THE STATE OF ARIZONA INDEPENDENT REDISTRICTING COMMISSION

REPORTER'S TRANSCRIPT OF LISTENING TOUR PUBLIC MEETING

Lake Havasu City, Arizona

Kingman, Arizona

Bullhead City, Arizona

Online via Webex

July 28, 2021

5:00 p.m.

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Reported By (via Webex):
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               LISTENING TOUR PUBLIC MEETING, BEFORE THE
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      INDEPENDENT REDISTRICTING COMMISSION, convened at 5:00
      p.m. on July 28, 2021, at Lake Havasu City Civic Center,
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      2360 McCulloch Boulevard North, Lake Havasu City; with
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      satellite locations at Suddenlink Community Center, 2380
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      Suddenlink Way, Bullhead City; Kingman Board Meeting
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      Auditorium, 700 West Beale Street, Kingman; and online
 8
      via Webex.
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      COMMISSIONER PRESENT:
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      Ms. Erika Neuberg, Chairperson
      Mr. Derrick Watchman, Vice Chairman (via Webex)
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      STAFF PRESENT:
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      Ms. Loriandra Van Haren, Deputy Director
      Ms. Valerie Neumann, Executive Assistant
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      Ms. Michele Crank, Public Information Officer
      Mr. Shawn Summers, Ballard Spahr
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      Mr. Ryan Regula, Snell & Wilmer
      Mr. Mark Flahan, Timmons Group
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      Mr. Parker Bradshaw, Timmons Group
      Ms. Ivy Beller Sakansky, National Demographics Corp.
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      PUBLIC COMMENT SPEAKERS:
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      Steven Robinson, Lake Havasu City
      Marty Brown, Lake Havasu City
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      Nana Nicoll, Lake Havasu City
      James Barber, Bullhead City
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      Mary McCord Robinson, Kingman
      Kenny Works, Lake Havasu City
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      Greg Logan, Lake Havasu City
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      Samuel Koblosh, Lake Havasu City
      Nancy Campbell, Lake Havasu City
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      David Diaz, Lake Havasu City
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      PUBLIC COMMENT SPEAKERS:
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      Diane Klostermeier, Lake Havasu City
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      Diana Wright, Lake Havasu City
      Jeanne Kentch, Lake Havasu City
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      Barbara Pape, Lake Havasu City
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PROCEEDING

2.0

MS. VAN HAREN: Hi, everybody. We're going to go ahead and get started here.

My name is Lori Van Haren. I'm the deputy director of the Independent Redistricting Commission.

I am super excited for the attendance we have tonight. We have satellite locations. We have locations on Webex.

And so at the beginning of this meeting we're going to ask Steven Robinson from Golden Valley to say the Pledge of Allegiance. If everybody could please stand.

MR. ROBINSON: Thank you very much, and let us say the Pledge of Allegiance to the greatest country that has brought more prosperity to anybody in any other country in the history of the world.

(Pledge of Allegiance recited.)

MS. VAN HAREN: Thank you so much. And next we have just a brief welcoming statement from the mayor, Cal Sheehy, from Lake Havasu City.

MR. SHEEHY: Good afternoon, everyone. Thank you and welcome. I'm so delighted to see such a great crowd from our region and our area. The Independent Redistricting Commission's mission is to redraw

Arizona's congressional and legislative districts to reflect the results of the most recent census, and so we're really delighted again to have the committee come up here to Lake Havasu City to hear from our residents. Again, I'm so pleased with so many of our citizens coming this evening, and I look forward to hearing your testimony. Enjoy your afternoon and evening. Thank you, and you're welcome.

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MS. VAN HAREN: Thank you so much, Mayor. And now we're going to have Chairwoman Neuberg start the meeting.

CHAIRPERSON NEUBERG: Thank you, Lori.

With that, we will dive right in. It's just a delight to be here with your community and continue our listening tour. It's been a remarkable honor to be part of everybody's civic engagement, and I just deeply appreciate your commitment to come out this evening.

With that, Agenda Item 1, call to order. I now call to order the next meeting of the listening tour of the Independent Redistricting Commission. We would like to remind the public that COVID-19 is still prevalent, and we ask that you follow the Arizona Department of Health guidelines. If you are not fully vaccinated you should wear a mask in public space. If you would like to participate from home, each of these

meetings is being streamed through Webex. Please note that if you would like to make a public comment you may do so by signing in with staff and filling out the public comment card. If you haven't already done so, please fill out the community of interest survey. There is a QR code on signs at the sign-in desk and on the public comment cards that will direct you to the link. Please see a member of staff if you have any questions. We consider this data very carefully. It's worth the effort. We have an American sign language interpreter joining us virtually, and we have interpreter headsets available for those in attendance. We also have a transcriptionist who will be transcribing every meeting. Please speak slowly and clearly so we have a clear record of your input. Will the interpreters in attendance please introduce themselves now. MS. DURAN: Hello. My name is Ruby Duran. I'm a Spanish interpreter from the Bullhead City area.

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MS. VAN HAREN: Thank you.

MR. GOMEZ: Yes. My name is Richard Gomez.

I'm a translator for Spanish from Lake Havasu City,

Arizona.

MS. MARTINEZ: Wendy Martinez, interpreter for

ASLS, Kingman, Arizona.

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CHAIRPERSON NEUBERG: Okay. I believe we're set. Thank you so much for your, you know, efforts with making this accessible to as many people as possible.

At this point I would like to introduce the members of the Commission. My name is Erica Neuberg. I'm the independent chair. I represent Maricopa County, but, you know, I've lived here over 40 years, so I think I like touch upon every part of the state, so I can't say I really belong to one. But I believe we have a fellow Commissioner here, Vice-Chair Watchman, so please.

