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CITY OF NEW YORK  
2012-2013  
REDISTRICTING COMMISSION  
PUBLIC MEETING  
CITY HALL, COUNCIL CHAMBERS  
August 24, 2012  
1:00 P.M.

- IN ATTENDANCE:
- FRANK PADAVAN
  - ROXANNE J. PERSAUD
  - THOMAS V. OGNIBENE
  - BENITO ROMANO
  - ROBERT W. HART
  - GLORIA CARVAJAL WOLFE
  - JUSTIN YU
  - MADELINE PROVENZANO
  - OSCAR ODOM, III
  - JAMILA PONTON BRAGG
  - JOHN ROBERT
  - LINDA LIN
  - SCOTT CERULLO

## NEW YORK CITY DISTRICTING COMMISSION PUBLIC HEARING

1                   CHAIRMAN ROMANO: Good afternoon. This is  
2                   the first stated meeting of the New York City  
3                   Districting Commission. Welcome to Commission  
4                   members. The purpose of this meeting is to,  
5                   among other things, take stock of what we have  
6                   heard in our first-phase, five public hearings at  
7                   the various boroughs and to adopt some procedural  
8                   and policy matters, hear from the staff and  
9                   direct the staff on the publication of a  
10                  preliminary district plan.

11                  Notice of this meeting and of future  
12                  meetings have been posted on our website,  
13                  www.nyc.gov/districting. This is an open  
14                  meeting, open to the public, but no testimony  
15                  will be taken from the public today, as  
16                  previously announced at each of our public  
17                  hearings.

18                  The first items on our agenda, which has  
19                  previously been distributed is the adoption of  
20                  the minutes of our July 17th meeting. Has  
21                  everyone had an opportunity to receive and review  
22                  the minutes?

23                  (A chorus of aye's.)

24                  Do I hear a motion to adopt the minutes?

25                  MS. PERSAUD: I make a motion.

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1 MS. PROVENZANO: Second.

2 CHAIRMAN ROMANO: Motion has been made and  
3 seconded. Are there any questions about the  
4 minutes, inclusions, corrections, deletions?

5 (Silence.)

6 All in favor of the motion indicate by  
7 raising your hands.

8 (Commissioners comply.)

9 The minutes are adopted.

10 The next items on the agenda is for the  
11 Commission to adopt a media policy. It's  
12 included in your package. Are there any  
13 questions or discussions that we would like to  
14 entertain regarding our media relations protocol  
15 which is included in your package?

16 (Silence.)

17 Do I hear a motion to adopt the media  
18 policy?

19 MR. ODOM: Motion to adopt.

20 MR. OGNIENE: Second.

21 CHAIRMAN ROMANO: Motion has been made and  
22 seconded.

23 MR. YU: And second.

24 CHAIRMAN ROMANO: All in favor, please  
25 indicate by raising your hands.

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1 (Commissioners comply.)

2 The motion is carried.

3 We are going to be having a training at our  
4 next meeting on September 4th on the conflicts of  
5 interest board General Counsel Wayne Hawley.  
6 This is just to advise you that it's important  
7 that we attend the next meeting to get this  
8 training. It's important for every City  
9 official, even volunteers.

10 That brings us to our executive director's  
11 report. The executive director will now address.

12 MR. HUM: Thank you so much, Mr. Chair, for  
13 the opportunity to update the Commission on staff  
14 activities, and particularly, my activities since  
15 I have been appointed executive director on July  
16 17.

17 First off, in addition to the initial  
18 appointments made on the 17th, with regards to  
19 Thaddeus Hackworth as General Counsel and Alan  
20 Gartner as deputy executive director, I have also  
21 made additional staff appointments. By now, most  
22 of you know some of these individuals, but I want  
23 to introduce them formally for the record and to  
24 the public as well.

25 First off, as director of community

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1 outreach, I have appointed Jonathan Ettricks.  
2 Our public affairs manager is Shirley Limongi,  
3 who is right there, Brian Flynn as our director  
4 of operations, and finally, for director of IT  
5 services, I have appointed David Cheng. He is  
6 not here today. He is actually back in the  
7 office making sure that our software is running  
8 properly.

9 Speaking of software, one of the charges  
10 that you have provided me on the 17th was to make  
11 any and all pertinent purchases of software to do  
12 our work as a Commission, namely for map and also  
13 for data analysis. I am happy to report that we  
14 have purchased Maptitude software, the desktop  
15 version, and I will report a little later on for  
16 our online version.

