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MICRC

20240215-900 Meeting

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>> CHAIR ORTON: As Chair of the Commission, I call the meeting of the Michigan Independent Citizens Redistricting Commission to order at 9:07 a.m.

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

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

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

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This meeting is also being recorded and will be available at [www.Michigan.gov/MICRC](http://www.Michigan.gov/MICRC) for viewing at a later date.

This meeting also is being transcribed and those closed-captioned transcriptions will be made available and posted on the [Michigan.gov/MICRC](http://Michigan.gov/MICRC) website and written public comment submissions. There is also a public comment portal accessed [Michigan.gov/MICRC](http://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 [WoodsE3@Michigan.gov](mailto:WoodsE3@Michigan.gov) or 517-331-6309.

For the public watching and the public record I will turn to the department of state staff take note of the commissioners present.

>> SARAH REINHARDT: Good morning, Commissioners. Please say present when I call your name. Please announce during roll where you are attending remotely from and let us know where you are attending from stating the City, Township, or county that you are attending from. I will start with Elaine Andrade?

>> ELAINE ANDRADE: Present from Imlay Township, Michigan.

>> MS. SARAH REINHARDT: Donna Callaghan?

>> DONNA CALLAGHAN: Present from Mexico.

>> MS. SARAH REINHARDT: Juanita Curry?

Anthony Eid?

>> COMMISSIONER EID: Good morning Ms. Reinhardt present virtually attending from Detroit, Michigan.

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>> MS. SARAH REINHARDT: Brittini Kellom?

Rhonda Lange?

>> COMMISSIONER LANGE: Present attending remotely from Lake county Michigan.

>> MS. SARAH REINHARDT: Steve Lett?

>> COMMISSIONER LETT: Present attending from Lee county, Florida.

>> MS. SARAH REINHARDT: Marcus Muldoon?

>> MARCUS MULDOON: Present from Carrollton, Michigan.

>> MS. SARAH REINHARDT: Cynthia Orton?

>> CHAIR ORTON: Present attending remotely from Battle Creek, Michigan.

>> MS. SARAH REINHARDT: Rebecca Szetela?

Janice Vallette?

>> COMMISSIONER VALLETTE: Present attending remotely from Highland Township Michigan.

>> MS. SARAH REINHARDT: Erin Wagner?

Richard Weiss?

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

>> MS. SARAH REINHARDT: And I see Commissioner Curry has joined, Commissioner Curry?

>> COMMISSIONER CURRY: Yes, present attending remotely from Detroit, Michigan.

>> MS. SARAH REINHARDT: Thank you so much. Ten Commissioners are present and there is a quorum.

>> CHAIR ORTON: Thank you very much. As a reminder to the public watching, you can view the agenda at [www.Michigan.gov/MICRC](http://www.Michigan.gov/MICRC). I would now entertain a motion to approve the agenda.

>> COMMISSIONER LETT: So moved.

>> COMMISSIONER WEISS: Second.

>> CHAIR ORTON: Moved and seconded that we approve the agenda. Is there any discussion?

Seeing none all in favor of approving today's agenda raise your hand and say aye.

>> Aye.

>> CHAIR ORTON: Any opposed raise your hand and say nay. Okay the meeting agenda is approved.

So we will begin the public comment portion of our meeting agenda and Executive Director Woods will explain the procedures.

>> MR. EDWARD WOODS: Good morning everyone and thank you for coming to the MICRC virtual town hall meeting. This is an opportunity where you can interact with the Commission in terms of asking questions about redistricting or any questions or in

speaking in favor or against a particular map. The Commission wants to hear your feedback and engage in a dialog with you. You will have only 90 seconds. I repeat 90 seconds. However, if the Commission engages in a dialog with you, the 90 second time limit will no longer apply. Once again, once again we want to encourage as many people as possible. This is on a first come, first serve basis. All you have to do is raise your hand remotely. You will have 90 seconds I repeat 90 seconds. However if the Commission engages with you the 90 second timeline will no longer apply. Once again thank you so much for joining and tell your family and your friends if you are on social media let them know that we are in this virtual town hall meeting from 9:00 to 12. 1-4. And 5-8. Once again thank you so much for participating in democracy. Chairperson I will turn it back to you.

>> CHAIR ORTON: Thank you. So on behalf of the Commission, I would like to thank everyone for taking time out of their schedule to assist the Commission in drawing fair maps with citizen input. And we are going to kind of rotate today. So this first hour, me, I'm Cynthia Orton, I live in Battle Creek and am the Chair of the Commission and Commissioner Vallette you can introduce yourself.

>> COMMISSIONER VALLETTE: I'm Janice Vallette. I live in Highland Township. I'm to Chair. The first person that we are going to have speak is James Gallant. Please allow our staff a moment to unmute you.

>> CHAIR ORTON: Before he speaks, I see that Commissioner Szetela and Wagner have joined. Maybe we should have them state.

>> MS. SARAH REINHARDT: Thank you. Commissioner Wagner, could you share where you are joining remotely from?

>> COMMISSIONER WAGNER: Joining remotely from Eaton Township, Michigan.

>> MS. SARAH REINHARDT: Welcome. Commissioner Szetela, can you share where you are joining from remotely this morning?

>> COMMISSIONER SZETELA: Wayne County, Michigan.

>> MS. SARAH REINHARDT: Thank you and welcome everyone.

>> COMMISSIONER VALLETTE: Okay. We are ready for James Gallant.

>>Can you hear me now?

>> COMMISSIONER VALLETTE: Yes, we can.

>> James Gallant, Marquette County Suicide Prevention Coalition. And these are my opinions. And I hope that you will engage with me on these tough issues that have been long standing the whole time of how you begin debate without a motion. Page 366, Line 8, Robert's Rules, there shall be no debate before there is a motion or a proper second to approve a specific action. That is not what is happening. Kind of like that policy and the policy when Edward Woods goes you were discussing this, and we will bring this to you and thought it was in your interest. The first Commissioner said that's not what we talked about. You need to have the question first and that is important. And please let's talk about why the Secretary of State is not here calling the

roll as the Constitution says absolutely, Ms. Sarah Reinhardt. And then Mr. Dindoffer on the live chat was saying he is an attorney, and he is saying that the Secretary of State appointed Ms. Reinhardt. So please give us the documents for that appointment and how this works because the Constitution has no discretion on a designee or appointee. Let's talk about the pledge allegiance. When Kellom began debate without a motion so you could just, you know, we are talking to Witjes, he was on the live stream too. So, you know, and then all the sudden you make a big commotion and, oh, that is just too controversial to talk about and there was no motion so that is still pending. That was never properly disposed of. But please tell me about that pledge of allegiance thing and let's have a little dialog here, please. That's all we can do. But if you choose not to by consensus, then that is a problem also.

>> COMMISSIONER VALLETTE: Thank you, Mr. Gallant, for addressing the Commission.

>> CHAIR ORTON: Next in line is Anthony Scannell.

>> Thank you so much. Good morning Commission. Well, I will say I like a lot of the choices for the State House maps. Especially for District one that I'm in. They are all very similar configuration. And it's pretty similar to what already exists. So I'm fine with all of them except Tulip can't do Tulip that is a big no for me. It splits up District one it splits up southwest Detroit pretty badly. So that's why no on Tulip for me. And on a different note I wish you guys could have put the City of Taylor together, I think it makes a lot of sense and it's not too far out of the scope of what the scope you should fix, and I don't know the City of Taylor deserves to be whole. It has really it is split up pretty badly right now. And badly in that you know you have a north Section of the City with other cities below Taylor. So, I mean, it's not even geographically compact at all. Definitely wish you could take a look at that. Maybe you should in the final map you choose make that adjustment as well. Might be worth it. I really like what Commissioner Szetela did in creating another opportunity District so good job over there.

>> CHAIR ORTON: Thank you for addressing the Commission.

>> COMMISSIONER VALLETTE: Next in line is Kenya-Willard please allow our staff a moment to unmute you.

>>All right.

>> COMMISSIONER VALLETTE: Hi.

>> Good morning.

I agree with the Motown sound map because it has a good representation for the Black voters in Metro Detroit. Also the Motown sound map is the best map for partisan fairness, which allows the voters' decisions in 2018 that they voted for more fair maps. And also this map in particular, the Motown sound map has 12 Black community districts, which is the best of any of the maps that have been drawn by the Commission together. Thank you.

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

>> CHAIR ORTON: Next in line is Rory-McGillen.

>>Hi, are you able to hear me now?

>> CHAIR ORTON: Yes.

>> Thank you. My name is Rory-McGillen and grew up in south land Michigan and still call Southeast Michigan my home. The reason I'm here today is to speak about the Motown sound map. I just think it's the most fair map of the proposed ideas for the community. I think it's important for a couple of reasons. Number one, the Arab American and largely the Middle Eastern community is present primarily in the areas of Dearborn, Dearborn Heights, west Detroit, Melvindale as well as Hamtramck, Livonia, Canton and Ferndale. I think it's of the best interest for this committee to include communities such as like the middle east north African community in their considerations as to not split them up. One of these reasons is because these communities are already under counted in the U.S. census and it's difficult for these communities to raise their concerns without accurate representation in their Government. Thank you for your time.

>> CHAIR ORTON: Thank you for addressing the Commission.

>> COMMISSIONER VALLETTE: Next in line is Anastasey-Manolatos.

>> How can you hear me.

>> COMMISSIONER VALLETTE: Yes we can.

>> Excellent so my name is Anastasey a resident of Brownstown and Down River and thank you for community feedback regarding Down River communities of interest and Flatrock and Brownstown. In earlier testimony I have had to prioritize partisan fairness and would like them to do that in the final map selections. Break down says Bergamot and willow disregard an interpretation of partisan fairness, by contrast the Motown sound map was the best collaborative map to come out of this process. It's the only fair and balanced map that restores representation to so many marginalized communities of interest. I think this is a thanks in no small part of Commissioner Kellom who could bring the voice of Detroit for the map of Detroit. As other members of the public have already stated Michigan voters in 2018 voted for fair maps and to end partisan gerrymandering. Please consider partisan fairness your top priority and please select Motown sound map as the final map. Thank you for the time to address the Commission and please continue the good work you are doing.

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

>> CHAIR ORTON: Next in line is David Bell.

>> Good morning.

>> COMMISSIONER VALLETTE: Good morning.

>> My name is David Bell. Proud Detroiter currently residing in Inkster, Michigan. Born and mostly raised in Detroit, southwest Detroit, been through all the ups and downs, you know, the good, bad and the uglies. With that being said I've been a proud

Black voter since excuse me 2004. Representation for Black voters in Metro Detroit depends on having maps that are fair and balanced voters of color made it clear in 2018 we wanted maps that reflected communities of interest and do not and did not favor one party over another. Now, with that being said I totally support the Motown sound map. Especially with District one, you know, it represents a lot of different cultures, a lot of different diversities, different races. You know, with the same interest on there especially along the water. You know you got River Rouge and parts of downtown Detroit. You got places near Henry Ford hospital, all these places share interest like pollution concerns, jobs, economy, money, and better ways of life. So I totally support the no found sound map. Thank you.

>> CHAIR ORTON: Thank you for addressing the Commission.

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

>> Hi, can you all hear me okay?

>> COMMISSIONER VALLETTE: Yes we can.

>> Perfect my name is Trenton Wormley; you know I must admit I'm truly frustrated how the Commission is considering not to consideration when they threw out practically every community map. And now with the maps that have been drawn most of these stand to pick up African/Americans with less opportunities than we had in 2012, Bergamot one and two and Tulip all have District nine when we had 11.

>> CHAIR ORTON: Mr. Wormley you kind of cut out and I think we didn't hear all the maps you listed so if you could say that again.

>> Yes can you hear me now?

I'm sorry my Internet is going out, okay I apologize. Bergamot one and two Water Lily and Tulip all create a nine District and had nine in 2012 and they were supposed to restore representation to Detroit and threatening to strip more from them. Szetela's map is racist and willow map barely has diversity and inclusion when you have wealthy in Grosse Pointe practically clubbing up together at the country clubs. If you did not mean that that is basically what is happening here. So far the most reasonable is the Motown sound map because it gives 12 opportunity districts and is the only map that is better than the racist gerrymander of 2012. So I ask that you guys give African/Americans a fair shake and give us Motown sound and it is also imperative we have partisan fairness in each and every one of these districts. With that I thank you for allowing me to speak.

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

>> CHAIR ORTON: Next in line is Kyle Stefanski.

>> Yes hello can you hear me.

>> CHAIR ORTON: Yes.

>> Okay, great. So good morning, my name is Kyle Stefanski a proud resident of the City of Warren. I want to thank the Commission for the work you all are doing. I know



it's not easy work but it's very important work. So the Commission has heard from many of us calling for a District that would cross the 8 Mile line. And above all others you heard Warren and delivered with the Motown sound map. So the new District 11 would give south Warren and north Detroit a joint representation. We have been calling for since before this Commission was a twinkle in the voter's eye. By that same token we reject maps like Water Lily and Bergamot that either entirely or largely reinstate racial gerrymandering in our community. So I do really implore you to pass the Motown sound map. Yeah, thank you for your time.

>> CHAIR ORTON: Thank you for addressing the Commission.

>> COMMISSIONER VALLETTE: Next in line is Graeme-Hewson. Please allow our staff a moment to unmute you.

>> Hello, can everyone hear me.

>> COMMISSIONER VALLETTE: Yes we can.

>> Perfect good morning my name is Graeme on behalf of access and requesting the Commission keep the community of interest I work with Arab Americans and Middle Eastern and Mena together. Detroit is home to the most Arab and Mena community in the U.S. and lives in Dearborn, Dearborn Heights, West Detroit, Melvindale such as Hamtramck, Livonia, Canton, and Ferndale. The Mena communities are under counted in the U.S. census making it difficult for the community to demonstrate the size and needs of our community. For Mena communities U.S. census data is the source used by the Commission. Without a fair account of the communities in the U.S. census they are constantly invisible and not factored in the redistricting process. And for ten years and generation impacts for future. Please take time to redraw the House maps. Thank you for your time.

>> COMMISSIONER VALLETTE: Thank you Mr. Howman.

>> CHAIR ORTON: Next in line is Delaney-McDermott.

>> Can you hear me?

Hi, thank you to the Commission for hearing us out. I'd like to introduce myself. My name is Delanye and grew up in South Lyon Michigan. And I now work at access and with a variety of Arab Americans and I'm Arab American myself. The Arab American Mena community as you have heard here are already socially and politically marginalized group and in the past our communities have been marginalized in the redistricting process as Arab Americans. There are Federal programs that have been designed for marginalized groups, however when the Arab American and Mena community is divided it's harder for the current to avail opportunities afforded by the programs. The communities have unique cultural and linguistic barriers for accessing Federal programs and need strong consideration to be able to close this gap in the coverage. Please consider the Motown sound map which provides enough consideration to our community of interest as well as other communities of interest that people have mentioned here today. Thank you so much, I yield my time.

>> CHAIR ORTON: Thank you for addressing the Commission.

>> COMMISSIONER VALLETTE: Next in line is Mikala-Cox. Please allow our staff a moment to unmute you.

>> Good morning Commissioners and community members. My name is Mikala and I've been a Michigan resident my whole life. I live in Metro Detroit in the 13 District in a neighborhood called Woodbridge and I've worked in Dearborn with the Arab American or Mena through access for the past six years. On behalf of access and as a person of Arab decent I'm commenting to ensure a fair democracy and to up lift the representation and voices of the Arab community. I believe as an incredibly critical to keep the access communities of interest together which are the Arab Americans and Middle Eastern and north African communities. As you may have heard Metro Detroit is home to one of the largest and most Arab American communities in the United States. Our community of interests are primarily, live in Dearborn, Dearborn Heights, West Detroit, Melvindale, as well as other parts of Michigan such as Hamtramck, Sterling Heights, Flint, Canton, Ypsilanti, and Ann Arbor. Arab Americans and Mena individuals have distinct issues and experiences. Without a fair count of our community in the U.S. census we are constantly invisible and not factored in the redistricting process. We must ensure that communities of interest are not divided because of partisan lines, and we urge the Commission to make sure our community of interest is counted.

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

>> CHAIR ORTON: Next in line I apologize if I miss pronounce people's names, next in line is Mari-Rymar. And before she goes, or Commissioner Kellom has joined us.

>> MS. SARAH REINHARDT: Thank you Madam Chair.

>> COMMISSIONER KELLOM: Good morning.

>> MS. SARAH REINHARDT: Good morning Commissioner Kellom can you share where you are joining remotely from this morning.

>> COMMISSIONER KELLOM: That's what I was going to do good morning attending remotely from Wayne County.

>> MS. SARAH REINHARDT: Thank you.

>> CHAIR ORTON: Go ahead Mari.

>> Hello, sorry, I was on mute, can everybody hear me.

>> CHAIR ORTON: Yes.

>> Okay cool, thank you. My name is Mari a long time Michigan resident 20 years. And I wanted to applaud the care taken to respect the desires of the many of the communities of interest that spoke up in 2021. So thank you to the Commission for that. Especially East Point residents. Finally getting a fair shake on the Motown sound map. And so the District 12 Motown sound I think it really brings it altogether. But it pairs neighbors who generally go to church together so that's all I have really. And thank you for your time.

>> CHAIR ORTON: Thank you for addressing the Commission.



>> COMMISSIONER VALLETTE: Next in line is Andre-Bryant. Please allow our staff a moment to unmute you.

>> Hello, can you hear me?

>> COMMISSIONER VALLETTE: Yes we can.

>> Okay, thanks. For giving me an opportunity. I don't know I just think this redistricting process it does not make sense to me. I mean it's like can you bring the communities together?

You said this is bringing communities together but, however, we still are divided especially for those as far as that is concerned the way the boundaries are. And I think, you know, if you want to do this you need to also open up the idea of regional transit as well if you are going to do something like this because if this is going to be part of my community and new districts are coming into my community I should be able to go into their communities. This is supposed to be part of an equal representation. Thank you, that's all I have to say about this.

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

>> CHAIR ORTON: Next in line is George Higgins.

>> Can you guys all hear me.

>> CHAIR ORTON: Yes.

>> Okay, I'm a Fraser resident. I grew up in Warren. I still spend a lot of time in Warren going to City Council meetings. Coffee hours in the City. I just want to thank all the Commissioners for their hard work during the remedy process ordered by the Court. I think you guys did a great job creating a lot of options, ten different maps for yourselves and the public to consider. I think that's great. The more options the better. But with ten maps to choose from there are more than a few that fall behind the pack and kind of notably fail to uphold partisan fairness and comply with the VRA. Particularly I'm looking at willow or Bergamot, Bergamot two, Water Lily. And then Commissioner Szetela's map I think she just went a little too far, probably well-intentioned but changing way too many districts outside of what is mandated. I know a lot of the other people here have already spoken up and said they like the Motown sound map but Spirit of Detroit and what stands out to me is District 11. I know a previous person who commented also from Warren talked about how what good of a job District 11 did of reflecting the needs of the community in Warren and north Detroit. And that community of interest I think my time is wrapping up here so thank you again, I hope you will consider Motown sound or Spirit of Detroit.

>> CHAIR ORTON: Thank you for addressing the Commission.

>> COMMISSIONER VALLETTE: Next in line is Dennis Shaw. Please allow the staff a moment to unmute you.

>>Hello.

>> CHAIR ORTON: Yeah we can hear you.

>> Okay, yeah, the gentleman that spoke ahead of me I'm in agreement with him that, you know, everybody should be allowed to come to our City or whatever. But it's so hard for us to go anywhere without being, you know, made to feel very uncomfortable. Do you know what I'm saying?

To even try to go out and participate and open up a business out there. Do you know what I'm saying?

But everybody comes down to the Motown sound, the Spirit of Detroit and they open their business. But, you know, the welcome to us to come down and go into their District, we are not welcome. And not by the legislature, by the authorizing of opening up, giving the license, it's just so difficult for us to go African/American. I'm African/American and been in Detroit all my life, to go down and try to, you know, patronize their people. Everybody comes here and makes money. You have the, you know, every other Arabs, Chinese, Caucasians everybody comes to Detroit, do you know what I'm saying?

And pillages us do you know what I'm saying and takes advantage of us but when we try to go out there they make it so high the stakes are so high that you know you run us right up out of there. Do you know what I'm saying?

We are not even allowed the opportunity.

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

>> CHAIR ORTON: Next in line is Dylan-Linklater.

>> Hi, can you hear me.

>> CHAIR ORTON: Yes.

>> Hi, my name is Dylan, long time Michigan resident. Thank you as well for everything you guys are doing but yeah I just wanted to express just a couple of my concerns. I get that we are here because race was improperly considered as a, you know, doctor in the first round but ask how the Commission is expecting to pass a map like Water Lily that reinstates the 8 Mile gerrymander I think that causes significant concern. And Commissioner Szetela's map I think goes beyond the scope of the Court order. So I just think that we should go like many other people said go with Motown sound. I think it's the best map for everyone involved. So again thank you all for what you are doing, everything you are doing and hope you will consider that map.

>> CHAIR ORTON: Thank you for addressing the Commission.

>> COMMISSIONER VALLETTE: Next in line is Brenda Hall. Please allow the staff a moment to unmute you.

>> MS. SARAH REINHARDT: Commissioner Vallette is Brenda's hand raised on your list.

>> COMMISSIONER VALLETTE: Say that name again?

>> MS. SARAH REINHARDT: Is Brenda's hand raised for you.

>> COMMISSIONER VALLETTE: No. Actually no, no one's hand is raised does that mean they don't want to speak.

>> MS. SARAH REINHARDT: That's right, yeah, I was making sure in case it was raised on your screen.

>> COMMISSIONER VALLETTE: Okay so we are going to start again at the people who requested a second time to talk.

>> MS. SARAH REINHARDT: Looks like we just had someone else raise their hand.

>> COMMISSIONER VALLETTE: Okay, and that would be Tracy, please allow staff a moment to unmute you.

>>Hello. My name is Tracy-Peecs and I'm a resident of Hazel Park, Michigan. And I have to say that I really do like the Motown sound map. It shows and it's right with the representation of voters. I was really disturbed with the last one, the one that we are drawing in now as a state rep who I absolutely love, but also went into Highland Park. And parts of Detroit. And his demographic became 90% African/American and he is a white gay man. So he wasn't really representing on the people he should be representing. So I really like the Motown sound map. That's the one that I think would be the best especially when giving proper representation to the Black community. Thank you.

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

>> CHAIR ORTON: Next in line is going to guess Percy.

>>Okay can you hear me.

>> CHAIR ORTON: Yes.

>> Okay, great. Yes, thank you for letting me speak and definitely I will ask for the Motown sound map. I even like the name of it. So it's giving individuals my concern has always been given individuals who live south of 8 Mile a voting strength so they can represent the area that they are living in and get the resources that they need for their community. They need a voice from that area that is south of 8 Mile and north of the river to have a voice so they can get the representation that they need. And for the Motown sound map and please strongly consider putting that map in play.

>> CHAIR ORTON: Thank you for addressing the Commission.

>> COMMISSIONER VALLETTE: Next in line is Gwendolyn Jones. Please allow staff a moment to unmute you.

>> Can you hear me.

>> CHAIR ORTON: Yes, we can.

>> Okay, thank you. I want to also call in support of the Motown sound map. It appears that it is the best map to represent, you know, our diverse cultures in Detroit and our surrounding neighborhoods. So I'm just urging the independent redistricting Council, you guys to select the Motown sound map. And I agree also with Dennis Shaw who was speaking about the difficulty of African/Americans doing business, you know, in other surrounding, you know, suburbs and neighborhood. We welcome everyone here. But there is, you know, we don't feel the same welcome and go out and try to expand our business and that is what we are trying to do in Detroit. We are trying to

offer more opportunities for African/Americans in Detroit, and we need to be able to extend that not just in Detroit. So I hope that whoever is listening will also take that in consideration and try to, you know, help us as far as doing business in our surrounding areas and make it more Detroit friendly. Thank you.

>> CHAIR ORTON: Thank you Gwendolyn for addressing the Commission.

>> CHAIR ORTON: Just as a quick reminder, if you have a public comment you can raise your virtual hand and then you will have 90 seconds to address the Commission.

Next in line is James Gallant for a second time.

>>Can you hear me?

>> CHAIR ORTON: Yes.

>> All right. James Gallant again. These are my opinions. And please engage with me in this request. And this is on behalf of all the people of, you know, the state and our nation. This is Robert's Rules of Order is the fundamental principles of parliamentary law in America. And we know that when Commissioner Lett was the Chair for four months, the first four months, you had no -- he institutionalized Marxism by consensus. No special rules to implement all the practices. And Commissioner -- and your Attorney Pastula wrote in the transcripts in January 2021 that she wrote the proposed rules of procedure based on your established practices and what you all said at the meetings you wanted. And you did that by consensus and then she just wrote it, and you just did it. This is the exact practice that they did in California. I participated in the California commission. They did the exact same thing. And then they just sidestep Robert's Rules of Order. And then Arizona did the same thing. Oh, we followed California. Yeah, they sidestepped the rules and so did Arizona now Michigan. And now I believe that Edward Woods said that Colorado has approved the rules of procedure of this Commission verbatim. I repeat verbatim how. Can they do that with a different Constitution and supposed to write that. No. This is institutionalizing Marxism in America and doing what you want. Madam Chair, I'm disappointed in your performance here because it's kind of like you're asking that what you are supposed to be doing and you go oh, okay, like Commissioner...

>> CHAIR ORTON: Thank you for addressing the Commission.

>> COMMISSIONER VALLETTE: Next in line is Anthony Scannell please allow the staff a moment to unmute you.

>> Thank you, Commission for round two. It sounds like there is a resounding favorite in the public. I don't really I don't have an opinion as to which map is the best. But I will just expand my process of elimination. I said no on Tulip, and I also say no on Daisy. Because it's District 8 which includes Highland Park is kind of whacky to me on Daisy. And I'll say no on Bergamot. I think it's too packed in certain areas. So, yeah, anyway to the process of the procedure, the whole idea of the Commission, you know, I voted for the amendment that created this. It's probably better than the way it was done in the past. But now I look back on it and still I appreciate the work you are doing but I think

about it, I would never vote again to create a Commission with four democrats and four republicans in any position. I mean, I would never personally want to support anyone in those two parties. And I would ask each Commissioner have your political views changed since you filled out an application to join the Commission in the last four years?

If it did, if your political views changed maybe even your party affiliation changed are you still qualified -- excuse you qualified to sit on this Commission if you know there has to be a certain number of democrats, certain number of republicans, certain number of unaffiliated are you still a democrat a republican are you still unaffiliated. I think we deserve to know.

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

>> CHAIR ORTON: Next in line is Robert Dindoffer.

>> Hello, can you hear me?

>> CHAIR ORTON: Yes.

>> Hey folks, thanks for giving me the opportunity to speak to you all. I wanted to tell you a little bit about some of the history of the districts that existed in my area. I live in Grosse Pointe park. And from 2000 or 2002 to 2010 we had districts that looked at lot like you know almost exactly like the configuration in Motown sound and every single election a white Grosse Pointer won. A couple times early on it was a republican but then it was a democrat. And in the primaries the democrat from Grosse Pointe won over 50% of the vote. And there were more votes in the primaries in the democrat primary in the Grosse Pointes than they were from Harper Woods and Detroit sections combined. That is even if you eliminate the precinct in Grosse Pointe Woods you all eliminated from that District. And so what I want to tell you is the actual lived history in the area is that it's not a performing District under the VRA. I would be okay with the District I guess, except that I think that it's not fair for any group, my community to have power over another community. Or vice versa. So I don't like the districts for example in you know, one map where it split the Grosse Pointes up or the map that where the Grosse Pointes were split up in the 2010 redistricting. Because that's not fair to us. Just like it's not fair to the folks.

>> CHAIR ORTON: Thank you for addressing the Commission.

>> COMMISSIONER VALLETTE:

>> CHAIR ORTON: I don't see any more hands raised. So just as a reminder if you are wanting to offer public comment raise your virtual hand.

>> COMMISSIONER VALLETTE: Now is your chance to do it we want to hear from all of you. We see people on the phone listening, and we do appreciate you being here but if you have something, if you are sitting there thinking I want to say this, now is your chance. Okay we have Bridget please allow the staff a moment to unmute you.

>> I'm listening in but wanted to know where I can review a copy of the map. Is this something that was public or how are we able to see this map?

>> CHAIR ORTON: Yeah if you go to our website, which is [www.Michigan.gov/MICRC](http://www.Michigan.gov/MICRC).

>> Michigan.gov/MICRC there it is Michigan.gov/, I can barely see that sorry about that.

>> CHAIR ORTON: It's MICRC.

>> MRCRC.

>> CHAIR ORTON: MI like Michigan. MICRC.

>> MICRC okay thank you. I will look at the map then I will probably have a comment.

Thank you.

>> COMMISSIONER VALLETTE: That's great.

>> CHAIR ORTON: Okay so next, find my list.

>> COMMISSIONER VALLETTE: I don't think we have heard from George Higgins have we?

>> CHAIR ORTON: I believe so.

>> COMMISSIONER VALLETTE: Then I think we should start over or do George Higgins.

>> CHAIR ORTON: George Higgins is first on the list so go ahead.

>> Hi, can you all hear me?

>> CHAIR ORTON: Yes.

>> Okay sorry I raised my hand because I thought you guys were already on the second round of comments because we heard from James Gallant twice.

>> CHAIR ORTON: Yes.

>> I want to thank you again for your work and want to go back talking about the District 11 configuration that is present in some of these districts in Warren. Just you know to speak more about why I think that is a good configuration across multiple maps, I think the way District 11 particularly in Spirit of Detroit also Motown sound, that configuration is really good, crossing 8 Mile but not doing it in a way where you are just trying to hit a certain racial percentage where we got in trouble last time. This actually creates a community of interest and done it in a race blind way which the Court ordered and are all thankful District 11 looks good and go to Warren and people are talking about the dichotomy of that north and south of 696 so I think you guys have done a good job taking that into consideration. Warren in all these maps and especially the good ones it's a very large state and getting split many times, many different ways, northwest, southeast, south, Central and that is a good thing because municipal boundaries are not that important, not as compactness or partisan fairness. Motown sound and St. Clair Shores is split and if they are split in ways other cities can be too. Most important is partisan fairness and geographic compactness and not municipal boundaries. Thank you again for your work.

>> CHAIR ORTON: Thank you for addressing the Commission.



>> COMMISSIONER VALLETTE: Okay next in line is Robert Dindoffer. Please allow staff a moment to unmute you.

>> Hey folks can you hear me.

>> COMMISSIONER VALLETTE: Yes we can.

>> Thanks a lot, I appreciate it. My point was that I want you all hopefully to have your maps pass. And pass muster with the Court. I understand you all may disagree with the Court's decision. I don't agree with everything in it either. But ultimately the Court is going to have to make a choice of whether they are going to allow a special master to draw our maps or whether our citizen-led system is going to you know withstand this test. And I think that if you look at the communities of interest in the area, I think the clearest community of interest is that the suburbs of the Grosse Pointes and St. Clair Shores belong together. I think we all I think everybody appreciates that they are more similar to each other and that there are other communities that have some similarities, but a bigger District could be included. But when you get down to State House size, you know, you just have to decide what is the closest, who are the closest in terms of residents. That has been made clear by the residents of those cities. Folks who are trying to break up that sort of configuration with those two together. Usually want to do it because they don't like a light blue District instead of deep blue District. I don't think that...

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

>> CHAIR ORTON: Next in line is James Gallant.

>> MS. SARAH REINHARDT: I will note the rules of procedure allow for a second comment, but defer to the Commission if you want to allow a third public comment.

>> COMMISSIONER VALLETTE: Does anybody have an opinion on this?

>> CHAIR ORTON: I think that we should not allow more than two public comments.

>> COMMISSIONER LETT: I agree.

>> COMMISSIONER VALLETTE: Okay, so next in line is but isn't this his third time, George Higgins?

>> MS. SARAH REINHARDT: I believe so, yes.

