us.

So I know the other members of the Democratic Delegation. I have the utmost respect for them. I've dealt with, as I said, Mr. Pernick, Mr. Kasschau, Mr. Mejias, and I have just as much respect for the Republican Delegation, and I want you to all know that. I have respect for John and Peter and Maureen

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and Eric.

Some things that have been said to this Republican Delegation were probably uncalled for, but we move on. There's no sense in shouting out. You'll all have your time to talk.

But I also want to tell you again this is not about me, but over the last 30 years I've been a criminal defense attorney. That means I've stood up for civil liberties of people of color in Inwood, Lakeview, Hempstead, Long Beach. We'll hear from Mr. Hodges again tonight. I've had many discussions with Mr. Hodges outside the Long Beach City Court about trying to help the community; about what it's like to live in those communities; about the lack of services; about the lack of education, unfortunately; about having your elected officials not listen to you; about lack of opportunities.

So I bring this to the table and I know the rest of the Republican Delegation does as well. I know the

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Reverend does that as well. But I also want to tell you as we start this, that no one has a monopoly on good government. No one has a monopoly on transparency. No one has a monopoly on what the right thing to do is. And how do we know that? We don't need to go back ten years. We have the President of the Elmont Library who's going to speak tonight who had to go to Bath, New York to testify in front of her Special Master, and why did she have to do that? Because the State Democratic Delegation, in a very partisan way, tried to jam and gerrymander the legislative districts of the State Senate and of Congress. So we don't have to go back ten years. We can go back six months and see what has happened. And in that case, when they did the maps, ladies and gentlemen, they had experts. They had map makers on their side. Do you know what the Court of Appeals said, six of whom were Democrats? This is so beyond the pale, we have to throw those

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maps out. This is so over the top that

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you tried to jam this down because you

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have a super majority, jam this down

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everybody's throat and screw Elmont,

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forgive the expression, in the process,

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that we're going to throw it out. And

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the Special Master said to the Democrats,

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uh-uh. Not your map make maker, not your

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experts. I don't know what this expert

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ago. I don't know if he was involved in

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What I'm saying to you, ladies and

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gentlemen is no one has a monopoly on

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this. No one comes to you and says we're

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squeaky clean. The other side is the

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problem because that has occurred over

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the last several meetings.

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But I say this to you, I know what

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the pain is. I've represented people,

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thousands of people in these communities

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over the last 30 years. I get it. I

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know what that's like, but no one's ever



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said to me well we don't have the possibility of a good education. We don't have the services. No one's ever said to me when I represented them, are you Republican or Democrat? They don't care. They don't care. When you take away their liberty, you take away their future. It's not about Republican or Democrat.

So I need to say this before we start that my hand's extended as is the Republican Delegations' hand is extended to the Democrats. You don't have to believe me. Ask Mr. Pernick and Mr. Kasschau. I've worked with them in an a-political way. Ask Mr. Mejias, I practically raised him as an attorney, but ask Mr. Mejias. I can work together with Mr. Mejias and so can the rest of the Republican Delegation.

So as much respect as I have for this side of the table (indicating), it exists on this side of the table (indicating) as well. No one has a

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monopoly on transparency. No one has a monopoly on non-partisanship.

So please keep that in mind as we come up and have these conversations. Mr. Hodges knows what I'm saying is true because over the years, we've had these discussions time and time and time again. I know you're standing up. You'll get your turn, but he knows it's true.

Having said that, we want to hear from you. We want to hear your concerns. We want to hear what you have to say because this is about you. Not about us. Not about map makers. Not about experts. It's about you. So let's hear from you. It's 45 minutes already. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN MORONEY: Thank you, Chris.

COMMISSIONER MEJIAS: I want to say thank you, Chris. I appreciate the kind words. That case, that Court of Appeals case is Harkenrider v. Hochul. I'll give the cite for you. Maybe you don't have to do that when you go to court, we do. Harkenrider v. Hochul and what happened

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in that case and how the maps were thrown out is exactly what we're trying to avoid here.

Again, this is about you. We're going to hear you and we also should listen to you and what you have to say and that's why we have the transparency that we have we're calling for on our side of the aisle.

Thank you.

COMMISSIONER PERNICK: I just also want to thank Mr. Devane for his comments. I really enjoyed working with him on the Board of Ethics. I think we had a really positive and collaborative operation. You, me and Jarred, we did really good work. It was never partisan. It was always focused on doing the right thing for the public and it was always transparent. I'm really, really happy to hear you participate, in particular, because I know that you're a good person. I know that you want to do the right thing. I mean that and I'm grateful to

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you for speaking out today.

There was the one thing on transparency, we've been asking for weeks to know who's drawing your maps. We've disclosed who's drawing ours and we've been asking for weeks, just to know the name of who's drawing your maps. Is that something that you'd be able to share as part of the olive branch, part of the overture?

COMMISSIONER DEVANE: I promise you when we have that information, I will contact each of the Democratic Delegation through our chair, personally.

COMMISSIONER PERNICK: Okay.

CHAIRMAN MORONEY: If I may start. I'm going to start with something that Peter Bee says all the time. Peter Bee is in our delegation. He's home sick for the second day in a row and he always says that we will abide by all the rules.

The truism about map making is that all districts are subject to geography, population and context. These are real

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limitations and also are subject to State Law and Federal Law. That is our guideline. That is the only book we need to worry about.

With that I'll call Mimi Pierre Johnson.

MS. PIERRE-JOHNSON: Welcome to Elmont. I'm going to tell you a little story about Elmont. Just imagine what we've just heard now if that happened weeks ago how far we would have been. This beautiful screen would have had a map on it, but, okay.

I just want to say thank you for coming to Elmont. I think -- and it's not because it's my town. I love, love Elmont. What happened ten years ago, I didn't know myself what was happening, but I felt that it was really bad. So I made sure to learn about what happened to us.

I don't know if there's anyone from the Five Towns here, but I keep talking about them because I remember how much

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they begged and we shouldn't have to beg for what belongs to us, but they begged not to split up the Five Towns and they begged to keep them together. And so I started to drive around the Five Towns after that just to see what was that community like, and it is not the same as our community, but it's just as beautiful and instead of keeping them together, they took Elmont and put us in Inwood, which not only broke up the Five Towns, but now they put us in that mess that they created.

For you to get to the Five Towns, right? If you take the winding road, you're going through Rosedale, the marshes and then you make a left and you go into the Five Towns. Right there already that's a disadvantage to Elmont. The reason why I'm saying that, after ten years -- I was having a discussion with one of my neighbors this morning and she did not realize what happened ten years ago. I talk to other neighbors. They

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didn't realize that on the congressional level that Elmont and Valley Stream was in Queens. Some of my neighbors didn't realize that we had three Senators representing Elmont and when that happened within the redistricting, it doesn't mean that you have more representation. It just simply means that you've been cracked, you've been packed and you have no voice.

This past election in 2020, I did not have a choice to vote for a Town Council person and this is what happens. It's not an automatic thing that the map comes out, and then, okay, so another ten years we'll fight it. It's a gradual thing that happens. You wake up one day and you say, "Oh my God." It's almost like you're not being represented because your voice is not as strong.

Let me tell you what happened to my little block. In 2013, if you look at the Senate map -- I know this is about the local and the legislature, but on my

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side of the street, if you looked at the Senate map, it was Senate 9. Across the street was Senate 7, not like around the corner, down the block, but it was actually across the street, and why did that happen? Because if I put a lawn sign on my lawn, the entire block would have that same sign (buzzer). My neighbors trusted me. If I put a sign on my lawn, this is a good person. Let's vote for that person. So they make sure, at the time, to put myself and the Solages because we became very politically involved in one area. You packed us in a way that we don't have a voice.

I look at one of the Nassau County employees right there (indicating). Raise your hand. I'm going to keep it together. He was in High School and he door knocking. He was excited with a bunch of young men. They were doing their civic duties, and they stood in the middle of the street and they were trying



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to figure out what was going on because they had a list, but then one side was the 9th and one side was the 7th. That's what was done to Elmont and so many other things.

So you've heard me say this before not to separate us, and this is why it's important for you to understand only those of us like Scottie and other people that were here that understands the process. You were asking people to come and speak. What are they speaking on? They don't have a map. They don't understand how politicians and the politics and the party is going to come into this.

The olive branch is great, but once that goes before the Legislature, it's a completely different thing. So you are actually the ones that's going to carry our water, which means you're going to be the one that's going to talk to the legislature and say, man, listen. We can't do this. This what happened to

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Elmont. This is what happened to this town and that town. You can't do this to these people. You can't. And that's going to be where your character and all the beautiful things you just said, that's when that's going to matter because to us, it's just beautiful, pretty words, but we've been through this. They're going to look at us and they're going to say, "Thank you very much," and they're going to screw us again, and I'm going to use your word. They're going to screw us again, but we're fighting. We understand it now and we have awesome attorneys that's ready to fight. Unfortunately, it's, again, our tax dollars.

All I want to say is make Elmont whole like the state and the congressional just made us whole again. We have one senator, starting in January. We have one congress person and now it's just up to you for us now.

So please, carry our water, be

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strong when they're going to say to you,  
"No, man. This is what we're doing."  
No. Don't be like the national level.  
Let's be a model. Elmont, Nassau County,  
we did it right, and then let the chips  
fall where they may, but we did it right  
for the communities of color because  
we're the one's that's suffering when we  
don't get the resources that we need.

