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>> COMMISSION CHAIR ANTHONY EID: Good morning, everyone.

It's good to be here at Renaissance High School in the city of Detroit. As Chairman of the Commission, I call this meeting of the Michigan Independent Citizens Redistricting Commission to order at 10:04 a.m.

This Zoom webinar is livestreamed 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 using, please visit our social media @redistrictingmi. Our live streaming today include closed captioning. Closed captioning, ASL interpretation, in addition to Spanish, Arabic, and Bengali translation services will be provided for effective communication. Please e-mail redistricting@michigan.gov for additional options or details on accessing these language translation services for effective participation in today's meeting. People with disability, needing other specific accommodations should also contact redistricting@michigan.gov.

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

This meeting is also being transcribed, and those closed caption transcripts will be posted and made available on the [Michigan.gov/MICRC](http://Michigan.gov/MICRC) website in addition to written public comment submissions. There's also a public comment portal that may be accessed on the front page, once again, [www.Michigan.gov/MICRC](http://www.Michigan.gov/MICRC). Members of the media who have questions before, during, or after the meeting should direct to Edward Woods III at [woodsE3@michigan.gov](mailto:woodsE3@michigan.gov).

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

>> YVONNE YOUNG: Good morning, Commissioners. When I call your name, please say if you are present and if attending remotely, please share where you're attending from remotely. If your absence is due to military duty, let us know that during roll call.

Announce your physical location by stating the county, city, township, village, and state from which you're attending remotely.

I will begin roll call alphabetically with Commissioner Andrade.

>> COMMISSIONER ELAINE ANDRADE: Present.

>> YVONNE YOUNG: Commissioner Callaghan.

>> COMMISSIONER DONNA CALLAGHAN: Present.

>> YVONNE YOUNG: Commissioner Curry.

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

>> YVONNE YOUNG: Commissioner Eid.

>> COMMISSION CHAIR ANTHONY EID: Present.

>> YVONNE YOUNG: Commissioner Kellom.

Commissioner Lange.

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

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>> YVONNE YOUNG: Commissioner Lett.  
>> COMMISSIONER STEVE LETT: Present.  
>> YVONNE YOUNG: Commissioner Muldoon.  
>> COMMISSIONER MARCUS MULDOON: Present.  
>> YVONNE YOUNG: Commissioner Orton.  
>> COMMISSIONER CYNTHIA ORTON: Present.  
>> YVONNE YOUNG: Commissioner Szetela.  
>> COMMISSIONER REBECCA SZETELA: Present, attending remotely from Wayne County, Michigan.  
>> YVONNE YOUNG: Commissioner Vallette.  
>> COMMISSIONER JANICE VALLETTE: Present.  
>> YVONNE YOUNG: Commissioner Wagner.  
Commissioner Weiss.  
>> COMMISSIONER RICHARD WEISS: Present.  
>> YVONNE YOUNG: Mr. Chair, you have 11 Commissioners present and do have a quorum.  
>> COMMISSION CHAIR ANTHONY EID: Thank you, Ms. Young.  
>> YVONNE YOUNG: You're welcome.  
>> COMMISSION CHAIR ANTHONY EID: We'll move to adopt the agenda. As a reminder to the public watching, you can view at Michigan.gov/MICRC. Are there any motions pertaining to the agenda, Commissioners?  
>> COMMISSIONER STEVE LETT: Move to adopt the agenda.  
>> COMMISSIONER JUANITA CURRY: Seconded.  
>> COMMISSION CHAIR ANTHONY EID: We have a motion by Commissioner Lett and seconded by Commissioner Curry to adopt today's agenda. Is there any discussion on the matter? Hearing none, we'll go to vote. All those in favor of the motion to approve the agenda, please raise your hand and say aye.  
(Multiple ayes)  
Any opposed, please raise your hand and say nay.  
The ayes have it, and the agenda is adopted.  
Next on the agenda is the purpose of today's meeting. If there is no objection, Commissioners, I will ask MICRC Executive Director Woods to present the purpose of today's public hearing. Are there any objections?  
Hearing none, we will move on. Please proceed, Mr. Woods.  
>> EDWARD WOODS III: Thank you, Commissioner Eid. Welcome, welcome, welcome!  
Happy to see a great crowd here with us at Renaissance High School! This is the public hearing for the Michigan Independent Citizens Redistricting Commission, and we just want to go over the purpose and some guidelines and look forward to an interactive and engaging discussion. We want to expression appreciation to Detroit Renaissance High School and their principal, Verynda Stroughter, to allow us to be here today and the entire staff to make this possible. Thank

you to Detroit Public Schools Alycia Meriweather and Eric Jenkins for making this happen this entire week. We really appreciate all they have done for us.

I want to thank our community organizations, civic leaders, as well as volunteers for getting the word out, and making sure that we have a smooth registration process. This is totally a team effort to ensure that citizens have an opportunity to hashtag #showupspeakup and ensure their voices are heard as it relates to the maps.

History of the MICRC. In 2018, Michigan voters passed Proposal 2, a ballot initiative, for voters and not legislators to take responsibility for nonpartisan redistricts and created the Michigan Independent Citizens Redistricting Commission.

Comprised of 13 randomly selected Michigan residents, which include four who affiliate with the Democrats, five what we call Independents but are known as being unaffiliated because they do not associate either with the Democrats or the Republicans, and then four who affiliate with the Republicans. The MICRC is responsible for redistricting the U.S. Congressional districts, Michigan House, and Michigan Senate Districts.

The Michigan Independent Citizens Redistricting Commission is required -- I repeat, required -- to follow these seven ranked redistricting criteria in order as outlined in Michigan's Constitution: equal population and Voting Rights Act., number one.

Number two: geographically contiguous.

Number three: reflect state's diversity AND Communities of Interest.

Number four: no disproportionate advantage to ANY political party.

Number five: No favor or disfavor to an incumbent elected official or a candidate.

Number six: reflect consideration of county, city, and township boundaries.

And number seven: be reasonably compact.

The Western Michigan District court in the Southern Division, based out of Kalamazoo, Michigan; found the Commission drew maps focused on race in violation of the Fourteenth Amendment, the Equal Protection Clause, disenfranchising Black voters. There was no finding, I repeat there was no finding regarding the Voting Rights Act. The Court ordered the Commission to reconfigure State Senate Districts, 1, 3, 6, 8, 10, and 11 and not focus on race.

Why should you care about redistricting? Redistricting is YOUR chance to make sure YOUR voice and your community's voice is heard and represented. Redistricting can keep your communities together. That's why it's important for you to show up, speak up.

Redistricting will help make sure YOUR elected officials reflect YOUR values on important issues such as health care, education, public safety, and justice.

Why we are here today. We are here today because we want to hear directly from you regarding the six draft proposed collaborative maps and the six individual maps. We want to understand what map best represents you and your Community of Interest as is or with minor tweaks.

Ryan -- if he could wave his hand in the back -- is here, and if you have minor tweaks or suggestions to make, please see Ryan. He will be able to assist you.

Number three: we want to learn from your feedback to select the BEST map in compliance with the Court order AND the seven-ranked redistricting criteria.

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Public comment guidelines. You have up to three minutes to speak and can return for an additional two minutes to speak. Whether you're in-person or online.

Number two: you address the Commission as a whole and not an individual member or member of the public or an organization. In other words, you're addressing the Commission and sharing how you feel about the maps or suggestions to improve the maps for the Commission to consider as a whole.

Any person making personal, impertinent, or slanderous remarks; or who shall become boisterous or disruptive while addressing the Commission MAY be requested to leave the microphone.

Number four: if any person disrupts the orderly progress of a meeting or refuses to comply with applicable MICRC guidelines and rules, the Chairperson may rule that person out of order and/or order their removal from the meeting.

We want to thank you in advance for complying with these guidelines because we're continuing our record of a great, interactive conversation that is full of civility, and we know that today will be no different.

Once again, we want to encourage you, as well as those online or those who may be watching this later, to show up and speak up. You can like or follow us on Facebook, Instagram, X -- formerly known as Twitter -- or TikTok@redistrictingMI. You can subscribe to the MICRC YouTube channel and submit public or mapping comments at [www.Michigan.gov/MICRC](http://www.Michigan.gov/MICRC). The public comment period will end on Friday, June 21. Once again, the public comment period will end on Friday, June 21. We encourage you if you're not able to come to a meeting or present remotely to please submit public or mapping comments at the website.

If you have any questions, call 1-866-MAP-FAIR. That's 1-866-627-3247, for questions or more information. Once again, if you're listening, you have until 7:00 p.m. tonight to come down here and just register to speak. You don't have to do it in advance when you speak in person. If you know someone who has an opinion, call them, text them, and encourage them to come to Renaissance High School, and we'll be HAPPY to listen to what you have to say as the Commission looks forward to select a map.

Once again, thanks to each and every one of you for showing up and speaking up regarding Michigan's redistricting process.

Mr. Chair, I turn it back over to you.

>> COMMISSION CHAIR ANTHONY EID: Thank you, Executive Director Woods.

Next on the agenda is public comment. Commissioners, is there any objection to moving on to public comment?

Hearing none, we will move on.

Individuals who have signed up indicated they would like to provide live or remote public commentary to the commission will be allow. We'll start with live public comment followed by remote public comment in chronological order. For your first time up, you have three minutes to speak, and if you cannot get all of your thoughts about our maps out in three minutes, you can sign up for an additional two minutes and we will give you that additional time.

We have a few tools and resources here for y'all to use in order to provide comment to the Commission. As you can see behind y'all, you have quite a few different maps. The ones all the way to my left -- most of your rights, on that end -- are some of the old maps. All the way to the left, you have the old Senate plan created in the 2010 Census cycle created by the Michigan legislature before we had this new redistricting process in place.

The second map is the Senate map this Commission passed two years ago that we are changing. And then the remaining 12 maps are what this Commission is currently deciding between, and the maps where we need to hear from you about.

We also have out front a spread sheet and packet of the data and metrics that are associated with these maps, including the partisan fairness analysis of the Commission.

With that said, we will get started. First up to speak is Oliver Davis.

>> DALLAS OLIVER: Hi. My name is actually Dallas Oliver.

>> COMMISSION CHAIR ANTHONY EID: Oh. Good morning, Dallas.

>> DALLAS OLIVER: I have been called worse. My pick is the Heron map. That's the most important to me. I think it's the fairest so that one political party doesn't get an advantage over the other. I think that's the most important thing. And if not that, the Szetela map would be my second choice, and that's all I have to say. Thank you very much. Thanks for all your work.

>> COMMISSION CHAIR ANTHONY EID: Thank you for addressing the Commission.

Next up to speak is Aaron Makiya.

>> MAKIYA AARON: Good morning.

>> COMMISSION CHAIR ANTHONY EID: Good morning.

>> MAKIYA AARON: Okay. Good morning. My name is Makiya Aaron and serve as the Secretary-Treasurer and Political Director for Laborers Local 1191. The Laborers in Michigan represent 11,000 skilled tradesmen and women who build buildings, roads, and bridges. We are stakeholders in the various communities in which we serve. We instill in our membership their everyday lives are not just impacted by their paychecks but by the decisions that are made on their behalves. We are here today because this honorable Commission has been charged with proposing new maps. We all know redistricting is important because of how and where districts are drawn can shape community and their abilities to elect representatives of their choice.

Redistricting affects political power. It determines which party controls Congress, state and local governments. It has a direct bearing on what matters to a legislature, what they choose to tackle, and what they choose to ignore.

Now that this Commission has gone back to the drawing board and proposed 12 new maps, I am here speaking in support of the Szetela and Heron maps. Both maps appropriately redefine the lines to observe partisan fairness and the affected communities of interest. Although there are only a few requirements when drawing districts, these requirements require compliance with the Voters Rights Act and districts must be made equal in population and require equal access to political representation. As a residence of Westland, I am partial to the Heron map, which keeps Westland and Canton together. It will also provide a strong downtown community, which keeps

the Hispanic Communities of Interest together also. The Szetela map keeps the West side of Detroit together including Redford. That makes sense to me.

These maps ensure that voters in those respective communities of interest in the Heron and Szetela maps have the opportunity to elect candidates who understand their issues. Today I am asking you to adopt both the Szetela and Heron maps. It is time to move Michigan forward, not hold it back. Thank you.

>> COMMISSION CHAIR ANTHONY EID: Thank you for addressing the Commission.

Next up is Wayne Chambers.

>> WAYNE CHAMBERS: Good morning.

>> COMMISSION CHAIR ANTHONY EID: Good morning.

>> WAYNE CHAMBERS: I'm Wayne Chambers. Yeah, I was sitting here, thinking a while back all of a sudden this map redirection, these maps and things, is almost like I own a property and you guys come in my land and turn, you know, making decisions. It's like I can't go and cross Eight Mile for decisions. Why you breaking something already fixed and you're breaking it up? When you get all these maps together, because I can't make decisions across Eight Mile and as well you guys come and make decisions over on our side of the town. It's almost like it's kind of like confusing. You know, it's like almost going into the heydays, you know, you to what you want to do, and we call the shots.

I don't know anything about further up north and all that stuff. I don't know about that, and I can't go up north and make decisions. It just seems kind of odd that all of a sudden we redirect the maps. I understand the city is shrinking by the years and everything but seems kind of like outright that, you know, you can come across the border and do what you want to do because we can't make decisions over there and then we don't know who we get decisions from. You may come in my land and say, this got to be happen, this got to happen.

But I can't -- you know, understand what the decision that you callin' because now you come June, what the last day is what, June 26 when you make a decision when everything come? Okay, you decided to make that decision. What if we not welcome about the decision or don't like the decision? It's approved and then just move on. So I'm kind of like weigh a little bit and weigh on this side a little bit because I'm still kind of confused what decisions you guys might make after June 26. That's my belief.

>> COMMISSION CHAIR ANTHONY EID: Thank you for addressing the Commission.

Next up is Beulah Walker.

>> BEULAH WALKER: Good morning, everyone. My name is Beulah Walker, a resident of the city of Detroit in Wayne County. I am a local 1191 member in support of redrawing the maps. Redistricting is so important. Redistricting affects political power. It determines which party controls the legislature. This means that how districts are drawn and who is voted into power control what issues to address and which to ignore. I believe the current maps have a negative impact on Black voters in Michigan. All residents in the communities of interest observe representation.



I believe the Szetela map addresses these concerns and is fairly drawn. Adopt the Szetela map to move forward to move Michigan forward. Thank you.

>> COMMISSION CHAIR ANTHONY EID: Thank you for addressing the Commission.

Next up is Jose Flores.

>> JOSE FLORES: Good morning.

>> COMMISSION CHAIR ANTHONY EID: Good morning.

>> JOSE FLORES: My name is Jose Flores, and I'm here to represent my local 1191.

I got a question. I don't know, understand about this maps. I'm kind of confused so. I don't understand.

>> COMMISSION CHAIR ANTHONY EID: So we basically have to pick between these different configurations for the Senate districts. Michigan has 38 Senate districts. We're working now and, you know, in the metro Detroit area. We're changing anywhere from about 9 to 15 of them, and the maps you see are where those district lines are. A good way to get started might be to find where you live on the maps and let us know about how that configuration is for your community. What area do you live in, generally?

>> JOSE FLORES: I live in Livonia.

>> COMMISSION CHAIR ANTHONY EID: Livonia, okay. So I would just -- a good way to start, and you can sign up for more comment later -- would be to find Livonia on all these maps and let us know which configuration for your area you like best.

>> JOSE FLORES: Thank you.

>> COMMISSION CHAIR ANTHONY EID: And most of them, Livonia is in District 6. That might help.