>> COMMISSIONER VALLETTE: Okay so we are not going to allow him a third comment.

>> COMMISSIONER WAGNER: If this is a town hall I think we need to hear from everybody.

>> COMMISSIONER LANGE: If we don't have people waiting there is nothing wrong with letting someone go a third time if they raise their hand. We are here until 8:00 p.m.

>> COMMISSIONER CALLAGHAN: I agree with that. Let's hear what they have to say. I would like to hear someone out and get his complete thoughts on something at this point since we don't have people waiting.

>> COMMISSIONER VALLETTE: Okay.

>> MS. SARAH REINHARDT: Just to clarify, oh, sorry Commissioner Vallette, do you want like unlimited public comment rounds?

>> CHAIR ORTON: That is what they are saying.

>> COMMISSIONER VALLETTE: We are asking Commissioner Lange, Commissioner Callaghan, Commissioner Wagner?

>> COMMISSIONER WAGNER: Yes, I believe we should let them talk.

>> COMMISSIONER VALLETTE: As many times as they want.

>> COMMISSIONER WAGNER: What else are we getting paid for, we are here to listen to the public are we not?

>> CHAIR ORTON: Commissioner Weiss?

>> COMMISSIONER WEISS: We have some for this and some against it what if we say we allow them to speak three times per hour. In other words limiting it to each session they are allowed so many comments per session since we are going to be here a while. I think it's a little early. We might get a lot more later this afternoon because people are working and stuff. So it is just kind of my thought on that. Limit it to so many times each hour.

>> CHAIR ORTON: I think that is a great idea. Does anyone disagree?

>> COMMISSIONER VALLETTE: Are we saying per hour?

>> CHAIR ORTON: Yeah.

>> COMMISSIONER VALLETTE: Okay so aren't we handing over to Commissioner Lett and Commissioner Curry at this time?

>> CHAIR ORTON: Yes, we are. I see Commissioner Eid's hand up.

>> COMMISSIONER EID:

>> COMMISSIONER VALLETTE: I thought it was Commissioner Lett and Commissioner Curry.

>> CHAIR ORTON: Right but Commissioner Eid has his hand up.

>> COMMISSIONER VALLETTE: I'm sorry Commissioner Eid?

>> COMMISSIONER EID: That's okay, thank you Janice. What should we do because the rules say two so we can change them to three if we want. But let's just get clarification and get it on record what we are actually doing. We should probably take a vote.

>> COMMISSIONER VALLETTE: I actually think that the Commissioners who want to allow another time are saying at town halls. I don't think they are carrying that over to a regular meeting, are you?

>> DONNA CALLAGHAN: I'm thinking of this as a town hall. We are going to be on here until 8:00 p.m. tonight to listen to anything a citizen has to say. And so instead of cutting a citizen off and sitting in silence and staring at the screen I think we should listen to what the person in front of us has to say.

>> CHAIR ORTON: Commissioner Curry?

>> COMMISSIONER LANGE: Agreed.

>> COMMISSIONER VALLETTE: Commissioner Curry wants to speak.

>> COMMISSIONER CURRY: Why don't we allow them to have more minutes instead of more if we are going to let them speak two or three times let them speak maybe five minutes or three minutes instead of having them speak as long as they want. Just give them more minutes so they can finish their thoughts out. That is my comment.

>> CHAIR ORTON: So.

>> COMMISSIONER LETT: Seems like to me a reasonable compromise was what Richard proposed. Three times in an hour is, what, almost five minutes. That doesn't discourage others who may be watching from raising their hands and getting in. It also doesn't necessarily encourage someone from simply reiterating the same thing over and over and over and over and over again. So I would certainly be in support of three times an hour. That gives all of those people who want to continue speaking an opportunity to do so. If they wait around for another hour they get another three times so.

>> CHAIR ORTON: Commissioner Weiss?

>> COMMISSIONER WEISS: The only thing I might add to that is that anybody that hasn't spoken before would obviously take precedent over the other individuals. Just wanted to make that clear. Thank you.

>> CHAIR ORTON: Do you want to make a motion to that effect?

>> COMMISSIONER WEISS: I don't know, is it necessary?

I mean, I can if you would like. I will make the motion that we limit it to three times per hour and individuals that have not spoken have first precedent over the other individuals first.

>> COMMISSIONER LETT: Second.

>> CHAIR ORTON: So we have a motion and a second. Is there any discussion? Seeing none, all in favor of that motion raise your hand and say aye.

>> Aye.

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

>> COMMISSIONER WAGNER: Nay.

>> CHAIR ORTON: Okay the ayes prevail, and the motion is adopted. So public commenters will have a chance to offer public comment three separate times for 90 seconds each, each hour, when we start again.

And now we will turn this coming hour over to Commissioners Lett and Curry.

>> COMMISSIONER LETT: Thank you Commissioner Orton and Commissioner Vallette for hosting our first hour. My name is Steven Lett, I'm one of the Commissioners on the Commission. And so that Anthony Scannell is not concerned with me I have not changed my independent status and I still qualify to be a Commissioner.

Juanita, give us an introduction, please.

>> COMMISSIONER CURRY: Yes my name is Juanita Curry. I am a Commissioner. And I'm also still a democrat. And I have not changed my status. And I welcome any comments.

>> COMMISSIONER LETT: Having said that, the rules remain the same. You have a minute and a half to talk. Raise your hand. We just adopted a three-time per hour. It's a new hour so you get three times if you have been here before. I'm seeing no new names. So Robert Dindoffer is up. As soon as you are unmuted you can keep talking.

>> Thank you, can you hear me?

>> COMMISSIONER LETT: Yes, we can hear you.

>> Thank you. So to try to I guess kind of finish and sort of synthesize my thoughts. The District configuration in my area and the Grosse Pointes, Detroit, Harper Woods that existed in the 2000 redistricting, which is similar to the Motown sound configuration was not fair to the people in the City of Detroit. And I don't want to use that necessarily as a proxy for race one way or another. But I know it was not fair to the people in the City of Detroit in the area. It never was. And I understand why. And in 2010 redistricting the Grosse Pointes was split up but that wasn't fair to the folks in Grosse Pointe. And I can appreciate how some people may feel that like we need a tit for tat, and I don't think that is the right way of going about it following communities of interest allows people to have representation that represents their needs. Even if you set aside, you know, the VRA part, which I do think factors in here because I don't think configuration will work from a VRA standpoint and could subject you all to risk before the Court, that the Motown sound version, I think that if you just look at the lifestyle factors, you know, of people's access to transportation, you know, other...

>> COMMISSIONER LETT: All right, since we don't have anybody else new at the time James Gallant is once again up.

>> Can you hear me?

>> COMMISSIONER LETT: Yes, we can hear you.

>> All right. James Gallant, Marquette County Suicide Prevention Coalition and these are my opinions again. So let's just point out so we can kind of spread this out a little bit is that we just saw the specter known as communism. It's a ghost. You folks, what you should have done is just suspend the rules. Suspend the rules and do this different thing and do that. You could have done that. No, couldn't resist to just open up debate. You got debate. What is the question going to be?

There is not a question. I mean, first thing would be you could have motioned to suspend the rules, but you had to do your communism thing. This is Marxism and a consensus decision making process. On Wikipedia all the citations and hundreds of citations says it's fundamentally Marxism and communalism. And you will create a question and then make a motion. And then there is no discussion, there is no substantial discussion after the motion because you already made the decision. Like

your lawyer told you, hey, you made the decision. Are you wanting to change it or do what?

And the Chair, Madam Chair, that is what I'm saying and why I'm disappointed in you. You said there was no motion. So that decision doesn't count? Your lawyer told you made a decision by consensus and then you amend it. You just did it and amended it a couple times, then made the motion. That is the backwards part. You need to get back to motion first. And you should have had a motion to approve the maps at the first meeting ever, when you convened the meeting in 2020. It should have been motion to approve the maps. What do we do? Refer to the committee.

>> COMMISSIONER LETT: All right, the next up for an additional comment is George Higgins.

>> Hi yes you can all hear me.

>> COMMISSIONER LETT: Yes.

>> All right I'll be quick. I just wanted to talk about a couple of the maps, why they do a really bad job in the City of Warren where I'm from. Bergamot and Bergamot two, lakeshore, just really atrocious representation of the City of Warren. Those maps do not represent the community of interest. You know, that exists south of 696 and south of 8 Mile and north of 8 Mile. I think the Spirit of Detroit map does a much better job of representing that particular COI. You know, I know one of the previous commenters was talking about the lakeshore COI and how that is paramount of importance. Looking at how the COI is in the maps Bergamot one and Bergamot two lakeshore had done so at the expense of other communities of interest. And it does so at the expense of partisan fairness. Nobody has a problem with a light blue District. We just want over all maps that are partisan, you know, fair.

And I think looking at this map too I don't think Bergamot one or Bergamot two lakeshore is likely to be VRA compliant. I think that is their chief concern going into this with the special master and should throw out Bergamot and Bergamot two lakeshore. They don't reflect good COIs. They do so at the expense of others, which is not beneficial. So your work as the Commission. So that's about it. Thanks again.

>> COMMISSIONER CURRY: Thank you for the comments.

>> COMMISSIONER LETT: Thank you. Nothing new other than Mr. Gallant. Mr. Gallant, you are up for your second comment this hour.

>> Hey, can you hear me?

>> COMMISSIONER LETT: Yes.

>> All right. James Gallant, this is me again. These are my opinions. And, you know, I guess about the maps, I just wanted to say I guess I should make a comment about the maps. They did the same thing in California. And they had articles all about it after and Republica and an Article and people were saying whatever. You got a bunch -- remember when you got a bunch of the same comments from a bunch of people because groups do that. And people, you know, this is not political. This is the guy

says, well, they are political, yeah, it's all political. And so they were scammed in California. I think, you know, people say things to get it past the finish line and, you know, this is pretty rough, this community of interest thing. But we should go back to, and I've asked Commissioner Lett to address the part about the pledge of allegiance at the meetings. And I believe Kellom was the Chair and determined it was too controversial even to make a motion, even to make a motion, it was too controversial and moved on and stopped the debate. And bullied everybody and stopped debate and did not let them vote. Are we going to do it or not? I'd like you to please go back to that and you will hear it over and over and over until you address the issue. You can do it right now. Because we are at a town hall and can go back and forth right now over these issues but you're not going to. I guess we will have to take that to Court. The case in controversy would be did you follow the rules, right from the beginning. The first meeting, the Secretary of State did not follow Robert's Rules of Order elected Chair. She didn't do it. What do you want to do? Anybody want to do something, yeah.

>> COMMISSIONER LETT: Next up will be Anthony Scannell for his first time on this hour.

>> Thank you, Commission, for the opportunities to speak so very much. I'm happy to hear that the Commissioner that you are facilitating, and you are still independent. That is fantastic. And independence and independent votes for a republican or a democrat or supports a republican or a democrat who is a friend that would make me question whether or not they are independent. I'm not saying that that is the case here but that is fine. You know, this Commission can't fix everything. It's just supposed to fix the maps but, you know, as you hear we have a lot of problems in our state. In our region. Lack of cooperation and you know infrastructure all things that are not going the way they should and can extend it out to our country, our president does not nowhere he is and the top runner up as a game show host, we are really in a sad state as country and a lot more problems to fix than just the mapping. Let's say if you want to run as a candidate and in one of the districts you will draw. If you want to run as a democrat or republican you only have to get a thousand signatures let's say. I think for Congressional District a thousand but if you want to run as independent or any other party it's 3,000 totally unfair arbitrary and there are reasons for it and reasons at the time to limit valid access but it does not seem like it's serving our purpose any longer so there are a lot of problems and be on the scope of what you can fix as long as you do your best job that is fine.

>> COMMISSIONER CURRY: Thank you.

>> COMMISSIONER LETT: Seeing nobody up I guess I will make a comment here for anybody watching the comments being made here recently the maps and what we are in effect supposed to be doing and what we consider we have been doing you can say anything you want as long as it's not attacking Commissioners or anybody else for that matter. But we are really here to listen to what your opinion is on the maps and we as a Commission would appreciate that type of comment. Having said that, I'm sure



you're going to make whatever comments you feel are appropriate. So that brings Mr. Gallant back up for his third time this hour.

>> Hello, can you hear me now?

>> COMMISSIONER LETT: Yes we can.

>> James Gallant, these are my opinions. And, yeah, that is right. You know, Commissioner Lett we are talking about the manner which you are performing your duties as the Chair. Because, you know, this Robert's Rules thing is the question came first and it never came first. When Secretary of State Benson convened the meeting, she just went through public comment. She wasn't supposed to do public comment. She was supposed to elect the Chair and handle the meeting. In the public comments you heard political ally there, Dr. Nancy Wang and Mr. Scannell, I believe. And, you know, she is the one that started the breach when she said, well, what are we going to do? Let's get a Chair, what, acting Chair. No, acting Chair is when you have a Bylaws committee working on Bylaws then you did acting Chair at that time, but you didn't do that and put it on the agenda for four months and we will look at do rules of procedure and did not come up until four months later, until you set the practice and you never had the question first. As the acting Chair, you started right into it and doing the consensus thing. And everybody thinks let's just do this because it's the way we have done it, we always do it this way. You have been breaching the rules the whole time. And this is the problem when Mike Brady said you must follow Robert's Rules of Order, motion first, discussion, vote. He said that specifically on the transcripts. Please let's go through the first four months then you just said, hey, we are going to create the rule of procedure based on your established practice which is Marxism. This consensus decision making process is Marxism and just rebranded. Oh, this is real cool.

>> COMMISSIONER CURRY: Thank you for your comments.

>> COMMISSIONER LETT: Seeing no new hands, Robert Dindoffer is up again.

>> Hey, folks, can you hear me?

>> COMMISSIONER LETT: We can hear you.

>> Oh, great thank you. So I wanted to end with kind of how I started, not today but how I started with the Commission in the first place, which is my home community, smaller community is the Grosse Pointe communities but the larger community is the Lake St. St. Clair lakeshore community of interest which folks from all around the lakeshore and especially in St. Clair Shores and the Grosse Pointes have spoken up about. One of the things that's important to us has to do with Lake front infrastructure and water and sewage infrastructure. And in particular the dumping of human waste into our water from the entire region during major rain events. So during a big rain event essentially there are two choices either open up the taps and dump human waste into the water or let it get up into people's basements. So the answer is all open up the taps. But there is a bigger issue that has to do with infrastructure that the opening of the taps doesn't impact other people outside of our area the way it impacts us and

impacts our amenities. One of the reasons we live in these communities is so we can go to our Lake front park and enjoy the water and go you know meet up at the sandbar. And I understand that sounds.

>> COMMISSIONER LETT:

>> COMMISSIONER CURRY: Okay, who is next, Steve?

>> COMMISSIONER LETT: We have George Higgins up for another turn.

Mr. Higgins.

>>Can you hear me now.

>> COMMISSIONER LETT: We can hear you.

>> Awesome just talking again about the Lake front District that's in Bergamot to lakeshore. I know the previous commenter really likes it. Unfortunately you know I think before we've heard people even say talking about that COI oh, we need that COI because it's a lifestyle thing and look at the lifestyle of people in those areas compared to surrounding areas. We don't have the same lifestyle as people in Harper Woods or East Point or Detroit. They go and heard them on the YouTube comments and on here they said it's because look how many people in Grosse Pointes and St. Clair Shores own homes versus people in Harper Woods are renters. If you know anything about the history of red lining in this country you know, racial disparities in this country with generational wealth talking about lifestyle and talking about home ownership versus renting. They are talking about race without talking about race. I think that is something you guys should push back on as Commissioners. I'm happy a lot of the maps you have proposed include Harper Woods. In with the Grosse Pointes. They have a really strong historical links between those two communities, parts of Harper Woods have Grosse Pointe schools. So going with these lakeshore COI District I think it really is I don't think he means to do it in that sort of way but that is the effect it would have. It has an effect that is you know would exacerbate racial inequality in this country and the Commission. And thank you for your time.

>> COMMISSIONER CURRY: Thank you for your comment Mr. Higgins.

>> COMMISSIONER LETT: Looks like we the next in line would be Anthony Scannell for another turn this hour.

>> Thank you so much. I think it's my second turn in the 10:00 hour. I think for the area I'm concerned about in the Down River and Southwest Detroit, Allen Park, Lincoln Park, Melvindale, Southwest Detroit, some extent river, Ecorse, and Taylor. I will be in Taylor later today. But I think the feelings were registered pretty well. We didn't have any Commissioners to my knowledge that were really from the area until one of the newest Commissioners joined. But I think the comments were still heard. You know, we had other Commissioners that were familiar with the area. A lot of focus given to the tiny little cities over there too. But I can see you know other people are jump set if they are small cities like Grosse Pointe or are going to be split up, that wouldn't -- I probably wouldn't like it if I lived there. But if it was split from another City and another county, I

don't know what kind of opinion I would have on that one. But really it does not make a whole lot of difference because everyone keeps voting for the same people from the same parties with the old ideas and all fall in line when they get to Lansing, get to Washington. I mean really what difference does it make?

>> COMMISSIONER CURRY: Thank you for your comment.

>> COMMISSIONER LETT: Looks like we are back to Robert Dindoffer.

Mr. Dindoffer.

>> Hey folks can you hear me.

>> COMMISSIONER LETT: Is this your second talk this hour?

>> This will be my last one this hour I hope. I was not even going to give more than one. But I'm disappointed, can you all hear me?

>> COMMISSIONER CURRY: Yes.

>> COMMISSIONER LETT: Yes we can hear you.

>> I'm disappointed by some folks' response. I started this sort of engagement that I know I went out and apologize when I do but I started this because my home community was split up in the previous redistricting. And that's A. And, B, I genuinely, along with a lot of other folks in my area were upset with the conundrum that we face where it's a question of sewage dumped in our water or does it back up in our basements. And I remember, you know, buying a home where they had the sewer line replaced. And having to deal with fixing the basement and then I remember having to clean out my friend's and neighbor's basements. A lot of folks have to deal with that but what most folks in the region don't have to deal with is their water having sewage dumped in it because they don't see the impact of that decision that's made. Do folks in Oakland County dump sewage in Clinton river into Lake St. Clair or do they let it back up in the basements. Folks in Oakland County do not know for the most part that that decision is being made by a policy maker. And the fact that there was since they responded last...Curry thank you, Mr. Dindoffer for your comment.

>> COMMISSIONER LETT: All right, we have George Higgins back.

>> Hi, can you hear me.

>> COMMISSIONER LETT: We can hear you. How many times is this for you this hour?

>> This is my last one and I'm done and will get out of our hair.

>> COMMISSIONER LETT: You are not in our hair, we just wanted to know how many times you are up for this hour, go ahead.

>> Appreciate it. You know, I will just say that, you know, I just looked up the population of St. Clair Shores and with all the Grosse Pointes and it's well north of 100,000. City of Warren has a population over 100,000. All these maps, especially the good ones Warren is split four different ways which it should be as a City for such its size. Taking that and applying that to St. Clair Shores and Grosse Pointes and they will be split and if you kept all of them together that District would have over 100,000 people

in it. It's too large to draw the entire map around that. And, again, it ignores the historical links between Grosse Pointes and Harper Woods. My dad was born in Grosse Pointe Woods. And his first home he bought with his my mom was in Harper Woods. Just really strong historical links. I'm a real estate agent and I help people looking for Grosse Pointe schools all the time and end up buying in Harper Woods with Grosse Pointe schools because that is what they can afford. Keep that front of mind and keeping cities together are not more important than geographic compactness and I think it excessively says so in the proposal. Have a good one.

>> COMMISSIONER CURRY: Thank you for your comment.

>> COMMISSIONER LETT: Okay we don't have any new hands. And Mr. Gallant has taken advantage of his three opportunities to comment. So I'm going to turn it back over to Cynthia Orton and ask for a 15-minute break. Maybe some new people will show up during that time.

>> COMMISSIONER CURRY: Sounds good.

>> CHAIR ORTON: It's a great idea. I would say maybe let's come back at the top of the hour.

>> COMMISSIONER CURRY: What at 11.

>> CHAIR ORTON: At 11:00. Does anyone object to that?

>> COMMISSIONER LETT: No, I don't object to that.

>> CHAIR ORTON: Okay hopefully some new public comments will join us at that time. So we will take a break until 11:00 a.m.

>> MS. SARAH REINHARDT: Reminder to Commissioners when you step away from your laptop during the break to make sure your Zoom is muted and that your video is off. Thank you.

>> CHAIR ORTON: Thank you.

[ Recess until 11:00 a.m. ]

>> CHAIR ORTON: Looks like we are back from break, so this hour is Commissioner Weiss and Commissioner Andrade.

>> COMMISSIONER WEISS: Thank you Madam Chair, I would like to thank Commissioner Lett and Commissioner Curry for hosting the last hour of our public town hall. My name is Richard Weiss. I am an independent Commissioner on the Commission. Retired GM auto worker. And I now do handyman work which most of you know. The public doesn't but Commissioner Andrade would you like to introduce yourself?

>> ELAINE ANDRADE: Yes I'm one of the new Commissioners. I am from Imlay Township. I am the democratic Commissioner. And I am a retired research assistant from Wayne state University.

>> COMMISSIONER WEISS: Thank you. All right on behalf of the Commission we would like to thank you for taking time out of your schedule to assist the Commission in drawing fair maps with citizen input. So I guess we will move on. Our first commenter

is Mr. Gallant, would you please state to the Commission, please, and give our staff a moment to unmute you.

>> Can you hear me?

>> COMMISSIONER WEISS: Yes, I can. Thank you.

>> All right. Thank you. James Gallant, these are my opinions. Well, Commissioner Weiss, I would ask you to please entertain a point of order and engage with what I've been talking about to you for a couple years now. And it's about the motions first and having the question and people are just confused and then you just kind of make it up, giggle through stuff. But I ask you to revisit the part about the pledge of allegiance and that was Commissioner Clark and honest about that and he voted on that. But there was never a motion to actually vote on to do the pledge of allegiance or not. That's what I'm talking about how it gets off the rails and into the weeds. You know, if you are not under, you have no order, no semblance of order. Juanita was so confused she did not even want to participate. Here you go, you change it back, I'm not going to do that, I'm not going to do that. Unilaterally are changing the maps. And, you know, well, Commissioner Eid's lawyer and his little response there was like, no, the Commission acts as one, as unified. No, you have to be under a motion, and you are actually, motion end of everybody's turn, you could do this. You could actually do this if you had a real parliamentarian, qualified to get this going. I have a couple I'm trying to get for you. And you could actually do this with the rules. But you're not doing it because it's kind of like you don't want to make rules either because you have to follow them and know what that is.

>> COMMISSIONER WEISS: Thank you for addressing the Commission. Next person in line is Jasmine. Give staff a moment to unmute you.

>> Folks, I will be very quick. My name is Yasmine. I'm from Dearborn. I'm Arab American and want to express I'm happy to see Dearborn as one District. And I'm especially excited to see maps that unite community without sacrificing representation for Black voters. So I just want to see our community continue to be strong. Thanks, y'all.

>> COMMISSIONER WEISS: Thank you for addressing the Commission. Now Commissioner Raid would you like to go back and forth?

We have James Gallant and please allow a moment to unmute you for the second time.

>> Hello, can you hear me?

>> ELAINE ANDRADE: Yes, we can.

>> James Gallant again. Thanks again. I think the time has always been in the meeting a little bit short. Should be at least a couple or three minutes so people can get sentences out and make sense of what we are talking about instead of this tiny little blurbs. And, you know, as the newest member, I would ask you, Elaine, to just revisit, revisit the transcripts from the first four months and actually revisit what they talked about. They did not follow the rules. Got to follow Robert's Rules and they did not do

any of it. What do you want to do? We want to...I remember getting the transcripts and Kellom said and Witjes, oh, the Vice Chair should facilitate the discussion. Well, it is while it's under, you know, while it's before the Commission, while it's under a motion. But then they just changed it and said let's just do that without a motion. Mike Brady said that. It's not under consideration. It's not before the Commission until there is a motion. It should have started with a motion. It all should start with a motion so then you don't get off in the weeds.

So please let's hire a parliamentarian, a real certified parliamentarian. Michigan Association of Parliamentarians have given you an opportunity to hire one. I gave it to Ed Woods. The lady answered our call for that, and there are several. And there are a couple more that would be happy to look into this and say, do you know what, you got to start with the motion, so you know the question first. I think it's abuse. I think it's actually vulnerable adult abuse because, you know, Juanita clearly was confused. All of you were kind of confused. How do you get back to it?

>> ELAINE ANDRADE: Thank you Mr. Gallant for addressing the Commission. Next up we have Chris Habiby. Please allow a moment to unmute you.

>> Hi, can you hear me?

>> ELAINE ANDRADE: Yes, we can.

>> Thank you so much. So my name is Chris Habiby I'm from Dearborn and an Arab American. I wanted to thank everybody for your efforts on this process. I know that it's long and it's difficult. But I did want to make the point that it's really important to keep Dearborn as one District and I do appreciate the maps that have Dearborn as mostly in one District. We know that the greater Dearborn area is home to the most concentrated population of Arab Americans in the United States. Ensuring they are able to elect representatives that reflect them, and their interest is essential to this Commission's mission. So, again, I'm glad to see that maps that empowered Black voters are not also fragmenting Arab American voters. There are many of the draft maps that have Dearborn as one District so I'm encouraging you all to adopt one of those to be the final map. Spirit of Detroit is a great map. So is the Szetela version four. And I also wanted to note that I think Melvindale will benefit from being in with Allen Park in the Down River community since they share districts. The Dearborn community is unique and it's important to keep it cohesive. Thank you.

>> COMMISSIONER WEISS: Okay, thank you for addressing the Commission. Our next speaker is Mr. Gallant. This is your third time, sir, please go ahead.

>> Okay, can you hear me?

>> COMMISSIONER WEISS: Yes, I can, thank you.

>> Okay, yeah, you know, I guess Mr. Weiss don't you hear my name is Gallant? Why do you mispronounce my name, several of you do that.

>> COMMISSIONER WEISS: I apologize sir.



>> I don't know if it's on purpose or a cat call, I'm not working with that guy. I get that all the time and I told you a hundred times. Clarify who is the parliamentarian because Sarah spoke up and said that Mike Brady is the parliamentarian and, oh, no, he is not here so she succeeds him. But the policy right now, and I believe it is 4.3 that the legal counsel may serve as the parliamentarian. That means there is nobody can serve. He is the only one that can serve. Or if you hired a registered, a real parliamentarian, you can hire employees. But you can't do anybody right now other than legal counsel and he was sitting there. Where is Mr. Fink?

He is the parliamentarian. Plain words, do you know what I mean?

And what you're kind of doing is you're suspending the rules by consensus. And that's what they talk about in the communist manifesto, it is a specter and a ghost comes and goes and go through that and make a motion at the end, after you make a decision with a couple of amendments and you create the question first. You negotiated it backwards. This has all been backwards right from the beginning. And I don't know. I think it's part of the democratic party. And I would ask Elaine to talk to that. You are a democrat. What does it mean to affiliate?

I mean, are you a voting member of the democratic party?

And how about you?

>> COMMISSIONER WEISS: Thank you for addressing the Commission. At the moment I do not see any more hands. I guess, Mr. Woods, is there anything you can fill in with or does somebody have anything to add?

>> CHAIR ORTON: Perhaps I will just add that if we see a lot of people, I think there is 48 on the -- for attendees. If anyone like Commissioner Vallette said this morning is sitting there and has thoughts about the maps and the redistricting process, then please raise your virtual hand and speak to us because we really can't do this work without citizen input. We want citizen input in how we create the maps. So I see a couple hands. But feel free to just push that virtual hand and talk to us.

>> ELAINE ANDRADE: Okay so we do have Anthony Scannell I believe that is his first time this hour so go ahead, Mr. Scannell. Allow a moment to unmute you.

>> Thank you very much, Commission. I love the introductions. It's really interesting to learn about everyone and I'm from Down River. I identify as independent. And I guess in this context, and I don't want to say where I work but it's -- rest assured it's hard work. And I'm thinking about the Supreme Court appeal that you guys have. And I guess first the first little incident there didn't go your way. Well, I don't know whose way it is, I do know whose way because I saw who voted to continue the appeal and who voted to drop it. So they didn't pause the map making here. And in that process, I think you've come up with what would be considered better maps than the one that was struck down. I think the public is kind of determined that collectively it sounds like to me. I have even heard that from Commissioners. So I mean, even if the Supreme Court let's say best case for the people who want to appeal, even if the Supreme Court

held up the old map Hickory, would you even want to stick with it now given what everything that's been said and the better options that have been revealed?

So why do you continue this?

Why are you wasting our taxpayer money?

You said litigation is the biggest cost, why are you wasting your money on a doomed Supreme Court thing that will produce a bad outcome even if you win?

>> ELAINE ANDRADE: Thank you for your comments. Next we have Alexander Haidar. Please go ahead, Mr. Haidar.

>> Hello Commissioners. Thank you for taking the time to do what you're doing. I want to thank you for all your efforts in this process. It's been long and difficult I'm sure. Again my name is Alexander Haidar from Dearborn and is the most concentrated population of Arab Americans in the United States ensuring we are able to elect representatives who represent us, and our interests is essential to the Commission's mission. And we understand that this Commission was started out of a desire to empower Black voters, but I believe that there is a way to empower Black voters without also fragmenting Arab American voters. I have looked over some of the proposed maps and so far I think the Spirit of Detroit and the south of version four have been the most promising maps in terms of keeping the Arab American community unified. And keeping our voting power together. And in addition, the districts of Melvindale and Allen Park, which should be combined, and just like to end with that, again, as the Dearborn being the home to the largest population of Arab Americans it's important to keep our voices united and heard.

>> ELAINE ANDRADE: Thank you, Mr. Haidar. Anyone else, please speak up. Oh, there we go. Craig Farrand. Please allow a moment for us to unmute you.

>> Good morning.

>> ELAINE ANDRADE: Good morning.

>> First, congratulations to the Commission. I think you have done a heck of a job over the last couple years. I do have an issue though. I'm also from the Down River Area. I know you have had a couple other speakers from here that community of interest, communities of interest condition that was part of the mandate being in Down River what we call Down River rat I was born and raised in River Rouge grew up in Allen Park live in Brownstown and relatives in South Gate, friends and family all throughout the Down River Area. And for us that's a multi-generational community of interest. And as much as Dearborn likes to have its own identity, which I totally agree with, the Down River Area does too. And to see it being linked with Monroe County is really quite absurd. And we certainly strongly a lot of us strongly feel that Detroit has every right to have its population well represented. It's the stretching into the Down River Area like let's grab a couple towns here and grab a couple towns there and throw them in someplace else that just doesn't make sense. I've looked at all the maps and all the maps do the same thing so it's not like I have one preference over another. I want to

make sure the Down River Area, by its very nature, is unique. It's multi-racial, multiethnic with multi-generational history. And I just think that it's extra care needs...

>> ELAINE ANDRADE: Okay, thank you for that.

>> COMMISSIONER WEISS: Do you see Mr. Scannell has his hand up and give us a moment to unmute you and go-ahead Mr. Scannell.

>> Thank you, second comment 11:00 hour. I totally agree with the last guy he just spoke and is totally right about Down River and when he says it stretches into Monroe County and talking about the State House I think it's talking about that Taylor District, those two Taylor districts. And that is something that really deserves to be looked at. And I don't know, I think when you ran it through your partisan fairness I don't know maybe you looked too quickly. Maybe the machine the algorithm is not taking something into account because everyone knows if you create or if you put Taylor whole it's going to be maybe more of a toss-up direction than either of the two that currently exist. So I think it improves partisan fairness. I don't think a thorough analysis was taken a look at the partisan fairness when you put Taylor whole. It's not totally outside the scope. It's close to adjacent. You are changing the District with Allen Park that is adjacent to Taylor. So the effects are down the stream. I think it's worth it. It would be better. And please drop the Supreme Court of the United States appeal.

>> COMMISSIONER WEISS: Thank you Mr. Scannell. I see quite a few attendees. Anybody else have a question for us or a comment?

>> ELAINE ANDRADE: There we go.