17 For those of you who don't know, Maptitude  
18 is a redirecting software that is made by a  
19 company called Caliper. Caliper has been, and in  
20 particular, Maptitude, has been a software used  
21 by the states of California, Idaho, Arizona,  
22 Montana and in the cities of Los Angeles,  
23 Portland, Oregon, among other cities and states  
24 that these entities that chosen to do their  
25 redistricting.

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1           We are currently working with Caliper and  
2           the Department of Information Technology to  
3           install an online version of Maptitude that the  
4           public can use to draw its own maps in the  
5           comfort of their own home. It would be an  
6           interactive, user-friendly software that we are  
7           hoping to launch in the next couple of weeks.

8           Additionally, I would like to note that the  
9           online software that will be available for the  
10          public, again, free of charge, will also contain  
11          all the same sources of information, i.e. U.S.  
12          census data, that the Commission will be using to  
13          draw the district maps.

14          I also want to note that online version will  
15          allow the user to save his or her map and submit  
16          it to the Commission for its consideration. As  
17          we receive maps and as we receive testimony, we  
18          will make it available for the Commission. And  
19          additionally, all the testimony that we have  
20          received thus far is available on our website.

21          As you have noted, Mr. Chair, in your  
22          remarks, the public hearings, the website,  
23          nyc.gov/districting is the practical repository  
24          for all materials that the Commission is  
25          receiving. I also want to make note that, at our

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1 offices located at 253 Broadway, 7th floor, we  
2 have created a resource room for the public. It  
3 will be open after the Labor Day weekend and the  
4 resource room will be equipped with three  
5 computer terminals that are loaded with the  
6 Maptitude software that will allow the public to  
7 come in, via appointment, to help them draw their  
8 own maps for submission to the Commission. The  
9 resource room will be staffed by a member of the  
10 technical services group to help any member of  
11 the public draw their maps and also navigate the  
12 software.

13 We are in the midst of making arrangements  
14 to have the resource room open past 5:00 to  
15 accommodate the working schedules of busy New  
16 Yorkers throughout the city.

17 And additionally, just for your edification,  
18 we will be having a training for Maptitude by  
19 Caliper next week on Wednesday and Thursday, the  
20 29th and the 30th. Members of the Commission,  
21 you are more than invited to come and join the  
22 staff in the training that we will receive from  
23 Caliper.

24 I also invite to you please come visit us at  
25 253 Broadway, 7th floor and take a look at the

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1 resource room and also take a look at some of the  
2 maps you have produced already as a result of the  
3 public hearings. Specifically, we have created  
4 maps, City Council District maps that have  
5 overlays of community boards, senate districts,  
6 assembly districts and congressional districts  
7 and we have dedicated a particular room for all  
8 five boroughs. Please come down and take a look  
9 at some of the work that the technical services  
10 has performed.

11 The only thing I ask is that, if you do plan  
12 to come, please coordinate with Jonathan  
13 Ettricks, because I want to make sure that there  
14 is personnel on hand to walk you through the  
15 software and also walk you through the maps that  
16 we have produced the overlays. I want to, if  
17 there is any questions on the mapping software, I  
18 will move on to my next topic.

19 CHAIRMAN ROMANO: Just a technical question.  
20 If we create maps ourselves, members of the  
21 Commission, will we have the ability to save it  
22 so that we don't have to go back and recreate it  
23 a second time?

24 MR. HUM: I believe so, that we do, yes,  
25 yes. You, the Commission, will have an account



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1 via online software. Any other questions?

2 (Silence.)

3 I will move on to the next topic, which is  
4 the use of prison population data. Included in  
5 your packets is a memo that was written by our  
6 General Counsel, Thaddeus Hackworth, dated  
7 August 13th. There has been much discussion at  
8 the public hearings and also in the meetings that  
9 I have had personally with regards to the use of  
10 prison population data.

11 As the memo notes, have been made available  
12 to the public today, as the memo notes, the  
13 Commission is required to use prison-adjusted  
14 population for amendments made to the Municipal  
15 Home Rule Law. So, the outcome of this is that  
16 this will effectively add 21,000 persons to the  
17 official U.S. Census count that we will be using.