Next up is Jon Brown.

>> JON BROWN: Good morning.

>> COMMISSION CHAIR ANTHONY EID: Good morning.

>> JON BROWN: My name is Jon Brown, a resident of Livonia, Michigan, here to support the map Heron and if not that one, then Szetela. Both those maps represent the people that live in those areas. They don't crack and pack them like they used to.

You can see all of us from Laborers Local 1191. We work out of the industry of Detroit but live all across Wayne, Macomb, Oakland Counties, and we're here to represent maps Heron and Szetela. Thank you.

>> COMMISSION CHAIR ANTHONY EID: Thank you for addressing the Commission.

Next up is Alex King.

>> ALEX KING: Good morning, everyone. Thank you to the Commission to let us be out here and hear our input. I'm Alex King. I am Livonia resident as well so you think it's appropriate that we have three straight Livonians in the house. We show up and shout out. I'm here to support the 376 Szetela and Heron map, 376. I think these maps were all collaboratively drawn and are really great in terms of protecting partisan fairness. I love to go out to Westland and Garden City so it's really nice to, as a Livonia voter, to share those Communities of Interest with my friends. And

yeah, I think these maps are the best options from a democratic standpoint because it promotes partisan fairness and it's the best way for me to exercise my option. So thank you.

>> COMMISSION CHAIR ANTHONY EID: Thank you for addressing the Commission.

>> JAKARTA NAKUM: My name is Jakarta Nakum, resident of Detroit city in Wayne County. I'm also a Laborers 1191 member. I like the Cardinal map. It appropriately defines the lines to keep similar communities together. Again, I am asking you to adopt the Cardinal map. Let us move forward, and thank you.

>> COMMISSION CHAIR ANTHONY EID: Thank you for addressing the Commission.

Next up we have Dana Hill.

>> DANA HILL: Good morning. My name is Dana Hill. I'm a resident of Detroit City in Wayne County. I'm here as a Laborer of local 1191 and am here to address the Commission of maps. I believe the current map has a negative impact on Black voters in Michigan. All residents deserve reputation and believe Heron map addresses concerns and is fairly drawn. Please adopt the Heron map. I live on the east side of Detroit, maybe 10 miles from Hamtramck, and I would like to vote on the east side of Detroit and not in Hamtramck. Thank you.

>> COMMISSION CHAIR ANTHONY EID: Thank you for addressing the Commission.

Next up is Michael Tab.

>> MICHAEL TAB: Good morning. My name is Michael Tab and am a resident of Detroit in the city and county of Wayne. The current commission maps are not drawn fairly. This is a chance to address the concerns many voters in Michigan have. I trust 1191 Laborers leadership has looked at the map and said the Heron map is fairly drawn. Please choose Heron map. It keeps community together that should stay together. Excuse me. I would hope the community vote and representation that will be aware of these issues. Thank you very much.

>> COMMISSION CHAIR ANTHONY EID: Thank you, Michael, for addressing the commission.

Next up is Ray Wilson.

>> RAY WILSON: My name is Ray Wilson, resident of Detroit in city in Wayne County. I want to adopt the Heron map because it, because the communities stay together. It keeps the communities together and will help the voting representation for the communities of Heron because it addresses that awarenesses. Thank you. Their issues -- rather, not their awareness; their issues.

>> COMMISSION CHAIR ANTHONY EID: Thank you for addressing the Commission.

Next up is Shayla.

>> SHAYLA IYSCIK: Good morning.

>> COMMISSION CHAIR ANTHONY EID: Hi, good morning.

>> SHAYLA IYSCIK: My name is Shayla and am a resident of Redford in Wayne County and here today as a Laborers Local 1191 in support of the commission considering other maps. I believe the Heron map addresses these concerns and is fairly drawn and believe that is the one that we should adopt. Thank you very much.

>> COMMISSION CHAIR ANTHONY EID: Thank you for addressing the Commission.



Next up is "Ameera" (phonetic) Moses.

>> JIRMERE MOSES: I will let you get away from calling me "Ameera." My name is Jirmere.

>> COMMISSION CHAIR ANTHONY EID: Thank you.

>> JIRMERE MOSES: It's all good. Good morning, Commissioners. Like my brothers and sisters, I'm a member of the Laborers Local 1191. If you don't know what we do, drive on any highway and see orange barrels we put there to help the roads get better. We do building trades work underground and demolition. I, like my brothers and sisters, are here supporting the Szetela map and the Heron map. Please, Commission, let's not forget that the people, the voters, put you in place because they were tired of the way the maps was drawn in the past so we hope you get this correct. There's a lot at stake. We are living in a very, very volatile political environment right now and every vote and every voice need to be heard. So please keep communities together. Let everyone have a say in whatever you want to vote for whether it's Democrats or Republicans, but don't take the voice from the people. This is your chance to get it right, and we have faith in you or we would not be here. Thank you. My name is Jirmere.

>> COMMISSION CHAIR ANTHONY EID: Thank you, Jirmere. We're trying to get this right as well.

>> JIRMERE MOSES: That's right.

>> COMMISSION CHAIR ANTHONY EID: All right, Marvin Johnson. I think I got that one right.

>> MARVIN JOHNSON: All right. Good morning to the Commission. Yes, my name is Marvin Johnson, and I'm a resident of Redford, the city of, in the county of Wayne. I'm a Laborer, Local 1191 member. The current Commission maps are not fairly drawn. A good redistricting process should help a community secure many folk representation, which consider communities of interest. This is a chance to address the concerns many voters in Michigan have. I trust that Laborers Local 1191 leadership has reviewed the maps. I trust their judgment that the Szetela map is correctly drawn. Please adopt the Heron map. It keeps communities with similar issues and concerns together. It will help that community vote in their representations they need. Also, I would just like to say with this redistricting map, if we had that John Morgan Lewis Voting Rights Act passed, would we be going through this again? Thank you.

>> COMMISSION CHAIR ANTHONY EID: Thank you for addressing the Commission.

Next up is Anthony Evans.

>> ANTHONY EVANS: Good morning, Commission.

>> COMMISSION CHAIR ANTHONY EID: Good morning.

>> ANTHONY EVANS: My name is Anthony Evans, resident of Detroit in Wayne County. I am here to support my local members of Local 1191. I'm also a retired -- listen, a retired member of 30 years of out there busting my back to make this city what it is today. So in fairness, what you guys need to do is get up from the table and go to your community and talk to the people and understand what's going on in the community. You can't understand what is going on by sitting there at the desk. Get from the desk, put your boots on, and talk to the people. Then maybe you would get an understanding of what is going on in the neighborhoods. I am a Black voter and I'm

strongly a Black voter and I'm going to stand by. If you can't do the job, then we can vote you out of your job and get somebody TO do the job. Thank you, and have a nice day.

>> COMMISSION CHAIR ANTHONY EID: Thank you, Mr. Evans.

Next up is Reginoal.

>> REGINOAL BUCHANAN: Hi. Oh. Good morning, Commission. My name is Reginoal Buchanan, retired member of Local 1191, and I'm here to support my union brothers and sisters. Everything they say said I agree with, and I'm very in support of the Heron map and I think that's the route that we need to go. Thank you.

>> COMMISSION CHAIR ANTHONY EID: Thank you for addressing the Commission. Next up is Leon Johnson, Jr.

>> LEON JOHNSON JR: Good morning, Commission. My name is Leon Johnson, Jr., and I'm a resident of Detroit, Wayne County. I am a Local Laborers 1191 member. Michigan voters have concerns about the current maps. I like the Heron map. It's correctly drawn and allows for one strong downtown community. This will be important for residents and the business community. Please adopt the Heron map. Thank you.

>> COMMISSION CHAIR ANTHONY EID: Thank you for addressing the Commission. Next up is Angelo Weaver.

>> ANGELO WEAVER: Good morning. My name is Angelo Weaver, resident of Detroit in Wayne County, and I'm also a Laborer 1191 member. As a Michigan voter, I have a concern about the current map. I like Szetela map. It is correctly drawn to keep the community in Redford and Detroit together. Please adopt this map. Thank you.

>> COMMISSION CHAIR ANTHONY EID: Thank you for addressing the Commission. Next up is Kenya Willard.

>> KENYA WILLARD: Good morning, Commission. My name is Kenya Willard, Detroit resident. I am in support of the 404 map. I feel that this map provides District 8 the most partisan fairness. Also, this close-packed district supports maintaining the west side of Detroit. This partisan map helps the majority of African-American districts to elect candidates of their choice that align with their beliefs AND core values compared to a district map that initially minimalized the African-American voting power and preferred candidates. Thank you.

>> COMMISSION CHAIR ANTHONY EID: Thank you for addressing the Commission. Next up is Reggie Caran.

>> REGINALD CARAN: Morning, Commish.

>> COMMISSION CHAIR ANTHONY EID: Good morning.

>> REGINALD CARAN: My name is Reginald Caran, resident of Detroit, actually in this neighborhood. So the many things you have heard this morning about our concerns, I'm in favor of you considering of the maps because some of these maps separate the people that's been living in that community for years.

And to have someone like Mr. Chambers said, to have someone outside of that community to come in and try to fulfill the needs of the people that's been there for years. So I'm in favor of considering of the map, the Commission considering other maps. Thank you.

>> COMMISSION CHAIR ANTHONY EID: Thank you for addressing the Commission.

Next up is Antoine Bell.

>> ANTOINE BELL: Good morning, Commission. Good morning to all my brothers and sisters that came out here today to show support for their maps and their opinions. I would like to start off by saying we need some fairness in what we're doing today. We're asking you guys to go home and don't take this lightly, but sleep on it and think about what's the fair thing to do, not just for us but for your kids and our kids together; because this world is about bringing people together, and voting is very serious.

But it's time to take care of the minorities, the disadvantaged, and the less fortunate now. And how we do that is by drawing the best map for the people. I support the Heron map because it looks like it's the most fairness and keeps the communities together, and we want to keep the people together and not just in certain communities but the neighboring communities around the city. So we asking you guys to just show a little fairness and imparity in your decision; and please, whatever you to, look at what you're doing and take it REAL, real serious, cause we're here today, and we're real, real serious. And we thank you guys for having this platform, but we need more platforms like this because this decision today makes the decision for our kids, your kids, and kids to come. Thank you, sir.

>> COMMISSION CHAIR ANTHONY EID: Thank you for addressing the Commission.

Next up is Cathy Ferman.

>> CATHY FERMAN: Hi, my name is Cathy Ferman from Farmington Hills, and I'm in support of the Szetela districting map. I want to know that the handout that you gave today with statistics doesn't seem to have the Heron statistics in it. I don't know if I just missed it in going through it, but I thought I would bring that to your attention.

The reason that I am in favor of the Szetela districting map is that it seems to support three of the seven criteria that's listed in your domain, which is number 3, 6, and 7. It keeps communities of districts, cities, and counties together more than what appears in the other cases such as Sterling Heights, Warren, and Dearborn. Also, because I'm from Farmington Hills, I believe that it keeps together communities that have lake districts and waterway districts together, and I would prefer to have a single senator making decisions or promoting legislature that promotes the ecological benefit of those waterways.

Also, it does not appear to do some of the reaching into communities and exclusion of other communities that some of the maps gives the appearance of. It's a very contiguous map. It's got a square footage area that has a nice ratio between perimeter and area. As an engineer, I appreciate that. Have a good day, and I appreciate the work you're doing, and I worked actively in 2017 and 2018 to get this district created.

>> COMMISSION CHAIR ANTHONY EID: Thank you, Cathy, for addressing the commission. I believe Heron is on there on the first page of the spread sheet. It should be the third or fourth row and then for the more detailed analysis, I believe it's on page 3.

Next to speak is David Lauer.

>> DAVID LAUAR: Good morning. I'm a resident in precinct 2, Southfield township. First, I would like to thank the Commission for the overtime you have put into this particular issue of redistricting. There's certainly a lot to unpack. Many of the proposed district map pose a threat to disproportionately serving the voices that make up the community and ask the commission to pay special attention to political tactics that aim to suppress key interest groups in the communities that you're supposed to serve equally. When we looked at 364 Dove as an example of the worst partisan fairness score, this is no-brainer it shouldn't be considered. Another area that requires our focus is 366 Curry, that does not comply with the voting rights act and has fewer opportunities for Black voters than Linden. 373 card. That carves Warren without consideration of communities of interest and has partisan score unacceptably low.

Now this is no way overshadows a number of map that more than adequately represent all interest groups, maps that produce result and have high partisan fairness scores like in particular map 404 Szetela and 367 Heron, although in my interest area in Beverly Hills, that doesn't group us with the school district we're affiliated with and fractures from other like areas.

These maps were drawn by multiple Commissioners that represent all three partisan pools and should be the status quo for fair reporting and representation in the new proposed maps. These maps emphasize fairness and help to assure all voices are heard equally but the voices of some communities of interest are not suppressed.

I ask this council to ask themselves the following: has a proposed map been drawn by multiple commissions to adequately represent voters in their area? Where does it fall on the partisan fairness score? Is it proposing to overhaul a district map that already works in fair in equitable ways? Is the data relevant to support the call to redistrict these areas?

Again, I'd like to thank the Commission for all the hard work you're doing, and I know this is a lot. You're hearing from a lot of people. We appreciate that because you are going to be the ones enacting meaningful action in our voting districts. Thank you.

>> COMMISSION CHAIR ANTHONY EID: Thank you for addressing the Commission.  
Next up is Alice Mason.

>> ALICE MASON: I live in Detroit on the east side, and I just want to thank all of you for the hard work. I know this has been a LONG process for all of you. I just want to say that I prefer the Heron map as its scores the best in partisan fairness. Thank you.

>> COMMISSION CHAIR ANTHONY EID: Thank you for addressing the Commission.  
Next to speak is Bob O' Brien.

>> BOB O'BRIEN: Good morning. Like of the -- many of the others, my first thought is how important this work has been for the past seven years in Michigan to do away with terrible gerrymandering. All these maps are quite an improvement over what we've had in the past so I appreciate that. Our district 10 will be changed significantly by these maps, but I support that because, like many of the previous speakers, I think partisan fairness is a very high value. And I think all of these maps do a good job across the board; but I think the Heron proposal is the best in terms of ensuring partisan fairness, which we all know is so important. Thank you.

>> COMMISSION CHAIR ANTHONY EID: Thank you for addressing the Commission.

Next up is David Bell.

>> DAVID BELL: Good morning.

>> COMMISSION CHAIR ANTHONY EID: Good morning.

>> DAVID BELL: My name is David Bell, proud Detroiter and live in Engstrom, Michigan, work in District 1 in Detroit. I'm here to speak on Senate Maps 404 and 376. I believe both maps give fair and partisan representation to the communities of District 1. Both maps represent the environmental interests of communities of Detroit, Riverfront, you know, regarding pollution, construction, and equality of water. I believe Map 404 hits the nail right on the head with keeping Livonia, Inkster, and Westland together because we all border each other. Our kids go to school out there together. We play in sports leagues. Please adopt these maps. Thank you.

>> COMMISSION CHAIR ANTHONY EID: Thank you, David, for addressing the Commission.

Next to speak is Andrew Thompson.

>> ANDREW THOMPSON: Good morning. So my name is Andrew Thompson. I have been a Detroit resident, city of Detroit, for 16 years. I teach part-time at the college for creative studies in Detroit at the University of Michigan and do construction work in the summertime. I don't own a car and use public transportation, including the one hour, 20 minute bus ride to get here from southwest Detroit. Several of my college students graduated from Renaissance so it's a privilege for me to be here today.

