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MICRC

06/17/21 5:00 am Public Hearing Meeting

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>> CHAIR KELLUM: I call this meeting of the Michigan Independent Citizens Redistricting Commission to order at 5:05 p.m.

This Zoom webinar is being live streamed on YouTube.

For anyone in the public watching who would prefer to watch via a different platform than they are currently using, please visit our social media at Redistricting MI to find the link to view on YouTube.

Our live stream today includes closed captioning. Closed captioning, ASL interpretation, and Spanish Bengali and Arabic translation services will be provided for effective participation in this meeting. e-mail us at Redistricting@Michigan.Gov for additional viewing options or details on accessing language translation services for this meeting.

People with disabilities or needing other specific accommodations should also contact Redistricting at Michigan.gov.

This meeting is being recorded and will be available at www.Michigan.gov/MICRC. I'll repeat it www.Michigan.gov/MICRC. For viewing at a later date.

This meeting is also being transcribed, and those transcriptions will be made available and posted at Michigan.gov/MICRC along with the written public comment submissions.

There is also a public comment portal that may be accessed by visiting same website. Michigan.gov/MICRC. This portal can be utilized to post maps and comments which can be viewed by both the Commission and the public.

Members of the media who may have questions before, during or after the meeting should direct those questions to Edward Woods III, our Communications and Outreach Director for the Commission and can be reached at WoodsE3@Michigan.gov.

And For the purpose of the public watching and the public record, I will turn to department state Staff who will take note of the Commissioners present.

>> MS. SARAH REINHARDT: Good evening, Commissioners. Please say present when I call your name. If you are attending the meeting remotely, please announce during roll call that you are attending the meeting remotely. And unless your absence is due to military duty, please announce your physical location by stating the county, city, Township or village and the state from which you are attending the meeting remotely.

I'll start with Doug Clark.

- >> COMMISSIONER CLARK: Present.
- >> MS. SARAH REINHARDT: Juanita Curry.
- >> COMMISSIONER CURRY: Present.
- >> MS. SARAH REINHARDT: Anthony Eid?
- >> COMMISSIONER EID: Present.
- >> MS. SARAH REINHARDT: Brittini Kellom?
- >> CHAIR KELLOM: Present.
- >> MS. SARAH REINHARDT: Rhonda Lange?
- >> MS. SARAH REINHARDT: Steve Lett?
- >> COMMISSIONER LETT: Present.
- >> MS. SARAH REINHARDT : Cynthia Orton?
- >> MS. SARAH REINHARDT: MC Rothhorn?
- >> COMMISSIONER ROTHORN: Present.
- >> MS. SARAH REINHARDT: Rebecca Szetela?
- >> VICE CHAIR SZETELA: Present.
- >> MS. SARAH REINHARDT: Janice Vallette.
- >> COMMISSIONER VALLETTE: Present.
- >> MS. SARAH REINHARDT: Erin Wagner?
- >> MS. SARAH REINHARDT: Richard Weiss?
- >> COMMISSIONER WEISS: Present.
- >> MS. SARAH REINHARDT: Dustin Witjes?
- >> COMMISSIONER WITJES: Present.
- >> MS. SARAH REINHARDT: All 10 Commissioners are present.

And there is a quorum.

>> CHAIR KELLOM: Thank you, Michigan Department of State staff.

Without objection I would now like to move to welcome and introductions. Hearing none we will have our welcome and introductions.

Hello, again. My name is Commissioner Brittini Kellom. Welcome to the MICRC public hearing in Detroit at TCF. We are happy that you are here to learn about Michigan's new redistricting process and how you can engage throughout this process to ensure your voice is heard.

In looking at the agenda, please note that the vast majority of our time this evening is spent listening to you. We are eager to hear your ideas either in person or remotely about drawing Michigan's Congressional, House and Senate districts. In addition to hearing about District lines, we also want to hear your ideas about communities of interest.

At this time I would like my fellow colleagues to introduce themselves and share where they live in Michigan the Great Lakes state. I'm going to start to the top row to the right, so we will start with Commissioner Curry and then do this way.

>> COMMISSIONER CURRY: Good evening, everyone. My name is Juanita Curry and I reside in Detroit, Michigan.

>> COMMISSIONER LETT: Good evening, welcome to the TCF Center and our Commission meeting. We are glad you are here and look forward for hearing from you. My name is Steve Lett and I come from the Traverse City area, specifically Interlochen, so that makes me the northern Commissioner not the southeast Commissioner.

>> COMMISSIONER WITJES: Good evening. Thanks everyone for coming. My name is Dustin Witjes. I currently reside in Ypsilanti, Michigan. And I look forward to hearing what all you fine folks have to say.

>> COMMISSIONER WEISS: Good evening. Thank you for coming. My name is Richard Weiss and live in Saginaw Township in Saginaw, Michigan.

>> COMMISSIONER VALLETTE: My name is Janice Vallette from Highland. We are all anxious to hear what you have to say. Thank you.

>> COMMISSIONER ROTHORN: Hello, Detroit. My name is MC. I'm from Lansing, Michigan.

>> VICE CHAIR SZETELA: My name is Rebecca Szetela and I'm from Wayne County, Michigan. And I'm very excited to be here tonight and hear what you have to say.

>> COMMISSIONER EID: Hello, everyone. My name is Anthony Eid. And thank you for being us with today. And we look forward to hearing what each of you have to say about your communities. I'm from Orchard Lake, Michigan.

>> COMMISSIONER CLARK: Good evening. My name is Douglas Clark and I'm from Rochester Hills, Michigan. And it's a pleasure to have all of you here this evening.

>> CHAIR KELLOM: For the third time my name is Brittini Kellom. I'm born and raised from the City of Detroit and an honor to be in my city to talk to you a little bit about the redistricting process, as well as hear from all of you beautiful people. So I can't wait. I was so happy to be here, so thank you again for being here and let's continue on.

So in 2018, oh, thank you. Thank you. In 2018 more than 61% of Michigan voters intentionally and deliberately passed proposal two, a ballot initiative for voters and not legislatures to take responsibility for map fairness and public feedback in the redistricting process and created the Michigan Independent Citizens Redistricting Commission or the MICRC. For the first time in Michigan's history the MICRC, the redistricting process to draw fair and impartial maps comprised of 13 randomly selected Michigan residents that includes four who affiliate as democrats, five who affiliate as independents, and four who affiliate as republicans through a lottery run by the Michigan Department of State.

The MICRC has the exclusive authority in this new redistricting process for Michigan's Congressional, House and Senate districts. As fellow residents, the MICRC understands your expectations to draw maps in an open and transparent manner that

meets constitutional mandates. Our mission and vision exemplifies our resolve not just for today but for generations as well.

In your interaction with the MICRC and its staff, you should witness the core values of integrity, respect, transparency, and being purposeful. Once again, we are so happy that you're here and we look forward to hearing from you.

At this time, moving along on our agenda, we will learn a little bit more about the public hearing. Coming to us to talk about the purpose of the public hearing is Vice Chair and Commission Rebecca Szetela.

>> VICE CHAIR SZETELA: Thank you and good evening, everyone. As Commissioner Kellom indicated, my name is Rebecca Szetela and I serve as the Vice Chairperson of the Michigan Independent Citizens Redistricting Commission. To ensure fair and impartial maps, the MICRC is required to solicit public input before drawing any redistricting plan for the Michigan Congressional, House and Senate districts through a minimum of ten public hearings across the state. We are actually doing 16 hearings. Detroit represents number 12 of our 16 public hearings.

Per the Michigan Constitution, the purposes of the public hearings are to inform the public about the redistricting process. To share the purpose and responsibilities of the Commission. To solicit information from you about the potential redistricting plans for Michigan's Congressional, House and Senate districts.

So what is redistricting? Every ten years following the U.S. Census District lines for U.S. Congressional, State House and the State Senate must be redrawn in states across the country to accurately reflect their populations. The process of drawing District lines is known as redistricting.

In Michigan here are the District lines that need to be drawn for the 2022 election cycle. The first data from the 2020 Census shows that the state population as of April 1, 2020, was 10,770,331 persons. That means that our Michigan Congressional districts will number 13 with approximately 775,200 people per District. Our Michigan Senate districts will have 38 districts with approximately 265,200 people. And the Michigan House will have 110 districts with approximately 91,600 people.

The MICRC is the sole entity responsible for drawing District lines. The MICRC operates in an impartial and transparent manner that instills integrity in the redistricting process. The MICRC public outreach represents fairness, awareness, transparency and engagement that seeks to obtain at least 10,000 unique public comments in the redistricting process.

The MICRC must adopt maps for Michigan 13 Congressional, 38 Senate, and the 110 House Districts. The districts should be drawn to meet the applicable Federal and State laws, including the Voters' Rights Act.

As mandated by, I'm sorry, mandated by the U.S. Constitution, equal population refers to the amount of people in the District. That is our first redistricting criteria is equal population and compliance with the Voting Rights Act.

Secondly, the districts must be geographically contiguous.

Third, we have to take into consideration communities of interest, which include arts District, neighborhoods, business, agricultural, educational, and waterfront communities, and so much more. Although race is important, it's not the only characteristic to identify a community of interest.

In addition to considering the first three categories, we also need to not give a disproportionate advantage to any political party and to not disfavor or favor any incumbent elected official or candidate. We have to reflect consideration of City, County and Township boundaries.

And, lastly, we are tasked with keeping the districts reasonably compact.

So, just to touch again a little bit on what a community of interest is, a community of interest may include, but is not limited to, populations that share cultural or historic characteristics. Economic interests, but it does not include political parties, incumbents or political candidates.

So what does the MICRC want to know about your community of interest? We would love to know what name you would give to your community. What is the common bond that creates your community's shared identity? Is there a geographic area that defines your community? What governmental policies are important to your community? How would keeping your community intact enhance the quality of your representation in Congress or in the Michigan Legislature? And, lastly, are there nearby areas that either strengthen or potentially weaken your community of interest?

So why is the MICRC here? We are here to hear directly from you about where to draw the lines for Michigan's Congressional, House and Senate districts in Detroit and throughout the State of Michigan.

This is an historic process. For the first time ever, Michigan residents have a say in the redistricting process. Openness, transparency and public engagement represent the principles of this new redistricting process. As the third ranked criteria in the redistricting process, communities of interest have a voice to prevent gerrymandering.

Thank you. And I will pass it back to Commissioner Kellom.

>> CHAIR KELLOM: Thank you, Commissioner Szetela. Without objection our General Counsel will now provide a presentation. Hearing no objection, please proceed General, Counsel Pastula, with our public comment guidelines.

>> MS. JULIANNE PASTULA: Thank you very much, Madam Chair. My name is Julianne Pastula. I'm the General Counsel to the Commission. And thank you very much for being here tonight and for the warm welcome in Detroit. It's nice to be home.

This evening I would like to cover the public comment guidelines with you. In-person public comment will take place first, followed by remote public comments. The time limit for each public comment speaker is two minutes. You will hear an audible alarm when your time has expired. If any person disrupts the orderly progress of this meeting

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or refuses to comply with applicable MICRC guidelines and rules, the Chairperson may rule that person out of order and/or order their removal from this meeting.

As the Chair has indicated, please provide your public comment and our submit proposed maps in our public comment portal available at www.Michigan.gov/MICRC. Thank you, and the Commission is looking forward to hearing from you this evening.

>> CHAIR KELLUM: Thank you so much, General Counsel, for providing those public guidelines.

You all bear with me. We have to hold down the mic. So if I go out, it's because my thumb isn't doing what I need it to do.

So, without objection, we will now begin the public comment portion of our meeting. Hearing no objection, we will now proceed with public comment. Individuals who have signed up and indicated that they would like to provide in-person public commentary to the Commission will now be allowed to do so. Please step to the nearest microphone when I call your number. You will have two minutes to address the Commission. Conclude your remarks when your two minutes has ended and you hear the timer. I also believe that the timer will be displayed on one of the screens you see to help you keep track.

Again, if you get stopped by the timer or you hear my voice because your allotted two minutes is ended, if you are sitting in the audience and not providing public commentary but there is something that comes to you, please do utilize our public comment tool and include your comments in writing, include the thoughts that you are thinking about and any specific area of the map that you might mention. That public comment tool can be found at www.Michigan.gov/MICRC.

