

NEW YORK STATE  
LEGISLATIVE TASK FORCE ON DEMOGRAPHIC RESEARCH AND  
REAPPORTIONMENT

PUBLIC HEARING  
CONGRESSIONAL AND STATE LEGISLATIVE REDISTRICTING

Tuesday, January 31, 2012

Lower Gallery

Bronx Museum of the Arts, 1040 Grand Concourse

at 165<sup>th</sup> Street, Bronx, NY 10456

3:00 p.m.

TASK FORCE MEMBERS PRESENT:

SENATOR MICHAEL F. NOZZOLIO, Co-Chair

ASSEMBLY MEMBER JOHN J. MCENENY, Co-Chair

SENATOR MARTIN M. DILAN

ASSEMBLY MEMBER ROBERT OAKS

ROMAN HEDGES

WELQUIS LOPEZ

DEBRA LEVINE

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2 (The public hearing commenced at 3:00  
3 p.m.)

4 ASSEMBLY MEMBER JOHN J. MCENENY,  
5 CHAIRMAN LEGISLATIVE TASK FORCE ON DEMOGRAPHIC  
6 RESEARCH AND REAPPORTIONMENT: Afternoon. My  
7 name is Jack McEneny, I'm a member of the  
8 assembly representing Albany and parts of Albany  
9 County and I am joined with my co-chair Senator  
10 Mike Nozzolio from out in the Finger Lakes area  
11 of the state. We expect to be joined a little  
12 bit later by two other members on the assembly  
13 side, the ranking Republican member Bob Oaks is  
14 presiding over public hearing, at least he was  
15 this morning regarding the budget. He tells me  
16 he'll be here later. On the senate side Senator  
17 Martin Dilan we expect him a little bit later as  
18 well. Also up here on the dais to my immediate  
19 right is Dr. Roman Hedges, who is the citizen  
20 member of our committee if you will, and to the  
21 left Welquis Lopez who is the citizen member  
22 representing the senate. And also on the dais is  
23 one of our co-executive directors which is  
24 Deborah Levine. We welcome you today, we

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2 appreciate the great interest in this important  
3 issue. We ask you at present we have 52 names  
4 here so we ask you to be concise as you can be  
5 with your comments. Those of you who have  
6 already testified on the subject here in the  
7 Bronx we had 50 people testify the last time. If  
8 you want to mind us what you said and can do so  
9 that's appreciated but to read the exact same  
10 statement over we'll be here all night. And I  
11 think out of consideration for some of the people  
12 here you might want to be as concise as you  
13 possibly can.

14 We have a five-minute rule; we rarely if  
15 ever enforce that as long as it's not being  
16 abused. Obviously there's times when you're  
17 going to have to go over that. And without  
18 further ado I'd like to turn this over to my co-  
19 chair Senator Mike Nozzolio.

20 SENATOR MICHAEL NOZZOLIO, CHAIRMAN  
21 LEGISLATIVE TASK FORCE ON DEMOGRAPHIC RESEARCH  
22 AND REAPPORTIONMENT: Thank you very much  
23 Assemblyman McEneny. I wish to thank the Bronx  
24 Museum of the Arts for the use of their facility.

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2 I also wish to thank you, the citizens of the  
3 Bronx for your participation in these hearings.  
4 This is our 16<sup>th</sup> hearing across the state, the  
5 second in the second round of hearings that are  
6 two review the plans proposed. Those plans that  
7 are proposed are just that: plans that are  
8 proposals for consideration that we believe, from  
9 the Senate's perspective and I know the Assembly  
10 believes from the Assembly's perspective that  
11 they are presented and are good plans. But there  
12 is no plan that is perfect, and that the purpose  
13 of the hearings is to hear from you, the citizens  
14 of this borough, the citizens across New York  
15 State as to what you believe is a good part of  
16 the plan and what you believe should be changed  
17 in the plan. That's the great process that our  
18 democratic system is all about and that we  
19 welcome the opportunity to hear from you today  
20 and tonight.

21 I also should say that this hearing  
22 conducted beginning around 3:00 p.m. is the  
23 result of our first round of hearings that asked  
24 for hearings to be scheduled in the afternoon and

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2 early evening. So citizens who otherwise  
3 couldn't attend a hearing earlier in the day  
4 would be allowed to attend this hearing.

5 Lastly I'd like you to know that the  
6 testimony you provide today, if you have written  
7 testimony please make sure that we have copies  
8 because all your written testimony will be part  
9 of the official record of the task force.  
10 Anything you say will be video recorded, is being  
11 video recorded. These machines here are to  
12 record the testimony and that testimony will be  
13 placed on the LATFOR website, that's the  
14 Legislative Task Force on Demographic Research  
15 and Reapportionment. This task force, which is  
16 entrusted with the responsibilities is also want  
17 to communicate to the rest of the state and  
18 anyone that's interested outside the state as  
19 well to look at the website and see the video  
20 testimony that's part of this record.

21 So with that, no further ado, except to  
22 reiterate what my colleague and good friend said  
23 about the hearing, that we have well over 50 who  
24 have signed up before today and there are a

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2 number who have signed up already to be added to  
3 that list. So that will be a lengthy day, a  
4 lengthy evening. We ask you to be as pointed and  
5 as concise as you possibly can and then make your  
6 written comments part of the official record.  
7 Please don't feel free to read them all; we  
8 certainly will make them part of the record.  
9 Thank you very much. Any comments by our citizen  
10 participants? Both Mr. Hedges -- Dr. Hedges, and  
11 Welquis Lopez are the citizen nominees to this  
12 task force. It's a unique task force in the  
13 sense that it's, I believe, the only one in the  
14 legislature where there are non-legislators who  
15 are part of the voting membership on that task  
16 force, and that both Dr. Hedges and Mr. Lopez  
17 have been extremely helpful in their commitment  
18 and their input to the task force and their role  
19 on the task force. That's been very helpful. So  
20 without further ado our first witness is Mark  
21 Gjonaj.

22 ASSEMBLY MEMBER McENENY: Thank you.  
23 Would you please give your name for the record?  
24 Because this is being recorded and also when you

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2 signed up if you want us to know your home  
3 address just -- otherwise just say the Bronx or  
4 something like that. You may discuss anything in  
5 the entire state redistricting Congress, Senate,  
6 Assembly, the maps that are out now and if you  
7 have a concern about Buffalo you should not wait  
8 to get to Buffalo to say it if that's a concern.  
9 Have a seat, sir.

10 MR. ROBERT RUGGERIERO, CHAIRMAN MORRIS  
11 PARK BUSINESS ALLIANCE: Chairman I have a  
12 special request.

13 ASSEMBLY MEMBER MCENENY: Yes.

14 MR. RUGGERIERO: Most of the individuals  
15 here are all here to discuss the same assembly  
16 district. I request that we all come up together  
17 and be able to speak consecutively so not to lose  
18 the momentum of the topic of discussion

19 ASSEMBLY MEMBER MCENENY: All right if  
20 you can make concise and each one is saying  
21 something different that's fine. If you're  
22 repeating the same thing obviously--

23 MR. RUGGERIERO: No it's not, it's not  
24 repetitive; it would be in the interest of saying

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2 time.

3 ASSEMBLY MEMBER MCENENY: Sure, yeah.

4 MR. RUGGERIERO: And with that in mind I  
5 would like to bring up the Morris Park  
6 Association chairman to first start testimony and  
7 then we'll follow along as a group.

8 ASSEMBLY MEMBER MCENENY: How many are  
9 there in your group?

10 MR. RUGGERIERO: How many are signed up?  
11 One, two, three, four, five are signed up. Six,  
12 I'm sorry, six. Thank you chairman.

13 ASSEMBLY MEMBER MCENENY: Again the  
14 understanding is you will be brief because if I  
15 find some of these names are further down that's  
16 not fair to other people.

17 MR. RUGGERIERO: I heard 15 minutes  
18 each, correct?

19 ASSEMBLY MEMBER MCENENY: Not a chance.  
20 Not a chance. That's blocking the view of the  
21 people behind it, so move it to the left or the  
22 right.

23 SENATOR NOZZOLIO: And for the record  
24 would we start here, would you please state your

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2 name?

3 MR. RUGGERIERO: Yes, my name is Robert  
4 Ruggeriero and I'm the chairman of the Morris  
5 Park Business Alliance.

6 ASSEMBLY MEMBER MCENENY: In fact you'd  
7 be just as well facing the audience rather than  
8 us. We have that map in our book.

9 MR. MARK GJONAJ: Mark Gjonaj, a  
10 concerned citizen.

11 MR. ALBERT DIANGELO: Albert Diangelo,  
12 president of the Morris Park Community  
13 Association.

14 MR. JOE THOMPSON: Joe Thompson,  
15 president of the 49<sup>th</sup> Precinct Council.

16 MS. BERNADETTE FERRARA: Bernadette  
17 Ferrara, vice president of the Van Nest  
18 Neighborhood Alliance.

19 MR. SILVIO MAZELLA: Silvio Mazella,  
20 secretary Morris Park Community Association.

21 MR. GIA SAMATELLI: Chias [phonetic]  
22 Samatelli [phonetic], chairman of the Bronx  
23 Italian American Cultural Association. Thank  
24 you.

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2 MR. RUGGERIERO: And I'm Robert  
3 Ruggierio from the Morris Park Business  
4 Alliance.

5 ASSEMBLY MEMBER MCENENY: Thank you.

6 MALE VOICE: Thank you ladies and  
7 gentlemen. I have here, to start us off with,  
8 2300 petitions, 2336 to be exact, petitions that  
9 were signed in a day and a half when we heard  
10 that we were going to have this hearing, we were  
11 going to come to this hearing. Senator, I found  
12 one of the areas there is not perfect. Our  
13 concern is the lack of respect shown to the  
14 residents of Morris Park by what has been done by  
15 the redistricting of our community. You've taken  
16 5 percent of our community out and given it to  
17 another assembly district. That lessens our  
18 power as a community board, as concerned citizens  
19 to deal with our elected officials.

20 ASSEMBLY MEMBER MCENENY: Is that 5  
21 percent?

22 MR. RUGGERIERO: About 5 percent of our  
23 district has been taken out.

24 ASSEMBLY MEMBER MCENENY: Where's the

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2 other 95 percent? [Off mic conversation]. Of  
3 the district, not 5 percent of - - ?

4 MR. RUGGERIERO: No no, 5 percent of the  
5 district, 20 percent.

6 ASSEMBLY MEMBER MCENENY: No 95 percent  
7 of the district is intact?

8 SENATOR NOZZOLIO: No 20 percent. 20  
9 percent.

10 ASSEMBLY MEMBER MCENENY: 20 percent is  
11 intact based on the old lines.

12 MR. RUGGERIERO: 80 percent is intact;  
13 20 percent is not.

14 ASSEMBLY MEMBER MCENENY: Okay so you  
15 lost 20 percent -- okay. Thank you.

16 MR. RUGGERIERO: My concern -- and again  
17 it seems that -- and again I'm not a politician,  
18 I'm a leader of a community organization. The  
19 other gentlemen and ladies will speak about the  
20 political part of it. I'm concerned that you've  
21 taken a part of Morris Park. Now as president of  
22 the Morris Park Association we represent about  
23 2000 members in our community. Many of those  
24 members are in that area that has been taken

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2 away.

3 Now we have to deal with one elected  
4 official to get certain things that we need in  
5 our community; now we have to deal with two. And  
6 when you only have a small percentage of our  
7 community how much attention are you going to pay  
8 to Morris Park if the majority of you  
9 constituents are in another area? So that  
10 lessens our power as far as the community goes.  
11 And I was under the impression that we wanted  
12 community involvement in our political affairs.  
13 To do that the community needs to have a voice in  
14 our affairs of government. And unfortunately by  
15 doing this you take away a large portion of our  
16 membership that now do not have a voice with  
17 everyone else.

18 We had an incident not too long ago  
19 where a club in the lower end of our district  
20 which is up in -- it comes to a point, and  
21 elected officials it's a tail end so nobody seems  
22 to pay too much attention to it. The club's name  
23 was Calmer [phonetic] and the senator that was in  
24 that district did not do anything for us. We had

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2 to get a senator from -- Senator Jeff Klein  
3 [phonetic] was the one who came down, was out of  
4 his district but he worked with us to help get  
5 that place closed down. But the senator that was  
6 in our district because it was a small area paid  
7 no attention to our concerns.

8 So this is my main concern and what  
9 seems to have happened is elected officials got  
10 behind closed doors, divided up our area that  
11 would be conducive to them but never spoke to the  
12 community about what would be best to the  
13 community. So they took care of their own  
14 political needs, and I understand enough about  
15 politics to know that that's part of the game.

16 But I don't want to play that game;  
17 that's not a game that our citizens want. Our  
18 citizens want a continuity in our community where  
19 our community can speak and speak to elected  
20 officials and get some feedback from that elected  
21 official, not be brushed aside because we're only  
22 a small entity in that community. We've been  
23 lucky in the past, we've had some great elected  
24 officials in our neighborhood and they worked

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2 very well with our community and now we're  
3 starting to divide up a community that was a very  
4 solid community.

5 Our senate district and our council  
6 district seem to remain the same. Again, we're  
7 lucky with James Bacalles [phonetic] and Senator  
8 Klein. They've been great for our community.  
9 They're there every time we need something  
10 they're right there to help us. But not if you  
11 turn around and take our assembly district away  
12 now we're going to have a problem with the  
13 assembly. So these are areas that I think are  
14 very important.

15 I don't like the idea that we're a pawn  
16 in a political game; that's not what elected  
17 officials are supposed to do. They're supposed  
18 to take care of the people in their community and  
19 not divide us so that we become less powerful.  
20 When you divide Morris Park the power of the  
21 community association becomes less and therefore  
22 the voice of the people becomes less because now  
23 we can't speak for the people, all the people, we  
24 can only speak for a small section. So I beg

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2 your indulgence to please look into this further  
3 and do what you can to help us.

4 MR. THOMPSON: For illustration purposes  
5 if I just may show you the area that we're  
6 referring to. [Off mic conversation]. The  
7 section that was removed was the gray here in the  
8 red, and what makes up the entire Morris Park is  
9 this section. So actually it's this. It's  
10 roughly 25 percent of the inhabitants, 6500  
11 residents that have been removed from our  
12 district.

13 ASSEMBLY MEMBER MCENENY: State your  
14 name again so the people will know which person  
15 is talking.

16 MR. THOMPSON: Wow, that's good. Before  
17 I do that I want you to know this red shirt does  
18 not mean I'm a Republican. This is Senator  
19 Klein's court watcher's program.