>> COMMISSIONER WEISS: Go ahead.

>> ELAINE ANDRADE: We have David Allen up next. Please give us a moment to unmute you.

>> Okay, can you hear me?

>> ELAINE ANDRADE: Yes, we can.

>> Okay I've been watching you guys for several years and I just had a thought about how the difficult task you have of trying to choose between the maps. It occurred to me on several of the key criteria population, partisan fairness, compactness, political boundaries, you're probably not going to have an easy way to distinguish between the maps that are left and important criteria but probably all score relatively well paired to each other. I think it would be useful to focus on the criteria that are going to be able to distinguish between the maps and useful to have a single spreadsheet that compared all these. So that would be how many districts are changed. So fewer is better. How many VRA districts did you end up with. More is better. How much emphasis was there on the COIs and which COIs were emphasized or compromised in those maps? I think that at the end of the day you're going to have one key issue which is likely going to divide the Commission. And that is whether to go with the good number of districts that made VRA and few that were changed on the one hand versus how much

emphasis on COIs. So it could be useful to have a single spreadsheet that kind of puts all this information together when you get to your final deliberations. Thank you.

>> ELAINE ANDRADE: Thank you for that. That is an interesting concept. And probably would be very helpful.

>> MR. EDWARD WOODS: Chairperson we have a couple items we can review if the Commission is so inclined, and we need a bill paid for expert expense and we need to present a couple things or get feedback so whatever the will of the Commission may be at this time. We can check some of those items off.

>> CHAIR ORTON: We don't see any new hands up, and we have almost 40 minutes left in this hour. What -- does anyone object to us taking care of some business while we are waiting to see if hands come up?

I don't see any objections. I don't see any hands up currently. So should we go through the items as they -- I see Commissioner Lett.

>> COMMISSIONER LETT: I was just going to volunteer on a liaison report and as Mr. Woods has said there is one bill that has been presented. And I can talk to that and if anybody had any questions, I could certainly try to answer those. But you would start wherever you want. I'm just kind of volunteering.

>> CHAIR ORTON: I think that is a good idea, but I don't know that we have a quorum. So perhaps we need to take roll.

>> MS. SARAH REINHARDT: There are eight Commissioners present and we don't have a quorum presently.

>> CHAIR ORTON: We can't take care of business.

>> COMMISSIONER LETT: I'm not going to ask for a vote. I'm just going to give a report.

>> CHAIR ORTON: Okay, I guess that is good. If there is no objections, hearing no objection please proceed.

>> COMMISSIONER LETT: Okay, the in case Commissioners don't know, the provisions under the lawsuit that we are presently involved in provide that the Plaintiffs certainly if they are successful, which they have been so far, we would be responsible for their attorney fees based upon their submission of those. And we are not at that point. However, we are at the point that we took some depositions of their experts. And under the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure, when we do that, then we are responsible for paying for the time that the Plaintiff's expert spent in deposition that we scheduled. So those have been presented. And Nate Fink has contacted Edward as well as myself. He has talked with the Plaintiff's attorney and the ultimate amount is somewhat less than \$8,000 for a couple of I think it was two of their experts. I see Nate has his hand up. If you would take his.

>> CHAIR ORTON: Mr. Fink.

>> COMMISSIONER LETT: There you go. I think that's where we are at, Nate. And if you might want to correct anything that I said was wrong.

>> Nate Fink: One thing I did wanted to say, Commissioner Lett thank you and good morning everybody. Commissioner Lett you said that the Commission would be responsible for the Plaintiff's attorneys' fees in the Agee case. I would just say that is still a matter to be determined by the Court. We anticipate they will make a claim for that. At some point. And there is law on that issue in these types of cases. But I don't think that we are in a position. They certainly will be that the Commission certainly will be responsible for any particular amount that is an issue to be litigated. They will certainly make a claim and, you know, it is very possible that the Commission would be responsible for the attorney's fees. But I didn't want to -- you know, obviously this is a public record. And, you know, not ready to stipulate to any particular amount that the Plaintiffs may be entitled to at this time as it relates.

>> COMMISSIONER LETT: I did not mean to -- I see where you're going. And, yeah, I think that my comments probably led to that conclusion. But that's not the conclusion that I wanted to present. Any claim for fees would have to be presented to and approved by the Court subject to our objections.

>> Nate Fink: Right, exactly. And that is a separate issue. The issue that Commissioner Lett absolutely correctly described is this other issue which is just related to a discovery expense that is not in all any way tied to the Plaintiff's success or lack thereof. Either way in the case. Under the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure when a party, one party takes the deposition of another party's expert, the party taking the deposition, the other side, is responsible for certain expenses for that expert's time. And so that's what this is. So the Commission will pay that amount. And I don't think it's that the Commission needs to take any action on that. I'm not -- I'm looking at the screen trying to count if you have quorum right now. But I don't think you need that. I'm not asking the Commission to vote on it. I think it's just part of a litigation expense just like, you know, paying attorney's fees and the like for your own attorneys. But we just wanted to inform the Commission of that before the check is issued so that was it.

>> COMMISSIONER LETT: What was the amount that you ended up negotiating?

>> Nate Fink: 7760 which is split almost equally between the two experts whose depositions were taken by the legal team back last year. Actually well before the trial. We had a bit of a negotiation on that issue. And that amount is a bit less than the Plaintiffs had originally demanded. And so but that is an amount that the Commission should pay. So that's it. Thank you.

>> COMMISSIONER LETT: Anybody have any questions on this particular item? It's not something that I know a lot of people are necessarily familiar with unless you're an attorney in civil practice or practicing in litigation. And it might seem unusual that we have to pay for their experts. But we are the ones that wanted to get them on the record. And that's the way it works. It would work in reverse if they took our expert's depositions. They would have to pay our experts. If there are no questions, that's all I've got. Thank you.

>> CHAIR ORTON: Okay, thank you. I see we do have a hand up. I don't know how many -- I think he has spoken twice this hour but I'm not sure but go ahead, Commissioner Andrade.

>> ELAINE ANDRADE: This is Anthony Scannell's last time for this hour. Thank you Mr. Scannell.

>> I was listening to the legal liaison report and the Supreme Court I don't know if you are making any decisions today, but just, okay, so the appeal. It's a big expense right now. Probably one of the top expenses. And what would be the outcome if the appeal was successful?

The outcome is we would still have the Hickory map, the old Hickory map, and it seems like a lot of people even Commissioners have expressed their opinion that they thought it was done under a faulty method or it's not a good map and created better options since. So if you continue this appeal and let's say crazy best-case scenario you won would any of you even want to stick with the Hickory map after all the good work you have done in the past few weeks?

Why would you even want to stick with the Hickory map if you won?

So, you know, I don't know who is advising you to continue this appeal?

I'm sure they have their reasons and maybe they are even defending you really well, but do you want the outcome if you want?

Do you even want that outcome?

>> COMMISSIONER LETT: Let me add a comment here, Mr. Scannell. The Commission motion that was voted on was to not pursue the appeal any further and the Commission voted that down. And one of the main or the main reason is we didn't have to make that decision now. We did have some conversation in closed session with our attorney, litigation attorneys. And we will have further conversation with them in the very near future once our maps are considered as well as the special master's maps. So the thing that the Commission decided, at least in my opinion, was let's see where this is going. And then make a determination based upon the information that will be coming forward, as well as information that our attorneys will -- litigation attorneys will then have an opportunity to confer with us about. I don't think the Commission at this time has made a definite decision on whether to continue or to withdraw the appeal. But we are waiting for more information. So I hope that helps your perspective on what we are doing.

>> COMMISSIONER WEISS: Yes, Mr. Scannell I would like to make a comment. Have you gone in and looked at the Hickory map and compared it to all our new maps? I think you might find there is some interesting information there. Thank you.

All right, next speaker we have Mr. Othman, please give our staff a moment to unmute you.

>> MS. SARAH REINHARDT: Did you want Mr. Scannell to respond to your question?



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>> COMMISSIONER WEISS: If he would like to I would be happy to hear his answer.

>> MS. SARAH REINHARDT: Okay.

Mr. Scannell you are unmuted and can address the Commission or respond if you would like to.

>> No I haven't from a community of interest perspective I don't think the Hickory map compares at all. Maybe or I don't know if you would be talking about from a partisan fairness or a VRA perspective. But.

>> COMMISSIONER WEISS: Actually I'm talking about quite a few of the comparisons if you go and look at them. Like I said it's pretty drawn out, but I did a little research on it. I compared them all to the old map. I find it quite interesting so I will let you do that if you would like.

>> Thank you.

>> COMMISSIONER WEISS: Sure. Mr. Othman give our staff a minute to unmute you.

>> Hello, my name is Samy-Othman from Melvindale, I grew up in this town. I really appreciate it. I encourage you guys to adopt the maps that put Melvindale with Down River, I was a student at Melvindale hi a part of the Melvindale Allen Park and I have friends and family in Dearborn. I also have friends and family and a lot of memories with the Down River community people. So I know it's hard to you know exactly define what a community of interest is I can tell you Melvindale have a lot in common with Allen Park and Down River so it kind of only makes sense Melvindale is part of the Down River community. Thank you.

>> COMMISSIONER WEISS: Thank you for addressing the Commission. I guess Commissioner Orton, if we have anything else that we can talk about or do that does not violate any rules.

>> CHAIR ORTON: Okay, thank you. I think perhaps we do have a quorum again.

>> COMMISSIONER WEISS: Ah, yes.

>> CHAIR ORTON: So should we go on with just unfinished business that's on the agenda?

Director Woods, do you have something else that we could take care of that would be better at this time?

>> MR. EDWARD WOODS: Sure, we just have an update from the last meeting regarding our rules and procedure that we could just share with the Commission so everybody can see it and that vote will take place at one of our upcoming meetings so there is really no need to vote today. But it's just sharing the change that was made. And I can put that on the screen. Commissioner Lange wanted to make the change and the Commissioner agreed with the rescheduling of meetings and notice. We had five hours before and in this version you will see 12 hours. And then on the regular meetings we had a question on the wording, and it says the Commission shall meet in regular session which shall be held no less frequently than one meeting per month unless

otherwise determined by a majority vote members present before maps are approved. After maps are approved the Commission shall meet no less frequently than once per quarter unless otherwise determined by a majority vote of members present.

Those are the changes that the Commission will be asked to make a vote on. Are there any questions with regards to that?

>> CHAIR ORTON: I don't see any. So this is being published and so we will be able to vote next week or.

>> MR. EDWARD WOODS: Next week or the regular Commission meeting, whatever the Commission desires.

>> CHAIR ORTON: Okay, thank you.

>> MR. EDWARD WOODS: Let me see and let me go back to, we are asking some feedback for the mapping process and procedures. So I don't know if anyone had a chance to take a look at them. Starting from Page 16. We know the dates need to change but if this was the process that was used based on the Constitution and the procedure that was vested into the mapping process and procedures so we are looking for any ideas or recommendations that we can bring back to the Commission on Wednesday for presentation. And then a vote on next Thursday. So I did not know if anyone had any ideas or considerations that they would like to share.

>> CHAIR ORTON: I don't see anything right now. When do those any comments need to be made to you?

>> MR. EDWARD WOODS: It would be nice to have them by Friday. Monday is a holiday. And so we could have those by tomorrow, that would be great. So we can give, you know, you a chance to take a look at them for consideration.

>> CHAIR ORTON: Okay.

Thank you.

>> MR. EDWARD WOODS: All right, we dealt with the Agee case. And the next thing we can deal with would be the budget.

>> CHAIR ORTON: Okay.

>> MR. EDWARD WOODS: As you know the budget is a very fluid process as it relates to what the Commission is doing. And so I just want to share it with you, the Commission has already voted to ask for, to double the amount that has been given to the Commission. The salaries have stayed the same. Our travel expenses are obviously up with regards to a hundred, our technology is up because we keep things on litigation hold. And so in addition to having three new Commissioners, the phone as well as the computer is still on litigation hold for the previous Commissioners. So I want you to know of ongoing costs instead of costs we lose because the Commissioners are no longer serving.

We have meeting expenses. As you know we pay for the transcripts. We pay for the ASL. We pay for the facilities. And then when we are in person obviously we have audio visual. So there is a significant cost with regards to that. Our last bill, for

example, for closed caption was close to \$20,000 for January and a couple meetings in February. So I just want you to know that we are incurring costs for the whole entire year. Our consultants and special masters is that we have that the Court is requiring us to pay. Our line drawing, our voters rights. Previously we had Federal Compliance Consulting and now we have attorney E mark Braden so that represents that costs. Public relations are the contracts we issued out, \$49,499.99 for this past go around. And we will need to do the same for the Senate which gives you a hundred. We have legal fees this is any potential legal fees. This one in particular was a result of the notice to vacate. That is a budgeted amount. It's not an actual and an estimate so I don't want you to think that is what we are giving away. That is just not the case. Professional services refers to insight three which helps us with our finance. Advertising is the paid media, not to the consultants but paid media for Comcast for text messaging social media advertising, radio, newspaper, everything to kind of get the word out with regards to what the Commission is doing. Then our office supplies 22,400 this is postage, copies, toner, it also includes posters, for example, at the meeting next week we will have posters of each of the maps that people can see in the back, before by 3:00. If we need to get easels the easels we have may not be strong enough to handle the poster so these are all the things that comes out of office supplies just to provide some context. Like I said the budget is fluid. So as things come that we might need to make changes that we have in previous years, but this is where we are as relates to our expenses. And so I would just like a motion to adopt the fiscal year 24 updated budget and a vote for approval.

>> COMMISSIONER LETT: I move we adopt the budget.

>> COMMISSIONER WEISS: Second.

>> CHAIR ORTON: It's moved and seconded that we adopt this budget. Is there any discussion?

Questions for Director Woods?

Okay, let me just make sure we have a quorum. It looks like we do.

So all in favor of adopting this budget, raise your hand and say aye.

>> Aye.

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

Okay, the ayes prevail and the budget is adopted.

Thank you, Director Woods.

>> MR. EDWARD WOODS: Thank you Chairperson. Seeing that we have no hands, if the Commission would like to go ahead and take an extended lunch, I think that would be appropriate at this time. And we do have one and resume at 1:00 but hold on, we do have one person who raised their hand.

>> CHAIR ORTON: Commissioner Weiss or Andrade?

>> ELAINE ANDRADE: Okay we have Richard Michalski. Please go ahead.

>> MS. SARAH REINHARDT: Mr. Michalski if you can unmute yourself, you are free to address the Commission.

>> I'm sorry can you hear me now?

>> ELAINE ANDRADE: Yes we can thank you.

>> First of all I want to thank all of you for the hard work you have done not only in some of you on the original Hickory plan and on the Court ordered revisions that are now underway. The question, a couple questions that I have. Under the Hickory plan I know you are working to try to increase the number of districts that have a Black voting majority. The number of districts yesterday I watched pretty much the whole previous meeting. I know you are trying to get ten or more Black greater than white. How many districts that had Black voting eligible folks the greater than white in the Hickory plan in the region that the Court has requested us to ordered us to revise?

What was that number in the Hickory plan?

>> COMMISSIONER WEISS: I believe I can answer that because I had just suggested to go look. To elect there are 16 districts to my count.

>> Okay but in yesterday's video I watched the other day I know there was a discussion like is ten going to be good enough, 11 would be better. I know some of the plans, some of the plans that of the ten plans that are on site have as many as I think it's 12 actually the willow plan has 12 Black greater than white. But so comparing that number, the ten, 11, 12, what is the Hickory plan actually have when you just looked in the Detroit area where I believe the question is the legal questions arose?

>> COMMISSIONER WEISS: According to my count it's 16.

>> DONNA CALLAGHAN: Richard Commissioner Weiss sorry to interrupt I think that includes some outlying districts we weren't trying to address with our redraw like Pontiac and Flint. If you look at the Hickory plan just for the Detroit Metro area where we were concentrating and where they analysis was addressing, it was 12 for the Hickory plan.

>> COMMISSIONER WEISS: I count more than that. Maybe I've got a different map I'm looking at, but I would count the one that I looked at was like 33.1 to 33.1. And so if you take that out that would be 15 that I looked at. Now, I'm open to.

>> DONNA CALLAGHAN: If you only include, I could be wrong and maybe some other Commissioner has some more information too but I believe the numbers where we were looking at and the plans we drew that were coming up, with 8, 9, 10 or 11 were only addressing those who had a portion of the District in Wayne County. So only in Oakland go ahead.

>> CHAIR ORTON: Maybe we could have that map pulled up on the screen that shows the blue and the green for Hickory.

>> Can you still hear me?

>> CHAIR ORTON: Yes.

>> COMMISSIONER WEISS: Yes.

>> I guess my count in looking at the maps that are online, the Bergamot one had ten districts. The Black greater than one. Bergamot two was ten, Tulip was ten. Water Lily was ten. Spirit of Detroit 11. Daisy two has 12. River work 11. Motown sound 11. Willow 12. And Szetela version 11.4. There were 11 in that plan. So I'm not sure what the base line with the plans that are shown on mine, what the comparative number is in the Hickory plan. Because I understand our outlying districts and all that, but, you know, the number if we are -- maybe I'm not making myself clear, but it looks like you know if the Hickory plan had 16 what was the issue that the courts had? Because we are now looking at the, you know, maybe ten to 12 districts in the different plans that are under consideration. Do you understand the question?

>> CHAIR ORTON: If I can explain my understanding of it. We are talking about two different things. You're talking about VRA districts. And the Court did not rule that we did not follow the VRA. It ruled that we considered race too much when we were drawing the plans. So we are not comparing how many districts are in, how many VRA districts are in the Hickory plan to how many VRA districts are in the plans we redrew. We are -- what is being considered is that we had to do it not looking at race the second time. Does anyone else want to clarify more or does that make sense?

>> DONNA CALLAGHAN: That is correct Cynthia that is absolutely right they ruled on the 14th amendment equal protection clause. They declined to rule on the VRA violations. If there were any. They didn't rule on that. To address the -- your question, Mr. Michalski is that correct?

>> That's good, that is good.

>> DONNA CALLAGHAN: Sorry if I miss pronounce that. When we had our analyst do the VRA analysis, they concentrated and only ran it initially on the districts that were wholly or in part in Wayne County. So if you're asking what was the scope of that analysis, that was the initial scope and the numbers that came out of that analysis is where we had maps that came in with 11, 10, 9 and 8 opportunity districts. It only counted Districts that were wholly or partially in Wayne County so for example a District like Pontiac or encompassed Flint may be a Black opportunity District but not touching Wayne County and not included in that count. I believe, and I could be wrong and someone else on the Commission could back me up on that, I think, because I asked that question, I was very curious about it, what -- how because we got really hung up on how many opportunity districts do we have to have to be able to defend this in Court as being compliant with the VRA. So we spent a ton of time discussing that and trying to make our maps be as compliant as our legal advice and the legal analysts saying they could be. What about the Hickory map?

When they ran the analysis on that the number came back with 12 in the Detroit area, not counting Wayne County's but only in Detroit area where that was one more District than our best race blind map came up with. The best we came up with-drawing race blind was the Daisy plan. There were some other maps that were drawn from -- that

were contributed that we ran some analysis on. But our understanding is they were not -- they were drawn with a lot of racial consideration in putting the districts together. And they scored around 11. So still one less than the Hickory plan. Our best maps we get the best feedback on, and everyone seems to be in favor of at least the public comment we have heard today and previously and looking through the comments like the Motown sound map scored at a ten if I'm not mistaken. It was borderline to a 11 but it was like 10 and a half. Does any other Commissioner recall those statistics as well or am I off?

>> Well I counted the map yesterday and the Motown sound appeared to have 11 districts. 11 districts that were the Black greater than white. One fourth of the districts 1, 4, 5, 7, 8, 9, 11, 16, 17 and 18. So there is 11. Anyway, so what is the metric that satisfied, if it's not the number of districts, what is the actual measurement that's required in order to be compliant from the VRA?

>> DONNA CALLAGHAN: That is the magic question. Yeah, we wish we all knew the answer to that. We don't. We have expert legal advice and analysts guiding us with their opinions on what would foot the bill but it's not an objective question that we can, you know, know to definitively guess or know if this map meets it or not. I don't know that we will definitely know that until a Judge in a Court of law looks at it and says, yes, this map is good. And it's not clear.

>> What's the quantifiable metric that was used to determine the Hickory plan noncompliant?

I guess that is the fundamental question. You know, I mean.

>> CHAIR ORTON: So let me say it wasn't determined to be noncompliant with VRA if that's what you're talking about. But Commissioner Eid wants to say something.

>> COMMISSIONER EID: Yeah, I will jump in and try to clear up a couple things. The Motown sound map currently has 11-VRA districts if you only count the Metro Detroit, if you only count Detroit, 12 if you count that District 18 being in Oakland County. That's what they said last week to us.

Two, this might clear up Richard's confusion. And it's an understandable confusion because all of us are confused about this. It might not be a good idea to compare the number of VRA districts and what we are doing now to what was in the Hickory map because these maps were drawn in a fundamentally different way. For Hickory, we tried to maximize the number of VRA districts. And to do that among other things, we used race. This time in our draw around we did not use race at all. The courts never said we violated the VRA and decided not to rule on that. Instead they ruled that we violated, my understanding and I'm not a lawyer so I could be wrong but my understanding the only rule we violated the 14th amendment by using race too much. So there wasn't a VRA thing. But also like when I say this is an unfair comparison, the numbers are different because the styles used to make the maps are different. So it's not really an apples-to-apples comparison. It depends on how you measure the



numbers. And, you know, that's what we are working through right now. Did that answer his question?

>> CHAIR ORTON: I hope so. I think he dropped off. He's not showing up any more anyway.

And I don't see any more hands currently. And it is nearly 12. Oh, his hand is up again so he is here. So we can take him.

>> I don't know how I lost you. But so from my perspective the discussion or the argument was that we used race too much in the developing the original plans, but it seems like we are spending more time now talking about race than what I recall during the development of the original Hickory plan. So I mean, it's hard to understand what the metric is, what the hurdle we have to achieve in order to be satisfied if it's not the number of districts that are Black greater than white in the outside the Metro Detroit area, I mean, I'm really totally you have a real challenge amongst you. You are trying to tilt the other wind mill I think is I don't know whether Don-Quixote does the project but anyway I appreciate all your work and Richard, I did try to put together a comparative chart on different things to understand the difference in the ten plans that are on site. And I'm working on that. But I thought the goal was the number of Black greater than white districts and apparently that's not the criteria. So good luck on the challenge because you need a crystal ball to look at the -- figure out what the Judge is really wanted to see because...

>> COMMISSIONER EID: I think many of us have the same apprehensions that you're speaking of, Richard. Did he say if he had a preference on the ten plans? I might have missed that.

>> MS. SARAH REINHARDT: I can bring him back real quick.

>> I guess I did. In looking at the plans, let me look at it here quickly here, one of the criteria that I looked at was how many districts inside the Metro area or bordering the Metro area increased the I'll say are more competitive in terms of the democrat to republican vote. That is a controversial issue. But, you know, from my perspective, the I mean I'm looking at here, the Spirit of Detroit looked good in the Motown -- the Motown, was that Motown sound?

Whatever that is. Motown sound was the other one. Spirit of Detroit. And Daisy two was not bad either so anyway those are my, that is my input and good luck to you and thanks for all your hard work. And I appreciate your hard work.

>> CHAIR ORTON:

>> ELAINE ANDRADE: Okay thank you for that.

>> CHAIR ORTON: Thank you very much. Okay, so it is 12:01. And we are scheduled for lunch break until 1:00. So we will take a recess until 1:00.

[ Lunch recess until 1:00 ]

>> COMMISSIONER VALLETTE: Hi everybody.

>> CHAIR ORTON: Hello.

>> CHAIR ORTON: I call the Michigan Independent Citizens Redistricting Commission to order at 1:00 p.m.

>> MS. SARAH REINHARDT: Absolutely. Say present when I call your name and if your location has changed since we called roll this morning, please let us know where you are attending remotely from. I will call on Commissioners in alphabetical order starting with Elaine Andrade?

>> ELAINE ANDRADE: Present.

>> MS. SARAH REINHARDT: Donna Callaghan?

>> DONNA CALLAGHAN: Present.

>> MS. SARAH REINHARDT: Juanita Curry?

>> COMMISSIONER CURRY: Present.

>> MS. SARAH REINHARDT: Anthony Eid?

Brittini Kellom?

Rhonda Lange?

Steve Lett?

Commissioner Lett, are you present?

Marcus Muldoon?

Cynthia Orton?

>> CHAIR ORTON: Present.

>> MS. SARAH REINHARDT: Rebecca Szetela?

Janice Vallette?

>> COMMISSIONER VALLETTE: Present.

>> MS. SARAH REINHARDT: Erin Wagner?

Richard Weiss?

>> COMMISSIONER WEISS: Present.

>> MS. SARAH REINHARDT: Six Commissioners are present and there is not a quorum.

>> CHAIR ORTON: So as there is no quorum we will not take any business. But we were not planning on it anyway so Commissioner Callaghan I will turn this over to you.

>> DONNA CALLAGHAN: Okay good afternoon first of all I would like to thank Commissioners Weiss and Andrade for facilitating that last hour of the town hall before the lunch break my name is Donna Callaghan I'm retired democrat from Farmington Hills. I just want to say thank you to the public for being here and taking time out of your day to come and give us your input and your information and your knowledge because it's very helpful to help us get these fair map districts drawn. So with nothing further we will start with the questioning. I think the first person up is Lavonna Wright.

>> COMMISSIONER EID: I'm, present guys and think I missed the call just now.

>> CHAIR ORTON: Yes, thank you.

>> DONNA CALLAGHAN: Lavonna please go ahead. Lavonna, I think you are still on mute. There you go.

>> Oh, am I off mute?

>> DONNA CALLAGHAN: Yes we can hear you go ahead.

>> I don't know what this is about. What is going on, I don't know what this is about, I called to join but I don't know what this is about.

>> DONNA CALLAGHAN: This is about the redistricting and map drawings for the election public comments and the maps we created thus far.

>> Oh, okay is it by DTE or what?

>> DONNA CALLAGHAN: This is for your representatives for Congress and for State House.

>> Oh, State House, oh, maybe I don't need to be on this. Maybe it's not for me.

>> DONNA CALLAGHAN: Okay thank you.

>> Okay good-bye.

>> DONNA CALLAGHAN:

>> CHAIR ORTON: Just want to note that Commissioner Lett has also joined now.

>> DONNA CALLAGHAN: Okay, next up is James Gallant. Hi, James.

James, you are on mute.

>> Hello.

>> DONNA CALLAGHAN: Hello. We can hear you.

>> James Gallant again and these are my opinions. And welcome Commissioner Callaghan. I would hope that, I guess you facilitating here you could maybe get Mr. Fink since he is on to clarify a few of these questions that I've been bringing up about process and the rules of procedure and what not being new and all. I guess first you say you are a democrat like a voting member of the democratic party or voting members of the republican party, and really straighten that out. But, first of all, you know, it was asked that the secretary would call the roll. And then Sarah Reinhardt answered and then called the roll, determined there was not a quorum. In the Constitution it says the Secretary of State will do that. And is an elected official. And if it's not Secretary Benson, it will be someone else. It's not Sarah Reinhardt or the other lady that does the roll call. I'm not sure how that happened. Is there a document appointed to fill in for the secretary?

Because, you know, this is how this is supposed to work. Mike Brady said Robert's Rules of Orders at the beginning before they started. Please review. They have a special review to review the transcripts from the first four months, then we can go over these rules. And so can you please fix, you know, have a little back and forth conversation so we can actually address these issues?

Because the secretary is supposed to be here. Under Robert's Rules of Order, you can't have a meeting without a Chair or secretary without a vote that is in the Constitution. That is just a fundamental breach.

>> DONNA CALLAGHAN: Thank you for your comments. Is there anyone else who would like to raise their hand?

All right, then, James Gallant, you get round two. Please go ahead.

>> Can you hear me now?

>> DONNA CALLAGHAN: I can hear you. Thank you.

>> James Gallant again. You know, that is one of the questions we have and that is a fundamental thing because the secretary is most important and the keeper of the record. Where are we at on all this?

You are supposed to have a semblance of order and go to the secretary and it's not Sarah Reinhardt. Can you please get the documents that Secretary Benson Secretary of State appointed her to be the secretary. I don't understand. I tried to get those and couldn't get them. Also we need the orientation materials that were posted. Please post them on the web site because in your orientation materials, I know you are new and didn't know if you went over the orientation materials, but there is information in there about Robert's Rules and that is misinformation for elections. In your publish, it says motion to table kills a motion, that is old school and been corrected in Robert's Rules of Order. And you should review this and get back to question first so everybody knows what the question is. I don't understand how you can be so confused and that is why I'm really here. Because I think this is what is driving the risk for suicidal behavior in our community. People are just confused. And you notice you got, what, a couple people come here and don't want to participate with you folks because you do whatever you do. You're not following the rules. Half of the stuff you do is inappropriate according to the rules, that is according to Robert's Rules the fundamental principles. Who is the parliamentarian?

We have legal counsel to clarify that, Commissioner Lett answered for the Chair and Commissioner Lett answers as the parliamentarian and...

>> DONNA CALLAGHAN: Commissioner Weiss, do you have something to say?

>> COMMISSIONER WEISS: Yes. I'm curious, Mr. Gallant, comes on and he comes on and asks and brings to our attention, the meeting is supposed to be the maps. I would like you to comment about the maps, Mr. Gallant.

>>Okay.

>> DONNA CALLAGHAN: I don't see him on any longer.

>> Yeah. And, well, I can say that what Robert's Rules of Order at the first beginning, the first meeting when Commissioner Secretary Benson convened the meeting first thing she should have done motion to approve the maps. And then okay how are we going to do that?

Because that would be then you amend, you make drafts, that's what you did. But every chance, every time somebody takes a turn you should vote this is going to be the draft map, that is going to move forward. Because now when you get to the end and you actually approve the maps, the person that voted or designed the map last unilaterally approved the draft map, then you go, okay, we will approve that. One person.

>> DONNA CALLAGHAN: James, to the question that Commissioner Weiss asked you, have you had a chance to examine the maps and see how they impact your community?

Do you have any comments or preferences on the maps that we have drawn?

>> Well, yeah. Like the whole thing, it's not my community. Those are the people in Detroit. You know, that is Black people in Detroit. It's not Irish American Pasty white folks in the UP. That is up to him. The community of interest thing is a wild concept. You can see where you are off in the weeds. And that's the fundamental thing is you didn't keep a semblance of order. Right now you are just throwing them out there. Yeah, I don't know. The numbers got to line up. I don't know. Like you said, you don't know what the Court asked. You need to get this clarified, what you got to do next. I don't know how to even do it in the City like that. I'm in a rural area. You did change our maps. You did pack some more democrats in our maps, that was not a good thing because we already got like 80%. And, you know, we don't get a chance. We don't stand a chance up here. Actually they do the same thing at our county Commissions that you are doing right there, the backwards Marxism and start with consensus building and make a decision, then you answer it, then you make the motion to answer. We do it, the Commission and City Commission does it. That is why it's a contradicting, the state of being. Contradicting the rules that are here, just doing it the opposite by consensus. You got side bar rules that you agreed to that, you know, the Chair is asking for suggestions when she is supposed to be maintaining order. Every agenda item is supposed to be we will entertain a motion to approve.

>> DONNA CALLAGHAN: Thank you for your comments. Commissioner Lett?

>> COMMISSIONER LETT: Never mind.

>> DONNA CALLAGHAN: Okay, I don't see anyone else with their hand up. Is there anyone else in attendance who would like to provide their input?  
I would love to hear from you.

>> CHAIR ORTON: While we are waiting for a hand up I will note that Commissioner Muldoon and Szetela have joined the meeting.

>> DONNA CALLAGHAN:

>> CHAIR ORTON: And Commissioner Kellom. I don't know if we noted that.

>> MS. SARAH REINHARDT: Thank you.

>> DONNA CALLAGHAN: So the only hand I see up is Mr. Gallant who has already had -- there is a new hand, Miss Maia good afternoon.