COMMISSIONER WATCHMAN: Thank you, Madam

Chair, and welcome everybody. I am Derrick Watchman,

Vice-Chair of the Independent Redistricting Commission.

I come to you from Window Rock, Arizona. I am the

Democratic appointee to the Commission. And so it's

good to see everybody in this room and also our

satellite offices, so I look forward to all the input.

And so thank you, Madam Chair. I appreciate

this time.

CHAIRPERSON NEUBERG: Thank you.

And with that we'll move to Agenda Item No. 2, presentation on the process. First is a representative

from our legal team. I believe it is Ryan from Snell & Wilmer. But please introduce yourself properly, and please take it away.

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MR. REGULA: Good evening, everyone. My name is Ryan Regula from the law firm of Snell & Wilmer, and I'm joined by my colleague, Shawn Summers, from the law firm of Ballard Spahr, and our firms represent the Independent Redistricting Committee -- Commission.

Excuse me.

evening. The point of this evening is to provide you with a brief overview of what the Independent

Redistricting Commission does and what the process will look like, so a good place to start is the

Constitution, the Arizona Constitution. The

U.S. Constitution requires regular reinforcement of congressional districts, but states are responsible for creating their own maps. Every ten years a new redistricting occurs. Historically, from 1912 to 2000 Arizona's legislature controlled redistricting. Then based upon initiative passed by the voters, the Arizona Constitution was amended, and the controlling of redistricting was given to an independent commission.

According to Article 4 of the Arizona

Constitution, the Independent Redistricting Commission

requires five members. No more than two may be from the same political party. The current members are Erica Neuberg, who is the chair and who is an independent; two Democrats, Derrick Watchman and Shereen Lerner; and two Republicans, David Mehle and Douglas York.

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Under Article 4 of the Arizona Constitution, six goals are provided for redistricting. Number one, districts shall comply with the U.S. Constitution and the U.S. Voting Rights Act.

Two, congressional districts shall have equal population to the extent practicable, and state legislative districts shall have equal population to the extent practicable.

Three, districts shall be geographically compact and contiguous to the extent practicable.

Four, district boundaries shall respect communities of interest to the extent practicable.

Five, to the extent practicable district lines shall use visible geographic features, city, town, and county boundaries, and undivided census tracts.

And six and finally, to the extent practicable competitive districts should be favored where to do to would create no significant detriment to the other goals.

Of those six goals we're here tonight to obtain your comments regarding the goal that district boundaries should respect communities of interest to the extent practicable.

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Regarding the projected timeline, from roughly July to August we're conducting our initial listening tour. Then in August census data will be released and processed. At this moment in time we do not have census data yet.

Then roughly in September a grid map will be drawn and adopted. It's important for you to know that each Independent Redistricting Commission starts from scratch. Thus the old district lines are wiped clean, and the grid map only reflects two of the six criteria the Commissioners are required to consider, people/population, and compactness and contiguousness. Commissioners then modify the grid maps to account for the other four criteria I highlighted earlier, including respect for communities of interest.

From September to October possible map drafts are developed. From September to October, possible map drafts are developed, and eventually an official map draft is adopted.

From October to November there is a minimum of 30-day public comment period on the official draft map.

And from December to the project end there is a revision to the draft map and the adoption of a final draft plan.

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Regarding public involvement, as I mentioned before that's exactly what we're doing here this evening, but there are three specific types of public involvement that you should be aware of and that are available to you. One, Commission meetings are open to the public. There you can submit public comments at irc.az.gov/public-meetings.

Second, initial input on communities of interest. Specifically, what we're looking for this evening is information for what geographic areas or neighborhoods should be considered when drawing draft maps.

Third and finally, input on draft maps. There you can submit proposed draft maps and comments on in-progress draft maps prior to the IRC selection of an official draft map. You can also submit proposed revisions and comments after the IRC selection of an official draft map. And, finally, you can submit comments on near-final maps.

CHAIRPERSON NEUBERG: Please, Mark.

We'll now have our mapping team come up and move on with our presentation.

MR. FLAHAN: Hello, everyone. My name is Mark Flahan from Timmons. I'm the project manager on the Timmons side. I have two other people joining me from my team. I have Parker Bradshaw, who is a coordinator, and I have Ivy Beller Sakansky, who is our demographer.

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So today we want to talk to you guys about a couple of the tools and empowerment that we have for you as citizens to be able to provide input. The first one is our socioeconomic app. It is an interactive web app that's online that will show you geographic and socioeconomic data, and we'll talk about that a little more on the next line.

The second thing that we have is our community of interest survey, and this really allows you to draw your own community of interest. When you walked in today you probably saw some QR codes on the stand which would allow you to easily scan it with your phone and go directly to the survey.

And the last tool that we have is our redistricting system, which is currently being stood up, and there you'll be able to draw and submit proposed map changes.

So the socioeconomic report, as I said, it's an interactive site that's online 24/7 that you can go to. There is a screenshot on the right side of the

screen. And there you can look at demographics for 14 different points. You see an acronym that's CVAP, which is citizen voting age population, and there you're able to turn on or turn off all these different demographics and view them for the entire state of Arizona, so you can go and start looking at that today.

2.0

The second thing that we have is our community of interest survey, which is why we're here today talking about communities of interest. On the left side is sort of our introduction there. The community of interest survey is in both English and Spanish, available 24/7 online.

On the right side of the screen you can see there is actually a map, so what that allows you to do is to draw your own community of interest map to submit to the Commission here. So the map is important because that way we can accurately represent exactly what you are talking about when you're describing your community of interest, so I encourage you to go there and fill out a community of interest survey.

Next up I'm going to bring up Ivy, who is going to talk about what is a community of interest.

MS. BELLER SAKANSKY: One moment, please.

Hello, everybody. Good evening. Glad to see you here.

Thanks, Mark.

