

MICRC

06/15/21 5:00 pm Meeting

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>> CHAIR KELLUM: Good afternoon Benton Harbor. I am virtual. But I would like everyone to make their way to their seats if they could. Good afternoon Benton Harbor. I am virtual, but I would like everyone to make their way to their seats, if they could. There's feedback. I'm not sure if I'm the only person that hears it. But Rhonda is shaking her head she hears it too. I'm not sure if we're supposed to hear the feedback, but we do hear feedback. Okay. I don't hear it anymore. Good afternoon Benton Harbor. We're happy to be here both in person and virtual. Thank you for your patience as we waited for all commissioners to be present and get adjusted. As Chair of the Commission, I call this meeting of the Michigan Independent Citizens Redistricting Commission to order at 5:04 p.m. This meeting is being live streamed on YouTube. For anyone in the public watching who would prefer to watch via a different platform than they're currently using, please visit our social media at redistricting Michigan to find the link for viewing on YouTube. Our live stream today includes closed captioning. Closing captioning, ASL interpretation and Spanish and Bengali translation services will be provided for effective participation in this meeting. Email us at Redistricting@Michigan.gov for additional viewing options or details on accessing language translation services for this meeting. People with disabilities needing other specific accommodations should also contact redistricting@Michigan.gov. This meeting is being recorded and will be available at www.Michigan.gov/MICRC for viewing at a later date. This meeting is also being transcribed and those transcriptions will be made available and posted on Michigan.gov/MICRC along with written public comment submissions. There is also a public comment portal that may be accessed by visiting Michigan.gov/MICRC. This portal can be utilized to post maps and comments which can be viewed by both the Commission and the public. Members of the media who have questions before, during or after the meeting should direct those questions to Edward Woods, III, our communications and outreach director for the commission. He can be contacted at WoodsE3@Michigan.gov. For the purposes of the public watching and the public record, I will now turn to the Department of state staff to take note of the Commissioners present.

>> MS. SARAH REINHARDT: When I call your name, if you are attending remotely, announce during the roll call that you are attending remotely. Unless you're absence due to military duty, please disclose where you're attending from stating the county, city, township or village. I'll start with Doug Clark.

>> COMMISSIONER CLARK: Present. I'm attending the meeting remotely from Rochester hills, Michigan.

>> MS. SARAH REINHARDT: Juanita Curry.

>> COMMISSIONER CURRY: Present.

>> MS. SARAH REINHARDT: Anthony Eid.

>> COMMISSIONER EID: Present.

>> MS. SARAH REINHARDT: Brittnei Kellom?

>> MS. SARAH REINHARDT: Present.

>> CHAIR KELLOM: Attending remotely from Detroit, Michigan.

>> MS. SARAH REINHARDT: Thank you. Rhonda Lange.

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

>> CHAIR KELLOM: Cynthia Orton.

>> COMMISSIONER ORTON: Present.

>> MS. SARAH REINHARDT: MC Rothhorn.

>> COMMISSIONER ROTHORN: Present.

>> MS. SARAH REINHARDT: Rebecca Szetela.

>> COMMISSIONER SZETELA: Present.

>> MS. SARAH REINHARDT: Janice Vallette.

>> COMMISSIONER VALLETTE: Present. Wagner? Richard Weiss.

>> COMMISSIONER WEISS: Present.

>> MS. SARAH REINHARDT: Commissioners, are present and there's a quorum.

>> CHAIR KELLOM: Thank you. I would like to ask Executive Director Hammersmith to provide a presentation on the Michigan Independent Citizens Redistricting Commission. Hearing no objection, please proceed, Ms. Hammersmith.

>> Thank you, Commissioner Kellom. Thanks everybody for being here with us today. We really appreciate your attendance. I just want to share a little bit about the commission to acquaint you a little bit more about this group of people and their work for the state of Michigan. So what is redistricting? Every ten years following the census, the district lines are drawn across America to accurately reflect the population changes. The process of drawing district lines is known as redistricting. And for this Commission, they will be drawing 13 Michigan congressional districts with about 775,000 people in them. 38 Michigan senate districts with about 265,000 people and 110 Michigan house senates with about 91,600 people in each of the house districts. So this Commission has six purposes and responsibilities in general. First, they are the sole entity for drawing the district lines. No other body, no other individuals have responsibility for this process. They operate in an impartial and transparent manner that instills integrity in the redistricting process and the public outreach represents fairness, awareness, transparency and engagement. They're seeking to get 10,000 distinct public comments throughout the state of Michigan to help them with their work. They also exercise their constitutional right to adopt the three maps for each type of district while complying with the federal and the state constitutions. They ensure integrity, public availability and accountability for the data and for public comments and for communities of interest and

they share in compliance with the criteria. So here are the criteria. These criteria are in rank order. So first, they have to meet equal population and adhere to the voting rights act, which provides that there cannot be any discrimination, racial discrimination, ethnic discrimination or language discrimination. The districts must be geographically contiguous. They must reflect diversity across our state of Michigan and the communities of interest. The fourth and fifth criteria include partisanship, so there cannot be any disproportionate advantage to a political party or to an incumbent elected official or a candidate. Six, they have to reflect consideration of county, city and township boundaries and 7th, the districts must be reasonably compact. It's a tall order. The Commissioners are committed to the goal of making sure that these criteria are met in the rank order that they're mandated in the Michigan constitution. So what is a community of interest? A community of interest may include, but isn't limited to populations that share cultural or historical characteristics or economic interests. That is the definition that's in the Michigan constitution. Also, the constitution states that communities of interest do not include relationships with political parties, incumbent or candidates. So what would we want to know about a community of interest? In order for Commissioners to draw maps that can take into consideration communities of interest, they would like to know what name you would give your community, what's the common bond that creates your shared identity, what's the geographic area covered by your community. This is very important. We would like to see it on a map if at all possible. What governmental policies are important for your community, how would keeping your community together enhance the quality of your representation. And are there nearby areas that strengthen or weaken your community of interest. So why are we here? To listen. To hear directly from you and your public comments about your ideas to redistrict. Congressional house and senate districts. And to listen and learn about your community of interest. So why should you care? This is a historic process. This is the first time ever that Michiganders have had a voice in the redistricting process. It empowers you to provide input that would best represent the community. There's a model for openness and transparency and opportunity for statewide participation for the first time ever and we're inviting communities of interest to share with us. How can you engage? You can get email or text alerts if you sign up on our website, which is www.Michigan.gov/MICRC. You can like us on Facebook at redistricting MI. You can submit a public comment on our website or request a presentation. For those who are not tech savvy, you can mail us a letter to P.O. box 30318 in Lansing, 48909. If you need information, you can call 1-833-you draw Oregon 1-833-968-3729 for information. You can attend our weekly meetings that are on YouTube. You can watch them on our website if you've missed something and want to go back and look at another meeting. You can give public comment at any meeting or public hearing of this Commission. We really want to hear from the people across the

state of Michigan. So thank you very much for listening. I'll turn it back to you, Commissioner Kellom.

>> CHAIR KELLOM: Thank you so much, sue. We appreciate you providing that information to -- about the MICRC to today's meeting. Moving on in our agenda, we'll now have the adoption of the agenda. And as a reminder to the public watching, you can view the agenda at www.Michigan.gov/MICRC. I would now entertain a motion to approve the meeting agenda.

>> So moved.

>> CHAIR KELLOM: Motion made by, is that Commissioner Witjes or Commissioner Lett?

>> COMMISSIONER WITJES: This is Dustin.

>> CHAIR KELLOM: Motion made by Commissioner Witjes.

>> Second.

>> CHAIR KELLOM: That's Lett. Is there any discussion or debate on the motion? Hearing none, it's moved and seconded that the agenda be adopted. All in favor, let's -- Michigan Department of state staff, can we do a roll call vote? Commissioners be indicate your vote with a yes or no.

>> MS. SARAH REINHARDT: I will call the names in order. Commissioner Orton?

>> COMMISSIONER ORTON: Yes.

>> MS. SARAH REINHARDT: MC Rothhorn.

>> COMMISSIONER ROTHORN: Yes.

>> MS. SARAH REINHARDT: Rebecca Szetela.

>> COMMISSIONER SZETELA: Yes.

>> MS. SARAH REINHARDT: Janice Vallette, yes. Weiss.

>> COMMISSIONER WEISS: Yes.

>> COMMISSIONER CLARK: Yes.

>> MS. SARAH REINHARDT: Juanita Curry?

>> COMMISSIONER CURRY: Yes.

>> MS. SARAH REINHARDT: Anthony Eid.

>> COMMISSIONER EID: Yes.

>> MS. SARAH REINHARDT: Brittni Kellom.

>> CHAIR KELLOM: Yes.

>> COMMISSIONER LANGE: Yes.

>> MS. SARAH REINHARDT: Steve Lett.

>> COMMISSIONER LETT: Yes.

>> MS. SARAH REINHARDT: With unanimous support, the motion passes.

>> I would like to make a motion at this time to adjust our agenda going forward beginning with the next meeting, not this meeting. If I could have a second, I would speak to it.

>> I'll second it.

>> CHAIR KELLOM: Okay. What was the motion for?

>> This would be -- this will be a motion to amend the rules of procedure specifically section 8, order of business and agenda. I would be moving to move the unfinished business and new business, which are currently listed in the policy and procedures as number 11 and number 13 up to number 4 and 5. And then we would have review and approval of minutes as number 6. Executive direct report number 7, general counsel report number 8. Communications and outreach director report, number 9. MDOS updates, number 10. Public comment, number 11. Correspondence, number 12. Announcements, number 13. And finally, adjournment. There would have to be a break inserted at an appropriate point. The reason for suggesting this is to bring items that require votes to the top of the agenda. We had an issue at our last meeting with the loss of a quorum and for the reason is really unimportant. People had to leave for various reasons. People weren't here for various reasons. All of them legitimate. There's no problem with that. But in order to facilitate the quorum and the voting, I think that moving it in this manner would allow people, if they had to leave, to be able to vote and then leave without having us -- the Commission in total not being able to act. Thank you.

>> CHAIR KELLOM: Thank you, Commissioner Lett. So we have a motion made by Commissioner Lett, second by Commissioner Weiss. Is there any discussion on the actual debate or discussion on the motion? And then vice chair Szetela, help me with in-person hands. I see that we have Commissioner Lange's hand virtually. I'm going to call on her. Should there be any in-person hands, vice chair, please assist and support that. Commissioner Lange, you have the floor.