I want to start by thanking the Commission and appreciate the work you have been doing. I gave public comment back in 2021 during the redistricting process. I want to speak in favor of maps 404, the Szetela Map, and 376, the Heron Map; because not only do they allow for competitive State Senate races going forward, vital to our democracy, they uphold the principles of voting rights act which a resident of a majority Black city is important.

I live a ten-minute walk from the Detroit River between the now two brings to Canada and vibrant community to take advantage of our public parks and local businesses. The Szetela map and the Heron map are drawn in a way that groups together communities and industrial zones that are along the river in Detroit, downriver, River Rouge areas that have common cause around the waterways. The water doesn't just stay in one place but affects all our area and need representation willing to speak on that to make sure children, grandchildren, and all of us have safe drinking quarter. Thank you very much for listening; and keep up the good work.

>> COMMISSION CHAIR ANTHONY EID: Thank you for addressing the Commission.

Next up is Tracy Pease.

>> TRACY PEASE: Hello. First, I'd like to thank the Commission for your work on this. I definitely DO NOT envy your job so thank you. My name is Tracy Pease, long-time resident of Hazel Park and am looking at the Szetela map. District 10 you have Huntington Woods, Berkley, and Pleasant Ridge all together. That also counts to the Berkley school district where my 6-year-old niece will be going to the first grade in the fall. You have Center Line, which I consider pretty much a city within the city of Warren, and Madison Heights and Hazel Park that have



historically always aligned with each other, and then you added parts of Royal Oak. So I'm 100% for the Szetela Map. I believe this is the map that should be taken, and thank you very much.

>> COMMISSION CHAIR ANTHONY EID: Thank you for addressing the Commission.

Next up to speak is Lauren Lisi.

>> LAUREN LISI: Hello, Commissioners. My name is Lauren Lisi and live in Huntington Woods. Today I speak in favor of the Heron map. As a person that gathered signatures for the initiative that led to the creation of the Commission, the number one issue that convinced Michiganders to sign that petition was the promise of non-partisanally fair maps. That is also my number one priority.

In looking at fairness scores, Heron and Szetela are the fairest among the maps under consideration and score well with respect to the Voting Rights Act environments. As a white woman with no religious affiliation, no ethnic identity, and no real allegiance to a particular community or city except my own, communities of interest does not factor into my map choice. However, for my Jewish neighbors, the Heron map would keep the majority Jewish population of Huntington Woods together with the large communities in Oak Park and Southfield.

Personally, I prefer the Heron map because most of my friends outside Huntington Woods are from Oak Park or Berkley and tend to do shopping, dining out, and walking west of Woodward in oak park and Berkley. However, the people of Michigan and Southeast Michigan will have been well served if the Commission chooses either the Heron or Szetela map as they both score well on fairness and VRA compliance. I thank you as many people have for your service to democracy and to the citizens of Michigan, and thank you for listening to me today.

>> COMMISSION CHAIR ANTHONY EID: Thank you for addressing the Commission.

Next up is Doriscine Wesley.

>> DORISCINE WESLEY: Good morning.

>> COMMISSION CHAIR ANTHONY EID: Good morning.

>> DORISCINE WESLEY: Or afternoon, whatever it is. My name is Doriscine Wesley and here out of A. Philip Randolph institute and am a life-long Detroit as well. I have listened to a lot of different people here talking about the maps. I personally have looked at Szetela and the Heron. They seem to be more equitable for what I was looking for as far as keeping communities together. I heard the lady talk about the Berkley and Oak Park and all these different areas, and I have affiliations with all of that, Oak Park, Berkley. My grandchildren go to Berkley schools. But we need to keep Detroit where we can have a voice, and Heron and Szetela seems to be the most equitable for that. But I did have a question for the panel.

>> COMMISSION CHAIR ANTHONY EID: Sure.

>> DORISCINE WESLEY: Because I just started looking at these maps. There was a lot that I didn't understand. So I get a couple of -- I know you had seven criteria that you went through to draw these maps. How many of the criteria there are does 376 and 404 meet? I couldn't figure that out.

>> COMMISSION CHAIR ANTHONY EID: So right where you signed up to speak, we have a spread sheet that --



>> DORISCINE WESLEY: I saw that, but I didn't understand it. I'm sorry.

>> COMMISSION CHAIR ANTHONY EID: That's okay.

>> DORISCINE WESLEY: I just needed you to tell me, please.

>> COMMISSION CHAIR ANTHONY EID: So on it, you see VRA districts. That's the number of VRA districts you see, number of changed districts. That's how many districts have changed from the Linden map to your right. And then you see the art partisan fairness measures this Commission uses. That's on the first page and on subsequent pages can get more detail --

>> DORISCINE WESLEY: Okay.

>> COMMISSION CHAIR ANTHONY EID: -- On each of these. I encourage you to look at that. If you want to stick around and look at more offered maps over here --

>> DORISCINE WESLEY: I have looked at the ones; and, yeah, some of them are not gonna work for me.

>> COMMISSION CHAIR ANTHONY EID: Wonderful.

>> DORISCINE WESLEY: The two that I do like the best are Szetela and Heron, and I would strongly ask that you promote those two. At least.

>> COMMISSION CHAIR ANTHONY EID: Okay. Well, thank you for addressing the Commission.

>> DORISCINE WESLEY: Oh, and thank you for your service.

>> COMMISSION CHAIR ANTHONY EID: Next up is Emery Pence.

>> EMERY PENCE: Good morning, and I'd like to thank everyone who came out to talk today. Compared to all the people who don't take an interest, you should be commended; and to you, thank you. Years

ago, I considered -- I applied to be on the Commission and almost every day I thank the Lord that I didn't get it so thank you. I can't imagine juggling all these different factors in coming up with this and doing all this. I just -- I think I'm a smart guy, but I couldn't do it, so thank you. I live in Southfield Township, Beverly Hills, and would like to speak in favor of the Szetela Map, 404; but I also like the Heron Map.

I like the Szetela Map because it does a great job of keeping communities together. It scores high on the partisan fairness. As a resident of Beverly Hills, I would be kept with my current community. We are very much connected to Birmingham with the school district and other things so it fits me personally does a great job.

Also, I was born in Pontiac, long-time lover of Pontiac, do a lot of things in Pontiac; and I think the Szetela map does a GREAT job of giving better Black representation in Pontiac, something that is sorely needed. So I would like to speak in favor of Szetela but like Heron also, and thank you very much.

>> COMMISSION CHAIR ANTHONY EID: Thank you for addressing the Commission, and I think you could do this job, too, ha-ha.

>> EMERY PENCE: This is a curiosity question. I assume all these maps have been legally analyzed by your best lawyers to pass muster by the court. Is that true?

>> COMMISSION CHAIR ANTHONY EID: They have undergone a VRA analysis after we had already drawn the maps. We then sent it to our lawyers and they gave a VRA analysis on it, but at the end of the day, this group of 13 people decides.

>> EMERY PENCE: Okay, thank you.

>> COMMISSIONER STEVE LETT: You never know what a Court will do, by the way.

>> EMERY PENCE: Don't say that. That's scary.

>> COMMISSION CHAIR ANTHONY EID: All right, next up is Crystal Bailey.

>> CRYSTAL BAILEY: Good morning. Yes, I'm Crystal Bailey and happy to be here. Thank you for taking interest in the public's comment. I spoke previously coming out of the Hickory map into the Motown Sound map, and I'm very happy with the Motown Sound map. Thank you for your work.

Today I am in favor -- well, I have a question. Will there be other maps proposed after today? Okay, because 1191 was really hoping for -- well, some of them -- was hoping for another option to have other maps, but I'm in support of the Heron Map. I live in Oak Park, Michigan, and Oak Park being grouped with Wayne County and other communities within the city of Detroit, I'm really in favor of. I think that it really helps with being more fair and equitable, at least in my community, and yeah, I'm in favor of the Heron map. I'm Crystal Bailey. Thank you.

>> COMMISSION CHAIR ANTHONY EID: Thank you, Crystal. We COULD take a map and, you know, change it slightly to improve upon it if you have any suggestions.

>> CRYSTAL BAILEY: Okay, yeah, all right. Well, thank you.

>> COMMISSION CHAIR ANTHONY EID: Next up is Virgil Smith.

>> VIRGIL SMITH: Good morning.

>> COMMISSION CHAIR ANTHONY EID: Good morning, Mr. Smith.

>> VIRGIL SMITH: Thank you, Commission, for being here and thank you for your diligent work in this process. I don't envy. I have been in your shoes and was part of the Michigan legislature that was the last group that drew line and we drew the first map that you have down there.

So I keep hearing people speak on the Heron map. I'm from the northeast side, born and raised. I'm in Precinct 88 now. You carve us out right there. I mean, we're going to get watered down and will have no say in Sterling Heights. That district will be dominated by Macomb County and people in Detroit will get lost and that include me. I live right here. Right here. Farwell.

So that's a no to the Heron map. I love the Szetela map and the Crane map, the Michigan Democratic Party Black Caucus supports the Crane map. I have the Szetela map, the Crane map, no to the Heron map. If you're from the northeast side, trust and believe if you from where I live over there, the Pershing area, Osborn -- that includes Pershing and Osborn -- you will be lost in that one. So PLEASE take into account that Northeast side section right there on that Heron map, I don't like that at all. Thank you.

>> COMMISSION CHAIR ANTHONY EID: Thank you for addressing the Commission, and thank you for your service to the State.

Next up is Maia Anthony.

>> MAIA ANTHONY: Thank you, and good morning, my name is Maia Anthony. I was born and raised on the northwest side of Detroit, Michigan, and I'm here to speak on what will potentially be my redrawn district. Speaking a little on map 404, I would be grouped in District 8. It's not perfect, right, but it appears to be more ideal for the northwest Detroit community being on the west side of the city. I can appreciate being grouped with other Westsiders with similar interests such as Rosedale Park and Marygrove District and even Redford. I just never understood why my community was grouped with Bloomfield Hills. Like it is in the Linden map. There's just so very little that connects us, which isn't beneficial in voting for a local policy that bring consistency to the Detroiters' needs.

So we need representatives to stand for racial equity, very specifically, that health and life's ability for our families. So we vote in a way that DEMANDS this and demands more of these things in order to have a fair and flourishing quality of life for generations to come.

So the closest maps to that would be Map 404 and 376. With Map 376, I don't even mind being grouped with Oak Park, some of Huntington Woods and Berkley, at least it doesn't stretch all the way to Bloomfield. And I ain't crazy. I can't say I'm crazy about Farmington Hills being there but is better and I would be grouped in District 3.

Thank you for the dedicate work that you're doing to redraw these maps from Michigan and your concentration on the city and the communities I still live in. And I will just close with saying that I just really don't want us to take another risk of adopting maps that have lower partisan fairness scores than our current ones because that would be very bad, and we, as voters, should certainly have the power to elect lawmakers who can directly represent OUR interests and concerns. So hopefully there's something here today that could be helpful for the decision you have to make; and then you can just add that northeast side so this gentleman will be happy and let's adopt Heron or -- 376 and 404. Thank you.

>> COMMISSION CHAIR ANTHONY EID: Thank you for addressing the Commission. Next up is Veronica Adams.

>> VERONICA ADAMS: Hello. My name is Veronica Adams and live in North Central Detroit -- actually, I would like to just second everything Mr. Pease said so eloquently. We do rock. We are here. And thank you for the, for your service and for all that you did -- well, different, some different people -- three years ago. The voters of Michigan benefited from your public service, the public service of the Commission, and obviously not quite perfect but hopefully we can get it right this time so we done end up back here in another couple of years.

From my understanding of looking at these maps, number 404 by, Szetela, seems to have the best as far as fairness, and the districts, but also allows many of the communities of interest, ethnic and racial groups, to be able to have a more cohesive electoral voice.

Second best, as I interpret it, is Heron, which accomplishes many of the same benefits as the Szetela; but it may not give Pontiac voters the best doesn't to have representation -- doesn't to have representation that reflects their demographics, the best opportunity.

Thank you again, and goodbye.

>> COMMISSION CHAIR ANTHONY EID: Thank you for addressing the Commission.

Is there anyone else here live in the crowd that has not spoken yet that would like to?

Okay. If you change your mind and you would, you can -- sure.

>> DORISCENE WESLEY: Did I hear you say that there could be some tweaking of the maps?

>> COMMISSION CHAIR ANTHONY EID: Yes, we could take a map and to, you know, the tweaks at this point have to be smaller --

>> DORISCENE WESLEY: Yeah.

>> COMMISSION CHAIR ANTHONY EID: We could.

>> DORISCENE WESLEY: Okay. That's what I was asking.

>> COMMISSION CHAIR ANTHONY EID: Cool.

>> DORISCENE WESLEY: For that gentleman there, that little bit. Could somebody take a look at that?

>> COMMISSION CHAIR ANTHONY EID: I hear you. Thank you.

Okay. In this case, we will move on to remote public comment.

The first person we have signed up for remote public comment is Ani.

>> ANI MANOLATOS: Hi, everyone, can you hear me?

>> COMMISSION CHAIR ANTHONY EID: We can. Good morning.

>> ANI MANOLATOS: Wonderful, good morning. Thank you for the hard work that you're doing to deliver the best maps possible for the people of this state. That said, I'm here again today because I want to once again speak in favor of Map 404. As I mentioned yesterday, it's a strong map for the downriver communities. Not only that, it keeps some of the communities the most needs together specifically Romulus, experiencing an historic divide and disenfranchisement over the years in various maps drawn. Having the community together is a shot for the community and down river at large. Thank you for the hard work you're doing and please adopt Map 404 as it's the best not only for down river but strait due to adherence to partisan fairness. Thank you for the time to speak and hard work you're doing and once again, please adopt map 404.

>> COMMISSION CHAIR ANTHONY EID: Thank you for addressing the Commission. Next up is James Gallant.

>> JAMES GALLANT: Hello. James Gallant, Marquette. These are opinions. To MICRC Commission as a whole, thanks for acknowledging my civility. So why did y'all allow full-on debate and deliberation to approve Voters Not Politicians public proposal -- (Audio cutting in and out)

>> COMMISSION CHAIR ANTHONY EID: Mr. Gallant --

>> JAMES GALLANT:-- without prior notice, no new business on the agenda, as you were instructed -- what's that? Hello? Can you hear me?

>> MEGHAN SCHAAR: Mr. Gallant, your phone is break up.

>> JAMES GALLANT: --no motion and second --

>> MEGHAN SCHAAR: Mr. Gallant, your phone is breaking up badly. Can you try to move somewhere with better service so that all those online are able to hear you? And those in person as well.

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>> JAMES GALLANT: Okay. Give me a few minutes, and move on to the next, if you can come back to me, please.

>> MEGHAN SCHAAR: Okay, thank you, sir.

>> JAMES GALLANT: Yes.

>> COMMISSION CHAIR ANTHONY EID: Okay. Next up is Autumn Butler.

>> AUTUMN BUTLER: Good morning, Commissioners, and fellow Michigan citizens. I am a 13-year resident of Auburn Hill and have also lived in Pontiac and have been, I'm a resident of Oakland County more than 40 years. Today I'm here to speak on behalf of you all adopting the Szetela Map, map 404. For us up in North Oakland County, Oakland County is oftentimes represented as primarily a white county but there is significant portion of people of color in that community and Map 404 would best represent our interests as a community of interest. Having Oak Park, Southfield, Auburn Hills, and Pontiac together is so important. We often are -- we're neighbors as a compact, contiguous district. We shop in each other's cities. We -- my son plays baseball with kids in Oak Park. It's very important for us to remain a community of interest and to remain together. I think also specifically as Auburn Hills resident our city also incorporates Pontiac School District so it's born for us to be able to vote and to be able to be together with our neighbors.