>> Hi, good afternoon. I kind of have been watching since kind of this morning off and on. I don't have something that's perfectly prepared. But I did want to point out being in favor of the Motown sound map. I like this map. I'm from Detroit. And you know, I really have been observing and looking at the maps. I would be in this particular map District 5. And so I do appreciate how it is cut the Livernois area. And, you know, a little bit of Oak Park. There's a similarity there. I also do like the next District over, 8, I

appreciate how that is cut. I used to live on the east side of Detroit like Alter road area and I was looking over there and I like how that looks. I think I'm out of time.

>> DONNA CALLAGHAN: No, please continue. Please go ahead.

>> I do like how 9 looks. I do think that that -- the way that is cut, it does put Detroit in a good position, representing ways. I also grew up in north Rosedale Park. So that I think would be maybe four. Just looking at it. And so 96, I-96 that area next to, well, just below 16, it you know telegraph kind of cuts that off. I do think this is a much better representation far better than you know what we are looking at now and, you know, the kind of cut that we are seeing. I think that my community, you know, would be represented favorably when we vote, if there is much more of us that could speak, you know. The same language as our neighbors when it comes to our precinct delegates and just, you know, what our representation would look like. So I just appreciate, you know, the way that this map has been cut. It looks the best to me. If I need to I can also put my comments in, you know, on the map as well if you want to read it that way too.

>> DONNA CALLAGHAN: That would be perfect. I would love if you can do that. That is a very helpful comment. Thank you very much.

>> Okay, thank you.

>> DONNA CALLAGHAN: Do we have anyone else who would like to speak?  
Christiana-D. Hello.

>> Hello, how are you?

>> DONNA CALLAGHAN: I'm good how are you?

>> I'm good. I'm also a Detroit. I live downtown. I went to college but I'm very confused of these maps. Because I don't know exactly what I'm looking at. Like I pulled the maps up. I went to the versions. But like I don't know am I considered Spirit of Detroit. Am I the river walk area?

I don't understand how you find the numbers, that was my question. Because there is numbers on the map but then the maps don't have a name, so I don't know what actually it is.

>> DONNA CALLAGHAN: When you say by the numbers, what do you mean the District numbers or?

>> Yes so the numbers are the districts?

>> DONNA CALLAGHAN: Callaghan if you open the maps up each District is color coded. But there should also be a number in there that labels it as District 1 or 2 or 3. Sometimes it might be hard to see but they should be labeled with a District number right in the districts. Kind of in the middle.

>> I don't know if that is right and Lafayette park is District 4 or 5, but Lafayette park is on the map, it just says 9.

>> DONNA CALLAGHAN: So depending on which map you look at, the District numbers change. They are not necessarily consistent. They are kind of consistent but



not completely. 8 is usually in the neighborhoods. 5 is usually up around 8 Mile on the west side. But sometimes those numbers move around a little bit just because of the way the maps were drawn. They kind of came to Fruition depending where someone was drawing and where they started so the District numbers can change from map to map. You need to know the name of the map, Spirit of Detroit, Bergamot then you can list the particular District number in the map. They are not necessarily the same from one to the next one. Does that make sense?

>> If my District is 3 so is this map saying so if I'm looking at Motown sound.

>> DONNA CALLAGHAN: Well if your current District is 3 it could very well have changed from one map to another. For sure.

>> Okay, okay.

That was it.

>> DONNA CALLAGHAN: Brittini, do you want to add something to that?

>> COMMISSIONER KELLOM: I think Commissioner Callaghan you said it. I was going to say when you go to the draft proposed maps, there is a title of the map and everything under that is the data, the map itself, it includes all the information and all the criteria in which we had to draw. The names we just used to differentiate Christiana from map to map, if you were trying to understand the map, which you are, I would go to each map. Find where your neighborhood is and that is going to be whatever number is there, that is the District for that particular area in the map that you're looking at. So I would start there. So each map has a different name. We had to redraw the maps. Give you the cliff notes version and we are smack dab in the middle of the redrawing process and looking for citizens like you to continue to contribute very specific things. So understanding the maps are very important.

>> Yeah, I worry because I went to Michigan and everything and I'm like what kind of brain power.

>> COMMISSIONER KELLOM: It's confusing.

>> Looking at the map I can't see streets. That may be too because I'm not the best with streets. But I'm looking at like Motown and Spirit of Detroit I'm sorry, and I'm looking at a 1 and a 9 but because I don't actually know it's not even closer so far. But I can figure that out now that I know it's not Detroit's direct District it's the District you created the maps, and I did not know that.

>> COMMISSIONER KELLOM: I would Zoom in then you can see the detail in the given District that you're looking at.

>> Okay the maps don't let me Zoom anything on my Apple. But I will check. It's the map. It doesn't let me move into it or anything. There is no key points to change what I'm looking at.

>> COMMISSIONER KELLOM: That's weird because there is supposed to be a toggle feature. Make sure you're in the link that is draft posed maps.

>> I went to draft proposed maps then.

>> COMMISSIONER KELLOM: State House map too, not Congressional we are not doing Congressional we are doing the House then we do the Senate maps.

>> Mine says proposed maps and Spirit of Detroit map population VRA and I checked the map population I mean the underneath the first draft is map, I tapped that. But it's not like integrated. I lied to you. Please note take it away and ignore everything I said. I see it.

>> DONNA CALLAGHAN: Let's get this up on screen so we can show what we are looking at.

>> I got it.

>> DONNA CALLAGHAN:

>> CHAIR ORTON: She gets it and it would be helpful if someone can put up their screen and show from going our website what to click on for draft proposed maps and the different features.

>> DONNA CALLAGHAN: That is a great idea.

>> MR. EDWARD WOODS: Give me a quick second and I will do it for you.

>> CHAIR ORTON: All right. Thank you. We can still take questions and comments while we are waiting for that.

>> DONNA CALLAGHAN: I don't see any new hands right now. Brittini thank you for making that explanation a little clearer.

>> MR. EDWARD WOODS: Okay are you ready Commissioner Callaghan?

>> DONNA CALLAGHAN: Yes, go ahead.

>> MR. EDWARD WOODS: Thank you. This is the website Michigan MICRC [www.Michigan.gov/MICRC](http://www.Michigan.gov/MICRC). And when you get to the home Page you want to click on 2024 draft proposed maps. 2024 draft proposed maps. And then you will see each map that is listed. I believe Christiania-D was asking about the Motown sound. What you want to do is click on the comments on the map that Commissioner Kellom was referencing. So if you want to Zoom in you want to click on the comments of each map. And it will take you to the map and I would encourage you to type your address so you can see which District you're in each particular map. After you type in your address, it will show you what District you're in and then you can Zoom out as Commissioner Kellom was referencing to see the districts that you're in. And you can and the further you Zoom out, you can not only see the neighborhoods, but you can also see the streets as well. So just wanted to share that with the public. Thank you.

>> DONNA CALLAGHAN: Okay, I don't see any more hands up. Is there anyone else?

>> MR. EDWARD WOODS: Mr. Gallant's hand is up for the third time this hour, if you want to hear from Mr. Gallant. Now his hand is down. There it is.

>> DONNA CALLAGHAN: Okay, Mr. Gallant, let's have your third comment, please.

>> Okay. Can you hear me?

>> DONNA CALLAGHAN: We can hear you, yes.

>> All right. James Gallant, these are my opinions. You know, I don't think that you folks really are understanding my community of interest. And I put this down actually in writing to you folks. My community of interest as the suicide prevention coalition is the entire State of Michigan, everybody. I'm just a member of the community, of those Black folks in Detroit, and other folks by the way and the people at the country clubs. And that's what I'm talking about here. And our due process relies upon you following the process. That's our due process. It's due to us by our officials. And so I'd ask you to please consider and now we have Commissioner Kellom here, if you would just talk for a moment about what happened to the pledge allegiance issue that day?

That is what I'm saying. There would be a completely different outcome if you did the pledge of allegiance every day at all the meetings. You kind of, you know, that is a little too controversial. Everybody started to get sparked up. Commissioner Witjes was storming off. Everything was confused. But there was no motion at the beginning. The Chair is supposed to, the next agenda item entertain a motion to approve the next item. And it would have been citation of the pledge allegiance. And I think Commissioner Clark in his life deserves to have that. It's not disposed of. Who is the Chair anymore? Commissioner Orton, can you go back and get that up here so you can then address that, and these people get to vote?

It's denying the people...

>> DONNA CALLAGHAN: Thank you for your comments, Mr. Gallant. Is there anyone else who would like to speak?

Anyone?

Just raise your hand and you will have your opportunity.

>> CHAIR ORTON: Commissioner Weiss has his hand.

>> COMMISSIONER WEISS: Yes, address Mr. Gallant's question about pledge of allegiance, I believe that was voted on at the time. I could be wrong, but I'm trying to remember exactly but I believe it was voted on and it was turned down not to do that. Thank you.

>> DONNA CALLAGHAN: Okay, we don't have any other commenters or any other input. Do we want to do something different for the next bit of this hour?

>> CHAIR ORTON: I think we have taken care of some business earlier. Director Woods, do you have anything further that we could take care of?

I do see Christiana has her hand up, yeah.

>> DONNA CALLAGHAN: Hi, Christiana.

>> Hello, again. Okay.

>> DONNA CALLAGHAN: Yes.

>> I have a question because I'm intrigued now about this. So I learned about this about a week ago. And now I'm investigating like the point of like sleepless nights.

>> DONNA CALLAGHAN: Wonderful.

>> What exactly is so I know the purpose of like these new maps are to obviously help the people like me live in the City but what does it do once you change the map?

Does it change like our voting?

Our voting changes?

Are we like do we get more like does Detroit get more money?

What is the purpose of redistricting of the maps?

>> DONNA CALLAGHAN: So the District lines determines who a representative who is running for Congress will represent. This will be the community of interest, the neighborhood, the citizens of Michigan that the person who runs in that District for State House will represent. And so what we're trying to do here is follow the criteria that is laid out in the state Constitution to make sure that we create districts that first of all, are balanced population wise. So each representative is representing roughly the same number of citizens from the State of Michigan that we are following along with the criteria's of the Voting Rights Act. So this is to ensure that the Black citizens of Detroit and other communities get, and other ethnicities or races get an opportunity to elect a representative that is their choice. So that's a criteria that is a Federal law that we are trying to be compliant with and making sure our District lines are enabling those types of representative districts. We are also trying to be very cognizant of the people we put together that they have common interests whether it be financial or neighborhood or cultural or historical or maybe they share a common water table. Or whatever their binding cultural items that bind them together with people who care about the same kinds of things and group them in community of interest and county lines and townships and neighborhoods. We are trying to draw the districts out to determine when you go vote for your House representative, who are all the people along with you that are going to be picking your representative to go to Congress and represent you. That is what we are trying to do it in such a way that it's partisan fair and not an advantage to the democrats or republicans, but this is what the citizens are putting together to have a fair chance to vote and elect a representative that truly represents their interest. Right now we are redrawing some maps the Court said were problematic from our first attempt at doing this and we are redrawing a map for the State House of representatives. And in a few weeks from now we will try this same exercise for the State Senate. But right now we are just trying to figure out who or how to draw the District lines for your State Representatives so that is what we are trying to do and looking for input from the community, from you so we are sure we understand what your concerns are and what your communities of interest are and what you think of the map, is it giving you a fair shot at electing who you want to represent you.

>> Thank you, yes okay because I was not sure. I thought I was but the one gentleman who keeps coming on confused me. That's what I thought.

>> DONNA CALLAGHAN: You are right.

>> Okay, I was like wait, I'm so confused. Thank you so much again.

>> DONNA CALLAGHAN: Yep, you're welcome, any time. I see Richard Michalski. Hi Richard.

>> Hi hello again. Twice in one day. I appreciate your giving me the opportunity to do this. I was asked earlier which of the plans I favored. I went back and looked at all the criteria that I was wanted to make my assessment on. And my recommendation for you to consider seriously is the willow plan. And I will tell you the reasons why. The willow plan appears to have 12 districts, Black greater than white in the plan. That's the criteria number one. It's higher than most of the other plans under consideration in the region of the Detroit Metropolitan area. The second reason is from a political democrat-republican standpoint it has -- that plan, when you look at the districts in question, three of the districts become extremely competitive in terms of republican versus democratic which is different than many of the other plans. I mean, that is higher so there is higher competitiveness, democrat-republican, in that plan than most of the other plans.

And the third criteria, and it's a visual one because I have not figured out on the website how to determine the gerrymandering, the linear and the shape factor and stuff. But if you...

>> DONNA CALLAGHAN: Hi, Richard, that was your 90 seconds but I would like to hear the rest of what you would like to say so if we can unmute him again please.

>> Once again the first one is Black-white districts. Third was the number of competitive republican-democratic and the third one is just in visually looking at the ten plans that are on the website it doesn't look like there is visually a lot of gerrymandering going on. I mean, there is a lot of linear, I mean kind of blocks together. Now, whether that's consistent or compatible with the communities of interest, the COI, that is for you to determine. Those are the three criteria. I think it increases and helps the folks that brought the law case forward. It will increase the number of districts. The republican-democratic issue is more balanced. Actually helps republicans more than most of the other plans. And I'm a democrat, not a republican so I'm really looking at this in a balance. Then the third point is that the gerrymandering. But so anyway those are the three points I strongly recommend that. I think it's a win-win-win for the folks involved.

>> DONNA CALLAGHAN: Okay thank you. Thank you for your participation. Miss Maia, you have your hand up again.

>> Yes, thank you. I had a question how are you all receiving comments and everything?

Are you getting what, you know, you are needing from the City as far as Detroit goes, opinions and ideas and specific points, just wondering at this point, you know, is it helpful you know the feedback you are receiving from the City so far?

>> DONNA CALLAGHAN: We get public input from sources that begin each one of our meetings. We have had a few town halls that are like this and go on for a much

longer period of time and people are invited to dialog and ask questions and provide comments. You can go on to the portal and provide comments there both on the maps or just in general on the portal. I will say that we get a lot of comments. But the best comments that we have and the ones that we keep willing to seek out over and over and over are very specific to you as an individual and how the map is impacting you. It helps us when we are trying to draw a District. It does not help us if someone comes out and says you need to be fair and work hard because we are trying to be fair and working hard but it's very helpful if somebody comes on and says this neighborhood belongs with that neighborhood, they have strong ties, the church ties them together, they have a neighborhood block party every year or share a school District or playground or something. So that is the reason that is important to them and need to try to draw that together. Name the street and block and school so that we can locate that on a map and we can really focus in on it. And take the most out of the input that you are giving us rather than something general. But we are always looking for more input and we will get through the whole process again very soon with the State Senate map. So more input and the more specific you can make it the better.

>> Okay because it's just important for me to know when I go back to you know, church and different folks and organization I kind of let inform them and let them know we do want fair, equitable maps and things like that and specifically look at their areas and kind of pinpoint what they do like about it and what they don't like about it because I know that is probably far more helpful for me.

>> DONNA CALLAGHAN: Brittini?

Yes

>> COMMISSIONER KELLOM: So that is basically what I was going to say as a Detroiter I know there are all sorts of reasons, and the Metro Detroit area would not necessarily trust a process. And I think what is happening in this part of our public hearing is beautiful because we had Christiana who had one understanding of the map and process and who we were and came on and we were able to real time explain that. I think that is the missing link there and we have been a Commission some of us then we have three new folks, but we've been a Commission since 2021. That doesn't mean that people know about us. That does not mean that how we meet and what we have talked about is accessible either. So especially when we are talking about people of color, and I hate that term because then it masks Black and Brown and Hispanic and Latino whatever you want to say the makeup of Detroit. We have to figure out more culturally sensitive ways to talk to communities. So.

>> That is why I wanted to ask specifically, you know, so I can take something back.

>> COMMISSIONER KELLOM: Yeah.

>> To those who I'm speaking with.

>> COMMISSIONER KELLOM: So, yep, I have them exactly what you said print out the maps if you can. If folks don't have a computer, if they are not their favorite thing is



not to type union a laptop or you know we are sitting here at 1:37 this is a luxury to be able to attend this hearing for people who are blue collar, middle class and whatever their thing is working. But being able to speak to the map in a way that like Commissioner Callaghan said highlights the community for people who are not from the area and even folks that are from the area Detroit means something different to each citizen of Detroit so it's important to have that specific feedback. Invite us to churches. Invite us to your community centers. We are in the middle of the House drawing process now but have to do the same thing for the Senate.

>> I wanted to thank you all also because we know that you are listening. We appreciate you putting those meetings next week at churches, that way there is ample parking. You know, we don't have to pay to park, to come and speak to you. And we appreciate you also extending these hours and allowing us to ask questions. Those of us who really want to get down, you know, to the nitty-gritty of the map. And specific areas that, you know, represent us individually and as a community. So I appreciate, you know, if no one else tells you and I've heard others tell you, but I appreciate you all doing what you're doing and listening, you know, to what we have to say. So thank you all.

>> DONNA CALLAGHAN: Thank you Ms. Maia for your comments to the Commission. We appreciate it. Okay, any other citizens? Anyone else?

>> CHAIR ORTON: Well, until we see another hand, Director Woods, I think you were about to tell us if there was any other business that we could take care of at this time.

>> MR. EDWARD WOODS: Sure, at this time I think we have done all of the business that we have. You know, at this time. I think the main things to remind the Commission that we will be having our public hearings as the public or some of the public have noted. In terms of our outreach efforts I can share with you that the newspapers this weekend will be identifying our public hearings and have radio ads starting tomorrow. For those of you who are on TikTok, Facebook, Instagram and Twitter our social media is up directing people to come. We have influencers that are sharing that. We are doing town hall meetings and interviews still just trying to get the word out in Metro Detroit with regards to our #showupspeak up, those who are watching the Commission invested a lot of time in terms of making themselves available for this virtual town hall meeting. The whole idea is what is taking place now, ask questions. If you have questions. If you have thoughts. Something you don't understand, that's really the purpose of the town hall meeting. But also weighing in with the Commission with regards to which District you prefer. And so we are excited about this great opportunity that we have to hear directly from you but also know that we will be in person, live in Detroit on Wednesday and at greater grace. The times are 10-1. 4-7.

I'm sorry 10-1. 2-5 and 6-8. 10-1. 2-5 and 6-8 greater grace on Wednesday. And on the Thursday of next week we will be at second Ebenezer. Second Ebenezer and we will be doing the same times 10-1. 2-5. And 6-8 for in person. Even though we are there in person, we will still accept virtual comments. We will still accept remote comments. So if you want to come in and speak online we will accept those as well. And then for those who are not able to do either one, we have the public comment portal available off the website as well as the mapping comment portal. So please, please, please take advantage of those opportunities to raise your voice and to ensure that your community is represented. So thank you so much. You know, for this participation so far. Right now we've had close to 60 people who provided public comment today. And with our rule of three times in an hour, so we've had some repeats. But we do know people will come on after they get off of work. But if someone is listening, if you are in the YouTube chat we invite you to join the webinar. If you are one of the attendees who hasn't spoken we have 26 attendees we are noticing. And if you have not spoken or have questions or comments, know we encourage you to do so. We see your names and just want to make sure that you know that you have this opportunity to get your questions answered by the Commission.

>> CHAIR ORTON: Thank you, Director Woods.

>> We have a different perspective.

>> CHAIR ORTON: Nate, you are not on mute. Well, I hate to just sit here and look at each other. We don't have any hands being raised. Do we want to take a 15-minute break and come back at the top of the hour again?

>> DONNA CALLAGHAN: I think that is a good idea.

>> CHAIR ORTON: Okay, then we will see everyone at 2:00.

[ Recess until 2:00 ]

>> CHAIR ORTON: Looks like we have everyone back. And this hour we have Commissioner Weiss and Commissioner Andrade leading.

>> COMMISSIONER WEISS: Yes, good afternoon. I'd like to thank Commissioner Callaghan for the last hour. And as said earlier I'm a retired auto worker and one of the Commissioners, Richard Weiss. I am one of the independents on the Commission. Commissioner Andrade would you like to continue?

>> ELAINE ANDRADE: Yes, Elaine Andrade, I'm one of the new Commissioners. I'm one of the democrats on this Commission. And I'm a retired Wayne state University research assistant.

>> I guess we should move forward and go back and forth Commissioner Andrade. I will take it first. Mr. Gallant, I believe you have a hand. Your hand is up. Give us a minute to unmute you.

>> You need, there you go, thank you.

>> James Gallant, these are my opinions. Well, I'm still waiting for, you know, we were engaging the last time about the pledge allegiance and whether you voted or not

and the Commissioner said he didn't really know. Now we have Commissioner Wagner that seems to be she is positive that you did. Well, how about we get the secretary, if you can get the secretary right now, to look it up and bring forward for this meeting and say, hey, did you vote or not? Because I don't think you did because I went through it and that is absolute. We have Commissioner Kellom here. She was the Chair. You folks don't remember or what? But I think you should get it back and figure it out. And that's how you get past the taking advantage of people. It's you're opening up debate without any question. That is how you get around it and then shimmy through. Commissioner Lett is very good at this and using and taking advantage of Robert rules when he has a chance and jumping in. That is what I'm talking about. He can request a point of order and he is a lawyer but not practicing law and he gives you the answer and go okay.

For legal that was, I mean, Edward Woods should speak to that and he should have spoke to that and said wait a minute, I referred that to legal, that is Mr. Fink. And Lett, my understanding, he jumped right in, took the lead for the legal. How is that, what is that? That is not legal. That is illegal. You know. So...

>> COMMISSIONER WEISS: Thank you for your comment, Mr. Gallant. I want to just jump in there. I do remember somewhat that we did take a vote and it was voted down, I'm pretty sure that is true and Commissioner Wagner's comment is correct. Unless Ms. Reinhardt could find that to change that opinion that would be fine.

>> MS. SARAH REINHARDT: Sure, members of the public who would like to view meeting minutes or transcripts from past meetings, they are all posted on the Commission's website, and you can locate any meeting minutes from the past meetings there. Thank you.

>> CHAIR ORTON: So before we go on to the hands up, I thought it might be worth mentioning that we do have translators here today for Spanish, Bengali and Arabic. So if anybody's wanting to make comment but doesn't feel like they want to do it in English we do have that option as well. Go ahead.

>> COMMISSIONER WEISS: Thank you, Ms. Chairwoman.

>> ELAINE ANDRADE: Okay I guess we will go back to James Gallant for his second of this hour. James Gallant, go ahead.

>> Hello again. You there?

James Gallant again. And these are my opinions. I mean, why can't you know they are somewhere out there, and somebody will get it and not answer when you come with it. Request and demand the secretary show you those records. I mean, what about Commissioner Kellom? You were the Chair. Everybody else was here. Did you vote for it, Commissioner Orton and Lett? Did anybody else? You have fuzzy memories like Joe Biden. Just an elderly man with a poor memory. But we need to make sure on this stuff. And I pretty much guaranty you didn't vote on that because Commissioner Kellom stopped the debate because it's too controversial, stop

the debate before the vote. And you might have think you did it by consensus and you probably did by consensus, you said okay, that means we voted because nobody objected and you did not stop debate. Guess what, motion to call the question, there is no question. Commissioner Eid said that. And you are doing this all the time. And it's kind of like you were trained to be here to do this and to contradict our state of being, Robert's Rules of Order in America. That is how it works. You are doing the opposite and it's automatic and did it before. You did not suspend the rules and say we will do something different on public comment, but you had to go to debate, amend the question a couple times, now you motion on it. This is automatic as if your identity is your side bar agreements, that you made backdoor agreements saying we are not going to do that.

>> ELAINE ANDRADE: Thank you for your comments. We have Robert Dindoffer up next.

>> Hi folks how you doing?

>> ELAINE ANDRADE: Good.

>> So the thing I was just thinking when I heard somebody else mention the willow map which is of the maps, my favorite map for my area, and I think that is kind of the important part is that I can talk about my area, what map reflects my community of interest. I also like the fact just from a process standpoint that the willow map has the most number of clearly performing VRA districts which would hopefully help protect you all when you go into Court and the Judges look it over and comparing to a special master's map. But what I wished, and I hope there is still an opportunity for it, I know there were some folks who kind of you know, maybe had their favorite map and other folks had a different favorite map, and maybe if y'all would take a look at that map and say, well, even if it's not my favorite it can be improved in some spot. Something that some other map reflects that might not be reflected in the map, the willow map which I think in terms of VRA, and my personal community of interest is the best map. But you know if it can be improved, great, I would hope that everybody on the Commission would say this is a possible map and maybe our map so let's do our best with this map. Because I think it gives you the best chance in Court.

>> ELAINE ANDRADE: Thank you for your comments. Anyone else?

We have James Gallant for the third time this hour. James Gallant, please continue.

>> Okay. James Gallant, these are my opinions again. I see you're not interested in just, you know, verifying stuff. You know, I mean, you're going to sit here and just say, well, two people think they thought they might have. Instead of just requesting the secretary to kick up those records. You can do it right now. She referred you to, oh, you folks can go back to the minutes if you want and look into it. Okay.

I think that is disingenuous of your secretary here. Your secretary is not here.

Secretary Benson is the secretary without a vote, and this is wrong here. It should not be in the executive Branch of Government of separation of power. Supposed to be in

the judicial Branch, Jennifer Detlof is administrator and runs the law review Commission and other Commissions housed in the legislature and never got that because director of management and budget was not allowed to figure out who was going to do the oversight for this Commission. It should not be in the Secretary of State's office because it's conflict of interest, takes her employee and says you will now be the secretary. That is crazy and you know it needs to go to the director of management and budget and say who is supposed to be overseeing this and housed in the legislature. And please get those minutes and verify that. You can do that by the end of this meeting and have that in about four minutes. She probably already got it. Edward, kick it up a notch and we have people dying and not following the rules and people lose faith in their commitment.

>> COMMISSIONER WEISS: Thank you for your comments, Mr. Gallant.

>> CHAIR ORTON: I see that we have a hand raised. Or we did. It went away.

>> ELAINE ANDRADE: We have Reverend Dr. Muthamaki. Please continue.

>> ELAINE ANDRADE: I believe you are muted.

>> Hello everybody. I was just going to send a chat, but I see your chat is not working. But anyway what, again, is the address, e-mail address or otherwise where I can get public historical public documents about what has been going on?

And also copies of the maps?

>> ELAINE ANDRADE: So if you go to the website, which is [www.Michigan.gov/MICRC](http://www.Michigan.gov/MICRC), and go to the draft maps, you can get all of that information on each of the maps listed. And I would encourage you to do that and then if you have any questions about how it's done, please come back to us. So we can straighten it out.

[ Dog barking in the background ]

I'm not where I can write all that down and there is no way you can put it in the chat or information in the chat or something that I can save it while you're still on?

Oh, I see, thank you. Thank you very much.

>> ELAINE ANDRADE: Yep. No problem.

>> MS. SARAH REINHARDT: Just want to clarify that website it's [Michigan.gov/MICRC](http://Michigan.gov/MICRC). Thank you.

>> ELAINE ANDRADE: Forward slash, thank you.

>> COMMISSIONER EID: Anyone got any funny stories?

>> CHAIR ORTON: No, do you.

>> MR. EDWARD WOODS: No funny stories but seems like a lessons learned that we can take a look at the Senate maps as we look at the virtual town hall meetings is maybe we should consider going 10-1 and then 5-8 because that way we can catch both shifts. And we don't or might not have as much of a lull. I think we were trying to give as many people the opportunity as possible in terms of doing it. But we do have a lull. So we can take a look at reassessing that. But when we meet in March we are going to probably want to come up with some idea so that we can get that out to the



public. We do know we are going to need to spend some additional time with education and we've heard that quite a bit in terms of going out to the Metro Detroit area. And spending some time to educate but I think this is a great idea and great effort by the Commission. But I do understand the time and also trying to get it when people can participate. So I thought we did a good job with the sweet spot in the morning. And then possibly going over the lunch hour from going 10:00 a.m. to 1 p.m. and looking at this evening and see how it goes from 5-8 but I think that would be something the Commission may want to consider in the next go around. And if we don't have anything, Chairperson, you know, I would recommend that we take a recess until 3:00 and I see Mr. Fink's hand is up.

>> CHAIR ORTON: Mr. Fink?

>> Nate Fink: Thank you. I just happen to get a little bit of a legal update I can provide right now and sort of real time. I just received a note from Baker team that justice Cavanaugh granted the extension application so the jurisdiction of the statement is now due May 3rd, so the motion had been filed so the deadline to file the document with the Supreme Court is, in fact, moved out to 60 days. So I figured I would just mention that since we are altogether right now, and we have a lull so.

>> CHAIR ORTON: Thank you for that update.

>> Nate Fink: Sure, thank you.

>> CHAIR ORTON: So, Commissioner Eid?

>> COMMISSIONER EID: Yes, so it's our first time in this format. Like Executive Director Woods said. And I think it's good we are in this format, but we are learning what the best way to do it is. So we've had the whole morning session up until now with the three times people can speak. And the minute and a half each. I would like to try something different in the afternoon. So that we can then see what works better. And maybe apply that to our next two in-person hearings.

So I'll motion to change the speaking time. Instead of three times per person for a minute 30 each I'd like to change it to just one time for as much time as they need.

>> CHAIR ORTON: Is there a second for that motion?

>> COMMISSIONER EID: All right never mind then.

>> CHAIR ORTON: Commissioner Callaghan?

>> DONNA CALLAGHAN: Yeah, I think I understand the spirit of what your motion was about, Anthony. And I think it's well intended. And there does need to be a change to the format. I think that removing all limits on a speaker can put us in a bad spot if we have a speaker who may not have the best interest in mind of what we are trying to accomplish and the information we are trying to gather and that allows them to completely take over the meeting and then there is no way to release their control of what they are speaking about. So, you know, in the hour that I facilitated I kind of made a point of interacting with people who were providing input that was on point. And helpful and meaningful for the information that we are trying to gather through these



town halls and things that were specific to the mapping that would make us better informed of being able to improve our maps and I engaged with them and let them continue talking and that seemed to work okay.

I don't know.

>> CHAIR ORTON: Commissioner Vallette?

>> COMMISSIONER VALLETTE: Yeah, I agree. I don't have a problem with letting people speak longer. If they're talking about our subject matter. And I just think that if we decide to let them talk as long as they want, we have to have a solution for if they just continue to talk. So I wouldn't be for that until we have a solution to, you know, not listen to an hour about rambling.

>> CHAIR ORTON: Anyone else?

Have anything?

Commissioner Weiss?

>> COMMISSIONER WEISS: Since I made that suggestion earlier, what if we change it to maybe a couple of times and then increase the minutes?

Maybe do three minutes or even give them a little longer but then just do two minutes or two times during an hour?

Just a thought.

>> CHAIR ORTON: Director Woods, you have something?

>> MR. EDWARD WOODS: Yes, I think the idea of it being germane to the topic is something I should have added that caveat. I think that's very important. And I think you know it's more efficient in terms of keeping everything on task. As all of you know one of the main driving factors in this democracy process is the ability to hear directly from citizens with regards to the map. And obviously some people will take advantage and use it for other purposes, but I really think if we were to take a look at it and kind of what Commissioner Eid shared if we want to give people a longer time but regulating that to the maps. And to the discussion at hand. I think that could be helpful. And I do think that 10-1, 5-8, we will see what happens tonight the sweet spot is good and give the Commission a break if we don't have enough people participating and the ten-1 includes the lunch hour and helps people who may have other responsibilities with kids or other competing things to do that little league, sports stuff. And it provides a couple of opportunities for them to do so, so thank you.

>> CHAIR ORTON: Thank you. Commissioner Vallette?

You're muted.

>> COMMISSIONER VALLETTE: I think at the beginning of the meeting we always tell everyone how much time we have. And I'll tell you the majority of the people don't have that much trouble talking within that time period. So I think if we lengthen it we should not give them two and three times an hour to talk. We should give them that time. Most of the people who talk, sometimes they are done before the minute and a half. So that's my thought.

>> CHAIR ORTON: Okay, Commissioner Callaghan?

