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MICRC

20240126-0900 Meeting

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>> CHAIR ORTON: Good morning. The Michigan Independent Citizens Redistricting Commission is live in Detroit. We look forward to hearing from you.

As Chair of the Commission I call this meeting of the Michigan Independent Citizens Redistricting Commission to order at 9:10 a.m.

This Zoom webinar is live streamed on our Michigan Independent Citizens Redistricting Commission YouTube channel.

For anyone in the public watching who would prefer to watch...
You guys can't hear?

>> MS. SARAH REINHARDT: We can hear.

>> CHAIR ORTON: Okay the people in house are having a hard time hearing so it will be taken care of.

>> MS. SARAH REINHARDT: I see, okay.

>> CHAIR ORTON: For anyone in the public watching and would like a different platform than they are currently using, please visit our social media at redistricting MI.

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

People with disabilities needing other specific accommodations should also contact us at Reidistricting@michigan.gov.

This meeting is being recorded and will be available at www.Michigan.gov/MICRC for viewing at a later date.

This meeting is also being transcribed and those closed captions transcripts will be made available and posted on the Michigan.gov/MICRC website along with written public comment submissions. There is also a comment portal and can be accessed visiting Michigan.gov/MICRC.

Members of the media who may have questions before, during or after the meeting should direct those questions to Edward Woods, III, Executive Director for the Commission, at Woods E3@Michigan.gov or 517-331-6309.

For the public watching and the public record I will turn to the Department of State to take note of the Commissioners present.

>> YVONNE YOUNG: Good morning and good morning, Commissioners.
Commissioners please say present when I call your name. If you are attending the

meeting remotely, please announce during roll call where you are attending the meeting from including county, City, Township, state and the village from which you are attending. I will begin roll call alphabetically beginning with Commissioner Andrade?

>> ELAINE ANDRADE: Present.

>> YVONNE YOUNG: Commissioner Callaghan? Commissioner Curry?

Commissioner Eid?

>> COMMISSIONER EID: Present.

>> YVONNE YOUNG: Commissioner Kellom?

>> COMMISSIONER KELLOM: Attending remotely from Wayne County.

>> YVONNE YOUNG: Commissioner Lange?

>> COMMISSIONER LANGE: Present attending remotely from Reed City, Michigan.

>> YVONNE YOUNG: Commissioner Lett?

>> COMMISSIONER LETT: Present attending remotely from Southfield.

>> YVONNE YOUNG: Commissioner Muldoon?

>> MARCUS MULDOON: Present.

>> YVONNE YOUNG: Commissioner Orton?

>> CHAIR ORTON: Present.

>> YVONNE YOUNG: Commissioner Szetela?

>> COMMISSIONER SZETELA: Present attending from Wayne County, Michigan.

>> YVONNE YOUNG: Commissioner Vallette?

>> COMMISSIONER VALLETTE: Present.

>> YVONNE YOUNG: Commissioner Wagner? Commissioner Weiss?

>> COMMISSIONER WEISS: Present attending remotely from Saginaw Township, Saginaw Michigan.

>> YVONNE YOUNG: Madam Chair we have a quorum with ten Commissioners present.

>> CHAIR ORTON: Thank you very much Ms. You know reminder to the public watching you can view agenda at www.Michigan.gov/MICRC. I would now entertain a motion to approve the meeting agenda.

>> COMMISSIONER LANGE: So moved.

>> COMMISSIONER SZETELA: Second.

>> CHAIR ORTON: Moved and seconded. Any discussion on the agenda? I do have a question for Director Woods. I believe we completed more work to a point yesterday that was faster than we were expecting. So I think we have less that we need to accomplish today. So I'm thinking we won't go until 5:30.

>> MR. EDWARD WOODS: Chairperson my goal is to get you out of here no later than Noon.

>> CHAIR ORTON: So on the agenda we have mapping as the most part after the public comment. So I know we have a presentation, I think. Does that go along with mapping?

>> MR. EDWARD WOODS: Mapping process and procedures Sarah Reinhardt will do a presentation. More for information only. But the vote will not be taken until Monday. So it's just to give the Commission something to think about in terms of how we want to move forward. And that's all that will take place.

>> CHAIR ORTON: Okay, all right, Commissioner Lange?

>> COMMISSIONER LANGE: Yes, I was actually going to ask if maybe we could move the Executive Director reports in the presentations up to the beginning. I know there is a lot of Commissioners that are sick right now. So maybe if we could get that part of the Commission business to the beginning and the mapping after that, that way if some Commissioners do need to drop off because they are ill it won't affect us.

>> CHAIR ORTON: Okay, that sounds like a good idea. So I guess we need a motion to adjust the agenda.

>> COMMISSIONER LANGE: I motion that we adjust the agenda to move Executive Director report and our planned presentation by Ms. Reinhardt to the beginning of the agenda, after public comment.

>> CHAIR ORTON: Do we have a second? Okay so we have a motion and a second to move the Executive Director report before the mapping on the agenda. Is there any discussion on that? Okay, so all in favor of making that move raise your hand and say aye.

>> Aye.

>> CHAIR ORTON: Thank you. Any opposed raise your hand and say nay. Okay, the ayes have it so we will rearrange the agenda to reflect that. So I would entertain a motion to approve the amended agenda.

>> COMMISSIONER LANGE: So moved.

>> COMMISSIONER VALLETTE: Second.

>> CHAIR ORTON: Moved and seconded to approve the amended agenda. Discussion? All in favor of approving the amended agenda raise your hand and say aye.

>> Aye.

>> CHAIR ORTON: Any opposed raise your hand and say nay.

The amended agenda is approved.

Okay, so, without objection, I will ask our Executive Director Edward Woods III to present the public comment guidelines. Hearing no objection please proceed Mr. Woods.

>> MR. EDWARD WOODS: Thank you Chairperson. Welcome. We have been in Detroit all week and had the wonderful opportunity to hear from so many people with regards to how they feel the maps should be drawn. We just have one simple rule. It's just that we ask you to respect the Commission as the Commission respects you. We ask that you direct your comments towards the Commission and not to any individual Commissioner or any innuendos or anything along those lines. You have up to 90

seconds to share and it will be very helpful if you have a community of interest or something you want to talk about to specifically mention that in your comments so the Commission can consider that in its deliberations in selecting a map for the Michigan House of Representatives. Once again thank you so much for coming and we look forward to hearing from you whether you are in person or virtual. Thank you again.

>> CHAIR ORTON: Thank you, Mr. Woods. So Vice Chair Janice Vallette will facilitate the public comment portion of today's meeting.

>> COMMISSIONER VALLETTE: Individuals who have signed up and indicated they would like to provide in person public commentary to the Commission will now be allowed to do so. Please step to the nearest microphone when I call your number. You will have 90 seconds to address the Commission. Please conclude your remarks when your 90 seconds have ended, and you hear the timer. First in line to provide public comment is number one.

>>Hello, hi. My name is Kevin and I'm a resident of Ferndale, Michigan. And I teach political science just down the road at Wayne state University and I've been involved since 2017 in producing helping to Voters Not Politicians work on prop six two and pass this. And so I come to you as someone who has been deeply involved in this process and someone who comes with a certain amount of awe for the work you have done. I hope it's okay I start today not with specific comments but a better effort thanks and praise to all of you for the work you have done. This is really remarkable and thank you for your service first. I know this is not easy. And I know that additional barriers have been put in your way but the work you have done has been amazing. I also want to thank you specifically for the work that you've done around making sure that the most marginalized voices, most marginalized communities in Michigan actually have as much access to the halls of power as everyone else. And in that regard, I really want to thank you as you have done your work for choosing those maps that really make sure that our most marginalized communities have that representation. It's not easy. There are lots of different ways of doing it, but I really appreciated the way you all have tried to find a balance among the various options. In particular I wanted to thank you for your willingness to bring in outside information and map the Trillium maps and other maps. The willingness to bring the information in help helps that is time critical. Thank you very much for your service, I really appreciate it.

>> COMMISSIONER VALLETTE: Thank you for addressing the Commission. Next in line is number two.

>> Good morning.

I am Dr. Randall, a 31-year veteran of Detroit public schools. I also bring you greetings from the Michigan democratic party where I serve as executive officer at large. I read the statement of an elected official, and I thought it was fitting to read it again. This is from Commission Chair Aleshia Bell of Wayne County. I stand united with the leaders from across Detroit to urge all Detroiters to give remarks as it relates to redrawing the

seven House Districts which dilutes African/American representation. In our state Government. We were all honored to grow up watching the leadership of Erma Henderson on the City Council and Hunter and Morris Hood in the State House. Conyers and Carolyn Kirkpatrick as our Congressman and let us not forget the first African Alexander Coleman, Senior. Our kids deserve to have that opportunity as well as they need to see it to believe it just like us. They have to see persons that look like them in elected positions so that they know they can be and hold office as well. Especially in a City which is over 75% of African/Americans that is why it's important that we let our voices be heard and provide testimony this week as the Michigan Independent Citizens Commission accepts this testimony. Thank you.

>> COMMISSIONER VALLETTE: Thank you for addressing the Commission. Next in line is number three.

>> Good morning.

