

MICRC

2024 Town Hall Meeting

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>> EDWARD WOODS: Good evening and welcome to the MICRC virtual town hall meeting.

We're excited to have each and every one of you join us this evening and we want to let you know a few of our ground rules. It's going to be basically based on the word respect, make it very simple very clear, we're going to respect you and you're going to respect us and we're going to respect each other. We're very excited to have you here for the virtual town hall meeting. We'll be here to answer your questions. In addition to answering your questions, we will also provide demonstrations on how you can communicate to the Commission by letting you see where the maps are located off the website our public comment portal and our mapping portal throughout this interactive exercise. Before we begin, we're going to turn it over to our Chair, Commissioner Cynthia Orton.

>> CHAIR ORTON: Hi. We are so glad that you are all here. On behalf of the Commission, thank you for joining this virtual town hall and we hope that we can answer questions and hear what you have to say and that you will take what you learn and spread it, share it with those around you so that we can hear from more of the citizens of Michigan. Thank you.

>> EDWARD WOODS: Thank you so much, Commissioner Orton. I'm the brainchild for this idea to go virtual is none other than our own commissioner Rhonda Lange and she's going to share the purpose. And then after she shares the purpose, she's going to open the floor up for questions. The way you're going to answer your questions is you're going to click the raise hand button. Once again, you're going to click the raise hand button and then we'll move you over as a panelist so you can ask your question live and then we'll move you back to an attendee so we can get to the next person. So if you have questions, we invite you to raise your hand now, raise your hand now then immediately after Commissioner Lange provides the purpose as why we're here tonight, we will take your questions.

Without further ado, Commissioner Lange.

>> COMMISSIONER LANGE: Good evening, everybody. The purpose of tonight's meeting or town hall is about you, the public. We are here to hear from you to let you actually interact with the Commission to ask your questions, to let us know about your community, let us know about what's important to you

within your community. And how we, during this redistricting process, can work with you to best represent you and your Community.

There's also a lot of confusion on how to use our portal and things, so we're going to be opening that up to answer questions. The whole purpose of this, as many of you know, is we are redistricting some areas in the Detroit area. So it's very important that we hear from you. And that was the whole reason for this brainstorm idea. I felt like we weren't hearing from enough of the public. And we cannot stress it enough that the public input is what is going to make this work.

So I'm not a great public speaker, so I'm going to stop there. And I just want to get right down to business if we don't mind. Mr. Woods.

>> EDWARD WOODS: Thank you. Let's see whose hands are up. Okay. First, Commissioner Lange, we have Sherry Gay. Her hand is up first.

>> COMMISSIONER LANGE: Good evening, Sherry. Can you hear me, Sherry?

>> Yes, I can hear you, guys. I don't know if you can hear me. I don't know if you can hear me.

>> COMMISSIONER LANGE: I can hear you now. You're free to --

>> Okay, thank you very -- so first of all, thank you all for having this. I was very concerned with the low attendance at the venues. I know hindsight is 2020, so I appreciate you helping citizens get on, that had transportation barriers, parking, and more. So thank you again for having this special meeting and to all the leaders in the City of Detroit that helped get the people out. Um, I just have to say, realize, um, that it's very difficult when you're not from a particular --

>> COMMISSIONER LANGE: Sherry, I apologize. Could you repeat that? You kind of faded out.

>> Okay, thank you. I said I realized when you're not from a particular area it's kind of hard to identify some of the areas. I just wanted to get clarity because I know in trial we were talking about the lack of having the button to attest for the VRA compliance. And I think during one of the sessions when you all were discussing the mapping process, it seemed like VRA still wasn't being a primary focus, so I wanted to get clarity on that.

But I just wanted to also put on record that we are asking that you bring these districts back out of Macomb County, how we believe that they should be moved further south and not spread across Eight Mile because it makes it challenging we know a number of people have made comments about blurring the lines of 8 Mile but you cannot erase uh several years of racism by simply putting small Portions of Detroit across 8 Mile it's not going to change it's not going to give citizens like in Brightmore where I used to represent a voice in those communities because the Reps that live in Birmingham or other suburban

communities will have to answer to their more affluent constituents. So we believe that these Maps should be moved uh further uh back into uh Wayne County, not spread across three different counties. And so we're asking you guys to do that but more than anything, uh, making sure that you do have VRA compliance as a priority.

>> COMMISSIONER LANGE: And, Sherry, so you know, uh, the Commission today did submit 14 maps that will be reviewed for B compliance uh over the weekend. It's going to take a couple of days so we will be discussing that next week on how these Maps did as far as VRA and then next week we will be voting on which ones to bring forth to the public. So those will also get posted on the website, which we're going to be going over how to use the portal and look at the maps so people will be able to comment on those in live time, too.

>> Thank you so much.

>> COMMISSIONER LANGE: You're welcome. Next I see we have Yolanda Greer.

>> Yes, good evening, everyone.

>> COMMISSIONER LANGE: Good evening.

>> I have a question, uh, about when the redistricting will be finalized and how is it going to affect early voting. I mean, Michigan has early voting this year, so if we're still trying to finalize redistricting maps how will that impact and affect early voting and when will this decision be made and be finalized?

>> COMMISSIONER LANGE: I may need a little bit of help on this one, Mr. Woods, with uh all of the fine details. Right now, Yolanda, we are under a court order to redraw, so they have set out very specific timelines for us so that the secretary of state will be able to have maps in place. Mr. Woods, would you like to speak more to that?

>> EDWARD WOODS: Yes. There will be a public Hearing in the City of Detroit on February 15th. And so the Commission will be forwarding Maps or voting for the maps to forward to the public on February 1st. And then once those maps are forwarded, and we will show you the links to the Maps that are being considered, but they will be voting on them February 1st and then you will be able to put your comments on the maps that the Commission is being -- that the Commission is forward into consideration to the public. Did that answer your first question?

>> Well, I still I guess I'm not clear exactly when -- the court ordered it. But when did the court give you a date that it must finalize?

>> EDWARD WOODS: Yes, the final map is due March 1st.

>> March 1st.

>> EDWARD WOODS: Yes, ma'am.

>> So that will be after the early voting.

>> EDWARD WOODS: Well, this is for the general election in November of 2024 for your Michigan House of Representatives. Well, the primary speaking to is the presidential primary. We don't -- we don't impact that. Did that answer your question, Ms. Greer?

>> We can move forward. Thank you.

>> COMMISSIONER LANGE: All right, next we have Norman Clement.

>> Hi. Hi, you hear me?

>> COMMISSIONER LANGE: Yes, I can.

>> Yes. Thank you for having me and thank you for presenting this information. As the maps are drawn before I urge you to remember to keeping uh communities of Interest intact. Thinking about East Point, I'm looking at Warren, Roseville, Harper Woods all those areas are growth of Black population going to Macomb County. Macomb County since 2021 has the highest population growth of Black Representatives at 58%, at 39 a little more, over 40,000 folks have moved since 2021. It's increasingly higher now. and we also got to take a fact the consideration of Southfield, uh, Royal Oak Township, Oak Park, those are Black populations. And also anything north-south of Wayne County. Those are population laws, so you have a balancing issue when you want to keep the numbers balanced when you're making those boundaries. The purpose of the Commission, of the MICRC is to keep communities of Interest even from Detroit, Ferndale, those are communities of interest and that's what the whole -- what people voted for is people advocated for, I know in the past, the Black population only predominated in Wayne County. That is no longer the case right now. And it must be represented right now, not in the past. So I urge the Commission to keep doing the -- to make them forward, so you have a balanced map from other municipalities that include Black populations outside of the City of Detroit. Thank you.

>> COMMISSIONER LANGE: Thank you, Mr. Clement.

Nomi Joyrich is next. And if I mispronounce your name, please forgive me.

>> You didn't mispronounce it. You said you said it perfectly. Thank you. I represent two faith-based nonpartisan organizations. I represent the Michigan Unitarian Social Justice Network and I also represent Jews for secular democracy. Those are the two places where I work, and I'm authorized to speak on their behalf. So my first -- so the last round of mapping when the district did the maps the first time, our members and congregants submitted many, hundreds and hundreds of comments. And I know that the general public, I don't even know how many, you probably have a number of how many public comments were submitted in the last process. So I actually have two questions. My first question is: Are those past comments, are you reviewing those comments and taking those comments into account? Because I know that this

time around there just has not been the same level of public comment. So are those being taken into account?

>> COMMISSIONER LANGE: Absolutely. Um, I know for I myself have been going through we do have them in a spreadsheet form. Our new Commissioners, um, we do have three new Commissioners I know they've been working really hard to play catchup and going through the old Public comments. So, yes, we are reviewing the old ones we received the last cycle. I believe it was around 30,000 public comments if I'm not mistaken. So while we're still reviewing those, it's always nice to have new also. but, yes, please know that we're definitely reviewing all of the comments from before and trying to identify the communities of Interest.

>> Terrific. I'm very happy to hear that. And the other thing I -- it's not so much a question is that I want to alert you that I'm aware that Promote the Vote is going to be submitting a map for your consideration. I know that they also submitted maps in the last round and their Maps were incredibly fair. They had -- they checked off all the boxes. They had partisan fairness. They, um, met the VRA standards. And as soon as you get the Promote the Vote map in your hands to review, I just would urge you to give that extremely serious consideration.

>> COMMISSIONER LANGE: Well, Naomi, I can tell you one thing. today in our mapping session the Promote the Vote map was brought forward and looked at. And I believe, if I'm not mistaken, it was, uh, moved forward. There may have been some minor changes to it, but it was moved forward if I'm not mistaken to VRA review. So we have looked at it and we are reviewing it.