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So what is a community of interest? It is a geographic area of people who share a common story or connection. That connection can be common social interests, shared demographic characteristics, similar impacts from a legislative and/or congressional issue, or any other connection that leaves people in a given area to believe that they would benefit from being kept together, united in one congressional or legislative district.

As you think about your community, think about the factors, please, that Mark has shown you already this evening. Those say: Think about you and your neighbors. Do you have similar jobs? Do you rely on similar public services? Belong to the same neighborhood associations? Are you impacted by the same regional environmental concern? Is your community defined by regional land use issues, transit concerns, languages spoken, community celebration or traditions or other similar issues or characteristics? Any of these characteristics could define a community of interest.

Now it is your turn. As they travel the state on this listening tour, the Commissioners want to hear from you. What do you want the Commissioners to

consider as they draft and ultimately adopt their maps? How do you define your community of interest? Using the tools that Mark just described and in your testimony today, we want to hear what brings your community of interest together and what are your community's geographic boundaries. Remember, the Commissioners can only incorporate your community into their maps if you let us know where your community is on the map.

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Thank you so much for being here this evening. Now I'll turn this back over to the Commission staff to begin taking your comments.

MS. VAN HAREN: Thank you, Ivy.

First of all, I'm going to read an advisement before we move forward.

So citizens may only speak when recognized by the Chair or the presiding officer of the meeting if the Chair is absent or otherwise has delegated hearing administration authority.

In compliance with Arizona's Open Meeting Law, speakers should confine their statements to the issue on the posted agenda which is before the Commission.

Speakers are also requested to limit their comments to approximately three minutes.

Additionally, speakers are required to follow

proper decorum. Speakers must use appropriate language. Foul and/or abusive language will not be tolerated. Any speaker failing to follow proper decorum and/or other guidelines may be asked to leave. Any breach of peace or disruption of the Commission public hearing may be cause of a report to law enforcement, arrest, and prosecution.

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If someone has expressed the same sentiment as you, you do not need to speak in order to have your comment recorded. As long as you filled out the survey your input will be received and considered by the Commission. Everyone is welcome to speak, however, should you choose to do so. Opposing viewpoints may be expressed by the citizens present.

As a courtesy, citizens are reminded to address their comments to the Chair and the Commission and not to the audience present.

Please show respect for all speakers and avoid personal comments.

CHAIRPERSON NEUBERG: Okay. And with that we are looking forward to diving right in with the main event, public comment, Agenda 3. We'll now begin the public comment portion.

Will staff please read the names of the first speaker and the one in queue.

MS. VAN HAREN: The first speaker is Steven Robinson followed by Marty Brown.

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MR. ROBINSON: Good afternoon. Thank you. My name is Steven Robinson.

I do live in Golden Valley. Legislative District 5 is one of the most expansive legislative districts. It's dominated by three cities surrounded by rural areas. You cannot get away from that. congressional district we have, CD4, is -- goes all the way around to the east side of Maricopa County, picking up Apache Junction, Gilbert, and into Pinal County. is one of the most gerrymandered districts in the nation, I would say. Communities of interest has been violated in that district. We have very urban areas added to the predominantly rural areas. If we included other cities of subsequent size, like, oh, Flagstaff, for instance, because it's surrounded by rural areas, then that would be more of a part of district --Congressional District 4 that would be appropriate with the rest of the district. But when you go all the way around and pick up urban areas, it was so unfortunate that that was done.

I need a clock so I can see.

But, anyway, so what we need to do is have districts that throughout the whole district reflect

the predominant area. Obviously we're going to have a lot of very urban areas around that Phoenix area with, you know, four and a half, almost five million population. But when you're talking about the rural areas we need to have them including only those areas that are more similar to that than having the east side of the Maricopa County area.

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On the issue of competitiveness, which is not officially what we're addressing, when you have districts that are 60, 70 percent one party or the other, that's not competitive. And when you've gerrymandered the districts to where they have urban areas to creates predominantly one or the other, you've done a disservice to the voters in those areas. competitiveness of the district, which is the last and least important point, but I think you should take a look at that, saying maybe instead of having 70/30 or 60/40, we have a 55/45 district or 52/48. Now, some people don't want to have a fight on their hands to run for election or reelection, but that I think is an important issue for the districts is that, one, they are truly communities of interest, and, two, they're a little bit more competitive than what we've had in the past ten years. Thank you.

MS. VAN HAREN: Thank you so much.

We are also going to just advise everybody to turn off their phones or put them on silent in the meeting room. And then also we have satellite sites so we'll be throwing it over to them at some point. And then in this room there is a clock over here so you should be able to see the timer. It will show green when your time is present. Okay?

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So Marty Brown is next and then Nan Nicoll.

MR. BROWN: Thank you very much.

Before I start my time can I ask a question,

Madam Chair, point of order and just for information?

I notice we have two Commissioners here. Thank you for being with us, both. Are there any other Commissioners that are listening in or witnessing what's were having said that are apparently not here?

CHAIRPERSON NEUBERG: The other Commissioners will receive all data. Unfortunately, you know, many Commissioners had prior commitments from a year ago with COVID and rescheduling, and the time commitments were not such that they could participate, but please be assured the information, the data, is being recorded. It's being listened to. It's being very valued, and this is one of upcoming listening tours. So with that, please continue.

MR. BROWN: Thank you for clarifying that. I

appreciate that.

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Good evening, Commissioners. Thank you for visiting Lake Havasu and Mohave County, allowing public comment in western Arizona. That's very valuable, as you can see from the attendants that are here.