I live in Highland Park. Metro Detroit is home to the largest and most diverse Arab American Middle Eastern and north African community in the country. We are not represented in the census data as a unique racial and ethnic category therefore we are not considered in this part of the political process of redistricting. Our community of interest, the Arab American and Mena American community primarily lives in Dearborn, Dearborn Heights, West Detroit, and Melvindale, as well as other parts of Michigan such Hamtramck, Sterling Heights, Flint, Livonia, Canton, Ferndale, Ypsilanti and Ann Arbor. Yeah, we are all over the place. I support the access community of interest map C1510 that would keep our communities intact and enable to demonstrate their needs. Please take the time to redraw the House maps. Thank you.

>> COMMISSIONER VALLETTE: Thank you for addressing the Commission. Next in line is number four.

>> Hello Commissioners. My name is Ms. Love and live in West Bloomfield and work for access in Wayne County I'm a social worker the Arab and Mena communities are large and diverse concentrated in this area. Our community of interest as access is the Arab American and Mena community and it's primarily in Dearborn, Dearborn Heights, West Detroit and Melvindale as well other parts of the state. And we have been involved in the economic and cultural development of Southeast Michigan in the last 50 years through our work and we have seen that because the census categorizes Arab Americans and Mena Americans as white, it's very hard to quantify the needs and size of this community. And this community of interest map C1510 would make that easier for us and make our work easier and make quantifying the size of the Arab American community easier and it would make finding funding to create programs to address the needs of this community easier. So as Commissioners you have the ability to draw District lines and maps that would influence Michigan State and national landscape for the next ten years. And we urge you to consider the Arab American community of interest as you redraw these maps, thank you.

>> COMMISSIONER VALLETTE: Thank you for addressing the Commission. Next in line is number five.

>> Good morning, everyone. I was not expecting to be here today so I don't really know who to address, but I would like to say that this is a perfect opportunity for me to stand up for my community. When I say community, I say that as a unit, a nation. I don't want to go over my time. Part me for like being spontaneous. The best I can but I just want to appreciate and thank each and every one of you persons for me having this opportunity to view this in Detroit. Okay, thank you.

>> COMMISSIONER VALLETTE: Thank you for addressing the Commission. Next in line is number six.

>> Good morning, Commissioners my name is Sarah and I live in Dearborn here on behalf of access. I'm here to ask the Commission to keep my community together Arab and broadly north African community is not only a community of interest in Dearborn Heights but it can also found in Hamtramck, Ann Arbor, Ferndale, Sterling Heights, pockets of Detroit and most importantly Melvindale. This community of interest we share similarities with ancestors, heritage, culture and language but also a shared similarity in invisibility. Labeled white and cannot quantify inequities they face in everyday lives, not have the Mena category in the U.S. census data that is being used to redraw these District maps. I encourage the Commission to refer back to access community of interest map C1510 because the decision the Commission map will affect us now and the next decade. Thank you for your service.

>> COMMISSIONER VALLETTE: Thank you for addressing the Commission. Next in line is number seven.

>> Hello. I'm the civic engagement manager at access. First, thank you all for allowing us the opportunity to be here and to speak to you. I was here in 2021, not 2001. I was here in 2021 with you all so again thank you for allowing us to be here and creating this space for us to advocate for our communities. As my colleagues and friends have mentioned the U.S. census hold people with origins within the white category and do not have the data to be able to back up the redrawing of the maps but that being said we know for a fact that our community of interest map we have shared, the 1510 is a community of interest map that ensures that our community voices will be heard and represented and we urge you all to take that into consideration. Our community of interest primarily lives in the communities that we have shared. Myself being a Dearborn Heights resident, I know that it's really important for our community voices to be heard and up lifted. In addition to that we have also heard a lot of conversation around removing Melvindale from community of interest. As access as an organization and as individuals we want to urge you to ensure that you are also taking into consideration the Arab American community that lives in Melvindale. Thank you.

>> COMMISSIONER VALLETTE: Thank you for addressing the Commission. Next in line is number eight.

>> Hi everyone. Good morning.

I'm a community organizer at access. I'm here on behalf of access and I just want to say the diverse Arab American and Mena population trace ancestry to different countries and speak different dialects and languages and have much more in common than ethnic or racial group. Using the best available data from the U.S. census and American community survey a report was created with a picture of a unique community as a result of this Arab and Mena from the white integrity. 43% of Arab and American I'm sorry Arab and Mena community between ages of 24-64 lives in poverty with 8.4 unemployed. Arab Americans and Mena individuals have distinct individuals and experiences. And on the national level data on American and Mena obscure the variation such this disadvantaged community in the Metro Detroit area. I just want to say I support access community of interest map C1510. Which will keep our communities intact and ensure equitable consideration of our community. Please take the time to redraw the House maps as this will affect the next ten years of our community of interest.

>> COMMISSIONER VALLETTE: Thank you for addressing the Commission. Next in line is number nine.

>> Hello. I live in Dearborn I'm here to advocate for the access community of interest map C1510. The maps as they stand are not currently fair on ranked criteria number one the Voting Rights Act. Not considering the facts and data on your Voting Rights Act analysis is leading you down a path of disenfranchisement of people of color despite best intentions. And they are not in the census and left out of the predicting process. Access C1510 ensures our communities stay together and able to quantify needs. Please redraw the House maps our community of interest primarily lives in Dearborn, Dearborn Heights, West Detroit and Melvindale as well as other parts of Michigan such as Hamtramck, Sterling Heights, Flint, Livonia, Canton, Ferndale, Ypsilanti and Ann Arbor. Thank you.

>> COMMISSIONER VALLETTE: Thank you for addressing the Commission. Next in line number ten.

>> Hello. I live in Livonia and work at access. I urge you to consider the Arab American and Mena communities as you continue your work on the House maps. According to the most recent census data 45% of Middle Eastern and North African population of Michigan lives in Wayne County. 85% of the Mena population lives in Wayne, Oakland and Macomb counties combined. At access we primarily serve as clients from these counties. Our community of interest primarily lives in Dearborn, Dearborn Heights, West Dearborn and Melvindale, as well as other parts of Michigan such as Hamtramck, Sterling Heights, Flint, Livonia, Canton, Ferndale, Ypsilanti and Ann Arbor. Dividing our communities of interest further marginalizes the Arab American and Mena communities. Impacting available resources and our ability to quantify needs and develop targeted service programs. I support the access

communities of interest map C1510 which would recognize the significance of the Arab American and Mena communities' presence in this area. Thank you.

>> COMMISSIONER VALLETTE: Thank you for addressing the Commission. Next in line is number 11.

>> Hello, I live in Dearborn. I'm here to advocate for the access community of interest map C1510 to ensure that the Arab American and Mena communities are given consideration in drawing of the maps. Arab Americans and more broadly the Mena communities are under counted in the U.S. census. Making the process such more difficult for our community to demonstrate the size and the need of the community. We urge you to continue to work on the House maps the Michigan State University institute of social policy and public research recommended that MICRC reevaluate its approach toward compliance with the VRA in the light of this question they need to assess whether the districts are preferring candidates to win racially will arise during primary elections. Presentation of the COI will have for the next ten years. And the generational impacts it will have for our future take time to redraw the House maps. Thank you.

>> COMMISSIONER VALLETTE: Thank you for addressing the Commission. Next in line is number 12.

>> Good morning.

I live in Dearborn. I'm the former president of access and currently I'm the president of Arab Americans for progress. The Metro Detroit region is home to the largest and most diverse Arab and Middle Eastern and Mena communities outside the Arab Mena region. This community of interest shares a rich history and has made significant economic, culture and civic contributions to Michigan. We are asking that you keep this community together. The census grossly under counts Arab Americans to the fact they are only identified as white. Therefore, the community historically is denied representation and critical services. Once recognizing the significant presence of this community and the unique needs and challenges we face, would be to keep our community together in the House District. I hope the Commissioners will take our community into account by considering the access community of interest map. Thank you.

>> COMMISSIONER VALLETTE: Thank you for addressing the Commission. That concludes our in-person public comment. And we move on to virtual.

Individuals who have signed up and indicated they would like to provide live or remote public commentary to the Commission will now be allowed. I will call your name and our staff will unmute you. If you are on a computer, you will be prompted by the Zoom app to unmute your microphone and speak. If you are on the phone, a voice will say the host wants you to speak and prompt you to press star six to unmute.

I will call you by your name or the last four digits of your phone number. Also please note that if you experience technical or audio issues and we do not hear from you from three to five seconds we will move on to the next person in line and then return to you

after they are done speaking. If your audio still does not work, you can e-mail redistricting@Michigan.gov and we will help you trouble shoot so you can participate in the next public comment period at a later meeting. You will have 90 seconds to address the Commission. Please conclude your remarks when you hear the timer.

Sorry, I got out of line.

First in line to provide public comment is James Gallant. Please allow a moment for our staff to unmute you.

>> MS. SARAH REINHARDT: Public comment participants 1, 2 and 3 are not currently present.

>> COMMISSIONER VALLETTE: Okay, then we will move on to four. Next in line is Eden. Please allow our staff a moment to unmute you.

>> Hi, can you hear me?

>> COMMISSIONER VALLETTE: Yes.