I think that Map 404 has a high degree of partisan fairness is also is VRA-compliant; so for us, the Szetela Map, Map 404, is the best map we could have for the State of Michigan. Thank you so much for your time.

>> COMMISSION CHAIR ANTHONY EID: Thank you for addressing the Commission. Next up is Chad Guerrant.

>> MEGHAN SCHAAR: That participant is not present; the next participant we have available online that has signed up is Chris.

>> COMMISSION CHAIR ANTHONY EID: Okay. Chris, are you with us?

>> CHRIS HERWEYER: I am with you. Can you hear me?

>> COMMISSION CHAIR ANTHONY EID: We can. Good morning.

>> CHRIS HERWEYER: Good morning. Thank you, Commissioners, and members present. My name is Chris Herweyer from the Grand Rapids area, residing in the city of Wyoming but have friends and family that live in Detroit and thought I would speak up on a couple of maps today, particularly on three maps that have different aspects that are, I believe, beneficial to certain areas.

Number one, I believe that the Heron map represents the portions of Southeast Oakland, particularly the City of Royal Oak, very well -- try to remember which district number that is, District 9 in that proposal. I believe that district 9 for the Heron map does very well to represent those communities. I also believe with friends that I have in Sherwood Forest neighborhood of Detroit that District 8 under Commissioner Kellom's map also represents that community very well.

On the whole, though, when looking at partisan fairness metrics that the Commission and other groups have put forward, efficiency gap, partisan fairness outcomes, etc., I believe that



Commissioner Szetela's map does the best job of achieving partisan fairness. So I would respectfully request that the Commission seriously consider the moving forward with one of those three maps, Heron, Kellom, or Szetela. Thank you for your time, and I appreciate you taking the time to hear my comments.

>> COMMISSION CHAIR ANTHONY EID: Thank you, Chris, for addressing the Commission. Do we want to try Mr. Gallant again?

>> MEGHAN SCHAAR: Certainly, Chair. Let me see -- there we go. I will allow him to speak. Mr. Gallant, are you available? You are off mute, but I'm not hear any sound coming through. Okay, we should allow him a few more minutes and then come back to him, please, Chair.

>> COMMISSION CHAIR ANTHONY EID: All right. Next up we have Mary Ann Fontana.

>> MEGHAN SCHAAR: That participant is not present.

>> COMMISSION CHAIR ANTHONY EID: How about Lori?

>> MEGHAN SCHAAR: That participant is present; one moment.

>> LORI BOYCE: . Hello, my name is Lori Boyce and live in Farmington Hills and am very interested in partisan fairness. After all, the Commission was created to end gerrymandering. After looking at the maps and analysis provided on the Commission's website, I prefer the Szetela Map. My own community is still split up; however, I believe it is the best map overall. I notice that the Szetela Map is really trying to reflect comments from community members. For instance, Pontiac is in District with Southfield and Royal Oak Township, preserving the COI that has been discussed at a few meeting, and gives these communities the best chance of having Black representation. I also like that the partisan fairness and VRA scores are very good for this map, though Heron scores well in these categories. Heron, however, splits Farmington and Farmington Hills further to put us with community that would significantly dilute our voice, hence my preference for Szetela.

There has been a fair amount of discussion about Cardinal and would like to point out that the mean/median bias is far worse, more than double, than the Linden map. While you have two perfectly good options in Szetela and Heron, that actually improve this measure. It doesn't make any sense to pick a map that could result in gerrymandered districts when there are perfectly good options available to you.

I hope that this Commission can set aside personal differences and come together around the Szetela map. It could use Commissioner Kellom's knowledge of Detroit neighborhoods as a small improvement and from my own personal perspective to move Southern Farmington Hills with the rest of our community and perhaps move the top part of District 13 over to District 7, which is a below-target population. Otherwise, I think the map is so far the best and does the best for partisan fairness.

There was also a comment by Maya Anthony over the concern in northwest Detroit and not liking it to be with Farmington Hills so that might be a tweak as well to bring us together, bring Farmington and Farmington Hills together. So thank you very much for all your hard work and for your consideration to my comments.



>> Commissioner Rebecca Szetela: You guys can go get in line because I guarantee there will be a line for vouchers. Do you want to take the vouchers?

>> COMMISSION CHAIR ANTHONY EID: Thank you, Mary Ann, for addressing the commission.

Next up is Anthony Scannell.

>> ANTHONY SCANNELL: Good morning, Michigan Independent Citizens Redistricting Commission. I prefer the Curry, Orton, and Crane maps for my Community of Interest; and looking at District 1 where it doesn't cross from east to southwest. I think Szetela is okay in that regard, and Heron I don't like for that at all.

You know, it's like if I -- you know, people say who they to and do want to be grouped with. If you didn't -- you know, if it's a city next to yours or a community that is adjacent, you know, there's probably a likelihood you might get grouped with them and that's fine; but in Heron, I'm looking at District 1 and on the western, southern extreme of it, and I'm looking at the other, the northeastern extreme of it, and I have no affiliation and no relation with that part of the district so I just don't like Heron for that. And, yeah, that's it. Thank you.

>> COMMISSION CHAIR ANTHONY EID: Thank you for addressing the Commission.

Next up to speak is William Wilson.

>> WILLIAM WILSON: Hello. Can you hear me?

>> COMMISSION CHAIR ANTHONY EID: We can. Good morning.

>> WILLIAM WILSON: Good morning, Commissioners. I'm a resident here of Clinton Township and life-long resident of the Lakeshore/Central Macomb area, and I want to -- want to thank you guys throughout the whole process going back a number of years for recognizing that lakefront community of interest. But I'm here to speak in favor of the Szetela map. Another important community of interest here in Central Macomb is the Clinton River Watershed, and I think the Szetela map does a great job of putting a large chunk of that watershed into the same district so that we can hopefully get a lot of environmental issues that we have surrounding that river, including into the lake, addressed.

It's been kind of a decades-long struggle for us out here, dealing with that, so I want to thank you guys for taking that into consideration and also, the end, talking favor of hopefully you guys will vote in favor of the Szetela Map. Thank you.

>> COMMISSION CHAIR ANTHONY EID: Thank you for addressing the Commission.

Next we have Kelly Goldberg.

>> MEGHAN SCHAAR: That participant is not present; the next participant available online right now is ... "Nor"? Nour? My apologies; I probably butchered your name.

>> NOUR ALMAHAMEED: Can you guys hear me?

>> COMMISSION CHAIR ANTHONY EID: We can. Good morning.

>> NOUR ALMAHAMEED: Good morning. You actually did not butcher it. Hey, my name is Nour; and first of all, I want to thank the Commission for everything you guys have been doing. I live in Madison Heights and just wanted to speak in favor of Map 404. What I believe Map 404 does well is keep my friends and the community together, my friends along the line of Warren. I

like this map better than the other maps because it keeps us together as a united community and I think that's important. Thank you so much for the work you have been doing, and that's all I have.

>> COMMISSION CHAIR ANTHONY EID: Thank you for addressing the commission.

Next up we have Shams.

>> MEGHAN SCHAAR: That participant is not present; the next participant that is available online is Dylan.

>> COMMISSION CHAIR ANTHONY EID: Dylan, are you here with us today?

>> DYLAN LINKLATER: Yeah, I'm here. Can you hear me?

>> COMMISSION CHAIR ANTHONY EID: We can. Go ahead. Good morning.

>> DYLAN LINKLATER: Perfect. Thank you, and thank you again for everything you guys are doing. Yeah, so I think that in general kind of like I alluded to yesterday, I am from -- oh, I live in Rochester and think that like when you look at the fairness in general, I think the Map 404 is probably. I think Rochester and Rochester hills is important and having it with Troy.

I used to live in Madison Heights, as I said yesterday, and keeping it with Warren is also super important. So yeah, hopefully you guys consider Map 404. Again, I think you guys have done a pretty good job the last two days, considering how many people are here today, so I appreciate everything you're doing.

>> COMMISSION CHAIR ANTHONY EID: Thank you for addressing the Commission.

Do we have Zaynah with us?

>> MEGHAN SCHAAR: We do not; the next participant that is available is Renee.

>> COMMISSION CHAIR ANTHONY EID: Renee, are you here with us today?

>> RENEE RAPLEY: Yeah, I am. Can you hear me?

>> COMMISSION CHAIR ANTHONY EID: We can. Good morning.

>> RENEE RAPLEY: Good morning. My name is Renee and live in Melvindale. The map I want to talk about a lot of people are talking about today is 404. I hope the main thing the Commission keeps in mind, District 2, Dearborn, Dearborn Heights, Melvindale, Allen Park, the Ford Complex. It's the largest employer in what would be District 2 here and with both economic and environmental concerns that our community have in common it's appropriate to put us together as drawn on this map. Thank you.

>> COMMISSION CHAIR ANTHONY EID: Thank you for addressing the Commission.

Kristen Buchler?

>> MEGHAN SCHAAR: That participant is not present; the next available participant we have is Kyle.

>> COMMISSION CHAIR ANTHONY EID: Okay. Kyle Stefanski, are you here with us this morning?

>> KYLE STEFANSKI: Good morning. Yes, I am.

>> COMMISSION CHAIR ANTHONY EID: Good morning.

>> KYLE STEFANSKI: Good morning. So I'm here today to speak in favor of Map 404. I'm a life-long resident of the city of Warren, and I believe that Map 404 does by and far the best job

of representing the Warren area. For one, it keeps us together and secondly also has us grouped - - also has us getting grouped together with Madison Highs. Madison Heights and Warren have had long-standing cross-county relationship for ages, and in this map you know correctly it's like reuniting Warren with Madison Heights without isolating it from the broader area of Oakland. So great job on that. Thank you.

I've been really concerned, though, of what I have seen, though so far about the Cardinal map. Cardinal has an entire third roughly of Warren getting sectioned off with North Macomb, and that makes no sense because Warren has literally nothing in common with North Macomb. So I urge you to reject that map.

Thank you for your time.

>> COMMISSION CHAIR ANTHONY EID: Thank you for addressing the Commission. Do we have Violet Anderson with us?

>> VIOLET ANDERSON: Yes, I'm here. Can you hear me? I hope you can hear me.

>> COMMISSION CHAIR ANTHONY EID: We can. You're a little loud, though.

>> VIOLET ANDERSON: Let me turn me down; I'm sorry. I've always been like that, unfortunately.

I hope this is better.

>> COMMISSION CHAIR ANTHONY EID: There you go. Good morning.

>> VIOLET ANDERSON: Thank you for having me, and I am speaking to you because, well, I spent five years -- I was born and raised military -- I thought that everybody was -- and grew up in a very small environment until I got to become an adult, ha, and I did spend five years in the military when I was young. And I looked -- I always thought that everything was fair in life. I never really questioned a whole lot. I don't know how my parents raised us this way, but that's how I was raised. I always thought one person, one vote. I am the child of an immigrant and pass for white. Most people can not figure out what I am. But I am not and come from an ASL family. So I got into politics because of a wonderful social studies teacher and I carried it with me my whole life so I started looking at the redistricting maps. I thought this was a done deal. To my surprise, it wasn't, and I always thought, wow, why would you put this rural community WAY out here with this urban community? It never made sense to me because it doesn't represent the constituents in that area.

So I did take some interest, and I looked at the maps and I came in to what I am hearing from other people here, and that's two that have the most fairness based on regionality -- which I think is important because we all grew up with this little neighborhood -- and I think we need to get back to that, to some extent. It's map number 376, the Heron Map; and then the map number 404 looked pretty good, and 403 to me. The rest of them, you know, it's like we're back in the '60s or, you know, '70s. It's like I'm reading where I thought I was still reading the 1800s with yellow journalism.

So anyway, sorry; I digress. I support the three top maps that you guys have come up with, and thank you for your work for that. And I hope that one of them makes it. Thank you for your time. And vote: one person, one vote. Thank you.

>> COMMISSION CHAIR ANTHONY EID: Thank you. You mentioned three maps.

>> VIOLET ANDERSON: Yes.

>> COMMISSION CHAIR ANTHONY EID: You only said two of them. What's that third?

>> VIOLET ANDERSON: Oh, well, I saw the 376, the Heron Map; and then the 404 Szetela, I think it's what it's pronounced, and the 403, the Phoenix. Those three maps do a better job of keeping regions together, and I consider regions to also be neighborhoods. Think about when you were a kid and would go over two streets over or would run around. If you break up neighborhoods, you've lost the continuity of that group of people. I worked in Dearborn at Ford; my husband worked there 31 years. He's still working there. It's a neighborhood. Like-minded people that are influenced -- I also had a mom who was the original tree-hugger so it also keeps the Detroit Riverfront and Lake St. Clair and any of the river waterways together, which is VERY important for environmental concerns.

Anyway, I digress. Thank you, and I hope we get a better map. Thank you.

>> COMMISSION CHAIR ANTHONY EID: Thank you for addressing the Commission. Do we have Jeff Padden with us?

>> JEFF PADDEN: Yes. I'm here.

>> COMMISSION CHAIR ANTHONY EID: Hello, Jeff. Good morning.

>> JEFF PADDEN: Good morning. Thank you for this opportunity to speak with you. Again, my name is Jeff Padden, member of the Board of Voters Not Politicians but speak only for myself today. I want to thank you for listening to ALL of us. The Commission is required to create maps, taking into account constitutional priorities as you do so. These are in ranked order, as presented by Mr. Woods in his opening comments.

The Federal Court requires you to improve the racial equity of the Senate maps which is why you are here today. In addition, partisan fairness was the reason the voters adopted the anti-gerrymandering amendment in 2018. You can fully incorporate both of those priorities and do not have to compromise one for the other. You did so for the House and is essential that you take the same path for the Senate. For that reason, I strongly support the Heron map.

On the other hand, the Cardinal Map -- and some others -- compromise partisan fairness, which puts the Commission in jeopardy of even further lawsuits; and I think you need to be concerned about that prospect.

In the online comments, I see that many of the supporters of Cardinal seem to believe that maintaining municipal boundaries is the same as recognizing Communities of Interest; but this is mistaken. The requirement to consider municipal boundaries is a lower constitutional priority than racial equity and partisan fairness. Please do not make this error as you select a plan. Instead, consider racial equity and partisan fairness as the higher priorities as the Constitution requires.

Again, racial equity and partisan fairness can be best achieved through adoption of the Heron plan, and I urge you to adopt it. Thanks again so much for this time.

>> COMMISSION CHAIR ANTHONY EID: Thank you, Jeff, for addressing the Commission.

>> COMMISSIONER RHONDA LANGE: Commissioner Eid?

>> COMMISSION CHAIR ANTHONY EID: Commissioner Szetela -- I mean, Commissioner Lange.

>> COMMISSIONER RHONDA LANGE: Ha-ha, thank you. I had a question for Mr. Padden and was taking notes and when he said racial equity, is he referring to the VRA? I want to be very clear in my notes.

>> JEFF PADDEN: Yeah, and there are a couple of places in the criteria where there are allusions to equity -- I don't have them in front of me at this moment but seems to me that, number one, mentions VRA and other federal laws. And then there's another one maybe that's number three or something like that. So racial equity is a very high priority, no matter how you slice it, for the Commission; but partisan fairness is right up there as well.

And again, that was the motivation for people like me who were involved in developing that Constitutional amendment and who went out and collected signatures to get it on the ballot. So I -- I think you have -- there's no conflict between those two priorities and so I hope you will adopt them both and adopt the Heron or another plan just as effective on those criteria. Thank you for your question.