>> Thank you. I really appreciate it. And I want to thank all of the Commissioners for all of the work. I know it's usually a thankless job. And you guys have a really hard job and I appreciate you greatly. Thank you.

>> COMMISSIONER LANGE: Thank you. Next we have Percy Johnson.

>> Yes, can you hear me?

>> COMMISSIONER LANGE: I can hear you.

>> Okay, all right. So my concern, Detroit, the borderlines of Detroit, that would be north of -- south of 8 Mile, west of -- east of Telegraph, north of Detroit River, and west of Dickinson, and maybe even a little further. But the borderlines of Detroit Detroiters deserve to have a distinct voting representation from a person that's live in that area, know that area, so when decisions are made from Michigan we have a distinct Voice for Detroit to speak for them and to give them the revenue and the resources that they need. At least one. It should be two. So I'm just telling, I mean consider -- let me ask you because I don't know, I just thought about it while I was listening to you. Is Detroit still the biggest city in Michigan?

>> COMMISSIONER LANGE: I believe it is.

>> Okay, I do -- so, I mean, it just makes sense that Detroit should have distinctly uh representation in the House and the Senate and officials that can bring the resources for their area. They have distinct, um, issues that outside of Detroit don't have, the concerns that Detroiters have. So they need a voice. Give them a voice. I just feel that's the fair thing that we should do. Everybody was so excited about, uh, taking away, making the people draw the lines instead of the politicians draw the lines. I was behind a lot of that. So please make sure that Detroiters have a distinct voice.

>> COMMISSIONER LANGE: Mr. Johnson, we are definitely working hard. And you're going to have the benefit because we actually have some wonderful people that are from the Detroit area. Uh, Commissioner Kellom, who just popped on video in front of me right now, she's from Detroit and she's going to make sure and direct this Commission. Trust me. She's fighting for Detroit. And we're going to make sure that your voices are heard.

>> Thank you.

>> COMMISSIONER LANGE: You're welcome. Next we have Reeves. Apologies if I didn't say it correctly.

>> You said it correctly. Can you -- can you hear me?

>> COMMISSIONER LANGE: I can hear you, yes.

>> Thank you. Uh, thank you again for, uh, hosting this, uh, Town Hall. Um, so I just wanted to get a -- make sure if I have a clarification. The gentleman mentioned that this is for the November election. I'm assuming that also includes the August primary; is that correct?

>> EDWARD WOODS: That is correct, sir.

>> Okay, okay. So I had a few questions. Um, you started off the discussion by saying you wanted to hear input from the members of the community. And that leads me to two questions. Number one, is like what specific input are you looking for? Because there's a lot of different things that have to do with a, you know, a very rich socioeconomic landscape, you know, the -- the economic struggles that we're facing, the, uh, Gentrification that we're facing. And so many other issues, so are there some specific issues there?

And, number two, like when you say the community, like who are you actually speaking about? Because, um, with all due respect, I think Madam Naomi spoke earlier, but I don't believe that Promote the Vote is a -- is a -- is a voting elector in, um, in the -- in the State of Michigan. And so now I'm very concerned that you're having these outside, um, you know, 501 C4s that have their own, you know, Mission. And I was very uncomfortable when she made the statement we checked all of the boxes. You know, from a resident of Detroit that sounds very insulting because how we feel and how we view

ourselves and as the gentleman spoke just earlier what represents us is not just a set of boxes you check. If you haven't, and this is why, you know, we're very encouraged by your town hall because if you're not going out and talking to members of the community that checking boxes is not going to be good enough. and it -- and it -- again, Madam Naomi, I don't mean to say anything insulting. I'm just expressing my statement, um, that it does feel a little bit insulting. And I think that she perhaps didn't mean it that way, but I think it has to be a lot more, um, concern because we do -- a lot of us do feel that the districts that were drawn completely just disregarded our, um, you know, the background culture that lies here, um, and everything else.

Um, that having been said, I do want to, um, identify one more thing that I think has gone unnoticed, and that I was -- I was a candidate for state senate, um, in 2022 with the new maps. And one thing that I think that we have to also understand is when we're talking about having representation for Detroit and having Detroit residents, uh, or African-American residents, um, have an opportunity to vote for their choice, uh, of candidate, um, you also have to give a fair opportunity for candidates in Detroit to run because if you start packing in, uh, all the suburbs where they have a lot more, they have a higher per capita income. They have a larger wealth. And we all know that candidacies and that elections are begun with friends and family Network. They have a stronger network of resources. There's no way for candidates in Detroit to be able to compete. And if you look at the electors right now, most -- almost all of them are outside of the City of Detroit. Those who are part of the Detroit caucus, almost all of them are outside of the City of Detroit. Um, and echoing what I said before and, uh, we're very, uh, very happy and very encouraged we have Detroit residents on the Commission, that's going to -- that's going to represent the City of Detroit. But, um, just take a little bit of caution also and saying that we have this resident, therefore, she's going to take care of all the residents' views. I think that's also a little bit, um, you know, perhaps a little bit insensitive to make these type of statements. So I would just take caution in that.

So, just to kind of recap, again, can you explain who's voting in this process? Who's, you know, whose voices are looking to be heard? Is it just the residents, the residents or also, you know, 501 C4s who have political interests? Um, and, you know, are we addressing the disparity of income for Candidates who want to run for office?

Um, and then, again, I would just add one more thing and that's, you know, if in the process, you know, if -- how do we, you know, how are we going to be sure that the maps that are chosen are going to be what we're looking for? Could it be a case where, again, this Promote the Vote, you know, uh, map gets Chosen and residents in Detroit are not happy with it, but you take it into the August election,

how do we prevent something like that from happening?

And this is only as an example. I'm not saying that Promote the Vote is not correct. I'm just trying to say, as an example, how do we avoid that from happening?

>> COMMISSIONER LANGE: Okay, I'm gonna try and break down everything you asked, um, Mr. Reeves one by one. If I miss anything, please let me know, okay?

Um, as far as who we want to for -- hear from, this was one of the reasons for this town hall. Uh, we felt like we weren't getting enough input from the people that live in the communities, that, you know, their homes are there, their lives are there. I understand that no two people are going to have the same experience where they live. They can have a community but have very different life experiences. So that's kind of part -- part of the reason for this town hall is to get an understanding of what's Community to you? What's your community of Interest? What's your experiences? What should we as a Commission for people that aren't -- like myself, that aren't from Detroit, what is it that I need to know to truly understand your needs as a resident of Detroit? So that is what part of this is for. It's not all about the large organizations. And I don't know if you've ever watched the Commission meetings, or not; but I've kind of been vocal about that because I'm like what about the everyday citizen that comes? I want to make sure that their voices are heard just as much as the organized groups. So you do have ears that want to listen to you and that are going to listen to you.

>> COMMISSIONER KELLUM: Um, the -- I -- I'm sorry. Do you want to run through all the -- because I had something to add to that.

>> COMMISSIONER LANGE: Oh, please go ahead.

>> COMMISSIONER KELLUM: I will say that the information or that we're looking for, and it's not that we're looking for anything specific, it is that we -- I think it would make a difference hearing street names. You know, I grew up on this side of 7 Mile where there's a lively park. This area shares a garden with this specific street or area. It's important to me that I -- that our community regularly visits Butzel, like making the areas of Detroit making the areas of Detroit, which is a very large city, as you and I both know, because, um, we live in the city, making those come alive because there are people, like you said, yes, I sit on the Commission as a Detroiter. However, there are people on the Commission that don't visit these areas, that don't know these areas. And so while we hear words like disenfranchise representation, um, making things equitable. So it's like specifically what does that mean? What do you -- what are we looking at? What are we imagining when we're talking about an area because the Commission is tasked with, um, drawing communities of Interest. We are not to draw, um,

regarding race, which is difficult, right? Because we know that Detroit is a predominantly what? Black City. So we're using communities and neighborhoods, right? To, um, better gauge, better, um, reconfigure, reconfigure districts that were previously a problem. And so, in order to do that, we have to have the residents of those areas, the, um, the orgs of block clubs, whoever it is, the barber shops, the salons, the Citizens, because that's what we are. We have to have them come in and draw this area by, you know, going onto the portal, looking at the things that we've created. Um, there were some comments about things coming below 8 Mile and looking to see staying current, watching as much as you can in terms of our meetings. But then if you're not able to go online and look at those maps and comment in real time, that's what's missing. Um, that's what I'll say. And not as a wagging, you know, my finger at the City of Detroit, or anyone else. But those are the things that we're hungry for because we don't have the public input. Sure, I could sit on the Commission all day, but I am sitting on the Commission and I'm not -- um, I'm not a citizen that is actively a part of this process, um, through viewing and participation.

Okay. Go ahead, Commissioner Lange.

>> COMMISSIONER LANGE: Oh, no. You're doing a wonderful job, Commissioner Kellom.

>> I wanted to say one thing. So what you said, Madam Kellom, that makes a lot of sense to me now. That makes it -- makes it much more clear. I just wanted to say earlier to Madame Lange, to what you said earlier is that you want to hear from residents. But I guess my concern is that when you have a town hall that we don't know who, like who's logging into this, like I can be from like the upper -- Upper Peninsula logging and you have no idea you know if I'm giving comments that are based in the region, or not. So we didn't have any screening process, I guess, in that, that's what kind of concerned me.

>> COMMISSIONER LANGE: I can understand that. And you make a valid point. Of course, you know, why we're looking for the Detroit area, all of our meetings are open to the entire State, all of the citizens. We can't, um, block people out because they're not from Detroit.