>> COMMISSIONER LANGE: My only question, I have no problem with that motion. My only question would be about the public comment and moving it to the end. There are some times we have hard stop and there are times that our business runs over. So I think personally that we should still keep the public comment to the front because they are allowed to give their comments. And then move everything else as recommended would be my suggestion. I'm open to hearing everybody else's thoughts. But that would be my only concern is the public comment aspect of it.

>> CHAIR KELLOM: Thank you, Commissioner Lange. Mine as well. I think the purpose of public comment is so that they can actively in real time weigh in on decisions that we've told them we're going to discuss in our business. I think that's logic. I want to hear from general counsel and then Commissioner Clark, you can share after her. General counsel, you have the floor.

>> Thank you so much madam chair. Good afternoon to the Commission and guests. Yes, my observation is also -- I know we've discussed this in the past. Generally public comment occurs prior to voting. So that members of the public have the opportunity to opine prior to an action being taken on an issue. So that their comment can be considered if it has the intent of influencing an action or at minimum, letting the

Commission know their thoughts. Holding public comment at the end really only provides an opportunity to opine on completed actions without that ability to let their feelings be known and their opinions to be known in advance.

Thank you. Certainly, the Commission has the ability to set their agenda as they see fit. I just wanted to highlight that issue for you.

>> CHAIR KELLOM: Thank you, general counsel. Commissioner Clark?

>> COMMISSIONER CLARK: I'd like to put a motion forward to amend Steve's motion and move the public comment up to the beginning. I would also as part of that motion, like to have the adoption of the agenda prior to any presentations. As I envision, they're part of the agenda for the day. So today's agenda, item 4 would precede item 3 before we move forward with any presentations. Those two items.

>> Second.

>> CHAIR KELLOM: Second made by Commissioner Witjes.

>> COMMISSIONER WITJES: You got it.

>> We have a comment here by Commissioner Rothhorn.

>> CHAIR KELLOM: Thank you.

>> COMMISSIONER ROTHORN: I see the spirit of this and it makes sense to me. We're talking about future agenda items, right? We're talking about future agendas, not necessarily today but including today, is that true?

>> It would not include today because we're not ready for it today. It would start with our next regularly scheduled meeting.

>> COMMISSIONER WITJES: Thank you.

>> CHAIR KELLOM: >> COMMISSIONER ROTHORN: Thank you.

>> CHAIR KELLOM: Thank you for that clarifying question. Any other discussion or debate on the --

>> MS. SARAH REINHARDT: There are no other hands raised in the room.

>> CHAIR KELLOM: Okay. For clarification, can we restate the amended motion that's on the floor?

>> Do you want to restate it, Julianne or you want me to?

>> I have the motion to amend is to move the public comment period back up on the agenda and that any presentations appear on the agenda after adoption of the agenda. Is the motion to amend I have. Clarity would be where to move the public comment portion up on the agenda. If that would be prior to number 4, before the unfinished business, or where Commissioner Clark you were proposing to move that toward.

>> COMMISSIONER CLARK: I was proposing to move it to where it had been previously.

>> Okay.

>> COMMISSIONER CLARK: Keep it where it was.

>> CHAIR KELLOM: All right. Commissioner Lange?

>> COMMISSIONER LANGE: Can I make a suggestion? When you say where it was previously, could we say after adoption of the agenda? Then we know those are the agenda topics and then the public comment? Can I make that suggestion?

>> COMMISSIONER CLARK: Correct. I believe that's where it was. Right after the adoption of the agenda. We'll hear the public.

>> CHAIR KELLUM: All right, Commissioners. You heard the motion as stated. Are we -- now we're ready for voting. So all in favor, raise your hand and say aye. All opposed, raise your hand and say nay. Make sure I can hear you if you are virtual. Take yourself off mute.

Okay.

>> MS. SARAH REINHARDT: Commissioner Kellom, this is Commissioner Szetela, we have one nay in the room. Everybody else was an aye.

>> CHAIR KELLUM: Thank you vice chair Szetela. The ayes prevail. The motion is adopted. The amended motion is adopted. Now we'll return to the main motion to approve future meeting agendas as amended. All in favor, raise your hand and say aye. All opposed raise your hand and say nay.

>> Once again, Commissioner Kellom, we have one nay in the room and the remainder are all ayes.

>> CHAIR KELLUM: Thank you Commissioner Szetela. The ayes prevail and the motion is adopted. Thank you, Commissioner. We're going to turn to the review and approval of minutes. We'll approve the meeting minutes from the June 28, 2021, redistricting process committee meeting. I would entertain a motion to approve the meeting from the June 28, 2021, committee meeting which are posted on redistricting Michigan.org.

>> So moved.

>> This is Commissioner Witjes.

>> CHAIR KELLUM: Can I have a second?

>> COMMISSIONER ROTHORN: Second Rothorn.

>> CHAIR KELLUM: Is there any discussion or debate on the motion? Hearing none, we'll now vote on the motion to adopt the minutes of the June 28, 2021, redistricting process committee meeting. All in favor raise your hand and say aye. All opposed raise your hand and say nay. The ayes prevail. The motion is adopted.

We'll now review and approve the meeting minutes from the June 29, 2021 commission meeting. I would entertain a motion to approve the minutes from the June 29, 2021 meeting which are posted on redistricting Michigan.org.

>> So moved.

>> CHAIR KELLUM: Motion made by Commissioner Rothorn. Can I have a second.

>> Second.

>> CHAIR KELLUM: Second by Commissioner Lett. Any discussion or debate on the motion? Hearing none, we'll now vote on the motion to adopt the minutes of the June 29, 2021 commission meeting. All in favor, raise your hand and say aye.

All opposed raise your hand and say nay.

The ayes prevail. The motion is adopted. We'll now review and approve the meeting minutes from the June 29, 2021 public hearing in Muskegon. I would entertain a motion to approve the minutes from the June 29, 2021 public hearing which are posted on redistricting Michigan.org. I think I have a motion made by Commissioner Clark. Can I have a second?

>> Secretary.

>> CHAIR KELLUM: Second made by Commissioner Lett. Any discussion or debate on the motion? Hearing none, we'll now vote on the motion to adopt the minutes of the June 29, 2021 public hearing in Muskegon. All in favor, Commissioners, please raise your hand and say aye.

All opposed, raise your hand and say nay.

The ayes prevail. The motion is adopted. We'll now review and approve the meeting minutes from the June 30, 2021 commission meeting. If you'll note on page 4, for purposes of the public record, present. The word present is used twice. It's a duplication. So that is an error. It should be struck. Before I call for a motion, I want to indicate that for public record. Page 4. The use of the word present is in duplication.

Now I can call for a motion for those minutes, June 30, 2021 commission meeting. A motion for those minutes to be approved with that correction.

>> So moved.

>> CHAIR KELLUM: Motion made by commissioner Lett. Is there a second?

>> Second.

>> CHAIR KELLUM: Second made by Commissioner Witjes. Your voice is morphed sometimes. My apologies. Any discussion or debate on the motion? Hearing none, we'll now vote on the motion to adopt the minutes of the June 30, 2021 commission meeting.

All in favor, say aye, please.

All opposed, say nay. The ayes prevail and the motion is adopted. Thank you, Commissioners. We'll now review and approve the meeting minutes from July 1, 2021. It's a commission meeting. I would entertain a motion to approve the minutes from the July 1, 2021 commission meeting which are also posted on redistricting Michigan.org.

>> So moved.

>> CHAIR KELLUM: Motion made by Commissioner Rothhorn. Is there a second?

>> Second by Commissioner Orton.

>> CHAIR KELLUM: Second by Commissioner Orton. Any discussion or debate on the motion? Hearing none, we'll now vote on the motion to adopt the minutes for July 1, 2021, which is a Commissioner meeting. All in favor, raise your hand and say aye. All opposed, raise your hand and say nay.

The ayes prevail and the motion is adopted. We'll now review and approve our final set of meeting minutes for this session. July 1st, 2021. Public hearing in Grand Rapids. I would entertain a motion to adopt -- motion to approve the minutes from July 1st, 2021, public hearing in Grand Rapids, also posted on redistricting Michigan.org.

>> So moved.

>> CHAIR KELLUM: Motion made by Commissioner Lett and the second by Commissioner Clark. Is there any discussion or debate on the motion? Hearing none, we'll now vote on the motion to adopt the minutes of the July 1, 2021 public hearing. All in favor, raise your hand and say aye.

All opposed, raise your hand and say nay. The ayes prevail. The motion is adopted. Thank you, Commissioners, for approving and getting through all of those minutes. We'll now move through our agenda to the public comment portion. Without objection, I would like to ask general counsel to provide a presentation on the public comment guidelines. Hearing no objection, please proceed Ms. Pastula.

>> Thank you very much madam chair. For the benefit of the viewing public, the Commission will take in-person public comments first, followed by remote public comment. The time limit for each public comment speaker is two minutes. Please conclude your remarks when you hear the timer. If any person disrupts the orderly progress of this meeting or refuses to comply with applicable MICRC guidelines and rules, the chairperson may rule that person out of order and/or their removal from the meeting. A reminder to provide your comment or submit your proposed maps in our public comment portal available at www.Michigan.gov/MICRC. Thank you, madam chair.

>> CHAIR KELLUM: Thank you, general counsel. Without objection, we will now begin the public comment pertaining to agenda topics only portion of our meeting. Hearing no objection, we'll now proceed with public comment pertaining to agenda topics.

A little bit of a reminder. Individuals who have signed up and indicated they would like to provide in-person public commentary to the Commission will now be allowed to do so. You'll step to the nearest microphone when I call your number.

You'll have two minutes to address the Commission and please conclude your remarks when you hear the timer. I believe there will be a visual timer available for you to keep track also.

With those reminders in mind, I will call number 1. Number 1. You can approach the microphone and provide in-person public commentary to the Commission.

>> Thank you. My name is Ezra Scott. I am a Berrien county Commissioner. I wanted to thank all of the people here who came to Berrien county to inform us. I'd like to thank you for all of the work that you're doing. It's a tough job. But please hurry. The reason I say that is I'm a little concerned because I'm a Berrien county commissioner. And now I am running for Congress. And I don't know what my district is. I think I do. But the problem is, is that I don't mind about drawing the district lines. There's no possible way for us as candidates to even get petitions signed because we don't know the number. My suggestion would have been to redraw the lines but to leave the number the same. I know there are 14 districts. We're getting rid of one. So whatever district that we're in -- getting rid of -- we're located up here against the lake. We can't go any further that way. We can only go this way. That would be my only comment. This is no absolutely no fault of your own. This was a pandemic that hit us. This was a census thing that didn't get done in time because of the pandemic. So it has nothing to do with you. But please hurry.

That's my only comment. Thank you very much.

>> CHAIR KELLOM: Thank you so much Ezra for taking the time to address the Commission. We appreciate your commentary. 2.