18 These figures have already been included in  
19 all the materials that have been handed out to  
20 the public. So, during the last five public  
21 hearings, we have had maps of each borough with  
22 the population count for each council district.  
23 Those already include prison population.

24 Just a point of clarification, the prison  
25 population only includes State prisoners

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1           currently in Department of Correction custody.  
2           We are not including federal prisoners. We are  
3           not including City prisoners, per the bill that  
4           was passed in Albany two years ago.

5           There is also some question as to, there is  
6           effectively 30,000 New Yorkers who are serving  
7           time upstate. What happened to the other 9,000?  
8           The difference between the 21,000 and 30,000  
9           really is a function of whether the prisoner had  
10          given a homeless address or given a correct  
11          address.

12          So, it's impossible the Department of  
13          Correction to have given LATFOR addresses to  
14          reintegrate those individuals back into their  
15          home districts. For those individuals who said  
16          they were homeless or gave bad addresses or gave  
17          false addresses, there was no way to reach them  
18          in their home districts. That is the difference  
19          between 30,000 and 21,000. If there is any other  
20          questions on that, I will move on to my next  
21          topic.

22                   (Silence.)

23          I want to report on the external meetings  
24          that I have had since my time, with my  
25          appointment, roughly in the past five weeks or

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1           so. As you know, the Department of Justice  
2           submission looks very closely as to how much  
3           community outreach the Commission has done,  
4           particularly including what the staff has done  
5           regarding the public and including the community  
6           in the process of drawing the district maps.

7           All in all, in the past five weeks, I have  
8           met with 16 interest advocacy and good government  
9           groups, and I will give you a listing of them:  
10          The Asian American Coalition on Redistricting and  
11          Democracy, otherwise known as AACORD, Israel  
12          America, Asian Americans for Equality, otherwise  
13          known as AAFE, the Asian American Legal Defense  
14          and Education Fund, also known as AALDEF, the  
15          Black, Latino and Asian Caucus of New York City  
16          Council, Borough Park Jewish Community Council,  
17          Brennan Center at NYU Law School, Center for Law  
18          and Social Justice at Medgar Evers College,  
19          Citizens Union, Common Cause New York, Education  
20          Center for Russian Jewry, the Jewish Community  
21          Relations Council, former districting  
22          commissioner John Flatow, council of New York,  
23          the NAACP, and finally, Taking Our Seat.

24          This list is not exhaustive of all the  
25          groups that I have reached out to. Obviously,

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1           these are the groups that I have actually met  
2           with. There's another list of folks and groups  
3           that I have reached out to that I have yet to  
4           either receive a response from, or we are still  
5           in the midst of corresponding our schedules to  
6           meet. Hopefully, I will conclude that by the  
7           time of our next report to the Commission  
8           meeting.

9           Also, be aware that any materials that I  
10          have received during these meetings I upload onto  
11          the Commission's password-secure site. As you  
12          know, we have backed up all the materials that we  
13          have received from the public hearings onto  
14          another server for the Commission and it's  
15          protected by a password. You will be receiving  
16          an e-mail with the password and the site.

17          I have also uploaded those materials there  
18          for your perusal. And certainly, if there is any  
19          question in regard to those meetings, please give  
20          me a call as to those meetings. Any other  
21          questions? Sure.

22          MS. BRAGG: Could you detail a little bit  
23          more your plan going forward to community  
24          outreach?

25          MR. HUM: Sure. After Labor Day, we will be

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1           creating a speakers bureau in the staff and we  
2           will be alerting all community groups. Again,  
3           our e-mail list is 5,500 individuals, groups,  
4           organizations across the city, in addition to a  
5           list of around 50,000 that we have received.  
6           These are 50,000 e-mails that have expressed  
7           interest in following us.

8           So, we are going to do an e-mail blast right  
9           after the Labor Day weekend informing the  
10          formation of a speakers bureau. What a speakers  
11          bureau is, is basically everyone on staff is  
12          going to be on call, if you will, to make  
13          presentations about the districting process and  
14          the districting Commission.

15          So, if any group, let's say, in Queens or in  
16          Brooklyn, we will go out and we will travel to  
17          their meetings, to their board meetings, whatever  
18          it may be, to talk about the districting process  
19          and how they can get involved. If there are any  
20          other questions, I will move on to my next topic.

21                   (Silence.)