>> Uh, but, no, ma'am. That's clearly understood. I just, I guess what I meant to say is that, um, when you're taking feedback that it should kind of be filtered in that way like this is, okay, you know, I -- where are you from? I'm from, you know, Detroit. Or I'm from the east side. Okay, we're going to include that when we -- when we map it into your comments so that -- so you're able to make that distinction is what I meant to say.

>> COMMISSIONER LANGE: Okay, thank you. That's a very good suggestion. Thank you.

And then did you have -- there was another question you had. I think you had

three of them.

>> The other one was about the candidates, uh, so people running for office, uh, are we taking into consideration the wealth disparities between different regions of, you know, Wayne, Macomb, and Oakland County? Because, as I mentioned before, is that residents in Detroit will not have -- not be on the same footing to compete against residents, you know, who have a much larger per capita wealth.

>> COMMISSIONER LANGE: I -- Commissioner Kellom?
Commissioner Kellom?

>> COMMISSIONER KELLOM: That's not our criteria. Um, we're responsible for drawing for the citizens and drawing for the people. I know that might sound a little abstract or disconnected, but we're not to draw based upon like incumbents or folks running. That's not what we're tasked with doing.

>> I'm not talking about the incumbency. I'm talking about the income levels. So I'm asking every -- so what I'm saying is that if you, if you include -- the issue is not just -- just -- not just a social issue. It's a socioeconomic issue. So it's not just about Detroit versus -- I mean, it's Detroit versus suburbs in some -- in some Con- -- in some way of looking at it. But if you have low income mixed with high income, then that gives, um, that gives an unfair advantage to the high-income district region of the district.

>> COMMISSIONER KELLOM: I understand what you're saying. So no in part, yes in part, right? Like I, um, brought up ethnicity in the conversation about there are things that are going to be covered when you're being more conscious of the communities and the areas that you're -- that we're drawing for, right? And that is why we are very closely looking, if you go back to watch, um, the tapes again, I really implore you and everyone else that -- that's listening or who's listening to, um, look the maps that we've drawn. And I think you'll be pleasantly surprised.

So, no, it's not we don't have a, um, you know, a section that says, okay, now we're considering social economic status. I understand wholeheartedly how that's important, um, especially for people of color and for other, um, groups and communities. However, that's not something that's a part of our Criterion. It doesn't mean -- it doesn't mean that us reconfiguring and drawing better, that there are not implications and impacts for that.

>> Understand.

>> COMMISSIONER KELLOM: Yeah.

>> And the last question was about the process. So after the maps have been put forth, who votes on them?

>> COMMISSIONER KELLOM: So we had someone ask us that, um, when we were in Huntington Place. And it's two answers, right? We're only just like

what this town hall is, we're the last you know 13 standing of who has the vote of what the maps look like. But it is totally based on public comment folks that come to the meetings folks that write in the things that we hear just like you're sharing now that's what carries the vote when we're debating you all are who we're using to debate. No. You know, I heard Diego from Southwest and he described Chadsey Condon Community. He described the Junction area, like these are things that, um, we're using to battle, like, why a map is going to work. Why a map is not going to work. Oh, this community should not be sweeping down in this way because this will affect -- like one of the things that you'll hear us talk about a lot is, uh, East Village, Cornerstone Village, Morningside. So those communities, when we were first listening, they came out a lot and described everything that happens in their neighborhood. So that always vetoes, you know, what we can come up with in terms of, um, a vote, if that makes sense.

>> Yeah, that makes sense. No. I appreciate it. And I apologize to the other members who are waiting in the line. And I thank all of you for being patient to answer my questions.

>> COMMISSIONER LANGE: Commissioner Kellom?

>> COMMISSIONER KELLOM: Yeah.

>> COMMISSIONER LANGE: I have to step away for one moment. So could you take it for a moment until I come back?

>> COMMISSIONER KELLOM: Sure, sure.

Next we have Olga Johnson.

>> Hello.

>> COMMISSIONER KELLOM: Hi, Olga. How are you?

>> I'm well. Okay.

>> COMMISSIONER KELLOM: Go ahead.

>> I'm concerned about the allocation of resources. Quite often our representatives and, uh, government fund things based upon demographics within the region. And I really don't want to use some of the services, lose the services that we have in our community such as our libraries, our recreation centers. Those are actually life-sustaining services for many of the citizens within the area that may sometimes fall on difficult economic times. Some people, there's a Boom coming and others there's a lot of economic uncertainty. So how will this affect allocation of resources? Will we have to go a further distance to receive some of the, perhaps, senior services that may be available?

>> COMMISSIONER KELLOM: What area are you from, if you don't mind sharing? If you don't, you don't have to.

>> In the, um, VanDyke, 7 Mile Area. And, um, and we had a recreation center called Lofty, that discussing now is no longer available. Many of the people have

attended a recreation center called Farewell, and it's really important to us because many of the people have had health problems such as heart attacks and things like that. And they offer programs that are life-sustaining there, as well as many block clubs meet at the Wilder Library, which, you know, it's not crowded all the time. But when we have these important Community issues, we have a place that many of community members who don't have cars can walk to and, uh, and resolve some issues that occur within our community. And if we are pushed out, and the transportation may be an issue, to voice our opinions in other communities.

>> COMMISSIONER KELLOM: So we're not in the...go ahead, Olga. Go ahead.

>> Yeah. I'm wondering how. and then, you know, quite often the government supplies funding based upon the demographics. So they may be given a lump sum for infrastructure repair or, you know, even senior care or other services that the government provides to us, thankfully to the government. You know, we may have a pothole at 7 Mile and VanDyke. And how will they allocate those resources so that, you know, we can have in a -- in an even-handed manner?

>> COMMISSIONER KELLOM: So the Commission is responsible for redrawing in this phase the lines that were previously created for our Maps, right? We are not a government body, um, or a council body that is responsible for allocations of funds or any sort of budgeting. However, um, I will say that we're not in the business of pushing anybody out with these lines. That is not our hope or our desire, our task. And what we endeavor to do is to listen to Citizens like you and the gentleman that spoke before. And to create communities that are familiar and used to working with one another. And if we have to mix citizens, to use that phrase, if we're having to pull from other communities or neighborhoods, it will be, um, neighborhoods and communities that have a shared interest. So if there is a new street or a new precinct that is in with yours, it will be because that Community is right around the corner and likely uses the same resources that you're using. does that make sense?

>> Well, you know, I'm hoping that it works out because, like I said, we lost one Recreation Center and many that was in walking distance for me, and many people are complaining because they can no longer walk and take advantage of those services. When I go over to other Recreation Center, I see people who have had serious health issues, be it diabetes, heart attacks, etc, that are able to mitigate, uh, those symptoms and live longer by utilizing the facilities provided by the government. And if they push those Services out where people can no longer access them, it's going to be a big detriment to the...

>> COMMISSIONER KELLOM: Yeah. I would agree. I hope that you get representation through this process. You know, you're able to get representation

that represents that interest because that's where that lies. Um, again, we're not looking to do anything that would disrupt communities. There's enough of that particularly in the City of Detroit and other, um, cities across the United States that are like it. So we're hoping to...and I think, you know, I can say with confidence we are pulling together Maps. You should definitely go on our portal, the MICRC website. And we have draft maps that we've been diligently working on. And that will give an -- give you an identity of where or give you an idea, excuse me, where your community sits, um, and what changes possibly that you could expect. But that would depend on your, you know, your representative working hard and making sure that, um, he or she, whoever is doing the same work, that we're doing by listening to the people.

>> Okay. Thank you.

>> COMMISSIONER KELLOM: Thank you so much.

>> You're welcome.

>> COMMISSIONER KELLOM: We have Yvette Anderson next. If it's not Yvette, tell me that it's Yvette.

>> It's Yvette. Thank you, Brittini. It is Yvette. Thank you very much. My dad was very adamant about it being Yvette. So thank you for that understanding.

>> COMMISSIONER KELLOM: I am a Brittini, not a Britany. So I understand

>> Okay. So the question that I have, um, one of my questions was cleared up because, uh, Mr. Woods mentioned that it would be the general election in November. But we know that the house, House of Representatives, um, more often than not for, um, the City of Detroit are elected in the August primary and don't have much in the way of competition going into November. So the maps that are going to be put forth, there's a February deadline that I heard, that was mentioned. What -- subsequent to that, is the public going to have an opportunity to question, kick the tires on the maps that are presented? And how many versions of -- how many versions of maps? I heard, uh, something about Promote the Vote Maps. But then, um, there's also -- so the AFL CIO maps are -- were those moved forward?

>> COMMISSIONER KELLOM: So, to my knowledge, and you can watch our, um, video from today. We cycled through several numbers and recited them, but there are 14 Maps, um, that will be sent to the VRA for analysis. And after which point, um, next week, we will have a spirited debate about those maps. From now until next week we invite the public, myself specifically, but I'm sure any Commissioner here, Commissioner Lange and all Commissioners that are present and listening, will encourage you all to start engaging with the maps now. And you can leave comments because that is all we have, that is like our direct line, beat me 911 communication to the Detroit citizens and residents, right? So, um, that'll be your time to weigh in heavily. And I will say, and anecdotally when I

mean comment or when I say comment, I'm not saying I don't like this. This rips up the area. What specifically don't you like? This, um, tears apart this Block Club Community. It tears apart a relationship or revitalization that's happening here. This does not allow this neighborhood, this is what we're talking about, um, things that either reject or protect your individual community. So that's the kind of Engagement.

And then Commissioner Lange has something for you, too, Yvette.

>> COMMISSIONER LANGE: You bet. Oh, I was just going to say, and Mr. Woods is also going to do a demonstration on how to enter comments into our portal and also enter comments on maps in our portal. So, um, there will be a demonstration on that tonight, too. So that's another way to interact, okay?