>> Good afternoon honorable Commission. Thank you very much for hearing me. I'm Elena. I step in here to express similar concerns. It's my understanding that Michigan supreme court has denied the extension deadline on July 9th for the results of redistricting. Provided the census comes in September. I ran for United States Congress, district 6 in 2020. And this time I do not comment whether I do run or not. But my concern is for everyone who runs for office, as people do rely upon your effort to know which district and which map and how many constituents that they will be serving in the future. So I would certainly encourage The Honorable board to consider expediting as much as possible the effort to make sure that our candidates are empowered with the proper knowledge to make proper decisions as far as running for elected office.

My second consideration is, when I ran, I realized that I running for the district with almost a million people and my biggest concern was how do I service all the million people so everyone feels that they have been heard and serviced? So with that said, when you do redraw the map lines, please consider the fact that we would like handed -- somebody who steps in to service all of our constituents to be able to do so and to reach out to everyone. I'm not sure if it's in your power or if it's something that you can consider. But to make sure that the district is supplies as we can adequately service each one of our constituents. That would be my wish and my comments. Thank you very much.

>> CHAIR KELLUM: Thank you, Elena for taking the time to address the Commission. We appreciate you. 3.

>> Good afternoon. I'm Bishop -- I'm a pastor in Benton Harbor. I'm also a Bishop in the church of God and Christ which is the largest Pentecostal denomination in the world. My concern is how in the world did Michigan gain population but we're losing a seat in the house and when you do redistrict, consider those urban areas that have not been represented that have not been in an effective voting block because of the redistricting in the past. That's my comment for the night.

>> CHAIR KELLUM: Bishop, we appreciate you taking the time to address the Commission. 4.

>> Hello. My name is -- I'm a recent moving to Berrien county. I'm going to speak more about the area I came from. Because I would like you to give some consideration to what you're going to do about communities of interest. I came from Midland. But I believe there's a lot here that's the same. Trying to define a community of interest is easy. Trying to draw districts on them I think is very, very difficult. I've lived many places in the state of Michigan, including the sparse northeast part of the state. I believe there's a community of interest there. I don't think there is a community of interest in many parts of this state. Gentleman ahead of me mentioned Benton Harbor. They have very little in common but they're across the river from each other. Your challenge is to figure out how to draw a district. Since I have lived many places in the state, I'm hoping I can give you insight on making that easier. We have many, many differences but we have many, many more things in common. One thing I found everywhere I lived at is that no matter whether a farmer or a blue collar worker or a white collar worker, which is what I was, you have a family and you want to feed that family, you want to take care of that family and you want that family to be safe. We differ only in how we want to achieve those goals. So in my opinion, the community of interest is the state of Michigan. I think if you guys look at it that way, you'll find that drawing lines is considerably easier and that perhaps we can stop these artificial divides that I believe the politicians are creating for their own benefit. I don't know my neighbors well because we moved right during the pandemic and as you know very well, the limits have been lifted only recently. I don't know many people here. But the street I lived on in Midland was a short street and we had 50% democrats and 50% republican signs and we all like each other, all got along and all we cared about was our families. Thank you very much for your service. I hope your job will be well done.

>> CHAIR KELLUM: Thank you so much for taking the time to share your thoughts with the Commission. 5.

>> Hello everyone. My name is Jay Eddie. I am an organizer for the state of Michigan. I'm here to ask if you can move expeditiously due to the fact that we have candidates and we don't know the area and we need to be able to move effectively in the area. But we don't have the area so just makes things a little bit harder. I just want

to encourage you to take a look at the urban communities as well while making your decision. Thank you.

>> CHAIR KELLOM: Thank you, Jay for taking the time to speak to the Commission today. 6.

>> Hello. My name is Joey Andrews. I've been in a couple of these meetings so far. Some of you might remember me. This is my hometown. I absolutely had to come to this one and welcome you guys to the area. I'm here tonight wearing two different hats. The first one as a member of this community, the St. Joseph and Benton Harbor area. I wanted to encourage you to consider that Lakeshore communities like St. Joseph, Benton Harbor and the communities north and south are very much communities of interest. That very much deserve their own representation. That often differs quite a bit from what you might see in the rest of the county. I don't know how long you guys are in town, but I think if you took a quick drive around Berrien county, you would notice the cultural community divides very quickly. I want to encourage you to consider that. Also, make sure you stop at one of the great breweries or wineries in our fine county while you're here.

The second half that I'm here tonight -- hat I'm wearing is with the Michigan state AFL-CIO. As the west Michigan organizer for the AFL, we represent in southwest Michigan around 70,000 union workers, 10,000 in Berrien county and we just want to encourage the Commission to consider partisan fairness when drawing the districts, that when it comes time to vote, the -- the person that gets the most votes should win the election. While that seems elementary in over the last decade because of gerrymandering, despite the fact that in 2018 Gretchen Whitmer won the state by a large margin, did not win the majorities in the house and the senate to go along with it. It is simple if republicans win by a lot, they should also be reflected down ticket. When democrats win by a lot, that should be reflected down ticket. We want to encourage that you consider partisan fairness highly when making your be districts and votes being counted and voices being heard.

>> CHAIR KELLOM: Thank you so much, Joey for taking the time to speak to the Commission this evening. Can we hear from 7, please.

>> Hello. My name is Terry Treegarthen. I wanted to thank you so much all for your time and being here. I know it's got to be a lot of work. Way more than I could ever imagine. So I want to say thank you so much as well. My other question -- real quick, pardon me if this has been out there and I missed it somewhere. But as I've been looking on some of the information here about the districts shall -- this is a letter C on some of the questions here online. Districts reflect the state's diverse population of communities of interest. I'm just wondering if there's something that -- for your statistics if that's something you know where you're going to be putting these together from and if it's something -- I say pardon me if it's already out there and you're already -- where you're going to be getting it from. If it's just meetings like this or something you're

getting it from other places. I just would -- something like that. It would be nice to know, you know, this is going to be putting people into their -- like it says here, with their populations, you know, culturally, you know historical characteristics, economy, economic interests, those type of things. I don't know. Personally, I'd like to see somewhere if -- pardon me if it's already out there. If it could be something that, you know, how that's all going to be put together as well. Yeah. Where are you going to find it all. I don't know. You know what you're doing. Thank you so much. Great job.

>> CHAIR KELLUM: Thank you so much, Terry. We'll continue our meetings just like now are live. We continue to post all the documentation everything that we're doing online. And just -- this is a good time for the public to keep in mind that they can visit us at www.Michigan.gov/MICRC and join in on the conversation with your peers to keep updated as to what's happening in the redistricting process. Thank you. 8, please.

>> Good evening. My name is Antoinette Marie did he foe. A lifelong resident of Benton Harbor, Michigan. Born here. At Mercy Hospital where we had a hospital in Benton Harbor. As such delight, I found -- meeting through a Facebook. Classmate of mine, Barbara Watson. I said I wanted to come out to get more information and look at the information and see what's going on. So how I can serve the best in my community. So I'm here to get more information. I'm glad to see that -- like to see you here. Known him since he's a little baby. I want to do my part. Oh, yeah. I want to do my part in working to make sure everything is done really in a good way. Thank you.

>> CHAIR KELLUM: Thank you so much, Antoinette for coming out to share your comments with the Commission and for giving our community outreach director a warm shoutout. So we have --

>> One more thing. 1964, first time Benton Harbor born. State championship and -- I had my --

[Audio issue]

50 years later was the same exact score we had in '64.

>> CHAIR KELLUM: Thank you, Antoinette. We have only two minutes per person. I have to move on. Thank you so much for -- you are just full, I know, of stories and things to share with us. Michigan Department of state Sarah Reinhardt said we had two number 9s. I'm going to call the first number 9.

>> Just a little taller than you. Thank you. My name is Heather Cole. I just want to thank the MICRC Commissioners for coming here today, coming to southwest Michigan to hear the voice of our community. We really appreciate it. We don't always get these opportunities to be civically engaged. So we appreciate the opportunity to do this so close to home. I want to thank Edward Woods for helping to make this happen today. I know we had a previous virtual meeting. It was important for us to work together to bring the Commission here and give everyone the opportunity to give their comments. I work for united way of southwest Michigan. United way of southwest Michigan works to improve the community, especially in the areas of health, financial stability and

education. Our service includes Berrien, Cass and Van Buren counties. A lot of nonprofits in this area and region, I would say most nonprofits in this region have the same service area. I would really consider a nonprofit providers and the people we serve to be a community of interest, again, in Berrien, Cass and Van Buren counties together. Thank you again.

>> CHAIR KELLUM: Thank you so much, Heather for taking the time to speak to the Commission. Number 10. Or the second number 9.

>> Good evening Commission. My number is number 10 just to clarify. If there's another number 9, I don't want to get in the way. I had an opportunity to attend the Muskegon meeting a couple of weeks ago. I have submitted a sample map and submitted written testimony through the portal as well. I did want to take an opportunity to thank you all for coming to southwest Michigan. One of the things that I remember from that Muskegon meeting was community of interest in terms of Lakeshore communities and the things that those communities share in common and how important that our communities are represented appropriately, equitably and inclusively. So I would encourage you to consider the southwest Lakeshore communities. South Haven, south through St. Joseph, all the way to new Buffalo and down to the Indiana border as you decide and create your districts, especially in terms of the house district. I think that would be something that's appropriate. Again, the theme I heard in Muskegon was several people at that meeting shared the similar community of interest. The other thing I want to mention is I want to say that I absolutely support the Bishop's comments and Joey Andrews, I believe it was comments as well. In terms of as you draw maps to find -- be sure that all constituents have an opportunity to be represented appropriately and included. Again, thank you for all of your work. I appreciate it greatly. Again, my comments. You can view through the portal through written testimony as well. I think I said my name? Maybe I didn't.

>> CHAIR KELLUM: You didn't say your name. But we appreciate you taking the time to address the Commission and utilizing our portal. Number 11, please.