22          It's not on the agenda, but it's an add-on.  
23          It is just an announcement of a seminar series  
24          that we will be holding for the commissioners.  
25          They are, of course, they are not mandatory, but

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1           they are certainly helpful with regard to the  
2           work ahead of you. And the seminar series is  
3           focused on redistricting, law and also on New  
4           York.

5           The first seminar will be given on  
6           September 20th and at this point, we are looking  
7           for a location. But if all else fails, we will  
8           have it over at our office at 253 Broadway. And  
9           it is a seminar given on the Voting Rights Act  
10          given by Gerry Herbert, former Department of  
11          Justice official who worked in the Voting Rights  
12          Section of the Department of Justice and has a  
13          very clear and concise understanding of the  
14          Voting Rights Act and the current trends and the  
15          Department of Justice has been experiencing with  
16          regard to submissions to the Department.

17          There will be at least two other  
18          developments to the seminar series. One will be  
19          given by our very own Thaddeus Hackworth on the  
20          City charter and districting. And finally, we  
21          will have a seminar given by John Mollenkopf on  
22          trends in the City, almost an addendum, if you  
23          will, to Joe Salvo's presentation that we had at  
24          the 17th.

25          It digs a little deeper into the demographic

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1 trends that the City has been experiencing over  
2 the past ten years. If there is any other  
3 question, I will move on to my final topic.

4 CHAIRMAN ROMANO: This is not a question,  
5 it's an observation. For those on the Commission  
6 who have received but not have yet completed  
7 reading the ABA booklet on redistricting law, I  
8 highly recommend it. It's a very readable piece.  
9 It compresses lots of law into a very simple  
10 narrative that is easy to follow.

11 It also, you can't help but be struck by how  
12 complex the subject is after reading it. It  
13 would be a very good way to prepare for the  
14 seminar by Mr. Herbert, who I have had the  
15 privilege of meeting, and he knows the subject  
16 extremely well and it will be a very enjoyable  
17 session, I am sure.

18 MR. HUM: Those books will be districted to  
19 the Commission. I have already put an order in  
20 and we are hoping they will be delivered.

21 I will move on to my final topic of  
22 discussion, which is a report of the first round  
23 of public hearings. As you all know, last night  
24 concluded the first round of the public hearings  
25 for the districting process. And all in all,

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1 over 350 individuals attended the hearings  
2 throughout the five boroughs and we had testimony  
3 from over 130 witnesses at the five hearings.

4 I will go over some of the major themes that  
5 I heard and the staff has heard throughout the  
6 five hearings. And I will start with, sort of  
7 what we heard throughout the five boroughs, and  
8 particularly from some of the good government  
9 groups and the Voting Right Act observers. They  
10 wanted transparency in the process, access to  
11 data and mapping software that the Commission  
12 has, observation of the prison gerrymandering  
13 bill.

14 And they also wanted to make sure that the  
15 hearings and also the meetings are accessible to  
16 all individuals, i.e. through webcasting, which  
17 we are webcasting today over our website.

18 Additionally, they were asking the  
19 deviations in population between districts be no  
20 more than one to two percent, and also asking for  
21 increasing diversity among the Commission staff.

22 Additionally, we also heard that there was a  
23 request that, in the districting process, that  
24 there be co-terminality with entities such as  
25 community boards and police precincts, and that



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1           really triggered our staff to create the maps I  
2           just talked about with regard to the overlays.

3           Some of the borough-based concerns I will go  
4           over. And I will make note that a contingent of  
5           Asian-American interest groups under the umbrella  
6           of AACORD attended three out of the five hearings  
7           with particular focus on Richmond Hill, South  
8           Ozone Park and Ozone Park. Also in Queens, the  
9           Flushing and Bayside areas of Queens, Sunset  
10          Park, Bensonhurst areas in Brooklyn, and  
11          Chinatown/Lower East Side neighborhoods of  
12          Manhattan were particular areas of concern from  
13          the group.

14          Other borough-based concerns included  
15          keeping Upper West Side together as defined by  
16          96th to 125th Street, keeping Greenwich Village  
17          together, addressing the undercount in the Park  
18          Hill and Stapleton areas of Staten Island,  
19          excluding single-family homeowners from Flushing,  
20          Community District 20 and keeping the Bay Leaf  
21          Park Houses within one district in Queens, and  
22          finally, as we heard last night, that we observe  
23          the racial characteristics of Council District 16  
24          in the Bronx.