20 MALE VOICE: What's wrong with being a  
21 Republican.

22 MR. THOMPSON: No, really. And I really  
23 came from doing that this morning and we still  
24 have some members that are down at criminal court

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2 on a case. Luckily I was able to get here and  
3 still have some people to represent them. I'm  
4 very happy to see civilian input on this council.  
5 And I appreciate the fact that Albany thinks  
6 enough of doing this and doing it right in  
7 thinking enough to come down here and listen to  
8 us 'cause I think it's awfully important.

9 ASSEMBLY MEMBER MCENENY: Now your  
10 remarks will be turned into a transcript, even  
11 though we have it on film. So your name is?

12 MR. THOMPSON: My name is Joe Thompson.

13 ASSEMBLY MEMBER MCENENY: Thank you.  
14 Please proceed.

15 MR. THOMPSON: And I'm the president of  
16 the 49<sup>th</sup> Precinct Council. And I will say this,  
17 and after studying this state assembly  
18 redistricting proposal for community. I honestly  
19 see no legal or practical reason for the current  
20 plan. Why divided Morris Park Community? Why  
21 exchange Morris Park with an area east of  
22 Eastchester Road, which is Pelham Gardens? It  
23 makes very little sense to me. Both areas are  
24 predominantly Italian heritage folks. Both areas

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2 are middle income, one and two family homeowners,  
3 tons of union membership and honestly both areas  
4 have about the same amount of people. So to make  
5 this change just to make the change doesn't make  
6 sense to me.

7 On the other hand the Morris Park  
8 community has been and is the anchor of our  
9 entire community board, and as president of the  
10 49<sup>th</sup> precinct we travel the entire community  
11 board, we work with each and every organization  
12 and civic organization within the community  
13 board. So when we look at this, and we know that  
14 Morris Park community is stable, it's steady. We  
15 also have three city housing developments in our  
16 area. We have the Allerton Coops, which has 700  
17 families. We have multiple high-rise apartment  
18 buildings, a large transient population, and we  
19 look to Morris Park for our stability.

20 We also look to Morris Park to balance  
21 out our neighborhood crime statistics because  
22 Morris Park is an extremely low crime area. Okay  
23 with the other areas I'm afraid are not the same.  
24 So with the number we get from Morris Park it

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2 helps to balance out the rest of our precinct,  
3 which means that we are still considered a low-  
4 crime area, which means that we get more  
5 businesses that will come into our area, more  
6 working people that will come into our area.

7 We know what keeps Morris Park strong.  
8 Why do people stay in the neighborhood. If you  
9 come from a neighborhood, you come from a small  
10 community what keeps it strong? Well one of the  
11 things that keeps it strong is it ties with the  
12 community. It's a strong community commitment.  
13 It's ties to family, it's ties to friends, it's  
14 ties to neighbors.

15 So when you look at that and you say to  
16 yourself, "What can kind of tear this thing  
17 apart?" Well this is fragile as we do have  
18 people that move out. So it's very fragile. And  
19 if you take Morris Park, split it down the  
20 middle, split it right down Morris Park Avenue  
21 and you have representation and a different  
22 representation on the other side of the street,  
23 so we don't have that togetherness anymore. We  
24 don't have that unity that we need from Morris

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2 Park because Morris Park doesn't have it. And if  
3 they ever lose that sense of unity, that sense  
4 that they can go to one elected official who  
5 speaks for the whole and will defend them and  
6 defend the whole. If we don't have that we start  
7 losing people.

8 If we lose Morris Park, if community  
9 board 11 loses Morris Park it's a very good  
10 chance that we're going to lose community board  
11 11 and the ratings that they do have. Morris  
12 Park is involved, and this is probably why I lose  
13 them so much. And I said this when I first  
14 started with the community board and with the  
15 council: Morris Park is involved. They go on  
16 marches against violence, drugs and gangs, not  
17 just at Morris Park but at Eastchester Gardens,  
18 one of our housing developments. They go to Van  
19 Nest community. They've gone to White Plains  
20 Road and Leidick [phonetic] Avenue on the same  
21 quest.

22 Over the last four years Morris Park  
23 itself has donated 40,000 pounds of foods for our  
24 Christmas and Hanukkah end of the year

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2 celebrations. So they're involved, but they're a  
3 good example for other communities. That's why  
4 they are the core group that we need

5 ASSEMBLY MEMBER MCENENY: Keep your time  
6 in mind.

7 MR. THOMPSON: Okay. I've got three  
8 minutes?

9 ASSEMBLY MEMBER MCENENY: Three minutes  
10 ago. You've got other speakers on the same  
11 topic.

12 MR. THOMPSON: No I'm going to be fine.  
13 I'm almost finished.

14 But we do need a strong and unified  
15 Morris Park, represented by one assembly person,  
16 one city council person and one senate person.  
17 And again, and I'll repeat what Al says, we've  
18 been fortunate. We've had some very, very good  
19 people. Senator Klein has been there I think 18  
20 years, first with the assembly, then with the  
21 Senate. So we know we've got people that  
22 understand what we're doing and people that care,  
23 really care. And that's what we want to keep and  
24 that's what we want to hold onto. But we've got

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2 to hold into Morris Park. And we've got to hold  
3 into Morris Park as strong and as whole as it is.

4 And I got one little last little thing:  
5 there's absolutely no reason to give up five  
6 blocks from Waring Avenue to Pelham Parkway  
7 North, from Boston Road to Bronx Park East. And  
8 Bronx Park East is a natural border; it just goes  
9 like that. And what you're trying to do is cut  
10 out this little five-block area. It's not even  
11 natural. There is absolutely no reason for it.  
12 That's got to be a personal reason because you  
13 have a natural border right on the park, Bronx  
14 Park East.

15 And I thank you very much and thank you  
16 for having this.

17 ASSEMBLY MEMBER MCENENY: Thank you.  
18 Before the next testifier the committee is  
19 presenced now very pleased to have Senator Martin  
20 Dilan, who is senate representative on the task  
21 force.

22 This Morris Park must be some place.

23 MALE VOICE: You're welcome anytime.

24 FEMALE VOICE: Come anytime.

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2 ASSEMBLY MEMBER MCENENY: Who's next?

3 MR. GJONAJ: I'm always going to request  
4 if I go over the five minutes one of the  
5 additional speakers will not speak, so if I go  
6 over the five minutes I will do so in his  
7 timeframe if that's okay with you.

8 ASSEMBLY MEMBER MCENENY: That's fine,  
9 but again --

10 MR. GJONAJ: [Interposing] It'll be  
11 concise and it'll be -- it'll be concise.

12 ASSEMBLY MEMBER MCENENY: Also, and  
13 since you're there I'm going to ask a question, I  
14 might as well ask it now that you can incorporate  
15 in your remarks about -- you're talking about  
16 assembly and the senate and keeping --

17 MR. GJONAJ: No just the assembly.

18 ASSEMBLY MEMBER MCENENY: But your  
19 comments are that you like that fact that Morris  
20 Park is within one senatorial district, is that  
21 your -- ?

22 MR. GJONAJ: That's correct. We're very  
23 fortunate with our senator. Senator Klein was  
24 the previous assemblyperson for the area as well

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2 so he has long ties and roots to the community.

3 Good afternoon honorable members of the  
4 New York State LATFOR Task Force.

5 ASSEMBLY MEMBER MCENENY: Give your name  
6 again because this gets turned into a transcript  
7 and they won't know who's talking.

8 MR. GJONAJ: Certainly. My name is Mark  
9 Gjonaj. I am an activist for the Bronx County  
10 and proud member of the Morris Park Community of  
11 the Bronx.

12 Thank you for allowing me to present my  
13 testimony at this public hearing and I'd like to  
14 begin by noting that the proposed redistricting  
15 plan violates the will of the people. On January  
16 26<sup>th</sup>, 2012 the New York State LATFOR released a  
17 proposed redistricting plan for New York State  
18 Assembly that is unfair and illegal.

19 Additionally hold hearings within a few days of  
20 releasing the plans is unreasonable because we  
21 were not allocated the sufficient time to digest  
22 the material fully and prepare to testify.

23 Although in a limited timeframe as you  
24 can see our community united, driven by passion

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2 and disappointment which is clearly evidenced by  
3 the thousands of signatures gathered to protest  
4 the proposed redistricting plans. If the plan  
5 was to govern effectively it failed. If the plan  
6 was to disappoint and disenfranchise people in  
7 that case the plan succeeded.

8 In the interest of time my testimony  
9 today will address the 87<sup>th</sup>, 80<sup>th</sup> and 82<sup>nd</sup> proposed  
10 assembly districts and more specifically the  
11 Morris Park community and Bronx County.  
12 Historically the Morris Park community has been  
13 entirely in the 80<sup>th</sup> assembly district with the  
14 exception of a few streets on the western  
15 portion, which we believe would have been  
16 corrected during the 2012 redistricting and  
17 included into the 80<sup>th</sup> assembly district  
18 completing the Morris Park community.

19 The current proposed assembly district  
20 plan divides the Morris Park community into three  
21 assembly districts and are fundamentally split  
22 between the 80<sup>th</sup> and 82<sup>nd</sup> districts primarily for  
23 individual and political gain without any  
24 consideration to a unified community or assessing

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2 the negative effects that it would bring upon it.

3 Dividing a unified community to achieve  
4 objectives is the process of redrawing lines to  
5 increase unduly a group's or individual political  
6 power and referred to as gerrymandering.

7 Gerrymandering can further be defined as a  
8 practice of dividing a geographical area into  
9 electoral districts of highly irregular shape to  
10 give it unfair advantage by diluting the  
11 opposition's strength.

12 The Morris Park community opposes the  
13 current proposed redistricting plan because it  
14 splits our community. This plan will silence our  
15 voice, ease our political influence by diluting  
16 our voting strength solely for the purpose to  
17 protect an incumbent by eliminating potential  
18 challenges and potential candidates.

19 Additionally it is my belief that our elected  
20 officials have horse-traded to remove potential  
21 candidates out of the 80<sup>th</sup> district which is  
22 evident by the fact that at least three potential  
23 candidates have been ironically removed from the  
24 district, therefore making the proposed plan

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2 wrong, illegal and troubling for many reasons.

3 Encouraging competition is good.

4 Competition theoretically cause an incumbent  
5 legislator to cater more attentively to a wider  
6 range of the constituents because they will be  
7 more worried that they might lose a close  
8 election, thus governing more effectively and  
9 bringing the people and helping the people in the  
10 district.

11 To divide Morris Park would be unfair  
12 whereas the proposed plan disenfranchises  
13 approximately 6500 members of an existing  
14 community, which undermines the integrity,  
15 diminishes authority and does not coincide with  
16 the needs and interests of the residents,  
17 business and organizations of the community.  
18 Illegal whereas the proposed plan does not with  
19 the state constitutional and statutory  
20 restrictions that the assembly districts shall be  
21 formed from a convenient and contiguous territory  
22 as a compact form as practicable without looking  
23 irregular in shape or containing irregular edges.

24 Additionally the plan does not follow

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2 traditional redistricting principles that a  
3 community of interest should be kept together  
4 within the same district in order not to divide  
5 populations or communities that have common needs  
6 and interests, a community of interest which can  
7 be further defined as a neighborhood community or  
8 group of people concentrated in an area who share  
9 similar interests, priorities, views or  
10 characteristics whether social, cultural, ethnic,  
11 economic, religious or political and that would  
12 benefit from being maintained in a single  
13 district because of shared interests. The Morris  
14 Park community is a community of interest  
15 consistent with the following shared interests  
16 and key elements that would be directly affected  
17 by the proposed redistricting plan. Major  
18 hospitals, schools, parks, religious  
19 institutions, shopping districts, organizations.

20 Share interest of the Morris Park  
21 community: Morris Park community patrol, which  
22 patrols well outside the current proposed  
23 boundaries. The Columbus Day parade, the holiday  
24 lights on Morris Park, the New York City public

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2 library, United State Post Office,  
3 transportation. Morris Park Community  
4 Association, which my colleagues spoke on earlier  
5 which has serviced the area for 40 years. Morris  
6 Park Alliance, which my colleague to the left  
7 will testify in a few moments, are political  
8 issues. The Morris Park community is actively  
9 engaged with local politicians because of common  
10 legislative needs and interests. We have  
11 representatives that we hold accountable for  
12 servicing the needs of our community. The  
13 proposed plan would hinder our ability to hold  
14 our elected officials accountable to address the  
15 needs of this community.

16 The Morris Park community has  
17 traditionally been able to protect the rights,  
18 needs and interests of the residents, businesses  
19 and organizations of this community because we  
20 have been united with one voice. Splitting our  
21 community into different assembly districts will  
22 weaken our ability to meet the needs and  
23 interests of the community and hinder our ability  
24 to hold elected officials accountable to address

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2 the needs of this wonderful and successful  
3 community.

4 A perfect example of the dangers in  
5 splitting communities: in 1992 riots in Los  
6 Angeles took a heavy financial toll on businesses  
7 in many neighborhoods including the area known as  
8 Korea Town. It is estimated that the city  
9 suffered more than \$1 billion in damage. When  
10 residents of Korea Town appealed to their elected  
11 representatives for assistance with the cleanup  
12 and recovery efforts each of their purposed  
13 representatives claimed that the area was really  
14 a part of some other official's district. The  
15 redistricting map, it appeared, had fractured  
16 Korea Town and an area barely over one square  
17 mile into several districts. As a result no  
18 legislator felt responsible to the Asian American  
19 community.

20 I'm going to wrap it up so please bear  
21 with me.

22 The redistricting process must be more  
23 responsive to communities. For communities to be  
24 fairly represented in government the

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2           redistricting process needs to recognize and be  
3           accountable to real communities. It should be  
4           the members of a community that choose the  
5           elected officials that they want to represent  
6           them and not the other way around where the  
7           elected officials choose which constituents they  
8           want to represent in their district. Legislators  
9           in a back room cherry-picking their constituents,  
10          trawling for donors or carving out challenges  
11          will only destroy political good will and the  
12          trust of the people. We hold elections to make  
13          sure elected officials are working and they  
14          continue to listen to their constituents.

15                   For all of the above reasons we implore  
16                   this task force prevent this community from being  
17                   unnecessarily divided and redraw the lines of the  
18                   assembly district plan to unite the interests of  
19                   the Morris Park community and the Bronx County.  
20                   We further call on all our elected officials to  
21                   public denounce the proposed redistricting plan.  
22                   We appeal to our local elected officials to serve  
23                   and protect the interest of the constituents and  
24                   meet the needs of the Morris Park community by

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2 putting aside any personal issues, agendas and  
3 self-interests. Silence from our elected  
4 officials and words that lack action and  
5 sincerity will be perceived as an approval of the  
6 proposed redistricting plan. Therefore we pledge  
7 to hold our elected officials responsible for  
8 their actions or inactions on this matter and  
9 remind them that November is around the corner  
10 and the primaries are at your doorstep.