>> Good afternoon Commission. My name is show Quay pitch Ford. I was a candidate in 2020 for Statehouse. I was able to hear from the entire 79th district and was able to bridge divides in this community like we haven't seen candidates in Benton Harbor be able to do before. Across the bridge I was welcomed and celebrated in St. Joe. I want to speak briefly on behalf of a South Haven community of interest. That includes Benton township, South Haven. Being from the area, these communities are intertwined with each other, St. Joe and Benton are Twin Cities, they always have been and always will be. They have loss of crossover potential. I will say, we are not culturally intertwined with a lot of the rural areas. The issues and constituency have different needs and desires. Colona and -- so do Benton Harbor and South Haven. I believe the needs in the two areas are different. Also, a district with the highest importance is one that is able to draw that brings black, white, Hispanic and Asian

American populations together to have a voice and April presence in this community. We cannot dissect and space out these issues that affect one group or another. Placing cities with the high minority populations in this district that is otherwise mostly homogenous isn't tenable. I hope we correct it. Like I said earlier, Coloma, Bainbridge and Watervliet -- need to understand how it was growing up on a farm. Those in the inner cities and South Haven and the affluent communities don't understand that life and can't represent them well in the Statehouse, senate or congressional level. We have to look at that while drawing districts so we're equitable and bringing diversity and representation into the area. Thank you for coming here, to Benton Harbor, specific live. Crown jewel in my opinion. And you have a great day.

>> CHAIR KELLUM: Thank you so much show Quay. If I mispronounce your name. For taking the time to share request the with the Commission. 12?

>> >> Chair it appears we do not have a number 12 coming to the microphone right now.

>> CHAIR KELLUM: Okay.

Thank you. We will now move to remote public comment. Individuals who have signed up and indicated they would like to provide live public commentary to the Commission will now be allowed to do so. I will turn the floor over to Michigan Department of state staff and if you are on a computer, you will be prompted by the Zoom app to unmute your microphone and speak. If you are on the phone, a voice will say that the host would like you to speak and prompt you to press star 6 to unmute. Michigan Department of state staff will introduce you. If you're experiencing technical or audio issues and we don't hear from you for three to five seconds, we'll move to the next person in line and return to you after they're done speaking. If your audio still does not work, you can email redistricting@Michigan.gov. We'll help you troubleshoot so you can participate during the next public comment period at a later hearing or meeting. At this time I will turn the floor over to Michigan Department of state staff, Ms. Sarah Reinhardt.

>> MS. SARAH REINHARDT: Thank you, madam chair. First up is Susan Smith. Please allow us a moment to unmute you.

>> Thank you. Good evening Commissioners. I'm Susan Smith, vice president for advocacy for the league of women voters of Michigan. Thank you for this opportunity to address the Commission. League of women voters is concerned about the challenges the Commission faced in keeping a quorum during their recent meetings. As you know, the league has been observing the Commission's meetings since last September. On July 8 and again on July 9 we observed that the Commission had to end their meeting earlier than planned when they lost their quorum. As a result, important items on the agenda, such as approval of the meeting schedule for July and August could not be completed. If the Commission continues to have challenges in keeping a quorum, it could have a serious impact on the Commission's ability to meet the November and

December deadlines for publishing and approving the required maps. According to today's meeting agenda, the Commission will be discussing a memo from executive director Seau Hammersmith concerning prior notification of absences as one way to prevent future losses of a quorum. Over the past several months, the league and others have expressed appreciation to the Commissioners for their commitment to completing their task and creating fair maps. We are confident that the Commission will find a way to solve this problem and will continue to carry out their work in an effective and efficient manner. Thank you.

>> CHAIR KELLUM: Thank you, Susan, so much for taking the time to share your concerns and your comments with the Commission.

>> MS. SARAH REINHARDT: Next to provide remote public comment is Michael Harrison. Please allow us one moment to unmute you.

>> It appears Mr. Harrison may have stepped away from his computer for a moment. We'll move on to the next participant and return to him later. Our next public comment participant is Douglas Helzerman. Please allow us a moment to unmute you.

>> Can you hear me now?

>> CHAIR KELLUM: Yes.

>> Doug Helzerman. I wanted to say the pledge of allegiance. I pledge allegiance to the flag of the United States of America and to the republic for which it stands, one nation, under God, indivisible with liberty and justice for all. That only takes a few seconds. For some reason, you decided not to take a few seconds to pledge allegiance to our flag. But one wordy want to talk to you about and that is the word republic. To the republic for which it stands, one of the word changes that we've had in our vocabulary is our country, republic or is it a democracy? And our constitution says that our country should be -- that each state should have a republican point -- government. And this -- what you are doing is definitely democratic as opposed to a republican point of view because in our country, there are senators based upon state and house of representatives based upon population. And both houses in the state are going to be on population, which will give the city view, the one party rule in our state eventually. Maybe not this election cycle, but it's very dangerous, I think. Just when you are doing the map, remember the rural people of our state because I think that's very important. Thank you. I don't see the time. Maybe my time is up.

>> CHAIR KELLUM: Yes, it is, Mr. Helzerman.

>> I always go over. But I can never see the time. But I thank you for your time. Appreciate all your work.

>> CHAIR KELLUM: Thank you for providing commentary to the commission.

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

>> Can you hear me, madam chair?

>> CHAIR KELLUM: Yes, I can.

>> All righty. I'm James Gallant. One more time people. Gallant. I'm with the Marquette suicide coalition. These are my personal opinions. I signed up for an additional two minutes after everybody else is done under the rules of procedure. I'd like to thank the man for reciting the pledge of allegiance. I was going to do that. That freed me up with a little more time. I'd like to say that the draft financial document summary that you received on your agenda by Ms. Hammersmith is says the EDF invoice Oso owe will be reviewed by the director and not the civil counsel. That seems like practice of law without a license. Why would it do for all the other vendors and not that vendor. Ms. Hammersmith has been sliding things in that are not asked for, kind of like the pledge of allegiance and slipped in the state allegiance and a land acquisition that she slipped it in. Mr. Clark said he did not ask for that. It's amazing that you folks just allowed Commissioner Lett to talk you into amending the by-laws. It has to be before the meeting, right? At the prior meeting. He talked you into it on the fly. That's how did he it, on the fly. You know, the Secretary of State has established there was supposed to be two public comments. One at the beginning and one at the end. So that you can make an opinion before you make a decision and then you can provide a rebuttal afterwards. That's in your orientations at the first meeting. Why you folks think you can change this stuff without voting. I would ask the league of women voters to consider the Robert's rules of order and how you continuously start discussion without a motion and seconded which is what I'm considering institutionalized bullying. Because the chair has no authority to assign the floor unless you have a properly seconded motion to establish any question. You all folks all know this. You just continue to violate it. I don't understand. It's like creating a culture.

>> CHAIR KELLUM: You're allotted two minutes has ended, Mr. Gallant.

>> MS. SARAH REINHARDT: We will now return to Mr. Michael Harrison. Please allow us a moment to unmute you.

>> It appears Mr. Harrison may have stepped away from his computer or is experiencing technical difficulties. That concludes our first round of public comment.

>> CHAIR KELLUM: Thank you, Ms. Reinhardt. Now that the first opportunity for both in-person and remote public comment has concluded, without objection, we will now hear from individuals seeking to provide a second two-minute public comment.

>> MS. SARAH REINHARDT: First participant is Mr. James Gallant. Allow us to unmute you.

>> Can you hear me, madam chair?

>> CHAIR KELLUM: Mr. Gallant, we can hear you.

>> Thank you. My name is James Gallant again and I am thoroughly -- I got to tell you, just offended that my name is just repeatedly mispronounced by the Commission, by your staff. I believe that that is to get a dog whistle to all of you folks that you work with, maybe you're voters, not politicians saying we're not working with that guy. That's why you mispronounce people's names all the time. I seen this in Marquette. It

happens all the time. Please properly row nouns my name. So when other people when I talk to them, will know what it is. This thing about hearing no objections, that's voter suppression in action. To say no objection and the chair makes a decision unilaterally. It refuses to allow the members and the minority members their right to vote. This is voter suppression. You can't vote yes, you can't abstain. You have to object. Oh, you have to be the objector again. You have the person, who is not a team player, right? Nobody objects ever. I wouldn't object too, if I was them, madam chair. I'm objecting now from the podium. I can tell you that. We're still talking about in the paper it said that you have democrats here, you have republicans here. But we haven't really verified that that's true. I see that you said you folks can affirm that you are. But now it's time to prove that you are because if you're not, that means that you may have filed false statements on your application and some of you said choose not to answer on some of your applications and some of the random pool of applicants now, the other 200 people, they have it too. I went down the list randomly looked at them and some say choose not to answer when it's a required question for our conflict of interest. I think that there's big, big problems here. There's something, there's something ancillary proceedings going on. You folks are just kind of fluffing your way through fly by night.

>> CHAIR KELLUM: Mr. Gallant, that concludes your two minutes. Thank you. Pardon me?

>> MS. SARAH REINHARDT: Sorry, madam chair. That concludes our second round of public comment.

>> CHAIR KELLUM: Thank you, Ms. Reinhardt. That concludes our public comment this afternoon, Commissioners and to those watching and those present. At this time, we'll move to unfinished business. Moving to unfinished business agenda item 6 A, which is the MICRC meeting calendar. Without objection, we'll have executive director Hammersmith provide an updated information or provide updated information on the MICRC calendar and schedule of activities. Hearing no objection, please proceed, executive director Hammersmith.

>> Thank you, Commissioner Lange. Provided for the Commissioners is an updated schedule as approved on the 9th. We were in the midst of the discussion when the quorum was lost as Susan Smith had mentioned in her comments. So provided for you is that calendar, one of our commissioners, Commissioner Orton noted that one of the meetings is scheduled on Labor Day at this point in time. I think we just wanted to open it back up for discussion so the Commissioners could finish their discussion on the calendar if they chose to keep all the meetings on Mondays and Tuesdays in August and September if that's your pleasure.

>> CHAIR KELLUM: Vice chair Szetela, I'll ask you to support the discussion for in-person. I'm going to take Commissioner Lange's hand first and then Commissioner Clark.

>> COMMISSIONER LANGE: Okay. Since I was one of the people that was not here and privy to this discussion, I will just let everybody know that I did go back and watch the meeting. I saw that it was amended. The 10:00 a.m. I'm assuming the time for the 10:00 a.m. was amended to accommodate a Commissioner because of personal things. I'm totally fine with that. There has been some issues brought to my attention that some people have issues with me doing the fair outreach because it was brought up at the meeting and I was not there to be able to talk to you about it. So I just want the Commission and the public to know that the fair outreach in my defense, was done weeks prior to the suggested change. I scheduled those outreach days at the fairs to accommodate with the schedule that we have. The ones that I have contracted with have been very generous in donating not only space but the time and not charging us for those spaces to do outreach. So while I understand the frustration that if this is moved back to the Thursday/Friday schedule, I will be missing some Friday meetings. I hope that the Commission will understand that I made a commitment also to these people and these coordinators at the fairs and I'm not going to back out of that. I feel it's a duty to do. I am hoping that if accommodations were made, we did receive public comment saying if you do for one, you should do for all or you don't do for one and not for all. Well, if the time change was made to the 10:00 a.m. to accommodate a Commissioner, I would hope that the same could be done for me. But if not, I understand. We all have our own things and sometimes we have to miss for whatever. I just hope people understand that if it does get switched back, I'm missing to do Commission business, which is part of our job as outreach and education to the public. So I just wanted to make that comment. Whatever the Commission decides as a group and that's how it will be. I just want everybody to understand where I'm coming from. These fair things were not scheduled to be malicious be just so I could miss Commission meetings. They were done way in advance. That's all I can say. You know, I'm not going to try and defend it anymore. I just want everybody to be clear of that. So I yield back.