I'm going to call about four of you up at a time. You don't have to feel you have to stand one behind the other. Again, we have two mics, but just to keep the flow going and keep us all active and engaged. So I'm going to call one, two, three and four. One, two, three and four. One, when you approach the mic and you are ready to speak, you can begin addressing the Commission.

>> Okay. Thank you. I'm John L. I live in Plymouth, Township, which is represented by the State Senate and House 20th District. This District is blocked out with Plymouth City and Township, Northville City and Township and a small slice of Canton Township. The 20th District is a rich multi-cultural District that is very involved in cultural celebration life events. We are very proud of that, these events and the uniqueness of our community. We also have some of the best preschool and grade through grade 12 educational institutions in the state.

District 20 shares charity and fundraising events for the less fortunate with the Lions Clubs, Elks Clubs, Rotary Clubs, JC, VFW, many of the local businesses, senior programs, United Way, and Veterans programs. We are a giving community which is rich in history, with also a strong senior and Veterans demographic needed services for both.

We also share, which is very unique, we are proud of Hind State Park, which folks around here in Detroit, we are a western suburb and appreciate my front yard with bike paths, the ponds and the woods and the trails. It's a lot of fun, that many people come from Detroit and around the state to appreciate.

We have an established health systems within our 20th District that represents both the physical, mental health aspects needs of our community, which is more dire now than ever given what we have all come out of. We have also very good is that we have established state police post within the 20th District that supports law enforcement. And with our fire, police and EMT services, we do cross border in the Townships and the cities when needed for obvious reasons.

It's very important we believe, and I'll map this out on your site, that we keep this blocked and for -- you won't be north of Canton, all the way through the cities of Northville and Plymouth.

I want to thank you for this opportunity. This is very historic and I really appreciate you putting yourselves out there. This is a tough job and it's historic. I hope you are having a lot of fun. Thank you.

>> CHAIR KELLUM: Thank you. We hope we continue to have as much fun as we are already having in this challenging process. So thank you for sharing your comments with the Commission. Two.

>> Hello. I'm from the Bangladesh community. In 2015 Governor Snyder came and opened the Bangla Town. And 2017 Mike Duggan opened the Bangla Town welcome sign in Hamtramck, Detroit area. This is a culmination of Detroit City immigration task force. They have designated Bangla Town as the destination community. Many studies show that in order to add flavor to Detroit we need some destination community like Bangla Town, similar to Mexican Town and Greek Town if you remember.

Total population in that area, Detroit-Hamtramck, you are looking at about 25,000 residents. We also have Bangladeshi members in Warren and the City of Sterling Heights. So what I would like to ask the Commission, if you could, keep Bangla Town, which is between Detroit and Hamtramck, the same for the State Representative District. Also for the State Senate and for the Congressional District, if you could merge Detroit and Hamtramck with the City of Warren and Sterling Heights, that would be very desirable.

As you can tell, the community is growing. We are bringing our asset into revitalization of the city. And this would help us grow even further.

I also would like to thank you for holding this Commission. And I must say I have heard you today and in here this morning. So good job. Thank you.

>> CHAIR KELLUM: Thank you so much and thank you for taking the time to address the Commission. Three.

>> Good evening, Honorable Commission and the Michigander. I'm Mohammed. I'm representing Bangladeshi community. I'm Bangladeshi American. And I'm

representing our Bangla Town. I've been Council member City of Hamtramck from 2009. I've been from 2012. So I'm requesting this Commission to keep the legislature District as it is. What we have right now District Four. And it's Bangladeshi, Hamtramck and Detroit, 25,000 to 30,000 people live this area. Again, I'm requesting a District and the Congressional District can we cross the boundary, county boundary, and keep the Hamtramck part of Detroit, add Warren and Sterling Heights with 20,000 Bangladeshi population live there. Sterling Heights, Warren, Hamtramck, Detroit, we have over 30,000 border Bangladeshi American, can make a big difference in Michigan. And we need our voice heard and we need our representation. Thank you.

>> CHAIR KELLOM: Thank you, Mohammed, for taking the time to address the Commission this evening. Four.

>> Good evening. I'm from the City of Hamtramck. As a few of the people that passed me said, keep the state rep seat as is for the Congressional District and the Senate, State Senate District, combine them with Warren, Sterling Heights, Detroit and Hamtramck.

The City of Hamtramck and part of Detroit the houses and real estate went up. Many, many businesses have moved in and opened. So, please, we ask the Commission to combine Sterling Heights, City of Warren, Hamtramck and Detroit. God bless you and God bless America.

>> CHAIR KELLOM: Thank you for taking the time to address the Commission. Five, six, seven and eight. And if we can be sure to utilize this microphone over here, that way we are glad that they are cleaning the microphones, but there continues to be some conversation in the room.

So, number five, if you are ready to speak, you can address the Commission.

>> Good evening to the Commission. Thank you all very much and welcome you to Detroit, my hometown. My name is Angela Wilson and blessed to work for the east side community network which actually serves the community that I live in. This is a map of our leap District. I'm going to talk more about that in a second.

I'm going to tell you our basic ask is that the leap District stay intact and all of the voting districts that you're looking at. And that the City of Detroit continue to have two Congressional representatives.

The leap District is the result of a planning process that started in 2009 to address all of the vacant land from housing demolitions in our community on the east side. Over the last ten years, we have been supporting this coalition of partners that makeup the leap coalition with grants to develop projects like community gardens, rain gardens, bio swells, playgrounds, playground improvements. And in 2019 we launched the leap sustainability fellowship to continue developing ourselves and our community as a sustainable community.

The leap District you will see is roughly bounded south of City airport to the river and on the east end Altar Road and west end is Mount Elliot. And I will be submitting the full map on your website.

I'm a resident of the leap District. I am a steering committee for the good stop community whose map is on my shirt. I will send that one to you, which is inside of the leap District. And I'm a member of the Barn Fisher Black Club. Our common interests relate specifically to supporting redevelopment in our own communities and that redevelopment is led by residents, that is what this whole leap process has been about.

We ask, again, that the leap District remain intact in all voting districts and that the City of District have two Congressional representatives. I thank you for your time. And I also thank you all for representing us in the way that you are as Commissioners and drawing these districts. Thank you very much.

>> CHAIR KELLOM: Thank you so much for addressing the Commission. Again, visit the public comment portal and use that tool at www.Michigan.gov/MICRC. If you're holding a map like our last commenter was and you want to give that to us today, you can. You can approach the table and give us any map or information about the specific area that you're speaking about. Just in case you didn't think you could, you can actually engage with us.

So, sorry, six for that long intro, you have the floor.

>> Thank you. Good evening. My name is Loretta. Detroit, Michigan. I live in the good stock community near Wayne Community College District. The leap District is the east side community network, a nonprofit organization that stands for the Lord east side action plan. We believe that our neighborhoods should stay in the leap District and should be kept intact.

I am concerned about our local Government and increased health issues Government and safety.

Our neighborhood should be remain with the two Congressional districts which include leap. They can draw the District boundaries to include the lower east side action plan. Thank you.

>> CHAIR KELLOM: Thank you so much for taking the time to address the Commission. Seven.

>> Good evening. Brenda Butler here. Coal miner's daughter. I reside in Detroit, in the 100-year-old neighborhood of Chandler Park. Commissioners, this evening we come before you to ask that the redistricting process continue to include our current Congressional districts.

Our neighborhood borders the Edsel Ford Freeway, east and west, over to the Detroit River. Our greatest asset in our community is our Chandler Park. Our Chandler Park hosts for visitors and residents alike, a golf course, the Wayne County Water Park, our Chandler Park conservancy, oversees and puts together our outdoor sports in our

Chandler Park. And in our park our newest assets will be a skating park and a community garden.

We also have included in our neighborhood an organization which came together with an agreement with us to create kids success. And that organization is called Brilliant Detroit. Our Chandler Park community hub will be opening soon.

So, Commissioners, our electoral voter issues and concerns, is that it?

>> CHAIR KELLOM: Finish your sentence.

>> Is that the bell I hear?

>> CHAIR KELLOM: Yes, that is the bell.

>> All right. So my partner will finish up. Thank you.

>> CHAIR KELLOM: Thank you for taking the time to address the Commission.

>> Hello. My name is Patricia Reed. And I live in Chandler Park neighborhood and I have been there 47 years. And what I would like the Commission to do is keep the two Commission Districts and the leap District intact. Thank you.

>> CHAIR KELLOM: Thank you so much. Nine, ten, 11 and 12. Nine, ten, 11 and 12, nine if you are at the mic and ready to speak you can begin.

>> Hi, everyone. My name is Rochelle and live in Plymouth Township and Wayne County. My community of interest is living in Plymouth Township. And I visit the City of Plymouth and Northville Township and City of Northville. I like the small town feel of all four cities as well as open spaces and the many parks those cities have. I also have a lot of businesses and restaurants and my family and I frequent. And also love my kids and their friends can hang out in Kellogg Park and downtown Northville and just have fun and be safe because there is low crime in all four cities.

I also love the summer's farmer's market we frequent weekly and the Catholic church my family goes to. My family and I go to all GC, Good Counsel in Plymouth Township and we participate in PB and J outreach, which is where we a group of us make peanut butter and jelly sandwiches and give it to the homeless on Saturdays.

I love the feeling of community in Plymouth and Northville. I love I get to know my neighbors and the residents there. So I'm asking the Commission to please keep all four cities intact in Wayne County together and then do not split them due to 8 Mile.

I'm also asking the Commission to keep the map lines as square and not like jig saw puzzle pieces. Thank you, the Commissioners, for taking the time to listen to my public comment.

>> CHAIR KELLOM: Thank you for taking the time to address the Commission. Ten.

>> Good evening, everyone. My name is Pam Weinstein and I live in the Rosedale Park neighborhood, one of the five Grandmont Rosedale neighbors in Detroit. As an early supporter of proposal two, I'm just so delighted to see you seated up there. It's like a dream come true. This is great.

I'm here today to urge you to recognize the Grandmont Rosedale neighborhoods as a community of interest and to keep us together in your new redistricting plans. Our five

neighborhoods of over 5800 households were all built about 100 years ago. Several of us have celebrated our 100th anniversary in our neighborhood associations. And we've been working together, collaborating and cooperating closely for almost all of that time. We came together in the late 1980s and formed the Grandmont Rosedale Development Corporation GRDC. And the purpose of that organization was to renovate delapidated housing and commercial properties in our area, as well as sponsoring beautification and safety programs of farmer's market and a community garden.

We are especially concerned about not being divided from each other because that is precisely what is operating at present. We are currently represented by two different Wayne County Commissioners and two different State Representatives. Why is that? Our home, our area is home to several major thoroughfares, which map makers apparently like to use as convenient dividing lines. The Southfield Freeway and Finkel or five miles are big roads or freeways that cut right through the middle of our neighborhood and they have been used in apportioning our State Representatives and our County Commissioners. Please make sure you don't divide us from each other. Thank you very much, Commissioners.

>> CHAIR KELLOM: Thank you Pam for taking the time to address the Commission. 11.

>> Thank you, Commissioners. And we appreciate very much the process that you're going through. My name is Daniel B. I'm a resident and citizen of Hamtramck. And I represent the Detroit-Hamtramck for advancing healthy environments. And we have a map for you of our community of interest. It includes the City of Hamtramck, also in Detroit, the City airport neighborhood, the Farns Square, Milwaukee Junction and East Pole Town Neighborhoods. And these areas are very ethnically diverse. We have African/American, Middle Eastern, South Asian, Polish, and all kinds of other folks.

We also have a lot of poverty in our area. We have a lot of vibrant community organizations. And many of those organizations reach across lines, between Detroit and Hamtramck. We have a lot of vitality in those organizations.

One of the problems that we all share though is that we have a lot of heavy industry. And, in fact, a big part of our area has been called an industrial sacrifice zone. And it's home to all kinds of industrial sites, including dealing with things like toxic waste. And so we've got people that live within walking distance, a short walk of these heavy industries. And as a result we have many people with negative health outcomes.

I myself moved to Detroit about 20 years ago and to Hamtramck. And one of the things that happened to me is I developed asthma. And so this is very, very common in our area. And so we are concerned that we see our common cultural identity held, but also the struggle for bringing justice and addressing the community needs, especially for health concerns and dealing with how we relate with our industry, which provides

good jobs but they also need to be accountable to the community. I have a map.
Thank you very much.