>> DONNA CALLAGHAN: I'm going to probably speak to the opposite side of that we have to be mindful people that come to speak to the Commission have very valuable input but may not be used to custom speaking and may be to public speaking and they may be very nervous coming up, in front of the commission and feeling like they are talking on live TV or something. And so sometimes they may not succeed or concisely state their thoughts and get their point across and have a point to be made. I feel bad with arbitrary 90 second cutoff you were getting to your point and boom 90 seconds, and you are done and cut them right off in the middle. And that I understand we have a long line of people and need to make it something that doesn't take all day and people needs to be able to speak and limit the things but arbitrary cutoff seems especially when there is not a long line of people waiting behind them and sometimes there is no one waiting behind them and it seems a little counterproductive because we were almost getting to the information that they were trying to give us and oops time is up and we cut them off. I don't really feel comfortable with that method.

>> CHAIR ORTON: Okay does anyone else have any other comments or a solution that we should consider?

>> ELAINE ANDRADE: My only comment is that, yeah, sometimes when you give them three separate times then they have to both of us, our side and their side has to get back on track and that takes more time so I would be in favor of lengthening the meeting. This is not a tight agenda this is a town hall where we are here to hear them out so I would like to give them a longer amount of time. But that being said I also can see where maybe this evening we are going to get a lot of people. So we need to limit it so we can get everybody in. Hopefully we will have a long line of people.

>> CHAIR ORTON: Right. Okay, I'll just put a motion out there and see what people think. What if we give two minutes, one chance per hour and it needs to be germane to the topic which is the maps that we are working on. And but there will be give and take. If, you know, if their two minutes is up but we have questions for them or we think they have more to say, we can still engage.

>> DONNA CALLAGHAN: It's up to the facilitator to decide whether to continue engaging after the two minutes or not. Or any other Commissioner that wants to speak up and ask a question or say please let them continue.

>> CHAIR ORTON: Right.

>> COMMISSIONER EID: I will second that, Cynthia.

>> CHAIR ORTON: Okay so we have a motion and a second. That would be a two-minute time period, one per hour with, you know, a chance to continue engaging if there is questions and answers that Commissioners want to discuss and it needs to be germane to the mapping, the redistricting. Is that I think I got it all in there. Is there any further discussion?

Commissioner Vallette?

>> COMMISSIONER VALLETTE: Are you talking about town meetings?

Are you talking about our regular meetings when we have public comment prior to it?

>> CHAIR ORTON: I'm talking about today.

>> COMMISSIONER VALLETTE: Today, thank you because I was thinking if we were going to do our meetings that way a minute every hour.

>> CHAIR ORTON: No, today, this town hall.

>> COMMISSIONER VALLETTE: Okay.

>> CHAIR ORTON: Any other discussion?

Commissioner Lett?

>> COMMISSIONER LETT: Yeah two minutes seems a little short. Right now we are giving them four and a half in three separate times. I would move to expand it to five minutes, one time per hour. And it has to be germane to mapping or something there with. We all know who we're talking about. James Gallant. Has not talked about mapping at all today. So if he comes on, which he still has got his hand up, and says mentions Robert's Rules of Order then whatever the host is at the time can simply say, Mr. Gallant, you are out of order. We are here to talk about maps. And therefore have a nice day. So that's an amendment.

>> CHAIR ORTON: You would like to amend it to five minutes.

>> COMMISSIONER LETT: One time pertinent to the question.

>> COMMISSIONER EID: I'll second that amendment.

>> CHAIR ORTON: Okay so we have an amended motion, a motion to amend that is to extend the time to five minutes, all the other things apply. Is there any discussion on that motion?

Commissioner Eid?

>> COMMISSIONER EID: Yeah, the whole reason I just brought this up in the first place was just because I think we should try a couple different things to see what works for our two more in-person town halls that are next week. So it might be good to try different formats and see what works best to get more information for those.

>> CHAIR ORTON: Yeah, I think it's a good idea. Okay if there is no further discussion, then all in favor of the amended motion to extend the time to five minutes, one time per hour, germane to mapping raise your hand and say.

>> MS. SARAH REINHARDT: Apologies Madam Chair to clarify for an amendment you would initially need to vote on amendment then vote on the motion that is amended separately so it's two separate ones.

>> CHAIR ORTON: That is what I meant, the amended.

>> MS. SARAH REINHARDT: Sorry.

>> CHAIR ORTON: Portion, I just didn't have the wording right. Okay so I suppose roll call vote might be needed.

>> MS. SARAH REINHARDT: We can try. Commissioners, please state your support of the amendment to the main motion, which is to allow five minutes per

speaker, per hour for today only. I'll call on Commissioners in alphabetical order. I'll start with Elaine Andrade?

>> ELAINE ANDRADE: Yes.

>> MS. SARAH REINHARDT: Donna Callaghan?

>> DONNA CALLAGHAN: Yes.

>> MS. SARAH REINHARDT: Juanita Curry?

>> COMMISSIONER CURRY: It took you all that long to decide that, I said that three hours ago, yes.

>> MS. SARAH REINHARDT: Anthony Eid?

>> COMMISSIONER EID: Yes.

>> MS. SARAH REINHARDT: Brittini Kellom?

Steve Lett?

>> COMMISSIONER LETT: Yes.

>> MS. SARAH REINHARDT: Sorry, hold on just a second, I'm just checking to see who is on. Okay Cynthia Orton?

>> CHAIR ORTON: Yes.

>> MS. SARAH REINHARDT: Janice Vallette?

>> COMMISSIONER VALLETTE: Yes.

>> MS. SARAH REINHARDT: Erin Wagner?

Richard Weiss?

>> COMMISSIONER WEISS: Yes.

>> MS. SARAH REINHARDT: I will return to Brittini Kellom?

Rhonda Lange?

Marcus Muldoon?

Rebecca Szetela?

Erin Wagner?

Madam Chair eight Commissioners voted yes but unfortunately that does not meet the threshold for a quorum.

>> CHAIR ORTON: Okay.

Thank you. Then, with that, I think we should take a recess until 3:00. Maybe we will get some more public comment at that time. We can't take any actions since we don't have a quorum at the present. So we will see everyone at 3:00.

[ Recess until 3:00 ]

>> CHAIR ORTON: Okay it's 3:00. I think we should probably take a roll call before we get going.

>> MS. SARAH REINHARDT: Hello Commissioners please say present when I call your name I will call on Commissioners in alphabetical order starting with Elaine Andrade?

>> ELAINE ANDRADE: Present.

>> MS. SARAH REINHARDT: Donna Callaghan?

>> DONNA CALLAGHAN: Present.

>> MS. SARAH REINHARDT: Juanita Curry?

Anthony Eid?

>> COMMISSIONER EID: Present.

>> MS. SARAH REINHARDT: Brittini Kellom?

>> COMMISSIONER KELLOM: Present.

>> MS. SARAH REINHARDT: Rhonda Lange?

Steve Lett?

>> COMMISSIONER LETT: Present.

>> MS. SARAH REINHARDT: Marcus Muldoon?

>> MARCUS MULDOON:

>> CHAIR ORTON: I see Marcus Muldoon in the attendees list. Can he be brought over to us?

>> MS. SARAH REINHARDT: Give me just one moment. So he is declining to be promoted. Commissioner Muldoon if you can hear us if you can use the link that was sent to Zoom in your in box you will be able to attend the meeting directly and not as an attendee. I will move to Cynthia Orton?

>> CHAIR ORTON: Present.

>> MS. SARAH REINHARDT: Rebecca Szetela?

>> COMMISSIONER SZETELA: Present.

>> MS. SARAH REINHARDT: Janice Vallette?

>> COMMISSIONER VALLETTE:

>> MS. SARAH REINHARDT: Sorry, one moment.

>> COMMISSIONER VALLETTE: I was mute did you guys hear me.

>> MS. SARAH REINHARDT: We did not hear you Commissioner Vallette?

>> COMMISSIONER VALLETTE: Sorry, I'm, present.

>> MS. SARAH REINHARDT: Erin Wagner?

Richard Weiss?

>> COMMISSIONER WEISS: Present.

>> MS. SARAH REINHARDT: I will return to Juanita Curry?

Marcus Muldoon?

>> MARCUS MULDOON: Present.

>> MS. SARAH REINHARDT: All right, ten Commissioners are present and there is a quorum.

>> CHAIR ORTON: Thank you very much. Commissioner Eid?

>> COMMISSIONER EID: So now that we have a quorum do you guys want to redo that motion we were talking about?

>> CHAIR ORTON: Someone could restate it succinctly into one so we don't have to do an amendment and a motion if they would like.

>> COMMISSIONER EID: I think it was Steve's motion.

>> COMMISSIONER LETT: Sure, I move that each speaker have five minutes, one time per hour, and the subject matter be limited to our mapping or maps.

>> COMMISSIONER WEISS: Second.

>> CHAIR ORTON: So we have a motion and a second. Is there any discussion on that motion?

Commissioner Szetela?

>> COMMISSIONER SZETELA: Yeah, I just don't know that we can limit the rights of people to comment about whatever they want to comment about. People do have a right to freedom of speech and I think trying to control or limit what people desire to speak about in that five minutes could potentially be unconstitutional and frankly I just think we kind of have to accept it and tolerate it even if it might not be particularly interesting to us because it's not specific to the maps.

>> CHAIR ORTON: Any other comments?

Discussion?

>> COMMISSIONER LETT: Well I guess I request that our counsel step in and give us some wisdom here maybe. I don't agree with that quite frankly. The freedom of speech doesn't cover everything. We are not shutting off somebody's opinion as it pertains to the work that we are doing. So I think it's realistic to do it the way the motion stands but I would invite David, certainly, to opine on this weighty motion.

>> CHAIR ORTON: Or Nate, either one Fink.

>> David Fink: This is David and want to be clear I want Nate to opine on it, but thank you, Steve.

>> Nate Fink: I appreciate the concern that you have raised, Commissioner Szetela. To me, you know, given the fact that this is a town hall, that has been scheduled for the purpose of hearing from the public on their perspective and thoughts and opinions as relates to the maps that were drawn and issued for public comment seems to me to be a reasonable way to guide the discussion, which is to request that and limit the public commenters to commenting on issues that are germane to this discussion and to the Commission's consideration of the public comment as it relates to the maps that you're going to be voting on and adopting very soon. Obviously when you have your regular meetings, you have your public comment period beginning of every meeting. And there are no limitations as to what people can speak about at those during the public comment period other than the limitations that you set forth in your rules of procedure about de quorum and that sort of thing. So people who are members of the public who want to address this Commission have lots and lots of opportunities to do that during your regular meetings. But here it doesn't seem to me to be an unreasonable way to structure the way that this town hall proceeds is my perspective.

>> CHAIR ORTON: Any other discussion on the motion?

Seeing none, can we have a roll call vote, please?



>> MS. SARAH REINHARDT: Certainly Madam Chair. Commissioners, the vote before you of the motion before you is to extend public comment for today to five minutes and that public comment must be germane to the maps. Did I capture that accurately, Commissioner Lett?

>> COMMISSIONER LETT: Five minutes, once per hour, so if they want to come back in the next hour they can do that.

>> MS. SARAH REINHARDT: Thank you. Please state your support of the motion with a yes or a no. I will call on Commissioners in alphabetical order starting with Donna Callaghan?

>> DONNA CALLAGHAN: Yes.

>> MS. SARAH REINHARDT: Juanita Curry?  
Has Commissioner Curry joined?  
Okay.

Anthony Eid?

>> COMMISSIONER EID: Yes.

>> MS. SARAH REINHARDT: Brittini Kellom?

>> COMMISSIONER KELLOM: Yes.

>> MS. SARAH REINHARDT: Steve Lett?

>> COMMISSIONER LETT: Yes.

>> MS. SARAH REINHARDT: Marcus Muldoon?

>> MARCUS MULDOON: Yes.

>> MS. SARAH REINHARDT: Cynthia Orton?

>> CHAIR ORTON: Yes.

>> MS. SARAH REINHARDT: Rebecca Szetela?

>> COMMISSIONER SZETELA: No.

>> MS. SARAH REINHARDT: Janice Vallette?

>> COMMISSIONER VALLETTE: Yes.

>> MS. SARAH REINHARDT: Richard Weiss?

>> COMMISSIONER WEISS: Yes.

>> MS. SARAH REINHARDT: Elaine Andrade?

>> ELAINE ANDRADE: Yes.

>> MS. SARAH REINHARDT: By a vote of nine yes to one no, the motion carries.

>> CHAIR ORTON: Okay thank you very much.

So it is the 3:00 hour and hosting this hour is Commissioner Eid.

>> COMMISSIONER EID: I'm up at 3:00?

>> CHAIR ORTON: That is what my schedule says. Are you ready?

>> COMMISSIONER EID: I guess I'm up then, sure. Well, let's hear some comments about these maps. People. I feel I'm pretty knowledgeable about them and I look forward to hearing what the public has to say. I would welcome comments that have to do specifically with the maps, different configurations. Your community of interest. If

you like any map configuration more than a different configuration, more importantly why you like that configuration more than another configuration. So I do not have a list up of people whose hands are raised. How do I.

>> CHAIR ORTON: Anthony, if you push on participants and then click on the attendees tab.

>> COMMISSIONER EID: Got you.

>> CHAIR ORTON: If they raise their hand they go to the top of the list.

>> COMMISSIONER EID: All right we got Mr. Scannell. Nice to hear from you.

>> Thank you so much, Commission. Probably won't need the whole five minutes to say what I want to say. As it pertains to mapping, I'm pretty happy. I'm just reiterating what I've said. I'm pretty happy with District 1 and all the configurations. District 2 also happy with that two areas that I consider myself community of interest in. And make Taylor whole again that is what I would say. MTWA. Make Taylor whole again. But I don't know if that is under consideration. It doesn't appear to be sadly. Even though I think you have had sufficient public comment to warrant it. And then, okay, now this public comment procedure piece, I think it's a little goofy that people that you want to limit what people say because it's public comment, which is whatever the public has to say, providing it's not profane or whatever. And I mean what you guys are asking for is testimony like specific, that's what it seems more specifically like you want to cross, not a cross-examine but you do have that option. But it's like you want specific comments from people pertaining to the maps. But that's not really what -- that is not a public comment. I don't know, it sounds like testimony to me. I make that distinction.

And the option has been there for people all day today and whenever to cutoff a public commentary if they didn't like what they were saying because it called out specific Commissioners by name or, you know, so that option has been there, no one has really exercised it all day so I don't see why the whole caveat is needed and other things can be relevant to the map making like Robert's Rules of Order, having motions pending and voting on motions, so, yeah, thank you.

>> COMMISSIONER EID: Mr. Scannell I have a question for you. I kind of like what you have to say more or less but when you say you like the District 1 and District 2 configuration, were you speaking about how they are currently configured in the Hickory map or are there any configurations of the ten maps that we have out now that you prefer?

>> District 1 I liked in old Hickory and in all the new ones. And they're not too substantially different other than the change of adding Ecorse. And changing the northern boundary in District 1. They are all pretty similar to Hickory. And I like them. District 2 I think Melvindale is a little better with Allen Park and Lincoln Park, but I don't have strong opinions there.

>> COMMISSIONER EID: Thank you. That helps. Okay, Mr. Gallant, and I hope I'm saying your name right.

>> Hello. Can you hear me?

>> COMMISSIONER EID: I can.

>> Gallant and I said it to you a hundred times.

>> COMMISSIONER EID: Making sure I got it right.

>> Thank you very much. And, you know, speaking towards the maps, I'd like to say I believe that these current maps are still racially gerrymandered and unconstitutional. And I can tell you the people and you people in Detroit, we will be praying for you here on the northern front. And this is about our entire state and holding it together and making this just right in our own communities. So I think that the rules of order are always in order to speak to the manner which you are performing your duties and the way the maps are created. Like Mr. Scannell go off on it and talking about Robert's Rules and everything else and it's unconstitutional to shut people down because you don't want to answer the answer about Commissioner Eid, about you violating the Robert's Rules during the Hammersmith subcommittee meeting as the Chair. You didn't have the motion. You did the thing. Lange said her opinion did not represent her vote. And you said, oh, yeah wait a minute. You and Witjes no, no, we will just send it through, and you did. I don't think you voted that day. It's on the minutes, it's on the transcripts.

This is the case in controversy, I'm personally going to bring to the Supreme Court.

>> COMMISSIONER EID: James, I hear you and don't totally disagree with everything you say but now we are here to talk about the maps. I appreciate the way you started. Do you have anything about the mapping procedures for us, about your community of interest?

I know earlier today you said you are up north.

>> Absolutely. Like I said, my community of interest is the entire State of Michigan. And I represent because I am a white person, like you, and we represent people that there's rules and guidelines and we follow them. And I believe you put in your statement earlier that you were asked not to follow the status quo. Well, the status quo in America is Robert's Rules parliamentary in America and status quo and asked not to do it. And Arizona trained you. This is not supposed to happen and side bar agreements that you have on the side and not to follow the actual Robert's Rules, motion first so everybody knows what is going on. You made a hundred thousand decisions that you didn't put in the minutes. The consensus, the Supreme Court is determined that consensus winks and nods is a decision as defined in the old meetings act. All of that should be in the minutes.

You should be able to track exactly. You said hearing no objections set it here and there they are decisions, supposed to be in the minutes right now so we can track who created and who circumvented and jumped in. And need to know, Commissioner Eid, it looks like you sent a text message during the meeting to Szetela, and did you send it to Witjes also because that is a closed session in the manual of the Attorney General right

now? Texting at meetings is a closed session. That is illegal in Michigan. Okay, you shouldn't be doing it. If you are all doing it.

>> COMMISSIONER EID: James, when you are talking about the community of interest being the State of Michigan what do you mean by that? I'm trying to understand you, you know. So like is there any community that you, yourself belong in that you would like to see better represented?

Even if it's in Detroit, I understand you don't live in Detroit, but we have a bunch of maps out there right now. Are there any that you prefer, anything like that?

>> MS. SARAH REINHARDT: Commissioner Callaghan has her hand raised.

>> DONNA CALLAGHAN: Yes, Mr. Gallant, you said something that is a little disturbing you think the maps are racially gerrymandered can you elaborate on that a bit?

What specific districts are you referring to and why do you think they are racially gerrymandered?

In which, on which maps?

I'm confused by that comment you made.

>> Can you hear me?

>> DONNA CALLAGHAN: I can, yes.

>> Okay. Well, what I mean is, which I said before, I guess you weren't here before and you follow the information from me and I'm sure someone was tracking and listening to it, is gerrymandering is what?

Manipulating the process for your own political advantage. That's exactly what happened here by not following the rules. You gerrymandered the rules. And now you just circumvented it all and what can...

>> DONNA CALLAGHAN: Mr. Gallant, which District would you point to?

I am a very abstract, I'm not a very abstract person so I'm real objective. I got a spreadsheet of all the maps in it and mapped out which districts changed, and I can see it all in a row and I can see which communities of interest were take end in advantage and how they scored on all of the fair partisan fairness. I have it on a spreadsheet and trying to figure out specifically where do you think -- point to the District in the map that you feel is racially gerrymandered.

>> Well, like I was saying, they are all racially gerrymandered because the person like before when the maps were done, Commissioner Kellom, back to the prior maps, jumped in right at the end, I want to do the maps and jumped in and did the maps and everybody approved them.

>> DONNA CALLAGHAN: How does that make that gerrymandered? She is a full-fledged Commissioner on the Commission. We all map.

>> Right. But, like I'm saying, you were not following the rules. What is your -- tell us your take on these rules and what I'm saying, Page 366, Line 8, no debate before a proper motion to a specific action. That's never happened. You don't even know what

the question is, and you are just meandering through it until you find the question and amend it and approve it. That is backwards, not how we do it in America. That is capitalism, that is socialism, Marxism, Communalism and as a community make this and that suggestion instead of an amendment to the question. Commissioner Lett made a motion about specific to the question. What question?

You don't have...

>> COMMISSIONER EID: Thank you for commenting, James. I do hear every week your comments about our rules, and I do try to keep them in mind.

All right, I don't see any other hands up. We can wait a little bit and see. You know, we got 20 people in here on the attendees list. And just wondering if anybody has information that they would like to share with the Commission about our maps. We got ten draft maps out now for the public to consider. A lot of the maps have differed configurations. So hearing directly from the public about your community of interest, about what you want to see and about where your community resides would really help us out in determining which of these tend to go with. Don't be shy. All of our plans can be viewed on our website, [www.Michigan.gov/MICRC](http://www.Michigan.gov/MICRC). If you click on draft proposed maps 2024 it will take you to a nice Page that has all of the configurations listed. And we have maps that we have files that are really easy to look at. If you click on map it will just give you a real quick picture of the general area we are looking at and then if you want to dive deeper into the map you can even download the shape file. And use that to tailor your public comments. On that website you will also find information like population data or VRA analysis, partisan fairness scores, compactness scores. And all of the like. So now is your chance and we are relying on your folks to make comment.

>> CHAIR ORTON: Maybe it would be helpful if once again we have someone show the website that you were just talking about, Anthony. And go through, you know, how to actually click on one of the maps and the information that can be seen. Maybe that will spark a question from somebody.

>> COMMISSIONER EID: I see Mr. Woods has shared his screen right now you are seeing the main web Page for our website. Again it is [www.Michigan.gov/MICRC](http://www.Michigan.gov/MICRC). And that first big button on the left-hand side says 2024 draft proposed maps. That is the stage we are currently at in the process. So if you click on that, what you will see is a list of the ten maps that we have out right now. We have Bergamot. We have Bergamot two lakeshore. We have Tulip. Water Lily. Spirit of Detroit. Daisy. The river walk. Motown sound. Willow. And Commissioner Szetela's individual map. If you click on and you can see under each of these you have quite a few links. So probably the most beneficial to the public would be the first link that is just titled map. If you click on the map for Bergamot what will pop up is a picture file that shows how that map is configured in the Metro Detroit area. So you can see, for example, with this map Bergamot you have districts that you know, you have the District 1 and 2 that we heard Mr. Scannell speaking about earlier. You have districts that seem to not cross the 8

Mile county line very much. And you have, you know, different changes here also in this community and how the suburbs such as Royal Oak, Madison Heights are configured. Now, this is just one example of the ten maps that we have up. But there is also more analysis under each of the links as well. So it just depends how far deep into it the public wants to go. Like the bottom link says a shape file and you can use that to download the actual shape file that's used in redistricting software if you have access to that software. And you can import it and even create new districts yourself using that shape file based on what we have here on our site. Really everything that the public needs to comment on with these maps are available here. So this is the Page the public wants to go to, to, you know, examine what we have so far. And let us know what they think. Now, I believe, you know, next week we have some in-person meetings, and we should have some printouts of these maps. Is that right Executive Director Woods?

>> MR. EDWARD WOODS: We will have posters. I saw them today. They are four feet by three feet where people will get a chance to take a look at the maps. We will also have a mapper from Election Data Services. So if someone would like to talk about a map and make a suggestion to the Commission, Brian will be able to do that for them in the front. And then they can take it, send it to John and put it on display for consideration while they are providing public comments. So really trying to be user friendly and allowing people if they have some suggestions or want to narrowly tailor a map that they think would be in the best interests of their community of interest they will be able to share that with the Commission in real time and that will be available both Wednesday and Thursday.

>> COMMISSIONER EID: Just as a reminder we will be at greater grace temple off of 7-Mile Road next Wednesday the 21st. And we are going to be at second Ebenezer church off of Dequindre Thursday, the 22nd. We are going to be at both of those meetings pretty much all day from 10:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. We will have a structure similar to today. Maybe we will take some lessons from today and you know, learn what works best for the public. But today is your chance to talk to us. Next week is your chance to talk to us. Come through. We need to hear from y'all. And yeah, we hope to hear from you.

We have a comment from Dr. Anderson.

>> She is there Dr. Anderson go ahead when you are ready.

>> I want to say hello to everyone and thank you Commission for all of your hard work, but I would like to say I have some unreadiness and I don't know the specific name of the map that I'm referring to, but it is a map and puts Highland Park and Madison Heights together. And I think that should be reconsidered because priorities for residents of Highland Park and Madison Heights I think will be totally opposite. So that was just something I wanted to say initially, and I will be taking a deeper dive at all of the maps and be back for public comment on the 21st and 22nd. Thank you.



>> COMMISSIONER EID: You said Highland Park with Madison Heights?

>> Yes.

>> COMMISSIONER EID: Well, you know, let's see if we can find that map for you right now since we have the time.

>> Okay.

>> COMMISSIONER EID: Just off of recollection I don't recall any of the nine that we have currently doing that. But.

>> So you're saying none of the draft maps put Highland Park and Madison Heights together?

>> COMMISSIONER EID: I don't believe so but let me double check right now.

>> Okay.

>> COMMISSIONER KELLOM: She might be speaking Water Lily. I'm not sure but I think we should check.

>> COMMISSIONER EID: Water Lily stops at 8 Mile so it's not that. It's not Bergamot. It's not Bergamot two. See Tulip. Tulip also stops at 8 Mile. Water Lily stops at 8 Mile.

>> So maybe it was a proposed map. I'm not sure.

>> COMMISSIONER EID: Maybe. We've had a lot. We have been mapping for quite some time now. Maybe it was the original Hickory map. I'm not quite sure at the moment. But right now we have these ten maps up. And I would recommend, you know, going to that website that we just looked at and taking a look. But right now I'm not seeing any configuration that puts Highland Park with Madison Heights. I see other ones that have Madison heights with Royal Oak, some have Madison Heights seems like most of them have Madison Heights over with Royal Oak at the moment. Some of them also have Madison heights being with areas of Macomb county.

>> Okay.

>> COMMISSIONER EID: South of Warren so those seem to be the two main configurations that are out there currently.

>> Do we have Highland Park going across 8 Mile?

Do we have Highland Park going across 8 Mile?

>> COMMISSIONER EID: We have some configurations with districts that cross 8 Mile. For example, if we just look at I don't know let's just look at Motown sound for the time being. Because this map has some districts that cross 8 Mile however Edward can you pull up spirit and pull up Motown sound on the screen?

And let's go southeast towards Highland Park and see where Highland Park is on this map. It is in the orange-ish, yellow District, District 7. And so this one doesn't cross 8 Mile, it goes and takes Hamtramck and goes eastward towards the east side, but you can see it has other districts that do cross up into 8 Mile. This is just one example. You will find many different examples on that website, but it doesn't look like many of them cross Highland Park above the 8 Mile border.

>> Okay, I'm going to take another look and I'll be able to make some more comments. Thank you and I will be back.

>> COMMISSIONER EID: All right, can't wait to hear from you.

>> CHAIR ORTON: Since we have time Director Woods maybe you can share the screen again, go to our website and we can show the public another way to look at some other information about the maps. As well as the public comment portal so if you scroll down and so there is the button for the public comment portal but if you click on the mapping comment portal, then we are on the tab that says 2024 draft proposed House plans. This just has a little bit of different information because it has the compared to the Hickory maps so people would be able to click on that and see how each of the maps is different from the current Hickory configuration. And then would you just click on one of them over on the comment link?

So we can show what that looks like?

And after it comes up and you Zoom in then you can click on your specific area. And leave a comment about it and when we go in we can see specifically where you're talking about, like was said earlier by Commissioners the more specific the comments, the more help it is to us. The easier it is for us to use. So, yeah, where his cursor is where you can click to add a comment. And you can also see some information down there on the matrix about that particular map. Thank you.

>> MR. EDWARD WOODS: Chairperson and Commissioner Eid if we don't have additional comments I noticed there is 18 people or anyone who wants to contribute, I would suggest that we would recess and come back at 8:00, I'm sorry, 5:00.

>> CHAIR ORTON: Okay.

>> COMMISSIONER EID: Anyone else have a comment?

Come on, some of you must have thoughts. Gregory, what do you think?

Cathleen?

Lawrence?

Laura?

You all are in here for a reason. Maybe they just like watching us. All right there we go.

Now that worked Kathleen, what do you have to say?

You will be unmuted in a second.

>> Can you hear me?

>> CHAIR ORTON: Yes.

>> COMMISSIONER EID: We can hear you.

>> Yes I'm sorry I've been attending this meeting just because I'm very confused right now. And I've been trying to learn more about this whole process to see how I can actually identify how my own District will be different.

>> COMMISSIONER EID: Okay well maybe we can clear up some of that confusion.

>> Right, well I appear to be in District I mean right now under the proposed maps I live in Birmingham, so our District is going to be District 6; is that correct?

>> COMMISSIONER EID: So depends what plan you're talking about. We have a few plans that do not change what the old plan was. For example, those are the Tulip plan and the Daisy plan. Those both still have Birmingham along with District 5 going into kind of being long districts going into Detroit. However, we have other plans, I think almost all of the other ones have Birmingham being in District 6 like you have said.

>> I see.

>> COMMISSIONER EID: Now, some of those have slightly different configurations. For example in the Bergamot map, it goes from Birmingham down to Oak Park without including Royal Oak. Whereas in Motown sound and Spirit of Detroit Birmingham is located along with Royal Oak, Huntington Woods and Berkeley.

>> I see, okay, well in terms of how it's actually going to impact what happens in future elections I guess that remains to be seen. I guess I was kind of not really on board with the rationale or the reasoning in the Agee opinion to begin with. But if and what happened in the last redistricting was kind of a drastic change for my District. However, I thought the outcome worked out well. So as long as the process equals in a nonpartisan type of redistricting, I'm totally good with it. I just want to also point out Dr. Anderson was talking about a District that combined Madison Heights and Highland Park. I think that was in the Hickory map. I'm pretty sure.

>> COMMISSIONER EID: It might have been. I would have to double check, but it might have been. The configurations we are looking at.

>> Right there was at least three, for instance Birmingham was in District 5 on that map. And that did cross 8 Mile. And so did two, so I think she's referring to that. So whatever. So thank you very much for all you're doing. It sounds like a grueling process you're going through, and I really appreciate all your work. Thank you.

>> COMMISSIONER EID: Well we appreciate you. I'd love to ask you since you are from Birmingham how do you think Birmingham should be with your local communities? Like I said, we have one configuration that kind of has it going south into Oak Park. We have another one that has it more going into the Royal Oak area.

>> I really I actually like I said, I'm indifferent. I don't think it would make a difference either way. Oak Park or Royal Oak really.

>> COMMISSIONER EID: Okay, well take a look at what is on our site, and we hope to hear from you again.

>> Thank you.

>> COMMISSIONER EID: All right we have Peirce-Ward as well.

>> I have a question.

>> COMMISSIONER EID: Or is it Pierce.

>> Can you point me in the right direction in terms of what criteria do you use to determine what configuration or how you come up with these different configurations? For example, the criteria could be based upon race, income, et cetera. Do you get my idea?

>> COMMISSIONER EID: Yeah. So our criteria that we use are the 7 criteria that are in the Michigan Constitution. They go from Federal requirements like complying with the VRA. Two is being the districts are contiguous which is a fancy way of being they connect to each other. Then you get into factors of communities of interest. Which are, you know, communities with shared historical, economic, just you know shared interest in general is how I would describe it. After that you get into partisan fairness. No there cannot be a disproportionate advantage to any political party. After that there is a criteria about not favoring incumbents. And then the last two have to do with City, Township and county boundaries. And finally compactness of the districts. So these are the criteria that we use in order to draft the maps that we have now, the ten drafts. But now that we have the ten drafts, you know, a big part of it is what the community thinks. So that is why we need to hear from you, Mr. Ward, about, you know, where you live. How you think your community of interest associates. And, yeah. Does that answer your question?

>> Somewhat. Now is there a link that you can point me to on your website that I can go and read this information so that I can be a little bit more informed during the next meeting session?

>> COMMISSIONER EID: There sure is. So if you go to our website, I think I don't know if you were here when we showed it, maybe about ten, 15 minutes ago.

>> I was.

>> COMMISSIONER EID: Okay, so, yeah, if you just go click on that link on the left that we showed you, it will take you to our maps so you could look at all of our maps. You can even type it in go ahead.