11 Thank you.

12 ASSEMBLY MEMBER MCENENY: Who's next?

13 And again give your name so the transcript will  
14 say who's saying what.

15 MR. SILVIO MAZZELLA: My name is Silvio  
16 Mazzella, I'm secretary of Morris Park Community  
17 Association. I've been a resident of Morris Park  
18 since 1968 and I've been volunteering for 22  
19 years. Again I want to commend you on having a  
20 civilian on your committee task force and I'm  
21 giving my time up because of the amount of  
22 minutes we've used. They voice my opinion and  
23 the only thing I can say is we'll fight as a  
24 community to do what is right, okay? And this is

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2 wrong. Thank you.

3 ASSEMBLY MEMBER MCENENY: Thank you very  
4 much. Is there anyone else who's speaking from  
5 Morris Park?

6 MR. RUGGERIERO: Folks in order not to  
7 be redundant I'm going to just give you some  
8 specifics because I did have a prepared  
9 statement. But just to give you some specifics  
10 as to how this affects us --

11 SENATOR NOZZOLIO: Would you state your  
12 name?

13 MR. RUGGERIERO: Oh I'm sorry, I'm  
14 Robert Ruggeriero, I'm the chairman of the Morris  
15 Park Merchants' Association. And the specifics  
16 that we're talking about because of this  
17 overlapping jurisdictions, four years ago when I  
18 was asked to start the Merchants' Association I  
19 had two projects in mind; one was the New York  
20 State Main Street Grant Proposal which would help  
21 store businesses replace their storefronts and  
22 create a theme or a character to the community  
23 and also business improvement district supporting  
24 the city, by the City of New York.

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2           Both projects have been languishing for  
3 the past four years because of these overlying  
4 gerrymandered lines and divisions. It wasn't  
5 until recently that I've agreed to accept the  
6 project three times the size of its original  
7 scope did now the second councilperson step in  
8 and take the position in the Van Nest community  
9 because I'm going to help his district along with  
10 the non-responsive councilperson. And the same  
11 thing in the state: my assemblywoman's been  
12 unresponsive for the past four years and now  
13 State Senator Jeff Klein has stepped forward and  
14 said, "Well if you take that half of the district  
15 I'll help you with your half of the district."

16           And so this is the problem that we have  
17 in the Merchants' Association. Westchester  
18 Square Business Group is one vote away from being  
19 a business improvement district and we stepped  
20 out the gate the same month four years ago. I'm  
21 nowhere and they're almost done. This is the  
22 effect that this is having on a community. Thank  
23 you.

24           MS. FERRARA: Good afternoon. My name

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2 is Bernadette Ferrara and I'm representing the  
3 Van Nest Neighborhood Alliance in the Van Nest  
4 area. And the Van Nest area does work in  
5 partnership with Morris Park. And what I could  
6 say with my testimony is I've been a long-time  
7 resident living in Van Nest for over 50 years and  
8 I'm learning just what redistricting is and  
9 reapportionment is and asking the question how  
10 will this constant splintering of our whole  
11 community impact our future ten years?

12 I can attest how our last ten years  
13 were. And I will say that having two of each has  
14 put our community's interest at the bottom of  
15 each political agenda that represents portions of  
16 our one community. Thank God for one or two  
17 politicians who have stood by our community and  
18 helped. We are at the border -- and I mean Van  
19 Nest, of many jurisdictions and given less  
20 attention and less community money. This is  
21 forcing already burdened homeowners and tenants  
22 to rattle more cages to get crumbs.

23 It's a bleak future for those of us who  
24 are staying put and fighting so hard for so

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2 little. While there is this formula what about  
3 the mission statement? Why are whole communities  
4 splintered to appease reapportionment and not the  
5 community needs.

6 On the website it says why is the  
7 process important to me and to my community?  
8 Well this definition is there. Five people from  
9 our Van Nest community sit on the board of  
10 Community Board 11. Three of those five sit on  
11 the executive board of the Van Nest Neighborhood  
12 Alliance that has been in existence for two  
13 years. We formed out of a desperate cry for  
14 help. It is a constant battle and now we are  
15 foreseeing more of a struggle that's not going to  
16 benefit our community. Enough is enough. Look  
17 at our whole communities and be smart about these  
18 borders. It should be a win-win situation for  
19 both reapportionment and whole communities.

20 Our neighboring community of Morris Park  
21 has seen what this has done to Van Nest and we do  
22 not want this division to continue either in Van  
23 Nest or Morris Park. And I do want to point out  
24 on the map what -- we're cut in half already and

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2 that's right here. Van Nest is already cut and  
3 we already have natural borders: the 180<sup>th</sup> street  
4 and Morris Park on one side demographically and  
5 the M track up to East Tremont. And we have  
6 already been split and we're fighting but we're  
7 getting nowhere for the same reasons that Morris  
8 Park is having the problem And we need it to  
9 stop. Thank you very much.

10 SENATOR NOZZOLIO: Before you leave,  
11 this is exactly what the hearings are for, to  
12 present points of view. I just want to clarify  
13 again that the proposed senate district under  
14 this plan, it's your understanding it keeps  
15 Morris Park together and that you favor, that is  
16 your -- you're all in support of that effort?

17 MALE VOICE: That is correct.

18 MALE VOICE: Senate district is fine  
19 with us.

20 SENATOR NOZZOLIO: Thank you very much.

21 MALE VOICE: Before you go, where do we  
22 submit these 2300 signatures?

23 FEMALE VOICE: - - the front desk  
24 upstairs. Her name is Dina she'll be happy to

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2 take them from you.

3 MALE VOICE: And in addition, it's not  
4 fair, but not to point out all the wrong things  
5 but we have also come up with solutions to this.  
6 One of the solutions can be theoretically Morris  
7 Park, which is one community with natural  
8 boundaries, which is evident by the map:  
9 railroads, major parks, we certainly share  
10 interests in common with our neighbors, Pelham  
11 Parkway and so on and so forth. But in regard to  
12 unifying the neighborhood and preserving  
13 something that have been longstanding and  
14 successful we're looking at a situation where you  
15 have five fingers and you're asking us to cut  
16 one. They will all bleed and they'll all hurt.  
17 And it's unfair that this was put on us as a  
18 community to decide which sections or what  
19 neighbor we are going to cut off of our hand.

20 Conceivably though, what option I would  
21 prefer, not that -- I come from the Marshall Loop  
22 [phonetic] Parkway area, I've had long ties to  
23 that area as well, but certainly it does not  
24 coincide with the immediate interest of Morris

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2 Park and Pelham Parkway area. But in the realm of  
3 making an easy transition -- not that I'm in  
4 favor of it, but at the end of the day if a  
5 difficult choice has to be made the numbers which  
6 are evident between Pelham Gardens and Morris  
7 Park, two sections that are referred to and  
8 removed, the rest section and the remainder of  
9 Morris Park has been cut out with the balance  
10 here. If you took Pelham Gardens the numbers are  
11 almost identical: 6500 residents here, 6500  
12 residents here, and still complying with the  
13 threshold.

14 ASSEMBLY MEMBER MCENENY: Okay if you  
15 would submit that as a map, color one part in,  
16 one part out we appreciate -- this has been a  
17 very good-spirited and a very logical  
18 presentation. This is why we're having the  
19 hearing. People who come in and complain,  
20 frankly we don't listen very much. The ones who  
21 complain and suggest a solution we listen very,  
22 very closely and we certainly feel that way about  
23 your presentation.

24 Now let me just point something out: we

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2           have the Federal Voting Rights Act of 1965 which  
3           protects, among others, Hispanics and African  
4           Americans and requires no diminution of  
5           representation they now have and where there's an  
6           opportunity to create a minority-majority  
7           district we do that.

8                       We also have basic math. Let me just  
9           theoretically talk for a minute. If it is  
10          roughly 125,000 people which forms an assembly  
11          district here in the Bronx and there are three  
12          neighborhoods of 50,000 each we have to make a  
13          choice of your analogy: cutting off the finger  
14          of three districts, maybe two fingers for one of  
15          them keeping two of them whole and one of them  
16          cut in half. Which bad decision to we make?  
17          They're all bad.

18                      We also have someone mentioned there's  
19          like three or four blocks, there seems to be no  
20          reason. We also have requirements of block on  
21          border imposed by the New York State constitution  
22          for well over a century. And you will find that  
23          lines that are drawn clear and concise and make  
24          good sense suddenly have a jog here or a jog

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2 there so that the math will be exact.

3           Once you break into one of the boroughs  
4 of New York then you have to make every district  
5 equal, not by thousands, not by hundreds, but for  
6 the most part by very, very small numbers. And  
7 up in Albany, New York, which is split I and Ron  
8 Canestrari [phonetic] have the exact number  
9 because we split a city. And so a lot of the --  
10 some of this is math driven, some of it is driven  
11 by the Voting Rights Act of 1965 saying that it's  
12 illegal. I think you'll find things mandated by  
13 the federal government that are far more odd-  
14 looking. You'll find things that common cause  
15 has done that are more odd-looking because the  
16 Voting Rights Act can't be ignored. It's imposed  
17 by the federal government.

18           What we will do, and you've had your  
19 time, thank you, what we will do we will go back,  
20 we'll take a look at it, we'll take into account  
21 the remarks that you've made and see if working  
22 with the constraints of the constitution and the  
23 Voting Rights Act if it's possible. And we will  
24 take a serious look at it, we do appreciate your

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2 testimony very much.

3 MALE VOICE: [Crosstalk] ethnic  
4 breakdown like Mark had pointed out in the  
5 switch; just about the same. So when it comes to  
6 the ethnic breakdown of both communities they're  
7 pretty much the same. So that switch could be  
8 made very easily.

9 ASSEMBLY MEMBER MCENENY: Thank you.  
10 That's -- very good. Thank you.

11 MALE VOICE: Thank you very much ladies  
12 and gentlemen.

13 MR. GIAS SAMATELLI: Mr. Chairman can I  
14 have my five minutes please? Although I'm not  
15 together with the group I'm spiritually with the  
16 group. In reference to - - .

17 ASSEMBLY MEMBER MCENENY: You are signed  
18 up?

19 MR. SAMATELLI: Yes I am. It's  
20 pertaining to the 80<sup>th</sup> and the 82<sup>nd</sup>.

21 ASSEMBLY MEMBER MCENENY: Wait a minute,  
22 wait a minute. What you're doing is you're  
23 bumping 45 people.

24 MALE VOICE: What's your name, sir?

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2 MR. SAMATELLI: Samatelli, Gias

3 Samatelli.

4 ASSEMBLY MEMBER MCENENY: Gias you're  
5 too late to the table; I'm going to go back to  
6 the list.

7 MR. SAMATELLI: Pertaining to the 80<sup>th</sup>  
8 and the 80<sup>th</sup> and the 82<sup>nd</sup>.

9 ASSEMBLY MEMBER MCENENY: I'm sure. And  
10 there may be others as well that aren't part of  
11 Morris Park that may have another opinion.

12 MR. SAMATELLI: Okay Mr. Chairman.  
13 Thank you so much. I'll wait.

14 MALE VOICE: Good.

15 SENATOR NOZZOLIO: Tracy Shelton  
16 [phonetic]. Tracy Shelton. Tracy Shelton? Mary  
17 Jane Musano.

18 MS. MARY JANE MUSANO, MEMBER WATERBURY-  
19 LaSALLE COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION: Hi, my name is  
20 name is Mary Jane Musano, I'm a member of the  
21 Waterbury LaSalle Community Association and  
22 Community Board 10.

23 SENATOR NOZZOLIO: - - interruption.  
24 Could we please have order and respect for the

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2 speaker? Thank you.

3 MS. MUSANO: I'm a lifelong member of my  
4 community which is Schuylerville, a small  
5 community between Throg's Neck and Pelham Bay and  
6 today I'm come to speak to you about a Pelham  
7 Bay/Throg's Neck, Country Club, Riverdale. I am  
8 in support of the proposed maps that were  
9 proposed by the LATFOR for proposed 34<sup>th</sup> Senate  
10 District, and the reason is that they are mostly  
11 the same. We're all homeowners, mostly, we're  
12 mostly middle class, working middle class, all of  
13 our communities are varied in ethnic background  
14 and we all work very well together.

15 As a matter of fact Morris Park is one  
16 of those communities, and Joe Thompson showed you  
17 his red shirt; that's one of the things that we  
18 do together. We're all pushing towards the same  
19 goals because we have the same problems, we have  
20 the same backgrounds, and it makes sense to keep  
21 us together so that we can be stronger.

22 And by the way when you splinter Morris  
23 Park you also take power away from us because we  
24 work together, all of those communities work

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2 together. For instance, just to give you a  
3 little idea: Joe mentioned the court watcher's  
4 program, of which we just came from. One of the  
5 things our community is pushing for is stiffer  
6 penalties for quality of life crimes like  
7 graffiti and car theft, crimes that usually don't  
8 get much attention in the court. So we all feel  
9 that same way. We went to Senator Klein who has  
10 been just wonderful for us. And he came up with  
11 the court watcher's program and it's something  
12 that people from all of those communities that I  
13 just mentioned are involved in.

14 SENATOR NOZZOLIO: Excuse me. Hold --  
15 would you please hold one second? The  
16 conversations in the back of the room take them  
17 outside now.

18 MALE VOICE: We'll go outside, Mr.  
19 Chairman. Thank you so much.

20 SENATOR NOZZOLIO: The conversations in  
21 the room are from the testifier, not from the  
22 audience. Please show the respect as everyone  
23 will be shown. Apologize for the interruption.

24 MS. MUSANO: That's okay. So as I was

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2 saying it makes sense to keep us all together  
3 because we fight for the same things and we work  
4 very well together. As I said the court  
5 watcher's program is one even that we're all  
6 involved in as well as graffiti cleanup programs  
7 and programs like that.

8 The other reason I think it's important  
9 to keep us together is that it takes time to  
10 develop a relationship with our Senator, and  
11 we've spent years doing it. He now knows that  
12 things are important to us and so it makes the  
13 push forward easier.

14 So I'll conclude with just thanking you  
15 for keeping us together and to consider that also  
16 for Morris Park.

17 SENATOR NOZZOLIO: Barbara Stronczer.  
18 Would you be so kind as to pronounce your name  
19 correctly because I'm sure I did it incorrectly.

20 MS. BARBARA STRONCZER, PRESIDENT BEDFORD  
21 MOSHULUS COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION: Sure. My name  
22 is Barbara Stronczer and I am representing the  
23 Bedford Moshulu Association. We are a not-for-  
24 profit community association located in the

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2 Bedford Park area of the northwest Bronx. I  
3 testify that the hearings last fall requesting  
4 that the new lines not divide the Bedford Park  
5 Norwood communities as was done ten years ago. I  
6 spoke about the fact that along Moshulu Parkway  
7 we had three different assembly districts.