My name is Marty Brown. I've lived in Lake Havasu for 16 years with my wife, Christine. We chose to retire here after living 48 years in California. chose Lake Havasu because of our shared love of the outdoors and magnificent lake that we have, gorgeous sunsets, and near perfect climate, a well-managed and maintained local government, one that reflects our core Christian and patriotic values. As it turned out, Lake Havasu and Mohave County have also proved to be a great place to watch our grandchildren grow up, graduate high school, and bring -- begin their adult lives. I can't think of a better place to have lived. I can assure you that those I've had the honor to meet and work and play with along my journey here in Mohave County share a love of our great country and great nation. Likewise, we're fortunate to have elected officials who truly share our appreciation of our unique community values, our patriotism, and our governing principles.

I'm concerned that the 2012 congressional legislative districts approved by the prior

redistricting committee did not adhere to the principles outlined in the Arizona State Constitution as we just talked about. Specifically, Item C and D: Districts shall be geographically compact and contiguous to the extent possible. And Item D: District boundaries shall respect communities of interest to the extent possible.

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Our state legislatures, especially in District 5, were drawn well. However, Congressional District 4, not so much. It includes parts of Pinal County, which are a long ways away. This is western Arizona. have some very unique values and interests here. I don't think that that district and plan necessarily met state and constitutional goals. Western Arizona is uniquely situated topography. We're separated by miles of desert from the rest of the state populated areas. Not like in other areas of Arizona, tourism is primary industry in Mohave County. Visitors flock to our valley from as far away as Canada, Wisconsin, and Washington to enjoy our open spaces and the ideal weather. In summer months visitors from California, Nevada, and Central Arizona enjoy the Colorado River and lakes.

Water and land issues are common bonds in western Arizona. In the geographical region we are

actively invested in all land and water issues.

Additionally, services such as tourism has taxed our communities. We share the increasing challenges of retaining skilled labor, maintaining adequate public safety, and providing affordable housing and ensuring quality schools.

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Not unlike other parts of Arizona, we have specific unique interest in the management and preservation of Colorado River ecosystem, plus the surrounding desert landscapes. In short, we're the playground of much of the western United States and beyond. Our livelihood and quality of life depend on solid governance and sound representation.

The uniqueness of -- I'll be brief. The uniqueness of western Arizona, specifically Mohave County, must be maintained and represented in both federal and state government. Mohave County and La Paz County share a common community of interest which should be accurately reflected within our representative government. I would implore the Commissioners to follow the state constitutional goals under Article 4, Part 214, A through E, while considering federal and state representations. Please don't allow the mistakes of the 2012 redistricting to linger into 2022 redistricting plan.

Thank you very much for giving me this opportunity to be here.

MS. VAN HAREN: Thank you.

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The next speaker is Nan Nicoll, and then we're going to throw it out to Bullhead City.

MS. NICOLL: Good evening, everyone. My name is Nana M. Nicoll. I have lived and currently live in Fort Mohave in Mohave County for over 22 years as a full-time Arizona resident.

I'm here to give you information about my community of interest. My community works in tourism, mining, many small businesses, and agriculture. Many of our residents work in Laughlin, Nevada, and Needles, California. We are a close-kit -- excuse me, a close-knit community that abounds in neighbor helping neighbor through schools, churches, and many small organizations that support our generous veteran population, caring for animals, feeding the hungry, and clothing the less fortunate. We love our community, our river, and our local Avi Macav reservation. recreate using our beautiful river in Lake Mohave, offroading, hiking, and we go across the river to Laughlin, Nevada, for gaming, entertainment, and restaurants. Many of us are senior citizens that meet at various attractions and locations for socializing,

such as church, senior centers, restaurants, and shopping centers.

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It is critical for our area to have the Lake Mead recreation area stay as a recreation area for boating, fishing and other sports that are so important to our economy. In fact, that was why this recreation area was formed originally, and it's really critical it stay that way.

Our local shopping areas comprise of Mohave Crossroad Shopping Center, Riverview Mall, et cetera. We have a lot of small businesses that are the heart of our community. We also have several food banks. We have Salvation Army, St. Vincent de Paul, many local churches that we all use as socializing and supporting our community.

I want to be clear that I want my community of interest to remain whole. In the last redistricting we were divided into two separate supervisor districts, one for Bullhead City and another for Fort Mohave and Mohave Valley and northern Lake Havasu City, which is 35 miles away. So I really think it's a problem when we have our supervisor in Lake Havasu — though he's an honorable person; don't misunderstand me — but I don't think the community of interest is the same, so I just want to make that clear. And, also, my CV4, which is

not in my community and not all of it's in my community of interest, and I call outside the counties of Gila, Maricopa and Pinal are all part of this, and they have nothing in common with us that I know of. In fact, I rarely go to any of these places. So I just think that that is an issue, and I think it was well addressed by other speakers.

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So essentially I want to thank you for giving me the opportunity to talk about my community and community of interest. I didn't really spell out what that is, but essentially for me it's Bullhead City, Fort Mohave, and Mohave Valley, and, of course, Lake Havasu is really part of our area as well as Kingman. We all operate as one community of interest in my opinion. So I just want to know -- or I want to tell you that matters to many people I know that we have the right come to speak to you folks about how you are redistricting our voting centers or districts, so I thank you very much for this opportunity.

CHAIRPERSON NEUBERG: Thank you very much.