>> Okay, sorry about that. Hi. I live in Detroit. And I'm here to support the access communities of interest map C1510 and which would keep the Arab American and Middle Eastern communities together. It originates from culturally and religiously diverse countries and shares many experiences and challenges leaving this community of interest together ensures we are able to quantify its needs. It would also mean that programs can be developed to meet the needs of these communities and funding can be acquired to do this. Because Mena and Arab American communities are already not recognized by the Federal Government, they are under counted and not able to accurately demonstrate the size and needs of this community. Access communities of interest map C1510 would recognize the significant presence of this community and region and display the Commission's dedication to equity through the predicting process. Thanks for your time.

>> COMMISSIONER VALLETTE: Thank you for addressing the Commission. Next in line is Christiana Beckley. Please allow our staff a moment to unmute you.

>> Christiana-Beckley.

>> COMMISSIONER VALLETTE: You are muted.

>> Can you hear me now?

>> CHAIR ORTON: Yes.

>> Okay. So hello my name is Christiana Beckley and I live in Detroit, Michigan. As a friend and ally of the Arab American community I want to ensure their voice is heard in this redistricting process. Arab Americans and more broadly Mena communities are under counted in the U.S. census already making the process much more difficult for the community to demonstrate the size and needs of their community. The community in Melvindale has commonalities and shared history with the cities of Dearborn and Dearborn heights and is part of the same community of interest. Keeping this community of interest together in the House maps will help us to be able to acknowledge the population and the needs and challenges and develop programs. So I

ask that you please take your time to consider the access community of interest map and the C1510 as you continue to work on the House maps. Thank you for your time.

>> COMMISSIONER VALLETTE: Thank you for addressing the Commission. Next in line is Clare Forster, please allow our staff a moment to unmute you.

>> Hi. Hello can you hear me?

>> COMMISSIONER VALLETTE: Yes.

>> Great, thank you. My name is Clare Forster, born in Ann Arbor and lived here most of my life, besides time I spent living abroad. I'm a graduate of the University of Michigan Ann Arbor where I established myself as a poet and teaching artist. I have a master's degree from the American University in Cairo and studied visual media trends before during and after Arab spring. Yesterday, January 25th, was the beginning of the Revolution in Egypt that deposed military dictator a popular movement that was in part fighting for social justice and democracy there. Unlike Egyptians we are privileged with a better-established democratic process, but we are not perfect either. In 2020 I volunteered as a poll worker in Dearborn because I felt compelled to do my part to protect my neighbors that are near susceptible to intimidation and suppressing at the polls. But it's the end of the line to protect enfranchisement at the polls. This process begins with this Redistricting Commission. So I'm here to advocate that the Arab American and Mena communities are kept together to ensure equitable consideration of their needs. Therefore, I urge you to take in access map C1510 in the redistricting of our state. Thank you for your time, Commissioners, and other support staff. Thank you for your work to make our democratic process increasingly fair and free. And may Palestine be free so we may all be free.

>> COMMISSIONER VALLETTE: Thank you for addressing the Commission. Next in line is -- please allow us to unmute you.

>> MS. SARAH REINHARDT: Participants 7, 8, 9, 10, 11.

>> COMMISSIONER VALLETTE: Starting with 12 next in line is Ryan Reese. And please allow our staff a moment to unmute you.

>> Can you hear me?

>> COMMISSIONER VALLETTE: Yes.

>> Thank you. Reverend Reese. Thank you for the tireless work of the Commission and the time to speak to you. Your hard work in the past has been appreciated and we want to see the strong progress towards partisan fairness continue on all rubrics that ground not be lost in the Metro area as we protect the COIS that are present throughout the Metro area.

Both the diversity of our communities and at the same time the partisan fairness of our communities is something to be preserved. Be careful not to rely solely on the vote to seat racial and be mindful of median mean and efficiency ratings. I want to see the residents of my communities in South Warren and centerline receive the most fair and balanced voter representation possible. Comments regarding the COIs that cross over

the 8-mile boundary are of special importance to me as a resident of the region and having walked many of the streets numerous times in the past. I would advise against Trillium of House 14 in it particularly does not reflect the African/American population already present within the District by my own frequent walking in the area. And knowing my neighbors and having worked with these people for a very long time. It does not reflect the 8-mile crossings and I would suggest other maps over that one. Thank you very much for your time.

>> COMMISSIONER VALLETTE: Thank you for addressing the Commission. Next in line is Bronwyn Prater. Please allow our staff a moment to unmute you.

>> Good morning can you hear me? And I work at access in Dearborn. I'm here to advocate on behalf of the Arab American community. The United States census counts people of Arab and Middle Eastern descent, Middle Eastern African within the white race category and through my years of work at access I witnessed the ongoing impact of going under counted and underrepresented this had on this community. Since the community used it as a data graphic data source the Arab and Mena communities are left out of the redistricting process. Our community of interest primarily lives in Dearborn, Dearborn Heights, West Detroit and Melvindale, as well as in other parts of Michigan such as Hamtramck, Flint, Sterling Heights, Livonia, Canton, Ferndale, Ypsilanti, and Ann Arbor. Please consider the access community of interest C1510 that keeps the Arab American together. This community of interest has unique needs that cannot be met unless the entire community is kept whole. Thank you for your time.

>> COMMISSIONER VALLETTE: Thank you for addressing the Commission next in line.

>> MS. SARAH REINHARDT: Commissioner Kellom has a hand raised.

>> CHAIR ORTON: Commissioner Kellom, go ahead.

>> COMMISSIONER KELLOM: Thank you for those present that are providing remote public comment as well as in person public comment. I had a question regarding of course you all have showed the numbers and I'm listening regarding this access map. I'm curious to know and you might not that right now but one of the maps we created so far closely represents the areas that you all are describing and our passionate about.

I think it would be good information because sometimes I'm not assuming you all have not reviewed our current maps and sometimes there is a lag of what was done from last week all the way up until yesterday and what folks are able to access on the Internet or attending meetings. The meetings are obviously pretty lengthy. So I would appreciate that information from anyone who is willing to share.

>> COMMISSIONER VALLETTE: Please allow a minute for our staff to unmute you.

>> Graeme-Hewson.

>> Can you hear me? I'm here on behalf of access and requesting we keep the community of interest that I work closely with which are Arab Americans and Middle

Eastern or Mena together. They are a socially and politically marginalized group and from marginalized groups. When they are divided it's hard for the community to avail the opportunities afforded by the programs. The Arab and Mena have culture barriers to access programs and need strong consideration to close the gap in coverage. Please consider access community of interest map that provides access to our community. Thank you for your time.

>> COMMISSIONER VALLETTE: Thank you for addressing the Commission. Next in line is Amal-Mohamud. Please allow our staff a moment to unmute you.

>> Hello. Can you hear me?

>> COMMISSIONER VALLETTE: Yes.

>> I work at access, located in Dearborn Michigan. I advocate that Arab American Middle Eastern and North African Mena communities are kept together to ensure proper representation of the community of interest for the next ten years. Please consider the access community of interest map C1510 which keeps our communities together and ensure their needs will be met. There are Federal programs designed for marginalized groups. However, when Arab American and Mena communities are divided, the Commission makes it harder for the community to be available to the opportunities afforded by these programs. The Arab American and Mena communities have unique and culture to access Federal programs and need strong consideration to be able to close the gap in coverage. Our community of interest should be kept together in order for those unique needs to be met which is accomplished in the access COI map C1510. Thank you for your time.

>> COMMISSIONER VALLETTE: Thank you for addressing the Commission. Next in line is... please allow our staff a moment to unmute you.

>> MS. SARAH REINHARDT: That participant is not present.

>> COMMISSIONER VALLETTE: Next in line is Claudia Abboud. Please allow our staff a moment to unmute you.

>> Hello, can you hear me?

>> COMMISSIONER VALLETTE: Yes.

>> Hello. My name is Claudia Abboud and live in Plymouth, Michigan. We are home to the most diverse identity. My community of interest originates from culturally geographically and religious countries embodying experiences and narratives not distilled to an experience or partisan lines. We are not counted in the census as our own racial or ethnic category, which is the only sort of demographic data you are using in the redistricting process. Our community of interest primarily lives in Dearborn, Dearborn Heights, West Detroit and Melvindale, as well as other parts of Michigan such as Hamtramck, Sterling Heights, Flint, Livonia, Canton, Ferndale, Ypsilanti and Ann Arbor. Splitting my community of interest into multiple districts makes it more difficult to have our community recognized. I urge you to keep my community of interest together like access map C1510 thank you for your time.

>> COMMISSIONER VALLETTE: Thank you for addressing the Commission. Next in line is Adam. Please allow our staff a moment to unmute you.

>> MS. SARAH REINHARDT: That participant is not present.

>> COMMISSIONER VALLETTE: Thank you. Next in line is Trenton Wormley. Please allow a moment for our staff to unmute you.

>> Hi. Can you all hear me properly?

>> COMMISSIONER VALLETTE: Yes.