>> CHAIR KELLOM: Thank you for taking the time to address the Commission. 12.

>> My name is Nancy B. I moved to Yorkshire Avenue in Detroit 38 years ago because the homes are gorgeous and I wanted to live in a racially integrated neighborhood. After my husband and I moved in, our six block wide area organized to East English Village. We have a newsletter, elected leadership committees and monthly meetings. That helped us overcome the harsh years that followed. When unemployment soared and values plunged in 1980s, City taxes stayed high and banks were handing out mortgages they knew people could not afford and created a wave of foreclosures and vacated homes. But with mutual support we made it past those hard years and we are later voted the best neighborhood in Detroit.

The community's next faced similar problems, Morning Side and Cornerstone and we want to be united with them because we work together. We founded the Mecca Development Corporation and one of our most exciting projects is to bring small businesses and a farmer's market into the East Warren commercial strip that we all share.

And long after movie theatres moved out of most cities, we have been restoring the historic Alger Theatre for cultural events. We have a public library and gardens and historic cafe that we all share and the revamped Balduck Park. We also have links to the Grosse Pointes, to the south and Jefferson-Chalmers in Detroit. And my neighbors will give you maps showing how we would like to be together with them as well. But we've been very badly served by past redistricting. Each of our three neighborhoods was split into separate State House districts, making it hard to get attention to our needs. And the gerrymandered 14th Congressional District gave us a rep who had the impossible task of serving pieces of dozens of communities stretching all the way to Pontiac.

Commissioners, we desperately need shared representation closer to home. We need compact districts that unite rather than divide us and that help our representatives learn from our community and serve as citizens.

>> CHAIR KELLOM: Thank you for taking the time to address the Commission. 13, 14, 15 and 16.

>> Hi, my name is Pam. I live in the City of Detroit, Wayne County. So the City of Detroit is my community of interest. I'd like to see more defined and square borderlines, no crazy shapes when considerations are made for redistricting; adhere to municipal boundaries, keeping municipalities intact whenever possible. Thank you all for the time you are giving to this Commission. It's very important and what you're doing for the residents of Michigan. Thank you.

>> CHAIR KELLOM: Thank you for addressing the Commission and we appreciate your gratitude that you extended towards us. 14.

If 14 isn't present we will move to 15.

>> Good evening. My name is Larry Ling and I live in Birmingham. Thank you so much for your sacrifice and time you're putting into this effort. It's truly worthy and necessary. I'm not speaking on behalf of any community of interest. I think more just on the for the population of Michigan as a whole, and very much echoing the last commenter's comments, that if anything I'd like to make your challenge maybe a little more challenging by saying I hope you can give yourself a goal to have those geometric shapes that have very similar, whether it's Congressional District, a State Senate, State House District, try and keep them, limit the number of corners, to four ideally would be rectangular shape, a corner being where it intersects with another District or with a state line, Michigan State line, or one of our Great Lakes. If you can minimize those numbers, I think it would give everyone a great deal of confidence that it's not a gerrymandered District. It's a certain shape and size and consistency.

And the other challenge in terms of the Districting mapping would be perhaps to give another goal for yourself to not have a certain ratio of length to width or something like that, just so you don't give the appearance they have been somehow manipulated to serve any particular group of interest. So I don't pretend to have the answers to how you would do that. It's a big challenge. You are all signed up for. I really appreciate you doing it. And thanks for giving us the opportunity to speak tonight.

>> CHAIR KELLOM: We appreciate your comments. And if you think that you have an answer, please submit it in our public comment tool www.Michigan.gov/MICRC. 16.

>> Good evening, Commissioners. Thank you very much for listening to us today. Because of you guys I think we have a real shot this time to put our voice into drawing the maps. I'm from Bangladesh. I work with the community-based organization Bangladesh of Michigan, which is a nonprofit organization. So I live in Warren, which is 11 Mile and Bryan, from Detroit pretty much in the similar neighborhood. I'm from Bangladesh. I'm part of a growing Bangladesh community. I used to live in Hamtramck. As a lot of people are doing, I moved further north to the extended Bangladesh community all the way to Sterling Heights. We are -- and a lot of people gave some numbers, how many Bangladeshi people live around here. I work with the community-based organization, so I can give you a rough number. We are working on a count of head wise how many people we have there. We have around 90,000 people living from Hamtramck to all the way to Sterling Heights.

So I'm here to ask all of you guys today to put us in one particular map. I'm not separating Senate the representation or House. We are one similar interest community and we want to be at one map. Please and thank you. Thank you very much, everyone, for listening to me today. Thank you very much. Have a good night.

>> CHAIR KELLOM: Thank you very much and thank you very much for being a voice for the Bangladesh Community. 17, 18, 19 and 20. 17, 18, 19, 20. 17, when you reach the microphone, you can begin speaking.

Do we have 17? If 17 isn't present, we will move to 18. 17 and 18 are hiding together. We will move to 19.

>> Well, good early evening, Commissioners. My name is Vincent Martin.

>> CHAIR KELLUM: I'm sorry. I don't mean to stop you. I see 18, so I will have 18 go, then we will have you.

>> Thank you. Commissioners, I live in Warren City between Moan. I'm a Bangladeshi origin, American City and with the Bangladeshi community most live in Hamtramck, Detroit, Warren, Troy, Sterling Heights. Our geography maps starting from north of I-94 freeway to all the way 18 Mile, which main road between there Ryan, Mound, Van Dyke. We are around 100,000 Bangladeshi lives in Michigan. We share same culture. We share same economic interests. But, unfortunately, when it comes to vote we split out into four House Districts. That way our voting power was diluted in every recent election. As we are minority here, I think it is against Voting Rights Act 1965 Section Two, Section Two mandates that electoral District line cannot be drawn in such a manner as to improperly dilute minorities voting power.

So please bring all of us under one District like house, Senate and a few of them. Please. And on your website, I will send a map, so you can get more of an idea about our geography District. Thank you so much. Thanks a lot.

>> CHAIR KELLUM: Thank you for taking the time to address the Commission. 19.

>> Good evening, Commissioner. My name is Vincent Martin. I switched with number 28. I took 19 because she wanted to speak in unison with someone else, so just to let you know just to be transparent. I come to hear the speak on the redistricting process. One of the requests I would like to have this process be put under the lens of red lining and also under the lens of systemic racism because the Black voice nationally is being stymied. So they used to stymy our voice in the recent years, so hopefully this is a chance for us to get some equity in this actual endeavor because without equity what is the sense of us voting? That is how Black people are being utilized now.

The democratic party comes to us every year requesting us to vote for them, but then they don't give us, you know, nothing, just to be -- just to talk real talk. We have a lot of people here talking about I come from 48217, the most polluted zip code in the City, in the State, with the highest asthma rate, child mortality. You name it, we got it. But we don't get no resources, why? Because the color of our skin.

There is other Districts, in Kalamazoo they had a river that had an oil spill because it had benzene. Their area was evacuated and cleaned up because of privilege. My area gets benzene every day, but we are sacrificed, that is what this Districting means to us, a chance to equal the level of the field. So please do the job, but please put equity there. We don't need diversity because the root of diversity is to divide. We need equity. Thank you.

>> CHAIR KELLUM: Thank you so much for your comments and passion with the Commission. 20.

>> Good morning, good evening, good afternoon, whatever time zone that we will be watching from. Thank you so much. I had to incorporate everybody that see us. Thank you so much for coming today and representing us, and all my fellow neighbors and neighborhoods.

I'm Denise Robinson. I grew up in Detroit, Detroit born and raised, on McCann Canfield. I'm a graduate of Finney High School 1977. Okay, erase that part. But I want to speak to you on keeping Detroit northeast together, but we do not identify with the Harper Woods and the Points. And some of my stats come from my Finney High School person, Karen Banks. I do not want to not mention her. And I'm looking at my time. Detroit, 48214, the current population is 13,565, 89% is African/American the schools are 98.1 there. The unemployment is 9.3. The medium household is 29,000. That's saying that we do not identify with the Harper Woods and the Grosse Pointes. We have different needs. Our needs are way different. We have four houses that's on a block. What can we do? What can we do?

We have the plants that producing asthma for us, our kids running up and down. And I'm watching my time, so I won't get buzzed. Thank you, Madam Chair. But we want to stay together, but do not put the Detroit east side together with the Harper Woods and the Points. Our needs are very different. Thank you.

>> CHAIR KELLOM: Thank you so much, Denise, for your comments to the Commission. 21, 22, 23 and 24. Again, we can utilize both mics if it's convenient.

>> Hello, everyone. My name is Tamara Rice. I am representing the Grandmont-Rosedale Area as well as the 13th Congressional District. And the way that their District is now divided, it looks like a puzzle piece. It includes Westland and places west of Granite City. And I don't believe that should be included because the needs in my area do not reflect the needs of those areas.

Housing is definitely an issue in my area. And I feel that we need to include all of the Dearborn so it's more squared off. I hear a lot in my community because I work in the community where families are really struggling for employment as well as basic needs. We need to be funneling money into the places that can assist the families because we are suffering.

I implore you guys to please not use the maps that have already been drawn but go from scratch. And really look and take into account everything that has been shared here today. You guys have a very important job and you can really this is a chance for us to support families and the community in a way that is equitable. Thank you for your time.

>> CHAIR KELLOM: Thank you so much for taking the time to come and address the Commission. 22.

>> Good afternoon. I'm part of the Latino community and I'm asking you to draw the districts and keep the Latino community together. This is the only way for our concern to be heard in Lansing and Washington D.C. Thank you for much again.

>> CHAIR KELLOM: Thank you for coming to address the Commission. 22, no 23, 23, right? Okay, making sure I had the number right.

>> Good evening and thank you MICRC for all you do. My name is Cheryl Denman and I'm from Grosse Pointe Park in Wayne County, Michigan. My community of interest is the place in which I live, work and enjoy, which is the geographical area within the Grosse Pointe Public School System. The community of interest includes Harper Woods and all of the Grosse Pointes.

Presently our community is broken up into two different Michigan House Districts, unfortunately. My respectful request this evening is for the Commission's consideration to merge our districts into one, one single District to match our school district boundary. This solution provides a square and compact District for our community of interest. Thank you, Commissioners, again, for all you do. Have a nice evening.

>> CHAIR KELLOM: Thank you for addressing the Commission. 23.

>> You are looking for 23 or are you calling 24?

>> CHAIR KELLOM: 24, you're right, my apologies.

>> I'm here. Good evening, Commissioners. Welcome to Detroit. My name is Byron Osburn and I reside in Congressional District 13, State Senate 2 and State House District 4 in the City of Detroit. I'm also a precinct delegate for my Congressional District. I live in the Historic Boston Edison and Atkinson neighborhood. I voted to pass proposition two with the intent of creating a transparent process as we move forward with redistricting.

My neighborhood is made of legacy Detroiters. There is generations who have seen the City through good and bad times, who are vested in their neighborhoods, who have family here, who have moved and family who has come back. But one thing stays the same, we are Detroiters. We are homeowners. We are family people. We are public servants. We have union members. We have City workers. We have a variety of people in that area and through our engagement our voices are heard.

We are politically engaged. We stand strong with our elected representation. We stand strong with our neighbors. And because of this involvement and our strength, our neighborhoods are solid and our voices are heard. I ask that you consider keeping our District intact, that you protect the future of our voters who are coming of age in the future. And, again, that you consider our District, consider our neighborhoods, keep us solid, keep us united, thank you for your time on this Commission. Thank you for your ear and thank you for your service.

>> CHAIR KELLOM: Thank you for taking the time to address the Commission. 25, 26, 27 and 28.

>> How y'all doing? My name is William G. Forgive me for being a little nervous speaking like this. But I'm not sure if my series of questions necessarily pause under your purview, but I wanted y'all to like necessarily think about them for the future. This is conditional on what the numbers are for the upcoming census. And I asked that and

say that because my first question to you is what does the Commission think about new districts? Compatibility with the prospect of municipal consolidation? That is followed by if any municipality in Michigan does consolidate, is it the Commission's authority to redistrict the new consolidated City Council districts or is it the responsibility of a similar body in the consolidated municipality to do so?

Number three how does the Commission feel with the minimum size of the consolidated municipality outside of Detroit is around 100,000 people?