>> COMMISSIONER RHONDA LANGE: Okay, thank you.

>> COMMISSION CHAIR ANTHONY EID: Did that answer your question, Commissioner Lange?

>> COMMISSIONER RHONDA LANGE: Um, at first, yes; but let's move on. Thank you.

>> COMMISSION CHAIR ANTHONY EID: Gotcha. Thank you.

Okay. Ella McKanna?

>> MEGHAN SCHAAR: That participant is not present. I would recommend that we go back to Mr. Gallant.

>> COMMISSION CHAIR ANTHONY EID: Mr. Gallant, are you back with us?

>> JAMES GALLANT: Yes, can you hear me now?

>> COMMISSION CHAIR ANTHONY EID: We can.

>> JAMES GALLANT: All right. Thank you very much. James Gallant, Marquette. These are my opinions.

To MICRC as a whole, thank for acknowledging my civility. My question is, why did you allow full-on debate and deliberation to approve a voters not politicians public policy proposal during the June 12 public hearing without prior notice? It was not on the agenda as new business.

There's no written materials and there's no motion and second to begin the discussion as you were instructed by the Department of State. Where is Mike Brady? Please subpoena Mike to reiterate his instructions you must follow Robert's Rules of Order. Attorney Raile testified the question before you is a Voters Not Politicians proposal, and what proposal came from the board of directors, Mr. Padden must have approved; and maybe that's like a subcommittee now. Our legal liaison Lett testified the Commission provided numbers to handily. They're just numbers. Handley wasn't asked for opinions.

The problem is Handley testified; Director Woods asked her to comment on the proposal. So if the Commission requested Dr. Handley to comment, when was that vote by majority vote? To



approve that financial transaction to hire her to do that? It appears the clandestine legal liaison subcommittee brought that VNP proposal with expert testimony is y'all suspended the rules to slip into committee as a whole without the majority vote required.

Now, if this is the best you can do, Chairman Eid, I'm following the Robert's Rules of Order, you should resign immediately while apologizing to our COI, the entire state of Michigan, for your current incompetence while presiding over the MICRC.

Can we just get back to the actual rules here? How did that business even get here? I believe the voters not politicians board meeting, did they approve that proposal? Is now a subcommittee we need to get minutes from those needing and that is a case in the Supreme Court that said they acted effectively as a subcommittee. The guy said he created, help create the language in the proposal. Ask him about the affiliate question. Ask him about how the members have to affiliate with the Republican and Democratic party. What did they mean by that? That board of directors, eight people, voted for that initiative to be put on the ballot, eight people, not 10,000 voters not politicians, this is a community group, eight people; and on that, I just checked on the LARA Corporate Search for their annual report. There's eight people on that board, and Mr. Padden is one of them; so he must have voted to approve the language. Please get him back here and ask him some more questions what does it mean to affiliate. Do you have to be a voting member of the Democratic Party? What did they mean by these thing this, you are now suspicious of and don't know, ask them to come back, those eight people, different people back then with Dr. Wang. You don't follow Robert's rules. How about hire a parliamentarian so --

(buzzer)

-- to help to get you to slow down --

>> COMMISSION CHAIR ANTHONY EID: Thank you, Gallant. We appreciate your comments. We have someone who has signed up to speak in person. I will invite Stacy J to the microphone.

>> STACY DEERING: Good afternoon, Commissioners. Hope you guys are well -- well, good morning still. It's not quite noon yet.

>> COMMISSION CHAIR ANTHONY EID: We're almost there.

(Laughter.)

>> STACY DEERING: Ten minutes shy. So my name is Stacy Deering, life-long Detroit, and I have worked in metro Detroit since I was 15 so very aware of the communities. So I would like to again thank the Commissioners for willing and considering our previous comments when drafting the maps that have been proposed.

So upon reviewing the 12 maps that have been submitted, I support the Szetela map that grants the fairest considering to communities of interest and all minority communities that live in the tri-county region, Wayne, Macomb, Oakland, of course. As we have seen by the demographics that southeast Michigan has a high presence of cultural and ethnic communities and it's important to keep these communities together. Szetela incorporates keeping communes of interest together and cities such as Dearborn, Dearborn Heights, Melvindale, and Warrendale.



To ensure these communities are kept intact, we ask that you extend the Warrendale boundary to Tireman Avenue because many maps have a third or quarter of Warrendale, and then remove the city of Taylor from District 2 as they do not share the same lived experiences and cultural heritage as the cities. The Commission does have a very important task, as I'm sure you're aware of, and thank you guys for working so diligently of determining the level of representation that our communities of interest will have for the next ten years and the generational impact it will have for our future. I know indeed this has been a very challenging task for the Commission and I appreciate your diligence and efforts in putting forth equitable maps. Thank you, again, for your time today.

>> COMMISSION CHAIR ANTHONY EID: Thank you for addressing the Commission.

>> MEGHAN SCHAAR: Chair, I would like to acknowledge we have another remote public comment individual available for their first round. That would be Mary Ann Fontana.

>> MARY ANN FONTANA: Shall I start speaking now?

>> COMMISSION CHAIR ANTHONY EID: One moment. Sorry. Okay. Hello, Mary Ann. Welcome.

>> MARY ANN FONTANA: Hi. Thank you so much, and I want to start out with a question. I have spoken to the Commission before but my question is I think I was misinterpreting the Szetela Map when I was looking at it originally. On the Szetela Map, have they drawn Huntington Woods into, drawn into the same district as Royal Oak and Berkley? Is that correct?

>> COMMISSION CHAIR ANTHONY EID: So it looks like that area in that map is in District 10. It looks like Berkley, Huntington Woods, Royal Oak going east into Madison High and into Warren.

>> MARY ANN FONTANA: Okay, yeah, actually, that would be my favored map. I live in Huntington Woods and feel that becomes a district that is similar to where we have always been drawn into, and a lot of shared interests there, just that whole community, whole with Woodward corridor makes a lot of sense for me. I would say at this point that I prefer that map. I also think it is spread very well on partisan fairness and all the other, the VRA, etc., all the other criteria. So basically I just want to add that. I haven't been able to listen to a lot of the comments. I'm out of town right now so I would -- what I have heard, sound like a lot of people have been supporting that map for a lot of other reasons, which I -- I probably don't need to reiterate. I would say personally I am supporting first the Szetela Map. I would say that would be my preferred. Thank you so much.

>> COMMISSION CHAIR ANTHONY EID: Thank you for addressing the Commission. Department of State, is there anybody else online who hasn't taken their first turn yet?

>> MEGHAN SCHAAR: It does not appear so; however, we did just have a hand raised by an individual who did not sign up prior to this meeting. In fact, we have two hands raised by individuals who did not sign up ahead of time, if you would like them to provide comment.

>> COMMISSION CHAIR ANTHONY EID: Yes. please state your name for the record first.

>> MEGHAN SCHAAR: The first will be Yousif.

>> COMMISSION CHAIR ANTHONY EID: Welcome, Yousif.

>> YOUSIF YOUSIF: Hello, can you hear me?

>> COMMISSION CHAIR ANTHONY EID: We can.

>> YOUSIF YOUSIF: Perfect. My name is Yousif Yousif and hope Commissioners are doing well today. I went back to listen to yesterday's meeting as I missed it earlier and was disappointed to hear a caller was advocating for ignoring the Chaldean Community of Interest because that caller believed a supposed Republican operative is advocating for maps and using the Chaldean Community for his advocacy. I would like to respond to this. In 2021, I called multiple times and showed up to meetings and inputted more than 50 comments which is in the portal advocating for fair maps for Chaldean Community for all Senate, House and Congressional. I never felt the need to mention the Chaldean churches and just wanted to make clarifying points. There are ten Chaldean churches in Michigan, four on the west side, west of Livernois or Main Street, and five on the east side and one in Grand Plain so that's ten in total. This info can be found when visiting a Chaldean Diocese website and our church's link but the senate map, my main concern has been Chaldeans on the east side because I always lived on the east side since moving to the U.S. and have not heard of the supposed Republican operative's call or met him.

But St. Joseph in Troy, one in Sterling Heights, and St. George in Shelby Township are the affected. If I look at those, Crane and Dove include the three churches within District 9, Crane and Dove, and one in district 10. That's why we advocate for Crane and Dove previously but looked at Cardinal closely. It is represented more but excludes Rochester hills Chaldeans and doesn't include Madison Heights, which we have a Chaldean community as well. No map is perfect and sacrifices must be made. There are Chaldeans in Madison Heights so I'm fine with Cardinal for senate map. For the Chaldean community of interest and looking at the Cardinal map more closely, my first choice is Cardinal, second Crane, third is Dove.

Commissioners did a great job on the map, but Cardinal and Crane and Dove are better representation than Linden. Please don't cut out the Chaldean Community. It is the a COI. Isn't COI higher than partisan fairness? Please don't sacrifice the Chaldean community for suppose think more partisan fairness. Adopt Cardinal, Crane, or Dove. Thank you, Commissioners, for all your hard work. Thank you so much.

>> COMMISSION CHAIR ANTHONY EID: Thank you, Yousif, for addressing the commission.

There was a second person?

>> MEGHAN SCHAAR: There is Mari Rymar.

>> COMMISSION CHAIR ANTHONY EID: Mari, are you here with us today?

>> MARI RYMAR: Yes, hello. Hello, everyone. My name is Mari Rymar, a long-time Michigan resident, and I'm also an Asian-American.

My family is from Roseville and I have been following the redistricting process for a while now, and I do want to thank all the Commissioners for their hard work. I know it's not easy, so I have been looking at the maps and I think the best one is the Szetela Map, like a lot of people have said here today, Map 404. This has, I believe, the most respect for the various communities in the

Macomb area -- excuse me -- and I like how the Asian-American communities of Macomb and Oakland Counties are represented, and the map would also keep Warren together, which is, has been a major concern of the community, and I have friend and family in Roseville that extend in the Asian-American community up to Fraser and Sterling Heights.

and this map, I honestly think, does an exemplary job of connecting my community throughout the district and wholeheartedly endorse the Szetela map. Once again, thank you for all the work you're doing.

>> COMMISSION CHAIR ANTHONY EID: Thank you for addressing the Commission.

Okay, folks, that does it for everyone's first round of public comment who is appearing virtually and is 11:59. We have a scheduled break at noon. It's been a long morning and I'm sure our sign language interpreters -- oh, it's at 12:30? Oh. Okay. Well, is there anybody who has signed up to speak a second time?

>> MEGHAN SCHAAR: The only participant appearing virtually that has signed up for a second public comment is Mr. Gallant.

>> COMMISSION CHAIR ANTHONY EID: Let's hear from Mr. Gallant and then take ten or 15 minutes before coming back before break.

>> JAMES GALLANT: Can you hear me, Mr. Eid?

>> COMMISSION CHAIR ANTHONY EID: We can.

>> JAMES GALLANT: Are you hearing me?

>> COMMISSION CHAIR ANTHONY EID: Yes, Mr. Gallant, we can hear you. Welcome.

>> COMMISSION CHAIR ANTHONY EID: Thank you. Okay, James Gallant, Marquette, these are my opinions. Just a little continuance about what I noticed at the June 12 public hearing. As you allowed formally to deliberate considering voters not politicians public policy proposal without a motion, nothing.

Chair Eid, you started the whole conversation by wrongfully addressing yourself in the first place instead of saying, "The Chair is just trying to wrap his head around the proposed metrics." You see, it's -- you say "I." See? There's written rule you're not supposed to do that, maybe you summed start doing that, practicing that.

So now it appears that Mr. Raile and your appointed legal liaison, Commissioner Lett, are my star witnesses of how you are not full offing your duties and responsibilities to Robert's Rules of Order and Procedure. Just with the shenanigans you pulled yesterday, that was a complete I know like you're in an insane delusion as defined in Michigan statute. You believe something not true are even in the face of evidence that is not grew. You are not following the rule.

You need to have a motion first before you discuss anything and all these employees are supposed to be acting at your direction. You should have brought voters not politicians proposal, talked to the commission, and said now, what do we want to do? We want to give the expert to give us the report? That's a financial transaction to cost tens of thousands of dollars for that little proposal thing that you brought. Who approved that? You did not vote by majority to approve that transaction to hire her to do that. And this is what is wrong with this. You just kind of let the staff create policy over several meetings and what you're talking about, good to go. It's not

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formal deliberation. This is how Marxist style communism works. This is this thing, no semblance of order and tell you, you are clearly --

(Buzzer)

Consistently --

>> COMMISSION CHAIR ANTHONY EID: Thank you, Mr. Gallant. We appreciate your thoughts.

All right. Let's take a break. We'll come back at 12:15 to see if more folks have signed up to comment.

(A break was taken.)

>> COMMISSION CHAIR ANTHONY EID: There we go. We're going to be starting back up momentarily, if everyone could please take their seats.

All right, at this time, no one has signed up to provide in-person public comment. Department of State, is there anyone online who has not gone already once who would like? Are there anyone who have not spoken once who would like to speak?

>> MEGHAN SCHAAR: There is not at this time.

>> COMMISSION CHAIR ANTHONY EID: Okay, how about any of the members of the public who signed up to speak a second time?

>> MEGHAN SCHAAR: There is no one online at this time.

>> COMMISSION CHAIR ANTHONY EID: Okay.

>> Everyone's gone to lunch.

>> COMMISSION CHAIR ANTHONY EID: Well, there is no public comment. Does anyone have a motion?

>> COMMISSIONER STEVE LETT: I say we break to lunch.

>> Speak into the mic.

>> Mic. (Away from microphone)

>> ASL INTERPRETER: Sorry, this is the interpreter, I don't hear anything if anything is being said.

>> Nothing is.

>> COMMISSIONER STEVE LETT: We are scheduled for lunch at 12:30. It's now 12:20-plus. I would move we break for lunch and return at 1:30.

>> COMMISSIONER RICHARD WEISS: Second.

>> COMMISSION CHAIR ANTHONY EID: We have a motion by Commissioner Lett and seconded by Commissioner Weiss. Is there any discussion on the motion?

Seeing none, we will go to vote. The motion is to break now and return at 1:30. All those in favor of the motion, please raise your hand and say aye.

(Multiple ayes)

Any opposed, please raise your hand and say nay.

The ayes have it. We will return at 1:30.

(A break was taken.)

>> COMMISSION CHAIR ANTHONY EID: Test, one, two, three. All right, folks, we're going to get started momentarily, if everyone could take their seats.

All right. As Chairman of the Commission, I call this meeting of the Michigan Independent Citizens Redistricting Commission back to order at 1:32 p.m. For the public watching and the public record, I will ask Department of State for a roll call.

>> YVONNE YOUNG: Absolutely, Mr. Chair. Commission e please say "present" when I call your name. If your venue has changed from this morning's roll call, please share that during roll call when I call your name. I will call Commissioners alphabetically, starting with Commissioner Andrade.

>> COMMISSIONER ELAINE ANDRADE: Present.

>> YVONNE YOUNG: Commissioner Callaghan.

>> COMMISSIONER DONNA CALLAGHAN: Present.

>> YVONNE YOUNG: Commissioner Curry.  
Commissioner Eid.

>> COMMISSION CHAIR ANTHONY EID: Present.

>> YVONNE YOUNG: Commissioner Kellom.  
Commissioner Lange.

>> COMMISSIONER RHONDA LANGE: Present, attending remotely from Acosta County, Michigan.

>> YVONNE YOUNG: Commissioner Lett.

>> COMMISSIONER STEVE LETT: Present.

>> YVONNE YOUNG: Commissioner Muldoon.