>> I'm currently looking at my web browser and I'm doing all of this on my phone as I'm talking to you, on that Michigan.gov/MICRC/mapping. And I see the mapping process. And I'm stuck at that point. I don't know where else to go.

>> COMMISSIONER EID: So you're at mapping process?

>> Yes.

>> COMMISSIONER EID:

>> CHAIR ORTON: I wonder if Edward maybe you can share your screen again? And I would suggest, Mr. Ward, maybe take off the -you said you had mapping at the end. Take that off so that you just go to the website home Page.

>> Okay give me a quick second. Cumbersome and trying to do this on the phone. I should be on my desktop really. Okay, here we go.

>> COMMISSIONER EID: It does work quite a bit better on a desktop.

>> There are some things that are just not convenient on your phone. Okay I'm there on your website.

>> CHAIR ORTON: And we are there too if you can see your screen.

>> Yep, I can see it.

>> CHAIR ORTON: Okay.

>> DONNA CALLAGHAN: If you are on your phone it will look a little bit different. On the big browser of course the options or the buttons you can see are displayed horizontally on your phone and scroll down. Draft proposed maps and you scroll, calendar scroll, meeting notices and materials and subscribe for updates.

>> Yep, I'm there.

>> DONNA CALLAGHAN: Okay.

>> Okay, all right, well I will bookmark this and go back and go over the information that's here. All right.

>> MR. EDWARD WOODS: Actually if you so you can get to the legislation piece.

>> Uh-huh.

>> MR. EDWARD WOODS: What we will do is I will have it moved to the front Page so it could be a little bit easier. I will make that request.

>> Okay.

>> MR. EDWARD WOODS: And hit outreach and you want to hit resource and promo materials.

>> Hold on.

>> MR. EDWARD WOODS: I see redistricting. I'm back at the home Page. So I see the 24, 2024 calendar, meeting notices, and materials.

>> DONNA CALLAGHAN: If you are on your phone and you want to see this you are going to have to use the menu in the upper right-hand corner. So if you look at the upper right-hand corner with a box and horizontal lines with a Page, if you click on that there is a drop-down menu.

>> Got it, I see it.

>> DONNA CALLAGHAN: Yeah.

>> MR. EDWARD WOODS: Do you see outreach.

>> I see outreach.

>> MR. EDWARD WOODS: Click on that, please.

>> Yep.

>> MR. EDWARD WOODS: Click on resource and prom materials.

>> Got it.

>> MR. EDWARD WOODS: Then click on the legislation, MICRC legislation.

>> Got it I see, all right I'm there.

>> MR. EDWARD WOODS: Okay when you click on the legislation you want to go to Page three and subsection 13.

>> Hold on, I am not there. Okay I clicked on MICRC legislation.

>> MR. EDWARD WOODS: Correct.

>> Okay, and it's asking me to download a PDF. I can do that again.

>> MR. EDWARD WOODS: That's it. You want to go to.

>> Open up this PDF and the PDF is now opening. And I see okay, what was that Section again?

>> MR. EDWARD WOODS: Page three and.

>> I'm there.

>> MR. EDWARD WOODS: Then subsection 13.

>> Page 3, subsection 13.

>> MR. EDWARD WOODS: Starts off with the Commission shall abide by the following criteria in proposing and adopting each map, each plan, I'm sorry, in order of priority.

>> This is tricky. This is really tricky on a phone. Okay but I see exactly what you're saying.

>> MR. EDWARD WOODS: And then if you subscribe to us on the front Page.

>> Okay.

>> MR. EDWARD WOODS: If you subscribe to us I can assist in getting you something e-mailed directly. So.

>> No problem.

>> MR. EDWARD WOODS: So why don't you do that and then I will ask for your e-mail address once you subscribe and then I can e-mail you directly.

>> All right, not a problem. I will do. God I'm glad I have an IT background. I would be totally lost without it. Okay that answers my question.

>> COMMISSIONER EID: All right thank you.

>> All right.

>> COMMISSIONER EID: We have a Pamela Whitaker next.

>> Hello.

>> COMMISSIONER EID: Hey there.

>> How are you?

>> COMMISSIONER EID: I'm doing good thanks for asking how are you?

>> I'm doing well. First let me first say I'm a woman living with COVID brain after having had COVID twice and on oxygen. So my comprehension and understanding of things is not what it used to be as of three years ago. So bear with me. I'm still trying to understand the purpose of the redistricting and how would it benefit us as well as how would it hinder Detroit residents? Because we don't seem to be receiving the benefits, the monetary benefits and things of that nature like a lot of the other cities. So is this a further red lining in our City, so drive residents out so that you all can pour more money in the City or other citizens or how is this working?

How does this benefit me as a Detroit resident who does not plan on moving out of the City at all for a while. How does this work for me?

>> COMMISSIONER EID: So what this process does is it's going to determine who your chases are on the ballot when you go to vote in the statewide elections. Now, I know there is a little bit of confusion lately because the City of Detroit is also doing a redistricting process. But that is not what we are doing. We are doing redistricting for



the whole state because it has to be done every ten years according to the U.S. census data.

So it's going to affect you because it's going to affect what your District is when you go to vote this coming November. Now, where we make districts for the whole state but what we are doing right now in particular is the Detroit area.

>> Uh-huh.

>> COMMISSIONER EID: So find out how it affects you, we need to know a little bit more. We need to know where you live. But if you don't want to disclose that to us that is okay.

You can go on our website and type in your address, and it will take you to where you are on our maps. And.

>> I mean I can disclose where I live, it's no big secret I live in northwest Detroit on Kinfield between Burt Road and Evergreen off of Outer Drive. And I noticed when I went or when I first moved here almost ten years ago my voting District was at G elementary then it changed to I think it's Cook elementary which is I can't remember the name of the area. And I was wondering why did it change?

Why did it send me further from my home as opposed to five minutes. Then I hear about all this redistricting and red lining. So I started to, you know, and unfortunately I got sick with COVID and contracting a debilitating lung disease which kind of has me shut off from the world where I don't get out as much as I used to when I was working. So to be able to have to sit around and hear things and then see what I deem as decline of Detroit for us, I mean, I see building, you know, rebuilding being done in the downtown area of Detroit. But not too much happening in coming out into the City and I keep hearing there are so many resources, but it's always put your zip code in to see if those resources are available in your area which they never are. So I don't understand how this redistricting could be a benefit to myself, my neighbors and other people. And I hear this from people, my mom and daughter who live on the east side of Detroit the same thing. We pretty all much have the same argument that they say it's a benefit, you know. The Detroit residents but it does not seem to be doing so. So who keeps determining, I understand it's every ten years, but who keeps determining how much further to close Detroit residents off from the rest of the state?

When we don't reap the benefits?

>> COMMISSIONER EID: Yeah, you know, those are all really good questions. And I don't have the answers to all of them. But what we are doing is we are trying to create fair districts that represent people, that represent the citizens of Detroit and the citizens of Michigan as a whole, we are trying to do this fairly so that there isn't the political bias that you might have seen in the past and we are trying to get it right. We might not get it perfect, but I think all of us here, we are really trying to get it right for people like you and the rest of the citizens of Detroit.

If you -- if we can get Edward, if you get her contact information maybe we can set up some.

>> MR. EDWARD WOODS: Right, I would encourage.

>> COMMISSIONER EID: Or something to make sure she stays informed.

>> MR. EDWARD WOODS: I would encourage her to sign up on the front Page of the website, to subscribe for privacy purposes.

>> Okay.

>> MR. EDWARD WOODS: Then we can get back to you. And I will show you where you can do that on the home Page.

>> Let me stop you. I'm not tech savvy anymore. I lived with COVID brain, and my memory is fading. And my comprehension is declining. So I get confused about how to -- I don't do a lot of things on the phone and the computers. Because I closed out accounts and sent money to places so my children, you know, take care of those things for me. Unfortunately now I'm an empty nester since my youngest child just left to go to college in Texas. So I can't go online and, you know.

>> MR. EDWARD WOODS: Can I give you my number then, ma'am?

>> That will be fine. Let me grab my other phone and then I can take your number. I am ready.

>> MR. EDWARD WOODS: 517.

>> Yes, sir.

>> MR. EDWARD WOODS: 331-6309.

>> Okay and you are Mr. Edward Woods III.

>> MR. EDWARD WOODS: That is correct.

>> Okay.

>> COMMISSIONER KELLOM: Hi Pamela this is Commissioner Kellom and I also say quickly and I'm not saying that you don't know this 13 of us are citizens that were randomly picked to be Commissioners. So we are not politicians. Voters decided in 2018 they were tired of the way just like you are expressing the way the things were drawn and they were drawn unfairly, and they you know didn't think that citizens were being taken seriously and voices weren't heard. So as it pertains to the Commission there are some things and you're not the only person there are some things we literally have no control of. And when I say just we are just drawing lines I don't mean to diminish the impact of the lines that we draw. But we are not, you know, we are not in control of funding. We don't decide in terms of red lining choice schools or who goes where. I think you are hinting at the impact of our lines for sure. Like how these things get drawn, you know, and then it depends on who represents us or you, all of us, right, in Lansing, right, who are and what you are talking about is a larger conversation about how politicians do politics. And how they listen to folks but for our purposes we are here to draw the lines, do our best to make sure that we get the information out so that people know what their districts are, whether they are going to school precincts,

whatever that looks like. But I'm a native Detroit and I understand, not that that is the motto, it could mean nothing, there are all sorts of Detroiters, but I do understand some of the things that you're sharing. And where you're coming from.

>> So considering where my location what District am I in right now?

>> COMMISSIONER KELLOM: So I would have to look. You're describing Burt road and Commissioner Eid or anyone else we can all look together. But I will say while we are trying to figure that out we have ten maps that are being proposed to the public. You right now. So and all of them are a little different. If -- where did you report when you last participated in the voting process?

>> I went to Cook elementary. I can't think of the name of it excuse my memory. I can't think of the name of the little community they call it.

>> COMMISSIONER KELLOM: On Puritan.

>> Yes, yep and I used to go to Gunthers and all of a sudden I get a new voters registration card in the mail a couple years ago and it has me going there. And I never moved. I'm still in the same place I moved in, in 2014. So I didn't understand what is this 24, I think I got the card in maybe I know for sure I got it the last Presidential election that I was going to Cook, and I did not understand why it changed. I didn't move. My neighborhood obviously can't move. So why was I being rerouted. Who is determining these drawn lines for our different districts?

So what District am I in now?

I live on Kentfield and otter drive-by burden road, Evergreen, outer drive and Schoolcraft.

>> CHAIR ORTON: Commissioner Lett?

>> COMMISSIONER LETT: Miss Whitaker I don't know what District you are in or are in because understand this Commission only changes the District lines. Once that is done, then the county clerks do the precincts which could mean that you are put in a different precinct whether your District changed, or not, based upon what they do. That may be what's happening with you.

>> Okay, doesn't really help me but okay.

Okay.

>> COMMISSIONER EID: I'll say it looks like you're either in the current District 16 or the current District 5. It's a little hard to tell. But I'm pretty sure you are in one of those. So when you're looking at our maps that might be crown areas to focus on, districts 5 and 16.

>> You can't figure it out why would I be able to but okay.

>> COMMISSIONER EID: I hear you.

>> I understand. It's the way of the world.

>> COMMISSIONER EID: We are going to try to get with you and make sure that you know you are informed about this. And we will go from there. And also I wish you a

speedy you know recovery. Something I empathize with deeply but thank you for speaking with us today.

>> MR. EDWARD WOODS: I think it's important to note that our comments at the voting precincts are determined by local clerks. Just so everyone is aware of that and when Ms. Whitaker gives me a call more than happy to get her address, show her what District she is in with each of the maps and take the time to ensure her questions get answered that is part of the process. And that is for anyone and everyone we want to make sure we do that have. We have a toll-free line I forgot to share and that is 866-map fair. 866-map fair. Is our toll-free number for anyone that would like to give us a call. That is 866-627-3247. 866-map fair. Chairperson it's 4:05 and I think Dr. Anderson's hand is up and I think she has spoken with the new rules it's once per five an hour so we will be back at 5:00.

>> CHAIR ORTON: Okay, thank you so much and thank you for sharing that information that people can call if they don't wish to use technology to go online. So then we will take our scheduled dinner break until 5:00. We will be back then.

[ Recess until 5:00 ]

>> CHAIR ORTON: I call this meeting of the independent redistricting back to order at 5:00 p.m. will you call roll.

>> MS. SARAH REINHARDT: I will call on Commissioners in alphabetical order starting with Elaine Andrade?

>> ELAINE ANDRADE: Present.

>> MS. SARAH REINHARDT: Donna Callaghan?  
Present.

>> MS. SARAH REINHARDT: Juanita Curry?  
Anthony Eid?  
Brittini Kellom?

>> COMMISSIONER KELLOM: Present.

>> MS. SARAH REINHARDT: Rhonda Lange?  
Steve Lett?

>> COMMISSIONER LETT: Present.

>> MS. SARAH REINHARDT: Marcus Muldoon?  
Cynthia Orton?

>> CHAIR ORTON: Present.

>> MS. SARAH REINHARDT: Rebecca Szetela?  
Janice Vallette?

>> COMMISSIONER VALLETTE: Present.

>> MS. SARAH REINHARDT: Erin Wagner?  
Richard Weiss?

>> COMMISSIONER WEISS: Present.

>> MS. SARAH REINHARDT: Okay give me just one moment. All right six Commissioners are present and there is not I'm sorry seven Commissioners are present and there is not currently a quorum.

>> CHAIR ORTON: Thank you. So we will not be conducting any business, but we can still listen to the public. And this hour we will be facilitated by Commissioner Kellom.

>> COMMISSIONER KELLOM: Good evening members of the public. I'm excited to host this hour of our public hearing that is obviously virtual. So I encourage those that are listening to ask questions, make comments because this is one of many opportunities coming up, where you will -- to engage and I will use the attendee list and looking to see who has a hand raised and doing my best to pronounce names correctly. If I miss pronounce your name, please tell me so the firsthand I see raised is Dina-Stuber.

>> Hi, yes, it's me. I'm Dina-Stuber and thank you for your efforts. I know it's difficult. These maps are vital in making sure people's voices and get it right and maintaining partisan fairness, connecting communities and collaboration among Commissioners is critical. And with that in mind I am concerned about Commissioner Szetela's map. Because it appears to be a lone wolf effort and doesn't appear to be coordination and it's even named just after that Commissioner. The map that the Commission created that considers the hearts of the residents as well as the criteria of the task was Motown sound in my opinion connecting Roseville to St. Clair Shores as it has been, and District 13 gives proper consideration to the interests of the residents. I have friends in East Point who have long asked for joint representation with their St. Clair Shores neighbors and friends, and they go to the shores inn and church together, this makes sense. Motown sound stands out as one of harmony, collaboration and connection. It's a good map and I really don't like the process of Szetela's map. Thank you.

>> COMMISSIONER KELLOM: Thank you, Dina. The next person that we will be hearing from is Lisa Lewis. Hi Lisa.

>> MS. SARAH REINHARDT: Lisa you are unmuted and free to address the Commission.

>> Can you hear me.

>> COMMISSIONER KELLOM: Yes Lisa we can hear you.

>> Okay, I'm sorry, I wasn't sure if you could hear me or not. Hello, how is everyone doing today?

>> COMMISSIONER KELLOM: Good, how are you?

>> I am well, I am well. I will be very brief. First I just wanted to thank the Commission for the work that they have done so far. I know it's been difficult. And I also thought it was over a couple years ago. So I was surprised to find out that, you know, we are still kind of, you know, working this through. My name is Lisa Lewis. I live on the northwest side of the City near the University District. And I am a lifelong

Detroit. So, you know, this entire process has been a little bit hard to keep up with. Like I said I thought it had been resolved. And you know, I'm just now finding out it hasn't been. And that I'm actually kind of glad that it hasn't been because I really felt that Detroit got shorted in that last round of redistricting. So I'm hoping that things improve in this round. And the map that I think is probably the best, I agree with the previous caller, is the Motown sound map. I think it does a great job in my area making a space for faith communities and neighborhoods like Oakman Village and Pilgrim Village and keeps Highland Park and Hamtramck together. So I think that's a very, very good map. And I was looking at some of the other ones and they just didn't make a lot of sense. You know, that Tulip, the Water Lily, and willow. They all just kind of you know chop things up, you know, unnecessarily. So I don't really see the sense in that.

So I would really like to see the Motown map Motown sound map pursued. And that's really about it from me. So thank you so much and I appreciate the opportunity to speak.

>> COMMISSIONER KELLUM: Thank you, Lisa we appreciate you giving specific comment and letting us into your home so to speak by telling us that you are a University or University of Detroit District homeowner so that is meaningful to hear as well. Thank you we appreciate you.

Our next public commenter is Lulu-Annous and if I mispronounce your name Lulu please tell me.

>> Sorry can you hear me.

>> COMMISSIONER KELLUM: Yes.

>> Awesome thank you so much. That's actually my nickname my name is Alamia-Annous and a current student at Wayne state University and studying Ph.D. in English and I'm actually here to talk about the -- our community interest here for Dearborn where I currently live. Our community of interest primarily lives in Dearborn, Dearborn Heights, and Melvindale and Hamtramck and Livonia, Canton, and Ferndale. Access supports my community by providing social and community services that are linguistically accessible to the community and not found somewhere else the Mena community is a socially and politically marginalized group and continually left out of the sorry redistricting process. I urge you to use the proposed Motown sound map, that would be enough of our keep enough of our communities of interest intact and would like Melvindale to be added back and remain part of our community of interest. Thank you so much.

>> COMMISSIONER KELLUM: Thank you. We have a little break. Remind me Commissioners if we have someone that wants to speak again do they have to wait for the second hour or can they do that or they have to wait, they have to wait. Okay.

>> CHAIR ORTON: What was voted on was a total of or, you know, five-minute time period but only once per hour.



>> COMMISSIONER KELLOM: Once per hour, okay thank you and we have Regina Smith. Hi Regina.

>> On mute sorry about that. Hi how are you.

>> COMMISSIONER KELLOM: I'm great how are you.

>> Good. I'm glad I got on here because I was wondering how all this was going to take place. But I think it was made clear to me earlier this afternoon, late morning that it's two things going on and I think I personally kind of got confused. I see where what you are doing is the redistricting for the whole United States I mean for the whole State of Michigan. But that's just something that you do, what is it every ten years somewhere am I right?

>> COMMISSIONER KELLOM: Yes.

>> Then I think what I was getting that confused with or when another young lady was speaking and thinking what the county does when it changes up the districts or the areas and they was thinking that because of the voting. And so I was glad I got on today because I realized this is two different things that's going on. And so I will get some time and want to go on and get the maps and look at them and see them because what I saw, I was thinking they don't look like this is okay.

But now I know why I was seeing it different because I know when things change and when our districts all changed and remember when I'm in a different district now and that had to do with voting but what yourself doing is totally different and has nothing to do with voting.

>> COMMISSIONER KELLOM: I'm glad you were able to get some clarification. And, yes, please go on to our website and look at we have nine proposed maps. And one of them was independently submitted by one of the Commissioners. And take some time to type in your zip code, that will draw you right to the area of the map you're looking at but more than that look at all the maps do pros and cons if you will and like the map because it does this, I don't like this map because I think it doesn't do enough of this. Or it needs more whatever you think, right?

And then in you can attend virtually or attend a meeting coming up, the 21st and 22nd, one at greater grace and the second at second Ebenezer and you can comment in person or virtually, but we are looking for Detroiters to give very specific comments about the area that is most helpful. We know that it needs to be equitable. We know that voices have been unheard, and we are not diminishing that at all, but we want to know what do we do?

What do you like about the maps that you see in front of you?

>> All right thank you so much.

>> COMMISSIONER KELLOM: Thank you Regina.

>> Thank you.

>> COMMISSIONER KELLOM: Does someone want to sing a song?

>> CHAIR ORTON: You go right ahead.

>> COMMISSIONER KELLOM: Oh, no, I think that everyone would log off and there would be no meeting. No hearing. We have someone Mohammed-Shanma.

>> I live in Dearborn, and I want to keep my community of interest together. The U.S. census counts people who hold Arab ancestry of other middle eastern Mena origins in the white racial category. The fact is the Arab American and the Mena community has distinct issue and experience and at a national level of Arab American obscure region variation such as disadvantaged community in the Metro Detroit area. The Arab American and Mena community through lumped into the wide racial category by the U.S. census is quite distinct from the white population. Our community of interest primarily lives in Dearborn, Dearborn Heights, west Detroit, and Melvindale. As well as other parts of Michigan such as Hamtramck, Livonia, can't for and Ferndale. I urge you to please consider the Motown sound map which provides enough consideration to our community of interest. We would also like for Melvindale to be added back and remain part of our community of interest, thank you.

>> COMMISSIONER KELLOM: Thank you, Mohammed. Mona-Mawari.

>> Hi. Good evening Commissioners.

>> COMMISSIONER KELLOM: Good evening.

>> My name is Mona and live in Dearborn and have family in District 3 and Melvindale. And I wanted to talk to you about, you know, District 3 and the Yemeni community specifically being a minority within another minority. A minority within the Arab minority. The Yemeni community is a minority within the Arab community that is the most marginalized Arab community, you know, within Dearborn and its surroundings.

The south end of Dearborn and Melvindale, they share similar struggles and issues, environmental racism, environmental issues, from -- because of the corporate polluters. And so they, you know, they have endured a lot of the traumas and the chaos that they have to live through every day, and you know, they are elected officials barely and never listen to them. They are always complaining about the same issues. The air quality, the broken roads, you know, their quality of life is terrible compared to the rest of the City of Dearborn and the surrounding cities. Also southwest Detroit. These three areas are a community of interest and it's not only that they are a community of interest because of the ethnicity or the language they speak or because of religion but they also share a lot of environmental and socioeconomic issues as well. It's so important to me and my community that District 3 stays intact, it stays the same. The Court had no problems with District 3 and 15. And it's so important that Melvindale stays with District 3 because of the shared interests with the south end of Dearborn. I think that's about it. There was one more thing I wanted to mention and I'm blanking out. I'm sorry.

>> COMMISSIONER KELLOM: No, you have two more minutes to gather your thoughts, two minute and some change actually Mona.

>> Okay so I just want to give you a little bit of history. A bit more history. This community in the south end of Dearborn has been marginalized for decades. And recently I started a campaign to advocate for District elections for City Council seats and charter Commission seats because part of the reason they have been marginalized is because they have never been able to on a local level, not just even talking about the state level but even on a local level they haven't been able to get anyone from their community elected on City Council or the charter Commission. So we -- I led a campaign called the Dearborn wants wards campaign, wards meaning District-elections. And they advocated against it because nobody cares about the minority in the south end of Dearborn that doesn't have representation on City Council. And I have to be frank with you guys, this is what is happening on the ground. And it's very painful. The two Arab Commissioners on the charter Commission voted against having District elections District elections on the Council and charter Commission is the only way to have accurate representation of the actual population in the City. And they voted against it. So when ADC comes out and tells you that a certain map is good for the Arab community, they are not putting the Yemeni community into consideration. The Yemeni community is a minority within a minority that I really need you guys to please, please, please them in mind when you are drawing these lines. Is there any way that District 3 can because I've been hearing from folks they are happy with the Motown sound, is there any way for Melvindale to be put together with that one?

>> COMMISSIONER KELLUM: So I mean nothing is impossible except for we can't make everyone happy. But the process of having a public hearing is to have you, Mona passionately weigh in like you just did and have us think about and brainstorm what it looks like to make edits to the map when we get to that part of it, this part of it is to hear citizens just like yourself talk about different communities. Toss out suggestions just like you did. You're not the first person during this hour or today to talk about wanting Melvindale to be included. I was going to ask you also you mentioned the Yemeni community and you mentioned Melvindale. Is there something you can reimagine for District 3?

And I'm not also so this is like a twofold question I'm not also sure if you are saying that you do like Motown sound, but you would want Melvindale to be included?

That map?

Or are you suggesting something else?

And you might not know that. But those are the questions that I have.

>> I need to take another look at Motown sound before I can answer that. But ideally I would love for east Dearborn, south Dearborn and Melvindale to stay in the same District.

>> COMMISSIONER KELLUM: Say that again east Dearborn.

>> East Dearborn, south Dearborn and Melvindale to stay in the same District. We have a lot of commonalities with southwest Detroit. The Lanyo area.

>> COMMISSIONER KELLOM: You do, or you don't?

>> We do.

>> COMMISSIONER KELLOM: Lanyo. East, south and Melvindale.

>> Yeah, this community faces a lot of colorism. Unfortunately from the larger Arab American community. And you know colorism is real with every, every ethnicity and community and unfortunately the Yemenis have been facing a lot of it. In the past, you know, decades. And you know I just it pains me to see my community come out time and time again, try to be civically engaged and only to be let down and their favorite picks or candidates are never able to win because all of our seats are at large on the local level. And now changing the lines for District three makes it worse for them because they will never have representation in the House, in the State House, if that happens. Taking out Melvindale and east Dearborn from District 3 waters down the Yemeni voting bloc.

>> COMMISSIONER KELLOM: Okay, I understand what you're saying. I can't make any promises just like we can't make any promises to any of our folks that contribute to public comment. But I am taking note of this observation by you, your community at large and the other folks that spoke before you.

>> I appreciate you so much. I appreciate all of what you Commissioners are doing. And thank you so much for hearing me out and for listening with an open mind. I really appreciate it.

>> COMMISSIONER KELLOM: Absolutely Mona when you look at the maps online you can provide a comment and a dot you can attach to the area and comment away and don't have to stick to that area. You can make a comment on another area, and I think it will give you a good picture because most of what the Commission is tasked with is taking into consideration communities of interest, right? But then where it's almost like a puzzle piece. Small shifts or what seems like small shifts to one community's mind can have a big impact to the neighboring District or community. So you know I can't tell you what to do but as you are looking at the map keep in mind what an inclusion of an area or an exclusion of an area can do to your fellow neighbors.

>> Okay.

>> COMMISSIONER KELLOM: Thank you.

>> Thank you so much. I appreciate you. Take care.

>> COMMISSIONER KELLOM:

>> CHAIR ORTON: Commissioner Kellom since we don't have hands up and maybe we have new folks in attendance maybe it's a good time to share a screen and kind of walk through what you were talking about, putting the dot on the map, show people how to do that.

>> COMMISSIONER KELLOM: Sure. That means Edward Woods III our Executive Director is going to share his screen.

>> MR. EDWARD WOODS: I do want to take the point for people listening on YouTube the chat Section new tube is not a public record. The chat Section new tube is not a public record. If you want to make any comments, you can join now and make the comments. Or you can put the comments in the mapping portal or the public comment portal on the front Page of the Michigan Independent Citizens Redistricting Commission website. But once again for the public record, the YouTube chat is not, I repeat is not an official record to reach the Commission. We do have the chat purpose on for you to communicate and talk amongst yourselves but if you want to be on the record with the Commission, you will either make your public comments in person or remotely. Remotely as relates to today, during this town hall meeting that ends at 8:00. Or you can go to the front Page of the website, Michigan.gov/MICRC and put your comments in the public comment portal or I repeat or the mapping portal. So just want to make sure that is clear for the record.

And then I can share my screen. At this time and.

>> COMMISSIONER KELLOM: Thank you, Mr. Woods. So this is our website. Michigan.gov/MICRC. This is the first Page that you see. On the far -- oh, you are toggling me down here. That is fine. That is what I was talking about. Under the public engagement heading there is a blurb, a little paragraph, there are two clickable links. The first one is the public comment portal or the mapping comment portal. You can click on I think it's the mapping comment portal. Am I correct?  
Yes.

>> MR. EDWARD WOODS: We can do both and go to the public comment portal first.

>> Clicking on the public comment portal you can provide written testimony by or a Districting plan. You can submit a plan if you feel like drawing your own idea. Or you can click the kind of dark blue indigo link that says a community interest if you are representing a community interest.

So if you click the mapping comment portal link, here are our maps. You want to be sure you have toggled at the top the correct map. We are redrawing House maps. So we will open the Motown sound map because that is the first one and Mr. Woods has opened the comment link. You can see it's the whole map of Michigan. If you Zoom in because we are drawing the Detroit, Metro Detroit area you are able to click on a District and provide comment. If you can see our screen, there are little dots almost like push pins that is what I think about them as with little heads, that think these are green. You click on the District that is of interest to you. And you can provide comment as you see to the far right of the screen.

So add comment, there is a blue button at the top. It's a rectangular button that says add comment in the center. You can click that button. You can ask for some information from the person that comments and you can love, hate, be on the fence about any part of the map that you see. But that is very important for the Commission

to have. It's not just enough to say and you're welcome to say, hey, just do better. Or, hey, we love what you're doing but for our purposes, because we are tasked, and we are obligated to draw from the perspective of citizens it's so helpful and meaningful for us to have citizens write exactly what they want to see and what they don't want to see. Because that has the most power when we make the decision as a Commission to look at the maps. And to push a map forward. The thing we are going to draw from is not our own experience, not the discussions we've been having on the Commission or in the meetings we will bring up with we heard. I'm going to say using this as an example Mona talked about including eastern southern part of Dearborn and Melvindale in District 3. She talked very passionately about the Yemeni community. That is the food, that is the fruit for the discussion and in which we are drawing these maps. We did not draw them just because we thought that they are great things to draw without input from the community. Thank you, Mr. Woods. Unless there is something else that any of my fellow Commissioner friends think we should be talking about or.

>> CHAIR ORTON: Well, if you could share it one more time Director Woods. I just think maybe you could point out where they can search their own address and see exactly where they are in each particular map. What District?

>> COMMISSIONER KELLOM: Absolutely the upper left corner that is on the mapping section of the screen it says search address. You can click that square and if you're able to do this and type in your address it will take you right to the District where you live also give you an idea of what it means for surrounding districts as well. Thank you Commissioner Orton.

>> CHAIR ORTON: You might want to do that on each of the maps because you will potentially be in a different District in each of the proposed maps.

>> COMMISSIONER KELLOM: Potentially means you probably will, or you will be very close. We have Mr. James Gallant. Hi, James.

>> Hello. Can you hear me now?

>> COMMISSIONER KELLOM: Absolutely.

>> Going good. How are you?

>> COMMISSIONER KELLOM: Pretty good.

>> Long day, we got here, you know. And but I just wanted to clarify, this is James Gallant, and these are my opinions, is that, you know, I agree with Commissioner Szetela about the first amendment concerns, about the public comment, you want to lift, you only want to hear about the maps but not the manner in which the maps were created. That seems out of line and unreasonable. And, you know, like I was saying, my community of interest is the entire State of Michigan. Okay, you people are all in your little communities around. But I'm entire State of Michigan on the coast, around the waters, and the land, that is it, like a public citizen. I'm here for everybody and a member of the community, all the people. Robert's Rules of Order is the only way to protect all of us, all at the same time because it is based on the proceedings of the U.S.



House of Representatives and that is how societies work. You know, the citizens work, and they use the same rules and procedure of their legislature. And that is how communities work too that way. And I think that and actually what he was saying about deleting the comments, and I believe that is a public record on the YouTube channel. It's your YouTube channel. You are creating it. And you have Commissioners commenting there. That is a public comment, and you should be capturing that in real time because people are erasing what we are saying. So capture that in real time and publish that, it would be great.

And, you know, I think that, you know, and just like the Bengali and Yemeni, Chaldeans, are all my community of interest and we want to be protected. So what I want to talk about is right from the beginning, right at the very beginning because there was a person that was appointed to this Commission and their application was disqualified because they did not check a box to say if they were Hispanic, or not, and they had to recurrent or rechoose somebody. Now it appears we have five members here with incomplete applications, that did not -- and I believe Commissioner Kellom you're one of them. And so is Commissioner Lett and Commissioner Szetela and a couple of the new members. That you put choose not to answer on the conflict of interest that are required on the political issues, about your affiliations. That says on the application those are required. And yet you said choose not to answer. So you did put words in there. Did you call the number and say, hey, how do I do this? How do I get around this?

