



PUBLIC MEETING MINUTES - JULY 13, 2021

In Attendance:

Chairwoman Erika Neuberg
Vice-Chair Derrick Watchman
Commissioner Shereen Lerner
Commissioner David Mehl
Commissioner Douglas York
Executive Director, Brian Schmitt
Public Information Officer, Michelle Crank
Brett Johnson, Snell & Wilmer
Eric Spencer, Esq. Snell & Wilmer
Roy Herrera, Esq. Ballard Spahr
Jillian Andrews, Esq. Ballard Spahr
Mark Flahan, Timmons Group
Doug Johnson, NDC Research
Ivy Beller Sakansky, NDC Research
Thomas Bryan, Bryan GeoDemographics
Moon Duchin, Redistricting Lab
Angla Miller, Transcriptionist

I. Call to Order and Roll Call *(6:33 YouTube)*

- A. Call for Quorum
- B. Call for Notice

Present:

Chairwoman Neuberg
Vice-Chair Watchman
Commissioner Lerner
Commissioner Mehl
Commissioner York

A quorum is present.

Executive Assistant Valerie Neumann confirmed that the meeting agenda was properly posted at least 48 hours prior to the meeting.

II. Approval of minutes from June 22, 2021 *(8:45 YouTube)*

- A. General Session
- B. Executive Sessions

Commissioner Mehl motioned to approve the General Session and Executive Session Minutes, and Commissioner Lerner seconded the motion. The motion was approved 5-0.

III. Opportunity for Public Comments *(10:06 YouTube)*

At 8:06am Chairwoman Neuberg opened public comments and indicated that public comments would be open for a minimum of 30 minutes and would remain open until the adjournment of the meeting.

IV. Discussion on Public Comments received prior to today's (July 13, 2021) meeting. *(10:51 YouTube)*

Commissioner Mehl addressed the concerns from the public regarding procedures and safety with the upcoming public meetings and stated that the Commission is working on those issues in preparation of the meetings. Chairperson Neuberg added that the comments about ground rules for the meetings as related to safety and health are also being taken into consideration. Neuberg mentioned some concerns from the public in regard to possible communication with the Mapping team outside the public meetings, and stated that there is minimal interaction between the Commissioners and the Mapping team. Neuberg advised the public that all business is executed in public sessions, and the IRC staff interacts with the mapping team, to execute the vision and direction of the Commissioners.

V. Pro/Con Presentation on Differential Privacy

A. Thomas Bryon, Founder & CEO of Bryan GeoDemographics *(14:05 YouTube)*

Mr. Bryon delivered a presentation on the cons of Differential Privacy and its Impacts. The topics discussed were the 2020 Census products and release schedule, the Census Bureau's perspective and how they came to use differential privacy, the outcomes from the November Demonstration Products and the final production settings that were set on June 9th. Mr. Byron's research showed data inconsistencies with differential privacy.

B. Moon Duchin, CEO of the Redistricting Lab, OC & Associate Professor at Tufts University *(1:04:40 YouTube)*

Dr. Duchin's presentation covered Differential Privacy and the tradeoff between privacy and accuracy. Topics discussed were that privacy risks are real, the Census Bureau can not go back to prior methods of how information was disclosed, best practices for redistricting in the future and the epsilon value imposed by the Census Bureau.

Dr. Duchin's studies found no threat to Voting Rights Act enforcement, and she feels the epsilon value imposed by the Census Bureau will provide very accurate data.

Mr. Bryon and Dr. Duchin left the meeting at 10:13am.

The Independent Redistricting Commission's office lost power at 10:20am, which ended the live streaming.

Public Comments were closed at 11:18am

The remaining items on the agenda will be addressed on Monday, July 19, 2021 at 8:00am.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:18am by a motion from Commissioner Mehl, and seconded by Vice Chair Watchman. Commissioner York was absent and the motion was approved 4-0.