>> CHAIR KELLUM: Thank you, Commissioner Lange. Commissioner Clark?

>> COMMISSIONER CLARK: Rhonda, I mean, we all appreciate you going to the fairs and doing this. Understand that it was scheduled. It has to be scheduled far in advance. So we -- originally, we moved the dates from the Thursday/Friday to Monday and Tuesday. But unfortunately, we didn't have all the information we needed when we did that. There were a number of days that Cynthia, I believe, brought up after the lunch break that conflicted with us moving things from Monday to Tuesday. I think there was three days. I think it was Labor Day, I think it was one of our vendor's availability and I think it was election day that caused that problem.

So that's what really drove the issue of rediscussing it. Not that we were going to miss one Commissioner, being you for sure. It's well-appreciated everything you're doing on the county fairs. And I think it really benefits us as well. But

as we were concluding our meeting, I had put a motion forward on that because of these conflicts on these three days that it would be beneficial for us to move the schedule back to the original one where we met Thursdays and Fridays. I'd like to put that motion forward, that's the approach we take. That we move the schedule from Monday, Tuesday back to Thursday and Friday knowing well that one or two, three people may not be there. We're -- we have that problem every meeting. There's always conflicts with people's schedules. And we need to take that into account. I'd like to put that motion forward that we take the Monday and Tuesday, that we have moved the schedule to and move it back to Thursday and Friday.

>> Second.

>> CHAIR KELLUM: I have a motion made by Commissioner Clark. Is there a second?

>> Second. Commissioner Witjes.

>> CHAIR KELLUM: Second made by --

>> MS. SARAH REINHARDT: Commissioner Kellom, could we clarify with Commissioner Clark, he's just talking about the July and August meetings, is that correct? Currently July 19th through August 20th meetings -- August 17th meetings, moving them from Monday, Tuesday to Thursday, Friday is that what the motion is?

>> COMMISSIONER CLARK: Correct. Didn't have anything to do with September. It was the week of -- the dates of the 22nd, 23rd, 29th and 30th of July. And the dates of August 5th and 6th, 12th and 13th and 19th and 20th in August, I guess. Not to do anything with changing what we had agreed on, on the time change in the September schedule. Yes. Does that clarify it?

>> MS. SARAH REINHARDT: Yes, thank you very much.

>> COMMISSIONER CLARK: Okay.

>> MS. SARAH REINHARDT: Any comments in the room? Commissioner Rothhorn.

>> COMMISSIONER ROTHORN: I think the part that's -- the process that I think I want to recognize that there is our staff and our -- MICRC staff and the Secretary of State, made the proposal and I'm hoping that they were able -- that each Commissioner gives those -- our executive director, frankly, Sue Hammersmith, gives the challenges that we have to that so that our executive director can in concert with the other people, like actually make these recommendations. It does feel budgetary, efficiency. We will miss people, but we have to have that quorum. I'm sort of acknowledging that there is a process. It was proposed. We have the ultimate say and we changed it to try to accommodate as many Commissioners as possible. And I think if we can in the future, rather than -- I guess I'm thinking about how we as Commissioners can make sure we tell Sue essentially what our dates are that we will be missing, I think we may be able to move forward and -- because we have to be flexible. This calendar here is going to change, too. That's it.

>> CHAIR KELLOM: Thank you, Commissioner Rothhorn. Vice Chair Szetela, are there any other --

>> COMMISSIONER SZETELA: I actually have a comment. I feel there's an elephant in the room that needs to be addressed. I'm not trying to put Commissioner Lange on the spot. But at the same time, the issue needs to be addressed. One of the primary concerns that the Commissioners are having with this outreach is that we are being told that Commissioner Lange cannot attend our meetings in person, yet, she has scheduled seven hours per week of outreach to go to community fairs in person to meet with people. So I think there is a concern on our end and a feeling that there's some inequity and some concerns about that as to why someone can go to a fair and yet, not come and sit in our meetings in person and not come to public hearings in person. Then the other concern is, yes. We do have a commitment to do outreach. For the rest of the members of the Commission, we are doing that outreach in accordance with the schedule that we have approved, that we have agreed on as a Commission and that outreach is directed and managed by our communications and outreach director. It's not something we're doing on our own as individuals where we are selecting what we want to do. Arranging meetings that are not being publicly noticed and meeting with people individually as ourselves. I think there's some concerns with that as well. I think that needs to be addressed. Because we do have restrictions in the constitution on our ability to discuss Commission matters with the public outside of writing and outside of a publicly noticed meeting. And I'm concerned that we're going to be as a Commission potentially running afoul of that because of one member.

So that's a concern and then the third concern is that Commissioner Lange and all of us have a commitment to serve the Commission, too. And what is more important? Public outreach more important or is actually attending Commission meetings more important? I think most of us would say, especially at this moment when we're moving on to mapping, that it is important that we have everybody here and that we have people attending our training sessions and that we have people present and able to do these hearings, especially as we move into mapping. We really kind of do need everybody, all hands on deck at this point. I think those are concerns that need to be addressed. I don't think it's just an issue of people felt that perhaps Commissioner Lange was asking for special treatment. I don't think that's T I think there's broader underlying issues concerning to the Commission that need to be addressed. That is, can you attend in person if you can attend fairs in person and are you committed to this Commission as well and not just committed to outreach?

>> CHAIR KELLOM: Thank you, vice chair Szetela. I'll have -- I'm not sure about this order. I'm going to say Commissioner Lange and then Commissioner Clark.

>> COMMISSIONER LANGE: First off, I'm going to be blunt. My health situation is nobody's business but mine. If I could be there, I would be there. As we have had an in-person meeting westbound I was there. So what I am physically able to do and not

able to do and the reasons why is nobody's business. And I want to be very clear about that. We have a certain amount of privacy that we are allowed and I don't need to share my health condition with anybody.

Second, as far as it goes for the outreach, when I contacted these fairs, I was not lone dogging it as it may seem. I actually talked to Edward about this. He thought it was a good idea so I proceeded with it. That's that.

The other thing, I think I have definitely shown my commitment to this Commission. I would dare to say that I have put in more hours reviewing stuff and doing my homework than maybe some other ones on this Commission. So don't ever question my integrity about this Commission or my passion to do work for this Commission. I know you and I are vinegar and water. That's fine. We don't have to get along. But don't ever question my integrity. And that's it. I yield back.

>> CHAIR KELLOM: I'm going to say something very quickly and then Commissioner Clark, I'll give you the floor. I think this is a contentious subject because we have a tough job of, as you highlighted, Commissioner Lange, all of our meetings are live, right? So we can't say -- we have this tough job of advocating for the community, advocating for the Commission as a whole, but then importantly, advocating for ourselves so we can do the work. I think what has come up is a kind of cross-roads is not questioning your integrity, but where does that leave us in terms of routine and structure for the Commission as a whole. This is less about Rhonda Lange and Commissioner Rhonda Lange but more so how do we establish as we move into a tough job even with my own schedule, everyone's schedule, how do we move as a group so that there's a consensus that we're doing the work, doing it well and with respect for each other. I think this is less about a personal thing. Commissioner Eid, I see your hand. There are a lot of feelings. I want to step in and say this is a conversation of respect, fairness and also, it's productive. Commissioner Clark?

>> COMMISSIONER CLARK: Yeah. I was going to make a comment based on the second item that Rebecca brought up, which was the fairs. A number of months ago, I know that Rhonda had approached Edward regarding this. And the whole issue was getting more outreach to the rural areas. And it was an idea that she came up with, with the county fairs. She can coordinate it with Edward. I don't know to what degree that they decided on things. Maybe it just didn't get properly brought to the attention of the Commission as much as it should have been. I know that went on.

And personally, I commend Rhonda for doing that. She lives in one of the rural areas. Most of us don't. We live in the urban areas. We've been taken care of the outreach in the urban areas. She's taken this approach toward the rural areas, which she knows best. I wanted to support her on that one. That item. I'll leave numbers 1 and 3 that Rebecca talked about for discussion with the rest of the commission.

>> CHAIR KELLOM: Commissioner, EID and we do have a motion on the floor.

>> COMMISSIONER EID: So we have a motion and a second on the floor. That motion was to move the meeting times from the Monday/Tuesday to the Thursday Friday. Pretty much making it the schedule as it was originally suggested to us. Only changing the time from 12:00 p.m. on Thursdays and 9:00 a.m. on Fridays to 10:00 a.m. I think we've had enough discussion. I'd like to call for a vote.

>> Commissioner Kellom, do you want to clarify? We were talking about July and August, not changing the time to 10. I don't believe that was part of the motion.

>> CHAIR KELLOM: I was going to have general counsel before Commissioner Eid stated that -- restate the motion. Because it does need clarification and it's very long. General counsel, you have the floor.

>> Thank you so much. The motion made by Commissioner Clark and seconded by Commissioner Witjes is to move the meetings scheduled for Monday and Tuesday back to Thursday and Friday that occur in July and August. More specifically, the week of July 9th, the dates would be moved from the 19th and the 20th to the 22nd and 23rd. The week of July 26th, the meetings would be moved from the 26th and 27th to the 29th and the 30th. The week of August 2nd, the meetings would be shifted from July -- August 2nd and 3rd, to the 5th and the 6th. The week of August 9th, they would be shifted from August 9th and 10th to August 12th and 13th. And lastly, the week of August 16th, the meetings would be shifted from the 16th and the 17th to the 19th and the 20th. Madam chair?

>> CHAIR KELLOM: Thank you, general counsel. We're going to vote. Commissioner Clark?

>> COMMISSIONER CLARK: Yeah. I just wanted to clarify one item. Last week we did vote to change the time in September on Tuesdays to begin at 10:00 a.m. So I think that's -- that change was already approved. The motion that I put forward today does not include September. September remains at 10:00 on Tuesdays. Start time.

>> CHAIR KELLOM: Right. General counsel just clarified it's a motion on the floor is strictly speaking of the dates she just outlined.

>> COMMISSIONER CLARK: Correct.

>> CHAIR KELLOM: Right. Ms. Reinhardt, do you mind a roll call vote for this vote, please.