But didn't answer? Did somebody tell you to do that to identify the how we are going to choose the people that are going to be on here? But two of the new members have incomplete applications. I think an algorithm person, the people at Rehman Brothers, the Rehman Group are the ones that did it because I was at the meetings at the state board of canvassers. And, do you know what, I think maybe this was the people were chosen on your ideologies of not following Robert's Rules. I think that it's a matter of...it's like...and, Commissioner Kellom, I think you should speak to this, please, that, you know, Robert's Rules of Order represents white man's rules. It's an order. It is about an orderly, being orderly and what whiteness means and all on the Internet. It's about being orderly and having rules of procedure and following them. And it's like you just continually reject it and do the opposite in the name of diversity. We are just not going to do that, you know. But that is something in your oath of office, you have to follow our Constitution, the way it's built in this country. And you could have done all these things legitimately, but you just didn't. You just circumvented the state of being in our country. That is where Robert's Rules comes in. Everybody knows the question before you discuss it, before you discuss it, not after, you got the answer. That is not how this is supposed to be working.

So I would ask you please to answer about us because everybody is talking about this, you know, the pledge allegiance. You are the Chair. Was there a vote that day?

I don't think so.

I think it all got confusing and everybody was screaming at each other and it was a big mess. And the, oh, this is controversial. And I believe the conversation just stops and moved on to the next with the Chair. If I'm wrong with that, please, you know, give us the minutes, give us the transcripts. Secretary could have had that by now if you asked her at the beginning, five hours ago. And just say, hey, give us the minutes because the guy, does that mean anything?

The guy might have a point. I believe a vote.

>> COMMISSIONER KELLOM: James, you are our citizen historian of the Commission, right?

We have been at this for a long time since 2021. And it is my recollection that we took a vote. I did not vote for the pledge of allegiance, and we answered it the last time you asked in one of our hours. I will also say I'm a woman of integrity. I have a whole life outside of this Commission and this Commission is a part of what I do in my day-to-day. And I think you and I have had a personal conversation when we were up north, and I shared with you that a part of my job is mental health and dealing with survivors. And one of my major attendants and advocacy is listen and believe and I've been listening for three years now, and I believe that you are concerned. And I think you have every right to be concerned with the way our meetings are run. I would also challenge you, and I know some of this is fun for you, to engage in the process of looking at our maps. And telling us, because you know I represent the State of Michigan just like all 13 of these Commissioners do. In our own right. I don't just stay in my little community. I go all over. I serve with survivors all over of very violent crimes and families and I do it in a confidential way. I have no need to shirk or hide anything I do. So, again, I beg of you with all that brilliance and opinion, and you can hate them or not hate them. But let's say we never did Robert's Rules of Order, and what we still have to do is draw the maps. So I would hate for you only to engage in a part of the process that you seem to understand best. I would beg of you to start to be curious about the work that is placed in front of us, which is to draw the maps. And I care about you. I'm glad you're so passionate and you are going to speak every time. I want you to do that, but I'm interested to see I don't know where you are from. I don't know what City you're from. You have been yamming at us for a long time. So I don't even know if community whether you have a park or a driveway, where there is somewhere you like to hike I don't know anything about that, and it would be a shame to go through the process without knowing that but thank you so much for your comment.

>> Well, did you say, hey, did you say that you were -- did not follow Robert's Rules of Order? You just said you did not follow Robert's Rules of Order.

>> COMMISSIONER KELLOM: I didn't say that. I said let's say we never did that.

>> I want the comment of Robert Rules of Order and why you don't start with the question, motion to approve and then you discuss then you vote. But you have the

discussion first and you do them amendments and just create the question before you even make a motion to consider it. It's backwards. It's absolutely backwards. Okay, your question comes first. Motion to approve, policy, motion to approve something, an actual action. You are just having...

>> COMMISSIONER KELLOM:

>> COMMISSIONER EID: I remember voting on the pledge of allegiance, Brittini. I think I voted for it back when we first started. But we had that vote some time.

>> COMMISSIONER KELLOM: Yep. There was a passionate debate and discussion. We definitely voted on it, and we have a healthy discussion about it as well. It's okay.

I think James wants us to follow the rules. He wants us to have good strong Robert's Rules. But our attendees that are listening, please feel free to make comments or even ask questions. Some of you that are listening might not even know who you're listening or looking at. You might think we are City Council. Or politicians. But engage with us during this hour so that you can find out more about the process that we are currently in which is redrawing our House maps and we finished, and we have a draft of nine maps. One that it was proposed by an individual Commissioner. And we are in the process of hearing from you all on how these maps could be made better. How they should stay the same. We are no longer talking about Hickory. We are talking about the proposed maps that we have worked in the past two weeks or so to present to the public. So we would love to hear comments, questions and opinions about those maps. We have Christine Holmes, how Christine.

>> MS. SARAH REINHARDT: Wanted to note that Commissioner Weiss' hand is raised before we go to Christine.

>> COMMISSIONER WEISS: Apologize didn't one of the previous commenter wanted Melvindale to be in Dearborn area?

In District 3 I guess it is?

I did a quick check, and it looks like the Tulip map and the Daisy 2 I think puts Melvindale in District 3. So if she happens to be listening, if she wanted to look at those two maps maybe that would satisfy what she would like to have done. I'm not sure if that is the total District. But what she wanted, big portion of Melvindale is in there. Thank you.

>> COMMISSIONER KELLOM: Thank you, Commissioner Weiss. Okay Christine.

>> Yes, it is Christine. And I live in Woodbridge neighborhood of Detroit. And I work for wood bridge neighborhood development which is a nonprofit community development corporation serving this neighborhood. And one of the maps, the Daisy 2 map, has our neighborhood of 4400 people. So not tiny but also not enormous, divided into three separate State House districts. And it really looks so arbitrary. And would be problematic in terms of, you know, figuring out who is representing who, at what time, for what request. Because we do interact with our State House and Senate

representatives pretty frequently. So I just wanted to point that out. That is what we are usually on the eastern edge of a map or the very western end of a map but in this one for whatever reason we are divided into three which is problematic for us. Then I have a quick question. These are House maps, our Senate map is supposed to change too. When does that process take place?

>> COMMISSIONER KELLUM: And someone can correct me, but we could start that process in April.

>> Okay because I saw the timeline for the House. I just was curious. I did not realize that the Senate was a different timeline. But thank you for that.

>> COMMISSIONER KELLUM: And Christine so Daisy 2 is a yuk for you but what if you have gotten a chance to look at the maps, what map works for Woodbridge? And I'm familiar with Woodbridge.

>> I mean I honestly looked at it relatively quickly last Friday when the community development advocates of Detroit had a meeting with I think it was Commissioner Hill. And I kind of quickly went through them. So I don't know. But we are already kind of we've always been like before we were with Down River and now we are with, you know, part of the east side and I guess Oakland County. So I'm not sure that we have a very strong opinion. We just don't want to be divided up into three separate districts.

>> COMMISSIONER KELLUM: That makes total sense, wood bridge is a tight knit community of artists, families, students, pie size, super yummy.

>> Spot on.

>> COMMISSIONER KELLUM: Just driving through Woodbridge I would call it a continuing community so having it would not make sense. I encourage you there are some maps that don't do that.

>> Yeah right the other ones definitely don't do that. I'm just who we get lumped in with I'm overly concerned and just want to make sure that I know my representative, but I don't want to know three of my representatives for the projects that we are working on. We do get funding from the State of Michigan for affordable housing projects we work on. So it's nice to really only have one, well, one Senator and one House rep to talk to about those types of things.

>> COMMISSIONER KELLUM: That makes sense, thank you for sharing that.

>> Thank you.

>> COMMISSIONER KELLUM: We have now next Oscar Castaneda.

>> Hello, can you hear me?

>> COMMISSIONER KELLUM: Yes, Oscar.

>> Okay I've been participating in these meetings for a long time, since the very beginning. And I have been quiet lately. First, my name is Oscar and I'm a community organizer in Detroit. And working in Latino and Hispanic issues. I think quiet because the way the maps look right now are good for us. I was motivated to speak only because Commissioner mentioned the Tulip map and it's the only one that breaks the

Latino or Hispanic community of interest. So we are okay with most of the maps but Tulip. So the purpose of me speaking right now is just to is you to please put Tulip at the bottom of the list. If you look at it, it totally destroys our community of interest and puts us back where we were with the 2010 census. So please keep it in mind. Tulip is the worst-case scenario for the Hispanic community of interest in Detroit.

>> COMMISSIONER KELLOM: Thank you, Oscar. We hear you. Next we have Kevin.

>> Hello, can everyone hear me now.

>> COMMISSIONER KELLOM: Yes.

>> Okay great, just was wondering for those of us who are like just tuning in or just getting familiar with this process, could you inform us of where these maps are located so we can kind of sort of take a look at them and you know if we have any questions be able to ask those questions, you know, et cetera.

>> COMMISSIONER KELLOM: Absolutely, Kevin. I see our Executive Director is about to do a screen share. I can feel it in my spirit because I see his face turning. So he's going to share the screen, Kevin. In the meantime I will say you go to Michigan.gov, so Michigan.gov/MICRC. And we have a lovely little circular link that has a location pin in it that says 2024 draft proposed maps. And so, Kevin, and anyone else listening if you click on that link that will open up all ten of the maps that we have proposed. Nine that are collaborative, one that was submitted by an individual Commissioner. Our maps are separated and identified by name. We have Bergamot Tulip Water Lily, Spirit of Detroit. And then we have Daisy 2. The river walk. Motown sound. Willow. And Szetela version four. Szetela version four is an individual map. But all of the maps offer something a little different. Some of them change lakeshores. Some of them cross 8 Mile in ways that incorporate necessary communities of interest. Some of them change less. Some of them change more.

So, Kevin, if you start clicking on a link go to my Districting because it allows you to look at the map and comment, there is a link though on that Page that we just showed on the Zoom screen. If you navigate in that way you will be able to again both look at the map and comment and get to know each of the maps. If I were you, if you are really invested in the process, take little notes on what you like about the map, but you can comment directly into the map as you are looking at it if you use my Districting. We also have a public comment portal. If staring at a map is not your thing and you would just like to write about your community of interest in detail about what boundaries and neighborhoods and streets make best sense to you then you can contribute that way as well. Is that helpful or do you need something else?

>> No, that was very, very helpful appreciate it.

>> COMMISSIONER KELLOM: We appreciate you. Thank you, Kevin. So we are almost at the end of this hour, but we have Mona who wants to speak again and

probably because Commissioner Weiss asked if she took a look at Tulip. Can we have Mona speak again?

Yeah, hi Mona.

>> Hi again. Thank you, yes, that's the reason I came back. So I looked at the three maps. The two maps he mentioned, and I also looked at Motown sound. So okay let me start with Daisy 2. Yeah, it looks like Melvindale is in there but the problem with Daisy 2 is it takes out a significant part of east Dearborn. Which is part of the community of interest I mentioned. So and puts it with District one and District Four. So that wouldn't be an ideal map.

>> COMMISSIONER KELLOM: I'm sorry go ahead.

>> For my community. So Daisy 2. And then Tulip does the same thing. It keeps Melvindale in District 3 but then a significant part of east Dearborn and possibly south Dearborn goes into District 1. And correct me if I'm wrong but also District 4.

>> COMMISSIONER KELLOM: I'm not looking at the map right now. But now I can take notes, I can listen but looking at a map I would have to pause my writing to do that. So what I'm hearing you say though the eastern part of Dearborn is removed and split on top of that so it's like a.

>> Yeah so it's either or. Like either both of these maps splits the community of interest that I mentioned earlier. You either put in like either put in Melvindale and get rid of a significant portion of east and south Dearborn. Or they don't include Melvindale. And then the last one was okay Motown sound I'm looking at it right now. It takes out Melvindale and includes the east side of Dearborn and why some community members outside of my community were okay with this because it keeps their community intact. Yeah. It's -- it harms my community, the Yemeni community and the people in Melvindale and south Dearborn. So to be honest I don't see any of these working and I want to go back to what I said earlier that like the District 3 was fine the way it was to me. Also District 15 had, you know, a significant portion of Arab Americans and that could have -- having -- keeping District 3 and 15 the same as they were before gives us more chances of having representatives from our community of interest and condensing all of Dearborn to one District, then we only get a chance to elect one person. And that person is not reflective of all of the communities especially the most marginalized communities in the area.

>> CHAIR ORTON: I have a question. When Mona, when you say District 3 and District 15 in the existing map are you talking about Hickory? Or are you talking about the map that is in place right now?

>> No, I'm talking about the current lines for the current District right now. Not the ones modified.

>> CHAIR ORTON: Okay, I understand.

>> Uh-huh.



>> COMMISSIONER KELLOM: Thank you, Mona. I think what you shared was valuable. I'm sure we will keep that in mind. I'm not just saying that because that is a nice thing to say.

I'm sure we will consider that again. I will just kind of repeat what I said earlier, and I think I can speak for all the Commissioners, the changes that we make are to make what we were tasked with improving as a whole better. And so that might mean in some communities not just in yours that we are having to make it maybe not the best but like mostly good. So that there aren't huge infractions in another communities of interest that wind us up in more trouble just in general. Thank you, Mo in -- Mona. We have another attendee who wants to weigh in pierce ward.

>> Can you hear me?

>> COMMISSIONER KELLOM: Yes.

>> I'm unmuted now. Listening to some of the comments, I have personally served on two or three different boards of nonprofit organizations. And I totally agree with the gentleman that spoke about following the Robert's Rules of Orders. However, I do have a question. Do you guys have a set of Bylaws that absolutely commit you to following the Robert's Rules of Order?

>> COMMISSIONER KELLOM: Commissioner Orton I paused because you looked like you were going to say something, and I don't know if Mr. Woods was going to speak.

>> No, I was asking if you have a set of Bylaws that absolutely commits you for following the Robert's Rules of Order?

I personally think that is a good thing. But if the goal is to get the redistricting accomplished and done, does it matter if you don't follow the Robert's Rules of Orders? I'm not convinced of this argument about following the Robert's Rules of Orders, although I do agree with him.

>> COMMISSIONER KELLOM: Yeah, go ahead.

>> CHAIR ORTON: It's a really good question, Mr. Ward. So we do have policies and procedures in place. Constitutionally the amendment does not say we follow that with have to follow Robert's Rules of Order.

>> Okay, all right. And that is really what I was driving at. I mean it's a good thing. I totally believe it because trying to run a meeting without following Robert's Rules of order you end up with chaos. But if it's in a controlled fashion what difference does it make if you accomplish a goal?

Ah.

>> COMMISSIONER KELLOM: [ Laughter ]

Was that a light bulb for you?

>> Yeah, yeah, yeah, I get it.

>> COMMISSIONER KELLOM: Okay.

>> I thought it was I had to get that off my chest.

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>> COMMISSIONER KELLOM: No, you are free to speak and share.

>> Okay that is good. I will find that on the Internet, I hope.

>> COMMISSIONER KELLOM: Yep, all of our business, all of our business is on that same website where the maps are. Thank you, pierce. Am I taking another hand? Because I see one.

>> CHAIR ORTON: We are about at the next hour. So thank you so much, Commissioner Kellom, for leading us that hour. And the next hour we have Commissioner Muldoon and Commissioner Eid facilitating.

>> COMMISSIONER EID: All right, round two. Mr. Muldoon, want to introduce yourself.

>> MARCUS MULDOON: I'm Marcus Muldoon. Just recently on the Commission from Lincoln Park, Michigan.

>> COMMISSIONER EID: We are doing this together. Do you want to take the lead for a little bit, or do you want me to start off?

>> MARCUS MULDOON: Go ahead and start it off, I will let you start it off.

>> COMMISSIONER EID: So we are in the 6:00 hour. We started at 9:00 a.m. And burning the fuel as they say, and we are going until 8:00 today. So we will again we are taking this time, we are in this town hall today to take comments, questions, advice on the ten draft maps that we have out at this point. All of them can be found on our website [www.Michigan.gov/MICRC](http://www.Michigan.gov/MICRC). Yeah thank you Brittini for doing the last hour. I think it was very well done and thank you to all those who spoke. We had some really nice testimony in the past hour.

And now we are up and does anyone have anything else to say?

Looks like we have 19 people that are attendees. Some folks have already spoken but if any of y'all who have not spoken yet have anything you would like to add, now is your chance. All right we have Richard who we heard from earlier. Richard Michalski am I saying that right?

>> Thanks and I went through it again. I still think the willow item I don't want to restate the reasons why I support that one. But I had a question on the shape factor information on the website. And the what is that other metric the bottom two evaluation perimeters that the data is in the comparative database. Quite frankly I couldn't understand it.

In fact, the last category I think it was a shape factor one really if you click on that it really all it is a bunch of text messages. Could someone pull that up on the screen and just kind of walk through and explain the last two of the evaluation items that are on the website?

Do you understand?

Do you folks understand the question?

>> COMMISSIONER EID: I think I do. You're asking about the compactness measurement, correct?

>> Compactness and the shape factor, those two, if you could just educate at least me, hopefully the others that are online because I'm sure you folks are all familiar with that, but just explain what that information in that -- in those tabs show and how to interpret that. Thank you.

>> COMMISSIONER EID: So for shape factor we have the shape file on there. I believe is that what you're referring to, the link that says shape file?

>> Yeah, there are actually two. There is a file that is open I don't know whether it's a shape factor or the other one with a bunch of numbers and stuff but has a number of ways of evaluating like half a dozen or more or techniques used to determine the shape factor for each of the districts. And then there is the other, the last two that are in the evaluation tabs. Hopefully.

>> COMMISSIONER EID: So if you open the compactness report it tells you the compactness of the districts on a District-by-District basis. Now, there are three different scores that are included in this measurement. The first is called the Polsby, a little bit of a tongue twister, the Polsby Popper score. And the second is called the Schwartzberg and the third is called the Reock measurements and ways of assessing the same thing, how compact the District is. And someone please correct me if I'm wrong, but on all of these the higher the number, the closer to one it is, the more compact the District is. And, you know, the closer to zero, the less compact it is.

>> DONNA CALLAGHAN: Anthony you may want to direct them to the link that is on the top of the report. If he clicks on it says for more information on compactness calculations click here. And if you click there it gives a very nice visual explanation of what each one of these scores are about.

>> Thank you.

>> COMMISSIONER EID: Yes, I see that. If you click on that it's in blue, it will just as Commissioner Callaghan said, it gives you a kind of a more information on what goes into each measurement and what they're actually measuring.

>> Can you still hear me.

>> COMMISSIONER EID: Yes.

>> How important is that factor and also the shape factor in your determination or is that kind of like superfluous given the more important items of common areas of interest. I mean is that a factor at all?

That the use or are we close enough to where we need to be on the area we are reevaluating?

>> COMMISSIONER EID: Yeah, that is a great question. So compactness is certainly a factor. It is something we look at and that is why we include that type of assessment with our maps. But with that said it is the lowest of the seven ranked Michigan criteria. So the other criteria above it due take precedence. But nonetheless it is something we look at. It is something we consider, and you know if we can have all

of the other factors also met and get a more compact map, that would be, you know, that would be something we could look at.

>> Thank you.

>> COMMISSIONER EID:

>> MARCUS MULDOON: Looks like we have Kimberly next.

>> Hello. Can you hear me?

>> MARCUS MULDOON: Yep.

>> Well, my questions are the Commission, how did you get on it, why are we redrawing them?

I'm just like a blank here. I'm wondering what is the purpose?

How did this come about. Who decided who was going to be on the Commission. And it's just for Michigan?

Or is this for the Federal Congressional districts?

>> MARCUS MULDOON: As far as in 2018 there was the citizens of Michigan voted on doing a Commission just for Michigan is all we were drawing on. You had to put an application in with the state then it was a random draw.

>> Okay and the purpose of the redistricting is for what reason?

>> MARCUS MULDOON: Voting districts for the representatives of each area. For your area.

>> And how did this come about?

>> CHAIR ORTON: Could I just add something?

So redistricting has to be done each ten years along with the census cycle. Because population shifts. And so it's redistricted to reflect the population. And where people live. I just wanted to add that in.

>> Okay, so we haven't had it for ten years yet because you said you did it in 2018 and again in 2024.

>> MARCUS MULDOON: There were some maps that were challenged in courts.

>> So this is brought about by the lawsuit then, not.

>> MARCUS MULDOON: Correct.

>> Not the ten-year mark.

>> MARCUS MULDOON: Correct.

>> MR. EDWARD WOODS: Hold only just a second, excuse me, the redistricting happened because of a result of a ballot proposal in 2018 where more than 61% of Michiganders voted to have a normal, everyday citizens who are represented on this panel versus politicians to do the maps. And as a result of that, the Commission was formed. You have four people affiliated with the democratic party. Four people affiliated with the republican party. And five people who are not affiliated with the democrats or the republicans. And so redistricting is a Federal requirement that takes place every ten years with the census. So the reason why we have this Commission is because Michigan citizens voted for it.

>>Well, that's even more confusing because if it's a Federal law that we have to redistrict, how can the state decide to have their own just -- I'm confused.

>> MR. EDWARD WOODS: The state Constitution identifies how we do redistricting. And so with that constitutional amendment, they changed the process whereas before the Michigan legislature used to do it. It was now amended for citizens to do it. And that is what happened in 2018. And the Commission is limited to the Michigan State House, the Michigan State Senate, and the U.S. House of Representatives. It does not do it for the counties, and it does not do it for the cities. Just those three areas.

>> Okay, so when was the last lines drawn prior to 2018?

>> MR. EDWARD WOODS: 2010 by the legislature.

>> Okay.

>> MR. EDWARD WOODS: And they went into effect in 2012.

>> Okay.

>> MR. EDWARD WOODS: Or 2010, 2011.

>> Okay so now we are at our ten-year mark to draw them again.

>> MR. EDWARD WOODS: Right but mind you this, the ones they are doing now is as a result of a Court order. We did draw the lines and approved them in 2021 for the 2022 election cycle.

>>Okay.

>> MR. EDWARD WOODS: Thank you so much for addressing the Commission.

>> Thank you for hearing me.

>> COMMISSIONER EID: Okay, next up we have Dina.

>> MS. SARAH REINHARDT: Looks like they may have lowered their hand or left the meeting potentially. Nope, there they are.

>> COMMISSIONER EID: Still there, would you like to say something?

>> MS. SARAH REINHARDT: Dina, it looks like you lowered your hand again. If you are wanting to speak would you mind raising your hand again?

Thank you.

>> COMMISSIONER EID: There you go. All right we got her.

>> There we go now I'm unmuted. Can y'all hear me?

Okay great. You heard from me earlier today. And, again, I want to thank your efforts for this important task of redrawing these maps. I know it is challenging. And I spoke in whatever year it was 2022 or whenever we had the maps before. And the process was pretty easy. And I came here today multiple times to make an in-person comment only to find the Commission was on break. And I think it took me about three tries, maybe four, one every hour to make contact. I work from home. I'm very lucky to have that flexible schedule but I do have meetings. So I'm not available all the time. But there are a lot of people who don't work from home, right?

And who don't have that flexible scheduling and I really wish that they would have the same opportunity as I do to comment in person. Additionally, the link to this meeting

was challenging and it was buried on your website. It should not be that hard to find a link and could have a QR on your home Page instead of a subheading inside of a document. I just would like the Commission to consider expanding comment hours so that working people who don't have flexibility can make comment. And just to make it easier. My mom would never be able to find this link. Never. I know you know how important it is that you hear from everybody. And I just wanted to point out that it was very challenging for me. And I'm tech savvy and I have -- I probably have it the easiest. So thank you.

>> COMMISSIONER EID: Thank you, Dina. I will say we really are trying. That is definitely something we can improve on. But we are trying to be as accessible as possible to as many people as possible. But we can certainly do better. And we will improve on it. For our in-person meetings next week we have two that are in person. And they go all the way from the morning to the evening. So we are going to be at the greater grace temple off of 7-Mile on Wednesday, February 21st from 10:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. And then the next day, on Thursday, February 22nd, we are going to be at second Ebenezer church off of Dequindre again from 10:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. We are holding those hours, you know, we are trying to be there. So that just as you said working folks, people that don't have the luxury of working from home can hopefully come through after work or if they work a graveyard shift they can come before work. So please, you know, hope to see you there. Bring your friends. Bring your mom. We want to hear from her too. And you know we want to hear from as many people as possible.

>> CHAIR ORTON: I see that we have the flier up. This is the flier for today and our upcoming meetings. There is a QR code there. And hopefully that gets you right into the.

>> MR. EDWARD WOODS: The QR code is only for today.

>> CHAIR ORTON: Only for today. So then maybe we can work on making sure that the sign-up information is accessible for when people want to attend remotely to our in-person meetings.

>> COMMISSIONER EID: And, Edward, next week people can just show up, there is no need to sign up in advance or anything.

>> MR. EDWARD WOODS: I believe as long as the public comment is open for in-person, they will be able to speak. But I would like Ms. Reinhardt just to make sure I get it right with regards to not just in person but also for remote.

>> MS. SARAH REINHARDT: Are you speaking to when the cutoff is for a hearing?

>> MR. EDWARD WOODS: I'm speaking to both remote in terms of when they can sign up, does that end an hour before or how long can they sign up for remote and then as well as in person?

>> MS. SARAH REINHARDT: I see. Sure, so typically in the past for hearings, for in-person public comment there is an actual hour designated for when the public



comment sign up concludes. For regular meetings your Executive Director is correct. It's during the public comment portion on the agenda. Which anyone can find the agenda at Michigan.gov/MICRC. It's usually five or six minutes after the meeting first starts. And folks can sign up for public comment during live in-person meeting, at any point during that agenda item. But once that agenda item concludes and the Commission goes on to the next item, public comment is closed. For virtual a remote public comment we do need to know the names of individuals who have signed up in advance just to be able to like facilitate that. So the sign up for remote public comment ends one hour before the meeting start time. And if you're looking for written out instructions about public comment, everything I just described is detailed in the meeting notice which is also posted online either right next to right above I think the agenda where those are posted in the meeting notices and materials Section of the website.

>> MARCUS MULDOON: Is that also for the 21st and 22nd, since it goes all day is there a sign-up time?

>> MS. SARAH REINHARDT: Yeah, so that would be contained in the agenda for the public hearing. But, yeah, there is typically like a time range whenever you all are hearing public comment because the hearings are just a little bit different than a regular meeting in that they are really designed similar to the town hall to receive that public comment. So you usually have like a set period during which public comment will occur. So it's not just like when that agenda item concludes. It's really like I don't know what the hours will be but say 10:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. or something like that. So individuals would need to get there by 6:00 p.m. to provide public comment. But you can also provide virtual public comment during those hearings. So what we typically do is when the hearing begins we will have a list of individuals who have signed up for virtual public comment and we always let folks who are there in person speak first. And then get to virtual public comment after all of the in-person has concluded.

>> COMMISSIONER EID: Wonderful. I did not realize we also had virtual public comment on the two in person days. So that's great to hear. So we are going to be in person next week and folks can also they can't make it in person, they can Zoom in like how Ms. Reinhardt just went over. Dina, did you have something to add?  
I see your hand is still up.

>> I'm looking on that agenda to, you know, found the thing again. And I'm seeing an agenda for today and I see the agendas for the past but I don't see any future agendas. Is that something you don't release until it gets closer?

Or am I not looking in the right place?

I'm looking on the Page that says it says meeting and notices and materials and you scroll down and see the 2023 then you see the redistricting comments and you scroll down a little more and see 2024 and it says it's a remote town hall and says the 8th and the 1st.

>> MS. SARAH REINHARDT: I'm happy to answer that the meeting notices for the public hearings next week should be posted tomorrow. So you are in the right spot they are just not up there yet but they will be tomorrow so you can check back.

>> Is there a -- will it always be like a week before or do you have any criteria as to when it's supposed to be just like a regular meeting.

>> MS. SARAH REINHARDT: Sure, I believe that the Commission's rules of procedure are consistent with the Michigan Open Meetings Act which requires at least 18 hours' notice for posting like a meeting notice online prior to the meeting. The Commission usually posts all of their meeting notices well before that. But that's like the standard timeframe.

>> Great, thank you.

>> MARCUS MULDOON: Looks like pierce ward has his hand up.

>> I have another quick question. This might sound kind of inappropriate, but I have to ask it. How does this address the issue of gerrymandering?

>> COMMISSIONER EID: I don't think that is inappropriate at all. I think that is a great question. And I think a little of the question, it depends who you ask, right? And in most states around the country and how it was in Michigan before the ballot proposal passed in 2018 the legislature drew the districts. And like I said in most states around the country the state legislature that's already in power draw the districts. Now, I think when most people think of the word gerrymandering some people have different definitions of it.

but I know when I think of what the word gerrymandering means it's the people in power whether it be republicans or democrats because they both do it but the people in power drawing District lines that benefit themselves.

So what the proposal did in 2018 was it took that power out of the hands of the legislature to draw maps and instead put it in the hands of this Commission. And this Commission as I think you heard earlier is comprised of 13 randomly selected Michigan voters. There are about 10,000 applicants. And of those 10,000 random drawing process was taken. And you got us. And we have those criteria to kind of guide us. They act as our guidebook on how we make sure we don't gerrymander like how has happened in the past. Does that answer your question?

>> Yeah, that definitely clarifies things for me. I'm a political news junky so I kind of follow this stuff religiously every day to the fact sometimes I have to give myself a rest and go watch a cartoon or something.

>> COMMISSIONER EID: No, it's a great question. I'm glad the answer was helpful because this is confusing stuff. Honestly and most people don't know about it, right? People are living their everyday lives and go to work and going home and trying to take care of their family, I don't know, most people don't know about this stuff. But it's a great question. And I hope the people listening heard it as well.

>> Well thanks for the clarification. Well it helps I'm retired so I have lots of time on my hands, so I appreciate it. Thank you.

>> COMMISSIONER EID: Yeah, you should apply next time it comes around. Maybe you can be selected next time. Although I hope we don't scare you off. I see a couple new names in the chat that I didn't see during my session earlier. David or Ramsey, Ruth Johnson, do any of y'all want to say anything?

How about we give it a couple more minutes maybe to 6:30, and if nobody wants to say anything we break until 7:00. Okay we got a couple now. Ruth Johnson.

>> Good evening everyone my name is Ruth Johnson. I'm the public policy director at community development advocates of Detroit. First of all I appreciate this opportunity to listen and learn. I also want to shout out Mr. Woods for presenting to CDAD members last week. And just, you know, communications we've had, I've seen improvements in the information available. What my question is, and I know Ms. Reinhardt talked about this but I'm still not clear what to tell someone about the February 21st and 22nd public hearings?

When should they come and what should they do if they want public comment?

That's one question. What should they do if they come and they just don't know anything at all, will there be a presentation just to explain, you know, why are we doing this and some other things?

I did try my best to do a guide for CDAD members. I sent it out about two hours ago. But this is not easy for folks who are not like me and some other people who may be policy geeks and news junkies. So the first question is when to come?

How to do public comment?

And how if they come to the public hearings how they can just get basic information or if they have spec questions?

>> MR. EDWARD WOODS: Thank you, Ms. Johnson for your comments. If you come to in-person the doors will open at 9:30 at each of the facilities. Greater grace as well as second Ebenezer and you can sign up to provide public comments. In the past as long as there is public comments taking place, you can sign up in person. There is no cutoff for in-person public comments. We are done at 8:00 p.m. So if you're not signed up by that time, that would be the only time that you would get cutoff. But if you come at 10 we will be there from 10-1 at both facilities, 2-5 and 6-8. So there is a break from 1-2 and then a break from 5-6 so please encourage people to come at either 10 to 1, 2-5 and 6-8 to provide public comments in person. As long as public comments are taking place the Commission will hear you. Obviously there is a break at one so if we do a break at one we will go in order. Next in line starting at 2:00 we have another break at 5:00. If we will go next in order starting at 6:00. But once public comment whether once public comment ends at 8:00 and unless people are not talking before that as long as public comment is taking place in that last Section and it's before 8:00 you can sign up at that time.

>> So I see there is still some room at the bottom of the flier. Can you put all that down that public comment will be taken during those period of time. That whether or not there will be some physical maps that people can look at, whether there are people to answer questions. Seems like there is room at the bottom of the flier that could be utilized to provide more guidance to people who again may not know what to expect.