>> All right. Perfect. Good morning, my name is Trenton Wormley. And thank you for residents and constituents to voice their concerns and feedback pertaining to the ongoing redistricting situation. It is imperative that Michigan has fair and impartial Districting maps that properly represents every Michigander that the vast majority can agree with. In addition to that, in addition to having fair Districting maps we need to ensure that each District is designed to enhance partisan fairness in order to obtain inclusion and having a balanced constituency in the District. With a balanced District system we can ensure that everyone's voice is heard at the box without issues unfolding that relates to relationship or single groups of individuals. That is all I have. Thank you again for allowing me to share my concerns.

>> COMMISSIONER VALLETTE: Thank you for addressing the Commission. Next in line is... please allow our staff a moment to unmute you.

>> MS. SARAH REINHARDT: Participants 20 and 21 are not present.

>> COMMISSIONER VALLETTE: Thank you. Next in line is Alex McGuire. Please allow our staff a moment to unmute you.

>> Hi, can you hear me?

>> COMMISSIONER VALLETTE: Yes.

>> My name is Alex McGuire connecting from Sterling Heights. Thank you, members of the Commission, for holding these public meetings and allowing us to speak. Transparency is incredibly important to the democratic process and very glad you are doing your part. This Commission has shown a commitment to partisan fairness with the maps it previously drew but I worry you are putting too much importance on the seats to vote racial matrix. It works but an election that is considered a landslide and a statistical outlier the fee to votes ratio breaks down. Moreover, the metrics you are using three out of the four show all of your maps as favoring republicans. Using multiple criteria in dividing your maps would help protect the partisan fairness that is so important in difficult times. Thanks to the Commission for allowing me to speak and have a great day.

>> COMMISSIONER VALLETTE: Thank you for addressing the Commission. Next in line is Sarah Howard. Please allow our staff a moment to unmute you.

>> CHAIR ORTON: You're muted.

>> Are you able to hear me now?

>> CHAIR ORTON: Yes.

>> Great, thank you. Good morning, Commissioners. The most important thing a fair map must do is ensure the party that wins the most votes wins the most seats. There has been talk that there are 60 democratic seats right now. But the math behind it assumes the democrats will win the State House by 3% every single time. In reality that has happened exactly once in the last decade. You are looking at a bunch of marginal seats that would vote republican in a 50/50 statewide election and counting them as democratic seats. That's why the other three metrics beyond seats votes show a republican bias in the maps. For example, the mean median test all of the maps right now and show that the republican party could lose statewide vote by over 2% and still win a majority meaning the democratic party can get 51% and lose and republicans is getting 49% and win. That is not a fair map. You're heading in the right direction but there is still work left to do. Please keep going and thank you again for all of your efforts. I'm Sarah Howard.

>> COMMISSIONER VALLETTE: Thank you for addressing the Commission. Next in line is Michael Davis. Please allow our staff a moment to unmute you.

>> Can I go?

>> CHAIR ORTON: You are welcome to address the Commission Michael.

>> Good morning. I'm Michael Davis, Executive Director of Promote the Vote with a rich history and protecting marginalized communities across our state and advancing advocacy and pro-voter education. Our 2024 unity map was submitted as portal P9299 with metrics and narratives as submitted via e-mail. On behalf of partners and the communities that they serve and engage, we are thankful the Commission looked to our unity map yesterday for two versions named Peony one and two. And it's sound fair and equitable as maps submitted only changed 12 districts and improved upon the core improved upon the core issued outlined in the lawsuit. Our map featured 11 majority minority with Black voting age population at 50% plus 51.6 to 60.1% our map protects unities of interest preserves partisan fairness without diluting the minority voices in Detroit. Giving your timeline with deadlines we ask the original map submission be included for consideration and map adaptations to put forward. Michigan wants to choose from the best maps after evaluation process with the best performing maps well material representative of state and communities Michiganders support this process and random headlines because the MICRC has the duty of ultimately adopting the best final map.

>> COMMISSIONER VALLETTE: Thank you for addressing the Commission. Next in line is Dustin Witjes. Would you please give our staff a moment to unmute you?

>> MS. SARAH REINHARDT: That participant is not present.

>> COMMISSIONER VALLETTE: Thank you. Next in line is Chris Gilmer Hill. Would you please allow our staff a moment to unmute you?

>> Good morning. Can I be heard?

>> COMMISSIONER VALLETTE: Good morning.

>> I'll be quick. Firstly, I would like to really thank the Commission for all the work you have done taking into account communities of interest. I know this has been a very long fraught process, a lot of Detroiters said a lot of things to you. But I think once people really look at the range of options you all prepared, I think people will be happy with the choices we have in terms of how communities of interest are represented. I would like to urge you in this last phase as we are sort of looking at final tweaks to options consider primary election data from 2022 to help make your decision. I think that is a good proxy for COIs that vote together. Along the lines you have heard about Dearborn and Mena community of interest which is important to keep together, I suggest that there is a really good version of that configuration in the spirit of Detroit map, the Marigold, Sunflower and Water Lily, not a huge fan how it's handled in Promote the Vote and Trillium maps and combine Melvindale with part of Dearborn and keep that together. They split off the largest chunk of MENA and Arab community in a District that stretches way into Detroit where they don't really have a say that wins the election. If you look at last year's data, the candidate that won east Dearborn did not win the whole District because of totally disparate parts of Detroit. So I would urge you to take that into consideration.

>> COMMISSIONER VALLETTE: Thank you for addressing the Commission. Next the line is Anthony Skannell. Please allow our staff to unmute you.

>> MS. SARAH REINHARDT: We have a participant who was absent earlier who has joined, and the name is Houssain, if you can give me just a minute.

>> Actually it appears they might have just logged off so maybe they are having technical issues. So, Anthony, give me just one moment.

>> All right, guys, yeah, I almost said disconnect and not connect me that would be horrific but thank you for letting me speak. I love the Lions' attire. Love it. Can't believe this Melvindale came up. I was not thinking about it that seriously and like I said there is arguments for it to go both ways and actually shame on me for showing up late to yesterday's hearing. I did not notice the gentleman, the attorney Bill Colovis that was my attorney at one time. Not even kidding. He advocated for Melvindale to be with Allen and Lincoln Park and so that is great. He is a great attorney. I would recommend him. But there is more than one way to skin a cat and more than one right way to do it, so be it. I kind of like Marigold, Sunflower, Lily and actually I was agreeing right with Chris right there. I don't like Trillium. I don't like Peony and I don't like Tulip absolutely not Tulip. Actually I submitted one this morning. I really did not try that hard on it but hey you should take a look if you got the time. Time is of the essence P9944. Why not? It's a really interesting community of interest between Hamtramck and Warren that I think you guys have been trying to get. But, again, I like Marigold Sunflower, Lily.

>> COMMISSIONER VALLETTE: Thank you for addressing the Commission. Next is Rema. I'm sorry, please allow our staff a moment to unmute you.

>> MS. SARAH REINHARDT: We've had a participant who was number our first participant joined the meeting and was absent earlier, so I will promote them first. So next to speak is James Gallant.

>> Hello, can you hear me now?

>> COMMISSIONER VALLETTE: Yes.

>> This is James Gallant, Marquette County Suicide Prevention Coalition, these are my opinions. Well, you know, I just wanted to explain a little bit that, like Mr. Scannell just said, I believe it was testified that there are 10,000 right maps just you couldn't really pick 13 of them out of 10,000, or more, could be 100,000. So please do better this time. I'm not really interested in the maps thing. I'm interested in the process and procedure and the Constitution, your oath of office to follow our Constitution and rules of procedure, which includes Robert's Rules of Order, that is my piece of the puzzle. And I think that that is the best thing I can do to help alleviate the suicidal behavior in Michigan and to try to help eliminate the hopelessness of all this. And I would like to point out that, through to the Commission as a whole, that the document to vacate Eid from Szetela, in there is a text message from Eid at 9:46 a.m. and she said in there, suggested this was from outside a meeting; but, no.

>> CHAIR ORTON: Mr. Gallant, you are asked not to single out Commissioners by name, please.

>> Wait a minute. I'm talking about her document. This is Szetela's document. She said she has this Eid document, but in there is a text message from between the two Commissioners during a meeting.

>> COMMISSIONER VALLETTE: Your allotted time is up. Thank you for addressing the Commission. So are we going back to in person? Okay. Do we have anyone here?

>> Yes. She might have went down the hall. She will be back. She will be back her coat is here.

>> COMMISSIONER VALLETTE: Then we had Ryan Reese requesting to speak twice on virtual.

>> MS. SARAH REINHARDT: We have six participants who requested to speak twice virtually and our first participant requesting that is Mr. James Gallant. Would you like me to go ahead and proceed with the second round virtual or did you want to wait for the public comment, the in person?

>> YVONNE YOUNG: Ms. Reinhardt, she has walked back in, so, if you don't mind, we will do the in person public comment first then we can go to remote.

>> MS. SARAH REINHARDT: That sounds great.

>> COMMISSIONER VALLETTE: Okay, thank you.

>> YVONNE YOUNG: Thank you.

>> Good morning, Commissioners and fellow Detroiters.