>> EDWARD WOODS: And, Ms. Anderson, um, the question you asked about looking at the Maps, the Commission will be having a public hearing on the 15th of February in Detroit. We will have the maps up that we're that we're, um, proposing to move forward on Friday, February 2nd. And you can put comments directly on those maps that the Commission is considering, um, for a vote that's due to the Court by March -- March 1st.

>> So am I understanding that if the Commission needs to come forth and agree on maps at the -- at the end of the day. And then the court -- where will this -- does the Special Master come into play? If -- how would it happen that the -- if the Commission comes through and they agree on the maps, is that it? And they meet the VRA standards, Etc?

>> COMMISSIONER LANGE: My understanding of the process is the Commission will submit the maps to the courts and then it's up to the courts to decide if the Commission has met the criteria that we need to. Um, at that point I believe we're at the mercy of the courts. They're going to look, make sure that we comply with the VRA. Um, that the maps are done correctly. If there's a possibility, that if they found it wasn't, then that's where the Special Master may come in. But the Commission is working hard and we're going to get it done right. We're positive we're going to get it done right. So okay but there is that possibility. There's always that possibility, but, um, we're working hard to make sure that things are done right. And we're kind of at the hands of the Court though. Um, I don't know if that really answered it, but it kind of --

>> It gives me some insight. It does give me a little insight. And, um, early, um, when I came on, uh, Sherry Gay Dagnogo was giving some, uh, public comment about how previous Maps had been drawn and the, um, socioeconomic and the impact that other citizens of Michigan would have on, uh, diluting the district and the voting power of African-Americans. So I do, uh, want to, uh, say, I was in agreement with the comments I heard, that, uh, Sherry was making as well. That's all. Thank you for hosting this and, uh, encouraging. And we look

forward to getting more instruction because the process really can be somewhat intimidating to average citizens. Um, I did have an opportunity previously to go and speak during public comment. But understanding was, uh, understanding the process and the mapping and all of that, it took some getting up to speed.

>> COMMISSIONER KELLOM: Yeah, I would agree.

>> COMMISSIONER LANGE: Us as well.

>> All right. Thank you. Thank you for your time and for, um, hosting this, uh, Town Hall.

>> COMMISSIONER LANGE: Thank you for attending.

>> COMMISSIONER KELLOM: Edwina King.

>> Uh, yes. And good evening, Commissioners. Uh, first I'd like to say, um, I'm speaking as, of course, um, I'm a member of several organizations, um, who are committed to Social Action. Um, but I'm speaking as a Detroiter, um, and as someone whose family has resided in Detroit for more than a hundred years.

And, um, before I begin my remarks, I first, again, would like to say thank you to, um, not only the Commissioners, uh, for hosting this, uh, very Important Town Hall, but also specifically to you, Commissioner Kellom, who -- and I watched the meetings from the beginning. You have consistently uplifted the voice of Detroiters, um, throughout this entire process. And so if no one on this call tells you thank you, I would like to say thank you to you.

Um, in addition to former rep Gay Dagnogo, um, to Natalie Benemy and the other litigants, thank you for using your power and stepping out to make sure that Detroiters, um, are not disenfranchised nor disempowered throughout this, um, entire process. And so, again, thank you, uh, for your advocacy on that end as well.

One of the things that, um, I view this as a civil rights, um, issue. And not only is it a civil rights issue, um, but it's the most important civil rights issue, um, in modern time because the effects of these Maps could impact communities for generations to come. And we're already seeing, as a Detroiter, we are already seeing and feeling the effects of how some of these maps have impacted what representation looks like. And we see situations where representation is not necessarily for us or by us, um, and having to navigate that in a time where politics is very, very, um, fragile, the political state of our country and our State. Um, I think it's very important that we uplift the importance of what we're talking about today.

And so my question is specific to outreach. And so those that are involved in this process, those that tend to be politically engaged, we know how to find information. We know how to -- where to go, how to get it, what to do with it. But there are a lot of individuals, you know, even with this meeting, um, and, again, I

appreciate it; but, you know, there's a digital divide in Detroit. How are we accessing the -- this? How would someone who is a member of that digital divide access this information when we start talking about, uh, Communities of Interest? I am Black or identify as African-American. But that's not the only demographic in Detroit. There are communities that English is a second language to them. But this is important enough for them because it can impact how, uh, what representation looks like for them. And so if you could share what the community engagement strategy is to make sure that this information is not only articulated, um, especially given time constraints to those that are in Detroit and, um, impacted Communities, um, with the maps. But more so making sure that those who don't have the ability to, um, access this information digitally or to provide comments, um, via the Internet or however it needs to, um, be provided, how are they able to participate in this project? I mean, in this process? And, again, thank you for your time. Again, thank you for your time.

>> COMMISSIONER KELLUM: Edwina, I think that, um, that's an excellent statement because I've been considering that deeply. I have, um, personally spoken with, um, our executive director in community outreach, extraordinary person, Edward Woods III, um, about how to get to each district because I do recognize that this conversation, um, though it doesn't for, uh, some and other communities scream, um, cultural relevancy, that is -- that is the space in which, um, I frequent and am rooted in when it comes to, um, observing and respecting people's identities.

So one of the -- saying all that basically it means that you have to go to people and thinking of communities, um, whether it's Bengali Community, Arab Community, Chaldean Community, whether we're talking about Black folks, whether we're talking about folks that have other interests, that have nothing to do with their race or ethnicity, you have to go to people and create the conversation because there is a lot of catch up in this process. People had to first recognize we were on the ballot, then they had to realize that it's not about to happen. The Commission has happened now. And then they had to track all the meetings. Then you had to, if you had the ability, watch all the meetings. So I would like to visit each district. I, um, just came up with this plan, so I'll be reaching out to district managers to, um, talk about the process, to talk about the maps, um, to show the maps and explain the areas so that they're -- to level the playing field because it's going to take participation especially from communities that are used to not being asked, they're used to decisions being made for them. They're used to, um, not having a voice and people not caring. So I want to at least make that best effort. I cannot promise that people are going to come to these spaces, but I'm going to work with the district managers to make sure that these are places that people can walk to, ride to, get rides to

drive to and making sure that it's nestled in the community and not necessarily a hotel and a ballroom, like literally going where people are to have this conversation. So I can't speak to Mr. Woods' strategy because communication is his lingo and expert. But, um, that's an effort that I am making, um, to make sure that people at least understand as these maps are getting pumped out and before we're making any sort of final decision without them.

>> COMMISSIONER LANGE: And I think one of the other things, too, to remember is we do take written comments, too, from people. So you don't have to submit your comments to us online. Comments can even be mailed, um, to us, so that's another option if somebody wanted to reach out to us but didn't have the digital access. They could, um, send comments that way, too.

>> Thank you. Thank you. And, um, in closing, I would just also really like to uplift, um, that when you start going out into the community again, think of those communities where English, um, is a second language. And maybe making sure that there that this information is accessible, um, to them, so that way they're able to understand it. Thank you.

>> EDWARD WOODS: Ms. King, if you have any ideas or suggestions with regards to Communications and we can improve, we welcome any and everyone's suggestions. You can place them in the chat whether it's on the YouTube or the Zoom. We definitely welcome any and all suggestions, um, with regards to that. We are looking at a facility. And if people have suggestions that can hold two to 300 people on February 15th for our public hearing, that is accessible, that could be, you know, to the community, um, the last time we did it at the, um, it was in the TCF Center, the old Cobo Hall. We had one of our best attendance. This past week we paid for parking and people took advantage of that and raise. But, obviously, we've liked to have seen more numbers but We know that people also communicate through our public comment portal, our mapping portal, um, with regards to that. But definitely looking for, um, some suggestions for some other opportunities. Um, we will be doing a 10-day kickoff starting Monday, February 5th, um, in terms of promoting the location and where we're going to be for that public hearing on the 15th. So if anyone has suggestions, you can, um, please email them to us, share them with us, and we would appreciate it.

Um, as you know, we do have a sign language interpreter that is interpreting and we want to provide a break, um, at this time. And so if you give us a few moments, we will be on break and we will come back to you, um, let's say in about 10 minutes, so 8:15. Let's say 8:15 we'll rejoin you, um, after 8:15. Thank you so much.

[Recess until 8:15 p.m.]

Thank you. Good afternoon, everyone. Let's get our sign language interpreter

back in the room. Good evening, Mr. Woods. Oh, I said afternoon. Thank you. I'm so sorry. Okay, ladies and gentlemen, we're just waiting for our sign language interpreter to come back on, and we'll be right back with you. So hold on just a second. We are having some technical difficulties. Thank you so, so much for your patience.

Ladies and gentlemen, our ASL Interpreter is here, and we can go ahead and continue.

I'm Commissioner Lange. Welcome back, everybody. Um, we're going to bring forward our next participant who has a question. Our next participant is Steve Walker.

>> Uh, thanks for calling on me. Uh, I live in Southwest Detroit, and I have a couple comments to make. Uh, according to the Michigan Constitution, the first responsibility of this Commission is to follow the Spirit of the VRA, the Voting Rights Act. Two years ago you refused to do that. I'm well aware that Brittini Kellom led a big effort for the Commission to follow the VRA and the majority voted her down. So I take, uh, Commissioner Lange's statement as sincere that hopefully this year the Commission will follow the VRA and do what's right. And I don't see anything in the court, uh, decision, uh, that changes that responsibility as your number one priority.

Now I want to address how you accomplish that. I agree with Mr. Clemens, uh, that many Black people have moved over, beyond 8 Mile Road. So I don't think this Commission can, should consider 8 Mile as some kind of a barrier in drawing district lines.