The fourth question is: Can the Commission promise that the land mass of Detroit will not be subdivided in any way and stay grown to add around 100,000 people?

Number five is assuming that Detroit, Wayne County, Oakland County, and Macomb County according to the vision, which was this 1979, I got the book right here if y'all can see. It talked about consolidation. Assuming the Metro Detroit area is consolidated in that manner, can the Commission ensure that the City's new consolidated authority pose a proportional relationship with the City's new population, which is 157 representatives for the 880,000 people?

Number six is: With the new boundaries for consolidated Metro Detroit be up for a public vote?

And the final question is, I'll wrap it up here, can the Commission that fulfills the same role as the state's Commission be implemented at a local level and the voting method of new consolidated City be the additional member system which is a proportional representation to represent voters who don't belong to two party systems and will not engage in alternative two party politics like myself? And my name is William G by the way.

>> CHAIR KELLUM: Thank you so much for engaging us with those inquiries. I encourage you to submit those in our public comment tool if you are willing and open to do so, so we appreciate that. 26.

>> Hello, can you hear me? My name is Christy. I'm a community organizer for a number of Southwest Detroit and Congress of communities. And I've been in southwest Detroit for 18 years and asking you to keep our community together. The majority of the residents are Latin-X, so we need the community to be together for them and, of course, for me and for my family. Thank you.

>> CHAIR KELLUM: Thank you for coming to speak with us and address the Commission. 27.

>> Hi. I'm speaking on behalf of a group of Latinos, asking that our community be kept together with O948209, 48210 and 48216 and 48217, Lincoln Park and River Rouge. This combination is 48% Latino, 24% white, 25% African American.

>> CHAIR KELLUM: Thank you for taking the time to address the Commission.

>> We switched. We are together.

>> CHAIR KELLUM: So you are, what number am I looking at 27 and 28?

>> Right.

>> CHAIR KELLUM: Okay.

>> Hi. My name is Theresa L. I'm number 28. We switched. But we come from the area of District 6, Congressional District 13 and we are Southwest Detroit. We are advocating that you keep the African/American population, the Latino population together and do not split the two districts. We have two districts. Keep them the same. We have 13 and 14.

And the previous speaker 19 spoke about the red lining map. I would ask the Commission to look at the red lining map of spatial racism and see where Blacks, Brown and Latino people were placed due to red lining. And we suggest that the Commission keep these areas together. We are talking about the five previous mentioned. 48217, 48218, 4229 is River Rouge and Ecorse because with 216, 10, 09, we are on the rectangular border. And I'm in Detroit, but the other triple cities counterparts are River Rouge and Ecorse and have also been a part of the tradition of Black and Brown people coexisting together and we share rich cultures. So we ask that you keep those 13 and 14 Congressional districts together. And you keep the Districts 6 together and not split them up.

And please as previous 19 mentioned look into spatial racism and you cannot -- you guys can see how people were placed in areas that were undesirable and we have learned to coexist with businesses that have a detrimental impact on our health, but we have still built a strong, vibrant community of Latinos, Black and Brown people and African/Americans. Thank you.

>> CHAIR KELLUM: Thank you so much for taking the time to address the Commission. 29, 30, 31 and 32.

>> Hello. My name is Abbey Clark and I am here to echo some of the excellent points that have been made at this hearing and some previous hearings. First of all, I so admire all of you for your willingness to take on this very difficult and challenging task that you have. It's not easy. And we can all see how much work you're putting in. And I'm personally very appreciative of that.

We voted for a new system of drawing districts because the previous system was unfair and served the people of the state very poorly. It was extremely biased. And we ended up with a partisan gerrymander that disenfranchised many communities, especially in Southeast Michigan. So I would encourage you strongly to start fresh, drawing your new maps. Other people have said it, but it deserves to be reiterated, that the old maps are a partisan gerrymander. They are exactly what we don't want from this new system. So please start from scratch with the new data and draw us brand new districts.

And, finally, I would say please draw as many competitive districts as you can manage while fully considering all the other important criteria that you have to consider. Competitive districts allow the voters more opportunities to weigh in. When districts are not competitive and the elections are a forgone conclusion, politicians are less

accountable to the people. So please fresh maps and competitive districts. Thank you so much.

>> CHAIR KELLUM: Thank you for taking the time to share your comments with the Commission. 30.

>> Hello. My name is Joell from Southwest Detroit. So prior to 2011 District 12 has the highest concentration of Latino but of redistricting in 2011 it was cracked into three separate districts and the leader as we were the fastest growing demographic in the City and State and deprived our ability to act in a cohesive manner. So really what we want is the community of southwest Detroit to stay together. The population is really very definition of the community of interest in an area of 93,000 Latino represents 47 percent combined with our other allies in the area we are represented a minority population of 68,000. And we work together and live in the economic disadvantaged communities together and we go to the same schools and like the basic infrastructure to work well. And we all feel the effects of living in a City with environmental impacts by Marathon and Delray and all the concentrated pollution. So the principles of the committee seek out opportunities to create majority -- minority-majority districts, and this is one. So we deserve to be held whole on the maps, so if we can hold that for the Michigan House and Senate and U.S. House. Thank you.

>> CHAIR KELLUM: Thank you, Joell, for sharing your comments with the Commission 31.

>> Good evening. My name is Niki and I'm a Southwest Detroit resident. I'm here today to testify on behalf of the Latin X community in Detroit who really care about our issues. I'm here to testify that we are a community of interest. It's literally the definition of community of interest. We have cultural, religious, language, access issues, the pollution is causing a lot of health issues and we need to keep the minorities together. Currently our community of interest is broken into three districts, 12, 13 and 14. None of the three pass the test of geographic contiguousness particularly the one that falls into District 14. A person who lives in the most south part of Southwest Detroit is in the same District as people in the Waterford Township, which implies a driving distance of almost one hour. The requirements for districts call for compactness requirement that is not met here. None of the three pass the test for compactness. Three districts unnecessarily go across county and City lines, comprising parts of at least three or five cities each. Today I ask that you keep our community of interest in compact, contiguous District between reasonable City limits. I will make sure that my map is uploaded at the website later. Thank you.

>> CHAIR KELLUM: Thank you, Niki, for sharing on behalf of Southwest Detroit. 32.

>> Hi there. My name is Christy. I live in Grosse Pointe Woods and it is thrilling to be here testifying. I know the mood in the room is kind of calm, but when I think about all the work that went in to bringing this to fruition it's real exciting. So thank all of you so much for the public service that you're offering. I'm really grateful for it.

And I want to take this opportunity to represent the whole State of Michigan more broadly. Not that I think I'm that important, but just I care most about having competitive districts. So please take into account the fact that our previous districts were heavily gerrymandered, incredibly partisan and led to a situation in which the only elections in many districts that mattered were primaries. And as we all know when that happens, we get intense hyper partisanship strictly in the primary, and we see really serious outcome coming from that in what we experienced over, you know, since January 6th.

So I really appreciate the work that you're doing. Please start over maps from scratch. And I really appreciate your time. Thank you so much.

>> CHAIR KELLUM: Thank you for taking the time to address the Commission. 33, 34, 35 and 36. 33, 34, 35 and 36.

>> Hi how are you my name is Wendy Caldwell. And I really wanted to come and stress the fact that as a resident on Detroit's west side I would really appreciate it if you guys would not use any of the existing or former maps to draw these District lines and that instead you start from scratch completely with new maps. Ensure you are listening to community voice and taking in lessons from past community experience to make these new lines. And that's all I have to say. Thank you.

>> CHAIR KELLUM: Thank you so much, Wendy, for taking the time to address the Commission. 34.

>> Hi there. Good evening. My name is Denzel. I'm a Detroit resident on the far west side near Rouge Park. And I want to thank you all for holding this meeting. Thank you all for your work. And I know it's not lost on you all for how it is and impact for representation and the time beyond that. And ask the Commission not to consider the current map because they are political gerrymandering and partisan. Residents voted to create the Independent Redistricting Commission because we wanted a fresh start. And meetings like these are essential because they add to the numbers and datas that I'm sure you all have been through and will continue to go through. But the community experiences really add to how these maps would impact our communities. I hope that you will use those experiences and share interests of communities to draw maps as well as competitiveness and compactness as well as the other criteria that you have to consider.

Again, thank you so much for your work. And I will be sure to use the public comment database for it. Thank you.

>> CHAIR KELLUM: Thank you so much, Denzel, for taking the time to address the Commission. 35.

>> Hello. How you doing today? My name is John Gonzales. I am a Dearborn Heights resident and a precinct delegate of Precinct 26, but I am a lifetime Detroit. And my community of interest today would be Detroit.

And I'll go ahead and begin. I ask that when the maps are drawn, Congressional, State House, and State Senate, that you consider ensuring that all Detroit is represented by Detroiters. I also ask that you count my fellow brothers and sisters who call Detroit home or reside in other parts of the state due to incarceration. Thank you.

>> CHAIR KELLUM: Jonathan, thank you for your comments and addressing the Commission. 36.

>> Hello. My name is Maya Jones, Detroit born, raised, and educated, residing in 48221 Battle Community. So in 1964 President Lyndon B. Johnson signed the civil rights act which legally ended segregation, but too often we speak how we are in a post-racial society and not a surrogate society, but yet our current District lines in Southeast Michigan specifically continue to perpetuate a system that is segregated. And it does appear as a jigsaw puzzle as someone already said. So, again, it clearly demonstrates segregation and red lining and gerrymandering that still exists. And, unfortunately, our Government, our Constitution and legal structures have often and continue to be the enemies of the democracy. And it's time for that to change. When we reimagine the new districts, I'm asking the Commission to really draw out fair maps that encourage inclusivity, diversity and equity. We cannot continue to maintain the racial, economic and equities through our unfair redistricting. And these inequities continue to perpetuate resources, opportunity gaps, especially here in Detroit. These inequities are sustained by deeply rooted historical legacies, structures of system that repeat patterns of explosion and racism. I believe that our role -- the role of our Government, specifically this committee, is to create a comprehensive and fair map that helps address inequities that create barriers to access opportunities, which ultimately result in achievement gaps and life outcomes. We must explicitly address gerrymandering and red lining to help drive positive change in our community and eliminate systematic racial inequities. Thank you.

>> CHAIR KELLUM: Maya, thank you for your thoughtful comments and addressing the Commission this evening, 37, 38, 39 and 40.

And 37, when you reach the mic, you can begin speaking. Don't trick me and go out of order, 37 speaks first.

>> Thank you. My name is Thomas Lewis. When I moved back to Detroit, I became a homeowner. I think it was about 1996, and all I could remember the entire time was gerrymandered districts and how that infuriated me. And how unfair it was. So when the State of Michigan finally overturned this egregious practice, I was jumping for joy. As a matter of fact, I applied to be on the very Commission that you all serve. So my area of interest is the entire State of Michigan. Because I wouldn't want you all to do to other parts of Michigan what was done to the City of Detroit. Because what's going on right now throughout the country is most people feel they were treated unfair and want something done about it. That was done for us for decades, so I wouldn't want you to do the same to anyone else.

All I ask is that you remember your charge to be upright and fair in all your dealings. That's all. Follow the law. I don't know if you required to take an oath, but if you were, honor it. Be upright in all your dealings. That's all I ask. Thank you.

>> CHAIR KELLUM: Thank you so much for reminding us of our charge and we were required to take an oath and each of us takes seriously. So thank you for reminding us of our duties. 38.

>> Hello. My name is Oscar and I live in Lansing, but I work in Detroit, so I'm going to respect about my community of interest, the Latino community. Some of you will be tomorrow at our town hall, and we are talking about the issues of the Latino community, but I just want to say that in Southwest Detroit there is a more than 40,000 Latinos. And 50 years ago we were able to have a representative who was a Latino immigrant female. And that was because the community was a single District. And the next census they cracked it in three different places and we were never able to get our representation. This is the most clear case that you have of cracking.

So what we are asking you to keep the Latino population in Southwest Detroit and everybody knows where Mexican Town is. And you can find it in any of the suburbs. And you will find a big black box of Latino population in three pieces now. What we are asking you is keeping us together.

And in Lansing we have exactly the same problem. We are divided in a very arbitrary line that breaks Lansing in three pieces. We are asking you to keep us together. That's all we are asking. And we have a whole lot of people who is going to be submitting comments online, showing you this map. And we got together and signed them up. And I will send you the link. And hopefully we are going to have hundreds of people send you this map. And for coming tomorrow, thank you very much. And we will bombard you with ideas tomorrow.