8 Currently our senate district, the 33<sup>rd</sup>,  
9 is co-terminus with both Bedford Park and  
10 Norwood. Having looked at the new lines not only  
11 if our assembly district still gerrymandered but  
12 you have also sliced our neighborhood with the  
13 proposed lines for the 33<sup>rd</sup> and the 34<sup>th</sup> senatorial  
14 districts. These new lines are totally  
15 unacceptable to our community residents.

16 If you look at the lines for the 34<sup>th</sup>  
17 senatorial district you will notice that the  
18 district covers the east Bronx and the Riverdale  
19 area. We see no reason for it to take a few  
20 buildings in the Bedford Park area. With these  
21 lines the headquarters of our association is  
22 located in the 34<sup>th</sup> district while most of our  
23 members reside in the 33<sup>rd</sup> district. I ask of  
24 what benefit is there to when an elected official

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2 or a community to take these three blocks from  
3 the middle of the 33<sup>rd</sup> district and place it into  
4 the 34<sup>th</sup> senatorial district? The district needs  
5 to be co-terminus and not carved and divided as  
6 done ten years ago and now more so with these  
7 proposed lines. We are in favor of the  
8 governor's demand for independent redistricting.

9 It is evident by your work that unless a  
10 non-partisan committee is established for this  
11 task our community would be again sliced and  
12 diced to the local needs and concerns. So  
13 actually what has happened is the 34<sup>th</sup> takes in  
14 the east Bronx, a good part of Morris Park, it  
15 heads west. When it gets to Bedford Park it  
16 picks up a couple of buildings here and there,  
17 they're not contiguous, and then it jumps over to  
18 Riverdale. So we are asking to remain within the  
19 33<sup>rd</sup> as we've been and as we are now so that we  
20 can work as a neighborhood.

21 MALE VOICE: What number assembly  
22 district - - ?

23 MS. STRONCZER: Right now I'm in the  
24 80<sup>th</sup>.

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2 MALE VOICE: In the proposed?

3 MS. STRONCZER: No in the current 80<sup>th</sup>.

4 I have to look at the maps again because I'm  
5 hearing stories that I'll be in the 78<sup>th</sup>. Our  
6 assembly district along Moshulu is sliced and  
7 diced. It has been for ten years and that's why  
8 I spoke at the last hearing. And now we're  
9 sliced and diced both in the Senate as well as  
10 the Assembly and it's not helping our community.  
11 So I would appreciate anything you could do to  
12 help us out especially within the 33<sup>rd</sup> there  
13 because we have different buildings that are  
14 really several blocks away that were picked up.  
15 I don't know why, I mean if Bedford Park is going  
16 to be in the 34<sup>th</sup> fine but then keep us together  
17 as a neighborhood. Don't just pick up a building  
18 here or a building there then go up to Norwood  
19 and pick up a few more buildings.

20 So whatever you can do would be  
21 appreciated and I thank you for this opportunity  
22 to speak.

23 SENATOR NOZZOLIO: Thank you for your  
24 testimony. Marcia Pavlicka [phonetic], Marcia?

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2 MS. MARCIA PAVLICKA, : I'll answer to  
3 anything. Good afternoon. My name is Marcia Ann  
4 Pavlicka. I'm a homeowner and a taxpayer in the  
5 northeast section of the Bronx known as Country  
6 Club between Eastchester Bay and I-95. My  
7 assembly district is 82, Mike Benedetto. My  
8 senatorial district is 3-4, Jeff Klein.

9 What we have is a tightly knit  
10 community, fully developed with one, two and  
11 three-family homes, similar in density to our  
12 neighboring communities, banding together with  
13 like concerns, interests, and also like problems.

14 Within our group of communities are  
15 Pelham Bay, Throg's Neck, Spencer Estates, Locust  
16 Point, Schuylerville, Ferry Point and our  
17 neighbors to the west, Morris Park. These  
18 communities believe in a viable merchant and  
19 shopping area, be it on Tremont Avenue in Throg's  
20 Neck, Westchester Avenue, Westchester Square or  
21 the Morris Park community. Our commonality  
22 includes our concerns regarding overdevelopment  
23 and illegal conversions within the 34<sup>th</sup> precinct,  
24 I'm sorry, the 34<sup>th</sup> district.

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2           We have had through these years, the  
3           support and the assistance of our State Senator  
4           Jeff Klein, most recently understanding our need  
5           for quality of life issues such as foreclosures,  
6           graffiti removal and the loss of proper bus  
7           service to establish communities to shopping  
8           strips and to medical facilities.

9           The senator has spearheaded efforts on  
10          each of these issues. In my opinion the proposed  
11          reapportionment lines require tweaking to  
12          preserve those communities with established and  
13          viable commonalities and with strong allegiance  
14          to each other. Geographically the proposed lines  
15          should reflect not only the established community  
16          and its commonality but also co-terminality. One  
17          of the tweaks would be to keep Morris Park  
18          together.

19          Our commonality and our strength have  
20          been and will continue to be the socioeconomic  
21          tie that binds us and preserves the quality of  
22          life in our community. We rely on each other, we  
23          work hand in hand with each other because of our  
24          commonality. We look inwardly to resolve our

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2 problems and concerns.

3 We the Bronx are proud to say that we  
4 live in the 34<sup>th</sup> senatorial district of the State  
5 of New York.

6 SENATOR NOZZOLIO: Thank you very much.  
7 J.P. Sean Coffee.

8 MR. J.P. SEAN COFFEY, BOARD MEMBER  
9 COMMON CAUSE NEW YORK: Good afternoon my name is  
10 Sean Coffee. Thank you for the opportunity to  
11 testify this afternoon. I currently serve as a  
12 member of the Board of Common Cause, New York.  
13 I'm happy to have this opportunity to testify  
14 about a matter that goes to the core of how our  
15 representative democracy should operate, drawing  
16 districts that best serve the collective  
17 interests of our citizens instead of the self-  
18 interest of our politicians.

19 I'm here today because the district maps  
20 drawn by LATFOR fall shockingly short of what the  
21 people of New York deserve and represent a  
22 brazen, broken promise by a majority of the  
23 Assembly and the Senate. I've submitted my  
24 remarks in print so I won't read them verbatim

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2 now but I would like to allude to a couple  
3 things. In particular --

4 SENATOR NOZZOLIO: [Interposing] Sean I  
5 don't meant to interrupt you but Common Cause  
6 testified yesterday in Albany and will probably  
7 testify several times across the state. And when  
8 I spoke to Sue Lerner [phonetic] yesterday we  
9 have the formal statement so if you could  
10 emphasize the areas that might be slightly  
11 different -- we don't want to do a rerun of the  
12 exact same transcript of what was ready  
13 yesterday.

14 MR. COFFEY: That's fair; that's what I  
15 intend to do.

16 SENATOR NOZZOLIO: Thank you.

17 MR. COFFEY: I'm going to start with  
18 something that's a bit personal then I'll talk  
19 about specific districts. I'd like to begin by  
20 going back two years to when I ran as a candidate  
21 for the democratic nomination for attorney  
22 general of our state. Like many candidates for  
23 office in 2010 I was asked to sign a pledge that  
24 would commit me to support an independent

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2 redistricting process after the 2010 census.

3 Now I had previously put out a detailed  
4 reform agenda that included that very point, so  
5 the fact that I would sign that pledge was a  
6 foregone conclusion. But I remember thinking  
7 long and hard about whether I would put my  
8 signature on a written pledge that would create a  
9 solemn contract between me and the voters, a  
10 commitment that I, if elected, would be honor  
11 bound to fulfill. I signed the pledge, as did  
12 the vast majority of the other candidates eager  
13 to assure the voters that they too understood the  
14 need to end the insidious practice of  
15 gerrymandering.

16 Now I came up short in my campaign so I  
17 never got the opportunity fulfill my pledge, but  
18 a healthy majority of those elected to each house  
19 of the legislature had signed the pledge, and so  
20 like many other private citizens I looked forward  
21 to those majorities fulfilling their pledge to  
22 the voters.

23 It was not to be. The failure of the  
24 legislature to keep the members' sworn promise to

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2 refer the drawing of district lines to an  
3 independent non-partisan committee was a cynical  
4 breach of trust even by the low standards that  
5 New Yorkers have come to expect of Albany  
6 politicians. While legislators had ignored their  
7 commitment to an independent commission and opted  
8 yet again to draw the lines themselves one would  
9 have hoped that this task force would have  
10 mitigated that harm by drawing the new lines in a  
11 manner that at least approximated what an  
12 independent commission would have done.

13 Unfortunately the draft maps produced  
14 to-date by this committee have poured salt in the  
15 wound because the lines are clearly the product  
16 of highly-partisan gerrymandering of the worst  
17 degree. I'd like to turn to a couple specifics,  
18 leaving the balance of my interim remarks to what  
19 I've submitted.

20 When it became clear last year that the  
21 legislature was going to turn its back on the  
22 promise we at Common Cause commissioned the  
23 drawing of independent maps. Those maps were  
24 published in December, they're available for the

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2 public, they're on the internet, on the website  
3 and they've drawn favorable reviews from those  
4 who are paying attention to this. I should note  
5 that the reform plan would address virtually  
6 every comment we've heard so far today. It keeps  
7 Morris Park together, the Van Nest area together,  
8 the communities of interest because that's the  
9 criteria we used.

10 I should also note that we saw  
11 opportunities to enhance minority representation  
12 in every borough and address the malapportionment  
13 between New York City and upstate that each  
14 majority party manipulates to its advantage.

15 I do have comments about the Assembly  
16 but since time is short I'd like to turn to a  
17 couple of specific districts regarding the state  
18 Senate. For example, and by the way I refer to  
19 maps that are attached to my submitted testimony  
20 so I apologize to those assembled that I don't  
21 have blow-ups of the maps. But let's talk about  
22 Senate District 29.

23 It now runs from the South Bronx across  
24 the Harlem River into East Harlem in a jagged

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2 shape that then continues across Central Park  
3 into the west 70s of the upper west side. Now  
4 Common Cause, when we put out our maps provided  
5 clear written justification for each district we  
6 drew. LATFOR did not do so and perhaps it's  
7 because there is no rational reason for the shape  
8 of SD 29, or SD 32 for that matter, which extends  
9 like four, like an alien's space invaders, four  
10 appendages across the South Bronx with no regard  
11 for neighborhoods or communities.

12 Similarly the draft Senate District 34,  
13 a district which currently loops into Southern  
14 Westchester in a donut around SD 36 now it jumps  
15 across Bronx Park to connect Riverdale with a  
16 narrow corridor all the way into East Bronx and  
17 then all the way around Mount Vernon into parts  
18 of Southern Westchester. To look at it it looks  
19 like a pinwheel, not a contiguous process.

20 Now I would say that in comparison the  
21 Common Cause reform maps also do a good job of  
22 creating a new fifth majority Hispanic district.

23 I'll close with talking about SD 37 in  
24 Westchester. We're not going to have a hearing

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2 in Westchester; you're not going to have one  
3 there despite the fact that Hudson Valley is one  
4 of the fastest-growing areas of the state in the  
5 last few years so let me talk about Westchester  
6 since we're close. The new SD 37 was clearly  
7 drawn to maximize the opportunity for the  
8 Republicans to take a seat currently held by a  
9 Democrat. The shape of that district is  
10 atrocious. It bobs and weaves, trying to pick up  
11 every group of conservative voters in the area  
12 and is a great example of why these maps should  
13 be rejected by the governor. I understand that  
14 one of the takeaways from this series of hearings  
15 is to tweak; you can't tweak these. You have to  
16 start over; they're just so clearly drawn for  
17 partisan advantage. I'd recommend that you start  
18 with the Common Cause maps which were drawn by a  
19 panel of experts and academics without any  
20 illusion to where incumbents lived or how it  
21 would affect the makeup of either of the houses.

22 So with that I'd be happy to answer any  
23 questions.

24 ASSEMBLY MEMBER MCENENY: The Common

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2 Cause maps, and those are -- and I'm a member of  
3 Common Cause and never took Mayor Koch's pledge.  
4 We don't have a high opinion of his opinion on  
5 occasion in Upstate New York. But the Common  
6 Cause maps, and I went to Sue's presentation with  
7 the Albany Institute last night which is great  
8 they look wonderful. They have the straightest  
9 lines in the world.

10 MR. COFFEY: It can be done, sir.

11 ASSEMBLY MEMBER MCENENY: No it can't be  
12 done. You broke the constitution and they've  
13 been promising us that they will send us the  
14 block on border changes, particular down here in  
15 the City of New York and you're going to have  
16 little ragged edges if you're going to be  
17 constitutionally correct.

18 Well one of the things that's being  
19 worked on is a change in the constitution which  
20 could eliminate block on border and town on  
21 border in some areas so that we weren't forced to  
22 do some of the jagged things that you will have  
23 to do. We have been promised for LATFOR the  
24 revised maps, the ones that have block on border

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2           like we're obligated to do and like the law will  
3           be obligated. We have yet, as of this morning,  
4           not received the Common Cause maps that are  
5           constitutionally passable. We are really looking  
6           forward to them.

7                       MR. COFFEY: Well to the extent that  
8           Common Cause drew a straight line, and when you  
9           comply with the provision you talked about it  
10          will not be slightly ragged along that line; that  
11          is a far, far different situation than the  
12          projecting of narrow, just geographic grasping of  
13          a community here and a few blocks over there.  
14          There is a blog, I'm sure you're all aware of it  
15          about naming some of the districts and it's not  
16          because we split -- blocks were split or didn't  
17          have to be split. It's because there was a  
18          concerted effort to each out for groups of voters  
19          that would enhance the opportunity for an  
20          incumbent to return to Albany or to enhance the  
21          opportunity of picking up a seat that may be at  
22          play.

23                      SENATOR NOZZOLIO: So let me understand  
24          this, Mr. Coffey, you're against bridging a

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2 community here or there; you're more likely to  
3 support lines that are rectangular or in effect  
4 don't unite a community on one side of a borough  
5 with another side, is that what you're proposing?

6 MR. COFFEY: I certainly think there are  
7 ample opportunities to keep communities of  
8 interest together as contiguously as possible but  
9 you can't defend the seat that's currently drawn  
10 for SD -- excuse me, let me get the right number  
11 -- 34, which unites Riverdale and the Throg's  
12 Neck section of the Bronx. That doesn't make any  
13 sense to put those together. Right? I'm sorry --  
14 34, yeah, SD 34, which is connected by -- I mean  
15 Senator Klein, if he's the incumbent, could lie  
16 across the bridge between the two communities he  
17 could probably have his feet in SD 36 in his head  
18 and SD 32 and he'd cover --

19 ASSEMBLY MEMBER MCENENY: Is that the  
20 district that unites Morris Park, that half a  
21 dozen people before you just came to testify in  
22 support of?