I listened to several speakers earlier in the week. And I think the way they view this, they agree with me. But they view this is you draw, uh, a District in Oakland or Macomb County and then bring it down into Detroit to get Black voters. Again, this is where you made your mistake two years ago. What this does is ensure Democratic victory because the Blacks vote Democratic. But it doesn't meet the requirements of the VRA. I think you meet the requirements of the VRA by drawing districts in Detroit and then going past 8 Mile to get enough people to meet the minimum requirements for a district. When you do it that way, you'll end up with more Black districts, with a bunch of your -- I don't -- I haven't looked at all 14 plans. But a bunch of your plans diminish, reduce the number of Black districts. They don't expand them. Clearly the VRA requires more Black districts.

The people who sued Sherry Gay Dagnogo and her other complainants were trying to create more Black districts. Uh, their sad sack attorneys didn't handle it right and the court didn't do very well. And so that isn't explicitly in the court opinion. That's clearly what we want here and that's what needs to be done.

In the same vein, I think the Commission should not, uh, be reluctant to change

the boundaries of districts that are not in the court decision because by changing some of those boundaries that we might get more Black districts. So, again, I hope the Commission is going to act right this time. They voted not to do it two years ago, but hopefully this time they will do it and will achieve the objective of Meeting the VRA, which is your first responsibility.

>> COMMISSIONER KELLUM: Thank you so much, Mr. Walker.

>> COMMISSIONER LANGE: Next we have Simone Wilks.

>> Hello. Hi. Thank you so much for giving me this opportunity. I have sat here and listened to everyone that came before me and all I can hear from you guys' response is that you guys are going to move forward with this even if we show up, or not. You guys already have your guys' mind made up. And then how you guys going to start on a map where ya'll haven't even let the community know where the money has been allocated for?

Back in 2003 ya'll told us to wait to 2004. Now we're now 26 days until 2004 and we still don't know where the money is. We still have people homeless, that's living in the City of Detroit. You guys are not answering you guys' mailboxes or responding back to complaints. I know several families that are displaced from homes because you guys told me when I called that ya'll can't fit the -- our problems on ya'll agenda. And, not only that, you guys had us on hold for over a long period of time. I have sit here and listen to Brittni not only tell these people, oh, well, oh, well. We know about, oh, well. we know that you guys supposed to have an input, but we're still going to push it whether you guys come, or not.

I keep hearing the other guy mentioning something about the 15th, but aren't you guys holding another meeting tomorrow?

>> COMMISSIONER KELLUM: Hi, Simone. This is the Brittni that you referred to. Um, I have some clarifying questions for you. And then maybe I'm wrong, but definitely correct me. So we're redistricting Commission. We're not city council. We're not responsible and we're average citizens, not politicians.

Commissioner Lange can tell you a little bit about herself. I'm born and raised in the City of Detroit. The 13 of us were picked randomly and selected to redraw the line.

>> You guys are -- you guys are focusing on the maps, but ya'll are still not focusing on this, the other things that we have reached to you guys, have reached out to you guys about other concerns. And then why ya'll trying to redistrict a map when ya'll should be trying to fix our cities? Fix our -- fix our homes? Why when we go out of the city, it's more houses that's next to each other. And ya'll just trying to create Lots in the City of Detroit. That's just unfair.

>> COMMISSIONER KELLUM: I understand what you're saying, but we're not in charge of that. Like we were picked to redraw and redistrict the lines for the

State of Michigan. It was on a ballot. It was voted for. And then they randomly selected us. We're not in charge of housing or any other area. That's more of a city council complaint.

>> Is this even like how is ya'll even redistrict in the map when ya'll haven't even let the public get a -- let the people get a hands on or say so about it? Ya'll posting these events the day before or hour before. Luckily I am in several different organizations that follow up with different things, so I was able to get on this meeting. But what if I didn't? What if I wasn't a person that was involved in different organizations that want the best for our community? How would I have known about this?

And then I keep hearing ya'll say, well, it's on the website. It's on the website. Go to his website. Go check this. Go check that. Well, I did that when we was on a break and I don't see nothing about the 15th.

>> COMMISSIONER KELLOM: So when I reference the website, and, Commissioner Lange, I'm sure you have something to add, I was talking about for the maps that we're drawing. Um, we've been -- as a Commission, we've been a body for about two years. This is going on our third year. And so we -- hold on. Hold on. Hold on one second, please.

Um, we -- we have been -- we've had public hearings. We've had over -- we've traveled all over the State of Michigan, including, I think, about three times in Detroit, held Town Halls. This isn't our first time engaging with the public. And I'm by no means saying that it's perfect. I know that they're like we had, um, Ms. Edwina King come and there have been several other people before.

>> I don't mean to cut you off, but how do people supposed to know where to come if you guys don't post it into an hour or a day before ya'll have Town Hall meetings?

>> COMMISSIONER KELLOM: Go ahead, Commissioner Lange.

>> COMMISSIONER LANGE: Ms. Simone, Town Hall, I will admit the town hall meeting was my idea and it was kind of a last, spur of the moment because we were looking for public input about the redistricting process. And we felt like the community in Detroit weren't hearing enough voices in Detroit.

>> How is you able to out Detroit when ya'll don't live in Detroit?

>> COMMISSIONER KELLOM: I do live in Detroit, my whole life Detroit.

>> But do your colleagues and other 13 people that's on here, that's on the district, in living in Detroit? And then she just said that this was her idea and it was last minute. So how can you expect to have a great turnout if ya'll doing stuff last minute on --

>> COMMISSIONER KELLOM: I'm so sorry you're frustrated with us, honestly.

>> I am. I'm not frustrated with you guys. I'm just I'm frustrated that you guys are not standing up for us and not letting us be a voice, too, not letting us be -- let

-- not letting us have a part of it. And then ya'll claim that, oh, well, we gonna send it to the Courts whether you guys show up, or not. That's all I've been hearing tonight. You haven't told us.

>> COMMISSIONER KELLOM: I never said that.

>> I said you never told us who have the final say. So in it when a guy asked you does the public have a final say so in it, you said, well, it's going to be signed and sent over to the court.

>> COMMISSIONER KELLOM: No. So what we said was we base our final decisions -- we're placed as a Commission -- hold on one second -- we're placed on the Commission to have the final vote that comes from public comment. We can't --

>> What public comment? That's what I'm saying. You're not --

>> COMMISSIONER KELLOM: You're getting right now the comment that you're giving right now, the comments that happen in our meetings, the comments on our website, your comments to my comments.

>> So what comments are ya'll getting us from if ya'll not letting us come to these Town Hall meetings? Because ya'll want to do them last minute, that's what your -- that's what Lange just said. This was her idea, and it was last minute.

>> COMMISSIONER LANGE: This town hall meeting was last minute. It was decided on Tuesday as a way to get more public input. So as far as this, but all of our meetings are scheduled in advance.

>> Like I said, a day ago, Right? Today is Thursday.

>> COMMISSIONER KELLOM: Now, come on. Give us three suggestions. Give us three suggestions. We're not -- we're not trying to argue.

>> Do it -- ya'll should do it a month in advance and let the public know.

>> COMMISSIONER KELLOM: Slow down. Slow down. The first thing is you want -- you suggest that there should be, if there's going to be any meeting outside of a regular meeting, because our regular meetings are posted for the public.

>> I, um, I don't know who, what's, where can we find them?

>> COMMISSIONER KELLOM: I was going to just ask, you're talking a little fast right now. I was just going to ask for them to drop a link in the -- in the chat so that you can see that all of our meetings -- I can try and do it myself or share my screen.

>> I just think that it's best that you guys let the public be a voice instead of you guys deciding things on you -- on your own, that's all I'm saying.

>> COMMISSIONER KELLOM: Right. That's what we're trying to do. That's what we're trying to do. So let's see here.

>> EDWARD WOODS: Thank you so much, Simone. We appreciate your

comments.

>> Thank you so much for having me. You guys have a great night.

>> COMMISSIONER KELLOM: I was going to share my screen.

>> COMMISSIONER LANGE: I believe our next commenter is Frank Woods.

>> Good evening. How are you all this evening?

>> COMMISSIONER LANGE: Good evening.

>> I want to thank ya'll for allowing me to speak. I'm a resident of the City of Detroit, lifelong, lived on both sides of the city east and west. Um, I'm going to say this, that we really have to be mindful, as the young lady was just speaking, that the citizens do have a voice in what's going on. Uh, I know that you have had meetings posted and even those didn't get out to -- in my view, to the last minute. And to those there were two organizations that has an impact on the community, but not much in the community where people can say, Okay, I want to attend this, um, you know, all politics local. So when you consider drawing these Maps, you definitely have to go with what the young man said earlier about the VRA because that should be the basis from -- from the basis of from the Black vote, you want to call it. And then work your way out to grasp anything outside of the City of Detroit because in my -- my state House district runs from Birmingham down through Southwest, down to Southwest Detroit. And the young lady that represents me is from Berkeley. She has no idea about what it takes and what we need in the City of Detroit. So it's not representational of us in the city for us to have a voice in that. Just the average person is not going to say I'm gonna go to Berkeley and talk to this State Rep because the State Rep, when I spoke with her, she has no knowledge really too much of the City of Detroit. it was basically an opportunity to run for office to represent her community. And that's what we need to look at when we talk about community of Interest. Her interest is in her community, not in Detroit. But it was just the fact that she had to represent Detroit. So she had to have -- she doesn't really have an input or knowledge about Detroit. So we got to be real mindful when we draw these maps to include Detroit as the base and then work your way out. And if you don't work your way out across 8 Mile, so be it.