>> CHAIR KELLUM: Thank you, Oscar, and bombarding us with the public comment tool and exciting to hear each of you are submitting things, you are submitting things, because this is what the conversation is supposed to be. 39.

There is no 39. 40.

>> Good evening, ladies and gentlemen. My name is tie Ron. I'm a resident of Detroit 13th Congressional District. I appreciate you guys coming out and giving the time and consideration for the matter. I think it's important you give strong consideration keeping Wayne County and Detroit intact. It's a very diverse District. And Detroit has a lot of growth there and there is real concern that, you know, separating Detroit and Wayne County, that the minority votes and voices will be marginalized. So I ask that you take strong consideration to keeping Wayne County and Detroit intact for those reasons. Thank you very much.

>> CHAIR KELLUM: Thank you so much for taking the time to address the Commission. 41, 42, 43 and 44.

>> Hello. My name is Reverend and I'm an 81-year-old Detroit, always in Detroit except for the years I spent in the military. I'm representing the Black Slate. Black Slate is a corporation, nonprofit political education corporation. And we appreciate you being here. You have a very hard and sensitive job coming up. And as you are doing here because there is so much at stake.

We in Detroit, the Black Detroit, are used to voter suppression. We are used to redistricting. All those are the same. And we support your purpose. We are only asking what everybody else here is asking, and I know you're going to do that, and that is to be fair and be sensitive to what has to be in order to grow people, different groups of people. I'm speaking for the City of Detroit and I'm speaking especially for the Black community. We thank you. God bless you.

>> CHAIR KELLUM: Thank you for addressing the Commission. We appreciate your comment. 42.

>> Hello. My name is Charles of 11925 LeeWood Drive, Plymouth, Michigan 48170. I'm a lifelong resident, 66 years of Plymouth Township. I'm here to advocate for my communities of interest, which are Plymouth Township, the City of Plymouth, Northville Township, the City of Northville and Salem Township. These communities share the following: And I'd like them to be included in Congressional and State House and State Senate districts. All are part of Plymouth Canton school District is shared among these communities of interest. Plymouth Township and the City of Plymouth and a large part of Salem Township share the 48170 zip code. Northville and Plymouth townships were originally one Township and share their origins. In addition, these places share a lot of cultural, educational and entertainment commonalities. Thank you for listening today. And thank you for the huge effort you are making to complete this daunting task.

>> CHAIR KELLUM: Charles, thank you for your comments and recognizing the effort. 43.

>> Good evening. My name is Lisa. I recently moved to the City of Plymouth and now live in Wayne County. I did, however, live in Salem Township in Washtenaw for 25 years where I witnessed past redistricting change the true nature of our community representation. I respectfully ask your committee to consider going forward, redistricting maps along lines more representative of a square and that are compact as opposed to those districts with lines more representing jigsaw configurations.

It is my humble opinion that the true concerns and interests shared by a community are not appropriately nor adequately addressed by these irregular maps. I thank you for your time and the opportunity to have a voice to express my concern regarding these issues. Again, my name is Lisa. Thank you.

>> CHAIR KELLUM: Lisa, thank you for coming to share your comments with the Commission. 44.

>> Hello. My name is Steve Walker and I'm a long-time resident of Southwest Detroit. And a retired political science professor. And I'm here today to also advocate

for a Latino District in Southwest Detroit. As a number of people have tried to point out, it's obviously a community of interest. That's the second thing on your list of criteria, so we hope you will keep that in mind. Frankly, I've been part of a group that's been organized since 1980, trying to impact redistricting and get Latino District. We object to the current lines because it cuts the community up into two Congressional districts, three State Senate districts and two House Districts. Please try to put us all in the same districts.

I want to focus on the State House because, as somebody said previously, there is probably 35 to 45,000 Latinos in Southwest Detroit. It's not enough to dominate a District, but if we were all in the same District it would give us a chance to have some real impact.

We would like a District basically that goes from Downtown Detroit to the City limits along Verner and Michigan Avenues. It's not going to be enough people for a whole District, so we would like to go north or east from those boundaries.

And, lastly, I'd like to say that I do support zip code 48217. Several people have spoken from there. I have friends in that neighborhood. They are clearly a community of interest as these other folks have said. And I think they deserve their -- to have their own representation and their own District. And as somebody else said, you can add Ecorse and River Rouge because the people in that area go back and forth. And there is a current District that goes up along the lakeshore to the east side of Detroit. I think the lakeshore is also a community of interest. Our objection is currently that District number six cuts into the Latino community and takes about a third of our people. We want all our people together. So we would like that District six, whatever you call it, to continue to exist but go further on the -- to east side and not cut into our area.

>> CHAIR KELLUM: Thank you so much for taking the time to address the Commission. 45, 46, 47 and 48. 45, 46, 47 and 48.

45, when you are at the mic and you are ready to speak, you can begin.

>> Hi. My name is Kathy and I live by Southwest Detroit for 50 years. I've seen everything come and go. And I wish everything would stay the same. Right now. Too. People like you if there wants to be some type of change. I wish you guys would come over and see and talk to the people on how you feel if there is a change. Right now it's just that I feel things should stay the same. But to me I don't look at the color or the race, the republicans or democrat, I feel that people all should be created equal.

And it's been hard since this COVID thing started, seems like everything is falling apart after 2019. And I want to see everybody get together and things go back to the way they were. That's about it.

>> CHAIR KELLUM: Thank you for sharing your comments with the Commission. 46.

>> My name is Jeff Reed. I've been a resident of Detroit since 2012. I moved here from Los Angeles because the weather is great here. I'm kidding. It's not. But what I really wanted to say is we really need to, when we are doing this, start over, start the maps new. Because you know that the gerrymandering that was done previously was meant to pack democrats and moderates into Southeast Michigan in very few districts for the House, the Senate and for Congress. So let's throw away the old maps and let's also try to, as the young lady said before, get competitive races. We don't need democrats, you know, trying to see how much they can be on the left and republicans see how crazy they can be on the right. Let's get some moderation so we can actually get things done. And at the end of the day, I don't care what the race is or anything like that. We need to be able to get things done, get moderates in there to progress and move us forward so we don't end up like a Mississippi or something like that. Thank you.

>> CHAIR KELLUM: Jeff, thank you for taking the time to share your comments with the Commission. 47.

>> Hi, my name is Lenore. I canvassed in my area, I live in the Ann Arbor Area, for the passage of proposition two, which gave us the new current law of neutral redistricting. It seemed to me that even people who didn't understand it were once it was explained to them were overwhelmingly in favor of it.

So I'd like to make some general comments about the value of the new redistricting law. I was born in Dearborn, Michigan. I lived in New York City for 30 years. And I currently live in Ann Arbor. I've worked in private enterprise. I've taught at Oakland Community College in Royal Oak and Washtenaw Community College in Ypsilanti. The influence and the good corporate citizenship of Ford Motor Company and the union households of the communities made the Public School District one of the highest rated in the country. I was the beneficiary of that.

New York City, like Ann Arbor, is a democratic stronghold, and it should be represented as such. Where citizens live in close proximity and thrive or fail based on community support and civic responsibility. Ann Arbor with the University of Michigan, the anchor and its reputation speaks for itself.

All these communities are reliably democratic. That is who its citizenry is. Gerrymandering, redrawing districts either pack voters in one district or search them out from another opposite or more neutral leaning District to skew the actual needs of that community does a great injustice to the community, and as a muzzle on people's voices, and misrepresents them and is a misrepresentation of them. Let's keep our communities intact and let's not partisan redistricting dilute the power of its citizens.

>> CHAIR KELLUM: Thank you so much for sharing your comments with the Commission. 48.

>> Hello, how is it with this mask? I'm still battling reopening anxiety.

>> CHAIR KELLUM: I can't tell you what to do about your safety. We do have ASL translation and other interpretation services that are trying to figure out what folks are saying.

>> Okay, do you know what, I will just take it off.

>> CHAIR KELLUM: All right, you got it.

>> Hello. Hi. Happy Friday Eve. My name is Regina. I've been a resident of Detroit for the past 11 years in the 13th Congressional District. And before that in the infamous 14th where my parents and most of my family still live.

I'm here today on behalf of all the different communities. I have the honor of being a part of. I'm here as the mother of a young daughter enrolled in Detroit Public Schools District. Historically and consistently under resourced with our babies going to learn in crumbling buildings and lacking the social and mental health services, our families and educators deserve and need.

I'm here of a child of Chinese immigrants, as part of the Asian American community, which has been scapegoated, under attack, killed even in this past year, and throughout history. We are in the City where Vincent Chin was murdered by laid off auto workers.

I'm here as an organizer that works within various, vibrant Asian communities in our great state such as the Bangladeshi Community in Detroit, Hamtramck, Warren, Burmese in Grand Rapids and Battle Creek, and Chinese and Novi and Troy, and the list goes on. And I'm here on behalf of my friends and my neighbors and my loved ones, especially our Black Latin-X Arab and indigenous communities who constantly have to fight just for their right to live and care for their families.

I'm here because we need accountable representation that will protect the interests of the most underserved, historically marginalized among us. We need representation who will lift up education standards, that value all our children and our collective experiences, and that includes curriculum, that teaches Asian American history in Detroit and beyond.

And being on this Commission is a tremendous task. We thank you for all the attention and all the efforts you poured into this. You have the lives of so many people in your hands. People who will feel real harm if our communities continue to be split and diluted and erased if Detroit loses a Congressional seat.

So as you move forward in this hard work, please remember our communities, keep them together, and do the right fair and equitable thing. Thank you.

>> CHAIR KELLUM: Thank you so much. At this time we are not at all finished with our in-person public commentary and we do as well have remote public commentary for this public hearing, but we have been going at it for a while. And I do like for folks to get up and have self-care, AKA go to the restroom and do whatever you need to do. So we will take a ten-minute recess, if there is no objection.

Hearing no objection, we will return to the public hearing at 6:49.

>> CHAIR KELLUM: 6:50.

[Recess at 6:49 p.m.]

>> CHAIR KELLOM: Find your seats. Thank you for being patient. We are just waiting for one Commissioner. I call this meeting of the Michigan Independent Citizens Redistricting Commission back to order at 6:56 p.m. For purposes of the public record, will Michigan Department of State staff please take the roll.

>> MS. SARAH REINHARDT: Good evening, Commissioners. Please say present when I call your name. If you are attending the meeting remotely, please announce during roll call that you are attending the meeting remotely. And unless your absence is due to military duty, please announce your physical location by stating the county, city, Township or village and the state from which you are attending the meeting remotely.

I'll start with Doug Clark.

>> COMMISSIONER CLARK: Present.

>> MS. SARAH REINHARDT: Juanita Curry.

>> COMMISSIONER CURRY: Present.

>> MS. SARAH REINHARDT: Anthony Eid?

>> COMMISSIONER EID: Present.

>> MS. SARAH REINHARDT: Brittini Kellom?

>> CHAIR KELLOM: Present.

>> MS. SARAH REINHARDT: Rhonda Lange?

>> COMMISSIONER LANGE:

>> MS. SARAH REINHARDT: Steve Lett?

>> COMMISSIONER LETT: Present.

>> MS. SARAH REINHARDT: Cynthia Orton?

>> MS. SARAH REINHARDT: MC Rothhorn?

>> COMMISSIONER ROTHORN: Present.

>> MS. SARAH REINHARDT: Rebecca Szetela?

>> VICE CHAIR SZETELA: Present.

>> MS. SARAH REINHARDT: Janice Vallette.

>> COMMISSIONER VALLETTE: Present.

>> MS. SARAH REINHARDT: Erin Wagner?

>> MS. SARAH REINHARDT: Richard Weiss?

>> COMMISSIONER WEISS: Present.

>> MS. SARAH REINHARDT: Dustin Witjes?

>> COMMISSIONER WITJES: Present.

>> MS. SARAH REINHARDT: All 10 Commissioners are present.

And there is a quorum.

>> CHAIR KELLOM: Thank you, Sarah Reinhardt.