25          I am sure there are other observations, but

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1           those are some of the highlights I took away and  
2           my staff took away from those public hearings.  
3           If there are any other questions, that concludes  
4           my report.

5                   CHAIRMAN ROMANO: My impression from the  
6           public hearings is that we haven't heard nearly  
7           enough from interested persons so far. There are  
8           many more views out there that ought to be shared  
9           with the Commission that we ought to be taking  
10          into consideration.

11                   In part because of that, I thought it would  
12          be advisable for the Commission, because the  
13          Commission's composition is such that we come  
14          from different boroughs and we spent most of our  
15          lives living in boroughs other than the ones we  
16          are hearing a lot about in these Commission  
17          hearings, so we have an expertise, personal  
18          expertise in a very narrow subset of issues.

19                   I thought it would be advisable to exercise  
20          the authority under our bylaws to create  
21          subcommittees with the expectation that a smaller  
22          group of Commission members with some more  
23          intimate knowledge and maybe even personal  
24          experience with the boroughs involved would,  
25          given the process of drilling down further into

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1           the data and into the views of community  
2           representatives and start to develop proposals  
3           that the rest of the Commission can consider.

4           The subcommittees are not going to be  
5           authorized to make decisions for the Commission.  
6           Their function is primarily to take front-line  
7           responsibility for examining the important, and  
8           identifying the important issues in each borough,  
9           developing proposals to address those issues and  
10          having those proposals presented to the rest of  
11          the Commission for the Commission as a whole to  
12          adopt.

13          With that in mind, I have decided to create  
14          the following subcommittees: For the Bronx,  
15          Madeline Provenzano, John Robert, Marc Wurzel;  
16          for Manhattan, Jamila Ponton Bragg, Justin Yu and  
17          Gloria Wolfe; for Brooklyn, Oscar Odom, Roxanne  
18          Persaud and Robert Hart; Queens, Linda Lin, Tom  
19          Ognibene, Frank Padavan; and Staten Island, Scott  
20          Cerullo and Kamillah Hanks. And I will serve as  
21          ex officio member of all the subcommittees.

22          My personal impression of the hearings is as  
23          well that we need more information. We are only  
24          beginning to come to grips with sort of a global  
25          sense of what people are feeling, but we need

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1           much more information about the nature and the  
2           contours of the various neighborhoods, where  
3           people feel they have communities of interest  
4           that they share with others.

5           For most of us, it was difficult following  
6           some of the statements because we were not clear  
7           what neighborhoods people were talking about. We  
8           generally, of course, knew what borough they were  
9           talking about and we knew, of course, sometimes  
10          they would not think to mention the councilmanic  
11          district they were talking about, but often as  
12          they talked, as most people talk and think in  
13          terms of their neighborhoods and their precincts  
14          and their local institutions. And so, I think we  
15          need to understand that better before we go very  
16          much further.

17          Does anyone else have any impressions or  
18          views about the hearings that we just went  
19          through that they would like to share with the  
20          rest of us?

21          MS. BRAGG: I wanted to say, I agree with  
22          what Benito said. We need a lot of information  
23          from the different boroughs and the  
24          neighborhoods. It was great to hear kind of the  
25          communities that Mr. Hum already highlighted in

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1 Queens and the Bronx and Manhattan, but there  
2 were a couple others, I think the 28th District  
3 in Brooklyn was also kind of highlighted in  
4 Brooklyn -- in Queens, not in Brooklyn, in  
5 Queens, 28th District in Queens was highlighted.

6 There was some concerns about 19, 20 and 21  
7 in Queens as well. But it was also, as much as  
8 we heard about certain districts, we didn't hear  
9 anything about some districts at all. And so,  
10 not having that information is -- we have got to  
11 have a lot more information about what is going  
12 on.

13 Also, we appreciate everyone's suggestions  
14 about how they want neighborhoods grouped and  
15 community interest groups together, and we do  
16 appreciate that. But we also have to take into  
17 account how grouping of certain neighborhoods  
18 together will affect other neighborhoods.

19 And so, as we play through this process, it  
20 will be interesting to see how the preferences  
21 will affect other districts as well. So, it will  
22 be interesting as we go through this process, we  
23 are looking forward to that, and moving the map  
24 lines and seeing what that means.