>> MS. SARAH REINHARDT: Absolutely, madam chair.

>> CHAIR KELLOM: Facilitating a roll call vote.

>> MS. SARAH REINHARDT: Commissioners, indicate your support of the vote with a yes or no. I will call them in alphabetical order. Cynthia Orton.

>> COMMISSIONER ORTON: Yes.

>> MS. SARAH REINHARDT: MC Rothhorn.

>> COMMISSIONER ROTHORN: Yes.

>> MS. SARAH REINHARDT: Rebecca Szetela.

>> COMMISSIONER SZETELA: Yes.

>> MS. SARAH REINHARDT: Janice Vallette.

>> COMMISSIONER VALLETTE: Yes. ? Richard Weiss. Yes.

>> Dustin Witjes, yes.

>> Doug.

>> COMMISSIONER CLARK: Clark yes.

>> MS. SARAH REINHARDT: Juanita Curry?

>> COMMISSIONER CURRY: Can you possibly repeat what we're voting for again out of so much talk.

>> MS. SARAH REINHARDT: General counsel, could you restate the motion.

>> I would gladly. The motion on the table being voted on currently is to move the meetings from Monday and Tuesday occurring in July and August back to Thursday and Friday. I'm happy to restate the individual dates if you would like, Commissioner Curry.

>> COMMISSIONER CURRY: I have the dates.

>> The dates would be moving from Monday and Tuesday in July and August to Thursday and Fridays. Specifically the weeks of July 19th, July 26th, weeks of August 2nd, 9th and 16th only.

>> COMMISSIONER CURRY: Okay. My response would be yes.

>> MS. SARAH REINHARDT: Thank you, Commissioner Curry. Anthony Eid.

>> COMMISSIONER EID: Yes.

>> MS. SARAH REINHARDT: Brittni Kellom.

>> CHAIR KELLOM: Yes.

>> MS. SARAH REINHARDT: Rhonda Lange.

>> COMMISSIONER LANGE: No.

>> MS. SARAH REINHARDT: Steve Lett.

>> COMMISSIONER LETT: Yes.

>> MS. SARAH REINHARDT: By a vote of 11 to 1, the motion carries.

>> CHAIR KELLOM: Thank you, Commissioner -- thank you. Commissioner Witjes.

>> COMMISSIONER WITJES: Point of personal privilege. First, I have two of them actually. For the record, I wish to say I concur with everything Commissioner Szetela stated earlier and 2, I'm wondering if we can take a break.

>> CHAIR KELLOM: Commissioner Witjes, of course, we can take a break if you need a break. Let's see. At this time Commissioners, I get the sense that this probably would be a good time to take a recess. I propose -- what do we think that we need? I'm willing for you to time in ten minutes or 15?

>> 15.

>> CHAIR KELLOM: 15, okay. We will take a recess and return at 6:45 p.m.

>> Madam chair, can we get a motion for that, make a motion to recess.

>> I move to recess until 6:45. This is Commissioner Szetela.

>> Second.

>> CHAIR KELLUM: Thank you. Is there any debate or discussion on the motion?
Hearing none, all those in favor of recess please say aye.

All those opposed, say nay. The ayes have it. We will recess until 6:45. Thank you, Commissioners.

[Recess taken.]

>> CHAIR KELLUM: Commissioners or Michigan Department of state staff, correct me if I'm wrong, it looks like we have seven people looking like they're about to be seated. But I'm not sure. Maybe six. Maybe I see six. I'm not sure. Hopefully everyone had a nice recess and did all of the self-care things. I call this meeting of the Michigan independent citizens redistricting Commission back to order at 6:47 p.m. Will Michigan Department of state staff call the roll please.

>> MS. SARAH REINHARDT: Madam chair, can you hear me now?

>> CHAIR KELLUM: Yes, I can hear you.

>> MS. SARAH REINHARDT: Commissioners say present when I call your name. If you are attending the meeting remotely, indicate that you are attending remotely and disclose where you are attending the meeting from unless your absence is due to military duty. I'll start with Doug Clark.

>> COMMISSIONER CLARK: Present. Attending remotely from Rochester hills, Michigan.

>> INSTRUCTOR: Juanita Curry.

>> COMMISSIONER CURRY: Present.

>> MS. SARAH REINHARDT: Anthony Eid.

>> COMMISSIONER EID: Present.

>> MS. SARAH REINHARDT: Brittni Kellom.

>> CHAIR KELLUM: Presenting attending remotely from Detroit, Michigan.

>> CHAIR KELLUM: A. From Reid city Michigan. Present.

>> MS. SARAH REINHARDT: Steve.

>> COMMISSIONER LETT: Let present.

>> MS. SARAH REINHARDT: Cynthia Orton.

>> COMMISSIONER ORTON: Present.

>> MS. SARAH REINHARDT: MC Rothhorn.

>> COMMISSIONER ROTHORN: Present.

>>> Janice Vallette.

>> COMMISSIONER VALLETTE: Present.

>> MS. SARAH REINHARDT: Erwin Wagner. Richard Weiss.

>> COMMISSIONER WEISS: Present.

>> MS. SARAH REINHARDT: Dustin Witjes.

>> COMMISSIONER WITJES: Present.

>> MS. SARAH REINHARDT: 12 commissioners are present and there is a quorum.

>> CHAIR KELLUM: Thank you, Ms. Reinhardt. We'll resume the agenda where we left off, which was moving on to new business agenda item 7 A. Without objection, I would like to ask executive director Hammersmith to share about the document and notifications of absence. Hearing no objection, please proceed, Ms. Hammersmith.

>> Thank you, Commissioner Kellom. I provided for the Commissioners a document called the ensuring quorums, notification of absences as a memorandum. There is certainly a cost to our meetings. The MDOS is paying for closed captioning, the American Sign Language in three languages and interpretation, that costs about \$900 an hour for that service they're providing to the Commission.

>> Point of order. I think we skipped 7 B, updated resolutions for the 2021, 6/16 mapping decisions made during the June 30th meeting under unfinished business.

>> Chair Kellom, do you want me to go back to that?

>> CHAIR KELLUM: Yes, Executive Director Hammersmith. My apologies, that was my oversight.

>> Okay.

Thank you, Commissioner Witjes. Yes. Updated resolutions 2021.06.06-16 regarding the mapping decisions that were made on June 30th were provided to the commission. They will also be posted on our website if not already posted. These are decisions that have already been made, what this does is just document those decisions. There's no need for a motion. But I wanted to make sure that we had those resolutions in a place that was easy to find so people could know the foundational work that has been done with the maps and the resolutions that the Commissioners created to make sure how that work begins. Any questions on that?

>> Commissioner Kellom, I'm not seeing any in the room.

>> CHAIR KELLUM: Thank you vice chair Szetela. I don't have from Commissioner Clark or Lange. General counsel has a hand raised. General counsel, you have the floor.

>> Thank you so much. Just as executive director Hammersmith noted, these are for the mapping process decisions that just to clarify for the public. No mapping decisions were made. These are the process and those foundational issues that were discussed at a prior meeting. Thank you.

>> CHAIR KELLUM: With no further discussion, sue we appreciate your update and getting those resolutions changed for us at this time. At this time we'll move on to new business agenda item 7 A. Without objection, I would like to ask executive director Hammersmith to share the document assuring quorums and notification of absence. Executive director Hammersmith, you have the floor.

>> Thank you, chair Kellom. So this document for assuring quorums and notification of absences has been provided. It's a memorandum, it provides information about if you're going to be absent, if you're eligible to attend remotely. How to give that notification and then if you will arrive late or leave early. If you can let staff know MDOS

staff and MICRC according to the list there and then if you have an emergency and need to leave a meeting, if you could notify Sarah Reinhardt, the analyst at MDOS, that would be appreciated. And as the courtesy, if you put it in the chat, that would be helpful. So people are aware. But there is certainly a cost to meetings. There's a cost to holding the meetings. There's a cost for AV for the meetings and of course, everybody's time and travel expenses, too. We want to make sure that if we do hold a meeting, that we have a quorum, that we can maintain a quorum and I'm hoping that these general -- this general request actually of the Commission can be met so we can move forward and be assured that we will have a quorum in future meetings.

Questions, comments?

>> CHAIR KELLUM: I have Commissioner Clark with a question and just quickly, thank you again for creating this document so that we have a shared understanding as a Commission and trying to accommodate everyone's busy and ever-changing schedule. Commissioner Clark?

>> COMMISSIONER CLARK: I'd like to put a motion forward that we accept this as our standard procedure for addressing quorums and notification of absences.

>> CHAIR KELLUM: Just a point of clarification. It wasn't an action item. We don't have to have a motion on it. It's more of a shared understanding. But I yield to the Commission.

>> Commissioner Kellom, Commissioner Curry has her hand raised in the room.

>> CHAIR KELLUM: Okay.

>> COMMISSIONER CURRY: I would just like to ask Sue Hammersmith, may I have a copy of the quorum, please, the paper, please, for the absences.

>> CHAIR KELLUM: General counsel?

>> I apologize. Wrong button. No. I was just noting, Commissioner Lange has her hand up. Certainly, the Commission can adopt the memo as their policy if they like. I would just note for the record that the actual remote and hybrid meeting guidelines and procedures would control over that one paragraph summary that's contained in the memorandum. So if the Commission would like to adopt the absence portion -- if the Commission would like to adopt the memorandum as their policy moving forward, just to note for the record that the prior -- the previously adopted remote and hybrid meeting policy would control and it's far more detailed than the information in front of the Commission and the document outlined by director Hammersmith. Thank you.

>> CHAIR KELLUM: Thank you, general down. Commissioner Lange?

>> COMMISSIONER LANGE: I was going to kind of say what she was saying about the other policy. We have it already set and voted on where it was the Secretary of State, Sarah and redistricting after -- some of the other points on it, this is saying that we should notify like three, four different people. I think it would be more prudent and more efficient if we had one set person. If somebody is going to miss, if there was one specific contact person that we contact, that way there's no miscommunication amongst

people. If you send it to the executive director or to the executive assistant, if by some chance they don't -- you see what I'm saying? If they don't say it to each other, then I think it would be just more efficient if we have one particular person. As far as the emergency leave, the private message on the private chat, I agree with. But I think it should specifically go to Sarah, not everybody on the panel. I'm sure our ASL and everybody else doesn't need to know that. Rather than trying to do everybody individually. So just my thoughts on it.

>> CHAIR KELLOM: Thank you, Commissioner Lange.

So we do -- unless Doug would like to --

>> Commissioner Kellom, we have a hand in the room. Commissioner Witjes -- I'm sorry. Commissioner Witjes has his hand raised.