And as we welcome new speakers I would like to ask for some specific feedback about one issue, which is population and the size of districts, so, you know, just looking at population growth in Arizona, and there is still nine districts, so districts will go up in

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     population. We still have the same 30 legislative
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     districts with increasing population. I just ask that
     as you speak to your interests and your needs to
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     consider that roughly speaking -- and my math may be,
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     you know, a little bit off -- but with our population
     you're looking at about 8,000,000 plus for a
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     congressional district. You're looking at 200,000 plus
     per legislative district. So speak not only about, you
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     know, who you want to stay with and your -- you know,
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     what's comfortable, but when you're wanting to
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     differentiate, please share where else you would like
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     to be included, because that data is very important to
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     us. We're required to adhere, as you heard, to the
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     Constitution.
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               MS. VAN HAREN: Okay. Thank you so much.
                                                           The
     next speaker will be over with Valerie Neumann in our
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     other location.
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               Alex, I think they're muted.
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               Why don't we go to the next speaker here.
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               MR. BARBER: Okay. I'm un -- I've been
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     unmuted.
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               CHAIRPERSON NEUBERG: Okay. Can we ask to
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     please have silence so we can hear our satellite
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     location. Thank you.
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               MR. BARBER: Okay. My name is James Barber,
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and I live in Mohave Valley, Arizona. And I understand that the districts are going to be about 800,000 people, and I figured that much because some states like Rhode Island they don't get -- they have almost a million people but didn't reach the threshold of about 1.3 million to get two districts. And I've seen some gerrymandering. I once saw a gerrymandered district so they could keep two communities of color together, and that gerrymander happened from east -- east Kansas City along the I-70, which gathered no people all the way over to the west side of St. Louis to keep communities of color together, and that was a congressional district that had been done back in the '90s.

2.0

Now, when it comes to our district, we need 900,000 people. Well, the one thing that's really important is you're going to have people who are going to fight against this here, this redistricting, because quote, unquote, you're going to start separating communities of color. Well, I'm an American. There is no color. You're either an American or you're not. I happen to be -- I happen to be African American or Black or whatever, but my first -- my first allegiance is that I'm an American, and we should not be trying to separate our communities based on some geographical or skin color. We're Americans, and we don't need that

type of division, and that's, you know, that's what I saw in the last -- the last redistricting, that there was a whole bunch of we're going to keep this group together and we're going to keep that group together.

Well, the first question is: Are they Americans? Yes.

Then they can be in any district they need to be in.

And that's my -- that's my comment. Thank you.

2.0

MS. NEUMANN: Thank you, Mr. Barber.

We will throw it off to Michelle in Kingman. Thank you.

MS. CRANK: Good evening, Madam Chair, and members, Vice-Chair Watchman, and listening audience.

We are coming to you from Kingman, Arizona, and I have one speaker for this evening, Mary McCord Robinson.

Good evening, and thank you very much for coming and listening to us. I've been a resident of Mohave County now for 16 years, and I'm here tonight to ask you to keep Mohave County district lines as they are today. Making any changes would be disruptive to the progress that we've made by bringing our three core cities together and working together and having the common goal and achieving those goals. Our economic status has improved, and its trajectory is on course to continue.

While we definitely are not all like-minded in

Mohave County -- we don't all agree on the education platforms, infrastructure, party politics -- we have built relationships, and those relationships take commitment and time and could be detrimental if they were to make significant changes. As a rural community of interest, please consider keeping the rural counties along the Colorado River as one. I would also see no reason to not keep the northern part of our county intact: Colorado City, Beaver Dam, Scenic.

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In regards to our Native lands and population, color does matter, and it matters for them. And while I am not here to represent them, I would ask that you really listen to them here, what their needs are, before you finalize any of those maps.

Our Legislative District 5 works, and most that know me know I rarely ever agree with Steve Robinson because we don't agree on anything. But I will agree and support everything that he said regarding CD4. It is absolutely gerrymandered. It does not represent our rural communities, and if we need to expand the number of participants within our district then we should look to the east to those that are more rural and have more communities of interest and take into consideration our communities of color. I absolutely think that's important.

I appreciate your time this evening, and I look forward to seeing your draft maps. Thank you.

MS. VAN HAREN: Thank you.

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I believe that's the last speaker over there so we're going to come back here to Kenny Works, and after Kenny is Elaine Downing.

MR. WORKS: Kenny Works from Yucca.

The reason I wanted to speak is because I don't want to see what happens the next -- the next redistricting and the last one. When I moved here I was in District 3, La Paz County and Mohave County, pretty simple. (Audio distortion) vouch for a few others, but mostly Native American communities was carved out of District 3 for the -- to be part of District 2, which represents mostly Native Americans. That was previous to our last redistricting. At least I knew what my district number was because they gave me a map. The map was Citizens Clean Election Commission 2008 Statewide and Legislative Candidate Statements, Primary Election. All of these pamphlets had maps in my district. I always knew who my fellow district people were, who I needed to talk to and try and convince. I've never seen a map of this district I'm in now, District 4. Never seen a map of it. One has never been printed and put in this form so I can see

what district I'm in. I'm guessing probably because they weren't proud of the results. I would like to see that changed when the next redistricting is done. I want -- I want something simple I can look at, not something scattered out across the state. I hope that my messages get through, and I thank you for the opportunity to talk to you and try and convince you of my concerns. Thank you very much.

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MS. VAN HAREN: Thank you very much. Elaine Downing is next, followed by Greg Logan.

MS. DOWNING: Hi. My name is Elaine Downing. I've been a resident of Mohave County since 1990. appreciate the opportunity to speak tonight. I am a retired federal employee with the Bureau of Land Management and was an outdoor recreation planner. When I moved here I didn't know much about living in the desert, but I have to say that Mohave County has been a wonderful surprise, from the Grand Canyon to Hoover Dam, all the public lands, and the one thing that it all has in common is the water. People from all over the country come here to enjoy western Arizona, the waterways and the public lands, the casinos, the wildlife, everything. This is a great place for my husband and I to raise our children and to retire, camping, fishing, driving less than an hour and being

able to see a billion stars at night because there is no light pollution. I don't know anybody that doesn't enjoy a campfire out there.

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It's my hope that wherever the lines are drawn and whomever is elected to represent us in the future will realize that a true democracy is full of people who have different ideas, experiences, strengths, and weaknesses. We come from different paths, different parts of the country, and some are actually from other countries that live here. Things should not be black or white or red or blue. We need a balance in our districts as much as we need a balance in our elected officials we elect to represent us. After all, they are supposed to represent all of us. I found the balance in Mohave County, and I hope we can continue to call this place home and feel at home every day. This conflict the last five years has been horrible, but I hope we come together. Thank you.