At this time we will continue on with our in-person public comments. A few reminders, you will step to the nearest microphone when I call your number. You will

have two minutes to address the Commission. Please conclude your remarks when you hear the timer. And also there will be a timer that is displaying on the screen, that you see on either side of us. If you feel that you have something to say, again, please go to our public comment tool, Michigan www.Michigan.gov/MICRC. We will continue on with our public comment with numbers 49, 50, 51 and 52. 49, 50, 51, 52. 49, if you are at the mic and you are ready to begin speaking, you can address the Commission.

>> Good evening, Chairperson and all committee members. My name is David E. Nathan. I'm a resident of the City of Detroit and a former state legislature. 2008. I represented District 8 in the City of Detroit. Excuse me, District 11. After the redistricting in 2010, I represented District eight.

I was the Vice Chairman of the redistricting committee in Lansing during the redistricting of 2010. I am so happy to see that you all are here today.

I also am a Plaintiff in a lawsuit against the Secretary of State for the redistricting maps of 2010. My reason for speaking today is to bring awareness to the fact that this Commission is very needed. The lawsuit was basically regarding the idea that citizens were being disenfranchised because politicians were picking their representation versus the citizens able to pick the person that represents them.

2014 I ran for Senate. Because of redistricting. There were three communities that were added to the current District that I represented, which was district eight and included Detroit west side, Dearborn Heights, Garden City, Redford, Dearborn Heights, Garden City, Redford, a couple other communities. Anyhow, a gentleman out of Dearborn Heights won that seat after serving one term in the State House.

Now, while we were going through the process of drawing the maps, the republican party came to me as the Chair of the Detroit caucus and said to me that if we wanted our districts not to be drawn into other districts, we needed to vote on the maps that currently, excuse me, that they would put in place if we agreed with them. We did not agree with them. So we have the maps that we have now. This Commission, if you do your job, citizens will have representation of the people that they want in office in Lansing that makes sure that things that that community needs they get. Because that person represents them and they live in that community.

>> CHAIR KELLOM: Your allotted two minutes has ended. Please do use our public comment tool to finish your thoughts and to reference any area that you might specifically be speaking about. Again, that can be found at www.Michigan.gov/MICRC. 50.

>> Good evening, my name is Emily Bowman. And today I'm from Westland and I'm representing the 13th Congressional District. And since I saw you last in Dearborn, I decided to do a little, additional research just for many my own good benefit. And I thought there were a couple statements I thought were very interesting. One of them was that the founders of our country explicitly designed the House of Representatives to be an institution that reflects local and regional concerns. The other one that I thought

was interesting was, hold on, the idea that not allowing a safe District, no one should be representing their District automatically knowing that they're going to actually get reelected again. If we are really pulling people up from our neighborhoods and our people who are representing us, we really need to make sure there is an opportunity for this, for real elections, for real competitiveness between candidates that are on the ballots and there is not a safe District. So that is something that is very important to me when I think about it. I will reiterate some of the things I said in Dearborn, and that is the idea of very clear, compact districts. I don't know if you have seen the shape of the 13th Congressional District and all the little jagged cuts and jigsaws and things like that, which actually do cause areas to be marginalized and forgotten because they don't have to be considered because there is enough people elsewhere that can, you know, that they can serve only this group and not worry about other groups. So I think we really need to look at those square, compact districts very much so.

And that's for me, Emily Bowman also. And you did meet a couple people last time.
51.

>> CHAIR KELLUM: Thank you for providing comments to the Commission, Emily.
And 51.

>> Hello. My name is Gus Bowman and, wow, I practiced but forgot.

>> CHAIR KELLUM: You got it. We are an easy group.

>> Thank you for coming, and remember that you're doing this for the people. Pretty much it, thanks.

>> CHAIR KELLUM: Best public comment ever. Thank you so much. And is this
52?

>> Well, thank you.

>> CHAIR KELLUM: For purposes of the public record, our brave 52 decided that they were not going to speak, and so I will be calling the next, our next folks to provide public comment to this evening's hearing. 53, 54, 55 and 56. 53, 54, 55 and 56.

What numbers do we have here? Are you 55?

>> I'm 55.

>> CHAIR KELLUM: 55 and you're 56 so 53 and 54? You're 54, okay, so for the purposes of the public record, 53 doesn't seem to be present, so we are going to start with 54.

>> This week's issue you guys Metro times, I just picked them up battle of the ballot box behind the GOP plot to restrict voting access in Michigan. Now here is what I'm concerned with locally.

I'm a Detroit and we have a different type of voter suppression here. Our leaders say they are democrats but they sure are silent. You don't hear too much about the election coming up.

You do, if listening the other day, it was like you heard about the Governor's race was Craig run as a cop running for Governor in two years. But in two months, less than two

months, we got an election here in August. If you go down to the election department, they give you a list of the candidates that are on the ballot for August. And then in the lower left-hand corner in little -- on each sheet it says no primary in any of the police commissioned districts. And the following districts don't have a primary because they didn't have more than two candidates. Some of them only have one candidate. But we aren't supposed to ask them. They don't bother to tell you who did get on the ballots for November. And so this is like a secret election.

Then when I asked them, well, why don't you put the e-mails and the phone numbers, not just the address, in some cases they don't want me to stalk them at their house, you know. But this, is really we got to do something locally here different and it's just not a matter of redistricting or anything. If you don't get it right locally, that is where this Federal money comes down to, and if it gets stolen and misused and actually used as a weapon against us a lot of times the way they develop with it, so I just want people to think about two things. Proportional representation and approval of voting. Look those up on the Internet. We need a new system. And that is part of it. And we need to force them. If you have to do it in legislation to tell us what the fuck is going on in the Government, better, I mean, they got the capability.

>> CHAIR KELLUM: Cindy, unfortunately, your allotted two minutes has ended.

>> It's worse now than it used to be. And people are not informed and trying to keep the charter off the ballot.

>> CHAIR KELLUM: Cindy, unfortunately, your two minutes has ended. Thank you so much.

>> Get a new mayor, wouldn't that be something. We need a new City clerk. The City clerk is incompetent and corrupt and we need a new City clerk. And I'm back in Kindle Walker and Denzel.

>> CHAIR KELLUM: Cindy, your two minutes has ended.

>> Do not vote for the other two. Joanne Underwood for District 7.

>> CHAIR KELLUM: You are out of order. As a reminder, so that we can be respectful and honor each other's time up at the mic, you have two minutes. You will hear the timer. Please finish your sentence. Don't begin another one. We are an easy group again. And anything that you feel like you want to say extra, please do utilize our public comment tool. 55.

>> Hi. My name is Chris. I'm also from Detroit. And we do really need a new City clerk here. So, first off, I would like to thank the Commission for what you're doing. And to personally express how proud I am to see my State and my City so well represented here.

So I have prepared a map that I will be uploading with a more extensive write up later on to the portal. But for now there are three points about the map that I would like to make specifically related to Metro Detroit. Obviously, the map is based on 2010 census data that wouldn't exactly apply anymore, so it's certainly not to be a

recommendation for exact lines between districts. But I think it does serve to illustrate some principles that I think could be still really effectively applied for the next round. So personally it's possible to adhere about the letter and the spirit of the Voting Rights Act and maintain power without packing most of the City of Detroit into a single District. So in the map I will be uploading, it's clearly possible to draw two majority and minority and plurality Black districts rooted in Detroit that don't sneak around into Pontiac and random parts of Oakland County. It's possible to do that keeping everything in Wayne County and without packing all of the State's Black voters into two districts and essentially the nine representation of Black voters in places like Oakland County.

Secondly, and along similar lines, I think that it's still going to be necessary and good to divide the City of Detroit into two districts and maintain two representatives that are rooted in Detroit. That division needs to be done in a much more logical and fair way than it's currently done. It's possible to do that. It's possible to divide Detroit, maintain two majority-minority districts without carving places like Southwest Detroit.

And, lastly, along similar lines, when considering the minority population, the Commission should consider Arab American Michiganders separately from the white population. Currently that is a group that is lumped together and serves to wipe out major demographic group in our region.

So thanks for your time and thanks for what you are doing.

>> CHAIR KELLUM: Thank you for sharing and thank you for using the public comment tool to continue to share. 56.

>> Good evening, Commissioners. My name is Dennis Brilliant. I'm a precinct delegate. I live in the City of Detroit. I stay on Detroit's east side into LaSalle College Park District. I just want to say thank you all for taking the time to speak to us this evening. I know that you all have a monumental task to getting these redistricting lines together and I wish and I hope for the best.

I'm speaking as a Detroit resident. I hope that this -- I hope you are going through this in a straightforward way to make sure that Detroit gets a fair and proper representation when these maps are redrawn. I mean, when these maps are redrawn. I don't want my Congressional District looking like the number three or the number five. So I just want to say I'll be giving my best wishes to you all. And make sure you all do the right thing to make these maps fair and impartial. Thank you.

>> CHAIR KELLUM: Thank you so much for taking the time to address the Commission. 57.

>> Good evening. My name is Inga and I live in Wyndotte, a little town just Down River and it's in Down River, but we are split up when we are covered by our districts. I wanted to say thank you very much to everyone who is here. I see some of you are coming three and four hours to come to this meeting. And I really appreciate the time and effort that everyone is putting in.

I went and was part of the voters not politicians because I felt very strongly about the need for representation to make people feel engaged. One of the things that bothered me the most right now is that our democracy is threatened and we are losing a District. And if people don't feel engaged, they don't vote. And then we don't know what they want. And how can the representative truly engage with people when they don't tell them what they want and need. That's what we need to have. We need to have districts that represent people so they feel like my vote does matter.

When I canvassed for this thing, to get this Commission in place, they were like what's the difference? Why should I care? We should all care. That's why you're here. You did more than I did. I forgot the deadline. I was going to apply. And then I didn't make it. So thank you for being part of this. Because we need concerned and dedicated people from both from all stretches, republican, independent, democrats, agnostic. I don't care what you are. You care and that is what we need. Because I don't want to be represented by something that looks like a dumbbell because I live in Wyndotte. And then my son was in Ann Arbor going to U of M and he is like, mom, we are in the same District. I'm like you are kidding me, right? And it's a real thin line that goes around I-94 and detaches the Detroit River to Ann Arbor. So I know you guys are going to do a much better job than that, so thank you very much.

>> CHAIR KELLOM: Inga, thank you for sharing your passion and your appreciation for the Commission and thank you for addressing us this evening. 58.

>> Good evening. My name is Joy Cante. I'm from 48221. I'm new to this. But I'm an old Detroiter all my life, born and raised. And I am learning and I'm doing my research. So I know one thing that we do want is that Detroit base to remain solid. A lot of us has been here a long time, all of our lives, years and years. We have seen the bad, the ugly and the bad again. People take, take, take. We promised the good and we always get the bottom of the scraps. So for once give us some respect. Give us some attention. Give us your ear. Listen to the people. Put your heart in it, your soul into it. And just for once just listen to what Detroit wants, what we want as a people. We are all in this together. And I really appreciate you all taking out the time and opportunity.

This is my first time being able to speak at a public hearing, and I consider it an honor and a privilege. Thank you.

>> CHAIR KELLOM: Thank you so much for taking the time to speak to the Commission. We appreciate you. 59. 60.

>> Good evening. My name is Carol Banks. And I thank you guys for holding this second hearing here in Detroit. I spoke at the Fellowship Chapel also. I'm here again to make a special request that you keep Detroit intact. We are still the largest City in the State of Michigan. And we do deserve two Congressional districts. I've lived on the east side of Detroit all of my life. I'm here representing the Fairview Black Club. I'm currently living in a home that I inherited. My Aunt and Uncle both bought this home in

1961 and I still live there. I do remember in the '60s when we were running up and down the street, when the entire block was full, you could run from Jefferson all the way down to Kurchigal or all the way down on Warren. And, yes, it was filled with houses where it currently isn't. There are four houses on the block that I live on from Jefferson to Kurchigal and someone spoke the other night and said we do have things in comparison to the five points in Harper Woods. I beg to differ that. Does Harper Woods have a City filled with vacant lots? No. Does Harper Woods have additional franchised school District? No. Does Harper Woods have food deserts or does the five points have food deserts? No. Is the average income in the City of Detroit with three children and a mom being the head of household 29,000? No. I could go on and on and on. But the issues for us and Harper Woods and the Five Points are totally different. So this is why I beg for you to allow us to have two Congressional districts.