I first want to say thank you to the Commission for continuing the fight. Second, I want to give some kudos to Commissioners Lange and Kellom for their leadership in having the town hall event on yesterday. Thank you, Mr. Woods, for facilitating and keeping things going along. Because we got to meet people where they are. We understand that we have a digital divide in the nation and Detroit is no different. We have to go where the people are. To find out what their true concerns are. That's the whole point of this map making. And seeing the number of people who have not had an opportunity to speak. I believe it was over 200 people on the online forum on yesterday. We need to continue to do that to reach out to the community, number one. The word that I want to express today is elucidate. That means to create understanding, create clarification. I think so many people today do not understand the redistricting process. So how can you speak to something you really have no knowledge of. So we need to make sure we are creating opportunities where we make people understand in layman's terms what it is that is trying to be accomplished. So let's make sure that we do our part and focusing on the VRA on Saturday and this weekend and doing the best for our citizens here in the City of Detroit and the State of Michigan. Thank you for listening.

>> COMMISSIONER VALLETTE: Thank you for addressing the Commission.

>> MS. SARAH REINHARDT: Our first second round comment person is Mr. James Gallant. Please give us a moment to unmute you.

>> COMMISSIONER VALLETTE: Thank you.

>> Can you hear me now?

>> COMMISSIONER VALLETTE: Yes.

>> All right. James Gallant again. Thank you for letting me finish my comment here. So, as I was saying, actually point of order, Madam Chair. I believe that it was that you can talk about the member as long as it's a member in which they are performing the duties and not personal jabs at them personally as a human being. And that's what I'm talking about. I'm talking about the manner in which you folks are performing your duties. And the document to vacate Eid from Ms. Szetela, who is an attorney, and the example for the text message, it's on Page three, and it says here is an example how he was, you know, advocating for maps outside the meeting, outside of public meetings. No. That was during the meeting. And, as a matter of fact, Commissioner Szetela was in the meeting and Commissioner Eid was on his way and said oh, hold that thought until I get there, which he got there at 11:00. That is absolutely. Under the Attorney General's Open Meetings Act Manual, which I don't think you folks got that. Did you or didn't you? You cannot have electronic communication during meetings because that is already considered a closed session meeting. You have a closed session meeting, and nobody knows what you are talking about behind the scenes. And some of you people may not understand what I am talking about, but we are talking about the specter that is communism. That is that closed session meeting of the separate rules that you people

agreed to, that are not in Robert's Rules. And please go back. Everybody go back to September, y'all remember when, you know, Mike Brady said...

>> COMMISSIONER VALLETTE: Thank you for addressing the Commission.

>> MS. SARAH REINHARDT: Our second comment participant for the second round is Anthony Scannell. Please allow a moment for us to unmute you.

>> COMMISSIONER VALLETTE: Thank you.

>> Thank you. I remember back a couple meetings ago there was a discussion about whether or not the COI overlay was -- whether or not there was consensus and were COI and did everyone agree with that. I thought it was an interesting point because I noticed, for example, the Southwest Detroit, I guess, would be Latino community of interest, extended it and included like River Rouge and Ecorse but it didn't include Lincoln Park. But, obviously, in my opinion, experience, Lincoln Park would be more included in that kind of COI than the other two Ecorse and River Rouge Lincoln Park. That is not to say the Native American COIs on top of it are too. There is more than. So the lines have to fall somewhere. That's you know communities are right next to each other. They have overlapping COIs and not everyone can get what they want. It's all right. Yeah. Melvindale, I'm thinking about that. I guess it's a big topic, but I was driving through there. Every day I drive through there. I got a big speeding ticket. It was crazy. Allen Park, home of the Detroit Lions, I work there every day, so that is fun. I appreciate the one Commissioner who asked about third-party voter data whether or not that was included of Dr. Handley. And, no, it's not included in the partisan analysis, but I appreciate the thought, yeah.

>> COMMISSIONER VALLETTE: Thank you for addressing the Commission. We have another?

>> MS. SARAH REINHARDT: Yeah, we have three more. Actually four more, sorry. Our next public comment participant for the second round is Alex McGuire. Alex, give us a moment to unmute you.

>> Hello, can you hear me?

>> COMMISSIONER VALLETTE: Yes.

>> My name is Alex McGuire connecting remotely from Sterling Heights. I'd like to thank the Commission for the opportunity to speak again on behalf of my community. I'm concerned that there hasn't been enough consideration of the partisan fairness data that the Commission has available in drafting the new lines. I especially prefer the Commission only redraw those districts that the Court overturned. Our state's Constitution places partisan fairness above municipal boundaries and compactness and I greatly agree, and I truly believe that we can follow the Court's rulings and have partisan fairness. I don't feel it's mutually exclusive. Thank you for your hard work and listening to me. Have a good day.

>> COMMISSIONER VALLETTE: Thank you for addressing the Commission.

>> MS. SARAH REINHARDT: Our next remote public comment participant for the second round is Ryan Reese. Ryan, give us a moment.

>> Can you hear me now?

>> COMMISSIONER VALLETTE: Yes.

>> Once again, Reverend Ryan Reese from House District 14. Thank you for the additional time to speak to the Commission, and thank you for your eternal patience in dealing with our many comments. I want to stress very strongly under the circumstances that we need to keep focusing on the various other rubrics besides the vote to seat ratio. In particular, I would like the Commission to make an effort while trying to improve COI representation to look to options that would increase the efficiency for all parties so that the efforts are made to make sure that fairness is properly attended to by for both the republicans and the democrats. And as much as I understand the desire of third-party candidates for some additional consideration in this, it's difficult to maintain these statistics. And I approve of the current way in which Dr. Handley explained the rubrics are followed. Please do consider the other rubrics in particular efficiency and median mean. Thank you for your time.

>> COMMISSIONER VALLETTE: Thank you for addressing the Commission.

>> MS. SARAH REINHARDT: Our next remote public comment participant for the second round is Sarah Howard. Sarah, allow us a moment to unmute you.

>> Good morning.

This is Sarah Howard. When you first started three years ago, Dr. Handley's original analysis did not have a measure for partisan fairness. It skews republican and the least accurate in measuring fairness. As you redraw the other three measures, especially mean median should be your focus as you Judge the fairness of a map. It does not work to fix what the Court told you to while neglecting the other constitutional factors that you must also meet. That would not serve Detroiters and it would not serve Michigan. You are doing well on observing the communities to keep together in the affected districts and to amend those lines. Please keep listening to Detroiters. Remember that you are permitted to make changes that you need to in neighboring districts if it makes the most sense to rise to the Court's directive. Thank you again for sticking it out with one another and this process. Again, I'm Sarah Howard here on behalf of the fair maps project. Thank you again.

>> COMMISSIONER VALLETTE: Thank you for addressing the Commission.

>> MS. SARAH REINHARDT: Our 6th and final remote public comment for the second round is Chris Gilmer Hill. Allow us a moment to unmute you.

>> Good morning. Can I be heard.

>> COMMISSIONER VALLETTE: Yes.

>> All right, thanks. So the last thing I wanted to raise before the Commission is again that I would like to really stress partisan fairness should be as perfect as you can get it on these maps. I urge you to use common sense along the numerical metrics

evaluating partisan fairness. The metrics are very good and useful, they are very helpful to let you be objective, but they don't always give you a clear, full story and are most useful when you really understand what they are saying and think about them in full context. So as people have mentioned, the seat vote ratio in particular can be skewed when you have a large number of statewide candidates that win by a large margin. There is a number of seats especially places like Down River that tend to vote for democrats when they win the state by say 10 points. But otherwise are very likely to vote republican. So as a result there are some tweaks that you can do in this next phase of minor changes over the next week that will probably improve fairness across the board such as putting all of Taylor into one District. I would urge you to look at things like that because you've turned two democratic districts into highly competitive South Macomb and Grosse Pointes. Common sense says there is no way unless taking republican districts in places like Taylor. I know your heart is in the right place and the Commission is really being fair about this. And I would like to thank you for the hard work you have done throughout the entire process. Thank you.

>> COMMISSIONER VALLETTE: Thank you for addressing the Commission.

>> MS. SARAH REINHARDT: That concludes our second round of public comment.

>> COMMISSIONER VALLETTE:

>> YVONNE YOUNG: Madam Chair, in an effort to make our roll call complete for today we have had three Commissioners join. I would like to call on Commissioner Callaghan, when I call your name to actually, please say present and share where you are remotely attending from, Commissioner Callaghan?

>> DONNA CALLAGHAN: Present; attending remotely from Farmington Hills, Michigan.

>> YVONNE YOUNG: Commissioner Curry?

>> COMMISSIONER CURRY: Present; attending remotely from Detroit, Michigan.

>> YVONNE YOUNG: Commissioner Wagner?

>> COMMISSIONER WAGNER: Present; attending remotely from Charlotte, Michigan.

>> YVONNE YOUNG: Thank you. We now have a full quorum of 13 Commissioners present, Madam Chair.

>> CHAIR ORTON: Thank you very much. So now, without objection, I will ask Executive Director Woods to provide his report. Hearing no objection please proceed, Mr. Woods.