And those that are in East Point and Warren, other -- any other cities that have grown based on the Black population, those areas were drawn from a basis and then and they work their way out. And if people moved into those areas, then they know what challenges they were gonna have in that City, were gonna have in that City, those municipalities.

So we definitely have to make sure that when we go forward with these Commission and these Maps that we do get input from the average person who may want to participate. And I believe they do because I can guarantee you they don't want to have to go to Southfield and they live in Detroit to get a

representative to represent them in Detroit. And that person has no knowledge of what they're going through, so we definitely have to have people from the areas from which they're elected from to represent us.

So that's what I have to say. And I will be keeping, uh, a close track on what's going on. If I have any more input on the map, I'm definitely going to be looking at them and figure out how we can draw them better. And because each area has minorities in it, had majority in it, whichever you might want to call yourself. So we definitely have to continue down that road to make sure the maps have a strong, uh, representation by the VRA.

Thank you.

>> COMMISSIONER LANGE: Thank you, Mr. Woods.

>> EDWARD WOODS: Thank you so much.

Ladies and gentlemen, we're gonna have to take a brief commercial break. We'll be right back with you. Thank you so much. Yeah, your call has been forwarded through an automatic voice message.

Thank you, ladies and gentlemen. We're ready to go ahead and get started. Um, we needed to have a break and a switch, and we want to thank Rebecca Stuckas for coming on and joining us to provide sign language interpretation. Um, Commissioner Lange, we'll turn it back over to you.

>> COMMISSIONER LANGE: Thank you, Mr. Woods. Rhonda Sanders is our next speaker. Oh, Pardon Me. Rhonda Sanders Adams.

>> Okay. Hi, everyone. Um, well, I have had a real serious Journey with you all. I appreciate your efforts, but I'd like to get you to know a little bit more in reference to -- and I love how you, uh, phrased it, Commissioner Kellom, this is the Spirit of Detroit. And a little bit about, uh, the community organizations that could be helpful and, uh, have that, uh, exposure and that Community Engagement feature. The features are available to you, but we all have to start off with this. And this leads to The spirit coming from Psalms 40, verse 8, to do your will, oh, my God is my delight, and your law is deep within me, then we take the second commandment to love our neighbor as we love ourselves. So when we look at the community and the interest, we're not only looking at the physical features or the population, the demographics, we're looking also at the necessary environmental features, too.

There is a lot of industrial, there is a lot of Agriculture, and some of those things are positive Returns on the Environment. I know the voting aspect is necessary, but those things do require not only, uh, social determinants but environmental determinants. And so the fairness has the community interest in that aspect. And I truly think that you all have, you know, shown that you have had challenges, um, to these things. But there is, as it -- you brought out many times,

there is a spirit to Detroit. So what we -- what I have done for, um, this type of thing here, we are offering, uh, the, well, the Pistons are offering a space for all the community development organizations to bring the community to the forum and, uh, facilitate that if you Commissioners are interested in having a panel to which is more or less, less invasive. If you're not, you know, normally active or engaging with this community of Interest, you can have a less invasive space to answer questions and, you know, provide that format. So I do have the contact information, um, for you, uh, Commissioner Kellom. And I can forward that information to you. I don't know how you would want me to get that information to you.

>> COMMISSIONER KELLOM: If you mind sending it to Edward Woods, III, our communication and Outreach and executive director. Do you mind popping in and giving your email even though and I guess I could give your email address? But I want you to give it yourself. Redistricting michigan.gov, Ms. Sanders Adams.

>> Okay, very well. I'll get this forwarded over to them and you all can, uh, take it from there.

>> COMMISSIONER KELLOM: Thank you.

>> COMMISSIONER LANGE: That was a lovely suggestion. Thank you for reaching out to us.

Next we have Teresa. Teresa, did you hear me? I was just told my microphone's a little low.

Mr. Woods, Teresa may have stepped away or is having technical difficulties. Can we bring in someone else and give her a moment?

Looks like next we have Emma Thomas.

>> Hello?

>> COMMISSIONER LANGE: Hi.

>> Hi. I would like to excuse my tardiness. I came late to the meeting. And so I'm going to possibly ask a couple of questions that probably was asked earlier, asked and answered earlier. So please excuse me if I'm asking any repeat questions.

So, first, I did apply to become one of the committee members. Can anybody or does anybody know what the requirements were to be selected? That's my first question.

>> COMMISSIONER LANGE: Well, I know some of the first, the requirements to apply, there were certain qualifications you had to meet such as you could not have held office, I want to say, within five years. You could not be a family member of anybody that held office. Uh, you had to have a background that wouldn't prevent you from holding office even though you can't hold office. Um, you had to identify as a republican, Democrat, or independent. And I think

those were the basics of it. Um, from my recollection. It's been a little while.

>> Okay, um, who made the selection for the committee?

>> COMMISSIONER LANGE: All of the applicants that applied were randomly put into a pool and then they hired a third-party, um, organization to do the draw. So then each application pool was separated based off from Democrat, Independent, or republican. There was a random drawing, and, if I'm not mistaken, Ms. Reinhardt, are you still on here?

>> COMMISSIONER KELLOM: It was by the Secretary of State.

>> COMMISSIONER LANGE: Yes, by the Secretary of State. But I thought if she was right, available, she could whip it out better than me or if you want to step in, Ms. Kellom, and kind of tell about the process.

>> COMMISSIONER KELLOM: No. I mean, I think you're doing --

>> COMMISSIONER LANGE: So they had certain criteria too in the random draw, if I understood it right, that made sure we got a representative of the state. whereas I'm from Northern Michigan you'll not note that we have if I'm not mistaken seven Commissioners, there are kind of Southeast Michigan. Uh, we have our Chair, Commissioner Orton, who is from kind of West Michigan, Battle Creek area. And thank you so much for popping this up, if this helps, and if you can see, this is the Constitution that explains the criterias and what needs to be made. You have to be registered and eligible to vote in the State of Michigan. Not currently be or in the past six years been any of the following: declared candidate for partisan, federal, state or local office. An elected official to partisan, Federal, state, or local office. An officer or member of the governing body of an -- of a national, state, or local political party. A paid consultant or employee of a federal, state, or local elected official. Or political Candidate of a federal, state, or local political candidates' campaign or a political action committee.

I apologize ASL if I might be reading fast, so I'll slow it down. Um, an employee of the legislator. Any person who is registered as a lobbyist agent with the Michigan Bureau of Elections or any employee of such person. An unclassified state employee who is exempt from classification in State Civil Service pursuant to education in persons in the armed forces of the state. Oh, pursuant to article -- pardon me, six, section five. Except for employees of courts of record, employees of the state institutions of higher education and persons in the armed forces of the state.

As I stated earlier, you cannot be related to, so no parent, stepparent, child, stepchild, or spouse of any individual who is disqualified.

>> COMMISSIONER KELLOM: So 200 were randomly selected. Then it went to 180 and then out of the 180 the 13 of us were randomly selected, right.

>> Right, okay, so I understand that process. Um, I do meet those qualifications. I understand like you said that, um, it was all about the third-party selection. So how many, um, are of out of the committee, the 13 committee Members are from Detroit or how are they like the area of the different committee members, how many represent Detroit?

>> COMMISSIONER KELLOM: So I'm born and raised. Brittini Kellom. Hi, from the –

>> Are there any others?

>> COMMISSIONER KELLOM: Yes. And you have Juanita Curry. She's from the City of Detroit. And then there is, um, Anthony Eid, originally from Dearborn and who now lives in Midtown.

>> Okay, okay.

>> COMMISSIONER KELLOM: Also, sorry, I want to -- if I'm going to tell his business, I might as well get it right.

>> So, yeah, okay now, um, I live in District 4. Can you tell me what the redistricting means for District 4?

>> COMMISSIONER KELLOM: Describe District 4. Give us some details.

>> That is the, um, Morningside area that you were referring to earlier, Cornerstone area, East English Village area, East Warren.

>> COMMISSIONER KELLOM: So what I can tell, you because our Maps aren't finalized right as, you know, we're in an active process. So what I can tell you is what we've heard from those communities is Morningside, East English Village and Cornerstone want to stay together. We've heard about the hard work that you and I'm sure other neighbors and friends and whoever have done in the area to make it be what it is to, um, make the area, um, mean something and, um, make it have an impact. I'm also, you know, I frequent that area on my drives to the grocery store, whatever. Sometimes I just take random drives around the city. So, um, I know that there have been lots of internal efforts to keep that space sacred. So I think, and I can think, I can speak for Commissioner Lange and all the Commission, uh, Commissioners, that is an area that we have clear, um, needs to be respected. Um, it's not just a community of interest but a place that that means something because we've heard so much from the citizens. And if you want to tell myself and Commissioner Lange anything else about that area, please do.

>> Well, um, I've been in this area for, um, pretty much born and raised. And, um, of course, security is our biggest concern. Um, being secure. Um, being safe. Um, my concern was the redistricting is it going to -- was it or is it intended to break up the current districts, make them smaller or make them larger? That was another concern of mine. I wasn't quite sure if that was answered.

>> COMMISSIONER KELLOM: No, I think--

>> COMMISSIONER LANGE: I mean, the districts are required. I apologize. The districts are required by law to be a certain size, with a certain -- by size I mean with a certain number of population in it. So, in that aspect, we're not looking to shrink the number of population, I guess we would say.

>> COMMISSIONER KELLOM: Example, Commissioner Lange, like we're drawing House Maps. So tell her the population, so she has an idea of how large that is.

>> COMMISSIONER LANGE: I'm sorry?