>> MR. EDWARD WOODS: Sure, we can definitely consider that.

>> And you did hear one of my members was sort of put off by seeing the host pastor for, you know, as a Christian it's great to know who the pastor is but for people who may not want that consider taking that off and it's just being these locations are just locations and they are not services or affiliated with any religious content.

>> MR. EDWARD WOODS: Thank you for that.

>> MARCUS MULDOON: Looks like we have James Gallant next.

>> Okay, can you hear me now.

>> MARCUS MULDOON: Yes, sir.

>> All right. Thank you, sir and welcome to the Commission. I hope you got up to speed. James Gallant, Marquette County Suicide Prevention Coalition, these are my opinions. And I hope you got up to speed about the way that this Commission is started as a new Commissioner. And, first, I guess we are talking about process here. So I would just like to bring to your attention that I am personally successful in suicide prevention, and I do not have a score of zero. So there is a fundamental trauma informed care, pharma informed practices, and that is to understand an individual's position in this world, where they are standing in this world and to protect that person's rights. It appears that this Commission is not protecting the rights of Commissioner Kellom as a trauma survivor. It's easier for her to go along with the crowd and not fight the bullies because Mike Brady said motion second, that's how it comes before the Commission. You are to withdraw a motion rule right now, says when a motion has been made and seconded and then in parentheses it says which starts discussion, okay, you don't do that at all. You just facilitate it off without a motion pending. And even the facilitation rule says under the direction of the Chair, the Vice Chair may facilitate the issue under the Commission's -- under review of the Commission. It's not before the Commission, before the motion. It's just not there. And you just do it. And I believe this violates the rights of the members. And, you know, people just go along with it. They fall into it because this is how trauma informed people with trauma, they go to the people who are overstepping their authority, and they go along with it and that is what is happening here I believe. I think we should review this to where you start following the rules because this is in every like the lady they were talking about, the charter Commission, the City Commission, 10,000 board meetings across the state today. And they all do something different just like you folks are doing, you make it up on the fly when you should be following the Robert Rules. That is the way this country was built and that is why, because of Robert's Rules. That is the way that our House of

Representatives works. That is how our civil society works. And people come in and said, no. We are going to push this revolutionary, you know, reform thing about consensus decision making. And that is going to be our case in controversy at the Supreme Court. That is what I'm bringing. That this consensus decision making process is a different form of Government. You did it with the oath of office to follow our Constitution. And that consensus decision making process that you do is a different form of Government. That is Marxism and socialism, that is the way that works. They have to get the coalition together and then they get a proposal and then they approve it at the end. It's completely backwards from capitalism we do it in America. It looks like I'm just going to have to go to the Supreme Court and tell them I was here and trying to work it out with you. And you could converse with me right now to figure out how to switch this around. It's a little late now. And, yeah, I think it's amazing. And I think it's vulnerable adult abuse. We have vulnerable adults here. Some people have physical conditions, pain in their life. And it's pain just trying to have to deal with this and to deal with talking about something you don't know what the question is. You will find out at the end and someone there zoom in there and change the question right at the end. Bam. Commissioner Lett probably. And he has done this over and over and over. And I tell you, this is going to be my presentation to them. This is a completely just...it's like the, you know, you know the definition of reasonable when you see it but you do know the reason, the part about, you know, you can understand the obscenity too when you see it. Defined. This is obscene how you are going against our Constitution. So we need to stop this and turn this around and just please hire a parliamentarian and get an official report, analysis, and get the director of the management and budget and should be -- why are you housed in the executive Branch?

It says in the Constitution housing legislature. This is just improving backwards. So we should get the Attorney General and do a special meeting so we can just get a list and ask the Attorney General and get a few answers from people at the top. And of the Auditor General spoke to, Edward said you were going to identify the rules of procedure and whether you follow those procedures that you had approved. That is in the minutes in the transcripts, that was while the motion was pending, there was a question. He said that's what the auditor general is going to do, and auditor general did not do that. They said only financial, but it's in the transcripts that that's not what they did. Let's do a special meeting and can work it out and have a little less to go to Court for because I'm really going for that, and I think that's the...

>> COMMISSIONER EID: Thank you, James. You know, that was a really nice comment. I really actually appreciate what you said just now. There are people, you know, might be experiencing all sorts of things. None of us live in each other's shoes and we should be cognizant of that. We did also find that vote you were looking for on the pledge of allegiance. That was April 8th, '2021. If you want to go back and look.

Okay so I see we have a few more people, but I believe they have already spoken and used their time; is that correct?

>> MARCUS MULDOON: I believe so, until the next hour.

>> COMMISSIONER EID: Okay, so you Richard and Ruth you guys are more than happy to take your next turn at 7:00. In between now and then, is there anyone new who would like to speak?

I see it looks like Shirley has jumped on to the call. Mary from Dearborn has jumped on to the call. And I see a Casey. Hey, there we go Cassy. Maybe not. They had their hand up and then they took it down. If you want to speak, please put your hand up so we can unmute you.

>> MARCUS MULDOON: There you go.

>> COMMISSIONER EID: There we go.

>> I couldn't unmute, and I was saying I'm only here to get information and to gain clarity. I didn't have anything further to add so I heard my name mentioned and I was here to get more information.

>> COMMISSIONER EID: Is there any more information that you need?

>> No, I just feel that it's been a little disjointed in terms of how to advocate for all of this. So I try to attend as many sessions as I can to gain clarity as to what I can do as an advocate in this moment. In the first redistricting conversation a few years ago I was really involved, I gave testimony and all those things. But I don't know how I -- how I'm able to support and correct if a way that is informed. So I'm trying to make sure that I do that. And good to see you, Anthony.

>> COMMISSIONER EID: Well, and if you don't want to answer this is cool but like what would help us is learning about your community. So like you can tell us where you live, where you see your community as being, you know, what neighborhoods perhaps that are a part of that community of interest. That would be the first thing I would recommend. Then the second thing I would recommend would be to go to our website and take a look at the maps that we have up. And let us know which one you like best.

>> Okay great. I will do that, thank you.

>> COMMISSIONER EID: Well if there are no new speakers how about we take a break until 7:00. Then we will have our last hour from 7:00 to 8:00. Does that work for everyone?

>> CHAIR ORTON: Okay, I don't see any objections, so we will take a break until 7:00. Thank you, Anthony.

>> COMMISSIONER EID: Thanks for doing this.

>> MARCUS MULDOON: Thank you.

>> COMMISSIONER EID: Let's go.

[ Recess until 7:00 p.m. ]



>> CHAIR ORTON: We are back from break. And for this hour Commissioner Vallette and I will be facilitating. I want to thank Commissioners Eid and Muldoon for doing a great job in the past hour. And so I am Cynthia Orton. I live in Battle Creek, and I affiliate as a republican on the Commission. Commissioner Vallette?

>> COMMISSIONER VALLETTE: I'm Commissioner Vallette. I live in Highland Township. And I'm unaffiliated.

>> CHAIR ORTON: So on behalf of the Commission we would like to thank everyone for taking time out of your schedule to assist the Commission in drawing fair maps with citizen input. And if you have something to say to the Commission, please raise your virtual hand and we will see that and we will call on you. You have five minutes to address the Commission. This hour. And we would love for it to be in relation to the maps that we are currently working on, that we have proposed draft maps out there. There are nine collaborative maps that the Commission has drawn and one independent map from Commissioner Szetela that is posted on our website. Which is [www.Michigan.gov/MICRC](http://www.Michigan.gov/MICRC). That's where you can find all of the maps and the information about them. Looks like we have a couple hands up. So Ruth Johnson.

>> Thank you my name is Ruth Johnson from community development advocates of Detroit. In the previous session I asked three questions, I only heard a response to one. The other was the two other are -- will there be someone at the February 21st and 22nd public hearings just to provide people who come with just general information or to respond to questions?

And the other question or comment is will there be some physical maps available so people can look at them with someone who can help them understand to this day I can't tell you what a shape file is, but I think it's important. But, yeah, again what I said before I paid to do this and I still don't get it but think about someone who takes time off of work, brings their child or gets child care, what can we do to make it the best experience and so they feel that they are about to contribute or at least be knowledgeable or aware about the process. So a person to help people explain, understand, as well as the presence of physical maps.

>> CHAIR ORTON: Okay so, Ruth, let me explain. At the in-person public hearings we are going to have three feet by four feet maps printed out of each of our ten maps that are out for public comment that people can actually walk up to and see. And we will have someone there outside the or wherever they will be, there will be there for technical help. And to answer questions. They will be able to help people if people want to go on our public portal and make a comment. They will be able to explain shape files, any of those issues that you raised they should be able to explain all of that. Director Woods, do you have anything to add?

>> MR. EDWARD WOODS: I think you covered it, but, yes, there is four by three, and ten maps and you is a saw one that is done and will get the other nine done in time for our meeting. As I shared last week in the presentation, we will have someone at

both places for people if they would like to make a comment to the Commission, they can go to the map or the mapper will do the comment and then they will forward it to his colleague so they can use the map to address the Commission so no one has to know shape files or anything like that. We will have someone on staff that will do it for them. And then we will also provide an intro at the beginning of the public hearings to share why we are here and to kind of give a little bit of a background. And it's something similar to the talking points we provided last week to the group where the front or the back had the some talking points about the Commission and where we are right now. We would have that similar presentation that is on the back of the public hearing flier that announced tonight's virtually town hall meeting and announce the public hearing meetings. So we can also make sure we provide a one sheet, or we can get that done for next week as well to provide as much help as we can. I know we can't do everything, but we are going to do our best to make sure that we provide some clarity and some instruction. So as people come they know what to do and how to ensure that their voice is raised. I want to thank Ruth Johnson because she has been a tireless advocate for those who are new to the redistricting process or may not know in terms of giving us these ideas as we continue to do our outreach activities. She is not the only one that has raised this, and we are trying to respond as quickly as we can. We do plan Ms. Johnson, to do more education after the House maps are complete and before we do the Senate maps, happy to do more education of the Detroit area as relates to redistricting process because it is a complex topic. And hopefully in between those two sessions when the Commission is doing the House and the Senate we can help as many people as possible to learn more about the redistricting process. But we are doing our level best right now between now and the public hearings during the public hearings and then after the public hearings takes place for the House and before we start again with the Michigan State Senate.

>> This is certainly good news and I appreciate all that's being done. I do find, you know, I make suggestions and they are heard. You have the capacity to do it. A couple more suggestions with the maps I hear clearly from people they need streets at least major streets because looking at a map without seeing the dividing lines or understanding what they are. So I would ask if you have not already blown it up or if you can add the streets. But also maybe on the hour or even every half hour do not end the main public meeting but maybe in a side room just a review. Because again not everybody can get there at the very beginning of a two- or three-hour session. So keep up the good work. And I look forward to seeing what's going on on the 21st and 22nd.

>> CHAIR ORTON: Thank you for your suggestions and questions, Ruth.

>> COMMISSIONER VALLETTE: So we do have a person who has spoke earlier today. He would like to speak again. So Anthony Scannell, wait a moment for our staff to unmute you.

>> Thank you, Commission. I'll say again I like District 1 that I'm concerned with. And all the configurations, so whichever you choose from my District's perspective I'm totally fine with it. I think Melvindale belongs a little bit with Allen Park and Lincoln Park than with Dearborn, but we can go either way. And I just got back from Taylor, my grandma agrees Taylor has to be made whole. It doesn't make any sense, that is what she said. Makes no sense. And I think it's fine, it's within the per view. It's within the scope. It's adjacent to adjacent District you're changing. And so yeah, Taylor, make Taylor whole again, thank you.

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

>> CHAIR ORTON: And thank your grandma for addressing the Commission through you.

>> COMMISSIONER VALLETTE: Yep, thank grandma. We have 11 people attending. Is there anyone here who has not spoken who would like to? If you have like I said if you are here you are interested. You may have some questions that you have been wanting to ask but maybe are too shy or but now is the chance.

>> CHAIR ORTON: And I did see a hand up.

>> COMMISSIONER VALLETTE: I did too.

>> CHAIR ORTON: I think maybe they dropped off. While we wait for someone else to come up with their question or comment maybe it would be good to show again the website and how to get to each of the maps and what information you could see there. If you don't mind, Director Woods. So here is our website. [Www.Michigan.gov/MICRC](http://www.Michigan.gov/MICRC). You can see the four circles, buttons that you can push. And if you scroll down you can also see where the under public engagement the public comment portal and the mapping comment portal. You can get to the maps by clicking the mapping comment portal or up here, the button, the 2024 draft proposed maps. And you can scroll through and see each draft proposed map that is out for public comment. You can click on where it says map to see the map. You can click on the various buttons to see the different information, the population. The VRA analysis. VRA data. Partisan fairness, the compactness score and shape files if you want to go in depth. You can look at each of the different maps. If we go back Director Woods to the home Page and if we click on the mapping comment portal, and here you can see the four buttons over to the right. You can see the plan, if you click on that, you can see the actual map. You can also see the other information if you click on those. If you click on the next one, it compares the map to the Hickory, which is the current map configuration which is shown as an overlay. So you can see how each District changed. Might be of interest to some people. And then the next one you can download the shape files. And then the last one is probably maybe the most of use to people. If you click on that one, it will bring up the map, we showed this earlier. You can Zoom in to the Detroit area that we are redistricting and you can click on a certain place.

You can add a comment about a specific area. You can also up in the search address bar you can put in your address, or any address and it will take you right to that address so you will be able to see what District it's in. What it looks like around that area. And comment on. And like has been said earlier today the more specific the comments are, the more useful they are to us to be able to use in the redistricting process. Thank you, Director Woods.

>> MR. EDWARD WOODS: Ware tribe investment group then they are gone. I'm sorry Ware tribe.

>> COMMISSIONER VALLETTE: Yeah.

>> CHAIR ORTON: If anyone is wanting to make a comment or ask a question, raise your virtual hand. That is how we can be alerted to unmute you. Commissioner Weiss, you have something?

>> COMMISSIONER WEISS: Yes. Mr. Scannell maybe we have to get him back. He keeps talking about Taylor being redone. I don't believe in any of the maps we touched Taylor. That might be in the original Hickory map that was drawn. And I guess that's what I'm asking is that is what he is referring to?

I think it is. But I'm not, you know, 100% sure. Maybe that is what he is referring to. We didn't change Hickory in any of the new maps, it was in the original or I should say I mean Taylor in the map. And maybe if we could get him back to ask that, thank you.

>> CHAIR ORTON: Okay, Commissioner Kellom?

>> COMMISSIONER KELLOM: Thank you, Commissioner Orton. Commissioner Weiss I believe, and I could be incorrect that Anthony Scannell is talking about keeping Taylor whole. And, you know, we did work or I will take ownership for that one. I did try to do that in the river walk map. But it turned out to be a map, if I remember correctly we all talked about it and were not really in favor of but it's on our website even with the negative feedback that we gave as a Commission for that map. And we didn't like the numbers when all the partisan fairness and all that stuff was run. So I could be in error, but I believe he is not necessarily talking about that map. But what I think that I heard him say is Taylor could be kept whole in the way, in a way that it has not been.

>> COMMISSIONER WEISS: The reason I asked I looked at a bunch of the other maps while we are talking, and it looks like the Taylor area is pretty much the same. I mean I can't see all of it so I'm assuming he means it in the Hickory map, not any of the other ones was my thought. Maybe he can shed some light on that. I see his hand is up.

>> CHAIR ORTON: I see his hand is up. We can take that one right now. And let me just say while he is joining or not being you have added an I to his name and made him Mr. Scannelli but I think it's Scannell and you are trying to turn him into Italian.

>> We will celebrate it in the Scannell family, and I don't know about Scannelli, and I think Taylor is split between 27 and 28 or one of those two and it's the north and the south parts of the City are both with communities to itself. And I think both of those

districts extend into Monroe County. Whereas the City of Taylor in itself is almost just enough to comprise a District. And that was what Commissioner Kellom was working on. I think it was called hustle hard, but it was not chosen to be advanced to the public comment right now. And I think the change could be made applicable to any map that you choose if you chose to make that change. And maybe the partisan fairness analysis, it wasn't, I'll just state, I don't think it was very thorough because maybe the numbers you know point to a certain direction but just my instinct of knowing the area says that it will make it more fair.

>> CHAIR ORTON: So can I ask a question, Mr. Scannell? Have you looked at the river walk map that is out for public comment? Because, when I look at it, it looks to me like it is whole in that one.

>> Great, let's take a look, river walk, opening it right now.

>> Your conference is already in progress for ten hours, 41 minutes, press pound or star to continue the conference, otherwise your conference will end in 45 minutes.

>> I don't know what all that is but hustle hard was not advanced and river walk is split.

>> CHAIR ORTON: Is it split I'm not seeing the whole map right now.

>> The last two southern miles of Taylor are in 28, most of it is in 29.

>> CHAIR ORTON: Okay thank you. I can't see that part of the map on what I have on my screen right now.

>> COMMISSIONER EID: What was interesting on that one, the hustle hard one is when we ran the partisan fairness metrics on that, somehow it made it worse. Which is why we didn't move it forward. I know that people are saying that might make it better but when I actually ran the metrics it made it worse.

and it was surprising to me it made it worse, but I don't know maybe there is another way to do it where it doesn't make it worse.

>> CHAIR ORTON: Thank you for coming back on, Anthony and Mr. Scannell and we appreciate your comments to the Commission.

>> COMMISSIONER VALLETTE: We see that Mr. Gallant is back and he has his hand up. So Mr. Gallant, please allow us to unmute you.

>> Okay. Can you hear me now?

>> COMMISSIONER VALLETTE: Yes, we can.

>> Okay, James Gallant, thank you, these are my opinions. And shout out to AKA Anthony Scannelli long time participating and that's good. That is part of the problem is having such short public comment. He has been chop, chop, chopped up and it doesn't really get coherent. He had three minutes, you know, three, maybe three and a half minutes people can get a few things out and would be better from now on I think. And so I would like to final, you know, part here to talk about if you could please do the special meeting. Let's do a special meeting about rules of procedure, are you following Robert's Rules of Order, Mike Brady. Where is Mike Brady and supposed to be the



parliamentarian Sarah says. But the orientation materials that you posted on the Internet, they do not go anywhere. It goes to private association, homeowner association thing saying that you have to have a password to get the documents. So could you just get those documents for us and post them on the website? This has been three years now and I have not been able to get the documents I've been asking for. And so if you can just get them to us, there is a couple, two, three of them. And we need those because it talks about Robert's Rules. This is the part about how the misinformation about what the rules are. Because, you know, your orientation materials were approved, it says on the front Page, by Department of State. Michigan State University. Michigan State University and University of Michigan and the Princeton gerrymandering project. Sam-Wang. And do you know what? That is exactly what they did. Sam Wang, I believe he is the one that implemented this and said, hey, we are going to gerrymander the rules, that's what we are going to do. That's how you ended up with this. So, please, have that because, you know, right on the like the published orientation materials right now, like I said, it says motion to table kills a motion. That is absolutely a false statement. That is slander against Robert's Rules, against general Henry Roberts because that is not true. And they explain that in the book because they said this has been misused. We have been getting the reports about this and that is a misuse of this. But if you published that in there so people do that. They do that now because they read your rules. It's not even information. You did not give everybody a copy of the book of the actual rules you had to follow. And it says you have to follow them in all instances that do not or are consistent with state law, right. But you don't do it. I mean, let's get the parliamentarian, get the actual certified person analyze it and say did you do it?

Mike Brady said you must follow Robert's Rules. Did that actually happen?

Right from the beginning. Because the board of state canvassers and he was testifying and he said, like Winnie the Pooh says, what we need to do is start at the beginning because Commissioner Lett...

>> CHAIR ORTON: Mr. Gallant, I have a question. You said on the website when you clicked on I can't remember what you are referring to that it did not go to what it was supposed to. It went to some homeowner's association you have to log into. Can you tell us specifically where that is, so we make sure we get the right thing on the website?

>> MS. SARAH REINHARDT: I can actually answer that. He is referring to the orientation packet that you all received on your first day of being a Commissioner. The links are really old at this point. They initially directed to a document that was public facing, they no longer do. That is not our organization so there is really not a lot we can do about it.

>> CHAIR ORTON: Oh, I see.

>> And that...that was never there, Madam Chair. That was I went there right at the beginning two years ago. It was never there. What do you mean the association exists



and they published a new updated version of that document from the one that you published. They have another one, the next year by a different person about Robert's Rules and that organization actually does exist and that is not a true statement, and I can't believe she just said that. Now do the research for yourself please Madam Chair. People are telling you something and don't know what they are talking about at all because if you go right now to the link in your orientation materials, go back to September 17th, 2020. The original that you got there, if you go on those links it will say you need a password to get into this private, nonprofit organization. It's the homeowner thing. There is a medical association thing. And it's all about not following Robert's Rules it's about consensus decision making. That is what you push, that is what you trained to do exactly the op it of Robert's Rules, but you were ordered that is why Mike Brady said that to you. Under the Constitution you are required to follow Robert's Rules of Order that is the only reason he was there to say anything to you under the Constitution you are required, and you said Madam Chair it's not in the Constitution it's not but it's common law in America. Parliamentary law and go to different meetings in different parts of time and got a right to make a motion and discussion that is because it's all in Robert's Rules that is the way our society works and you have seem to have agreed with everybody that you're just going to I can't believe you are like you would like to suggest to them why you are the Chair? That's like you surrender you know and given them ages.

>> COMMISSIONER VALLETTE: Thank you for addressing the Commission. Do we have anyone else who would like to speak?

We would love to hear from you.

>> CHAIR ORTON: It does look like we have a couple. I don't know how to pronounce but Nagi is my guess. Please address the Commission and correct me if I pronounce your name wrong.

>> No, you got it absolutely correct. Are you able to hear me?

>> CHAIR ORTON: Yes.

>> Okay all right perfect good evening everybody. As you mentioned yes my name is Nagi. And I actually came to this great country more than now 40 years ago.

In fact, it was in this month in 1981 when I came in from a country far, far away called Yemen and I came in when I was 7 years old and I remember very clearly that day because when we came in and we landed in the airport I saw this white stuff on the ground and I remember as a little kid I was thinking what in God's name is that? You know?

And immediately I'm like okay do you know what?

I love this place. And when I found out I said snow had never entered my brain there is something called snow. So long story short, 40 years later yes I don't love the snow as much as I did that day. But I still love the south end. That is where I lived when I came from America. And I excuse me when I came from Yemen, and I lived there I said

almost 20 years. And I still have family that lives there. And my point, Commissioners is I wanted to make is this: We -- there is a huge Yemeni American immigrant family immigrant families that live there in the south end. And some of the issues that we faced when I came to the U.S. 40 years ago we are still dealing with them,000. And unfortunately I mean we live in a great country, but we always have excuse me we have room for improvement. And we don't have the necessary or requisite representation unfortunately. Not in local Government, not in state Government. And the point I wanted to make is regarding District 3 in Melvindale. If you look at like the populations there, they are very similar to each other. And by the way I just want to say something, I'm not part of any organization or part of any group. I'm just your normal American citizen that works his normal 9-5 and just tries to do the best he can. But my point is: Keeping Melvindale in District 3 I think is the most logical and sensible thing to do because like I said they very similar in socioeconomic backgrounds. Very similar in terms of ethnicities, very similar in terms of like I said a huge immigrant population. And so it really makes a lot of sense. And I hope and I urge you guys to keep it that way. And that's all I have to say. Thank you so much. If I took too long, I really do appreciate your time and you have a wonderful, wonderful evening.

>> CHAIR ORTON: You did not take too much time. Thank you for addressing the Commission. And.

>> COMMISSIONER VALLETTE: Next in line is Salah-Ali. Please allow our staff a moment to unmute you.

>> I think you unmuted me my name is Samraa-Luqman instead of Salah did you want me to go next or do you want him to try.

>> COMMISSIONER VALLETTE: You are already unmuted, and you can go ahead and go.

>> I'm in environment M activist. I lived in Dearborn Michigan the south end of Dearborn all my life on behalf of the Arab American community here I'm urging the Commissioners to keep District 3 and 15 as they originally had been drafted in 2022 and without changing them. Both districts provide an advocate represent takes of our COI and give us a chance of having equitable representation in the state. First changing this concentrates and consolidates areas of west Dearborn as is being proposed. That have limited socioeconomic environmental or health similarities with the current population and some areas of District 3. Faced with higher and extremely more condensed populations, higher poverty levels and de facto via red lines and segregation increased environmental health impacts from proliferation through urban renewal in the south and east of Dearborn and Melvindale and Detroit. West Dearborn with multi million homes thriving expensive corridor and higher income brackets has limited similarity with the current District except making it easier for nonminority candidates with wealthy donors from the west end to wipe out chances that the population has in getting representation that prioritizes afore mentioned issues and it purposely dilutes in

Melvindale and Dearborn Heights. Melvindale is fifth in the state with 20% of its population being Arab American. By lumping it in with park, a City that is not even listed in the top one hundred in the State of Michigan for its number of Arab American residents. It also dilutes remaining Arab Americans in District 15 ensuring they will not see a minority representative out of Dearborn Heights. I have common in Melvindale and live a few feet from the refinery and steel mill and the worst air in the nation than those living five miles away. The people who have a thousand homes than the millionaires in Dearborn and west Dearborn and more in common of Melvindale than Arabs in the west in. Changing the boundaries concentrating Arab Americans in a new District and diluting the rest in the others. The proposed changes would be gerrymandering in and of itself and deny Arab Americans from Melvindale from having an equitable chance of representation. And considering that we are the largest fastest growing minority in the county whereas we currently stand right now at having a chance of three representatives. This is by definition what redistricting at the foundational elements is sought to E bait and we are not oblivious to. If it transpires and bend to the pressures and seek to provide nominal representation to the community I can promise it will not go unchallenged in the courts the courts upheld District 3 and 15 as legally viable we are asking you not to touch those districts. That the courts specifically asked you not to change. Thank you.

>> COMMISSIONER VALLETTE: Thank you very much for addressing the Commission. Salah are you there?

Did you want to speak?

Okay, just wait a minute and we will unmute you.

>> Hi, can you hear me.

>> COMMISSIONER VALLETTE: Yes we can.

>> Hi this is Salah-Ali and live in 48912 zip code in south Dearborn in the area that is highly concentrated in poor environmental quality. I'm here to advocate in keeping the District 3 as is. And if there are any changes to consider keeping 48120 portion of District 3 tied with the 48126 as well as Melvindale. The reasons you just mentioned from the last speaker this is a population that's underrepresented and has similar socioeconomic status. We have similar issues with the environment and when we advocate for legislation and policies it's only constituents that undergo the same concerns that are able to have a stronger voice. If the District gets divided we are going to be marginalized further marginalized than we are currently today. And in our current state we are already combatting serious issues and having environmental laws, environmental policies and environmental ordinances in our local Government and trying to pass equitable enforcement to improve the quality of life. And I urge the Commission to understand these impacts by redistricting and taking away Melvindale, a much-marginalized community from District 3 and segregating 48126 from 48120 because it only makes it more detrimental to a society that's already marginalized. So I

hope you guys really consider this in your assessment when looking at the District and at a bare minimum keeping District 3 as is. And at best including 48126 with 48120 along with the Melvindale community and any part of your mapping. Thank you.

>> COMMISSIONER VALLETTE: Thank you, thank you for addressing the Commission. Anybody else?

>> CHAIR ORTON: As was said earlier we do have translators available if anybody's wanting to provide public comment but not English, then we would be able to accommodate that. Well, we have about 20 minutes left. So while we see if any of these last attendees want to provide public comment, Director Woods, would you share our flier and explain one more time about our upcoming in-person public hearings?

>> MR. EDWARD WOODS:

>> CHAIR ORTON: Oh, you are muted.

>> MR. EDWARD WOODS: Public hearings will take place next week, Wednesday, February 21. Once again if you would like to address the Commission the doors will open at 9:30. From 10-1 there will be a break from 1-2 and go from 2-5 there is a break from 5-6 and then 6-8 it will take place at greater grace temple 23000 west 7-Mile Road Detroit Michigan 48219 on February 22 second Ebenezer at 14601Dequindre Street and come out and the doors open at 9:30. If you provide remote comment you must sign up at 9:00 a.m. on both days if you plan to provide remote public comment F you plan to provide in-person comment as long as the Commission is accepting -- is hearing public comment you can do that. But it will not extend past 8:00 p.m. Depending how many people are there. It will not extend past 8:00 p.m. So we really want to encourage you. We have an active social media campaign. You will see things printed in the newspaper this week. We will be on radio starting tomorrow. So there is a lot of push, there has been a lot of public meetings with regards to that. So we definitely, definitely, definitely want to encourage you to participate. We want to thank our firms, who are helping us, both McConnell communications and 98 forward in terms of getting the word out in the Metro Detroit area. So once again, once again Wednesday and Thursday are our public hearings. We will have each of the maps on a four foot by three-foot poster. For those that want to get into the street level I encourage you to come and talk to the person that we will have with the maps. So that you can see the street level because it's much easier to see it on a computer because of the Zooming function versus trying to get all of that on the poster. But it will be a substantial size on the poster. It will not be small. I will be four foot by three foot so you will get a chance to see it. But if you want to go deeper, the best spot to go is on our website on the computer, hitting draft proposed maps and then each of the names of those ten maps nine collaborative, one independent, if you hit that comment Section, you will be able to go to my districter and Zoom in and Zoom out so you can see it and will also be able to put a comment on that mapping comment portal as relates to how you feel your community of interest would best be represented. So there will be a flurry of activity.

We welcome each and every one of you to come out. We encourage you to come out. If you have questions, I repeat if you have any questions regarding the mapping process I invite you to call 866-map fair. 866-map fair. And let me pull up that number for you, if you have any questions you can call it. And that will work it's 866-map fair. And that is 866-627-3247. I repeat 866-627-3247. And we can get your questions answered. Thank you so much for the engagement, the Commissioners have been here since 9:00 a.m. 9:00 a.m. But all of this was to ensure democracy works. And that the Commission draws fair maps with citizen input so please, please, please take advantage of your opportunity to show up and speak up at our public hearings taking place next week at the greater grace temple and second Ebenezer on Wednesday, February 21st and Thursday February 22nd.

>> CHAIR ORTON: Thank you very much, Director Woods.

Okay we do have a few minutes left. If any of our attendees wish to make a comment that have not yet this hour.

>> MR. EDWARD WOODS: If not Commissioner Orton I would like to make a couple announcements and really want to thank Nelson. He is the gentleman for the Michigan Department of State that puts up our maps. And last week when we were or two weeks ago trying to meet the Court deadline Nelson and his team did just a phenomenal job of just getting things up, getting them up timely. And doing that. And I would be remiss if we did not give him a shout out. He also does the meeting materials in terms of making sure the public gets that information out. And I just think sometimes Nelson doesn't get the credit that he deserves. But just definitely want to thank him. Because although we don't interact with him, Nelson does a phenomenal job, a phenomenal job of making sure our information is out there. So Nelson Lawin I want to thank him along with the MDOS team we know and interact with in terms of Sarah Reinhardt, Mike Brady and Megan Schaar and Yvonne Young and lastly want to thank our Governor during her budget presentation for including the Michigan independent citizens Commission for the fiscal year 25 budget. So just want to make those two announcements and appreciations.

>> CHAIR ORTON: Thank you, yes, we do appreciate all the people working behind the scenes to help us accomplish the tasks that we have been tasked with. I don't see any other people with their hands up. That are attending. So I just want to thank on behalf of the Commission everyone who has attended, who has asked questions, who has given comment. We really appreciate the interaction. And I think we have finished our business here today. So unless there is objection, I would entertain a motion to adjourn.

>> MR. EDWARD WOODS: I think we have to end the meeting because we do not have a quorum.

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>> CHAIR ORTON: Okay, let's see, yes, I don't see a quorum. Since we have lost quorum, we will just end the meeting then. And we will see everyone next Wednesday, the 21st at greater grace temple at 10:00 a.m.