Let's split the City up correctly, because, again, we have over 600,874 people in the City of Detroit, so that demands that we have two districts. Again, my name is Carol Banks. I thank you for allowing me to come and speak to you. Please take into consideration what I said about our differences. God bless you and thank you.

>> CHAIR KELLOM: Thank you, Ms. Banks, for coming and speaking on behalf of your community. We appreciate the information that you shared with us. 61, 62 and 63. 62, 62, 63. It looks like we have all of those folks, so 61, when you are ready to speak and address the Commission, please begin.

>> Hi. Good afternoon. Good evening. My name is Theresa.

>> CHAIR KELLOM: Sorry to interrupt you. Can you come closer to the microphone, please?

>> Hi. Good evening. My name is Theresa. I am part of the Latino community in Southwest Detroit and I would like to request please to keep our community together. I am here to ask you to draw the maps together. Especially I'm an owner of a small business and I see my community, the Hispanic, Mexican, and like somebody else said is 35,000, between 35 to 40,000, which is kind of big. I live in Ecorse. And there are a lot of people living in Ecorse, River Rouge and Lincoln Park. So, please, I ask you to keep our community together especially the one in Southwest Detroit, which is the District six. Thank you.

>> CHAIR KELLOM: Thank you so much for taking the time to address the Commission. 62.

>> Good evening to everybody. My name is Bomanti. And I'm a proud resident of the east side of Detroit, Jefferson Chalmers. It's the 14th Congressional District. And I implore this panel to make sure we keep these districts strong and intact so that we do not dilute the power of the Black community. And apparently, they are trying to dilute the power of the Brown community, too. But we need to make sure we keep these groups, this power of these groups intact.

Apparently, the republicans, their intention is to make sure the Black folks not only here but every place in the country cannot vote and exert the power that they actually have. We need to make sure that these Congressional districts are reasonable, not made like somebody said shaped like threes or shaped like fives. We need to make sure they are blocks that are people who that can vote, I'm sorry, vote in a block, so that the power is intact and the power is strong. And we don't allow the republicans or white supremacy to dilute the power of the Black community.

Thank you. Again, my name is Bomanti. And I live in District Four. Thank you.

>> CHAIR KELLUM: Bomanti, thank you for coming to speak on behalf of your community. We appreciate your comments. 63.

>> Good evening. I am Carl B and together with my wife we live in Wyndotte and we were part of the voters not politicians drive that ultimately culminated in this panel. And we are really glad to be able to talk to you tonight.

We did walk around and talk to people, explain the voters, not politicians, the ability to be able to select from the people their representatives rather than have the politicians pick who was going to vote for them. And by talking to them, what we did find out is that people wanted to have more competitive districts. They didn't want to be in just a block of democrats or a block of republicans. So you really do have a monumental task in front of you because you have people arguing that they want to be held together. And you have other people who argue that they want to be competitive. But to get more people involved in the political process, that's going to be one of your tasks is to try and balance the needs of these different groups.

I'm also an educator. I teach in Detroit Public Schools. And one of my biggest concerns is the youth of the state. And there are three big pots of money that are coming up right now. So whoever we put in power, through this process, is going to have control of those purse strings and be able to dictate where that money is going. So we have to be very careful who our representatives are.

Thank you for your time and I really appreciate you being here tonight.

>> CHAIR KELLUM: Thank you so much for taking the time to address the Commission. At this time, we have no more in-person public comment for the hearing, but we are moving for our remote public comment. So you will either hear or see your fellow citizens do the same thing that we did in the room but they are going to do it virtually.

As a reminder, individuals who have signed up and indicated that they would like to provide live, remote public commentary to the Commission will now be allowed to do so. I will hand the floor over to Michigan Department State of staff. And if you are on a computer, you will be prompted by the Zoom app to unmute your microphone and speak. If you are on the phone, a voice will say that the host would like you to speak and prompt you to press star six to unmute.

The staff will introduce you. And note that if you experience technical or audio issues and we don't hear you from 3-5 seconds, we will move on to the next person in line and then return to you after they are done speaking. If your audio still does not work, you can e-mail redistricting@Michigan.gov and we will help you troubleshoot so you can participate during the next public comment period or at a later hearing or meeting.

If you have signed up twice to provide public comment, you will go your second time after everyone has taken a turn, their first turn. You have two minutes to address the Commission. Please conclude your remarks when your two minutes has ended and you hear the timer. Go to the public comment tool and share your comments in writing, remembering that everyone in the Commission might not be from your specific area or community, so it's helpful to us to include areas of the map that you're specifically speaking of.

At this time, I will turn the floor over to Michigan Department of State staff, better known as MDOS, and they will begin our remote virtual our remote public comment.

>> MS. SARAH REINHARDT: Thank you, Madam Chair. First in line to provide remote public comment is Sophia-Chue. Please allow a moment to unmute you.

>> Good afternoon.

>> CHAIR KELLUM: Good afternoon, Sophia. We can see and hear you.

>> Fantastic. Thank you. My name is Sophia Chue. I'm the executive director of the Caribbean Community Center in Detroit. Our mission is to support and advocate for Caribbean nationals who are here in the Americas and also new arrivals.

We have -- the Caribbean community has been in Detroit since the late 1800s. We have provided leadership in the African/American and Detroit communities since our arrival. Today I'm talking to you direct asking you to recognize the Caribbean community as a community of interest in the redistricting effort.

According to the previous census figures, it was estimated that there were 12,393 western immigrants of first ancestry who live in the Tri-County Area. This number does not include second, third or other Caribbean descendants and it is the latest number available.

Similar, in previous census, we did not track folks of Caribbean identity. Although we are dispersed throughout the region and the state but we are concentrated in Northwest Detroit. We are going to be uploading a map with narratives that defines these areas for you.

One of the main areas in which our voice must be heard is the area of education. Caribbean nationals who migrate here often do not have the resources and information available to them to adequately navigate the education system.

I know this firsthand because I made this journey to America from Jamaica when I was 16 years old. I arrived here with skills and knowledge from one of Kingston's finest high schools.

However, these skills were not recognized here. I was not screened or tested or placed in appropriate academic circumstances. And, frankly, I wasted a lot of time in classes being taught things that I was already taught.

I want us to also talk about our communities comprised mainly of Black immigrants. And our experiences with the criminal justice are due to forces that have been identified especially by the Black lives matter.

>> CHAIR KELLOM: Sophia, unfortunately, your allotted two minutes has ended. I know.

>> I was just ending. Sorry. Thank you so much for your time and all you guys are doing. I appreciate you.

>> CHAIR KELLOM: Thank you. Please submit, you can submit what you have in writing in our public comment portal and we will continue to review it there. So I encourage anyone if you get cutoff don't be discouraged, it's the worst, but please do submit it online at www.Michigan.gov/MICRC.

>> MS. SARAH REINHARDT: Our next remote comment participant is Jeffrey Harold. Please allow us a moment to unmute you.

>> Thank you to the Commission for allowing me this opportunity to address you. My name is Reverend Jeffery Harold. I pastor New Beginnings Community Church in Washtenaw County, in the Ypsilanti, Ann Arbor Area. And live in Ann Arbor, but native Detroit. I'm also a member of the Washtenaw Regional Organizing Coalition and chair the voter registration, education, mobilization committee of the Sigma Low graduate chapter of Omega Psi the fraternity incorporated.

In 1987 I was appointed to pastor a small AME church in Brighton, Michigan. And I did a demographic study to find out how the Black community was there. I found out there was 600 Black residents in Green Oak Township, which kind of amazed me to know that. Until I come to find out that they were located in Maxi Boys Training School. And that was my first introduction to prison gerrymandering.

What I would like the Commission to consider is the impact of prison gerrymandering where residents of prisons from primarily Black and Brown communities are housed in communities that are not like them and they give representation to those communities beyond their residence. These individuals, these men and women, they don't have voting rights nor are they represented by those communities.

To give you a sense of how this plays out, the 33, 37 and 38th Senate Districts each have three prisons. The 19th Senate District in the State of Michigan has four prisons. And the 15th Senate District has five prisons. I don't know how you would draw this map to include these people in the communities of their origin and the communities they are going back to that they might be fully and properly represented by those who have their best interests at heart.

Thank you for the opportunity to speak to the Commission. And God bless you in your work.

>> CHAIR KELLOM: Thank you, Reverend Harold, for coming to share your comments with the Commission. We appreciate that.

>> MS. SARAH REINHARDT: Our next remote comment participate is Anna Wells. Please allow us a moment to unmute you.

>> CHAIR KELLOM: We can't hear you.

>> Can you hear me now?

>> CHAIR KELLOM: Absolutely, yes.

>> All right. Awesome. Hello. My name is Nanly Wells. I'm from Michigan. I live in Westland, Michigan. And I'm here to just speak to you guys to just ask you to draw the districts and just draw the districts fairly. I just know these districts have been gerrymandering -- gerrymandered for the past decade or so. And we just -- and I just ask that you guys just make it fair. And what everybody else was saying, make it equitable and make it fair so everyone who does live in Michigan is fairly represented. And it hasn't been like that for a long time. It has not been proper representation of a lot of people in the State of Michigan. And I know this because like Michigan every time we come to vote, we vote for people that really represent us like Biden. And not even political parties, but if you see the patterns of how we do vote, we vote a certain way. And in our Congress, in the State and Senate, it fails representatives in the same way. And we just ask that you guys just create good districts that's just not weird and districts that is in our communities and not gerrymandered.

I really appreciate you guys taking this time out to listen to me and listen to everyone that's here. You guys are doing a great job and glad this has been established.

>> CHAIR KELLOM: Thank you so much for taking the time to provide your comments to the Commission.

>> MS. SARAH REINHARDT: Our next public comment participate is Luke. Please allow us one moment to unmute you.

>> Hello, everybody. Can you hear me all right?

>> CHAIR KELLOM: Yes, we can hear you, Luke.

>> Thank you so much for your time and to see democracy in action is really exciting and it's an honor to be a part of it along with all the fellow Michiganders here. So the community of interest I'm representing is the 12th Congressional District, 53rd State House District and 18th State Senate District. And I just want to reiterate what a lot of folks have already been saying, that I want competitive districts, fresh maps and an end to prison gerrymandering. Really what I see as a big issue here is when elections are decided at the primary, it only encourages the more extreme views or more partisan views to, out of necessity, be the loudest voices. You can only be the most extreme to win in an overly gerrymandered District. And when you only have -- when the only way for you to maintain and keep power is to be the most extreme because of the system of gerrymandering that is in place now, it doesn't encourage folks coming together. It doesn't incentivize people having to take an entire -- a broader, more bipartisan

perspective into account. So I just really want to underscore that point in particular that drawing fair lines, that don't incentivize the extremes. And by drawing lines that are fair, that lead to a conversation that lead to compromise, that lead to bipartisanship and does not incentivize the most extreme voices among us.

Thank you so much for the Commission for your time doing this kind of interaction with us as citizens. And good luck going ahead and enjoy the summer, everybody.

>> CHAIR KELLOM: Luke, thank you for providing comments to the Commission.

>> MS. SARAH REINHARDT: Our next public comment participant is Raquel Garcia. Please allow a moment to unmute you.

>> Sorry about that. Gracias and good evening and thank you for giving me the opportunity to speak. My name is Raquel Garcia. I live in Southwest Detroit and here to talk about is Southwest Detroit. We face 8,000 trucks daily in our neighborhood that come through the Ambassador Bridge and estimated to triple. As soon as the next bridge is going to open, we face VOCs, volatile organic compounds and emissions in our neighborhood. There are 20 large industrial companies, steel mills, chemical and gasoline plants, and 5,000 school absences that occur annually in Detroit due to air pollution. We have increased rates of asthma, COPD and cancer. There are 70,000 lost days of work annually due to air pollution and that is some of what we face due to the industry.

District six is where Southwest Detroit is. There is 106,000, 42,000 of those are Black, 42,000 are Latino and 20,000 are white, with about 5,000 who are Arabic speaking cultures. And so our neighborhoods, Congressional and Senate -- State Senate seats are snaked through Detroit, down to the east side to Grosse Pointe and up to like Bloomfield Hills and West Bloomfield, I think. And so we know that we don't share a lot of commonality. And so we are asking that you consider keeping our population together so that we can vote to protect our Brown and Black bodies from this pollution. We are the same District. We are the largest Latino District in Michigan. Like Hamtramck, we need to be a voting block to protect ourselves. We will be reaching out to Darci McConnell or Maureen to schedule a town hall meeting around our environmental justice community. Thank you so much for this opportunity.