25 MR. ODOM: I would just like to echo my

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1           colleague's remarks. The other things I was  
2           going to point to is, it's good that the people  
3           that did show up provided some valuable  
4           information or be involved with certain  
5           neighborhoods. So, that was helpful for us, the  
6           presentations that did exist.

7           But also stated, we needed more  
8           participation for other people could come out to  
9           express their concerns so this will give us a  
10          better idea or understanding what is actually  
11          taking place or how the community feels, so to  
12          speak, across the community, because  
13          presentations were there, but also we were  
14          missing some people's other input, because some  
15          people spoke about other districts that they had  
16          no concern about, really, but they spoke about  
17          other districts. So, to hear people who actually  
18          live in certain areas, that would help out, too.

19          MR. OGNIBENE: Yeah. I would like to  
20          suggest this for the people and for our staff.  
21          Many people have a conceptual idea of what a  
22          district should be to meet their goals and  
23          criteria. The problem is, from our point of  
24          view, it doesn't satisfy the legal obligations  
25          that we have.

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1           And what I would like to see for those who  
2           showed up at our meetings, I know there was a  
3           large contingent from Flushing in Queens, we are  
4           all familiar with, a large community from  
5           Richmond Hill.

6           If we can invite them to come down to the  
7           district headquarters where we have the mapping  
8           software, give them some instruction, it will be  
9           easier for us, if instead of them showing up with  
10          an atlas and a generic map, if they would then  
11          try to meet the criteria, in other words, in  
12          terms of population, et cetera, as you know, and  
13          to map it out, rather than using borders that  
14          they are comfortable with like a highway, and to  
15          do it a little different, and if they can be  
16          taught to do it that way, it will make it a lot  
17          easier for us to make decisions.

18          So, for the people out there, if you want to  
19          come up with an idea for a district that you  
20          think serves your needs, get in touch with the  
21          Districting Commission, go down, get some  
22          instruction with the mapping. The last time I  
23          was on the staff, we actually sat there with them  
24          and helped them draw up a district.

25          And then when you come in and testify, it

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1 makes it a lot easier for us to understand  
2 exactly what your approach is. But also keep in  
3 mind that when you design a district, this is  
4 like a puzzle. You are also affecting other  
5 districts, too. So, the one that you may draw  
6 may not be the one that you get, but it gives us  
7 a much better idea towards helping you draw a  
8 district.

9 CHAIRMAN ROMANO: In applying the criteria  
10 that we are legally obligated to apply, we start  
11 in some ways with the easiest, and that makes  
12 logical sense, the principal of one man/one vote,  
13 which ultimately, effectively requires that there  
14 be population deviations that are minimal between  
15 districts.

16 And it occurred to us that maybe one of the  
17 reasons we didn't get more community  
18 participation at our public hearings was that  
19 they didn't have a map that we were proposing to  
20 criticize or comment or react to. I think what  
21 we should do is direct the staff to start with a  
22 preliminary map that reflects the population  
23 requirements that we have to meet.

24 It's a baseline. We know that that will not  
25 be the final map, but we know that, to the extent



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1 we deviate too far from these population numbers,  
2 we are at risk of violating the one man/one vote,  
3 and therefore violating our oath and requirements  
4 of law. I don't want to suggest that it's simple  
5 to do this, but we are going to have to do it, in  
6 any event as a starting point.

7 And then when we have that map, see what it  
8 looks like and see how the rest of the criteria  
9 are affected, we will then have a more logical  
10 way to proceed through our tiered system of  
11 trying to satisfy all these things at once. And  
12 some of the criteria, there is tension between  
13 them. They don't all flow in logical sequence.  
14 But we know we have to start with this because we  
15 are required to.

16 Does anyone have any objection to starting  
17 that way? It will be the beginning, as they say,  
18 of a conversation that we will have about what  
19 the districts look like and it will give us a  
20 baseline. Does the staff need any further  
21 discretion or guidelines on how to proceed?

22 MR. HUM: No. Given the creation of the  
23 committees to dig a little deeper with regard to  
24 the borough-based issues, we certainly start with  
25 that directive, adjust the population and we will

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1 take it from there.

2 CHAIRMAN ROMANO: One of the things we might  
3 consider once we have that map and can take it  
4 around to the various boroughs and get people's  
5 reactions to it is, while that's going on, the  
6 subcommittees can work with staff to develop more  
7 detailed data from the boroughs.