MS. VAN HAREN: Thank you. The next speaker is Greg Logan, followed by Samuel Koblosh.

MR. LOGAN: Thank you.

Hello. My name is Gregory Logan. I live in Lake Havasu City, Mohave County. I'm retired from the Navy, and I also draw Social Security. I was born and raised in California, but while in the Navy have been

stationed around the world and even Philadelphia. I retired -- when I retired I chose to become part of Arizona. My community of interest is made up of my fellow veterans; a community of escapees from the destructive policies of California; U.S. citizens who came to work and perhaps build a business in an affordable environment with opportunities to live, grow, and raise families; a community of both older and younger new friends from which I have learned and absorbed many new and wonderful ideas, and, yes, some ideas that had to be rejected because they were just plain dumb. It's also a community that likes plain speaking, law and order, practicality, government efficiency and openness, and just plain, good old common sense. My community is Lake Havasu City and Mohave County, in that order.

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We know this board has a difficult mission ahead, but we urge you to make that task easier by following the six Constitutional requirements for redistricting, but just noting to emphasize communities of interest. This board deserves kudos for taking that guideline seriously, and you have my thanks. But making districts more competitive, we know you have to follow it when it doesn't create a detriment with the other guidelines, but in my opinion it's just

boneheaded. I have sympathy for your assigned task, but I believe the competitiveness angle should be the individual candidate's problem, not the Commission.

When drawing the new districts please be respectful of Mohave County and its environment and communities within. Thank you for hearing my testimony.

MS. VAN HAREN: Next speaker is Samuel Koblosh, and then Nancy Campbell is after that.

2.0

My name is Daniel Koblosh, K-O-B-L-O-S-H, as it says here to state. My wife, Joy, and I purchased a home here in Lake Havasu City here in 2015 and moved here permanently in November of 2016 after living in Redondo Beach, California, for most of my life. Many people have asked why you would move from the temperate sea breezes of Redondo Beach where it's 70 degrees most of the time to the 120-degree Arizona desert. The short answer is that gerrymandering by corrupt power hungry California politicians robbed us of any genuine political representation, and we literally fled California.

When I purchased my Redondo house in 1980 I was represented in Congress by a man named B1 Bob Dornan, because he was a strong, pro-defense conservative. By redrawing my district to become one of the most tortured shapes in American congressional

history, snaking along the coast from San Pedro Harbor northward to encompass West Los Angeles, carefully including only leftist voters, I became a disenfranchised voter, never to be represented again, and made to suffer under unseen and unresponsive political cronies who were guaranteed reelection cycle after cycle. But we owned our own home free and clear and could have stayed there forever.

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We moved to the free state of Arizona because these are my people, and we are represented by men and women who live and reflect our values, something we clearly lost in California. We have transformed from multimillion city dweller people, living amongst a hoard, to small town people in record time, and we love it.

Upon your shoulders, the Commission, is the responsibility to redistrict Arizona based upon new Arizonans, like my wife and me and thousands of others, who moved here specifically because we desired genuine political representation and a small town. Your ability to cut and paste to form districts to mold Arizona to become something it isn't and hasn't been throughout its history, in other words, what they did to California, should weigh heavily on your souls. I implore you to do the right thing and redistrict this

fine state honestly and not in a naked, cynical, partisan manner. Thank you very much.

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MS. VAN HAREN: Next is Nancy Campbell followed by David Diaz.

MS. CAMPBELL: Yes. Dear Commission, thank you for the opportunity to address you in what I believe to be the extremely important issue. I look forward to assist in this process to ensure Arizona maps are fair for all citizens. I recognize and believe previous maps had many inaccuracies, including population sizes. I call for the current districts to be drawn as close to or equal population as possible. I'm a Lake Havasu City council member who has been a long-time resident of Mohave County. I'm proud to say my husband and I have raised three children here, and they are raising their children here. Like many in my community my husband and I have worked in many businesses, including construction, mining, retail, hospitality, event planning, and more. Our community has a strong tourism base, bordering California. Californians fleeing for safety, lower taxes, and a better way of life, is changing the demographics of our community daily. We need to be heard, allowing to assist with the growth. Many of the cities and the county are left with no affordable housing, lack of

infrastructure, deteriorating roads. Many in the community believe Maricopa County overlooked many rural communities, leaving many counties struggling to keep up with the much-needed demands of our citizens.

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As an elected official I enjoy the time I serve on my local boards from the hospital, Partners of Economic Development, Patient Advisory Council, Board of Ethics, Tri-City Council, Mohave County Water Authority, and more. The lessons I have learned through these boards continue to enforce the need to follow the Constitution, which redistricting is an important part of. I've witnessed neighborhoods, communities, and counties become divided for the sake of incumbents and party favorites. This process must be 100 percent bipartisan and transparent, giving the voters of Arizona the confidence they will be heard across all of the state of Arizona. Thank you so much, and thank you so much for this opportunity.

CHAIRPERSON NEUBERG: Thank you. And if you don't mind, and whether it's a question to you or to somebody else thinking through this, can you share a little bit more with us about what your needs are?

We're hearing your ethos, your culture, what you want.

I would like to hear a little more specific data about, you know, what specifically in the lines didn't work,

what specifically in the future of the lines will work. That's just helpful data for us to be able to listen to the comments and actually transcribe it into meaningful work.

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So with that, please move forward.

MS. VAN HAREN: Okay. The next speaker is David Diaz followed by David Burnett.

MR. DIAZ: I didn't come with data. I'm sorry that I'm not going to do what you just said.

CHAIRPERSON NEUBERG: That's okay.