>> COMMISSIONER MARCUS MULDOON: Present.

>> YVONNE YOUNG: Commissioner Orton.

>> COMMISSIONER CYNTHIA ORTON: Present.

>> YVONNE YOUNG: Commissioner Szetela.

>> COMMISSIONER REBECCA SZETELA: Present.

>> YVONNE YOUNG: Commissioner Vallette.

>> COMMISSIONER JANICE VALLETTE: Present.

>> YVONNE YOUNG: Commissioner Wagner.  
Commissioner Weiss.

>> COMMISSIONER RICHARD WEISS: Present.

>> YVONNE YOUNG: I will go back to Commissioner Curry.

Mr. Chair, you have ten commissioners present at roll call. You have a quorum.

>> COMMISSION CHAIR ANTHONY EID: Thank you, Ms. Young.

>> YVONNE YOUNG: You're welcome.

>> COMMISSION CHAIR ANTHONY EID: At this time, we will return the public comment and once again do remote public comment -- I'm sorry, we'll do live, in-person public comment, followed by individuals who have signed up to speak virtually.

Just as a reminder, the Commission will be here at Renaissance High School until 7:00 p.m., as long as anybody who would like to speak is signed up before 7:00, we will be here to hear from you.

We have different resources and tools available to help facilitate a discussion about the maps and let you know about the options that are out there. In front of us in this room, we have quite a few different maps. To my left, there are some of the older maps, including the map drawn by the Michigan legislature during the 2010 Census cycle, as well as the original Linden map that this Commission adopted a couple years ago.

To the right of those are the 12 maps that this Commission has forwarded to the Court, and those are the maps we are deciding between.

Up front, we also have a spread sheet and packet of data that show all the metrics that are behind these different mapping proposals.

We do have a few folks who signed up to provide live public testimony at this time, the first being Mercedes Douglas.

It's in the back, in the middle.

>> MERCEDES DOUGLAS: Hello. Thank you for the chance to speak. I am recently returned to Michigan and was very happy to hear that we will be embarking on redistricting and I really like the change that are being proposed. And I agree with the, uh, agree with all the commentary that is putting Szetela and Heron at the top of the list, both for their ability to meet the needs of bipartisanship fairness and also addressing the key concern, which is what has brought us all here today, making sure there's fairness and Black representation; and for that reason, I am particularly supportive of the Szetela Map. I think it addresses in particular the need to make sure that African-Americans are represented properly in Detroit. And I like how my neighborhood has been divided out. I really put my support towards Szetela. Thank you.

>> COMMISSION CHAIR ANTHONY EID: Thank you, Mercedes. I saw you looking at some of the maps. If you'd like to continue looking at them and sign up for an additional public comment, you're more than welcome to.

Next up is Jamie Lyerly.

>> JAMIE LYERLY: Hi, I'm Jamie Lyerly and live in Pleasant Ridge, Michigan. I was just looking at Szetela and thinking how much more can we split southeast Oakland. It's pretty egregious to split Ferndale from the surrounding areas to tack it on to the city. I think any of the maps which do not promulgate the Eight Mile Ditch, anything going across, is a positive move. I can see where the strip farming of the earlier maps may have been troublesome, but the, that doesn't give license to return to an Eight Mile wall.

>> COMMISSION CHAIR ANTHONY EID: Jamie, I'm sorry. Does that mean you're in favor or not in favor of crossing Eight Mile?

>> JAMIE LYERLY: Very much in favor. The communities along the Eight Mile border share much more of, I would say, with the immediate areas south to north and almost to the point of being less so east to west.



These maps that tend to split Warren, Centerline to add in Southeast Oakland -- again, I'm not sure that's the best look or the best future. I think a moderate amount of crossing the border is the right way to go.

>> COMMISSION CHAIR ANTHONY EID: Those are the school bells. Ha-ha.

>> JAMIE LYERLY: I'm sorry; I thought that was the --

>> COMMISSION CHAIR ANTHONY EID: You can finish your thought.

>> JAMIE LYERLY: And the final thing I want to say is I think that Southeast Oakland, particularly Ferndale, Pleasant Ridge, certainly has not shied away from Black representation, either at the city level or the Michigan House level.

And to suddenly throw those areas, you know, split those areas, throw those areas into question seems to fly in the face of reality.

>> COMMISSION CHAIR ANTHONY EID: Thank you for addressing the Commission.

Those are all the folks who have signed up for in-person public comment. Once again, if any of y'all would like to take a further look at the maps and sign up for an additional two minutes, you're more than welcome to, and we invite you to.

Department of State, is there anyone joining us via Zoom who has not spoken yet?

>> MEGHAN SCHAAR: There is not at this time.

>> COMMISSION CHAIR ANTHONY EID: Okay. Then signed up to speak a second time, perhaps?

>> MEGHAN SCHAAR: There is not.

>> COMMISSION CHAIR ANTHONY EID: All right. Well, how about at this time we take a break until 2:00 p.m., and hopefully we have some more comments at that time. See you at 2:00, folks.

(A break was taken.)

>> COMMISSION CHAIR ANTHONY EID: All right, folks, it is 2:00. We do not have anyone who has signed up to speak in person at this time. Is there anyone joining us virtually?

>> MEGHAN SCHAAR: There is not at this time.

>> COMMISSION CHAIR ANTHONY EID: All right. Well, we will break again and try again at 2:30.

(A break was taken.)

>> COMMISSION CHAIR ANTHONY EID: All right, folks, it is 2:30, and we do have somebody who signed up to give live testimony to the Commission today. I would like to invite Curtis Fernandez to the stage.

>> CURTIS FERNANDEZ: Hello, Commissioners. I'm here to, you know, to give my opinion on which maps I think are the best. I think the Szetela Map and the Heron Map do a good job of keeping communities of color together and protecting their voting power. That being said, I personally lean toward the Szetela Map, Map 404, and as one example, I would like to point out, looking at Pontiac, it's kept together with, you know, Pontiac is kind of an island, so to speak. It's a little bit isolated and maybe doesn't have as much in common with other, the surrounding communities; but at least with the Szetela Map, it's grouped together with at least a few cities

that has more in common with such as Southfield so I do think it is important because they, the communities in Pontiac will have their voices heard better if combined with communities more like Southfield.

Again, I want to, I think those two maps are the best maps, the Szetela Map and the Heron Map, but lean towards the Szetela map for the reason I just specified. I thank you for your time and thank you for all your hard work. And let's continue to work together to protect democracy.

Thank you.

>> COMMISSION CHAIR ANTHONY EID: Thank you, Curtis. We appreciate your comments. Department of State, do we have anybody joining us online who would like to speak?

>> MEGHAN SCHAAR: We do not have anyone that has signed up prior; however, we have an individual who provided a first-round comment earlier today with their hand raised. That would be Yousif Yousif.

>> YOUSIF YOUSIF: Yes, if he would like an additional two minutes, that is within our rules, an additional two minutes.

>> MEGHAN SCHAAR: I will go ahead and promote him to speak.

>> YOUSIF YOUSIF: Hello, Commissioners, can you hear me?

>> COMMISSION CHAIR ANTHONY EID: We can. Welcome back, Yousif.

>> YOUSIF YOUSIF: Thank you for allowing me to speak a second time. I would like to make more points. I was involved in 2021 and noticed many organizations copy and paste responses to members and was never an issue until somebody did it to Chaldeans. There's more Chaldeans and those advocating for Chaldeans are calling in. A caller had an issue with that but what is more disheartening is one of your own Commissioners agreed with that caller, first, even though that Commissioner is a confirmed Catholic, that doesn't mean that Commissioner knows the Chaldean Catholic Community, just because we are both Catholic doesn't mean we are the same. Second, the Commission didn't give the number of Chaldean churches in the U.S. or Michigan correct.

There are 15 churches that belong to St. Thomas Chaldean and not nine and ten and not six churches in Southeast Michigan, as I mentioned before, four churches on the west side and five on the east side and one other. They didn't know the difference between west side and east side Chaldean churches and have been advocating for senate and state map for eastern Chaldean because I'm more familiar so that caller and commissioner were implying if Chaldeans start calling and advocating that for maps that benefit them or using the commissioner's own words suspicious and Chaldeans should be ignored now but the same wasn't said about other groups or COIs who copy and pasted responses. Perhaps that commissioner doesn't know the Chaldean Community well.

My question is why Chaldeans are treated differently. I looked at the Heron map and it's horrible for Chaldeans. I have 17 seconds. Let's compare Cardinal and Heron efficiency gap: Democrat, 0.8, seats-to-votes ratio at 22-16 for Democrats, lopsided margins similar, 3.6, 3.8 -- actually Cardinal gives for fairer margin for Democrats. I have more to say.

(Buzzer)

It's up to you if I can continue.

>> COMMISSION CHAIR ANTHONY EID: Yousif, your time has expired. You can use our public comment portal as well, [www.Michigan.gov/MICRC](http://www.Michigan.gov/MICRC). On that site, you can, you know, put in writing all the comments that you've been making with us live today. We'll be sure to give it a read. But thank you for your comments. We do appreciate it.

Department of State, do we have anybody else joining us virtually?

>> MEGHAN SCHAAR: We do not at this time.

>> COMMISSION CHAIR ANTHONY EID: All right. Given that we have no more comments, we will break again. Let's come back at 2:55.

(A break was taken.)

>> COMMISSION CHAIR ANTHONY EID: All right, folks, we'll start back momentarily.

>> COMMISSION CHAIR ANTHONY EID: We do have someone who signed up to give live public testimony to the Commission. I would like to invite Darwin Griffin to the microphone.

>> DARWIN GRIFFIN: I guess I came in just in time.

>> COMMISSION CHAIR ANTHONY EID: You did!

>> DARWIN GRIFFIN: Hello. Good afternoon, Commissioners. I had spoke yesterday about the Heron Map, and I talk to you, Commissioner Eid, and I was trying to see whether or not there was a possibility that that portion that dips down into Detroit could be moved up into Macomb County.

And I know I spoke with a couple of my colleagues that were here this morning, and they were telling me -- I just got back from Lansing because I had to speak up there at the Capitol. I apologize because they were telling me that's what they were advocating for as well with that Map 376.

So that's why I was wondering, is that a possibility to maneuver that so that portion COULD be moved up from Wayne County back up into Macomb County?

>> COMMISSION CHAIR ANTHONY EID: Yeah, we can --

>> DARWIN GRIFFIN: Because I think --

>> COMMISSION CHAIR ANTHONY EID: Right.

>> DARWIN GRIFFIN: -- you may be able to maneuver that part.

>> COMMISSION CHAIR ANTHONY EID: Once we get done with this process hearing the testimony from this set of public comments, we can take any of these maps and make small changes like you're suggesting, and we did have folks earlier today that were advocating for that. We have Ryan right behind you also who can even help, you know, can help you make those changes and submit it to us if you'd like.

>> DARWIN GRIFFIN: Yeah, because that's what they were telling me this morning but I guess Virgil Smith and some others that were here this morning, that's what they were telling me they were in the process of trying to choose between that map and I believe it's the -- the -- is it 404? Is that the other map?

I think those were the two maps we were looking at, trying to see if we could advocate for those two, but especially the Heron Map, the 376 map. So I will talk to Ryan and see about possibly

being able to maneuver that part. But thank you, Commissioners for letting me take this time with you.

>> COMMISSION CHAIR ANTHONY EID: So you would agree with that?

>> DARWIN GRIFFIN: Yes. Absolutely. Thank you.

>> COMMISSION CHAIR ANTHONY EID: Thank you.

Department of State, do we have anybody joining us virtually who would like to speak?

>> MEGHAN SCHAAR: We do not at this time.

>> COMMISSION CHAIR ANTHONY EID: All right. Well, it is 2:58 and do have a scheduled break from 3:00 to 4:00. I would like to remind those watching that we will be here at Renaissance High School until 7:00 p.m. Again, we will be here until 7:00 p.m.

Anybody, any members of the public who would like to provide public commentary to the Commission, we invite you here to Renaissance High School to sign up. We have different tools available and different accessibility options available as well, whether that be language translation services, sign language interpretation. We have multiple maps out here for you to look at and engage with as well as different data metrics for you to look at and engage with. We need to hear about your community. Come through; let us know how you feel about these maps. With that said, are there any motions, Commissioners?

>> COMMISSIONER STEVE LETT: I move we take a break.

>> COMMISSIONER MARCUS MULDOON: Second.

>> COMMISSION CHAIR ANTHONY EID: We have a motion by Commissioner Lett and second by Commissioner Muldoon to take our scheduled break on the agenda that's from 3:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.

Is there any discussion on the motion?

Seeing none, we'll move to vote. All those in favor, please raise your hand and say aye.

(Multiple ayes)

Any opposed?

The ayes have it. We will be back at 4:00 p.m.

(A break was taken.)

>> COMMISSION CHAIR ANTHONY EID: We are back and we do have some folks who have signed up for public comment -- actually, hold on. We came back from our scheduled break, so let's try that again.

As Chairman of the Commission, I call this meeting of the Michigan Independent Citizen Redistricting Commission back to order at 4:03 p.m.

For the public watching and the public record, I will now turn to Department of State to do the roll call.

>> YVONNE YOUNG: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Commissioners, as I call your name, please say "present," and if your venue has changed from this morning or lunch meeting, please share your new venue location.

I will start alphabetically with Commissioner Andrade.

>> COMMISSIONER ELAINE ANDRADE: Present.

>> YVONNE YOUNG: Commissioner Callaghan.

>> COMMISSIONER DONNA CALLAGHAN: Present.

>> YVONNE YOUNG: Commissioner Curry.

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

>> YVONNE YOUNG: Commissioner Eid.

>> COMMISSION CHAIR ANTHONY EID: Present.

>> YVONNE YOUNG: Commissioner Kellom.

Commissioner Lange.

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

>> YVONNE YOUNG: Commissioner Lett.

>> COMMISSIONER STEVE LETT: Present; I moved over one chair.

>> COMMISSIONER JUANITA CURRY: That is silly.

>> YVONNE YOUNG: Commissioner Muldoon?

>> COMMISSIONER MARCUS MULDOON: Present.

>> YVONNE YOUNG: Commissioner Orton.

>> COMMISSIONER CYNTHIA ORTON: Present.

>> YVONNE YOUNG: Commissioner Szetela?

>> COMMISSIONER REBECCA SZETELA: Present.

>> YVONNE YOUNG: Commissioner Vallette.

>> COMMISSIONER JANICE VALLETTE: Present.

>> YVONNE YOUNG: Commissioner Wagner.

Commissioner Weiss.

>> COMMISSIONER RICHARD WEISS: Present.

>> YVONNE YOUNG: We have 11 Commissioners present, Mr. Chair. You to have a quorum.

>> COMMISSION CHAIR ANTHONY EID: Thank you, Ms. Young.

>> YVONNE YOUNG: You're welcome.

>> COMMISSION CHAIR ANTHONY EID: At this time, we will resume public comment. I would like to remind everyone here and everyone watching that the Commission will be here at Renaissance High School in the city of Detroit until 7:00 p.m. and anybody who is watch and anybody that wants to make comment on the 12 maps that the Commission has is currently deciding between is welcome to join us. We have a few tools available to help facilitate this discussion. I'm sure you can see behind you, you see quite a lot of different maps printed out. On my left, we have some history. The one all the way to the left is the Senate configuration that the Michigan legislature created during the 2010 Census cycle.

One over to that is the Linden Senate map this Commission made two years ago and the map that we are here again to change and fix. The rest of the maps are the 12 that we are currently deciding between, and the 12 we need comment from you folks to help with our deliberations and decide which one to go with. I recommend you take a look at the maps, take a look at the areas you live in, and let us know which configurations you like best.