>> MR. EDWARD WOODS: Thank you, Chairperson and members of the Commission. Just want to give kudos and hats off to Commissioner Rhonda Lange and Commissioner Brittni Kellom and for all those who worked behind the scenes in getting the word out for our virtual meeting. I think it's an excellent idea. And I think the biggest lessons learned from that is that maybe we adjust our Commission meeting in terms of our agenda and replicate that as one of our meetings to get input. I think people really

liked the idea of having the interactive dialog. And I think it would be probably even more beneficial if we had the whole entire Commission with regards to doing that. So I just want to give kudos. We had some challenges, but we were able to work through them and I think it's just a stellar idea and I just want to commend Commissioner Lange for her initiative as well as Commissioner Kellom for their help. And if there is anything either one of those distinguished ladies would like to share at this time, I would like to you know give them the opportunity to do so.

>> CHAIR ORTON: Commissioner Lange?

>> COMMISSIONER LANGE: The only thing I want to share is it takes a team to make it work. I appreciate everybody that helped like Edward said behind the scenes, but I also want to thank the organizations that helped get the word out. I know it was kind of last-minute. So there was a lot of community members that helped pass the link out. There were a lot of community organizations that helped. A lot of churches that helped. So our success was based off from the public. So I think a round of applause from the Commission is deserved to the public of Detroit because without them we wouldn't have got the turn out that we did. So I'll give them a clap.

>> MR. EDWARD WOODS: Chairperson, on Wednesday I repeat on Wednesday I need to know in the Commission would be willing, I know we have a meeting that day, I know and we meet from 9:00 to 6:00, if we can adjust our lunch from 1 to 2 to 12-1 so we can meet 9-12 and lunch 12-1 and then continue meeting 1-6. So if you are able to adjust that, I would greatly appreciate it.

>> CHAIR ORTON: Is there any objection to that adjustment for this coming Wednesday? I don't see any objection or vote that.

>> MR. EDWARD WOODS: If you declare a consensus that would be great.

>> CHAIR ORTON: I declare a consensus.

>> MR. EDWARD WOODS: So the meeting time is the same, just an adjustment with the lunch. All right thank you so much. Next week we have as you know our Court deadline is on Friday to submit the maps. And we are looking to do deliberations sometime next week. So today we are having a presentation as you know from Sarah Reinhardt regarding the mapping process procedure that is more like a discussion in terms of how we do it. And then we have our voting rights analysis that will take place on Monday afternoon after lunch at 1:00. I know Mr. Brace, that you were working on getting the maps. Can you kind of share where we are today?

>> KIM BRACE: Certainly, Executive Director Woods. We have uploaded to the experts last night seven plans. And we are proceeding to upload the remaining seven this morning. We've already sent I think three or four of them. Ryan has been sending them from the back desk back there. And we have been communicating all last night and this morning with the one expert to make sure that his files are readable. He is okay, he has got things that he needs and things are proceeding forward.

So we are doing well on that side and should have everything to him by Noon as we said.

We also have created a series of graphics for the Commission to consider that shows each of these plans with the 20, I'm sorry, with the Hickory plan as an overlay. And at whatever point in time you start looking at reviewing the plans, I'll be happy to share those images with everybody.

>> MR. EDWARD WOODS: That will be like an overlay that you can share next week, that is not something that is on the website, correct?

>> KIM BRACE: We are actually putting those up on the website also. So they will be there so that people can see them then. I just wanted to let people, the Commissioners see them first on that side.

>> MR. EDWARD WOODS: All right for the public that may not know how you can view the plans because all the 14 plans if I'm not mistaken, Mr. Brace, are on the Michigan Districting.

>> KIM BRACE: Yes, that's correct.

>> MR. EDWARD WOODS: The public who wants to view the plans that are being considered by the Commission you can go to the Commission's home Page. I repeat the Commission's home Page and you can click view draft maps from the home Page. Then after you go to view draft maps you can click on the State House and then you can see the maps that are being considered by the Commission. If you click on the attachment, you will notice it's a picture file, a tip file for those of you that know how to work with shape files, if you click on the District shapes you can download the shape files. For those who want to provide public comment as relates to those maps you can click on the comment link with regards to that. Once again, the 14 files that have been forwarded to the VRA the voting rights attorney foreign analysis are also available on the Commission's website for the public to do analysis as well. We want to thank Mr. Brace and his team for EDS for their diligence of getting this up so the public can have comment and people can see what the Commission is doing in an open and transparent way.

I think Chairperson, after we deal with the mapping process and procedures, and I don't know if I think there might be a little bit of time for mapping, I think after that we can also conclude our meeting, all right. If there is any questions I can take them at this time before turning it over to Ms. Sarah Reinhardt.

>> CHAIR ORTON: Any questions for Director Woods? Thank you, Director Woods. Before we turn it over to Sarah Reinhardt, we did have one more public comment, live comment in person, I mean. We are all live. But in person. So we will allow her to speak and then we will move to Sarah Reinhardt.

>> And thank you to this Honorable body for the work that you've been doing. I know it's been very contentious. A lot of time has been spent and energy put into this work. Especially for those of you who are not familiar with the City of Detroit. I do appreciate

the hard work you put into it especially the meeting last night. I think a lot of citizens are grateful to weigh in as many of them were not aware that the meetings were taking place. And so thank you for that.

I just have to reiterate that in drawing the maps and the maps that you're selecting to make sure that they are compact. That they are not continued to spoke out into Oakland County. To make sure that in this process one of the gentlemen spoke last night citizen spoke last night about making sure that the citizens voice is not washed out by special interest groups that are weighing in and have the capacity and the financing to submit their own maps. And so as you continue to endeavor to make sure we are VRA compliant that you are making sure that the districts that are selected allows for candidates to be able to run successfully in their communities. Take into consideration, again, I ran, I served six years in the House, and I did represent bright more so I'm very sensitive to some of the issues that exist in that community and how grossly impacted they are by being connected to more affluent communities. Please be mindful. Please pull us back south of Oakland County and Macomb county. We realize everything won't be perfect. But your intentionality around making sure there is Black representation is greatly appreciated and thank you all for your service.

>> CHAIR ORTON: Thank you for addressing the Commission we can now go to Sarah Reinhardt's presentation.

>> YVONNE YOUNG: Sarah Reinhardt will be back in just a moment so if we can do something in place of that.

>> MS. SARAH REINHARDT: I'm here.

>> YVONNE YOUNG: Okay thank you.

>> CHAIR ORTON: Looks like Mr. Brace has a hand up quick.

>> KIM BRACE: We just in going through the maps we wanted we have seen one discrepancy that we wanted to bring to your attention. And get a little bit of feedback in terms of which plan you're talking about. So, John has those on his screen. And he can share his screen with that.

>> MR. MORGAN: Okay so the issue here is what we are calling the Bergamot maps, Ms. Reinhardt provided a list of the maps that she was tracking. So what she labeled as Bergamot version one and two we have one of them with the date of 1184 and then the predecessor for that was 11724 version one which we named Bergamot. So that is the original one. Then the one I believe that was updated it just didn't have the name Bergamot on it, so I wanted to confirm it's what it is. I put the maps side by side and if I could ask Commissioner Eid to look at it and verify this is what we think it is I think that will quickly resolve it.

>> CHAIR ORTON: And I know that Sarah Reinhardt had kept very close track of that. So I know she knows which one of those it is as well.

>> MR. MORGAN: So Commissioner Eid, again the map file that is open is from the 18th and so this potentially would be Bergamot two so the map that is here and again

I'm showing what the overlay is so dismiss that so the overlay is the map from the 17th and so you can see that all the districts are the same in this area, all the Districts are the same there. The differences are in this area. So, again, does this updated version, which is in Autobound does that, basically reflect what you wish to do? In changing the original Bergamot from the 17th to the 18th.

>> COMMISSIONER EID: Yes, this is exactly the right one. The only -- so this is Bergamot, the only difference being the difference in Grosse Pointe being with Harper Woods or Grosse Pointe being with St. Clair shores and configurations that have to happen to make that happen.

>> MR. MORGAN: Okay so I will designate this as Bergamot two so that will resolve that and then also just one last point up here there is the FC which was from Commissioner Lett which is the final check if you will. So this just indicates I did run the error checks and made minor technical changes as requested by the Commission. That is it and resolves that, thank you.

>> CHAIR ORTON: Thank you. Okay now we are ready for Sarah Reinhardt.

>> MS. SARAH REINHARDT: Hi Commissioners. So I'm going to share my screen really quick. So the purpose of today's presentation is I'm going to give you an overview of the updated proposed deliberations process. So I think Edward mentioned earlier the Commission will not be voting on this today. So there is no final decision expected. It's more so just to give you all an overview of the process and a heads up about the actual document containing the process that you will be receiving either later today or sometime over the weekend for your review prior to making decisions on it. Hopefully Monday.

So the first thing that I wanted to show you was the original mapping process from 2021. Just as a memory refresher. This is the draft deliberations process that has been renewed or that I'll show you the renewed version of here in just a moment. This is the old version. So what we are talking about here is the process by which the Commission will review each of your maps that are marked current or that will be marked as complete by the end of next week for you to advance to the public comment period.

So how many maps and which maps do you want the comment to view during the public comment period? And provide comments on? So this was the old process. So if you're interested in reviewing that, it is posted online. It's in the mapping policy, mapping process and procedures document. I will show you the updated version and we will go through it very quickly.