Thank you for the extra time.

CHAIRMAN MORONEY: Thank you.

Barbara Epstein.

MS. EPSTEIN: Good evening, ladies  
and gentlemen. My name is Barbara  
Epstein a member of the Nassau County  
League of Women Voters Redistricting  
Committee.

You've heard this before, but for  
the public as well, the League is a  
non-profit, non-partisan organization  
that encourages, inform an active  
participation in government, works to  
increase understanding of major public  
policy issues and influence public policy

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through education and advocacy.

Last week you told us about the dates for the proposed map presentation with supporting data on November 10. Now we're hearing about the same date for November 10, but Mr. Moroney you didn't give us a specific time for that hearing which is scheduled you said to be at the Legislature. Do you have time for that?

CHAIRMAN MORONEY: We hadn't agreed upon a time, but we're looking to start in the early afternoon, I believe. Am I correct on that?

COMMISSIONER MEJIAS: I think we're doing 6 o'clock.

CHAIRMAN MORONEY: Okay, then we're doing it in the evening, but it's a work session.

MS. EPSTEIN: I understand, but we can come to the work session.

CHAIRMAN MORONEY: Right.

MS. EPSTEIN: Okay. But you don't have a time yet?

CHAIRMAN MORONEY: Six thirty, 6

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o'clock.

COMMISSIONER MEJIAS: Just for the record, Commissioner Kasschau is now present.

MS. EPSTEIN: Okay. Thank you. Now, of course, the other dates have been changed from what was presented last week. My question to you is you're now presenting November 14 and November 17, but you said those are tentative. When will that time be determined as to which dates are actually going to be the dates so we can have it on the website and we can tell the people that we represent, the different groups, exactly when those dates will be finalized?

CHAIRMAN MORONEY: We don't control the legislative chamber. So we have to go back and we have to get permission to use it like everybody else does, all the Planning Commissions, all the other commissions, that use it. As soon as we can get a date that spreads out as far as we can, we will have a date for you. You

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have the number. Give me a call in a couple of days and we'll have an answer for you.

MS. EPSTEIN: Okay, because we're talking two weeks now for the first date which is the November 10 date.

CHAIRMAN MORONEY: Right.

MS. EPSTEIN: All right. Then when will it be publicized on the website and to all the organizations that you spoke about this evening?

CHAIRMAN MORONEY: The rules say that we do it seven days ahead of time, but if you want to call early, you can call earlier.

MS. EPSTEIN: Is it possible you can give us more than seven days for the community to be aware of what's going on in different organizations? And also when the maps are presented on the 10th, how quickly will all of that information be posted to the website? Will it be the next day?

CHAIRMAN MORONEY: I'm not sure I

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understand the question.

MS. EPSTEIN: (Buzzer) well, we're talking about putting the map onto the website.

CHAIRMAN MORONEY: Right.

MS. EPSTEIN: What I'm saying is when will that information be put onto the website?

CHAIRMAN MORONEY: That will be put onto the website as soon as the maps are there and I guess they're going to be shrunken down so we can -- As soon as we can get it up, we'll get it up. I think the link is already on there but there's nothing on it.

MS. EPSTEIN: You're right. It says to come.

CHAIRMAN MORONEY: Right. If we have the data, we can put it on that day or the next day.

COMMISSIONER MEJIAS: For the work session, I think you have a good point. We should know the dates and time. It should be well publicized, but we should

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also have an agenda and whether or not we're going to have the shape files. I think -- I hope my colleagues agree that we should be allowed to ask each other's consultants and demographers questions about how their map was drawn, if we have any questions. I would like that to part of the agenda as well.

CHAIRMAN MORONEY: That goes without saying.

MS. EPSTEIN: And we also hope the map or maps that are drawn account for the increased diverse population of communities here in Nassau County. We expect you to increase the number of majority/minority districts.

We're asking for more than one proposed public hearing. This is what happened ten years ago for those who were involved ten years ago.

We talk about transparency. We ask that you do better. We'll see if you have listened to what the residents of Nassau County have said over the past



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several weeks of hearings:

- keep districts relatively equal in size to maintain the principle of one person, one vote;

- adhere to, as we talked about, the new municipal law;

- comply with all Voting Right Acts;

- respect communities on interests defined by demographic and geographical characteristics and avoid unnecessarily cutting school districts, villages and towns;

- adhere to judicial factors like contiguity and compactus;

- follow an incumbent line process. Meaning that the political affiliations and needs of the incumbents don't affect district lines.

We are looking forward to seeing the map, maps, I am assuming. Also, how will we know the 900,000 plus dollars you're talking about are going to be spent? Will there be an accounting and how would the public be able to see how the money

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is being spent?

CHAIRMAN MORONEY: That's a good question. I don't really know the answer to it, but I'm certain that the information would be in the Comptroller's office and that they could generate that for you.

MS. EPSTEIN: Thank you very much. I appreciate your time.

CHAIRMAN MORONEY: Thank you. Anthony Bonelli (phonetic).

MR. BONELLI: Very brief. My name is Anthony Bonelli. I'm a resident of Nassau County. I live in Valley Stream. I'm a school trustee for Valley Stream District 13. I do not speak for the Board.

The current legislative boundary lines negatively impact our minority communities disproportionately and I simply urge the Commission to correct the boundaries to provide more of a legislative representation to these harmed communities.

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Thank you.

CHAIRMAN MORONEY: Thank you.

COMMISSIONER MEJIAS: And thank you for your service on the school board.

Michael Turi, T-U-R-I.

MR. TURI: Thank you very much. I don't want to be too loud in front of this thing, but do I hear this correct that there are going to be four days at current to review the new map out on the 10th discussed by the 14th? Is that right?

CHAIRMAN MORONEY: The new map, whatever it is, is going to be seen in its final version sometime thereafter once it comes out of the County Legislature. This is just one step in our process, and we're trying to fix the dates so that we don't have -- We don't control --

MR. TURI: But right now we just said it was four days?

CHAIRMAN MORONEY: No. We said it was tentative.

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MR. TURSI: Okay, well, anything less than two weeks, anything less than enough time for the public to digest the information, like, to have just heard what this gentleman said so eloquently about respect. I'm glad that you respect each other, but doesn't necessarily show respect to these people back here (indicating) to not have enough time to judge something (applause).

People choose their legislators. Not the other way around, and not allowing people to see how that would be done in the appropriate amount of time for a reasonable person to develop a response to it is a shame.

I'm here to speak on behalf of the Five Towns. I'm so glad that someone brought that up. I am from Woodmere. I got involved in politics about ten years ago and seeing how the Five Towns was ripped apart from one cohesive legislator which included everyone to then be put into four was really something that hurt

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the Five Towns residents. They don't know who to speak to about what, based on where they live.

The Woodmere Club is a huge issue in the Five Towns, the threat of the Sixth Town, as they call it. That's in the 4th Legislative District, but most of the people who are going to be affected by that actually live across Broadway or West Broadway in the 7th Legislative District. But the people on the other side of 878 where all the traffic's going to come through for the construction trucks where our legislator in attendance tonight is, in fact, a representative in the 3rd Legislative District, they have a completely different person that they have to speak to about a common set of concerns for a single community.

I urge this committee to consider recombining the Five Towns together into a single district, five like communities that have a like shared heritage with each other, two shared school districts.

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As someone who grew up in Woodmere, we didn't differentiate between the others. It was one large community that I had the pleasure to ride my bike around, but now it doesn't feel that way because it's been so scattered in different directions.

I urge you to find a way to join this community and make them whole as they were on the 2003 map (buzzer).

Long Beach was connected to Oceanside and Island Park, another combination that seems to make much greater sense than the current snake-like 7th and 4th like district that includes it now.

Please don't hear and, in fact, listen. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN MORONEY: Thank you.

(Whereupon, there was applause.)

CHAIRMAN MORONEY: Marvin Amazon.

MR. AMAZON: First of all, Peter Bee I think it was. You spoke prior to --

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when Michael Pernick asked you about the names of the people making maps, you said you don't have them. Is that because you don't know who they are or you haven't started the process yet?

CHAIRMAN MORONEY: That was Mr. Devane.

MR. AMAZON: Oh. Sorry.

COMMISSIONER DEVANE: You can call me Peter Bee especially if you don't like my answer.

So my understanding in talking with the Republican Delegation is that that is imminent and we're going to pass this information along.

MR. AMAZON: Okay. Perfect. And then so this is the last time we're having public comment before the maps are shown, right?

CHAIRMAN MORONEY: I'm sorry. Before the maps are what?

MR. AMAZON: Before the maps are shown to the public.

CHAIRMAN MORONEY: Yes. This is the

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final one, yes.

MR. AMAZON: All right. So I was at the first meeting and I just wanted to make sure I was at this last one as well. At the first meeting -- Somebody said there was over 100 people that spoke to you guys, prior to this, right? Okay. So the first meeting I was at, the meeting ended at 8:30, around there, and I don't think there were 100 people that spoke. We each get three minutes to speak. If a hundred people speak or have spoken to you already it's about five hours.

COMMISSIONER DEVANE: I think we mean in total.

MR. AMAZON: Yeah. So the public's only going to get to speak to you one time after the maps are shown, right? So on the 17th or the 14th depending on the dates you choose?