>> CHAIR KELLOM: Okay. Commissioner Witjes.

>> COMMISSIONER WITJES: I will second Doug's motion.

>> CHAIR KELLOM: Well, that answers that part of my question, what I was going to say. We have a first made by -- motion by Commissioner Clark, a second made by Commissioner Witjes. Any discussion or debate on the actual motion? Okay. Hearing none --

>> Commissioner Rothhorn has his hand raised.

>> CHAIR KELLOM: Commissioner Rothhorn.

>> COMMISSIONER ROTHORN: Thank you. I'm just highlighting -- I guess the concern is what our general counsel highlighted already, that we may be making a policy that's duplicative and Commissioner Lange said the same thing. Maybe take the attendance piece out. I know that -- I don't want to make two policies that may conflict with each other. I don't know that we're being more efficient when we do that.

>> CHAIR KELLOM: General counsel?

>> MS. JULIANNE PASTULA: What I would recommend the Commission consider is even just a motion to amend and strike out the remote meeting part of it.

That way there would be no confusion that the guidelines that were already adopted would control in that situation.

And then that would leave the paragraph that is noted, if you are going to be absent, and then the paragraph if you will leave late, excuse me, if you will arrive late or leave early and, lastly, if you have an emergency.

That way there would be no confusion over the remote meeting or hybrid meeting policy.

So that would be an appropriate action to consider.

>> VICE CHAIR SZETELA: Commissioner Kellom, I'm happy to make that motion.

This is Commissioner Szetela. So I make a motion to amend the assuring quorums and notifications absences memo to strike out the paragraph that begins with the header if you are eligible to attend remotely, to strike out that paragraph in the entirety and leave the remainder of the memo the same.

>> COMMISSIONER CLARK: Second.

>> CHAIR KELLOM: Motion to amend made by Commissioner Szetela and second by Commissioner Lett. Is there any debate or discussion on the motion to amend? Hearing none, all those in favor please raise your hand and say aye.

>> Aye.

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

>> Nay.

>> COMMISSIONER LANGE: Nay.

>> CHAIR KELLOM: And either General Counsel or Michigan Department of State, can you give me a count of the vote?

>> MS. SARAH REINHARDT: I believe the count was nine in favor and two not in favor.

Vice Chair Szetela, can you confirm if that was the count?

>> VICE CHAIR SZETELA: I can confirm that Commissioner Witjes and Commissioner Lange both voted nay and everybody else voted yeah.

>> CHAIR KELLOM: Thank you. The ayes have it and the motion to amend carries. And returning to the main motion, and for purposes of clarification and the vote, General Counsel, can you restate the main motion, please?

>> MS. JULIANNE PASTULA: The main motion on the table would be to a motion to accept a standard procedure, the assuring quorum notifications of memo as policy with the paragraph if you are eligible to attend remotely struck in its entirety.

>> CHAIR KELLOM: Thank you, General Counsel.

All those in favor of the motion as read or as stated, excuse me, please raise your hand and say aye.

>> Aye.

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

>> COMMISSIONER LANGE: Nay.

>> Nay.

>> CHAIR KELLOM: The ayes have it, the motion carries.

Moving now to new business agenda, item 7B, without objection we will have Executive Director Hammersmith to provide three financial reports.

Hearing no objection, please proceed, Director Hammersmith.

>> MS. SUANN HAMMERSMITH: Thank you again, Chair Kellom.

Provided for the Commission are financial procedures that are currently in effect for the Commission and the staff.

Mostly I wanted the Commissioners to be aware of the process that takes place when our invoices are paid and when we consider those invoices.

So, for example, if it happens to be one of our communication and outreach contracts that, that person works with Edward Woods, then I would always have Edward look at those invoices before I would approve them for payment.

This also happens in the case of our General Counsel when she is working with Bruce Adelson from Federal Compliance, that any invoices that he would send to the Commission she would approve before I would pay any of those expenses.

A lot of these are policies that are already have been adopted.

I just wanted you to mostly be aware if you want to adopt these as official financial procedures you certainly may.

If you have questions, I'm happy to answer them.

>> CHAIR KELLUM: Thank you, Sue. We appreciate your work on this.

Vice Chair Szetela, I have a hand raised, Commissioner Clark, and then you can let me know if there is someone in person.

>> VICE CHAIR SZETELA: I will.

>> CHAIR KELLUM: And, Mr. Clark, you have the floor.

Commissioner Clark, you have the floor.

COMMISSIONER CLARK: I'm sorry.

Sue, one of the things we had previously done was for invoice approvals we had two individuals.

I think they were Brittini and Rebecca.

I'd have to go back and look at the responsibility matrix.

I did not see that on your chart.

>> MS. SUANN HAMMERSMITH: And the area they are in the chart, almost down to the bottom, but under payroll and expense reimbursement.

>> COMMISSIONER CLARK: Correct.

>> MS. SUANN HAMMERSMITH: Under approve the Executive Director's payroll and reimbursement for expenses, the Chair and the Vice Chair, they actually have to make that approval. I cannot approve anything for myself.

Other expenses, according to our policy, that are in our budget that have already been approved by the Commission, then I can make payment for those expenses.

>> COMMISSIONER CLARK: Yeah, I agree.

Is it the point that I raised on that sheet? I may have missed it.

>> MS. SUANN HAMMERSMITH: Yes, it is.

>> COMMISSIONER CLARK: Okay, great, thank you.

>> CHAIR KELLUM: Thank you Commissioner Clark.

Thank you, Sue, for clarifying that.

Any other questions? Comments?

>> VICE CHAIR SZETELA: Commissioner Rothhorn has a comment.

>> CHAIR KELLUM: Commissioner Rothhorn?

>> COMMISSIONER ROTHORN: Do you need us to make this policy? Or can this just help us understand it? Would you prefer that we take action on this? Would this help the staff if we did that or can we just leave that as informational?

>> MS. SUANN HAMMERSMITH: I don't know that it necessarily helps the staff, but it documents the process that is being taken. So I think in some respects that's why I created a resolution, to document that this is the process that we are following.

>> COMMISSIONER ROTHORN: I move that we accept the resolution as presented.

>> COMMISSIONER WITJES: I'll second that.

>> CHAIR KELLOM: Motion made by Commissioner Rothorn and second by Commissioner Witjes.

Hearing no discussion on the motion, all those in favor of adopting the financial procedures as official procedures, resolution 2021.7.2 please raise your hand and say aye.

>> Aye.

>> CHAIR KELLOM: Aye.

All those opposed please raise your hand and say nay. The ayes have it and the motion carries and the financial is adopted.

As a clarification, just in our...Sue's previous communication outlining these reports as information purposes only, just for clarification. And it does not mean that we cannot still vote and adopt them but don't feel obligated to make a motion, Commissioners, just putting that out there.

Director Hammersmith, you have the floor.

>> MS. SUANN HAMMERSMITH: Thank you, Chair Kellom.

One of the things that is required in our procurement policy is for contracts that are \$5,000 and under, the Executive Director can sign for those contracts.

However, I'm obligated to make a report to the Commission on those expenses.

So I wanted to note that I provided the tailored planning contract summary for you, for that contract.

The total amount spent was \$4970 for the hours she gave us.

We also did reimbursed expenses in the amount of \$977.79.

So that contract has been fulfilled.

And we thank Kristin for her service to us.

And, if I may, I will move right into the notice of emergency procurement if that is okay, Chair Kellom?

>> CHAIR KELLOM: Yes, please proceed.

>> MS. SUANN HAMMERSMITH: Okay, moving right along, you have received notification of emergency procurement for AV services.

Because of the timing when the meetings were scheduled, we did not have adequate time to make previous arrangements and get a vote from the Commission.

So, for example, last week in Lansing, the AV contractors did not even have access to the building until the day before the meeting.

So they had no way of knowing exactly what would be needed, what the layout was.

And, again, with the contract for this facility, that was just negotiated a couple days ago, so we are very fortunate that Chase Creative, who is a vendor we worked with in the past on our public hearings, is available to us and has given us very competitive pricing for these three days of meetings that we've had, two last week in Lansing and then this meeting today.

So, if you have questions, I'm happy to answer those.
I think the notice of emergency procurement detailed what happened, why it happened.
And both those invoices are provided for the approval of the Commission.

>> CHAIR KELLOM: Thank you, Sue.
I see a hand, is that Commissioner Eid? Or Commissioner Witjes?
>> VICE CHAIR SZETELA: Commissioner Witjes.
>> CHAIR KELLOM: Okay.
>> COMMISSIONER WITJES: I make a motion to approve resolution 2021.7.3.
>> VICE CHAIR SZETELA: Seconded by Commissioner Szetela.
>> CHAIR KELLOM: Motion made by Commissioner Witjes and seconded by Commissioner Szetela. Is there any discussion or debate on the motion? Hearing none all those in favor of adopting resolution 2021.7.3, please raise your hand and say aye.
>> Aye.
>> CHAIR KELLOM: All those opposed please raise your hand and say nay.

The ayes have it and the motion carries.

Thank you, Sue, for your diligence. And thank you for providing us good information about what is happening with our procedures, finances, all of those things.

Moving on to new business, Agenda Item 7C, without objection I would like to ask our communications and Outreach Director, Edward Woods, III, to provide an update.
Hearing no objection, please proceed, Mr. Woods.

>> MR. EDWARD WOODS: Thank you, Chairperson Kellom. This will be brief. Just want to share with you that we do have our packages in.

With regard to going out and doing things, we have our table banners.

If you haven't seen it yet, we have a sample out front.

With regards to the table banner, in addition we have flier holders and business cards. We made copies of the MICRC participation that you all received in an e-mail and we also have pins available as well.

So just want to reiterate that these packages are available to everyone.

Commissioner Lange has one.

And then so far, we have Commissioner MC Rothhorn and Commissioner Cynthia Orton who has also requested them, and they will be available through Sarah Martinez. So if you have an event or something that you're going, if you can just alert Sarah, we can do it.

It is cost prohibitive to mail these things.

So we would like to take them out once a week and then just associate that with our weekly meetings, if you can bring them back for the people to use.

So if you would like one, I would like to share with you and basically you will keep it for a week and then bring it back unless you have another engagement.

I wanted to make sure and reiterate that it's available to all Commissioners with regards to that and appreciate the outreach efforts.

I want to also thank the Commissioners because there has been an uptick in interview requests, presentations.

I'm seeing presentations actually coming through now.

This week I know Commissioner Orton did one at Schoolcraft with the brick layers that she is doing and so I just wanted to thank you.

Commissioner Rothhorn and I were in Grand Rapids on Tuesday.