8 And we should start planning for meetings  
9 with subcommittees and reports from the  
10 subcommittees to the Commission probably in  
11 September and early October to see how those, how  
12 the preliminary maps should be refined.

13 MR. HUM: Yes. And just with regard to the  
14 charter mandates, we certainly do intend to have  
15 the preliminary map available by September 4th  
16 for the next stated Commission meetings.

17 I intend that, given the fact that next week  
18 is the week before Labor Day, be rest assured  
19 that the staff has been given firm instructions  
20 not to leave town until we are all in agreement  
21 with regard to the next map for the next  
22 Commission meeting.

23 CHAIRMAN ROMANO: We know this map is going  
24 to be preliminary. We know that the final  
25 plan -- of one thing I am absolutely certain is

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1           this preliminary plan will not be the map, the  
2           ultimate map. But to get from the preliminary  
3           plan to the ultimate map, we are going to have to  
4           be -- our subcommittees and the Commission as a  
5           whole is going to have to be much more steeped in  
6           the data and the details.

7           And we will have to have identified areas  
8           where we think the other criteria are not met by  
9           the preliminary map, that is to say, we are  
10          effectively diluting voting power, minorities or  
11          the districts are not contiguous or impact or any  
12          of the other criteria. So, those issues have to  
13          be identified through our subcommittees for the  
14          rest of the Commission.

15          MS. BRAGG: And I hope we will have this  
16          preliminary map, as the subcommittees and the  
17          public, particularly those who presented on those  
18          communities that have been named a couple of  
19          times, if that doesn't meet the interests that  
20          were highlighted or doesn't meet the concerns,  
21          then, you know, the subcommittees are going to  
22          have to present reasonable solutions go through  
23          our criteria.

24          We challenge the public to give us a  
25          reasonable solution as well. This is going to be

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1 a huge puzzle and a big mess, sometimes. But it  
2 is going to be, you know, a really good exercise,  
3 starting with this population map, preliminary  
4 map and going from there. So, the subcommittees  
5 and the public can work with this as our starting  
6 point.

7 MR. HUM: Just to be clear, we will start  
8 with the current City Council lines as they exist  
9 and then adjust for the population. Is that the  
10 directive?

11 CHAIRMAN ROMANO: Just say that one more  
12 time.

13 MR. HUM: Just to be clear, we will start  
14 with the current City Council lines as they are  
15 right now, and then adjust for the population  
16 from there?

17 CHAIRMAN ROMANO: That's correct. Take the  
18 current lines, adjust them for the population in  
19 accordance with the Census as amended by prison  
20 population.

21 MR. HUM: We will do that.

22 MR. ROBERT: Okay. I just have a question  
23 about the subcommittees. I imagine that, is each  
24 subcommittees going to have a chair? How do we  
25 decide when we are meeting? Do we meet among

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1           ourselves? How does that work?

2           CHAIRMAN ROMANO: They are small enough; you  
3           could select a chair. They are small enough so I  
4           thought you could function collaboratively. And  
5           it just occurred to me, it's whenever you are  
6           ready, and I am hoping the subcommittees will  
7           interact directly with the staff and the staff  
8           will get you what you need.

9           I suspect the, all the subcommittees are  
10          going to be asking for similar information from  
11          the staff, in terms of mapping software and  
12          access to mapping software and some of the Census  
13          track data, access to our consultants who can  
14          give you detailed data about the voting records  
15          and voting trends and that sort of thing, all of  
16          which may be relevant once you start looking at  
17          the borough beneath the level of the population.

18          MR. YU: As a subcommittee member, can we  
19          sit in on other subcommittees' meetings?

20          CHAIRMAN ROMANO: I should have said that.  
21          Every member is free to attend every subcommittee  
22          meeting. This is just a way of organizing our  
23          work. It is open to everyone.

24          If there are any other questions about the  
25          preliminary map, is there any other business that

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1 the Commission, any Commission member would like  
2 to raise?

3 (Silence.)

4 There being no further business, we stand  
5 adjourned until September 4th.

6 (Whereupon, at 1:40 p.m., the above matter  
7 was concluded.)

8  
9 I, JOSHUA B. EDWARDS, RPR, a Notary Public  
10 for and within the State of New York, do hereby  
11 certify that the above is a correct transcription  
12 of my stenographic notes.

13   
14

15 JOSHUA B. EDWARDS, RPR  
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