CHAIRMAN MORONEY: Whatever date it is, that hearing would be open to the public.



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MR. AMAZON: And that would be one hearing?

CHAIRMAN MORONEY: Yes. We've talked about so many different dates, I want to make sure. The second hearing we would have would be the 14th, and that would be for --

MR. AMAZON: Public comment.

CHAIRMAN MORONEY: -- maps that were released on the 10th.

MR. AMAZON: Okay, and then --

COMMISSIONER MEJIAS: To answer your question, that would be the only hearing where the public would -

MR. AMAZON: I appreciate that. So I would assume that you would start the meeting a little bit earlier so -- I'm pretty sure there might be more than 100 people who want to speak at the time. So I just want to make sure that you guys are well informed that there might be a lot of people who come to that last meeting and we're not going to be cut short because you have somewhere to be

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during that meeting as well.

CHAIRMAN MORONEY: We haven't fixed any of those dates yet, and we'll take that under consideration. Thank you.

COMMISSIONER MEJIAS: You may be correct in terms of the time, but I think we had said 6 o'clock so people can go after work. Maybe we need to do an afternoon and an evening --

MR. AMAZON: Or maybe even two meetings as well. That would be very helpful.

COMMISSIONER MEJIAS: Yes.

MR. AMAZON: All right. Thank you (applause).

CHAIRMAN MORONEY: Veronica Renta-Irwin.

MS. RENTA-IRWIN: Hi. Good evening. My name is Veronica Renta-Irwin and I am the current President of the Long Island Hispanic Bar Association.

To being I'm going to try to not stray too far from my comments, but I definitely have to echo Commissioner

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Mejias' concerns regarding this specific process and the deficiencies with respect to the notice given to the public regarding these hearings.

I've been working with the League of Women Voters, the Hispanic National Bar Association, Latino Justice and PRLDEF in trying to get our community out, our severely impacted community out to these hearings, and I, myself, was not given the exact time and location for this meeting until two days ago.

So although I appreciate sentiment and olive branches, there are certain facts that we cannot escape, and so when Commissioner Mejias talks about the fact that these meetings were not well publicized and the fact that there was conflicting and misleading information given about these hearings, I simply cannot put those facts aside for, you know, sentiment.

Additionally, the fact of the matter is in order for these hearings to produce

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any type of transparency or fairness in the process, it must include public hearings after the maps are introduced. There is no other way to have a meaningful discussion around redistricting or mapping processes unless it's specific to maps.

So I'm not really sure how we are all supposed to speak in generalities without being able to actually look at a map and be able to give this Commission, before the maps are given to the Legislature, comments about where those lines are drawn.

That having been said, I would like to share some other significant facts with this Commission. In the last ten years the Latino population has grown significantly across the country, in New York State and in Nassau County. Specifically, in the last decade the Latino population in Nassau County has grown over 30% and is standing to now make up 18% of the population. According

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to the 2020 census, there are now 52 communities on Long Island where Latinos constitute 20% or more of the population, which is up from 39, and there are another 11 where Latinos make up between 19 and 19.99%. I also want to point out that within that 30% increase in the Latino population, it includes a 16.8% increase in Latinos that are of voting age.

Now it's been suggested that the current maps may be reintroduced or used as the basis for the next set of maps that will then be our maps for the next ten years (buzzer).

CHAIRMAN MORONEY: If you could wrap it up, I would appreciate it.

MS. RENTA-IRWIN: I will do my best.

CHAIRMAN MORONEY: Thank you.

MS. RENTA-IRWIN: I must impress upon this Commission that the old maps did not result in the equitable representation for the Latino community. Given the huge increase in the Latino

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population as reflected in the 2020 census, it certainly will not be appropriate for the use in the next 10 years.

I want to remind the Commission that on the state level there is no Latino representation and if we want to include Suffolk County that number goes up by one.

On the county level in terms of our County Legislature, there are zero Latinos. There is no Latino representation despite the fact that I've just informed the Commission that in many communities, the Latino population represents nearly one in five residents.

The new proposed maps must be drawn to empower the Latino population and ensure a meaningful voice in governing. The research indicates that this Commission has the ability to draw five performing majority/minority districts and it can do that by keeping long-standing communities of interests

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together such as Hempstead, Roosevelt,  
North Valley Stream, Freeport, Westbury,  
Cedarhurst and even where we all are  
tonight, Elmont.

Once again, I look forward to  
continuing this conversation once the  
maps have been released and before they  
are sent to the County Leg for approval.

Thank you.

(Whereupon, there was  
applause.)

CHAIRMAN MORONEY: Thank you.

Before I move onto the next speaker, I do  
want you to let you know that there was  
no deliberate effort to hide anything as  
far as the --

There were some difficulties with  
the IT system. We had people working on  
it full time. There are objections,  
however, by the Democrats that certain  
things haven't appeared; however, at the  
end of this process, it's going to happen  
because they're going to be able to put  
together a packet of anything they want

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to put together and send it over with the official record which is what we're having here, as well as the Republican Delegation doing the same thing. They can do that. That's how it's been done for 30 years.

MS. RENTA-IRWIN: And, sir, I appreciate your comment and I don't mean to attack anyone personally, but when I go back to my community, I have to go back to them with the results, with the facts. And so while I appreciate your good intention, and I'm sure that everyone here is trying to do their best, that doesn't negate the result, and the result is confusion and a lack of participation that otherwise could have occurred if there was clarity. Frankly, that can be rectified by having additional public meetings after the maps come out (applause).

CHAIRMAN MORONEY: Can I ask you a question? You said that you learned of this a couple of days ago?



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MS. RENTA-IRWIN: Yes.

CHAIRMAN MORONEY: How did -- who --  
I don't want any names in particular --

MS. RENTA-IRWIN: Yes. I have been  
coordinating with Cesar Ruiz from Latino  
Justice PRLDEF who has submitted his  
comments in writing this evening because  
he couldn't make the meeting because he  
couldn't get here from where he is on  
such short notice, which is an exact  
example of what I'm talking about, and I  
actually have his comments here.

CHAIRMAN MORONEY: Can I ask you a  
question?

MS. RENTA-IRWIN: Please do.

COMMISSIONER MORONEY: Who is your  
legislator in Nassau County?

MS. RENTA-IRWIN: Well, I'm here  
speaking on behalf of the Long Island  
Hispanic Bar Association.

CHAIRMAN MORONEY: I understand.

MS. RENTA-IRWIN: I am a Nassau  
County Resident.

CHAIRMAN MORONEY: But who is your

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legislator?

MS. RENTA-IRWIN: Why? I don't know why?

CHAIRMAN MORONEY: Why? Because we're trying to figure out what district you're in.

MS. RENATA-IRWIN: How will that assist the process? How will that help the people that I'm here to represent?

CHAIRMAN MORONEY: Curiosity. That's all.

MS. RENTA-IRWIN: Okay. Well, I appreciate that, but I don't intend any --

CHAIRMAN MORONEY: A little order here. We're allowed to ask questions too. Treat us like we treat everybody else.

MS. RENTA-IRWIN: Absolutely.

CHAIRMAN MORONEY: So, please. Thank you very much.

MS. RENTA-IRWIN: Thank you.

COMMISSIONER REINHARDT: Mr. Moroney, if I could just have one second.

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CHAIRMAN MORONEY: Sure.

COMMISSIONER REINHARDT: Just one second. I believe this was the press release put out by you earlier this month dated October 6, 2022. This went to all the people that we discussed earlier, the news media, the legislators and all the members of the --

(Whereupon, there was an interruption by Mr. McKenna.)

CHAIRMAN MORONEY: Mr. McKenna, you're going to get your opportunity like you always do.

(Whereupon, there was crosstalk.)

CHAIRMAN MORONEY: You're out of order, Mr. McKenna. You're out of order twice. Three times. Hands up.

(Whereupon, the court reporter is instructed to stop writing during outburst.)

COMMISSIONER REINHARDT: This was a press release put out on October 6, and it listed the next four meetings at that

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time:

- on October 13, at 6:00 p.m. at the Carolyn Atkinson School in Freeport;
- the Glen Cove City Hall Meeting on October 18;
- the October 20 meeting at Massapequa Community Center; and
- tonight's meeting at the Elmont Memorial Library.

I know that this was an effort to try to move forward --

CHAIRMAN MORONEY: And so there's no misunderstanding, a request was made by the Democratic counsel for a list of all of the people that these were mailed to and they were supplied to -- They haven't been supplied yet today -- and there are lists of everybody who received those notices. So that's that.

(Whereupon, there was crosstalk.)

CHAIRMAN MORONEY: Amil Virani.

MS. RENTA-IRWIN: Can I just ask a question respectfully?

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CHAIRMAN MORONEY: No. Amil Virani.

MS. RENTA-IRWIN: Was that the information that was on the website?

CHAIRMAN MORONEY: Yes.

MS. RENTA-IRWIN: All the information was -- I'm sorry if that's what you believe, but it's not true.

CHAIRMAN MORONEY: If you have time during the course of your busy day, give me a call and I'll sit down with you --

(Whereupon, there was crosstalk.)

COMMISSIONER MEJIAS: Just for the record, the notice of this meeting was not on the Redistricting Commission's website.

MS. RENTA-IRWIN: So Commissioner Mejias, if we were not provided a copy of that press release --

CHAIRMAN MORONEY: Can we get to the rest of the speakers?