>> CHAIR KELLOM: Thank you so much, Raquel, for coming and sharing your comments with the Commission this evening. We appreciate that.

>> MS. SARAH REINHARDT: Our next public comment participant is Tomena Rawls. Please allow a moment for us to unmute you.

>> Hello. Can you hear me?

>> CHAIR KELLOM: Yes.

>> Tomena Rawls. Okay, I'm sorry, this, here we go. The term gerrymandering was coined by a review of Massachusetts redistricting map of 1812 set by Governor Jerry. That was named because one of the Districts looked like a salamander. My name is Tomena Rawls. And I represent the mighty 13th District here in Redford Township,

Michigan. We are also in line with part of Dearborn Heights, the City of Dearborn Heights, part of the City of Detroit, Ecorse, the City of Ecorse, the city of Garden City, Highland Park City, the City of Inkster, Melvindale, River Rouge, Romulus, Wayne County and Westland.

If you could see how the District is shaped, it just looked like a salamander sleeping. I hope and pray that everyone on the Commission do the right thing as well as being transparent as much as possible.

Redford Township also served as a filter between Detroit and Livonia. And, due to that fact, we are often good for the bad and not good for the good. So especially in our school District, when you have 70% of the teachers that have no confidence in the superintendents.

So I hope in fairness, for the sake of democracy, that the redistricting of the State of Michigan, as well as what I just mentioned, is in fairness and the constituents can be represented appropriately. I do hope that you guys have a blessed day and I wouldn't want to be in your shoes. So have a blessed day and thank you.

>> CHAIR KELLOM: Tomena, thank you for taking the time to provide virtual public comment. We appreciate that.

>> MS. SARAH REINHARDT: Our next public comment participant is Jim Angel. Please allow us a moment to unmute you.

>> Hello. Can you hear me?

>> CHAIR KELLOM: Yes.

>> Jim Angel. I'm here strictly on a scientific basis and not a community of interest because all those are important, but with the way we can analyze data nowadays, I think it's important for the committee to be able to use what's available in data analysis and community interest and so forth.

I would urge the panel, if they would, to look at a valued magazine in today's world, Scientific American. And in the Scientific American, in November of 2018, a very, very important Article was written, geometry versus gerrymandering. In this Article it explains, I think, to anybody with any basic knowledge of how just putting people in communities of interest and so forth can still lead to disenfranchisement and so forth. And so all I'm asking the committee is when you're doing this today, and in the future, is to please use the data analysis that is available out there.

Thank you very much for all your time and the efforts you've done. Thank you.

>> CHAIR KELLOM: Thank you, Jim, for taking the time to address the Commission.

>> MS. SARAH REINHARDT: Our next public comment participant is Tonisha. Please allow us a moment to unmute you.

It appears she may be experiencing technical difficulties, so we will return to her in just a moment and we will move on to the next participant, Valorie, and please allow us a moment to unmute you.

>> Hi. Can you hear me?

>> CHAIR KELLUM: Yes, Valorie we can. How are you?

>> I'm great. Thank you for asking. I'm so pleased to be here today. I am a 76 year resident of the City of Detroit. I've lived in six different communities as I grew up. And I would like to speak about a particular community of interest and that is of highly organized communities. We have a number of highly organized communities where we have voluntary homeowners associations. We have elections. We have elected board members. We have newsletters. And we worked hard to build our community. And you have heard from a number of them today. I would add Rosedale Park, Green Acre, Sherwood Forest, Palmer Woods, Boston Edison and Detroit Golf Club Community. And it would be really wonderful if none of these communities were cut in half by redistricting. In other words, if we can have both halves of the organization have the same Congressional representative and et cetera. I don't know if that's really possible because I'm sure that with all the variables you have to take into consideration, you know, there are some things that have to go by the wayside. But that is important to me.

And in our community, we are also a special assessment District. What we're looking for and what we deeply need after many years of suffering through districts that were intended to leave Detroit out of the mix, we need fairness. I am a member of the 14th Congressional District of the third State Representative District, and the fourth Senate District. And we have suffered through people who were preordained to win because the District they were running in designed by a party that they were a part of, enabled them to win and beat other people. We've had the situation where we voted in elections to pass a certain proposal and then it gets destroyed in Lansing because those people don't represent us. So thank you very much.

>> CHAIR KELLUM: Valorie, thank you for taking the time to address the Commission. We appreciate that.

>> MS. SARAH REINHARDT: Our next public comment participant is James Gallant. Please allow us a moment to unmute you.

Mr. Gallant, you are unmuted and you may proceed with your public comment.

It appears Mr. Gallant may be experiencing technical difficulties. We will move on to our next participant and we will turn to him later.

Our next public comment participant is Rezaul. And please excuse me if I mispronounce your name. Please a low a moment to unmute you.

>> Good evening.

>> CHAIR KELLUM: Good evening. We can hear you.

>> Thank you. My name is Rezaul and I live in Hamtramck, which is connected with the Bangla Town of Detroit. Hamtramck and Bangla Town is heavily populated by Bangladeshi, Yemeni, Polish, Bosnian, African/American, and many other ethnic groups. Hamtramck and Bangla Town residents share many common things like

culture, religion, language, businesses, schools, parks, stadium, many more. So we consider Hamtramck and Bangla Town together as a community of interest.

My proposed community of interest boundary will be McNichols in the north, Interstate 94 and south, Mount Elliot in east and Interstate 75 in west. This community of interest should stay together no matter which District it falls. As a team member of a nonprofit, I work in this area. And I feel strongly this community of interest is very important to stay together. So please don't split Hamtramck and Bangla Town. Thank you for giving me the opportunity to talk to in front of this Commission. Thank you again.

>> CHAIR KELLUM: Thank you, Mr. Chowdry, for coming and sharing your comments with the Commission this evening.

>> MS. SARAH REINHARDT: Our next public participant is Donyale. And please allow a moment for us to unmute you.

>> Good evening.

>> CHAIR KELLUM: Good evening.

>> Good evening, Commissioners and staff. My name is Donyale Steven and I'm speaking on behalf of the Mendor Davis, the president of Detroit Alum Chapter of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority Incorporated, a national service organization founded in 1913.

Our sorority is committed to ensuring that the African/American community equally is fairly represented as required as required under the Voting Rights Act of 1965. We are pleased that the citizens of the State of Michigan created this Commission to complete the important work of redistricting without concern for partisan politics.

In addition, we ask you to receive information with an open mind because this process is certain to introduce you to fresh perspectives on community concerns that you may not have been exposed to prior to becoming a Commissioner. We thank you for being willing to consider these varying points of views and sensitivities.

You will deliberate and begin to draw District lines based on the 2020 census data that is expected to be released in September. However, we ask that you keep in mind that during the census there were significant challenges for the residents of the City of Detroit.

We ask you to keep these challenges in mind as you complete the work that you were charged with doing by the Michigan Constitution. Maps for Detroit must be drawn fairly to ensure its constituents do not lose any representation at the Congressional, State Senate, State House or county jurisdiction. Gentrification and poverty, conflicting challenges and similar outcomes where often people are disenfranchised because they don't live in some of these highly organized communities. Prison gerrymandering and in summary we thank you for this opportunity to speak. But we ask that the City of Detroit remain a cohesive as a majority-minority District. Thank you. And we will submit our full comments to the portal.

>> CHAIR KELLUM: Thank you, Mrs. Steven, for taking the time to address the Commission.

>> MS. SARAH REINHARDT: Our next public comment participant is Douglas Helzerman. Please allow us a moment to unmute you.

>> Hello. Can you hear me?

>> CHAIR KELLOM: Yes, we can hear you.

>> Okay, I'm kind of the outlier here because I'm speaking from Livingston County. I actually was born in Detroit. But I start my video. There we go, can you see me now? There we go.

Okay, and but I'm speaking today on behalf of Livingston County. Give you a little different perspective. In the public hearings in Jackson, Lansing, and Flint, no one from these districts asked to be tied to Livingston County. We have -- I don't think we would want to be tied to Wayne or Oakland either. But I for one agree that Livingston County should be kept as a whole. Let us be in one Congressional District. And be as a whole part of one State Senate District as we are now.

And as for the State House, I ask that you give us two dedicated representatives as it has been in recent years because I believe it's 90,000 in each House District and we have 190,000 residents. Most of the information that I've heard in calling for a special communities of interest, if you think about it, about communities of interest are asking for gerrymandering. Against the stated reason for this change, you know, it's against gerrymandering, I would say that the best way to deal with the communities of interest is to use a set of communities. One for the State House that factors in those that favor the cities and suburban areas. And use another set of communities of interest for the State House or for the state, one for the State Senate, one for the State House, which balances that out.

And I appreciate your time. I appreciate your effort and good luck.

>> CHAIR KELLOM: Thank you, Douglas, for providing public comment to the Commission.

>> MS. SARAH REINHARDT: At this time we will now provide participants who experienced difficulties, technical difficulties with another opportunity to provide public comment.

We will start with Tanisha. Please allow us a moment to unmute you.

>> I'm having a little technical difficulties over here and I don't know if you guys can hear you.

>> CHAIR KELLOM: We can hear you.

>> Perfect. So I just wanted to say thank you all for putting this together. And I just ask that you guys consider, as everyone else has said, it's kind of redundant now at this late hour, that you consider our groups as a whole. Just take into consideration, you know, our certain key areas like Southwest Detroit, our Rosedale and Grandmont communities and things like that. I'm very concerned because I went to another workshop on this. And one of the people on the panel seemed very interested in dividing Detroit, Pontiac. And it was another city. I can't recall at this time. But I just

ask that the panel keep it fair. And if you feel like it is not fair or if your constituents are not listening to you, please reach out for community help. We have a ton of community groups that are here to assist. This work is not going to be easy, but I think we can keep it fair and honest and as transparent as possible. And so that is it for me guys. Good luck.

>> Tanisha, thank you for providing public comment to the Commission.

>> MS. SARAH REINHARDT: Our next public comment participant is James Gallant. Please allow us a moment to unmute you.

Mr. Gallant, you are unmuted and you may proceed with your public comment.

It appears Mr. Gallant is still experiencing technical difficulties, and that concludes public comment.

>> CHAIR KELLOM: Thank you, MDOS, for guiding us through the remote public comment, that was very helpful. And thank you for those who provided remote public comment. And for those that did not get a chance to address the Commission this evening, please visit our public comment tool at www.Michigan.gov/MICRC. We have other public hearings coming up. And if they are convenient for you, please also attend those. And even though they may not be in your City, it's an opportunity for you to address the Commission.

At this time, if there are no objections, we will move on to our acknowledgments.

Hearing no objections from the Commission, I will hand the floor over to our General Counsel, Julianne Pastula, who will come to us with acknowledgments for this evening.

>> MS. JULIANNE PASTULA: Thank you so much, Madam Chair. This evening, the Commission would like to thank Voters not politicians, League of Women Voters, TCF Center and its partners for their assistance in making tonight a success. In particular, the volunteers that staffed this event and to all our attendees and public commenters, whether in person or remote. The Commission appreciates your participation and looks forward to seeing your comments and proposed maps in the public comment portal available at www.Michigan.gov/MICRC. Thank you, Madam Chair.

>> CHAIR KELLOM: Thank you, General Counsel. Again, it was my pleasure to be here in my hometown even though I get to live here every day. It was a special treat to have a hearing at TCF and at Fellowship Chapel. So thank you again, Detroit. And at this time, because there are no further items on the agenda and the Commission has no further business, I will entertain a motion to adjourn.

>> COMMISSIONER WITJES: So moved.

>> CHAIR KELLOM: It's always my buddies in the back. The motion is made by Commissioner Lett and seconded by Commissioner Witjes. It's one voice now. It all sounds the same. The motion is made by Commissioner Witjes and seconded by Commissioner Lett. Is there any discussion on the motion?

Hearing none, all those in favor of adjournment, please raise your hand and say aye.

>> Aye.

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>> CHAIR KELLUM: All those opposed raise your hand and say nay.

The ayes have it. Motion carries. The meeting is adjourned at 8:00 p.m. Thank you, Detroit. Travel safe and be well.