Okay so this is the updated version for 2024. The process is a bit more simplified than what was in the 2021 version. So as I mentioned this document provides an overview of the deliberations process during which you all will discuss and evaluate your draft maps to determine which maps will advance to the official public comment period. And that public comment period will end no later than February 23rd. And I think I mentioned this already, but I just want to reiterate this is a document that is

currently being reviewed by your legal team so might be subject to different adjustments. But again we are not making any final decisions on this today. I just want to present and if anyone has any thoughts, feelings, edits, recommendations, we can go through those today as well. .

So when will the deliberations occur? It really depends on when you all are done with the mapping process. So the earliest it could begin is Wednesday the 31st. But certainly by Thursday, February 1st, which is the day before the maps are due, we would conduct the deliberations process.

The next Section here you will notice is in red font. And it is regarding individual maps. So that's because I have posed the question to your legal team about what they would recommend the process be for individual maps. I have -- I'm waiting to hear from them with for their direction before I'm putting additional information on individual maps, but you will see in a Section later on I did detail what we did in 2021 with individual maps that could potentially be the process for this around of deliberations as well.

But were individual maps to be submitted, it would be best if they would be received by Wednesday the 31st so they are able to be posted online prior to the final day of deliberations on February 1st.

Any questions on that before I move on?

>> CHAIR ORTON: I don't see any.

>> MS. SARAH REINHARDT: Great, thank you.

Okay, so prior to the deliberation session next Wednesday and/or Thursday, this is just a recommendation. But it is recommended that Commissioners take the time to independently review, research and familiarize yourself with the collaborative maps that are posted online. I know you all have been working with them very diligently these past, this past week or so. So I'm sure you're very familiar with them already. But it's encouraged to just take a look at them. Make some notes. And find your own preferences prior to coming to the meeting.

That applies to individual map submissions as well so you can familiarize yourself with those.

And then here we go to the actual kind of deliberation and voting process for advancing maps. So the first step will be to review each of the maps one by one. Which I know you all have sort of been doing a little bit. Along the way. Going back to review the maps that you view as complete. But this will be kind of like the final review before going to the public comment period. So each of the maps will be reviewed and the Chairperson and Vice Chairperson will facilitate the discussion and will present the collaborative maps in alphabetical order by identifier name. So, for example, the Aster flower, if you decide to advance that, it may go first because it starts with an A. The Commission should discuss each map as they are presented noting differences between the districts as drawn, noting differences between COIs, any pros or cons of the map. And any further distinguishing factors. And it's strongly encouraged that

during this time Commissioners take notes on your map preferences. Because you will be voting which ones to advance. But one thing that is very important to note is that any notes that you take are official Commissioner business. And they are considered public records and are subject to FOIA so just keep that in mind as you are taking notes. So after each of the maps has been presented, you will proceed with voting. So what will this look like? It will look like each of the maps will be pulled up and the Commission will vote whether or not to advance it. A majority vote of the Commissioners present is required to advance the map to the public comment period. So once it is approved to advance, the draft map will officially become known as a draft proposed map. And remember this goes back to that kind of list of definitions that's on the previous mapping procedures Page. So we know what stage in the process the different maps are at. So it will become a draft proposed map at that time.

Any questions on that process before I move on?

>> CHAIR ORTON: I don't see any.

>> MS. SARAH REINHARDT: Great. And this is the final Section again in red font because this is something we asked the legal team to review. But I wanted to know what the process was last time for individual map submissions. So you have an expectation of what this might look like.

So in 2021 each Commissioner could put forth one map per District type and working on House Districts now so each Commissioner could put forth one individual map for the House Districts. Theoretically to advance the public comment period. And in 2021 individual maps were not voted on by the full Commission to go to the public comment period but were automatically advanced. So after the collaborative maps were presented during the deliberation process, any Commissioner who had an individual map could present their map at that time. So that would be after the collaborative map presentation and the collaborative map votes. Then individual maps created by Commissioners could be presented.

And each individual map submitted was also required to have their data matrix, partisan fairness and VRA analysis and compactness scores available for posting online to ensure compliance with the constitutional criteria. That was a requirement when submitting your individual map in 2021. So that's what I will secure.

And that concludes my overview of the deliberations process. Are there any questions?

>> CHAIR ORTON: Commissioner Wagner?

>> COMMISSIONER WAGNER: Yes, thank you, Chair. Ms. Reinhardt, I have a question. During the first round, we were advised that we absolutely had to vote on one of these to advance. Do we still absolutely have to vote on one even if we do not agree with it? Thank you.

>> MS. SARAH REINHARDT: So you're wondering if you have to vote like at all? Or like if you have to vote yes or yes if you don't like the map?

>> COMMISSIONER WAGNER: Correct. Do we have to vote -- if we don't want to vote because we don't like any of them, that's my question. Because last time we were told we could -- we didn't have to but then it changed, and we had to vote on a map. So that was my question.

>> MS. SARAH REINHARDT: Sure. What you may be thinking about is the final voting process to adopt a map potentially. For this, if there are maps that you do not like and you don't want to advance, then a no vote would represent, would probably be what would best represent your interest. So the no vote meaning to not advance it to the public comment period.

So just to clarify, this deliberation process is only to advance maps to the public comment period. These will be the maps that members of the public will be presented and can share their thoughts about with you during your public hearing next month. This is not the deliberation process for actually voting to adopt a map. This is really kind of like the first step entering into the public comment period to start narrowing down your final maps. Does that make sense?

>> COMMISSIONER WAGNER: It does. Thank you.

>> MS. SARAH REINHARDT: Sure.

>> CHAIR ORTON: Are there any other questions? I have a question. Let me see how to phrase it. So you said after, let's see, after we talk about all the collaborative maps and they will have already gone through the VRA review, and we vote on which ones to send to the public to view, then each Commissioner has the authority to submit one if they want to straight to the public is what you said, right?

>> MS. SARAH REINHARDT: So that is what the process was in 2021. That's one of the topics that I'm seeking clarification from your legal team about. Because just acknowledging that this process is a little different, I want to make sure that that's still permissible. And I also see that your legal counsel has their hand raised.

>> CHAIR ORTON: I have a further question about that. So before Mr. Fink. So if that is the case, if, you know, if we are allowed to send one through at what point does that go through the VRA review? That's kind of my question.

>> MS. SARAH REINHARDT: Yeah, great question.

>> MR. EDWARD WOODS: Ms. Reinhardt is that we asked for the maps today so that they could go through the VRA review. And the Commission has not changed on that. And so I know we got a couple things moving with the drafts. But let's be very clear, we have an agreement that any individual map is due today. I think we said 1:00. So that we can get that. And so that has I know we have a proposal up there. But just for the Commission's clarity that has not changed.

>> CHAIR ORTON: Okay.

>> MR. EDWARD WOODS: People are working on them and are due at 1:00 then we can amend the proposal based on what the Commission already decided.

>> CHAIR ORTON: I see that clears things up. Mr. Fink?

>> Nathan Fink: I was going to say what Director Woods just said. But I wanted to thank Sarah very much for putting this together and we will you know provide any feedback on this before we present to the Commission with a recommendation on adoption and depending on what gets submitted, I guess by 1:00 today at this point I'm not aware of any actual individual maps. But if there are then obviously, we will factor that in for the deliberations process. But thank you again to Sarah for putting this together. And that's all I had, thanks.

>> CHAIR ORTON: Okay, anyone else? Any questions for Sarah or Edward?

>> COMMISSIONER WAGNER: I do have another question please.

>> CHAIR ORTON: Go ahead.

>> COMMISSIONER WAGNER: For those of us that attended the town hall and with the individual Commission map being required today at 1:00, if we had heard anything that would change that, I don't see how we can incorporate the changes we heard last night into individual submissions being required by 1:00.

>> CHAIR ORTON: Well, if anyone has that issue, maybe we can discuss it right now. We also do have a little time for mapping, I believe, if somebody wants to make some changes. Anyone? Commissioner Szetela?

>> COMMISSIONER SZETELA: Yeah, so what exactly is proposed being changed?

>> CHAIR ORTON: So what we were talking about is the personal maps, the individual maps are required at 1:00 p.m. today.

>> COMMISSIONER SZETELA: Yep.

>> CHAIR ORTON: And we are hoping to end the meeting early as we've completed all of our business unless there is any more mapping or any more changes that anybody wants to make after hearing what was heard at the town hall last night or for any other reason. So are there any changes that you would like to make on any maps?

>> COMMISSIONER SZETELA: On collaborative maps?

>> CHAIR ORTON: Any maps.

>> COMMISSIONER SZETELA:

>> CHAIR ORTON: Commissioner Wagner was concerned that if there were things that were heard last night at the town hall that would make somebody want to make changes, I think she was talking about specifically on the individual maps that there wouldn't be time before 1:00 p.m. but we have a little time now that we can make changes on any maps if anyone would like.

>> COMMISSIONER SZETELA: Okay in terms of the collaborative maps, I feel like those were all VRA analysis point at this point. So not interested in making changes there until that VRA analysis comes back. In terms of the individual maps I mean that would be something I would be changing now because the map is not due until 1:00.

>> CHAIR ORTON: Right so we were saying if it's a problem for anyone that they wouldn't be able to make their changes before 1:00 p.m. we can have a discussion about that. That was what the discussion was about. Are you fine with yours?