(Whereupon, there was crosstalk.)

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MS. RENTA-IRWIN: -- and we were interested in coming to this meeting, where would we have found that information?

CHAIRMAN MORONEY: Can I have some order?

COMMISSIONER MEJIAS: The only way -- the public notice of this hearing on the website appeared yesterday. The only way you would know about this is because we've been trying to reach out to community groups. I've called the Justice of PRLDEF myself to let them know what's going on, but there was nothing official about it.

CHAIRMAN MORONEY: I will invite you to come to the office and we'll go through the case.

Amil Virani.

MR. VIRANI: Good evening, members of the Commssion. My name is Amil Virani. I'm a resident of Valley Stream. I grew up in the Five Towns and I currently reside in the Hewlett/Woodmere

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School District in Valley Stream.

I'm very concerned about the maps that were adopted ten years ago were repeated in a similar fashion even though I'll be in a different area.

There are several points that I'd like to emphasize. First is the need for majority/minority districts. Second is for the need of areas such as Valley Stream and Elmont to be kept together, and lastly is keeping the Five Towns in tact.

First, priority needs to be made on keeping and having five minority/majority districts. *Newsday* had a landmark article about how the Nassau County Assessment System was broken and disproportionately impacted people in minority communities. In fact, according to that 2018 report as shown in *Newsday*, Elmont and Valley Stream residents were disproportionately impacted with high taxes. Valley Stream residents of School District 30 were also hit by the failed

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assessment system as well as the Green Acres Mall PILOT situation in 2017.

The bottom line is, several years ago our assessment system was screwed up big time and if there were five majority/minority districts, this would not have happened (applause).

Second, currently in Valley Stream we have two different legislators and the lines don't make sense. For instance, as an earlier speaker mentioned, you cannot drive through the 3rd Legislative District, as in you cannot drive or walk. You actually need to take a boat to go through it. And you have North Woodmere in that district which has nothing in common with Valley Stream, Elmont and Inwood. In addition, instead of zoning Valley Stream in one place, Nassau County chose to split it up from the west end to the east end. Valley Stream is the third largest incorporated village in New York State by population. Yet the 6th Legislative District has the east part of



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Valley Stream and has tossed all of Lynbrook into it. This dilutes the power of this increasingly diverse community in comparison to Lynbrook.

Valley Stream also has major roadways that are controlled by Nassau County as well as the assessment system that impacts their taxes.

Valley Streamers have communities, such as Elmont, that deserve more than one voice, and the population shows that which is why we need to keep villages together and not dilute their influence.

Lastly, that the Five Towns needs to be kept put together. Right now I live in the Hewlett/Woodmere School District and we have four legislators which dilutes the influence of that singular school district, and since Hewlett/Woodmere primarily comprised of hamlets, we have legislators that only represent parts of the school district, itself.

I know I'm out of time, but I just

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want to emphasize that I hope that the Commission will adopt fair maps and keep the boundaries of school districts, villages together and account for the changing population of Valley Stream and the need for more majority/minority districts.

Thank you (applause).

CHAIRMAN MORONEY: Thank you.

James Hodges.

MR. HODGES: Hello, commissioners.

How are you, Chairman? I'm happy that you're back. I was praying for you, not just because you offered me tea, but because I heard you were sick. So I was sincerely praying for you. Thank God you're back.

CHAIRMAN MORONEY: Thank you.

MR. HODGES: To the commissioners and also County Legislator Solages is here and I know that when they usually have a county -- when they had an elected official, they gave them an opportunity to speak, too. I think he put a slip in,

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but maybe you didn't know.

Anyhow, I must say that you've heard all the statistical data. We talk about transparency and monopoly -- that was a great speech, by the way. Great speech. You are a good guy -- but, it means nothing if 100 people come and speak if the proof is not in the pudding in what goes on here. That could have been 30 years. You could have known Mejias when he was in second grade and you taught him a lot and all of that. You could have 20 black friends and, you know, there's a lot of black people here so we gotta say a lot of what we done. We're black people. And I don't say that to be facetious, but I don't think you have to prove who you are. If people know you, they know you. And so, man, you speak, men, you talk and if you don't talk to me after this, like I said, God knows. It's all right. You'll still be an attorney and do what you do and defend people and all of that stuff, but I don't think just

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because there's so many minorities we gotta put forth what we do. I think everybody should speak. Everybody should be able to appreciate -- and, Chairman, I didn't like the way you did the president of the thing with your hands, you know, sit down. She's not a little puppy. You don't do that. I'm just saying that.

We say it's not being personal, but it's personal when you make decisions that hurt people lives, and I don't know what happened with the young man that was fired and, you know, I was a little extra angry last time because, you know, people back then said, you know, there was black people and white people back when black people was lynched and went through all they went through and said, and, you know, black people only got a chance to vote in 1965, LBJ at the Voters Right Act. And people said if I was living at that time, I would do this. And black people said I would stand up, but yet we see black people agree with some of the

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things that go on today. We see some white folks still doing some of the same things, right, hurting people and coming up with different bills that would hurt people and it's not all white people, because sometimes, you know, it's just people doing bad things no matter what color or party you in.

So when we look at what goes on here, I say all that is necessary for the triumph of evil is that good people, not good men, do nothing. So we can say all of these nice words and nice things, but four days is not enough and you still don't even know if it's four days (buzzer).

So in my conclusion, we need time to look at the maps. We need time -- and we want to tell you all of the statistical data says there should be five districts. There's no Latino representative. There's no Latino representative in the 19 Legislator. You guys hear what's wrong all the time. I pray to God,

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listen, a lot of people went through what you went through and they're not here. I thank God for bringing us all through what went through certain things, but God sometimes give us a little signs when we sit down and we think.

Chairman, you said you won the Martin Luther King Award. Winning a Martin Luther King Award should represent something because if you receive that award for all you do, let it mean something. If you just received the award because they know you can bring a lot of people to the dinner, then you better give that award back. But I say to you that if you represent Martin Luther King, he worked on behalf of a lot of people. Chairman, you said there's five over there (indicating) and five over there (indicating), but if you rule with them all the time, there's six over there (indicating) and five over here (indicating). So I say to you because you're the leader, do what's right. I

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pray that God touch all of you to do what is right.

Pastor, let's continue to pray -- you ain't going to look at me? Come on. I know you my whole life, Pastor. Don't do me like that. So our fathers are in heaven together both of them were pastors. We know each other a long time. Everybody may not always agree, but we don't have to. Let us respect one another, all right, Pastor. And, welcome; you're filling in.

But one last thing I want to say. You have more time gone than what's left unless it's going to be a miracle and there will be another Mary miracle from the Bible. All of us, we can go tomorrow or whatever -- So in your last 50 years here on earth, all right? Do what is right, Commissioner, please. God is watching you. Just like they replaced you right after you told them you were sick, they will forget everything you said or done as soon as you leave. They

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replaced you and got somebody else. So do what's right. They don't care. They just care what you're doing to support their agenda, whoever it is. Please, there's black and Latino and even white folks hurting by the decisions you make.

So I love you all. I'm praying for you and I'm pray to God to deal with the soul and the heart and the mind, not the party. I pray that God deal with all of you, all of you.

Chairman, lead. Lead. You won the Martin Luther King Award and don't forget you promised me tea (applause).

CHAIRMAN MORONEY: All that and a cup of tea. Stephanie Chase.

MS. CHASE: Good evening, everyone. I've attended I guess all the meetings but one and still it's the same thing. I thought at the last meeting that we were going to have more time to view the maps, the public, after it was set up. I don't know how to stress how important that is. We need time. Not everybody knows how to



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look at a map. We need time to really decipher and see what's what when you come out with it. I hope that it's favorable.

You've heard the same thing over and over from everyone. Everyone now has been asking for transparency, fairness, majority/minority. Let's see if we can get it done. I'm really kind of nervous here, because I got a feeling that you're going to go to the legislator and I think all of this is just nothing.

Okay. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN MORONEY: Thank you very much.

Maria Jordan-Awalom. Did I pronounce it correctly?

MS. JORDAN-AWALOM: Good evening. My name is Maria Jordan-Awalom. I am a Freeport resident and have been following this process along with many others here tonight.

We have made our voices heard and will absolutely hold you all and the

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legislator accountable for what results out of this. We have invested time and effort in coming to these hearings. I'm here tonight to make my final plea before maps are presented to us all.

As a resident of Freeport who is heavily invested in my community and in our children, I cannot understand why Freeport is divided into four legislative districts with one of those legislators representing, what, a park? The surrounding water around the park? I don't even think the legislator knows that she represents Freeport. I don't understand that and neither do many of my neighbors.

I want to see my community kept together as much as possible and I can even understand two districts, but four? No wonder we never even hear from the other two. They have a tiny portion of Freeport, don't live in Freeport and are not invested in Freeport.

Freeport is already heavily

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segregated between north and south Freeport. I understand it is a large village, the second largest in New York State; however, I am pleading with you all to stop the geographical fracturing of our community. This will only continue to dilute our collective voices and strip us of any glimpse of political power people of color are continuing to fight for so hard across this country and region.