>> COMMISSIONER KELLOM: I'm sorry. I said an example, like tell her what our population metrics are so she has an idea of like how large we're talking about when we're talking about a district for the house.

>> COMMISSIONER LANGE: So we have a certain amount that we can go under or over. But we're -- it's 91,000. And I always forget the last three, two.

>> COMMISSIONER KELLOM: We're gonna -- don't quote us, okay?

>> COMMISSIONER LANGE: In the 91,000 range. So we, as far as population, deviation, we can usually get within 89 to 91,000. So we are looking at a few thousand people that are allowed by law, but one of our very first criteria with the VRA, these are federal guidelines we have to be within a certain percent of population.

>> Okay. And with the redistricting, um, I know someone mentioned earlier, and it was probably an error, um, allocated funds, does that mean the funds will be stretched out more because they have a larger group or a larger number of people that they have to service in that District?

>> COMMISSIONER KELLOM: So what I'll say about that is ultimately, um, when we're talking about redistricting or any sort of thing that could change the political landscape like just in -- just broadly, um, I think you bring up issues of especially when we're talking about Detroit food insecurity, those that live without, um, homes, um, uh, folks that are surviving violent crimes, because that's something that I do outside of the Commission. Um, schools, all of these things, right? So those begin to be issues that or challenges, topics, whatever, that after the Commissioners are done with this singular and kind of vacuumed process, then it would be up to whoever represents these districts to work hard and get to know the citizens just like we are. Um, we don't have any sort of data, any sort of legal premise or authority to draw things based upon, um, those types of metrics. Now, does that mean by law though we're not drawing for those reasons, that as human beings we shouldn't consider how those things impact communities such as Detroit? Of course, not. Like those are things that should be in the back of -- in our back of our minds. For me it's in the forefront of, um, our minds. But that's not what we're tasked to do, if that makes sense. Like

we're in no way a body that is in charge of allocations or um that's not one of our criteria as we are drawing the lines.

>> Okay, so I know I need to do a little bit more research to actually, really understand, uh, the entirety of what's going on. but my last question is with the Redistricting, would areas such as Detroit that has outskirts like Grosse Point, would the redistricting have those possibly joined at a certain point like, um, East Detroit join with Grosse Point, is that what it possibly could result in?

>> COMMISSIONER KELLUM: It could. Um, Commissioner Lange can speak a little bit more to that. I'm just saying it could because none of the -- it's not like that's a secret plan of ours. We just don't know today. We just finished, um, submitting 14 maps and they have a variety -- it's a smorgasbord of choices. Based though I think each map, um, when you talk about size and size of districts, each map listens to the call for Detroit to be kept together in 14 different ways. Um, some explore moving beyond districts that we were tasked with drawing. Some take in very particularly public comment and look at communities, um, in a diverse set of ways. It really -- the best thing you could do, Ms. Thomas, is to go on our website and start to look at the maps that we've created in the past week or so.

>> Okay, one more question.

>> Okay, one more question.

>> COMMISSIONER KELLUM: But, Commissioner Lange, I don't know if you have something to say, just jump in. You can talk over me. It's fine.

>> COMMISSIONER LANGE: Oh, no, you're doing a wonderful job.

So if I feel the need.

>> Website address, please?

>> COMMISSIONER KELLUM: Oh, I'm sorry. Um, I wonder if I can -- I'm going to drop this in the -- let me see. Let's -- if I can get the website. Edward might get to it faster than me. I'm going to put it in the chat. Are you able to see the chat if I --

>> Because before I wasn't.

>> COMMISSIONER KELLUM: So let's see. Let me see. Okay.

>> I am able to see it now. Okay, I do see it. Thank you.

>> COMMISSIONER KELLUM: Okay, so just make sure at the top, you're going to see Congressional State House, State Center. Make sure you go to the state house, and you can toggle or change the top. Instead of it saying like show 10 entries, you can make it show 50, whatever you fancy. Um and you could begin looking at our -- at our Maps. I think it starts at Water Lily. So in entry 321. And if you really want to look at the history like when we first started drawing, you can go all the way from 321 to...

>> COMMISSIONER LANGE: Commissioner Kellom?

>> COMMISSIONER KELLOM: Yes.

>> COMMISSIONER LANGE: Let me jump in for a second. Uh, Emma, we are also -- Mr. Woods is going to do a quick overview and show how our portal works. He's going to do a quick demonstration for us, that's also planned. So if you stick around, you'll see exactly where it goes, what to click on. And you know, that's one of the things we wanted to show the public to make it a little easier to maneuver.

>> Sounds good. And the next meeting?

>> COMMISSIONER LANGE: The next meeting?

>> Yes. When is the next meeting? I was told to say that, please.

>> COMMISSIONER LANGE: Actually, we have a meeting tomorrow.

>> That's tomorrow?

>> COMMISSIONER LANGE: Yes. We do have a meeting tomorrow.

We have a few Commissioners that are ill right now. So as of right now we have a meeting tomorrow. The plan is tomorrow at 9:00 a.m., uh, in person at Cadillac place. Is that correct for tomorrow at Cadillac Place? Or you can also register like you're doing tonight with the town hall and um view it online.

>> So will we have another meeting with all of the, um, I guess, uh, members available?

>> COMMISSIONER KELLOM: The meeting tomorrow will be with the majority of the Commission. The meeting tomorrow will be with the majority of the Commission, but this particular -- this is why we call this a town hall. Commissioner Lange took it upon herself to meet with the citizens of Detroit and wanted to hear more in depth. I think she said thank you to you. She wanted to hear more from the Detroit citizens. And, of course, I am the tagalong that also wanted to jump on and hear what you all had to say.

>> So okay. Okay. Well, thank you so much.

>> COMMISSIONER LANGE: Thank you for giving comment.

Mr. Woods, whoops?

>> COMMISSIONER KELLOM: Do you need to talk to him? And you want me to -- Mary Joe, I was gonna guess. Okay.

>> Uh, hello. I will be quick. Yes, I live in Dearborn but I'm in Detroit, you know, a lot. Uh, I love the culture and the -- I go to a lot of meetings at the Waterfront and so forth. I attended Mary Grove College and then Wayne State for my masters. I worked at the VA Medical Center, uh, since it opened until about six years ago.

And I have two thoughts. Um, I hope that, um, it's not a very big area. But I hope that you'll be able to keep the Mary Grove Fitzgerald area together. I know they've worked on many, uh, projects together. And I don't know what the population is, but I hope we can keep, uh, Wayne State campus, the cultural

center and the medical center together. I'm sure these groups work together on things like grants and legislation and other important Endeavors. And hopefully, um, they'll still be able to work together. So That's it. Thank you very much. and good luck.

>> COMMISSIONER KELLOM: Thank you. Have a great evening. Thanks. Right now it's looking like we still have about six people with their hands raised, um, so maybe we'll be able to do the demonstration after that. I would like everybody to have a chance to speak that wants to speak because that's why we're here. Yeah. That's the -- does that work?

Yeah, okay. Next we have Christopher Gilmer Hill.

>> Can you all hear me?

>> COMMISSIONER KELLOM: Yes, yes we can.

>> Great. I'll be brief. I know I've talked with you all a lot. I firstly just wanted to thank you all so much for, you know, listening to public comment, taking Maps into Consideration, and, you know, really respecting communities of Interest around where I live. I know that's not the easiest thing to do. I know it can get very complicated. And there's a lot of different voices. But I'm really happy with the range that we have now in this final selection.

So the question I had was sort of relating to the timeline. I know that the deadline for submitting maps for VRA analysis is tomorrow as, uh, Director Woods laid out. Uh, since the Court's deadline is a little bit later, will you all still be considering tweaks after that in the next week or so or are these pretty much like the finalized maps that are going to be...

>> COMMISSIONER LANGE: No. This is just the beginning of the process. The ones that the Commission sent forward today, that's for the VRA analysis to make sure that they are compliant, then we will be meeting next week to have more discussions. Um, they're going to be posted online so people can pin them, make comments. There's still time for, um, more tweaks and then next week we have to actually vote on which ones we're going to push forward to the public, for the public input. So the public is being given -- Commissioner Kellom, do you remember how many days are -- the court gave us a certain amount of time. So those are going to be brought forward for the public to review, give us comment on. We're also having a public hearing, um, at a location to be determined on February 15th where the public can also give comments on the maps that are moved forward. So by no means not necessarily are any of these Maps 100% finished because we're looking for the public comment.

If there's something the public feels needs to be tweaked, we're probably gonna tweak it. So that's why input is so important.

>> COMMISSIONER KELLOM: There's a 30-day, 30-day public

comment period.

>> Okay, all right, perfect, yeah, thank you so much. Yeah. Thanks for that.

>> COMMISSIONER LANGE: Thank you. Brian White is our next speaker. Brian, are you there?

>> I'm sorry. I'm just listening. I didn't know you guys were trying to get me to speak. Thanks though.

>> COMMISSIONER KELLOM: Okay, listening is just as good.

>> COMMISSIONER LANGE: Uh, Cheryl Thompson Marsh.

>> Good evening.

>> COMMISSIONER LANGE: Good evening.

>> One of my questions was just asked by the previous speaker regarding timelines and I saw a great deal of your proceedings yesterday. It was very lengthy and in depth. Um, I can't imagine having to actually engage in this process, um, for a long period of time. But, uh, two questions. One is after the 30day, uh, period of comment, what happens after the 30 days? And how will the citizens of Detroit and the rest of the state, how will we be made aware that those, uh, that that comment period is actually starting and when it stops?