23 MR. COFFEY: No I think that's the one  
24 that actually doesn't do that. The Common Cause

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2 maps keep it together, but right now as drawn by  
3 LATFOR SD 32 and SD 34 and SD 33 break up that  
4 part of the Bronx, am I right? Yes, I'm correct.  
5 And so --

6 SENATOR NOZZOLIO: The Senate. You just  
7 testified for the Senate that said they didn't do  
8 that. People from Morris Park indicated that the  
9 senate district did not sever this line.

10 MALE VOICE: [Off mic conversation].

11 SENATOR NOZZOLIO: I'd like to shift  
12 gears a second. The Senate has considered and  
13 voted upon a constitutional amendment to  
14 establish independent redistricting, meaning  
15 independent from the legislature, that it was a  
16 contention by many that that was the more  
17 appropriate avenue to ensure that there would be  
18 compliance with the constitution and in fact an  
19 independent body would be established. Are you a  
20 member of the New York State Bar?

21 MR. COFFEY: I sure am, proud member.

22 SENATOR NOZZOLIO: Are you a member of  
23 the New York City Bar?

24 MR. COFFEY: I am, City Bar Association.

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2                   SENATOR NOZZOLIO: And I refer you to a  
3 New York City Bar Association report that was  
4 developed five or six years ago that said the  
5 only genuine way, or certainly the best way to  
6 establish independent redistricting was through a  
7 constitutional amendment. And that was a report  
8 not of the Senate, not of the minority or  
9 majority, it was a report of the Bar Association.  
10 So I know you're pretty pejorative in your  
11 comments regarding the legislature's handling of  
12 this issue but I believe strongly, as I took an  
13 oath of office to defend the constitution of the  
14 State of New York as well as the constitution of  
15 the United States that in order to best establish  
16 independent redistricting we needed to have a  
17 constitutional amendment that is something still  
18 hold can happen and that it would be established  
19 in the future.

20                   MR. COFFEY: But Senator the opportunity  
21 to do the right thing for ten years from now is  
22 no excuse to do the wrong thing in 2012. You can  
23 do the right thing this year, and we'll have to  
24 see what the constitutional amendment looks like.

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2 I certainly when I signed the pledge I read it  
3 very carefully and nowhere in there did I see  
4 embedded when we talk about doing restricting  
5 right we're actually talking about 2022. I  
6 understood and I believe everyone who read the  
7 pledge and signed the pledge understood we were  
8 talking about doing the right thing now, which  
9 you could have done if you referred this to  
10 independent restricting. You chose not to do it.

11 SENATOR NOZZOLIO: You're right, it  
12 could have been done in 2010, and then  
13 successfully elected legisl -- which would have  
14 been a constitutional amendment. And then --  
15 pardon me -- and then in 2011 the next elected  
16 legislature could have established that proposal  
17 and it would have been before the voters and we  
18 would have that by now.

19 So I think that it was certainly my  
20 understanding is that there would have been an  
21 independent redistricting proposal established in  
22 2010 upon the return of the legislature, there  
23 was a series of post-election sessions and it  
24 just was not taken up in time to achieve the two

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2 legislative requirements of the state  
3 constitution.

4 MR. COFFEY: But I think you'll agree  
5 with me, Senator, whatever we're talking about  
6 with regard to a prospective constitutional  
7 amendment, that should not be a license for this  
8 task force to promulgate highly gerrymandered  
9 districts this year. We can act to do the right  
10 thing this year. You still have a chance to do  
11 the right thing. You should take a hard look at  
12 the Common Cause maps, we can fix the block by  
13 block that you're asking for and we invite you to  
14 adopt them.

15 What you have done -- you cannot tweak  
16 these maps. And Albany's had a great year. As  
17 somebody who ran against Albany, as someone who  
18 is a reform candidate I was motivated to leave  
19 private life because I felt we needed significant  
20 change in Albany. You've had a good year. We've  
21 got a great governor, you've done some things.  
22 You risk that by the cynical effort here to have  
23 politicians pick their districts, to ignore the  
24 will of the people. You've already broken your

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2 promise about independent redistricting. Do the  
3 right thing and do this in a manner which at  
4 least approximates independent redistricting.

5 SENATOR NOZZOLIO: Well I hope that your  
6 comments made to the four legislators who are  
7 here will also be made to the 208 legislators who  
8 are not.

9 MR. COFFEY: I understand, sir.

10 SENATOR NOZZOLIO: And the two citizens  
11 who are part of this committee, I know they are  
12 independent, they are not elected, they are not  
13 members of the Assembly or Senate and we are  
14 fulfilling our legal and fiduciary  
15 responsibilities that are under current law.  
16 Until that law is changed, and believe it or not  
17 the four of us as powerful as Jack McEneny is,  
18 the four of us can't change that law by  
19 ourselves.

20 So thank you very much; your comments  
21 are part of the record. Anyone else,  
22 Assemblyman?

23 ASSEMBLY MEMBER MCENENY: No. And in  
24 fairness I was just handed a note that at some

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2 point before midnight last night we received by  
3 email, I think 10:30 or so we received by email  
4 the adjusted lines of which we'll take a look at.

5 MR. COFFEY: All right we'll give you a  
6 couple of days to adopt them. Thank you very  
7 much.

8 MALE VOICE: I would just like to make a  
9 comment because there was a reference made to the  
10 four legislators here. We're all appointed by  
11 our respective leaders and the two alleged  
12 independent private citizens are also appointed  
13 by the two majority leaders so there's question  
14 as to how independent.

15 SENATOR NOZZOLIO: Sherry Scanlon?

16 MS. SHERRY SCANLON, PELHAM BAY MERCHANTS  
17 ASSOCIATION: Good afternoon, my name is Sherry  
18 Scanlon. I'm representing the Pelham Bay  
19 Merchants Association. I'm a small business  
20 owner in the Pelham Bay section of the Bronx  
21 called the Pelham Bay Home Center. I'm here to  
22 represent my merchants and my residents in Pelham  
23 Bay, Throg's Neck, City Island, Morris Park,  
24 Country Club, all those areas that where we stand

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2 tall and stand together.

3 The current LATFOR proposed senate  
4 district for the Bronx maintained communities of  
5 interest that are developed over the last two  
6 decades, 20 years. I understand that there has  
7 been other proposal talks about creating a fifth  
8 Hispanic district in the Bronx and I fear that  
9 the other proposed districts should have to be  
10 carved up to the point where representation by a  
11 Latino would be in jeopardy, like carving up  
12 Morris Park, for instance.

13 For example under the proposed lines  
14 most of these communities are homeowners'  
15 communities. These communities are connected by  
16 transportation systems that have been developed  
17 for the last two decades. Businesses both large  
18 and small in these communities rely on each other  
19 for survival. Senator Klein, regardless of those  
20 who he represents or not has always worked hard  
21 for his constituents. I know on hand that he has  
22 worked with the Pelham Bay merchants to acquire  
23 security camera for Keene [phonetic] Square park,  
24 which we have some problems there and now the

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2 people who are causing the problems are aware  
3 there's a security camera. It has lessened  
4 tremendously.

5 There is a commonality among the  
6 neighborhoods that make us propose, make up the  
7 proposed 34 senate district. I support the  
8 proposed maps as drawn by LATFOR because  
9 communities of interest are kept together. So  
10 please don't break up our communities; keep us  
11 together. That's the only way we're going to  
12 stay strong. We all have the same interest, the  
13 same needs and we have to stand together. Thank  
14 you.

15 SENATOR NOZZOLIO: Thank you very much.  
16 Kevin Alicia [phonetic]? Kevin Alicia? Marco  
17 Keppe [phonetic]? Reuben Rodriguez? Reuben  
18 Rodriguez? Jeffrey Greenfield? Jeffrey  
19 Greenfield? Pete Healy? Pete Healy? Adaline  
20 Walker? Adaline Walker? Good afternoon.

21 MS. ADALINE WALKER, COMMUNITY BOARD 7:  
22 Good afternoon.

23 SENATOR NOZZOLIO: Would you be so kind  
24 as to state your name for the record?

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2 MS. WALKER: Hi, my name is Adaline  
3 Walker, also known as Adaline Walker Santiago.  
4 I'm a private citizen who has been residing in  
5 the 33<sup>rd</sup> senate district for the past 32 years.  
6 I'm sorry. My name is Adaline Walker and I've  
7 been residing the 33<sup>rd</sup> senate district for the  
8 past 32 years at 2869 Bainbridge Avenue, that's  
9 between 198<sup>th</sup> and 199<sup>th</sup> Street. If you look at the  
10 map, I don't know if you have it in front of you,  
11 you can see my block is chopped.

12 I come here today to share how the new  
13 redistricting process will disenfranchise the  
14 members of my community. According to this  
15 configuration I find it hard to comprehend how  
16 the new senior home across the street to my right  
17 will now become the 34<sup>th</sup> senate district and to my  
18 left, one block over on the other side it's going  
19 to be allocated as also the 34<sup>th</sup> senate district,  
20 leaving my short block right in the middle in the  
21 33<sup>rd</sup> district. I'm being cut off from the very  
22 neighbors I have built relationships over the  
23 past 30 years.

24 Therefore I want to know how this

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2 revised plan will be able to effectively unite us  
3 to attain the proper resources to empower our  
4 area in the fields of economic development,  
5 education, health, land use, youth and senior  
6 services, transportation, sanitation, safety and  
7 for us to join in making long-term plans for our  
8 community. This revised plan leaves me and my  
9 neighbors isolated from one another.

10 This is a major civil rights issue for  
11 our community. I am requesting that the governor  
12 act promptly and veto the proposed maps in order  
13 to protect our community. I want the Bedford and  
14 Norwood sections of the northwest Bronx  
15 communities to become united and reviewed by an  
16 independent body to ensure that as a community we  
17 have the same elected leadership. This is the  
18 only way that our community will have equal  
19 representation coupled with opportunities for the  
20 betterment of our community. We share similar  
21 interests, goals and aspirations for our  
22 community and this plan eliminates that.

23 I just want to add, besides what I have  
24 written that these are individuals that my three

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2 children grew up with. These are families I've  
3 known for a big portion of my life. And since  
4 2010 I have served as a member of the Community  
5 Board 7 and in October 2010 became the elected  
6 first vice chair for I'm an Individual Who Cares,  
7 and advocates for my community. And to encounter  
8 such inexplicable configurations to divide my  
9 legislative district is totally unjustified.

10 I ask that you consider my  
11 recommendation for an independent process to  
12 reconfigure my area to keep our area as a 33<sup>rd</sup>  
13 district united under one leadership of Senator  
14 Gustavo Rivera [phonetic] who's been very  
15 dedicated in supporting our needs of our  
16 community. And this is predominantly a Hispanic  
17 community and so we're asking you to listen to  
18 our request. Thank you very much.

19 SENATOR NOZZOLIO: Thank you. Al  
20 Chapman? Al Chapman?

21 MR. AL CHAPMAN, KINGSBRIDGE HEIGHTS  
22 NEIGHBORHOOD IMPROVEMENT ASSOCIATION: Good  
23 afternoon. My name is Alan Chapman, I live at  
24 2875 Sedrick [phonetic] Avenue in the Bronx. And

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2 I'm president of the board of directors of the  
3 Kingsbridge Heights Neighborhood Improvement  
4 Association. We're a non-profit organization  
5 dedicated to empowering our community.

6 I welcome the opportunity to testify  
7 before the committee today and register my  
8 complaints, my concerns about the redistricting  
9 process. When I testified before the legislative  
10 committee on reapportionment it was a belief that  
11 the resulting lines would be drawn in such a way  
12 that the various districts would be fairly drawn  
13 and give each community equal representation  
14 based on population. However it appears that  
15 some of the assembly and senatorial districts  
16 snake through strange configurations and do not  
17 appear to give impartial and equal representation  
18 to the communities.

19 Therefore I believe there should be an  
20 independent commission appointed to tackle this  
21 chore and that the district lines are drawn by an  
22 independent process designed to give the voters  
23 the right to choose their legislators instead of  
24 the legislators choosing who they will represent.

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2 I join in the request that the lines be drawn to  
3 fairly represent the communities of interest in  
4 conformance with prevailing laws and  
5 constitutional requirements. Thank you.

6 SENATOR NOZZOLIO: The Honorable Chuck  
7 Lesnick.

8 MR. CHUCK LESNICK, PRESIDENT CITY  
9 COUNCIL CITY OF YONKERS: Thank you Senators,  
10 Assemblymen, distinguished members of the task  
11 force. My name is Chuck Lesnick, I'm the Yonkers  
12 City Council President and I'm here with Ellen  
13 Hendricks testifying on the 35<sup>th</sup> senate district  
14 here in the Bronx because unlike five of the six  
15 largest cities in New York State, Yonkers the  
16 fourth largest does not have a hearing scheduled  
17 in the city of Yonkers, in fact there is not one  
18 scheduled in Westchester County or anywhere else  
19 in the lower or Mid-Hudson Valley.

20 Yonkers is a city of some 200,000  
21 people, the fourth largest city in New York  
22 State. We have a school district that services  
23 26,000 students and growing. Approximately one  
24 half of our local population is non-white, 45

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2 percent of our households speak a language at  
3 home that is other than English. Just under 14  
4 percent of our residents live below the poverty  
5 line but 72 percent of our schoolchildren come  
6 from those families.

7 I'm concerned that if the proposed  
8 senate districts are adopted Yonkers could lose  
9 its strong voice in the New York State Senate, as  
10 a result lose out on the very much needed school  
11 aid that has historically been restored by a  
12 powerful voice in the Senate.

13 For many years most of Yonkers has been  
14 in one senate district and that senator, whether  
15 it by Chippy Flynn [phonetic], Nick Spano, or  
16 Andre Stewart Cousins [phonetic] has worked hard  
17 to advocate on matters that concern the city.  
18 The proposed lines as they now stand would split  
19 Yonkers down the middle into two sections in such  
20 a way that Yonkers would no longer hold a  
21 majority in either district and thus weaken our  
22 representation in Albany.

23 While I have no doubt that Senator Andre  
24 Stewart Cousins who currently represents the 35<sup>th</sup>

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2 district will continue to work for us with the  
3 same dedication and professionalism the next  
4 senators from the districts that include a  
5 divided Yonkers might not have that same  
6 interest. Furthermore the senate district that  
7 encompasses the east side of Yonkers represents  
8 the area of the city with the lowest percentage  
9 of public school children in the area where the  
10 constituents are typically less concerned with  
11 the funding of our public schools. Dividing a  
12 city that has spent significant effort in uniting  
13 its neighborhoods make no sense.