During the last round of redistricting ten years ago, three majority/minority districts were created; however, these last ten years have seen a huge shift in our demographics, and communities of color continue to grow rapidly across Nassau County. Let's keep in mind that the 2020 census severely undercounted many of our communities, particularly, the Latino one, meaning that our numbers are even bigger than what was reported.

Our representation at the County

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Legislation needs to mirror what Nassau looks like today and what it will look like in the next decade. If this redistricting process is truly transparent and indicative of our population realities, the new legislative map will have at least five majority/minority districts. Our communities will accept nothing less.

Thank you (applause).

CHAIRMAN MORONEY: Thank you very much.

COMMISSIONER MEJIAS: I just thought of something. This is a very complicated process, you know, going through this entire thing and the law and the contiguity and the racially polarized voting and whether or not districts are gerrymandering, the consultants that we hire and the hundreds of thousands of dollars that we're spending doing this. Maybe -- I haven't talked to my delegation about this -- but maybe what we should do is work with each other and

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present each other our maps two days before November 10 so that maybe we can talk to each other about each other's maps for a couple of days before we do the work session or at least take a look at each other's maps and consultants two days before -- on November 8, on Election Day and I think that would be a very good way for us to work together and I think that would be very collaborative.

I want to take Commissioner Devane's olive branch and extend it even farther and put it to good use and, hopefully, maybe we should have a resolution that we will give each other our maps two days before the 10th. Are you guys okay with that? My side's okay with it.

Can I propose a resolution that we exchange our maps by noon two days prior to the work session, whatever date that may be?

COMMISSIONER PERNICK: It's a good idea. I'll second that.

CHAIRMAN MORONEY: I think it's a

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great idea. Let's keep an open mind to it.

COMMISSIONER MEJIAS: Well, I just proposed a resolution.

(Whereupon, there was interruption from the audience.)

COMMISSIONER MEJIAS: That's why I proposed a resolution and Mr. Pernick seconded it. Can we do that?

CHAIRMAN MORONEY: If you would just stay cool for a bit.

COMMISSIONER MEJIAS: I'm always cool, Chairman.

CHAIRMAN MORONEY: That said, it has merit. I think, on the other hand, I don't know where our mapping people are. I couldn't tell you that and until I find that I may very well --

COMMISSIONER MEJIAS: I mean, I'm sure at least a day before you're going to know. Do you want to make it the day before at noon? I mean, that would be fair. I don't know where we are with our

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maps either, but I know we're not going to stay up all night drawing a map. It takes a lot of time. There's a lot of effort that goes into it, so --

COMMISSIONER REINHARDT:

Commissioner Mejias, so at this point, as we've said, we have not begun the map drawing process. From what we understand, you've been analyzing the old maps working towards the new maps.

COMMISSIONER MEJIAS: Yes.

COMMISSIONER REINHARDT: I don't

know how far along you are on developing your maps. Speaking to a couple of my fellow commissioners, I can't commit that we're going to have them available two days before.

COMMISSIONER MEJIAS: How about a day before?

COMMISSIONER REINHARDT: We will

make every effort to do that. I think the day before we probably could -- I would hope that we have them the day before. If we have the maps available or

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a working copy of the map available I think we would commit to make every effort to give that to you guys ahead of time.

Again, I don't think we can meet before. That's going to violate the Open Meetings Law as we were so concerned about last time.

COMMISSIONER MEJIAS: So I'll amend my resolution. So why not, like, noon the day before the work session we exchange maps --

COMMISSIONER REINHARDT: Why don't we, rather than a formal official resolution, why don't we do the olive branch thing as we said and we will, leading up to that date, discuss being able to exchange what we have available.

If I don't have a fully complete map, I can't commit here now to a legal resolution thing and give you something that I don't have in my hands. I don't know how you can make that commitment.

COMMISSIONER MEJIAS: I mean, it's a



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complicated process.

COMMISSIONER KASSCHAU: I don't want to interject, but there's a motion made that's been seconded. Perhaps this discussion should be had during the debate portion of the motion.

COMMISSIONER MEJIAS: So I'll amend it. So it's noon the day before the work session we will exchange maps.

COMMISSIONER PERNICK: I don't know if an amended motion requires a second, but if it does, for good measure I'll second.

COMMISSIONER MEJIAS: Okay. So maybe we should vote on that. Do you guys want to talk about it first?

I just thought of this, but I think it's a good idea.

COMMISSIONER REINHARDT: The sooner we get the maps out the better.

COMMISSIONER DEVANE: Assuming the map is done on our side, I think we're in agreement that we give it to you noon the day before.

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COMMISSIONER MEJIAS: Okay. So let's vote on the measurement.

CHAIRMAN MORONEY: Amended to say that.

COMMISSIONER MEJIAS: Can we --

CHAIRMAN MORONEY: Can we amend it to say that?

COMMISSIONER MEJIAS: I think what we're doing is committing to having it done at noon the day before. That would be ideal, right? And if we can't, maybe we should move the day.

CHAIRMAN MORONEY: I understand that but you also understand that if it doesn't happen we're going to spend 45 minutes of being told that we violated some resolution and we didn't produce it and there'll be a whole little rebel rousing going on. I think we've got to be specific and the specific recommendation by Mr. Devane I think was a legitimate one. If our maps are ready, we'll give them to you the day before.

COMMISSIONER MEJIAS: How about we

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change the work session if they're not ready? We'll move the work session a day back or two days back.

My point is we're not trying to hide anything. So if I come to you and say it's November 9 at noon. We're not going to be ready until noon tomorrow, maybe we push the work session back a day or two, but the purpose of the resolution is to make sure that the map is actually done before the work session.

So now we go back to Megan Gall, Dr. Gall, and Dr. Magleby and say you have to be done by noon, November 9 so that we can give the Republicans our maps the day before so they can look at them and have a fair opportunity to -- I don't just want to spring it on you guys at the work session.

CHAIRMAN MORONEY: I think it's worthwhile, but the motion, as I understand it, is that the Democrats and Republicans will exchange maps by noon the day before.

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COMMISSIONER MEJIAS: Yes.

CHAIRMAN MORONEY: That's the motion.

COMMISSIONER REINHARDT: Again, I'm uncomfortable guaranteeing being able to give you something that I don't have in my hands. So that's my concern.

COMMISSIONER MEJIAS: That's why we're trying to make it a deadline.

COMMISSIONER PERNICK: With respect, we've already guaranteed to make the maps available on November 10. This is advancing it by, what? Twenty-four hours? So there's already that guarantee. It's not a new guarantee, 12 hours. That guarantee's already been made. This moves it up a few hours.

CHAIRMAN MORONEY: Okay.  
Mr. Pulitzer?

COMMISSIONER FITZGERALD: I don't think any of us on either side right now can say exactly when our maps are going to be completed. I think we'd all like to be able to say when they're going to

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be completed.

(Whereupon, interruption by  
the audience.)

COMMISSIONER FITZGERALD: I don't  
think they are. You're going to hope to  
have your maps completed as would we.

COMMISSIONER MEJIAS: I know as soon  
as I leave hear I'm going to call my  
consultant and say I need this thing done  
by the day before or you're not getting  
your check.

CHAIRMAN MORONEY: All right. Call  
the roll.

CLERK PULITZER: Calling the roll of  
the commissioners that are present.

Commissioner John Reinhardt?

COMMISSIONER REINHARDT: Just to be  
clear, the resolution is that maps will  
be exchanged noon the day before --

COMMISSIONER MEJIAS: The work  
session.

COMMISSIONER REINHARDT: Noon the  
day before the work session. Okay. Yes.  
Aye.

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CLERK PULITZER: Commissioner  
Maureen Fitzgerald?

COMMISSIONER FITZGERALD: Aye.

CLERK PULITZER: Commissioner  
Christopher Devane?

COMMISSIONER DEVANE: Yes.

CLERK PULITZER: Commissioner Eric  
Malette?

COMMISSIONER MALLETT: Aye.

CLERK PULITZER: Commissioner David  
Mejias?

COMMISSIONER MEJIAS: Aye.

CLERK PULITZER: Commissioner Jared  
Kasschau?

COMMISSIONER KASSCHAU: Aye.

CLERK PULITZER: Commissioner  
Andrena Wyatt?

COMMISSIONER WYATT: Aye.

CLERK PULITZER: Thank you.  
Commissioner James Magin, Jr.?

COMMISSIONER MAGIN: Aye.

CLERK PULITZER: Commissioner  
Michael Pernick?

COMMISSIONER PERNICK: Aye.

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CHAIRMAN MORONEY: All right. We agreed on something.

(Whereupon, there was applause.)

COMMISSIONER PERNICK: I don't think we need a resolution on this but just to have a clear record, could we agree that when we exchange maps we'll also exchange the data files, that we can look at the map and understand the map. I believe it's called a shape file. Every redistricting consultant uses them. I don't think we need a formal resolution, but is that something that we can all agree to?

(Whereupon, there was agreement among the Commission.)

CHAIRMAN MORONEY: H. Scottie Coads.

MS. COADS: Here I go again. This is about my fourth time testifying and I'm probably going to take it to an area that I probably should not go.