Uh, and I will tell you why I asked that question, because a lot of -- I spent a lot of time after the proceedings yesterday asking people to get engaged in this process because, unfortunately, um, you know, people that are most impacted are not necessarily the folks that are always at the table. um, but, unfortunately, much of the time we're on the menu. And so we want to -- uh, I want to ensure, as a resident of the City of Detroit, that the stakeholders, meaning those that are residents, and I'm speaking of Detroit because that's where I live, um, that we will be able to effectively engage in that process.

>> COMMISSIONER KELLOM: So I want, um, our community outreach, uh, person, director and executive director, to weigh in on this. But I know February 5th is when there's going to be a kickoff to, um, begin really, I guess, hammering away trying to get in touch with residents and citizens of Detroit. I know that this town hall, even though what is happening now, is a part of specifically Commissioner Lange's effort to reach citizens. And we talked about earlier, um, during this meeting that there definitely is a digital divide. I also shared my Endeavor to visit each district and get in contact with district managers to meet at spaces that are most comfortable to the citizens um that feel most organic and authentic for their Community to kind of have a facilitating conversation about what this process is and explaining the Maps and what it means. Because oftentimes, if even -- if you've been listening now, people are thinking that we're a governing body, that we just aren't or we're city council or we're in charge of things that we just don't do. So, um, I know that that is that rough plan for

engagement. But Edward Woods, II, third has shown his face so I'm sure he and

--

>> EDWARD WOODS: I want to -- Commission, go ahead.

>> Mr. Woods, I'm sorry. I didn't know you were going to start. I was just going to thank Commissioner Kellom because I do know it takes a lot to be in the community because, you know, there are a lot of foot soldiers out there, that are willing to help engage in this process and so I just need to know the information so those people that I'm connected to and organizations across, um, Southeastern Michigan that we can, uh, we can engage in the process with you, um, because it's that important. And, unfortunately, because of the digital divide, you're right, they're in parts of the city that does not have access to Internet service because they're not wired for whatever reason. So those are things that people, some people don't know about, some don't care. But that eliminates access for a lot of people. So, you know, we're just really concerned. We meaning people like me that have been invested in Detroit for a long time want this to be an inclusive process. So I'm asking so that those of us who are willing to invest some time we want to help with getting the information out wherever you are, uh, holding, uh, it, something in the community or for those who can engage electronically.

>> EDWARD WOODS: Okay, Ms. Marsh, if you can reach out to us at redistricting@michigan.gov, I would like to follow up and talk with you. We're always looking for ways to improve.

>> Will do.

>> EDWARD WOODS: Thank you so much. Thank you. Um, Commissioner Lange, we have one person left and then we can, um, go to the, um, demonstration and call it a night. So here's our last person for the evening. Ms. Karen Ferguson.

>> COMMISSIONER LANGE: Karen, are you there?

>> COMMISSIONER KELLOM: Oh, no, Karen. Please be there.

>> EDWARD WOODS: All right. We don't have Karen and let's go ahead and go into our demonstration. Is everybody able to see the website?

>> COMMISSIONER LANGE: Yes.

>> EDWARD WOODS: Wonderful.

I'm on our front website there.

Commissioner Lange, Commissioner Kellom articulated, um, it was updated to make it easier for citizens to identify the exact work that the Commission is doing. If you want to view the maps that the Commission are currently working on, you want to hit view draft Maps, then you want to hit state house and then you can see by the date each map that the Commission is working on.

Um, this is just something to help you if you want to see the actual picture of

the map that we're working on. For example, Daisy. You want to hit the download button and then you will see the, um, it will download on your computer. And then if you click on that, it will open up and you can see the actual file of the map that the Commission is working on, um, in terms of what the Commission did. So just kind of wanted to share that with you in terms of how that how that works.

Um, with regards to that, you can also comment on the map. So if you see a map that you want to comment on you, just open up the comment link and you can put a comment exactly on the map. You can tell us what you like, what you didn't like or, um, modifications or changes that you have. This comment link is also known as the mapping portal. So when you hear the Commissioners talk about the mapping portal, they're talking about the comment link that is listed on the my districting Michigan site. Once again, to see the picture, you hit the attachment and to map, to provide comment directly related to a particular map, you want to do that.

This will be very important, um, starting February 2nd, once the Commission releases to the public the maps that it's considering. But right now you can comment on that. So that's one thing, um, that you could do. From the Commission, once again, that's from The View draft Maps.

Um, if you want to know the meeting dates of the Commission, you can go to the meeting notices and materials and you can see all of the meetings that will take place on the Commission. You can go back to the Inception of the Commission. And for January, um, you can see all our dates. We do have a meeting tomorrow, January 26, that will start at 9:00, ff you come tomorrow, as long as there's public comments going on, you're able to register for public comments on site. If you want to come remotely, you need to sign up one hour before the meeting. And if you click the meeting notice, that's the key thing, it will tell you how to sign up. We have a Microsoft form, office form that you just click here and you're able to sign up at any and every meeting of the Commission. We always have time for public comment and want to hear from you.

So for those who may have accessibility issues, Transportation issues from the Inception of the Commission, we've always had an opportunity for people to provide public comment. And that's how you do so. You want to go to the meeting notices. Um, just so you are aware and we're clear, we have, um, meetings every day next week, starting at 9:00 and ending at 6:00 p.m. once again, we have meetings every day next week except for Friday starting at 9:00, ending at 6:00. So if you want to be a part of the public comments, it's at the beginning of the meeting, so you want to sign up because next week we are all virtual. So you want to make sure you sign up by 8:00.

Once again, um, the maps that the Commission is looking to reconfigure are

Michigan House of Representatives districts number 1, 7, 8, 10, 11, 12, and 14. Let me slow it down. I'm so sorry, Bethany. Michigan House of Representative districts number 1, 7, 8, 10, 11, 12, and 14. I showed you the mapping portal, but if you click here on the public comment portal, um, you're able to go ahead and put your suggestions in terms of written testimony, which is something that you can do. You click on it, and you provide your written testimony.

If you want to submit a districting plan, you click on there, submit your District plan. Or if you want to identify a community of interest, you submit that as well and then you submit the comment. It goes directly to the Michigan Independent Redistricting Commission. Once again, written testimony, click on that and you'll do it. Click on our districting plan if you and want to submit a plan for one of the districts or if you want to click a community interest, a community interest is known as something historical, cultural, or of economic interest; meaning Economic Development, whether it's a waterfront, Entertainment District, business district, agriculture, um, what have you. So, once again, want you to know that all of this. I repeat, all of this is available off the front page of the MICRC website. Um, you don't have to click multiple spots. You can access everything, um, from the front page.

Let me come out of there. there we go. All right. Thank you so much. I'm going to turn this back over to Commissioner Lange and Commissioner Kellom to close this out. I think Commissioner Kellom is going to do the first close out and thanking everyone here. And Commissioner Lange will go from there.

Once again, we want to thank, um, our all of our interpreters and that have helped out this evening, appreciate them on such a short notice for being out here with us. And also want to thank the Michigan Department of State. So, once again, thank you. And if you want to comment, please join us tomorrow at 9:00 at the Cadillac Place either in person or you can click on the meeting notice as I just showed you. And make sure you sign up by 8:00 am.

Also, I want to recognize and thank the Commissioners who have been engaging and answering questions behind the scenes. um, we see Commissioner Weiss, Commissioner Callahan, and um, let's see. Did I miss anybody? Commissioner Andrade was on as well. I want to thank her. And we had Commissioner Orton Who provided remarks. And I also want to thank Commissioner Lett who was sick but came on as well. And if there's any other Commissioners I missed, please charge it to my head and not to my heart; but appreciate you, um, coming. Oh Commissioner Szetela and Commissioner Wagner, um, appreciate you coming in and joining us for this very important conversation. And, once again, kudos to you, Commissioner Lange, for this idea and getting us together tonight. And thanks again, Commissioner Kellom,

for, um, joining. Commissioner Lange, all right, Commissioner Kellom, we'll turn it over to you then, to Commissioner Lange.

>> COMMISSIONER KELLOM: Thank you Executive Director and Community Outreach Director Edward Woods, III. I don't want to keep us or keep my part any longer than it has to be. I'm very, very, um, honored to have held space for the Detroiters and for those listening. This will be recorded and posted to our YouTube, so there is still value in rewinding something that was what live and listening to that. I just encourage my fellow Detroiters to not be discouraged to really dig in and to keep commenting. Don't feel like this is an effort lost. I know many things for our communities, um, sometimes don't turn -- don't turn out right, but I think your voice is needed more than ever, um, in continuing the written testimony and showing up to the meetings when you can and if you can and continuing to engage with us because we are still actively drawing. Again, we're just at the first stage and so it was such a pleasure to be able to answer questions and to say I don't know, I'll find that out for you. And even to have the push back because it's all a part of the process. I think the passion and frustration, um, shows how important it is for us to get this right. And that is what I and I'm sure the rest of the Commissioners Endeavor to do. So thank you. Thank you again. And I am very happy to be a part of the Commission and to help things move forward.

Commissioner Lange?

>> COMMISSIONER LANGE: You said it perfectly, but I do want to thank everybody that attended also. And I think if I could stress anything, if you take anything away from tonight's meeting, it would be tell a friend, tell a relative, get others involved because the more you lift your voices, the easier it's going to make us -- make it for us to do the job that we need to do and do a good job for the residents of Detroit. And that is truly what I believe every Commissioner on this Commissioner wants is to make sure that you are represented properly.

So if there has been, what's the word I'm looking for, Commissioner frustration with us, please know that I truly believe our hearts are in the right place. And you can help us get the outcome that we need by sharing your voices and encouraging your neighbors and your community members to share their voices with us. And thank you again for coming out tonight.