14 Currently 75 percent of our  
15 schoolchildren come from the southwest section of  
16 the city; we must not and cannot afford to lose  
17 our voice in Albany to speak up for our kids.  
18 While partisan politics clearly drove these  
19 proposed lines the results are constitutionally  
20 flawed and the representation of cities like  
21 Yonkers, which we weakened in the attempt to  
22 illegally create a new senate district. The  
23 Yonkers city needs and requires a state senate  
24 that puts most if not all of Yonkers into one

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2 district. See I [phonetic] identified the  
3 program Assemblyman, identified the problem,  
4 identifying the solution. I hope you understand  
5 our situation and will agree accordingly. Thank  
6 you.

7 MS. ELLEN HENDRICKS, ON BEHALF OF MARY  
8 JANE CHIMSKY: Chairman Nozzolio, Chairman  
9 McEneny, members of the New York State  
10 Legislative Task Force on Demographic Research  
11 and Reapportionment. I'm Ellen Hendricks. I am  
12 reading a prepared statement from Legislator Mary  
13 Jane Chimsky.

14 "Good afternoon. My name is Mary Jane  
15 Chimsky. I am the Westchester County Legislator  
16 for the 12<sup>th</sup> legislative district which is  
17 comprised of the southern two-thirds of the Town  
18 of Greenberg abutting Yonkers in some parts. I  
19 also chair the Sawmill River Storm Water Advisory  
20 Board, otherwise known as SWAB, a body formed  
21 pursuant to the laws of Westchester County which  
22 is charged with the task of banding together the  
23 communities of the Sawmill River basin to improve  
24 storm water management. My legislative district,

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2 along with certain other country legislative  
3 districts are contained within the existing 35<sup>th</sup>  
4 state senate district.

5 "I am offering this testimony today to  
6 express my disappointment and dismay at the  
7 redrawing of the district's lines. As currently  
8 drawn the 35<sup>th</sup> senate district functions well but  
9 changing the district's orientation from north-  
10 south to east-west is bad public policy, pure and  
11 simple. The 35<sup>th</sup> senate district as it exists  
12 today is compact. It respects municipal borders,  
13 it is diverse, and there is a real commonality of  
14 interest among its communities.

15 "It is vital to remember that  
16 Westchester County is oriented from north to  
17 south and not from east to west. Our major  
18 rivers flow from north to south, most of our  
19 major highways and most of our mass transit run  
20 from north to south befitting our historical  
21 relationship with New York City.

22 "Our existing state legislative  
23 districts makes sense because the Hudson River  
24 borders our municipalities, the Sawmill River,

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2 the Sawmill River Parkway, the New York State  
3 Thruway, the Hudson line and the Metro North  
4 commuter railroad all run through these  
5 communities.

6 "Many of the issues my constituents have  
7 with state government concern these rivers and  
8 transportation arteries. This commonality of  
9 interest stands in marked contrast with the new  
10 lines proposed by the majority party in the state  
11 senate, making this an east-west district running  
12 through Scarsdale all the way to New Rochelle  
13 makes no sense, as Greenberg and the villages  
14 therein have more in common with the Town of  
15 Mount Pleasant.

16 "The recent efforts of the Sawmill River  
17 SWAB to clear years of debris from the river,  
18 debris which cause damming and flooding during  
19 severe storms demonstrate the superiority of the  
20 district lines as currently drawn. Right now the  
21 vast bulk of the river is contained within the  
22 35<sup>th</sup> state senate district. When it came time to  
23 work with the State Department of Transportation  
24 to clear debris from the parts of the river in

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2 its right of way. One state senator was  
3 responsible for dealing with DOT. This made it  
4 more efficient for SWAB, DOT and the state senate  
5 to deal with the issue. Flooding issues, like  
6 transportation and so many other issues tend to  
7 break along our north-south corridors. So why  
8 should two or more state senators have to be  
9 involved with each one. These lines will  
10 multiple everyone's work and less will get done.

11 "As this one example demonstrates the  
12 current district's commonality of interest helps  
13 our communities because our legislators can learn  
14 our specific issues in-depth and more single-  
15 mindedly look out for our community's needs.  
16 This fosters more legislative responsiveness to  
17 the people of our communities.

18 "It should also be noted that keeping  
19 the 35<sup>th</sup> senate district as it would be get a  
20 gesture of bipartisanship as it was originally  
21 drawn for a Republican and is currently  
22 represented by a Democrat.

23 "Before I close I would like to add more  
24 comments of more general import. First, given

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2           how radically redrawn the districts in  
3 Westchester County are the senate should have  
4 come back to the people of Westchester to get  
5 their feedback. Not scheduling a hearing in  
6 Westchester under these circumstances suggest  
7 that the Senate does not care about Westchester  
8 residents' reaction to what has been done to  
9 them, that the Senate would just impose these  
10 lines on the citizens of our county. That is not  
11 right.

12                       "Second, while it's not surprising to  
13 find a political component in even the best  
14 redistricting plans this plan goes well beyond  
15 the pale. These lines ignore valid public policy  
16 considerations in numerous locations all over the  
17 state in favor of new lines based on nothing but  
18 extending the Republican majority a few years  
19 longer. This is not right either."

20                       Thank you for your time and attention.

21                       SENATOR NOZZOLIO: Thank you very much.

22                       Don Bluestone? Don Bluestone?

23                       MR. DON BLUESTONE, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

24                       MOSHULU MONTEFIORE COMMUNITY CENTER: Okay, thank

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2           you. My name is Don Bluestone, I am the  
3           executive director of the Moshulu Montefiore  
4           Community Center. We are in the Norwood section  
5           of the Bronx. I want to support what two of the  
6           speakers have already said, Barbara Stronczer and  
7           the representative from Community Board 7. But I  
8           want to give you some history.

9                       Norwood and Bedford Park are separated  
10           and broken apart in this redistricting plan. You  
11           have devastated this community and it has been  
12           devastated for the last ten years. This is a  
13           poor community, it is a designated poverty  
14           district. And part of the reason it is poor and  
15           has gotten poorer is the fact that it cannot  
16           speak with one voice. In the 2010 census 30 --  
17           I'm sorry in the 2000 census 30 percent of our  
18           community were receiving some form of public  
19           assistance. In the 2010 census we are close to  
20           70 percent. This is a devastating statistic  
21           okay?

22                       If we are trying to fix and serve a  
23           minority community with public services we have  
24           completely failed. And as we look, somebody said

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2 we're an overwhelming Hispanic community; we're  
3 probably about 50, 55 percent. We are heavily  
4 African American and a large growing East Asian  
5 community with a remnant Jewish and Irish  
6 community.

7 When the lady said she didn't understand  
8 why they nursing home across the street from her  
9 or down the block was put into the 34<sup>th</sup> I would  
10 gather to say that probably a number of people in  
11 those homes were white. When I look at the  
12 blocks in Norwood that have been put into the 34<sup>th</sup>  
13 because I know this community, I've been running  
14 this center for over 23 years you've  
15 gerrymandered buildings that have a remnant white  
16 community in them. This makes no sense. You're  
17 breaking our community, breaking it down  
18 literally by ethnic group. Many of our buildings  
19 still have majority people from different ethnic  
20 and racial groups in them.

21 We used to say that our, in the last,  
22 when we were broken up that our building was the  
23 armpit of Riverdale; based on this I don't even  
24 want to tell you what part of our body is now

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2 going to be the part of Riverdale. This makes no  
3 sense.

4 Now we've been lucky we've had dedicated  
5 officials that try to work with us. Jeff Klein  
6 used to represent part of Norwood; he always  
7 worked with us. But we have one person now that  
8 represents a huge part of our community, Gustavo  
9 Rivera. To break up what little political  
10 influence that we have you're going to destroy  
11 this community. We need to work together. The  
12 poverty is increasing. This violates the Civil  
13 Rights Act, the Voting Act. You're creating, I  
14 understand, a 63<sup>rd</sup> district upstate. We need to  
15 have one person, one vote. You don't understand  
16 the poverty in this community and the services  
17 that this community needs. You've even taken the  
18 major institutions, my community center next to  
19 us, Montefiore Hospital, and put us into the 34<sup>th</sup>  
20 district, not continuing to stay in the 33<sup>rd</sup>  
21 district that we represent, that most of the  
22 people in this district use. So we're totally  
23 against this and we really ask you to relook at  
24 this and keep Bedford Park and Norwood one

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2 community. Thank you.

3 ASSEMBLY MEMBER MCENENY: Thank you.

4 Fernando Tirado.

5 MR. FERNANDO TIRADO: Good afternoon  
6 everyone my name is Fernando Tirado. I am a  
7 resident of Bedford Park. I work in Bedford Park  
8 and Norwood and I have sent my children to  
9 schools in Bedford Park and Norwood and I am  
10 thoroughly invested in the neighborhoods of  
11 Bedford Park and Norwood.

12 Dear members of the task force, thank  
13 you for the opportunity to present the following  
14 testimony over the proposed redistricting of the  
15 Assembly and Senate districts in the northwest  
16 section of Bronx County. It is the contention of  
17 the resident and organizations that I've had the  
18 opportunity to review the proposed districts that  
19 they have not been designed in their best  
20 interest. The proposals blatantly disregard  
21 rules to keep districts compact and divide  
22 communities needlessly, in some instances  
23 separating community resources in one district  
24 from the residents who use these resources into

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2 another.

3 This flawed process of drawing lines on  
4 a map to satisfy political interest allows  
5 individuals to hand pick their constituents and  
6 tear apart communities that have little knowledge  
7 of or interest in actually representing, which is  
8 the political equivalent of strip mining.

9 How is this process different from the  
10 corporate practice of taking healthy companies,  
11 selling off their assets and leaving a trail of  
12 destruction behind? It isn't. It is clear to  
13 everyone in this part of the Bronx who has been  
14 following the redistricting process that the task  
15 force has rendered a great injustice to them.  
16 Below are the neighborhoods and the issues that  
17 the redistricting proposal has created for the  
18 task force so that they are fully aware of the  
19 harm that they have done.

20 The division of Norwood and Bedford Park  
21 into the 33<sup>rd</sup> and 34<sup>rd</sup> senate districts,  
22 historically these close-knit communities have  
23 shared the same senatorial seat, the 33<sup>rd</sup>  
24 district. Now the lines are so radically drawn

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2 as to offer no explanation other than allowing an  
3 elected official to hand pick his constituents.  
4 Both neighborhoods have a very high Hispanic  
5 population whose voting strength is not diluted  
6 over these two seat. In some cases the lines for  
7 both districts are separated by only one block,  
8 with the 33<sup>rd</sup> district nearly encircling the 33<sup>rd</sup>  
9 district in several locations.

10 SENATOR NOZZOLIO: Excuse me, would you  
11 be so kind as to tell me which districts you're  
12 talking about? I lost your --

13 MR. TIRADO: [Interposing] I'm sorry,  
14 the 33<sup>rd</sup> and 34<sup>th</sup> senate districts is one part of  
15 my testimony and the other part of my testimony  
16 is regarding the 78<sup>th</sup>, 80<sup>th</sup>, and 81<sup>st</sup> assembly  
17 districts.

18 SENATOR NOZZOLIO: Thank you.

19 MR. TIRADO: You're welcome. In some  
20 cases the lines for both districts are separated  
21 by only one block with the 34<sup>th</sup> district nearly  
22 encircling the 33<sup>rd</sup> district in several locations.  
23 Additionally the newly-designed 34<sup>th</sup> district  
24 manages to isolate two major hospitals, a

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2 recreation center, a community center and other  
3 major amenities for itself and exclude a majority  
4 of the residents within proximity of them  
5 ensuring that their voices - - that of future  
6 developments in these amenities.

7 The isolation of Jerome Park into the  
8 34<sup>th</sup> district, Jerome Park which consists of major  
9 assets such as Lehman College, the Jerome Park  
10 reservoir, Harris Field, Tracy Towers and various  
11 other residents to the north have also been  
12 historically associated with the 33<sup>rd</sup> district.

13 As currently drawn this neighborhood is  
14 removed from but still surrounded by the 334<sup>rd</sup>  
15 district in an obvious instance of gerrymandering  
16 Jerome Park is now a peninsula of the 34<sup>th</sup>  
17 district and nearly isolated from other  
18 communities that share the same senate district.

19 The division of Kingsbridge Heights and  
20 local assets between the 78<sup>th</sup> and 81<sup>st</sup> assembly  
21 districts, principally located in the 78<sup>th</sup>  
22 district Kingsbridge Heights, a primarily  
23 Hispanic community has now been dissected nearly  
24 in half. Additionally the waterfront that was a

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2 part of the 78<sup>th</sup> district has been restricted  
3 entirely into other neighboring districts. Once  
4 again we have an example of both people in the  
5 community and its resources being carved up  
6 against their interest as with the 33<sup>rd</sup> senate  
7 district Lehman College a long time amenity is  
8 singled out and removed as are a number of  
9 schools that have been historically associated  
10 with the 78<sup>th</sup> district which local children still  
11 attend.

12 The 80<sup>th</sup> district's continued division of  
13 the communities of Bedford Park and Norwood they  
14 newly resigned district still split Norwood in  
15 nearly half and retains a handful of blocks in  
16 Bedford Park thereby ensuring that these small  
17 communities have diminished capacities to elect  
18 someone who could best represent their interest.  
19 In area these two neighborhoods reflect  
20 approximately 15 percent of the total area and  
21 less than a third of the total population of the  
22 80<sup>th</sup> district. This is a formula for political  
23 disenfranchisement and is part of the reason why  
24 voter turnouts are so low and voters tend to be

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2 pessimistic about the election process.

3           Additionally many of the proposed  
4 changes appear to be based on the volume of voter  
5 turnout in any one particular election district  
6 outside of the neighborhood context. This offers  
7 an even more tempting incentive to incumbents to  
8 handpick their constituents without regards to  
9 the needs of the community as a whole. Unless  
10 the task force heeds this plea and agrees to  
11 redraw the lines in a fairer manner that empowers  
12 communities rather than destroys them residents  
13 in the northwest Bronx should must emphatically  
14 reject the current proposal and call upon the  
15 governor to appoint a non-partisan independent  
16 redistricting commission to right this wrong.

17           I just want to also say what is not  
18 included in my testimony that I've heard many  
19 people before me talk about wanting to support  
20 the 34<sup>th</sup> district. And it's okay to support your  
21 district. Everybody deserve the right to support  
22 their district. However in the supporting of  
23 your district you're going to disenfranchise  
24 another district and you don't see the obvious,

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2 that you would not want that same issue to happen  
3 to them. I think that it's a disservice to the  
4 people of the Bronx and to people in communities  
5 as a whole.