I came from that red state of South

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Carolina and we had to fight. My parents had to fight so hard during the Civil Rights movement to get anything done. I'm not part of the great migration, too young to have migrated to New York at that time, but when I stand here, and this is my fourth time testifying, and I stand here and I have to hear a James Hodge plead with you to do the right thing. One of the other meetings I had to hear Emily Moore, someone who traveled in this country and out of this country. One who educated our kids and did a whole lot for our community and many others. Mimi spoke tonight and she is out there working like you wouldn't believe to make things happen. Then here we are in 2022. After leaving that red state of South Carolina as a kid and coming to New York for a better life, and in 2022 I'm standing here begging commissioners -- and y'all are doing a great job. You're doing what you need to do. I imagine that you guys can do more. I know you



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can do more -- but we have to plead and beg for you to do the right thing by all of my people that are sitting in this room, black and brown people. We're sick of it. We're downright sick of it.

It's no reason for us to have to testify for anything about a map that we have not even seen yet. It's utterly ridiculous.

And then you talk about the million dollars that was allocated to do this job. How much is being paid to the map drawer, or whatever his title is? How much do you pay him? You must have a figure to tell us.

CHAIRMAN MORONEY: That's not something within my purview. I don't know -- I've not seen any contracts. I don't know any of the -- but you certainly are free to get it. It's a going to be available.

(Whereupon, interruption from the audience.)

CHAIRMAN MORONEY: Excuse the

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interruption.

You ask for it. I don't have it. I don't know.

MS. COADS: Why don't you have it? Twelve years ago after the 2010 census at the Legislature at one of the meetings, the demographer was there. He actually jumped all over me because I asked him the same question. How much are you being paid? You don't have him in front of you at all, but, yet, he's drawing a map that he does not even know our community.

We are tired. Like I said, coming from the deep south as a little girl and coming to New York and coming to Nassau County, one of the most racist counties in the country, and this is what we have to worry about, what you are going to present to the legislators. I mean, you gotta try to be fair. We worked all our lives, didn't we folks?

AUDIENCE: Yeah.

MS. COES: We worked all of our

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lives to be counted and to be included in everything. One man lost his job because he spoke truth to power. That doesn't make any sense. Not at all.

Like I said, I didn't have a prepared statement. I like to do a prepared statement because I don't like my words to be mixed or misconstrued. We are really tired. We are going to fight. We are going with the progressives and I'm not representing anybody but myself and my community tonight. We're going wherever we need to go to make sure we're treated fairly. This is not right for us to have to beg you to be fair and transparent with us and to us. It's not good. What you're doing to these people, and forgive me for my back being turned to you because you're first on my list in everything that I do, my community.

I know there's some Progressives and there are some Conservatives. I won't call it party, because that's not what it's about. But if you think you're

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being fair to us, think again because it's not right. You're not being fair to the people that's sitting out here. Mimi, you know it. James, you know it. Everybody sitting here know that you're going to take a map to the legislators that will not count us in any kind of way because you have the majority.

We're still looking for five more districts without hurting the three that we have. How are you going to do it? Make sure you get that map drawn. He's getting a lot of money. He's getting a lot, but he hasn't given you a map yet that you want to share with us. I can't say you didn't see it, but you don't want to share it or you haven't shared it with us.

Thank you for listening and I am -- I didn't even remember to bring my cane up to make sure I don't fall. It hurts. My community's hurting and we want fairness and transparency, whatever you do and I ask the Progressives to be on

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top of your game. Most of the people in here will be with you, whatever you decide to do.

Thank you and have a good evening.

CHAIRMAN MORONEY: Thank you very much.

Legislator Carrie Solages.

MR. SOLAGES: Good evening to the esteem panel here tonight of commissioners, Reverend Pastor. You allow Democrats like me to speak at your church. I know you're a fair man. Thank you very much. Good evening everyone.

My name is Carrie Solages, Nassau County Legislator for this great district, the 3rd Legislative District. Forgive me for my back to the crowd. I'm asking everyone here tonight to not do just, you know, the Democrat thing. Don't do the Republican thing. Do the right thing. Please do the right thing.

I thank the library, this great library that's here. Amil before talked about how at this library, this room,

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it's a coincidence, that we held large tax rebates workshops where homeowners all across this district and all across Nassau County came here and shared information where they saw who was paying more taxes and were with lawyers providing free pro bono services so that they could grieve their taxes. It's because this community was allowed to remain as one.

Look at that word community. That word community has common unity. It was about the common unity of this community that extended from Queens going westward that allowed us to purchase homes and accomplish the American dream, and to have that divided by political lines that showed no compromise is truly an injustice. This is about saving our democracy.

So I'm asking you to please produce a map, not just the day you release it but the process. It must be fair and transparent. It must adhere to Federal

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and State laws and of course to our great John Lewis Voting Rights Bill that we all care about, but also we keep in mind that we have overlapping districts. I have had the greatest opportunities the past ten years to serve as a public servant for this community. Mothers, fathers, parents allowed me to solve and address some of their issues, and I had a chance to work with other special districts, and I saw that by having legislative district or special district that did not overlap that was not consistent. It really determined whether or not people would get help.

What you're doing here is more than producing a map of political advantage. You're determining whether or not people will get help. This is about government and I love government, but we cannot have government affected by lines that pack and crack communities.

So I'm asking you to please create a fair process and a fair map that does not

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end up in a lawsuit as we saw recently.

We cannot allow voter confusion. We must promote voter engagement and participation. We cannot allow a process that will result in a lawsuit that will be costly to county and state.

This library is a special place. Here, we united as one community whether it be to save (inaudible) Elmont High School or whether it was to address concerns of the UBS Arena or for tax grievances. That's because we're here in one community. Even having Elmont divided amongst two different legislators has created confusion, a lack of participation and has been a loss for our democracy.

The outdated funding formula that we see on federal levels, state levels that don't reflect what needs the communities have or what funding they deserve or they can apply for is also determined by the maps that we will set out to draw. This is about who, what, when, where, how and



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we have the right to know how these rights -- these maps are made.

The census recently revealed that there are growing populations from the Haitian community, the Hispanic community and we must make sure that these maps reflect that growing change. We must respect the cultural growth of our communities and the economic growth.

I must say that if we had the possibility of having three minority/majority legislative districts ten years ago, I know we could do better now ten years from that. We have the possibility of having five minority/majority districts that would truly reflect the beauty of this great diverse melting pot that we have here in Nassau County, and anything else than that would be a lie.

We must allow the community to have enough time to digest this information. We need more than two meetings after these maps are released. If nothing is

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wrong with this map or the process by which we use to produce these maps, then make it subject to the public inspection. I'm asking you, please, don't do the Democratic thing or the Republican thing. Do the right thing.

Thank you very much (applause).

CHAIRMAN MORONEY: Thank you.

COMMISSIONER MEJIAS: Thank you, Legislator Solages, and that reminds us to thank the library staff and the library trustees for allowing us to use this great place. Thank you guys in the back for helping us out. We really do appreciate it. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN MORONEY: Henry Boitel.

MR. BOITEL: I'm not -- Henry Boitel, Rockville Centre. I'm not going to talk tonight about how Rockville Centre, which has less than the population of one legislative district is gerrymandered into three legislative districts. I'm sure that you're going to consider that very carefully and do

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something about it.

This whole question of redistricting relates to population numbers, maps and communities of interest. A number of weeks ago, I went to look at the website of this Commission, Nassau County Redistricting Commission, and I have to say I was pleasantly surprised. There it was; maps, numbers, communities of interest. Then I realized I was mistaken. It was Nassau County, Florida. That bastion of forwarding-looking voter protection. I go there now, weeks later, not a map to be seen. Not a figure to be seen. I'm not talking about what everybody was clapping about before the idea that at the last minute you're going to show your cards to each other in some way. I'm talking about the resource material that we, in the community ought to have available to us. What are the numbers that presently exist? How do they differ from the numbers that existed ten years ago? The kinds of stuff that

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you people have a million dollars to produce information on and so far not a speck of such information is on your website.

Now, is that what the legislature intended when they gave you a million dollars and appointed you to this position?

My point is this, you still have some time. Have some respect for these communities. Put information up on the website which will show what the basic facts are.

Now, I'll grant you there are some people, candidly, who think that the whole question of redistricting is one of how can we rig things so that our side is going to come out on top? But from the community's perspective, that's not what we expect of you. We expect of you to fairly review the facts and figures and to let us look over your shoulder and see what those facts and figures are so that when we come up here, we can speak

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intelligently about not just pie in the sky but about how the facts -- what the various possibilities are.

In any event, thank you (applause).

CHAIRMAN MORONEY: Tamar Paoli-Bailey? Did I get that right?

MS. PAOLI-BAILEY: You got the Bailey part. My name is Tamara Paoli-Bailey.

I am from Elmont and I'm a little bit nervous, I'm not going to lie. I am not on the side of Republicans or Democrats. I am on the side of the people. I'm not favorable to any of you, because Democrats and Republicans are both guilty of the redistricting, the packing and the cracking.

Ten years ago when I was a college student and the district was split up here in Elmont, you have to understand the climate of the area. When I first moved to Elmont in the '90's, it was majority white and then I, personally, saw a great white flight which is when

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black people start moving into a neighborhood, white people get scared and move further east. So by the time I reached college, the neighborhood was majority black and Democrats started to get to get into office, but we also had Republicans in office as well, which I think is good. You should have Democrats and -- well, you shouldn't have any party, but anyway -- Democrats and Republicans representing an area instead of making it easier for one party.

When we were split up, it went more to one party than the other which makes politicians not work as hard as if they have something to fight for because they know their area is going to vote for them which creates a laziness.