In terms of meetings or we want to make sure that we leave no stone unturned and increasing awareness and engagement in the process and just really want to thank each and every one of you because all of you have been willing to go out. And I'm looking at you Commissioner Lett, Commissioner Weiss, Commissioner Szetela, Commissioner Vallette, and Commissioner Eid and Commissioner Curry, Commissioner Clark, Commissioner Lange, just want to say thank you and also Commissioner Wagner in her absence. So we have a lot more to do as things come up, people want updates and information, so just wanted to share that with you.

On another note, I do want to share with you with regards to the Good Fruit contract that we are -- have been seeing some duplicate videos that others have produced, so we will reduce our time with them.

They will be finishing up a commission for our second public hearing and they will also be doing a vignette in different languages so people can hear in their native tongue with regards to the redistricting process.

And then that will conclude that particular contract as well, so just wanted to inform the Commission with regards to that.

And I'll be back to you once we have a better idea of our budget with regards to some of the gaps that we discussed at our six-month evaluation and how we need to fulfill those from a financial standpoint, both this fiscal year as well as next fiscal year.

Thank you so much for your time. And if there is any questions, Commissioner Kellom, I can take them at this time.

>> CHAIR KELLOM: Thank you, Edward.

I would just like to extend warm gratitude to you and whoever was in charge of putting together these packets to make sure that we have not just any old outreach but good outreach.

I know that I can't see that piece of paper up close, but I like that it looks concise and it's easier to read in terms of disseminating information to those that are still learning and curious and interacting with the MICRC.

So huge thank you to you and to your team that works effortlessly. But also very, very worked very hard.

Commissioner Clark, I saw you had a hand raised.

>> COMMISSIONER CLARK: I did. I had a question for Edward, but we will deal with it later.

>> MR. EDWARD WOODS: I'm sorry, Commissioner Clark, I did not hear you.

>> COMMISSIONER CLARK: I'm sorry. I thought you were not able to take any questions.

>> CHAIR KELLUM: No, he can take questions.

>> COMMISSIONER CLARK: Oh, I'm sorry.

Yeah, I wanted to comment on the direction you took with Good Fruit.

I think it's the appropriate thing to do, to limit what they're going to do.

As you know, from our conversations, I've been unhappy with the time it takes them to produce a product and get the product out the door.

So I think that what you've done with them is the correct thing to do.

And that we limit our business with them.

So I appreciate that, Edward.

>> CHAIR KELLUM: Vice Chair Szetela, it does not look like we have any questions. But I don't want to assume anything on your end.

>> VICE CHAIR SZETELA: No one has their hand up here.

>> CHAIR KELLUM: Okay, all right, Commissioners, if we don't have any other discussion, concerns, questions for Mr. Edward woods, III, we thank him again for that update and we look forward to keeping us abreast and keeping us on our toes in how to communicate and outreach with the community because we thoroughly enjoy it.

Next on our agenda is future agenda items.

And I will ask Executive Director Hammersmith to provide information on future agenda items if there is no objection.

Hearing no objection, please proceed Director Hammersmith.

>> MS. SUANN HAMMERSMITH: Thank you, Chair Kellom.

Coming up next week then, we will have to make another emergency procurement I assume for AV because we don't have a location for the meeting because we just set the date. So that's going to make our schedule tight again. Eventually we hope to actually get bids for AV for the rest of our fiscal year.

But we will be working on that.

Next week then on Thursday, I hope to get budget information for June 30 from the Legislative Services Bureau that pays our invoices, so I can provide a budget report to you.

Also we've invited Dr. Petering from the University of Wisconsin in Milwaukee who has a computer algorithm that he utilizes and he's actually plugged the seven criteria for the

Michigan Constitution end to give us a demonstration on how that could work for the Commission.

So it's going to be very interesting presentation.

Stay tuned on that.

Assuming that Election Data Services is still available on Friday for that meeting, I think a lot of that meeting will be working with them on starting to create regions in the state that we would start the mapping with.

We would look at alternative data sets that might be utilized in the interim until we have legacy data and census data. So in learning about those data sets what's in the American community survey, what we can get through the esry data, et cetera. And then I'm hoping that he will help us with the mapping exercise where we can begin to look at possibly one county such as Washtenaw County or Oakland County and actually start some mapping practice to get Commissioners ready to do the mapping that you will be interested in doing.

So in the very near future as our public comment this evening said, let's get rolling here. So we're going to get rolling. Now that the public hearings are over, the Commissioner can begin mapping, so we will, you know, you will be able to start with what is available to work with

Also, several of the Commissioners have approached me about staff, personal time off and vacation and having a future discussion on that.

So that will be happening at some point in the future.

>> CHAIR KELLOM: Thank you, Executive Director Sue Hammersmith.

>> VICE CHAIR SZETELA: Commissioner Kellom, I'm sorry to interrupt, Commissioner Rothhorn has his hand raised.

>> CHAIR KELLOM: Okay, I was just thinking, okay, go ahead, Commissioner Rothhorn, and then Commissioner Clark.

>> COMMISSIONER ROTHORN: Thanks, Commissioner Kellom. I just wanted to acknowledge that I think what Executive Director Hammersmith said about PTO and vacation is an important piece to recognize there is a long-term strategy we need to engage here that I'm worried about burn out frankly, about our staff and frankly us.

>> CHAIR KELLOM: For us, too, sorry I interrupted.

>> COMMISSIONER ROTHORN: So I just wanted to acknowledge it's not just about vacation.

This is also for the public to understand that self-care and how we can make sure that we do expedite exactly as, you know, the public said here today, that we expedite things but that we don't burn out by the end and be a frazzled mess whether that is our staff or the Commissioners.

I won't say or, I will say both, that we both need to understand how we do that. And that autonomy or that somehow that we each have different levels of need and vacation may

be one thing but it may be we need more staff or, or, or. So I'm hoping that that is just clarified, not just vacation and PTO, thank you.

>> CHAIR KELLUM: Thank you, Commissioner Rothhorn.

Judging by how I just chimed in, I'm passionate about that as well.

Commissioner Clark, please go ahead.

>> COMMISSIONER CLARK: Yes. I support what MC said 100%. I think it's a necessary conversation.

What I would like to do is add one agenda item for Thursday if we could.

Could we get an update, Sue, on when we're going to get the software installed on our machines or access to the website in the interim? So that we can do some practice on our own?

>> MS. SUANN HAMMERSMITH: Absolutely.

I've been engaged in several meetings between the state and all that's needed for security and for loading the software on Commissioner laptops.

We have another meeting tomorrow morning.

So I'm hopeful that we are getting close to the goal in sight.

>> CHAIR KELLUM: Anything else for Sue? All right, Commissioners moving on to announcements, any announcements for the good of the order? Or staff?

>> VICE CHAIR SZETELA: Commissioner Kellom, Edward Woods has his hand raised.

>> CHAIR KELLUM: Please proceed communications and Outreach Director.

>> MR. EDWARD WOODS: Thank you. We are going to try to take a group photo on the 29th of July, now that we have a date, so we just want to put that out there. For a group photo.

We've had a lot of requests from the media.

If you're not going to be there, then I guess we won't be doing it because we need everyone there but that's the date that I've been trying to work with as many people as possible.

Commissioner Rothhorn, is there a challenge?

>> COMMISSIONER ROTHORN: That is the one day I need to take vacation.

>> MR. EDWARD WOODS: Will you be there the 30th?

>> COMMISSIONER ROTHORN: Yes.

>> MR. EDWARD WOODS: All right, let's see if we can get the 30th on schedule.

And I know that someone can remind me of the time that meeting ends on the 30th.

>> 3 p.m.

>> MR. EDWARD WOODS: We will try to make sure that we get that there so whatever or however you would like to address or present yourselves on that particular day we will be doing that and I will continue to work with those remotely as well as those who are not here today to make sure that date works.

Otherwise, I'll be forced to do a collage, which is really not a group picture.

Thank you.

>> CHAIR KELLOM: Thank you, Edward.

Are there any other announcements?

>> MR. EDWARD WOODS: If we have to find another day, I think it's a conflict with a particular Commissioner, so let me see if I can look at the first week in August, just look at that.

Is there a conflict on anyone's schedule on that particular Thursday or Friday so I can have some flexibility to get the photographer in? I'm looking all the way on the other end.

>> CHAIR KELLOM: Possibly, but I'll talk to you about that offline.

>> MR. EDWARD WOODS: All right. But if I have two days to work with that would be great.

Thank you very much for your time.

>> VICE CHAIR SZETELA: Commissioner Eid, did you have a comment or was that related to the photo date?

>> COMMISSIONER EID: No, I have announcement.

>> VICE CHAIR SZETELA: Commissioner Kellom, we have Commissioner Eid with an announcement.

>> COMMISSIONER EID: Okay, a couple things.

On Tuesday I attended a City Council meeting, the City of Allen Park.

Went very well.

It was about maybe like 20 or so people in attendance.

And I presented our Commission presentation to them and the people that were there.

There they were very appreciative and said they are going to be submitting a map of their community of interest to our website.

So this is the first thing

The second thing is I just wanted everyone to know that last week at our Thursday and Friday meetings we had some very, very important information that was given to all of us.

I went ahead and watched those meetings a second time specifically the presentations from our vendors and the question-and-answer session that we had with our vendors because there really was a lot of information given to us. And I recommend that all of us go through and listen to them again due to the gravity of the work that they presented to us.

It really was informative and I really believe it's going to help us come together and do our jobs.

And then one last thing, I just want everyone to be aware that we are getting quite a lot of public comments on our website.

And I've been going through and, you know, going through them and trying to get ideas here and there now that we can draw maps and I think it's been a useful exercise.

So I'd recommend that you know this week sometime we all take a look at the website to get some ideas on you know where to go forward when we do get that software on our computers and can begin this work.

>> CHAIR KELLOM: Thank you, Commissioner Eid.

Commissioners, any other announcements>.

>> VICE CHAIR SZETELA: No, I see none.

>> CHAIR KELLOM: Hearing no other announcements from Commissioners or staff, and being that all items on the agenda are completed and the Commission has no further business a motion to adjourn is in order.

May I have a motion to adjourn?

>> COMMISSIONER WITJES: So moved.

>> CHAIR KELLOM: Motion made by Commissioner Witjes. May I have a second?

>> COMMISSIONER ORTON: Second by Commissioner Orton.

>> CHAIR KELLOM: Second by Commissioner Orton. All in favor of adjournment please raise your hand and say aye.

>> Aye.

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

The ayes prevail, the meeting is adjourned at 7:27 p.m.

And thank you so much for attending, thank you again to everyone who took the time to provide public commentary and thank you for the warm welcome Benton Harbor.

[Meeting concludes]