6 So that is my testimony thank you very  
7 much.

8 ASSEMBLY MEMBER MCENENY: Thank you.  
9 Greg Lobo Jost.

10 MR. GREG LOBO JOST: Hi, good afternoon.  
11 My name is Gregory Lobo Jost, I'm a Bronx  
12 resident. I live in one of those buildings in  
13 Norwood that Don Bluestone was referencing that I  
14 guess has a legacy of a lot of white folks who  
15 still live in it and we got drawn out of the 33<sup>rd</sup>  
16 senate district and into the 34<sup>th</sup> in a very  
17 bizarre shape. I also work nearby in the  
18 Fordham-Bedford neighborhood and have been  
19 involved with a lot of mapping work and pay  
20 attention to a lot of the different districts and  
21 would also reiterate that Norwood and Bedford  
22 Park, as folks have been saying, you've been  
23 hearing, have been divided up consistently in the  
24 assembly districts and we felt good about our

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2 state senate district and now folks are really  
3 frustrated because all of our districts were  
4 divided up and that's really why you're hearing  
5 from a bunch of us.

6 So really that's the one point I want to  
7 make is that our neighborhoods were not respected  
8 at all in this process and the other one is that  
9 I'll get to in a second is just about the  
10 upstate-downstate division in deviation.

11 So in terms of the neighborhoods being  
12 carved up I just want to point out something that  
13 was I read in the newspaper last week where  
14 Assemblyman Jeff Dinowitz was cited in the  
15 Riverdale Press, he said Assemblywoman Naomi  
16 Rivera -- this is the 80<sup>th</sup> assembly district that  
17 kind of cuts through where I live also that she  
18 wanted to keep Tracy Towers in her district,  
19 which might explain some of the odd turns in the  
20 district lines. And so I don't know, reading  
21 this I'm thinking, "Wow, okay so I'm one of the  
22 people that lives on that little stretch between  
23 -- " you know, she's representing Morris Park  
24 that everyone was talking about before and then

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2 she wants Tracy Towers which is this 800-unit  
3 Michelama [phonetic] building kind of on the  
4 other end of Moshulu Parkway and all of us in the  
5 middle of Moshulu Parkway, which is in between  
6 the neighborhood that everyone else was talking  
7 about, Norwood and Bedford Park are basically  
8 collateral damage in her wanting to put that in  
9 her district.

10 And so why is somebody who's an elected  
11 official picking who's in her district and then  
12 we just get drifted along with it and it just  
13 seems like completely upside down that they're  
14 picking who they want and, "I want that  
15 building," and so what about us? I mean it's  
16 just like we're completely disrespected in the  
17 process. It just seems we're supposed to pick  
18 our politicians, not the other way around.

19 As for the state senate district we've  
20 also been talking a lot about the 33<sup>rd</sup> and 34<sup>th</sup>  
21 districts not surprisingly because as I put in my  
22 testimony just kind of try to get the outline in  
23 white of the district it's like words cannot  
24 describe what this district looks like. I don't

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2 even know; I can't even begin to think like what  
3 shape this is.

4 Right now like I said I live in one of  
5 the buildings. I was in -- I am currently still  
6 in the 33<sup>rd</sup> senate district but my building was  
7 added on as a little tiny thing hanging down on  
8 the 34<sup>th</sup> district. On my way to work I walk less  
9 than 15 minutes to work. I'll leave my district,  
10 enter, leave the 30, well in the new proposal I  
11 would leave the 34<sup>th</sup> district, enter the 33<sup>rd</sup>, go  
12 back into the 34<sup>th</sup>, go back to the 33<sup>rd</sup> on my way  
13 to work and be switching districts five times on  
14 my way to work. I mean this is just like it's  
15 absurd. I mean I don't know is it just because  
16 people are trying to keep their -- the incumbents  
17 want to keep their own districts? I don't know  
18 the real reason. Is it because they want to keep  
19 as many white people in the Bronx in one district  
20 as possible? I don't know. It might be. I  
21 can't think of another reason; maybe someone else  
22 can inform me, that'd be great.

23 So the second point that I wanted to  
24 make was about this pattern of deviation. So I

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2 found this map online, it's also here where they  
3 show you the difference between -- you guys know  
4 all this stuff; I don't even have to tell you.  
5 All the districts upstate have like between four  
6 and five percent less than the average of each  
7 senate district and all the downstate districts  
8 even including -- you know, have more, and New  
9 York City all has between -- every single  
10 district has been three and four percent more  
11 than the average, right? So we've completely  
12 violated the idea, it's so systemic, right, that  
13 we've violated the idea of one person, one vote.  
14 If it was kind of scattered, I mean I understand  
15 the concept you have to make it work but this is  
16 so systemic it makes me think of redlining and  
17 what happened to our communities and the Bronx  
18 was incredibly devastated by redlining, you know,  
19 like with loss of investment and everything.  
20 This is -- I just -- it's hard for me to separate  
21 this out, like not to think about redlining when  
22 I think about -- when I look at these maps.

23 So I don't know, all I want to say I  
24 guess in conclusion is just that maybe we should

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2 just thank whoever drew these lines because  
3 they're so obvious that this partisan system  
4 doesn't work and maybe we have to have  
5 independent redistricting, I mean this, the lines  
6 that were drawn to me makes the biggest case that  
7 I can think of. I couldn't make such a good case  
8 for independent redistricting as the lines - as  
9 what I've seen between the deviation and the like  
10 the absurdity of the district lines. And that's  
11 all.

12 Thank you very much for this opportunity  
13 to testify once again.

14 SENATOR NOZZOLIO: Jack Barth? Jack  
15 Barth? Jose Diaz? Jose? Mr. Diaz?

16 MR. JOSE DIAZ: Yes good afternoon  
17 everyone and I am really not prepared to actually  
18 testify but I'll be brief. I live at Reservoir  
19 Place which is part of the 33<sup>rd</sup> district. And I  
20 would like actually to give everyone a chance,  
21 actually the residents, the people who do not  
22 have a chance, like myself, to actually select  
23 what they want, not to have someone because of  
24 power, because of their position which will

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2 actually dictate as to what they want, like a  
3 couple of the previous speakers mentioned before  
4 it's something that would be unfair.

5 I'm a little guy, just like most of us  
6 that you see here. All we want is a fair shake.  
7 We don't want anything broken up that has been  
8 actually of service to us like the Montefiore  
9 Center and other facilities that we have in the  
10 area.

11 I'm not going to take too much time  
12 because I know there is a lot of people that  
13 would like to speak. But off the top of my head  
14 all I want is actually to give us a fair shake if  
15 that's not much to ask. And thanks to each and  
16 every one of you if you consider that I'm saying  
17 it's just very simple. Thanks again.

18 SENATOR NOZZOLIO: Thank you very much  
19 Mr. Diaz. Lisa Sills Short? Lisa Sills Short?  
20 Lorita Watson?

21 MS. LORITA WATSON, FRIENDS OF OVAL PARK:  
22 Good evening.

23 SENATOR NOZZOLIO: Good afternoon.

24 MS. WATSON: - - afternoon; it's almost

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2           there. I'm ready. Hello my name is Lorita  
3           Watson, I am -- I live in the Norwood area of the  
4           Bronx, born and raised Bronx Heights [phonetic].  
5           I would like to state that I'm also a Friends of  
6           Williams Bridge Oval, a recent \$80 million  
7           renovation project in the northwest of the Bronx  
8           and it's actually a small park, a 25-acre park.

9                       This proposed map divides our community.  
10           If you look at it the 34<sup>th</sup> district will be the  
11           west side, as currently it's the 33<sup>rd</sup> altogether  
12           now and the east side of the park will be the 33<sup>rd</sup>  
13           district. It pretty much looks like the boot of  
14           Italy with just color differentiation. Remember  
15           our Social Studies, that's how we knew what was  
16           what. It's still I believe Barbara spoke on it  
17           still Norwood-Bedford area.

18                      As we build further out of community in  
19           our park we have had continuous leadership and a  
20           big part of what helped us bail out the park  
21           while we were doing this we had leadership from  
22           Senator River, Councilman Capelle [phonetic] and  
23           Assemblyman Dinowitz and we had much assistance  
24           from them in just one district.

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2           Much of what we have accomplished in our  
3 park and surrounding neighborhood because of what  
4 we have accomplished we became a model for the  
5 friends of -- a community group that supports our  
6 community and it's a very diverse community and  
7 getting other people involved and different areas  
8 has been a big part of it.

9           And as we look to extend to the  
10 community, the park area and the libraries and  
11 the rest we need continuous representation. The  
12 park is a gem in our neighborhood and we need for  
13 it and the surrounding area to be part of one  
14 district, the 33<sup>rd</sup>, which also covers Bedford and  
15 Moshulu areas, as I said, who we now have a  
16 working relationship with Bedford. So it's very  
17 good for our two communities to stay together and  
18 we want this to be the case and that's basically  
19 what I wanted to say, and that you need to really  
20 think about what you're doing here. The areas,  
21 up Montefiore, up Gunhill [phonetic] Road and the  
22 rest, we are a community and we want to stay a  
23 community and as we build out and look at the  
24 resources that we use from MPC, which is Moshulu

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2 Preservation Corporation there's a lot of  
3 community involvement and we want to keep it  
4 going. Thanks you.

5 SENATOR NOZZOLIO: Thank you very much.  
6 Bernice Williams? Bernice Williams? Wes  
7 Williams? Wes Williams? Aria Khury? Aria  
8 Khury? K-H-U-R-Y. Emil Gomez? Emil? Mr.  
9 Gomez.

10 MR. EMIL GOMEZ, COMMUNITY BOARD 7: Good  
11 afternoon.

12 SENATOR NOZZOLIO: For the record, sir,  
13 please state your name.

14 MR. GOMEZ: My name is Emil Gomez, I  
15 believe I still live in the 33<sup>rd</sup> senate district.  
16 I have to consult the map; I'm not really sure at  
17 this moment. I found out about this hearing over  
18 the weekend. I wrote a statement by hand;  
19 unfortunately it's not typed for you. If you  
20 like I can give it to you afterwards. I have  
21 edited for brevity.

22 Good afternoon my name is Emil Gomez. I  
23 am a CPA and I live in the Bronx. I have looked  
24 at the proposed senate districts on the LATFOR

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2 website. While being an accountant I marvel at  
3 the allocation of populations within the proposed  
4 districts. The system in which they were derived  
5 must be called into question. When I look at the  
6 proposed maps I compared my senate district, 33,  
7 with those of the 2002 and 1992 years. Even  
8 accounting for slight deviations in area size the  
9 proposed 2012 map in no way resembles what it was  
10 in the past.

11 This inconsistency can be attributed to  
12 many things which some of the other speakers have  
13 pointed out to you today. I would like to add to  
14 those concerns by adding that the redistricting  
15 process runs contrary to New York State law.  
16 Specifically I would like to cite Article 4-100  
17 of the Election Law, section 380 of the law  
18 states that each election district should be in  
19 compact form. Clearly by reviewing the enclosed  
20 maps, which I'm sure you have, the process here  
21 is failing; compact form is nowhere to be found.

22 SENATOR NOZZOLIO: Election district are  
23 you talking [crosstalk]?

24 MR. GOMEZ: I'm with the 33<sup>rd</sup> district,

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2 sir, and if you look at that proposed map for  
3 2012 it no way resembles what it was.

4 SENATOR NOZZOLIO: But the law you're  
5 quoting on election district, do you mean senate  
6 district?

7 MR. GOMEZ: Senate districts, yes sir.

8 SENATOR NOZZOLIO: Thank you. The - -  
9 district's another thing altogether.

10 MR. GOMEZ: Okay. All right.

11 SENATOR NOZZOLIO: Mr. Gomez just to  
12 enlighten me: how far is it from -- you think  
13 you live in the 33<sup>rd</sup>.

14 MR. GOMEZ: Well I live in Laurelard  
15 [phonetic] Place and I believe it carves -- the  
16 new map carves myself out of the 33<sup>rd</sup> district.

17 SENATOR NOZZOLIO: How far, just for my  
18 own edification you said it wasn't -- the 33<sup>rd</sup> you  
19 feel is not compact?

20 MR. GOMEZ: Oh no no, I believe that I  
21 would like to stay within the 33<sup>rd</sup> district  
22 boundaries. I believe Senator Rivera is  
23 representing myself and the constituents in that  
24 area very well.

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2 SENATOR NOZZOLIO: I thought I heard you  
3 saying; I just wanted to clarify it.

4 MR. GOMEZ: Well it seems to me that as  
5 you can tell by looking at the map I can't tell  
6 heads or tails whether or not I'm still part of  
7 that area.

8 SENATOR NOZZOLIO: That's not the  
9 question I had. I thought you made an allegation  
10 that said that this district was not compact, is  
11 that it?

12 MR. GOMEZ: Well compact. Again, my  
13 understanding of what I read of the law says the  
14 definition of an election district should be of  
15 compact form, in other words it should be a  
16 contiguous small width defined area. If you look  
17 at the new --

18 SENATOR NOZZOLIO: [Interposing] I'm  
19 looking at this district and I wonder how far is  
20 it from one end to the other? You don't know?

21 MR. GOMEZ: I couldn't tell you sir. I  
22 couldn't you sir but the proposed maps, if you  
23 compare it from say 2012, the proposed maps to  
24 what it is now to 2002 maps they differ greatly.

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2 SENATOR NOZZOLIO: Thank you.

3 MR. GOMEZ: Okay. Before the proposed  
4 districts are approved by the state I request  
5 that responsible state government officials  
6 acting independently of special interests review  
7 [phonetic] the redistricting process to see at  
8 least that it complies with the spirit of the  
9 election law.

10 There's a second reason why the  
11 redistricting process should be reviewed and the  
12 source of it comes from page 23 or today's *New*  
13 *York Daily News*. I ask everyone here to read it;  
14 it cites an article written by a Mr. Bill Hammond  
15 who quotes Assemblyman Denny Farrell and he gives  
16 Mr. Farrell quotes the process by which Mr.  
17 Wrangle, it cites as an example, how he got his  
18 district and how that process was. So after  
19 reviewing this article if that does not sway your  
20 opinion of some of you today I don't know what  
21 exactly will. So my point of being here is just  
22 to please review the redistricting process. I  
23 thank you for your time.

24 SENATOR NOZZOLIO: Thank you Mr. Gomez.

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2 Cynthia Tompkins? Cynthia Tompkins? Cynthia  
3 Tompkins? Marissa Estrella? Marissa Estrella?  
4 Reverend Dr. Charles Gorlick? Reverend Dr.  
5 Charles Gorlick? Thomas Durham? Thomas Durham?  
6 Thomasina Busby? Thomasina Busby? Leon Johnson?  
7 Leon Johnson? Yolanda Torres? Yolanda Torres?  
8 Sharon Jarvis? Sharon Jarvis? Anthony Raviccio?  
9 Anthony Raviccio? Margaret Groarchi? Margaret  
10 Groarchi? Ricardo Fihardo? Ricardo Fihardo?  
11 Maximo Padilla?