The Elmont and Valley Stream in particular, needs to stay together because we have cultural similarities. We're different in the sense that we are on the Nassau County/Queens border and it's a different mentality. We're kind

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of one foot in the city, one foot in Long Island. Also, Elmont and the Sewanhaka School District, which Elmont is a part of, consist of Franklin Square, New Hyde Park, Stuart Manor and so if our district gets split up, which it did, we don't have fair representation within our school district which is already segregated, which was found segregated in 1987. You can look up the archives in the New York Times. With Long Island already having a history where red lining was created here, and Long Island having a history of slavery. One in ten Long Islanders during the time of slavery actually owned a slave, enslaved Africans. Often times on Long Island, communities of -- I don't like to say minor because no one is minor -- Communities of the global majority often get told what to do and don't have a seat at the table, and it is unfair (buzzer).  
So I ask that when you fix your map that you think about not only what you

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guys want to do that is bearable to you but also the people, and also understanding the dynamics of a neighborhood like Elmont where -- I'm so sorry. If you can just give me 30 more seconds -- a neighborhood like Elmont where -- I've looked at every school in Long Island. The high school, in particular, is the most predominantly black high school on Long Island. It also has a great education system which is unique, unfortunately, and the only area you can actually compare it to is Maryland if you look it up.

So we want fair representation because we're not just, you know, struggling here, but we also are middle class, upper middle class majority -- global majority people in this neighborhood as well. So put that into consideration as well.

Sorry. I'm nervous. I had a lot of things to say and I just want to say one more thing. Black and brown, stop



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separating that because you can be black and Latino because the majority of enslaved people went to Latin countries and when you separate black and Latinos, it's -- There's white Latinos. There's black Latinos, and black Latinos need to have a voice as well when you're thinking about representation. Haitians are, by definition, Latino. So there is Latino representation and the more we start thinking about those things and being inclusive of communities, the less things like this will happen.

Thank you (applause).

CHAIRMAN MORONEY: Thank you very much.

Kevin McKenna. Here's your shot.

MR. MCKENNA: What do you mean by that?

COMMISSIONER MEJIAS: It's your turn. That's what that means.

MR. MCKENNA: Kevin McKenna. I just had a conversation the other day with the attorney for the Clerk of the Nassau

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County Legislature. I sent in a FOIL request to get the financial information as to how much Ms. Coschignano and Ms. Whitmore over here or Mrs. Whitmore, I should say, are getting from this Committee. I got back an acknowledgement from the attorney for the Nassau County Legislature that his department is responsible for providing the salaries and the accounting of the money that was allocated to this committee. So for you, Mr. Moroney, with all due respect --

(Whereupon, there was a phone interruption.)

MR. MCKENNA: Somebody's trying to interrupt my live stream -- for you to say that we should go to the Nassau County Comptroller who might know where the money's going, just so you know, I went to the Comptroller initially and was told it's the Nassau County Clerk, that's Mr. Pulitzer, the Clerk of the Nassau County Legislature. He has to know how much money -- how you're spending this

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money. So I'm just letting you know that.

Now, what I would like to know is I would like to know why the Committee hasn't taken part of the money and done a mailer to all the residents in Nassau County educating them about what redistricting is, the importance of it, but more importantly, why haven't you sent out a mailing to all the residents telling everybody when the meetings were going to be taking place going forward? With all due respect, I'm sincerely asking you that question.

CHAIRMAN MORONEY: We just didn't do it because we sent it to the media. We trusted them, like you. You're in the media, right? We trusted them to tell us what was going on.

MR. MCKENNA: Trusted who?

CHAIRMAN MORONEY: Media.

MR. MCKENNA: The media? That's my second question. My second question is, and I'm going to FOIL this tomorrow so

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don't lie to me.

CHAIRMAN MORONEY: Please. Be my guest.

MR. MCKENNA: Have you notified, Mr. Pulitzer, it's your responsibility as the Clerk of the Nassau County Legislature, did alert the media to the fact that this meeting is taking place because I don't see any News 12 here or any *Newsday*. Did you alert the media to the meeting tonight in writing?

CHAIRMAN MORONEY: I'll answer that for him because I signed off on that. Yes, they were notified.

MR. MCKENNA: They were notified?

CHAIRMAN MORONEY: Yes. They were.

MR. MCKENNA: Could you specifically tell me who "they" is? Which media?

CHAIRMAN MORONEY: There's 150 of them. I don't have the list. FOIL that too.

MR. MCKENNA: Did you notify *Newsday* (buzzer)?

CHAIRMAN MORONEY: Yes. They're on

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the list.

MR. MCKENNA: No, no. They're on the list, but did you notify them?

CHAIRMAN MORONEY: Yes. They're on the list.

MR. MCKENNA: Okay.

CHAIRMAN MORONEY: Do you understand that?

MR. MCKENNA: Let me just in -- and I'd like to kind of apologize to you for earlier --

CHAIRMAN MORONEY: By the way, your time is up.

MR. MCKENNA: Yes, I know but you gave others extra time. Listen just because I'm a white guy, just because I'm a white guy doesn't mean that I get cut short when you let people of color speak for an extra few minutes, and I happen to have a black grandson, okay?

COMMISSIONER MEJIAS: I'm like in shock right now. I can't even believe what I'm hearing. I mean, you can talk as long as you want, but I'm going to use

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this time more efficiently and go to the bathroom.

MR. MCKENNA: What I would like to know is, I would like to know who decided how much money the Executive Co-Directors got for sitting here? I'd like to know and everybody would like to know who decided how much salary they got for sitting here taking notes? Who decided that?

CHAIRMAN MORONEY: We did.

MR. MCKENNA: Okay. So you do know where the money has gone.

CHAIRMAN MORONEY: I'm sorry. Your logic escapes me.

MR. MCKENNA: Well you said before that you have no idea how the money was spent. You said that.

CHAIRMAN MORONEY: But you're asking a specific question now. That's different than where the money goes. You have to keep your stream of consciousness in logic. You have to ask a question I can understand.

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MR. MCKENNA: Okay. Mr. Moroney,  
let me ask you this very important  
question --

CHAIRMAN MORONEY: All right.

MR. MCKENNA: Don't be nervous.

CHAIRMAN MORONEY: I'm not nervous.

MR. MCKENNA: Nine hundred and  
eighty-five thousand dollars of taxpayer  
money was provided to this committee to  
basically have, I don't know, seven, ten  
meetings and hear the same thing over and  
over and over again. In my opinion it's  
a total waste of money. Let me just  
finish.

Why, if you're truly working in the  
spirit of transparency as Mr. Devane said  
before -- and I have to take --

(Whereupon, the alarm  
sounded.)

CHAIRMAN MORONEY: That's six  
minutes. Can you wrap it up now?

MR. MCKENNA: I'll wrap it up. I'll  
wrap it up. I'll wrap it up.

He said before that there's no

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favoritism. That's inaccurate because you guys have the majority, but -- In the spirit of transparency, why didn't you and Mr. Mejias and both sides of the committee, why didn't you come to a decision of hiring -- let me take it back. Why didn't you ask an independent person, an independent person separate from you and him to pick a consulting firm, one consulting firm and have that one consulting firm that you both agree on draw the maps? Why are you wasting taxpayers' money having them hire a firm and you guys hiring a firm? Why didn't you hire one firm? Answer that question. Please.

CHAIRMAN MORONEY: It's not the way the law says. We each get to buy our own things and our own people. We did exactly what the law says.

MR. MCKENNA: But you said you wanted to work in the spirit of transparency. Don't you think that it would have made sense --



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CHAIRMAN MORONEY: Could you wrap it up please?

MR. MCKENNA: Yes. I'll wrap it up. Don't you think that it would make sense to have one consulting firm? Don't you think it would make sense to have one firm that you both are happy with to come up with these maps? Don't you think that that would make more sense?

CHAIRMAN MORONEY: Let me put it to you this way, there's a lawsuit pending against the one consultant that the Democrats hired in the Town of North Hempstead, and now they're hiring multiple law firms because there's a conflict of interest right now that's been challenged. So the answer to your question why do each side get the money? First of all --

MR. MCKENNA: That's not my question. My question is specifically -- you're a very smart man, okay?

CHAIRMAN MORONEY: Can you wrap it up please?

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MR. MCKENNA: Listen to me --

CHAIRMAN MORONEY: I'm tolerant too  
but you're really testing me.

MR. MCKENNA: Listen to me please.  
Listen, I'm a taxpayer --

CHAIRMAN MORONEY: Good. So am I.

MR. MCKENNA: -- and I have a right  
to ask this question.

CHAIRMAN MORONEY: Go ahead.

MR. MCKENNA: But you're not  
answering my question. Why won't you  
hire one firm that represents both sides  
to come up with the maps? One firm. Why  
do you need to have them hire a firm and  
you guys hire a firm? Why can't you hire  
one firm?

CHAIRMAN MORONEY: That's not the  
way the law sets it up.

MR. MCKENNA: Where's the law?  
Where does it say that?

CHAIRMAN MORONEY: I'm not going to  
waste any more of their time and my time.

MR. MCKENNA: Would you like to hear  
the answer to this question? They want

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to hear the answer to the question. What law says that you can't hire one firm?