We also have a data packet in the front by the sign-in sheet some of you may have seen. The first page is kind of a cheat sheet that has some of the metrics behind the maps. And then the rest of the packet is a little more detailed explanation on some of that data.

We'll now start public comment. First up is Gilda Jacobs.

>> GILDA JACOBS: All right. Okay. Can you hear me now?

>> COMMISSION CHAIR ANTHONY EID: We can. Good afternoon. Thank you for joining us today.

>> GILDA JACOBS: Thank you. Commissioners, thank you so much for the opportunity to give testimony in favor of Map 404. I'm Gilda Jacobs and served as public official for 30 years spanning local, county, and state government. I was first elected to the Michigan House of Representatives in 1998 and then served an additional two terms in the Michigan Senate for a total of 12 years in the legislature. I was honored to represent the people of the great state of Michigan but more importantly I was elected to be the voice for my constituents.

To be honest, political rancor and partisan fighting had already become the norm in the Michigan legislature so I was very happy when I was term limited. My party was so marginalized by the end of my Senate term I often felt that it didn't matter if I showed up for work. This was not why I ran for office. I ran to be an advocate for the people who elected me to give voice to all the people in my district; yet my hands were often tied.

The folks I represented did not deserve to be marginalized by those in power. Their vote and participation in the election process should have mattered. But I want to tell you why I am here before you today.

As I studied and compared the proposed maps, Map 404 caught my attention. It has fewer municipal splits than Linden. In fact, it has the fewest municipal splits of any map the Commission is considering. Why is this important? Having multiple legislators represent the same community is an inefficient and impractical formula for confusion for constituents, legislator themselves, as well as local governments.

Constituents often do not know who their legislators are and often struggle to sort out who represents them if there are multiple legislators. If there is not a point person for them to contact, it creates more work for constituents who need to make multiple phone calls, write multiple letters, or set up multiple in-person meetings with their representatives. This is also true of local government, school officials, and their staff who depend on the legislature to address and enact policy that directly affect the quality of their life, quality of life in their community.

Having multiple legislators also creates a fractured system of work for legislative office staff who need to interact with county municipal and school board administrators. In addition, it creates strains on legislators who want to attend and should attend commission meeting and events.

I want to briefly address the issue of communities of interest. The communities in Map 404 -- (Buzzer)

-- including Huntington Woods are aging infrastructure, aging populations and drop in student populations, to mention a few.

Many of these communities lack affordable housing and experience food insecurity. Enacting policy to address these issues on a regional basis would make more sense and that would be more achievable, keeping these communities together.

>> COMMISSION CHAIR ANTHONY EID: Ms. Jacobs? I don't mean to interrupt, but your time has expired.

>> GILDA JACOBS: I just wanted to thank you for your consideration. I have copy of my testimony that I can give to your staff, if you'd like.

>> COMMISSION CHAIR ANTHONY EID: Wonderful. You can also sign up for an additional two minutes if --

>> GILDA JACOBS: I pretty much told you everything that's on my mind --

>> COMMISSION CHAIR ANTHONY EID: Wonderful.

>> GILDA JACOBS: -- hard for a former politician to do that in three minutes.

(Laughter)

>> COMMISSION CHAIR ANTHONY EID: Yes, thank you for addressing.

>> GILDA JACOBS: Thank you so much.

>> COMMISSION CHAIR ANTHONY EID: Thank you for your service to the State of Michigan.

>> GILDA JACOBS: Thank you.

>> COMMISSION CHAIR ANTHONY EID: What's the name? Next up to provide public comment is Nina Abrams.

>> NINA ABRAMS: Hello. I've been here enough that I feel like you're family.

My name is Nina Abrams and live in Huntington Woods. And I keep, I want to keep thanking you for working on the redistricting. You guys are doing real yeoman's work. I am disappointed in the few number of maps that improve partisan fairness. Not everybody measures partisan fairness the same way, but in my looking at it, that's the critical thing. The closer you can get partisan fairness to zero, the fairer it is; and Gilda described some of the problems that occurred when there was no partisan fairness.

The map I like best is Heron, 376. Szetela and Phoenix, to me, are poor second, and unacceptable are Lange, Wagner, Orton, Cardinal, Dove, Finch, Oriole.

Partisan fairness is important. Heron district 3 where I live for Huntington Woods groups together the towns that I consider my hometown where I walk around, Berkley, Oak Park, Royal Oak Township. And it groups together towns that we consider part of our neighborhood District 9 does Royal Oak combination and that, again, places and you've kept us on the Woodward Corridor, which I feel is very, very important. We also in these neighborhoods have a lot of diversity by race, religion, and ethic values so when someone represents us, they get the whole gamut of things, and it works well.

Heron also keeps our related neighborhood district 9 of Royal Oak, Troy, Clawson, Pleasant Ridge, Ferndale together; and again, that feels local to me and more neighborhoods west of Woodward.

There's an option that someone suggested in the comments that I think is worth looking at. Southfield Township, Beverly hills and -- I'm not familiar with that because that's not my neighborhood -- and it's all part of the Birmingham School District -- could easily be moved with Birmingham and you come and you take Ferndale, Pleasant Ridge, Madison Heights and connect them with three and move Southfield township to District 9. In other maps that you have drawn previously, we crossed Eight Mile and expanded our neighborhood in a natural way. (Buzzer.)

We were working and felt that going across eight mile created regions and not just local areas. Is that my time?

>> COMMISSION CHAIR ANTHONY EID: It is, Ms. Abrams, but like I told the last speaker, if you'd like to sign up for an additional two minutes, you can; and when we get around, we'll come back to you.

>> NINA ABRAMS: I've covered it. I just want to say Heron is best, and thanks, guys. You are REALLY doing yeoman work.

>> COMMISSION CHAIR ANTHONY EID: Thank you for addressing the Commission, and we very much appreciate it.

Next up is Lucinda.

>> LUCINDA KEILS: Thank you. Lucinda Keils. I have lived in Huntington Woods for, from about the late, the early '90s till 2003. Then I moved to Oak Park across cool age two blocks north and one block southwest or something like that. Anyway, it's a community of interest for me. I also have many friend and I'm speaking to the Heron map especially because living in North Oak Park, my school, the school district that I have been involved in is actually Berkley and will be divided if Kellom or 403 Map is adopted, although it's similar in other ways in term of addressing some of the -- I was educated before the talk by some of the Commissioners showing that the partisan fairness pieces is about the same.

So it has that, but the reason I favor Heron over that would be the impact on my district, the children in my neighborhood, etc., in terms of it would be nice to have the same State Senator going into the future.

Also, we have many community, our communities have worked together regionally with the Oakland County Commission People and all our state legislators to try to address common areas that we have, the kind of areas that Gilda Jacobs also addressed, and she's someone I admire very much.

And I just want to thank the Commission for making these hearings available and for all the work that you have done, which I think hack very fine work. I think the work you did on the State House maps was outstanding and addressed the Court's concerns very well and think Heron does the best job of the maps that I have been able to familiarize myself with, which I'm not an expert at. I can tell my own neighborhood and my communities of interest and hope that you will hear my concerns and I appreciate you.

>> COMMISSION CHAIR ANTHONY EID: Thank you for addressing the Commission.

Next we have Greg Duenow.

>> GREG DUENOW: My name is Greg Duenow and live in Royal Oak and would like to say Heron. I think it is a good map because it is considered by the Republican, the Democrats, and the Independent Commissioners, was put together by them, I believe, and it keeps Royal Oak and Troy together. Thank you.

>> COMMISSION CHAIR ANTHONY EID: Thank you for addressing the Commission. Next up is Delaney McDermitt.

>> DELANEY McDERMITT: Hello, Commission. My name is Delaney McDermitt, work in Dearborn, and spend most of my time organizing with community members in Dearborn and the surrounding cities on issues of voter education and voter engagement. In my time organizing in this area, I have come to find that many members of the community feel apathetic around voting in elections and one of the reasons why is the representation and choices that they are given to not reflect what they feel represents their communities' interests and issues. I appreciate that the Commission listened and considered comments previously given when drafting the Michigan Senate Maps and also appreciate the Commission keeping some part of Warrendale and all of Melvindale in most of the maps, which is a part of our ACCESS Communities of Interest. As you make your final decision on the Michigan Senate maps, I ask that you still keep all of Melvindale and Warrendale, extending to Tireman Avenue, as they are part of ACCESS Communities of Interest in District 2. The populations of Warrendale and Melvindale have shared ancestry and heritage as ACCESS Communities of Interest and this is why I advocate they remain in District 2 with the cities of similar background such as Dearborn and Dearborn Heights.

I do support the Szetela map, which is number 404, as it keeps the ACCESS Communities of Interest together and improves partisan fairness. Thank you so much.

>> COMMISSION CHAIR ANTHONY EID: Thank you for addressing the Commission. I think I have a Ms. Eldri next.

>> HANEAN ELDRI: Hi, my name is Hanean. Thank you for taking the time to listen to my comment and for all of your work. As I work in Dearborn and organize with community members in Dearborn and surrounding cities, I organize on issues of voter education and engagement, and I have noticed many community members express apathy towards voting in elections. One of the reasons for this apathy is that the representation and choices they are given on issues do not reflect what they feel represents their communities' interests and their communities' needs. That's why this is so important here today.

I appreciate that the Commission for listening and considering the comments previously given when drafting the Michigan Senate maps. I also appreciate the Commission keeping some part of Warrendale and all of Melvindale in most of the maps as part of our ACCESS Community of Interest. As you make your final decision on the Michigan Senate maps, I ask that you still keep all of Melvindale and Warrendale, extending to Tireman Avenue, as they are part of the ACCESS Community of Interest in District 2. The populations of Warrendale and Melvindale have shared heritage, ancestry, and cultural identities as the ACCESS Community of Interest. This is why we are advocating they remain in District 2 with cities of similar background such as

Dearborn and Dearborn Highs. I support the Szetela map as it keeps the ACCESS Community of Interest together and improves partisan fairness. Thank you so much.

>> COMMISSION CHAIR ANTHONY EID: Thank you for addressing the Commission.

Next up we have Freidia Butler.

>> FREIDIA BUTLER: Good afternoon. My name is Freidia Butler, and I am a community activist and I worked in the group for Voters Not Politicians and was so disappointed when it came out that we really don't have representation of us in Lansing, and I can see where a politician has made a statement that people don't care, at least said that Blacks didn't care who represented them.

And I am very, VERY concerned because we used to have four representatives in Lansing for Detroit. Now we have only one and therefore I don't feel that is fair because the way the district has been drawn that our voters are everywhere up other than within the city of Detroit, which we have over 600,000 Black people in Detroit, and we've we're not fairly represented.

And I was glad that the judge, the three-judge panel, said that it was a racial issue and that the district needs to be redrawn, and I'm hoping that the person and persons who was in charge of this that would be fair for ALL of us. Everyone needs to be represented. So I appreciate this hearing. I'm disappointed that not more of us are here to speak up about the way it has been done, but we must, we all have to live together; but let's do it fairly. I thank you for this hearing.

>> COMMISSION CHAIR ANTHONY EID: Thank you for addressing the Commission. We appreciate your comments.

That concludes our in-person public comments. Once again, we will be here until 7:00, as long as anybody who comes through signs up by 7:00 p.m.

We will be here to hear from them.

We will now go to our remote public comments. We had a list earlier. Is there anyone from that list who has not spoken yet who would like to speak?

>> MEGHAN SCHAAR: The first participant that is currently available is Amal.

>> AMAL MOHAMUD: Hello?

>> COMMISSION CHAIR ANTHONY EID: Amal, are you here with us today?

>> AMAL MOHAMUD: Yes, I am.

>> COMMISSION CHAIR ANTHONY EID: Welcome.

>> AMAL MOHAMUD: Hi, everyone. My name is Amal Mohamud and work in the City of Dearborn and I want to keep my community of interest together. Our community of interest primarily lives in Dearborn, Dearborn Heights, Western Detroit, Warrendale; as well as many other parts of Michigan such as Allen Park and Melvindale. I'm asking to keep these communities of interest together. We have been involved in the economic and cultural development of Southeast Michigan over the last 50 years and here to advocate for the Szetela Map 404. It does the fairest at keeping our Community of Interest together so we ask you remove Taylor and extend the Warrendale boundary to Tireman and keep all of Melvindale as part of our community of interest in District 2.

Commissioners, you can draw district lines and maps that influence Michigan state and national landscape for the next ten years. We urge you to consider the representation these communities will have in our futures as you finalize the Senate map. I do want to take time to thank you for listening and considering our previous comments when drafting the Michigan senate seat -- maps.

>> COMMISSION CHAIR ANTHONY EID: Thank you for addressing the Commission. Okay. Next up for remote public comment?

>> MEGHAN SCHAAR: The next participant that is available is Kristen.

>> COMMISSION CHAIR ANTHONY EID: Kristen, are you here with us today?

>> KRISTEN BUCHLER: Can you hear me?

>> COMMISSION CHAIR ANTHONY EID: We can. Good afternoon.

>> KRISTEN BUCHLER: My name is Kristen Buchler and make this comment as a former resident in southeast Michigan and support Szetela and Kellom and Heron, specifically focusing on Heron. All three prove partisan fairness, but Heron scores best and it would have parity in voter groups and reduce gerrymandering to transform the voting structure in Michigan to ensure elected official and seats in the State Senate accurately reflect the votes of the people. I hope the committee will take this into consideration and select the Heron map for Michigan Senate Map redistricting. Thank you to the committee for your time.

>> COMMISSION CHAIR ANTHONY EID: Thank you, Kristen, for addressing the Commission. We appreciate your comments.

All right. Next up for remote public comment?

>> MEGHAN SCHAAR: The next participant is Josephine.

>> COMMISSION CHAIR ANTHONY EID: Josephine, are you here with us this afternoon?

>> JOSEPHINE BENGUCHE: Yes, I'm here. Good afternoon.

>> COMMISSION CHAIR ANTHONY EID: Good afternoon. Welcome.

>> JOSEPHINE BENGUCHE: Hello, my name is Josephine Benguche, a Black or African-American resident of the city of Detroit. Having lived on the lower and far east side of the city, I understand how there are different communities and neighborhoods within the same part of town. While we prefer the Heron map, I believe that the lower and far East Side should be separated spectacular to the Szetela 404 Map. However, I will also understand if the boundary between District 1 and District 2 began at Alter Road. This is a better start towards partisan fairness to keep community of interest in the Lower and Far East Side as well as upper and lower halves of city of Detroit as a whole together. I hope that this input will be beneficial and thank you to you and the Commission for your time.

>> COMMISSION CHAIR ANTHONY EID: Josephine, can you repeat what you said about the boundary and Alter road, I believe you said?

>> JOSEPHINE BENGUCHE: I was saying I understand that if the -- I would understand if based on the Szetela Map 404 if the boundary was pushed from Chalmers to Alter Road instead.

>> COMMISSION CHAIR ANTHONY EID: Thank you. We appreciate your comments.

All right, can we have the next remote public speak per, please?



>> MEGHAN SCHAAR: The next remote public speaker is Yacoub.