MR. DIAZ: I didn't come with data. But a couple of statements. First of all, we live in a democratic republic, not a democracy. I wanted to say that.

I also agree with Mr. Barber from Bullhead

City. He is African American, but he identifies as an

American. I am a Mexican American, and I identify as

an American.

I am a citizen here of Lake Havasu City. I started coming here in the late '70s, bought a home here about five years ago, and moved here full time about 18 months ago. I'm on the board of directors for the Republican Men's Club, really involved in the city here. I'm going to sit on the planning and the zoning commission. And with all due respect to the lady that

spoke from Kingman, keeping communities of color together mean people that supposedly can't get a fax machine, can't get a copy machine, can't get IDs -- quit coddling communities of color. You don't need to do that.

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I want to read it. Because you started the meeting with your goal, so here is my goal. It's the opposite of what Webster says gerrymandering is, which I hope you guys do. Manipulate -- that's the key word -- manipulate the boundaries of an electoral constituency so as to favor the party or class -- one party or class; achieve a result by manipulating the boundaries of an electoral constituency. We want that not to happen. That's our goal.

So if you're fair and if you're transparent, I would love to see -- I would love to be a fly on the wall when you guys gather all this data from your road trip and decide yay, no, yes, no, who makes that decision, why, and be very, very transparent on that. I think that will go a long way in making people see that you made the decisions based on fairness and not political party. That's it.

MS. VAN HAREN: The next speaker is David Burnett followed by Diane Klostermeier.

MR. BURNETT: My name is David Burnett. I'm a president of the Republican Men's Club here in town.

And I was looking at the map there, and I see where for some reason we wrap all the way down around Maricopa County, and what I was proposing is (audio distortion) western Arizona. I was thinking maybe like Mohave County we have (audio distortion), and with all due respect Maricopa County doesn't have a clue what western Arizona and Mohave County rural priorities and challenges the population faces. We are strong patriots, Christians, and conservatives, with an overwhelming number of military veterans and retirees.

We are mostly Republicans and celebrate traditions,

American holidays. We are also heavily off-road and boating communities.

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The reason I think western Arizona ought to be is because we're all river communities: Bullhead,
Havasu, Kingman, Fort Mohave, Yuma. We all depend heavily on the river. It's basically part of our life.
We swim, fish. There is a lot of fishing tournaments that go on there and, you know, we depend on tourism, and it's just part of our daily life. We're either in boats or running around the desert in a four-wheeler or Razors or something like that. And if somebody is in this Maricopa, this western Arizona, and they're going

to represent us, they ought to be from rural country, and they ought to represent us from that viewpoint.

That's it.

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MS. VAN HAREN: Next speaker is Diane

Klostermeier, and after that we're going to go back to

Bullhead City. I think we can go to Bullhead City.

Here comes Diane.

MS. KLOSTERMEIER: Hello. My name is Diane Klostermeier, and I'm sorry. I didn't quite hear my name called. I've been a resident of Lake Havasu City for over 30 years and a registered voter for quite a few years more than that. I'm here to respectfully request that you honor our State Constitution with regard to developing our voting districts. In 2012 the Commission failed to follow the State Constitution and gerrymandered Arizona voting districts in favor of the Democrats, in my opinion. We lost seats in Congress, seats in the state legislature as a result. This cannot stand for the election in 2022.

I'm here to defend our elections in Arizona and defend our great country by demanding voting integrity and developing these districts so as to provide us with fair, honest voting policies and elections, thereby preventing any misrepresentation of our district, our voting rights, our values, our

elections, and our future election results as well. I want to thank you for your kind attention. I think a lot of others have stressed a lot of the things that we all stand for, our values, and I think that this community -- I've been very proud to live here because of the values. I want to thank -- I want to thank you for your kind attention and your future efforts in this serious matter. It is a serious matter.

May God bless you, and may God bless America.

I remain respectfully yours, Diane Klostermeier. Thank
you.

MS. VAN HAREN: Our next speaker is actually going to be here, Diana Wright, and then we'll do Jeanne Kentch.

Diana Wright?

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MS. WRIGHT: I'm a little bit more shy than anything. So I sort of stumbled into this, and I -- you guys are traveling, finding out this Commission, but who pays for this? Did we elect you guys? Did the Democratic party pay for you guys to do this? Where is that --

CHAIRPERSON NEUBERG: It's a state commission that was authorized by a ballot proposition, 106, and because it was a state-approved Commission, the state government funds it, and --

MS. WRIGHT: And who supported the ballot, though, the ballot that you just said?

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CHAIRPERSON NEUBERG: Oh, the ballot 106, twenty years -- how many years ago? I have no idea who funded that.

MALE VOICE: It was passed in 2000.

MS. WRIGHT: And who funded it?

CHAIRPERSON NEUBERG: Oh, who knows who funded it. I don't know. We are now the third -- just for clarification, we are now the third iteration of this Independent Redistricting Commission that was passed by that ballot.

MS. WRIGHT: And why would Maricopa County be considered part of this district? What is in common -- what is -- would be the goal of that? I mean, that's a city. It's -- the crime rate is higher than what we have. It's a completely different lifestyle. As many have said they leave California as I did to come -- I was in a rural community in California. It no longer exists. So we're here, and then where do I move next if we make this a metropolis and make it some big city? How do we -- why would Maricopa County be part of our redistricting?