CHAIRMAN MORONEY: It's a county law, by the way. It's a county law and it says, if I might, that people get chosen by --

MR. MCKENNA: Democrats, do you think it would make sense to hire one firm?

COMMISSIONER KASSCHAU: Mr. McKenna, just to short circuit this whole thing, how many times have you seen us agree on something?

MR. MCKENNA: Couple of times.

COMMISSIONER KASSCHAU: I mean, we would never be able to agree on an expert so let's just shut this down because we're going nowhere quickly.

MR. MCKENNA: Well, I totally disagree with what you just said.

COMMISSIONER KASSCHAU:  
Respectfully, okay. That's fine.

MR. MCKENNA: The fact is --

COMMISSIONER MEJIAS: We can go into

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the whole, like, school of rock and what the two-party system is about and you have one side that believes this and the other side that believes that and there's a fundamental tension between them and hopefully we come up with a resolution between the two that the people can live with. They represent the Republican side (indicating). We represent the Democratic side, whatever that means. It doesn't matter. This is not a government class.

We know that there's two parties and they don't always agree, and not agreeing sometimes comes up with a good result.

MR. MCKENNA: You haven't agreed on 99% of everything for the last month-and-a-half.

COMMISSIONER MEJIAS: I can tell you there's one thing we do agree on, Mr. McKenna.

MR. MCKENNA: What is that?

COMMISSIONER MEJIAS: Is that your time is up.

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CHAIRMAN MORONEY: From this point forward, hands off.

(Whereupon, court reporter again instructed to stop writing.)

MS. MONTGOMERY: Hi. Good evening. My name is Malani Montgomery. I've been a resident of Lakeview for 25 years, basically, all my life. It's imperative that I'm not sure if you guys know what a hamlet is, but if you do, that's great. You should know what it is.

We have multiple towns and villages within Nassau County, but Lakeview is a hamlet. A hamlet is a small, basically, a small plot of land that's smaller than a village or a town. So I'm asking that you keep Lakeview together. We are a small community of minorities and it is imperative that we are kept together. We have to fight each and every time for the things that we need, for the community residents who like to use our park, library and whatever that needs to be

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done. We have to work ten times hard each and every single time.

So by dividing us will only make it harder for us to get the things that we need to get done. So besides Lakeview, not only Lakeview, but all the other towns and villages in Nassau County, it's imperative that you do the right thing for a fair redistricting so that way we can get things done that benefits us. It's not to benefit you but to benefit the people who live in these areas.

So do the right thing, and I'm sure all of us have been in school some way where we were taught by educators, teachers, and one thing that was given besides our everyday class work that we had to do our homework and we had to abide by the deadlines. So you have to abide by the deadlines. In order to pass the class to get to pass, but also to -- if you don't abide, you get a zero and that was the end of it. There was no second chances. And so we're not looking

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for a second chance. We're looking for a fair representation.

Thank you.

CHAIRMAN MORONEY: Thank you very much.

COMMISSIONER MEJIAS: Thank you Ms. Montgomery. Appreciate you coming down. Thanks.

CHAIRMAN MORONEY: Matthew Pasternak. Come on up.

MR. PASTERNAK: Hello. Good evening. My name is Matthew Pasternak. Let me explain myself. I've been coming to these hearings since about the beginning and I think only the Long Beach one's the only one I missed. I decided to come to these hearings because I want to really learn about the redistricting process. I really wanted to learn how it happens at a macro and micro level and what the process is about. This has really been a first class education.

I can tell you that there really isn't too much I think I can add,

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personally, and that's one of the reasons

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why I've been hesitant to speak about

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this, but I like history and I like to

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look at history as our guideline. Again,

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it may not go into the testimony. It may

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not go into the record, but I'm not sure

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if any of you ever read -- this is a

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20-year-old book -- Master of the Senate,

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the story of Lyndon Johnson's rise and I

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think about the story of Monica Wallace

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and if you can hear the story, it will

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make sense.

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Monica Wallace was the prototype of

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the old south. She was someone who grew

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up in segregated Alabama that Ms. Coads

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eluded to, someone who had been denied

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services, the basic decency, the right to

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vote. Even if you read Cara's words it

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was even, if I remember correctly from

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the paragraph, it was even hard to take

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her garbage out because there were two

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sets of trash collectors that would take

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the garbage and they would ignore

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residents and communities of color. They



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used the story in the book of her trying to register to vote. Again, you see the story of her trying to register with the poll tax, with literacy tests and you really see the segregation and the hardship.

Even though that was 67 years ago, you know, there's still a lot of lessons we learn from that. I'm also thought about it. I'm also a political science major, I was in high school, and my professor gave me this quote that stuck with me. It's really not that hard to draw a map when you come down to it. There are a lot technologies. We have the Peters map, Peters projection, which everyone says, takes different samples. It says whether they're segregated or they're biased in some way. And we have the Marcadia (phonetic) Method which are ways we can non-partisanally [sic] draw these maps that are really beneficial.

But what does take courage, I think, is the political will. What I'm seeing

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in this room is really a lack thereof. There's really been a clear message sent here tonight, at every meeting, and I think at the meetings previously. Do the right thing. There's a way to make a map that's fair, equitable and is incumbent to all Nassau County.

We live in a county of 1.2 million people. We're one of the wealthiest, largest suburban counties in the country, and I think the fact that we're having these arguments (buzzer), these petty arguments over how to make a map just speaks to how broken the system really is. I think it would be a big surprise if tomorrow they've gone to a room, came up with a fair map and did something that was equitable and fair for the county. I think that's a story Nassau County would really be proud of, and I think it shows how we can personally lead the nation.

I thank you for all your time and testimony. I don't envy the work you guys have to do.

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Thank you.

CHAIRMAN MORONEY: Thank you  
(applause).

CHAIRMAN MORONEY: Michael Stinely.  
Did I get it right?

MR. STEINKE: Good evening. My name  
is Michael Steinke. I'm a life-long  
resident of Valley Stream and, therefore,  
a life-long resident of Nassau County.

What I've seen in my life, I retired  
after 30 years in law enforcement and one  
thing that I can assure you, that I can  
guarantee you, if we were to flip a real  
estate agent, wire him up, within a month  
he'd come back with about 100 indictments  
for the Fair Housing Act, the Fair  
Housing Laws. The simple fact is that  
we're talking about redistricting here,  
drawing maps. The maps have been drawn a  
long time ago, and everybody's in on it.  
So, ma'am, if you're looking for fairness  
and you're talking to politicians in  
Nassau County, you're barking way up the  
wrong tree.

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The Democrats, they box you into these communities because they can get these votes and the Republicans get to maintain their all white enclaves and they get their votes, and everybody knows where everybody votes and it's wrong.

Everybody's saying I want minority representation on the council. I want this, I want that. What is that representation getting you and what are you giving up for it? You're giving up the right to live where you want to live. You're giving up the right to have your children go to the school you want them to go to. You're giving up the right to live the life the way you want to live it.

So forget this redistricting that they're talking about. Redistrict everything. Redistrict the people. I'm 60 years old. I never thought we'd still be talking about minority communities in Nassau County, but here we are. It shouldn't be. Everybody should be living

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everywhere happily together. Don't even bother with these guys. They're all in on it together. Nobody's representing you. It's time we represent ourselves. Okay? All right. Have a good night (applause).

CHAIRMAN MORONEY: Milagros Vicente.

MS. VICENTE: Good evening, everyone. My name is Milagros Vicente. I'm a North Valley Stream resident. I'm also the President of the Nassau County Hispanic Advisory Board. I come here today to echo the sentiments of my community.

There's clearly no justification why communities of color have been gerrymandered. It is important that we create five minority/majority districts. Why? Because you can. We must keep communities like Freeport together and we must keep Elmont and Valley Stream together.

From the 2010 census, 195,000 of Latinos were registered in the census.

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In 2020, 256,000 Latinos were registered which shows a 31% increase. We know when communities are divided it affects resources. It affects equal representation. For the past 12 years, there hasn't been equal representation especially for Latino communities.

Now let's focus on Elmont and Valley Stream. Why we must keep them together? Valley Stream has 27.4% of white, blacks, 26.9% and Hispanics, 22.5%. Another fact that you need to know about Valley Stream, we have four different school districts. Many individuals don't know that. We are one of three districts that have a central district. So we have four different school districts in Valley Stream.

I mention this so that you have further reasons to keep Elmont and Valley Stream together and draw lines where we can at least have an opportunity to gain a Latino representative, have equal representation for Elmont and Valley

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Stream.

I finish my statement by reminding everyone that our voices is only impactful when we vote. So please take advantage of early voting. Thank you(applause).

CHAIRMAN MORONEY: Thank you.

COMMISSIONER MEJIAS: That begins on Saturday, by the way. Saturday begins early voting.

CHAIRMAN MORONEY: There are no more speakers registered.

I need a motion to adjourn.

COMMISSIONER MEJIAS: So moved.

CHAIRMAN MORONEY: Second?

COMMISSIONER REINHARDT: Second.

CHAIRMAN MORONEY: All in favor?

(Whereupon, all Commission members joined the motion by saying, "aye.")

CHAIRMAN MORONEY: Get home safe, everybody.

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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  
within and for the State of New York, do  
hereby certify that the within is a true  
and accurate transcript.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto  
set my hand this 26th day of October,  
2022.

Karen Lorenzo

KAREN LORENZO

-----  
REPORTER NAME



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