>> YACOUB: Hello. My name is Yacoub, resident of Troy, Michigan, but have grown up in Dearborn and currently work in the city. I wanted to start by thanking the Commission for taking the time to listen to these public comments and reflecting them into the Senate maps, and I appreciate that the Commission was able to keep some part of Warrendale and all of Melvindale in the maps as part of the ACCESS Communities of Interest. Warrendale and Melvindale include populations that have important shared heritage and ancestry as the ACCESS COI and ask as you make your final decisions on the Michigan Senate maps you continue to maintain as much of these communities as part of District 2 and consider keeping all of Melvindale and extending the Warrendale boundary to Tireman Avenue. Maintaining these communities would make sure we can quantify their needs better and thus develop programs that meet needs and acquire the funding to do so in a more effective way. And so I believe the Szetela Map 404 is the best map to do so as it keeps the communities of interest together and improves partisan fairness. Thank you so much.

>> COMMISSION CHAIR ANTHONY EID: Thank you for addressing the Commission. All right, can we have the next public commenter, please?

>> MEGHAN SCHAAR: The next public commenter is Mohamad.

>> MOHAMAD JAAFAR: Hello, everyone, my name is Mohamad Jaafar and will reiterate some previously stated comments, if that's okay. Thank you for creating space for these comments today. I live and work in Dearborn and have been life-long resident of the metro area and I want to keep my community of interest together by urging you to adopt the Szetela Map 404. Our Community of Interest is spread across Dearborn, Dearborn Heights, and other cities. Our communities of interest have cultural and heritage group and is a marginalized group that continues to be left out of the redistricting process, which is minimizing the impact of our collective voice. In order to preserve this collective voice and to ensure policymakers can better address our needs and concerns, we ask that we extend the Warrendale boundary to Tireman Avenue and keep all of Melvindale as part of our community of interest in District 2. The Commission will determine the representation of the community of interest will have for the next ten years and generational impact will have for our future. Thank you for including space again for these comments and hope you will consider these factors as you finalize the Michigan Senate map.

>> COMMISSION CHAIR ANTHONY EID: Thank you for addressing the Commission. Can we have the next public commenter, please.

>> MEGHAN SCHAAR: The next public commenter available is Zaynah.

>> COMMISSION CHAIR ANTHONY EID: Zaynah, are you here with us this afternoon?

>> ZAYNAH JADALLAH: Yes, I am. Can you hear me?

>> COMMISSION CHAIR ANTHONY EID: We can.

>> ZAYNAH JADALLAH: Okay. Thank you. I would like to start my comment. Hello, my name is Zaynah and live in Dearborn and want to keep my community of interest together. We have many shared concerns including labor conditions and discrimination, civil rights inequality,

access to health care. In addition to the constant work of being accepted in American society. Our recommended community of interest is across southeast Michigan including Warrendale. The Redistricting Commission has continue to marginalize our community by splitting our community of interest. Please consider Szetela Map 404 as it's the fairest to take our communities of interest into considering. Again, we would also like Warrendale and Melvindale to remain part of our community of interest in District 2. Thank you, Commissioners, for listening and considering our previous comments when drafting the Michigan Senate maps. Thank you.

>> COMMISSION CHAIR ANTHONY EID: Thank you for your comments.

All right, can we have the next speaker please?

>> MEGHAN SCHAAR: That concludes all of the participants that are currently online that have signed up previously.

>> COMMISSION CHAIR ANTHONY EID: Wonderful. And nobody else has signed up for a second round?

>> MEGHAN SCHAAR: That is correct.

>> COMMISSION CHAIR ANTHONY EID: All right. I just want to give a shout-out to the Department of State staff for helping us with these virtual public comments. We appreciate y'all. All right, that concludes the public comments that we currently have signed up. Once again, we will be here until 7:00 p.m. to hear what folks have to say about these 12 different Senate district proposals. At this time, we will break until 5:00 p.m. See y'all then.

(A break was taken.)

>> COMMISSION CHAIR ANTHONY EID: All right, folks, we're going to start back up. momentarily, if everyone can take their seats, please.

>> COMMISSION CHAIR ANTHONY EID: All right, folks. We are back, and we do have one person who has signed up to speak remotely. Ruby, are you here with us?

>> RUBY MUEHLENZ: Yes, I am.

>> COMMISSION CHAIR ANTHONY EID: Hello. Good evening.

>> RUBY MUEHLENZ Good evening. Yeah. so I, my name is Ruby Muehlenz and live on the west side of the state but have friends and colleagues that live in the East Detroit area. Yeah, so I'm on the behalf of my friends on the east side, and I would really like to urge the Commission to prioritize Maps Heron, 376; Kellom, 403; and Szetela, 404. This is not only because they keep communities together and certain school districts but because they're rank higher than others on the partisan fairness aspect of that. So I really, really urge the Commission to take a really deep look at those ratings and really consider those three maps to be a priority when looking at which one is going to be the final one. Thank you.

>> COMMISSION CHAIR ANTHONY EID: Thank you, Ruby. We appreciate your comment. Department of State, is there anyone else signed for remote public comment?

>> MEGHAN SCHAAR: There is not at this time.

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>> COMMISSION CHAIR ANTHONY EID: All right. Well, we have nobody here right now. Once again, we will be here until 7:00 p.m. at Renaissance High School in Detroit. We welcome members of the public to come out, take a look at these 12 different Senate District proposals and let us know what you think. Let us know about your communities of interest; let us know about, yeah, just what you think of these maps. Given that we have no comments, we will once again break. Let's see if we have any more folks at 5:45.

(A break was taken.)

>> COMMISSION CHAIR ANTHONY EID: We're going to get started momentarily, if everyone can please take their seats.

All right. And we do have one person who has signed up for in-person public comment, Kris McLonis. Good evening. Give us one sec to get your mic going.

>> KRIS McLONIS: Okay.

>> COMMISSION CHAIR ANTHONY EID: There you go.

>> KRIS McLONIS: Excellent. I am KRIS McLONIS, a resident of Ferndale, and out of all the different maps, I believe that the Starling is best, touching off all the points that are important to me. Ferndale, as well as Green Acres and Palmer Park, are all LGBTQ Communities, and I think it would be ideal to keep them all together in the same district.

Also, the Orton Map is good in virtue of the fact that Southfield Township and Birmingham would be in the same general district.

Probably the best way to sum things up is that I would like for my city, Ferndale, and the LGBTQ Communities I mentioned to be in the same district as Oak Park, Huntington Woods, Royal Park, Pleasant Ridge. I believe those are communities of interest.

I do not feel that Macomb County has enough in common with Oakland County for, to be part of any district all by itself. So those are my comments. I thank all of you who have been working on this for months, maybe years now; and I look forward to seeing the results of all all the careful consideration.

>> COMMISSION CHAIR ANTHONY EID: Thank you for addressing the Commission. We appreciate your comments.

Department of State, has anyone signed up virtually?

>> MEGHAN SCHAAR: There is no one online right now that has signed up for public comment.

>> COMMISSION CHAIR ANTHONY EID: All right. Do we have any more in-person? I think I saw you, sir, looking at the maps. Do you want to comment or not at this time?

All righty. Well, we will be here until 7:00 p.m. if anyone wants to come through and provide public comment. You're more than welcome to. We are at Renaissance High School. We want to hear from you. Show up, speak up. Right now we don't have anyone. We will check back again at 6:20.

(A break was taken.)

>> COMMISSION CHAIR ANTHONY EID: We'll start back up momentarily, if you could please take your seats.

All right, we do have some somebody over the Zoom who has their hand up. Would they like to provide comment?

>> ROBERT PAWLOWSKI: Good evening, yes. Thank you so much to the Commission for the time and opportunity to speak. My name is Robert Pawlowski, resident of Southgate and here to express support for the number 376 Heron Map and 403 Kellom Map. One of the critical strengths I find encourage of the maps is the ability to unite communities with strong social, economic, and educational ties. The down river communities, for example, share vibrant cultural and economic relationships. That should be reflected in their legislative districts, particularly in transportation, public transportation, that bridges these communities from one end to the other. These maps do an excellent job of recognizing and maintaining connections whether that's from Flat Rock to Taylor or Romulus to Wyandotte. I was particularly interested and impressed with the Heron and Kellom Maps' fairness as seen in the percentage major teenager outcomes to ensure the popular vote is accurately reflected and distribution of seats maintaining transportation in the electoral process with all voters.

While other maps like the 404 also offer fair solutions, Heron and Kellom stand out for their ability to maintain community connections while achieving a high PMO. This is a fair and transparent seat with all residents in these communities, including my hometown where I resided for almost half my life. I strongly support further work on these maps and would like to thank the Commission for their transparency and time and opportunity to speak for my consideration. Thank you.

>> COMMISSION CHAIR ANTHONY EID: Thank you for addressing the Commission. Department of State, do we have anyone else who has signed up to speak virtually?

>> MEGHAN SCHAAR: We do not.

>> COMMISSION CHAIR ANTHONY EID: All right, well, that concludes our public comment for now. We will once again take a short break and come back at 6:50 to see if we have any more folks that come through. Once again, we will be here until 7:00 p.m. and invite all folks watching and anybody interested who would like to provide comment on these maps, as long as you are here before 7:00 p.m., we will hear from you.

Thank you, folks.

(A break was taken.)

>> COMMISSION CHAIR ANTHONY EID: All right, folks, we're going to get started back up momentarily, if everyone could please take their seats and get ready to get going.

All right, we do have three more speakers who have signed up to provide in-person testimony to the Commission. I would like to invite Sherry Gay Dagnogo to the stage and to the microphone.

>> SHERRY GAY DAGNOGO: Good evening. Thank you, Commission members, for this opportunity to address you. Thank you for the work that you all have continued to do throughout this entire tenure of addressing the plaintiffs and the Agee V. Benson case and not only the plaintiffs but citizens in the state of Michigan.

I currently live in what would be I guess the Sixth District on the maps provided, the maps I will be speaking to today. As the plaintiff agent, I had an opportunity to talk to a number of our

plaintiffs and former members that have served these communities; and so I have a few commence to address the issue of the racial gerrymander. First, I want to say thank you. Commissioner Curry, Commissioner Orton, and all of you, actually, but the maps specifically that I believe puts us on the right trajectory are the maps from Commissioner Curry, which serves as a foundation. We know the evolution of the map on to the Orton map.

And then the map today I want to advocate for, the Crane. That map basically to me basically addresses the issues of the racial gerrymander, and it complies with what the judge has highlighted was an issue.

I'm a little bit concerned with some of the other maps but won't focus on those. That continued to spoke out into the suburban community and not addressing the issues of the three strong seats that we would have in the city of Detroit to ensure that we would have African-American representation. And so we are whole-heartedly supporting the Crane map because it does that.

I do have, though, suggestions as it relates to precincts number 335, 375, 376, 377, 355, 338, 337 -- again, that is 335, 337, 338, 375, 376, 377. I believe 355. Those diverse populations that are part of the Warrendale Community, composed of African-American, Latina, and Middle Eastern Community. We want to make sure the parts of Detroit industrial remain in Detroit and so making sure that we just move those lines just slightly to ensure that the representation is still for Detroiters as represented by Detroiters. That is one of the strongest things we have heard. We are pleased and stand with in support with a number of community leaders from the contiguous districts. We know that many of the residents found that community of interest in the Southwest Detroit Community as well as in Dearborn, Dearborn Heights, Middle Eastern Community. I think this is a map that puts everybody into a place where it's a strong compromise -- (Buzzer) -- and now has abandoned the spoken process, spoken process.

So we're very grateful to get behind and come to a place of compromise as those who are a part of the Agee v. Benson case, the plaintiffs in alignment with this map as well, as it is with many residential leaders as well. So I do live in this particular Senate district that has been impacted and again, I am also the spokesperson for Agee v. Benson case plaintiffs.

So thank you again for your very hard work and certainly into getting into the schools. I am a Detroit school board member so thank you for your work and being at Cass Tech, King High School, Renaissance High School as well. This was a much easier place to access for a number of our residents. It's unfortunate that many of them still are not getting the word and getting out in the community to be able to make their voices heard but know that I receive a number of phone calls, e-mails, inboxes on social media what is happening next. Thank you all again.

I appreciate it, and we are strongly advocating for the Crane map as I believe it erases -- we're not completely erased but it does address the racial gerrymandering. It does not spoke out into suburban communities. Thank you again very much for your time and your appreciation for your collaborative efforts in progressing into what we see is a reasonable compromise with the Crane map, especially if you can address the Warrendale Community precinct. Thank you again so much.

>> COMMISSION CHAIR ANTHONY EID: Thank you, Sherry, for addressing the Commission.

We appreciate your comments.

Next up is Wanonna Roberts-Gray.

>> WANONNA ROBERTS-GRAY: Wanonna Roberts-Gray. Thank you for providing this, allowing me to have this platform to speak to you this evening. I will be very brief but just would like to say that I do stand in agreement with what Sherry advocated for. I

'm a resident of Detroit, Senate District 6, and would like to say I stand, you know, for the Crane district map because the Crane district map is the one that helps us to prevent gerrymandering where it's manipulating boundaries against people in the city of Detroit, and I think it's the best map for us and helps us to have equal representation. So I just want to make sure that, you know, I just want to be heard tonight, and thank you very much for that.

>> COMMISSION CHAIR ANTHONY EID: Thank you for addressing the Commission.

Next up we have Gary Morehead.

>> GARY MOREHEAD: Good evening, Commissioners. Thank you again for all of your service. The time is late, and I was going to say some things, but I think in the interest of time I will submit them online. Let's hope it works. Commissioner Eid has been very helpful to help some submissions that I have that haven't gone through on the public comment portal. I don't know; I guess, I'm not sure if it likes PDF, I mean doesn't like PDFs or what, but thank you to the Department of State for forwarding those and eventually getting them onto the thing. Maybe eventually that will work right. I hope so.

But my remarks are going to be about VRA districts and when the post comes through, you'll see some spread sheet work that I did. Basically a four is a four is a four is not true. Two of the fours don't have the partisan pool.

Of course, the one that is a three doesn't have either of the yeses and then there's an interesting concept called confidence so that in future elections -- which I know there was some interest on part of the Commissioners -- what do you do about future elections? Well, we're just trying to figure out from the data that we have about, you know, what a static look at things are. But you can see in two elections on the VRA analysis that there's a little bit of variation so how much variation is realistic versus how much is, you know, how much is it just going to stay the same all the time. Of course you can't assume it's going to stay the same.

So I'll address that in my submission or an additional submission to the one I've already said, and I think I probably have used up all the time that you have between now and getting out of here at 7:00 and I don't want to be in the way of the stampede, so thank you.

>> COMMISSION CHAIR ANTHONY EID: Thank you, Mr. Morehead, for addressing the Commission.

Department of State, do we have anyone else who has signed up to speak virtually?

>> MEGHAN SCHAAR: We do not at this time.



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>> COMMISSION CHAIR ANTHONY EID: That concludes the public comment portion of today's meeting. There are no items for consideration and no Executive Director's Report today. Are there any announcements?

Are there any acknowledgments?

I would like to acknowledge Renaissance High School for having us here today. I would like to acknowledge all the folks that work to make sure these meetings are possible whether it be the Department of State, Commission staff, all of the interpreters, including language translation services, closed captioning, sign language services, Chase Creative for making sure A/V is okay, as well as the Commission's Security Team. We appreciate all of you that helps makes these meetings happen.

With that said, the items on the agenda are complete, and the Commission has no further business. A motion to adjourn is in order.

>> COMMISSIONER STEVE LETT: Mr. Chairman, I move we adjourn.

>> COMMISSIONER DONNA CALLAGHAN: Second.

>> COMMISSION CHAIR ANTHONY EID: We have a motion by Commissioner Lett and seconded by Commissioner Callaghan. All those in favor of the motion to adjourn, please raise your hand and say aye.

(Multiple ayes)

Any opposed, please raise your hand and say nay.

The ayes have it. We are adjourned. Thank you, everyone.