>> COMMISSIONER SZETELA: I'm fine with not making changes to my individual map in the meeting.

>> CHAIR ORTON: Anybody else? Commissioner Eid?

>> COMMISSIONER EID: Are you fine with 1:00 p.m. still, Commissioner Szetela?

>> COMMISSIONER SZETELA: I mean it would be nice to have a little more time because the town hall went pretty late last night so it would be nice to have until 3:00. It would be easier.

>> CHAIR ORTON: Mr. Brace, is that an issue?

>> KIM BRACE: Well, we stand ready to serve what you would like to do on that side. Each of us have flights at 9:00 p.m. tonight. So we are around here.

>> CHAIR ORTON: Director Woods, do you know? So we voted that individual maps were due at 1:00 p.m. today.

>> MR. EDWARD WOODS: That's correct because we wanted to give time for people putting in individual maps what they heard last night so there is an agreement with regards to that, but the Commission also voted to forward yesterday the collaborative maps. And those were forwarded, you know, as requested. So if there are some changes or things that want to be made, they will really be made for people with individual maps. Having said that after the VRA analysis and you see something, and the Commission wants to make some tweaks you know that is still possible you know next week. But for right now 14 maps are already voted to go for the VRA analysis and so the only thing that is left is for anyone who wants to submit an individual map and if they want to make some changes. We gave them a 1:00 deadline to do so.

>> CHAIR ORTON: Yeah, so Commissioner Szetela is saying 3:00 would be better.

>> MR. EDWARD WOODS: For her?

>> CHAIR ORTON: For her.

>> MR. EDWARD WOODS: That is up to the Commission as a whole.

>> CHAIR ORTON: I will call on Commissioner Lange and Commissioner Szetela since we voted on it already if you want to make a motion then I guess we can vote again. Commissioner Lange? Lange LAN thank you Madam Chair. I just want to say I don't plan on submitting a personal map. An individual map. But I know the first time around I had a lot of issues, technical issues with my maps and I was allotted extra time. So I think if we are looking at just one individual's map, I would be okay with giving her until 3:00. I don't think one map is going to make an over amount of extra work for our contractors. And I would just say do it. Unless we have like 20 that are being sent or 13 individual maps then I might be like, no, that is too much. But if it's just going to be one, can we just for unity sake give her until 3:00? I will make the motion that we give until 3:00 today for individual maps. Thank you.

>> CHAIR ORTON: Is there a second?

>> COMMISSIONER WAGNER: I'll second that.

>> CHAIR ORTON: We have a motion and a second to give until 3:00 for people to submit individual maps. Is there any more discussion? Commissioner Kellom?

>> COMMISSIONER KELLOM: I just wanted to clarify, sorry I was commuting, for individual maps they get passed forward without a vote? Is that it? I know we are not voting on procedure today, but I did want to ask that question.

>> CHAIR ORTON: That is what the procedure said. That as far as I understood.

>> MS. SARAH REINHARDT: This is Sarah Reinhardt. Just to clarify, that's something that I'm working with your legal team to review. So the process that I just showed for deliberations, it did outline what was done in 2021. And that is the process that the Commission followed in 2021 was that individual maps went through to public comment. Of course the Commission would -- those maps in 2021 were subject to a full vote of the Commission for the actual vote to adopt a map after the public comment period was over. But for advancing to the public comment period back then, they were just advanced straight through without a vote. So consulting with your legal team to find out if that is applicable for this round, or not. And we will bring additional details on that on Monday.

>> COMMISSIONER KELLOM: Okay thank you. Just for purposes of discussion, I don't see any reason why there should be any individual maps just because we are tasked withdrawing collaboratively and for the most part that was done and I think there has also been maps, you know, including mine where folks have had very heavy weigh in for one reason or another. So I mean I know it boils down to a vote but I'm not in favor of anyone submitting an individual map. Thank you.

>> CHAIR ORTON: Commissioner Lange?

>> COMMISSIONER LANGE: A little bit of rebuttal in that. The reason for the individual maps it's because it's in our Constitution. So that's a constitutional right of the individuals on this Commission to submit a map of their own. So that's why the discussion is here, I think. Thank you.

>> CHAIR ORTON: Commissioner Szetela?

>> COMMISSIONER SZETELA: Yeah, I was just going to second the same thing. The ability to submit an individual map is actually in the Constitution itself, which is why we have to follow that procedure. So we can't just arbitrarily decide that no one can do individual maps because it is enshrined in the Constitution.

>> CHAIR ORTON: Commissioner Kellom?

>> COMMISSIONER KELLOM: I have to go. It's also in the Constitution for us to be honest and produce honest work. Not influenced by outside sources or individuals for personal gain. And I will just leave that there. That is why I was trying to respectfully without being specific that I'm against individual maps.

>> CHAIR ORTON:

>> Could I have a point of order and remind you we are not supposed to be attacking other Commissioners during meetings even if we are doing it obliquely.

>> COMMISSIONER KELLOM: Okay Commissioner Szetela. We can do it offline. I can call you and discuss it.

>> CHAIR ORTON: Are we ready to vote?

>> COMMISSIONER LANGE: Please.

>> CHAIR ORTON: Okay we have a motion and a second to give Commissioners until 1:00 today to submit -- sorry, I'm sorry, 3:00 today to submit their individual maps. All in favor raise your hand and say aye.

>> Aye.

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

>> Nay.

>> CHAIR ORTON: Maybe we need a roll call.

>> YVONNE YOUNG: Certainly, Madam Chair. The motion is for Commissioners to be able to provide individual maps today by 3:00 p.m. A yes vote means that you are in favor of that motion. And a no vote means that you are not in favor of the motion. And then you also have the ability to abstain. I will start with Commissioner Andrade?

>> ELAINE ANDRADE: Yes.

>> YVONNE YOUNG: Thank you. Commissioner Callaghan?

>> DONNA CALLAGHAN: Yes.

>> YVONNE YOUNG: Commissioner Curry?

>> COMMISSIONER CURRY: Yes.

>> YVONNE YOUNG: Commissioner Eid?

>> COMMISSIONER EID: Yes.

>> YVONNE YOUNG: Commissioner Kellom?

>> COMMISSIONER KELLOM: No.

>> YVONNE YOUNG: Commissioner Lange?

>> COMMISSIONER LANGE: Yes.

>> YVONNE YOUNG: Commissioner Lett?

>> COMMISSIONER LETT: No.

>> YVONNE YOUNG: Commissioner Muldoon?

>> MARCUS MULDOON: Yes.

>> YVONNE YOUNG: Commissioner Orton?

>> CHAIR ORTON: Yes.

>> YVONNE YOUNG: Commissioner Szetela?

>> COMMISSIONER SZETELA: Yes.

>> YVONNE YOUNG: Commissioner Vallette?

>> COMMISSIONER VALLETTE: No.

>> YVONNE YOUNG: Commissioner Wagner?

>> COMMISSIONER WAGNER: Yes.

>> YVONNE YOUNG: Commissioner Weiss?

>> COMMISSIONER WEISS: No.

>> YVONNE YOUNG: With nine yes votes and four no votes the motion carries.

Thank you.

>> CHAIR ORTON: Thank you.

>> MR. EDWARD WOODS: Excuse me Madam Chair I just want to make sure we are submitting individual maps they copy me for quality assurance so we can identify and make sure they are process.

>> CHAIR ORTON: Anyone submitting individual maps please contact Director Woods. Okay, so I believe it was stated that nobody wants to make any additional mapping changes. Raise your hand and let us know if you do want to do any mapping right now. I don't see any. So are there any announcements then?

>> MR. EDWARD WOODS: I do want to remind you we are remotely. Please don't come back to Detroit, Commissioners; but we definitely welcome the feedback from Detroit remotely on this coming Monday at 9:00 a.m. 9:00 a.m. for everyone that wants to provide public comment, you can do so remotely for 90 seconds. You will also have the chance to go to our public comment portal as well. So definitely want to encourage public feedback as the Commission continues its deliberations. Once again next week they are only dividing which maps to move forward. We will be back in Detroit for a public hearing on February 15th. We will announce that next week as to our location and we will have maps that the public can look at and respond and put public comments on starting that Monday, February 5th. With regards to that and just wanted to be actually it will be that Friday, February 2nd you can start putting comments on the maps that are being considered and once again those will move from draft maps to draft proposed maps and you will see that change on the Commission's home Page. So really want to encourage a robust discussion as relates to that and wanting to hear from the public through our public comment portal. Our mapping comment portal. Or if you come in person to the public hearing on Thursday, February 15th. That will be an afternoon and an evening session, an afternoon and an evening session where the Commission will entertain public comment. Once again thank you so much for that, letting me make that announcement.

>> CHAIR ORTON: Thank you Director Woods. So as the items on the agenda are completed, and we have no further business today, I would entertain a motion to adjourn.

>> So moved.

>> Second.

>> CHAIR ORTON: Moved and seconded we adjourn. All in favor raise your hand and say aye.

>> Aye.

>> CHAIR ORTON: Any opposed raise your hand and say nay. We are adjourned at 11:03 a.m.