CHAIRPERSON NEUBERG: Well, you know, first of all, please understand that the districts are not yet

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We start all over, and this is our deep desire,
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     drawn.
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     to collect data in order to draw those districts, so --
               MS. WRIGHT: Right. It's not answering my
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     question.
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               CHAIRPERSON NEUBERG: But in terms of
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     understanding how districts are drawn, you must
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     understand that there are Constitutional criteria.
     They must be relatively equal population sizes,
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     contiguous. And so when you balance all of those
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     requirements and you look at our state population and
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     break it into the different geographic locations, our
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     mapping team can attest from a statistical just
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     algorithm perspective all of that, it's remarkably
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     difficult. We are doing our best. If you have
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     Constitutional questions, you're welcome to submit, you
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     know, comment. We'll have our legal team respond to
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     that. But with --
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               MS. WRIGHT: You're making it sound like,
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     though, we are required to live in a big city; we're
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     not allowed to live rurally.
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               CHAIRPERSON NEUBERG: You are allowed to live
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     where you want to live --
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               MS. WRIGHT: For now. For now.
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               CHAIRPERSON NEUBERG: -- with representation
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     that is dictated by the Constitution of Arizona and the
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United States.

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MS. WRIGHT: Well, I guess, like I said, I kind of stumbled into this, but what I listened to before it seemed like the last redistricting didn't go according to Arizona Constitution, so I would ask that you honestly do that, and if you don't know what it is exactly or you manipulate words to mean other things that you check with people who might know better.

CHAIRPERSON NEUBERG: We are observing the Constitutional requirements for redistricting to the best extent --

MS. WRIGHT: Nancy Pelosi says that all the time, and it's not true.

MS. VAN HAREN: Thank you. With that, we'll move on, please.

MS. NEUMANN: Here in Bullhead City we have Barbara Pates.

MS. VAN HAREN: Jeanne Kentch, and after that -- I believe Steve Robinson already spoke so Jeanne is our last speaker. We have another speaker in our satellite.

MS. KENTCH: Thank you. Thank you for having me. My name is Jeanne Kentch. You know, I heard a lot of -- I don't want to repeat a lot what's been said so my speech is going to be a lot shorter than I expected,

but we have some great speakers here tonight.

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My family moved to Mohave County in 1982. I raised a family, opened multiple businesses, and I'm now representing property owners as the Mohave County assessor. I have spent the last 30 years of my life advocating for citizens of the city, Lake Havasu, the county, Mohave, and within my beautiful Arizona state. I've advocated for roads, water, land use, and now it's time to advocate for the voters.

Mohave County's current Congressional and legislative voters divide Mohave County by a very small area that creates a lack of representation for a select few voters in the northern portion of Mohave County. For example, currently the Arizona district line has legislative district (audio distortion) at over 92 percent of Mohave County and less than 8 percent out of Mohave County so why (audio distortion) just include it in Mohave County. (Audio distortion) carving such a small amount of Legislative District 5 and Congressional District 4 leaves some of Mohave County voters with little continuity. These areas that include rural areas are just Peach Springs and portions of the Hualapai Indian reservation deserve inclusion with Mohave County. Many of these residents pay taxes in Mohave County, and they are represented through

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their county board of supervisors -- their county
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     assessor is me -- the recorder, the treasurer.
     should also have the same legislative and congressional
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     representatives as well. The carve out, as it is,
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     alienates those Mohave County residents and should be
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     represented as all other Mohave County residents are.
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     So I urge you to please carve back in, carve out that
     little 8 percent, and thank you for considering this
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     alteration and allowing for more continuity within all
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     of Mohave County, so thank you.
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               MS. VAN HAREN: And I believe we have a last
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      speaker with Valerie Neumann.
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               MS. NEUMANN: Here in Bullhead City we have
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     Barbara Pape, who would like to speak.
               MS. PAPE: Hello. What I'm asking is to keep
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     the mapping to the guidance--
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               MS. VAN HAREN: Can't hear you.
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               MS. PAPE: What I'm asking is to keep the
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     quidance -- keep the mapping to the quidance of our
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     Constitution, and our founding fathers, who have
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     established three freedoms --
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               MS. VAN HAREN: Hey, Val, we can't hear them.
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               There we go. We can hear you now.
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               MS. PAPE: You can hear? Okay. Sorry about
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      that.
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Okay. My name is Barbara Pape, Bullhead City.

Keep the mapping to the guidance of our Constitution

and founding fathers who have established three

freedoms: freedom of prosperity, freedom of advancing

through the classes, freedom of religious tolerance,

and comply to our freedoms. That is all we have asked

here in this region.

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MS. VAN HAREN: I believe that was our last comment of the night. Thank you so much.

At this point we'll send it back to Chairwoman Neuberg to close out the meeting.

everybody. We're going to close out the meeting. It's been a remarkable display of civic engagement. As you've seen today, on our website we have easy to use tools for learning about and for sharing information about your community of interest. Rather than relying on purely our interpretation of your comments today, we encourage you to go online and submit a map to us. This will ensure we correctly understand the definition of your community. Please encourage your friends and neighbors to share their thoughts, too. Anyone can do so online any time. There is no requirement to attend one of these meetings to be heard.

We look forward to your continued involvement,

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and with this we will adjourn the public hearing
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      tonight. Thank you for everybody's participation.
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                 (Meeting concluded at 6:09 p.m.)
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CERTIFICATE 1 2 I HEREBY CERTIFY that the proceedings had upon 3 the foregoing meeting are contained in the shorthand 4 5 record made by me thereof, and that the foregoing 48 pages constitute a full, true, and correct transcript 6 7 of said shorthand record, all done to the best of my skill and ability. 8 DATED at Phoenix, Arizona, this 10th day of 9 10 August, 2021. 11 Deborah L. Wilks 12 1.3 Deborah L. Wilks, RPR Certified Court Reporter 14 Certificate No. 50849 15 16 17 I CERTIFY that Miller Certified Reporting, 18 LLC, has complied with the requirements set forth in ACJA 7-201 and 7-206. 19 20 Dated at Litchfield Park, Arizona, this 10th 21 day of August, 2021. 22 MCR 23 24 Miller Certified Reporting, LLC Arizona RRF No. R1058 25