12 MR. MAXIMO PADILLA, DOMINICAN COMMITTEE  
13 OF NEW YORK: (Speaking Spanish). Thank you. My  
14 name is Maximo Padilla (speaking Spanish) (via  
15 interpreter) 2675 Creston Avenue, Bronx, New York  
16 10 -- I'm here representing the Dominican  
17 organization from the -- I guess from Santo  
18 Domingo, right? Okay, that's good.

19 Right, the Dominicans that are here from  
20 the country, from Santo Domingo. So you were  
21 born there but you're here. Okay go ahead.

22 MALE VOICE: It's an organization that  
23 represents - - .

24 SENATOR NOZZOLIO: Are you testifying?

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2 MALE VOICE: Yes.

3 SENATOR NOZZOLIO: Call them up  
4 together? Would you want to come up - - with Mr.  
5 Padilla? No? Mr. Padilla I apologize for the  
6 interruption.

7 MR. PADILLA: Thank you. (Speaking  
8 Spanish). (Interpreter): Being the president of  
9 the Dominican Committee of New York it's a  
10 community for northern Manhattan, Bronx, Queens -  
11 - in common. The immediate increase of the  
12 Dominican community, when a new congressional  
13 district with a large Dominican community.

14 When a new congressional district with a  
15 large concentration of Dominican Americans --  
16 basically what they're saying is that the  
17 Dominican community have grown tremendously and  
18 it's a very powerful community and we don't have  
19 representation in a federal congressional  
20 district. And that reflects in our growth, and  
21 the growth in our community.

22 We know that in the last century  
23 reflects that the Dominican community is the  
24 majority. It is unjust and I guess we want

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2 justice and they want to make sure that the  
3 representation and since they have the largest  
4 majority -- it is not minority, it is majority,  
5 that it should be represented in a congressional  
6 district, they want to be sure that a  
7 congressional district is designated for the  
8 Dominican community. Thank you.

9 MALE VOICE: I just want to say I  
10 understood everything he said.

11 SENATOR NOZZOLIO: Miguel Santana? Good  
12 afternoon or good evening. Mr. Santana would you  
13 please advise the panel who's up with you?

14 MR. MIGUEL SANTANA, DOMINICAN AMERICAN  
15 NATIONAL ROUNDTABLE: Okay, obviously my name is  
16 Miguel Santana, I represent the Dominican  
17 American National Roundtable. With me I have  
18 Maria Teresa Feliciano. She is the president of  
19 the Dominican American National Roundtable. And  
20 Nestor Montilla, Sr. He is the chair of the  
21 NDAC, that's National Dominican American Council.  
22 Okay.

23 SENATOR NOZZOLIO: Good afternoon.  
24 Thank you.

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2 MR. SANTANA: Good afternoon.

3 MS. FELICIANO: Good afternoon members  
4 of the task force and thank you for the  
5 opportunity to address you regarding the  
6 redistricting process again. In judging by the  
7 testimony today and the work that you have put  
8 out you have your work cut out for you. I thank  
9 you again, the first time we understand the task  
10 before you is to redesign New York legislative  
11 districts. And on behalf of the Dominican  
12 American National Roundtable we thank you for  
13 both doing this work and for the effort you're  
14 putting into it.

15 Back in September I appeared before you  
16 and appealed to your sense of justice and fair  
17 play in the performance of you duties in  
18 adjusting the lines so the New York State  
19 legislature as well as the Congress to comply  
20 with one person, one vote requirements for fair  
21 representation in any legislative body across the  
22 country.

23 I pointed out the astonishing growth of  
24 the Latino population of the United States and in

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2 New York State specifically, a growth that  
3 according to the principles governing the  
4 redistricting process should be reflected in the  
5 new maps.

6 Traditionally our communities have been  
7 divided for partisan and incumbency reasons. Our  
8 influence has been diluted and we have been  
9 unfairly subjected to substantive disadvantages.  
10 Our communities - - fair representation at all  
11 levels of government. We can only have this  
12 representation if legislative districts are drawn  
13 fairly. We proposed back in September a map for  
14 District 34 that would have 60.7 percent Latino  
15 population giving the ability to elect a senator  
16 of their choice, or actually increasing the  
17 opportunity for this to continue to happen.

18 We were somewhat disappointed that this  
19 task force moved towards not increasing the  
20 Latino population in this district but rather I  
21 guess widening the senate district, District 31<sup>st</sup>,  
22 bringing it down from its actual percentage of  
23 Latino population to 56 percent. We request that  
24 you reconsider and reiterate our request to

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2 strengthen Latino influence in this district by  
3 adding it to the Latino community from the west  
4 Bronx rather than extending it south to include a  
5 community that might not have as much in common  
6 with Washington Heights as the west Bronx will  
7 do. Additionally, and I know that this hearing  
8 is addressing the maps for the Assembly and the  
9 Senate but we would like to propose to you a  
10 congressional district that will unite the  
11 communities of the west Bronx, northern Manhattan  
12 and Corona Queens, which encompasses the fast-  
13 growing Dominican American populations that share  
14 commonalities and challenges. Just district will  
15 be an appropriate response to the tremendous  
16 growth of community in New York City and can be  
17 created without negatively impacting over  
18 communities or violating any principles of fair  
19 apportionment.

20 Another valuable benefit of creating  
21 this district will be bringing people into the  
22 political process that had previously been kept  
23 from it and thus making government more  
24 representative of the people. In a democracy the

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2 principle of one person, one vote is a sacred  
3 concept and if this principle is to apply in New  
4 York then ensuring a greater voice for Latinos in  
5 the halls of power is a challenge facing this  
6 task force. We look forward to working with you  
7 with this committee to contribute in your effort  
8 to make sure that New York achieves fair and  
9 constitutional redistricting. Thank you.

10 MR. SANTANA: Once again my name is  
11 Miguel Santana, chairman of the Dominican  
12 American National Roundtable and as Bronx  
13 resident who lives at 3064 Bailey Avenue I want  
14 to thank you for the opportunity to address this  
15 body regarding the current redistricting process.

16 I request that in drawing the new  
17 legislative districts in the State of New York  
18 you consider communities of common interest,  
19 more specifically the rapid growth of the Latino  
20 population. As per the 2010 census Latinos are  
21 the largest minority group in New York State and  
22 the new legislative map should reflect this  
23 change.

24 This approach requires the creation of

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2 majority Latino districts or Latino opportunity  
3 districts that will allow us to elect candidates  
4 of our choice in numbers commensurate with our  
5 population.

6           Until the early 1980s Hispanic  
7 representation in Congress lingered in the single  
8 digits. The gains in Hispanic office holding  
9 during the 1980s and 1990s can be attributed in  
10 part to the passage and implementation of the  
11 Voting Rights Act, the VRA. The VRA facilitated  
12 the establishment of numerous majority-minority  
13 districts in which minority voters constitute a  
14 majority of the relevant population, be it total  
15 population, voting age population or citizen  
16 voting age population.

17           The electoral benefits of majority-  
18 minority districts became evident after the 1990  
19 round of redistricting. State legislators  
20 construed ten new majority Latino districts and  
21 shortly thereafter seven Hispanic freshman joined  
22 the House of Representatives. Justice O'Connor  
23 defended this radical change in Section 5 by  
24 citing five sociological studies that she claimed

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2 suggested that the most effective way to maximize  
3 minority voting strength may be to create more  
4 influence or coalitional districts. The majority  
5 minority districts remain the primary means  
6 through which Hispanic communities can elect  
7 their preferred candidates.

8 Today we have three communities of  
9 common interest that join our Latino populations.  
10 These communities are Washington Heights in  
11 Manhattan, the northwest Bronx and Corona Jackson  
12 Heights in Queens. The common thread that bonds  
13 these communities together are the educational  
14 trajectory, social consciousness and  
15 entrepreneurial spirit. Collectively they fuel  
16 the local economy through the development and  
17 patronage of small business such as barber shops,  
18 beauty salons, multi services, grocery stores,  
19 supermarkets, pharmacies and car services.

20 In closing I ask you to approve a new  
21 legislative map that joins the Latino population  
22 of Washington Heights, the northwest Bronx and  
23 Corona/Jackson Heights communities of Queens,  
24 ultimately establishing a majority Latino

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2 district will provide us the opportunity to elect  
3 a Congress member of our choice. Thank you.

4 MR. LOPEZ: Let me ask you a question:  
5 who represent this district right now? Who are  
6 the congressional individuals that represent this  
7 are?

8 MR. SANTANA: Well this is a district  
9 that is being proposed at the time.

10 MR. LOPEZ: Right, you got to - - to put  
11 it all together, so who at this point represent  
12 that -- because you have it like this, right?

13 MR. SANTANA: Yes.

14 MR. LOPEZ: Okay so who represent this  
15 area and let's say this area?

16 MR. SANTANA: Currently you have Crowley  
17 [phonetic] in Queens; in the Bronx in terms of  
18 the shape going northbound you have -- I think it  
19 goes on the outskirts of Serrano [phonetic] and  
20 then it goes into Wrangle.

21 MR. LOPEZ: Okay. All right. Thank  
22 you.

23 MR. NESTOR MONTILLA, SR., CHAIR NATIONAL  
24 DOMINICAN AMERICAN COUNCIL: Thank you. Good

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2           afternoon. My name is Nestor Montilla, I'm the  
3           chairman --

4                        SENATOR NOZZOLIO: Do you want to suffer  
5           a brief interruption? Can we please have some  
6           order? Please stop the conversations. Take them  
7           outside; we want to hear the speaker, give the  
8           speaker respect. Thank you. Please repeat the -  
9           -

10                      MR. MONTILLA: Yes thank you so much.  
11           Again my name is Nestor Montilla. I'm the  
12           chairman of the National Dominican American  
13           Council. Before I begin my testimony I would  
14           like to say that today's my birthday and here I  
15           am celebrating with you.

16                      ASSEMBLY MEMBER MCENENY: Happy  
17           birthday.

18                      MR. MONTILLA: Thank you. On behalf of  
19           the National Dominican American Council I would  
20           like to thank you for the opportunity again  
21           address the committee regarding the redistricting  
22           process in New York State. We have reviewed your  
23           released Assembly and Senate maps already and  
24           particularly regarding senate district 31, rather

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2 than increasing the percentage of Latino  
3 population as we proposed back in September you  
4 decreased the percentage by almost 4 percent. We  
5 would like to reiterate our recommendation of  
6 increasing the Latino population of senatorial  
7 district 31 to include the west Bronx community  
8 which shares many commonalities with the  
9 remaining of the district and for reasons we  
10 outlined back in our testimony in September at  
11 Bronx Community College.

12 In addition to this we would like also  
13 to submit for your consideration a proposal for a  
14 congressional district that unites --

15 SENATOR NOZZOLIO: [Interposing] Before  
16 you get to Congress would you mind an  
17 interruption into your remarks? The district 31  
18 that the proposed district has a Hispanic percent  
19 of total of 56.32 and those of voting age  
20 population are 53.72. Are you saying that that's  
21 -- your suggesting that be increased? I just  
22 wanted to make sure .

23 MR. MONTILLA: The Hispanic population  
24 was decreased.

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2 SENATOR NOZZOLIO: Decreased?

3 MR. MONTILLA: Decreased by four  
4 percent, yes. We're suggesting that instead  
5 of doing that --

6 SENATOR NOZZOLIO: [Interposing] But  
7 currently as proposed it's -- I just wanted to  
8 make sure you have the right number and we're  
9 both on the same page here, that the population,  
10 the Hispanic population is 56.32 percent of the  
11 proposed district.

12 MR. MONTILLA: Fifty-six.

13 SENATOR NOZZOLIO: Fifty-six point three  
14 two. And you're saying that that's a diminution?

15 MR. MONTILLA: Right. Based on the  
16 demographics that we have right now in the  
17 neighborhood as you realized the Latino  
18 population grew dramatically. So the district  
19 was changed somehow by taking down south to 30,  
20 if I'm not mistaken, I'm not looking at the map -  
21 - to 24 from 59<sup>th</sup> Street down to 24. I know that  
22 part of Riverdale was removed under your proposed  
23 map but instead of automatically assuming that  
24 the district should grow with the population that

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2 actually achieved the highest increased you cut  
3 that population four percent. That's based on my  
4 calculations, I mean if I'm not doing my math  
5 right please I apologize for that but I think I  
6 reviewed that and that's my calculation.

7 SENATOR NOZZOLIO: I'm sorry if I may,  
8 Senator Dilan had just showed me that the  
9 numbers, in terms of population -- thank you  
10 Senator for having this with you. The Hispanic  
11 population of this district is 56.32 percent. It  
12 was 57.43 percent so that's less than -- our  
13 number show it's less than a one percent change  
14 and then the voting age population of Hispanic  
15 back last time was 53.25 percent; this has  
16 actually gone up; it's 53.7 percent. So I just  
17 hope -- and I mean I'm not quarreling with you, I  
18 just want to make sure we have the right numbers  
19 and you have the right numbers, and I don't see a  
20 four point difference there. Well let's do this:  
21 let's table that and look into it and we'll  
22 discuss who has what numbers, what reference  
23 points we're using and what those current numbers  
24 are. Again our numbers don't show a change.

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2 MR. MONTILLA: We'll check on that and  
3 adjust our testimony if that's the case and --  
4 well can I ask you a question, members of the  
5 committee? Would you explain to me what was the  
6 rationale behind extending senatorial district 31  
7 down south instead of assuming that the Latino  
8 increase in term of the population north of  
9 Manhattan married to the extension of the  
10 modification of that district among that  
11 population? Because to me the people who live  
12 down south of the district right now it's totally  
13 different community than the community that lives  
14 in northern Manhattan. And keeping a community  
15 of interest together, which is one of the  
16 fundamental principles drawing maps makes me to  
17 think about the rational that you utilize. Can  
18 you explain that to me, just for me to understand  
19 because those are two very different communities  
20 to my understanding.

21 SENATOR NOZZOLIO: First of all tried to  
22 minimize any changes, particularly in those  
23 districts that require absolute compliance to the  
24 Voting Rights Act. There were a couple of major

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2 issues demographically that had to be dealt with.  
3 The first is a 100,000 person loss in the black  
4 community of fewer black Americans from the  
5 census of 2010 versus 2000. Yet in spite of that  
6 loss the voting acts require no retrogression.

7 The second issue was to keep minimal  
8 changes to districts like Districts 31 and it was  
9 to keep the Hispanic population as high as we  
10 possibly could under those circumstances. And  
11 again our numbers show that it virtually is  
12 unchanged but we'd be glad to have any additional  
13 information that you have and go through that  
14 with you probably more appropriately either at  
15 the conclusion of this proceeding or sometime  
16 during the week to talk to the demographers and  
17 the map writers to make sure the our numbers are  
18 the same. So that's an overall, and again, I  
19 don't want to belabor your presentation to please  
20 continue.

21 MR. MONTILLA: Right. I just was called  
22 the percentages again from someone in the  
23 audience and based on that particulate person's  
24 calculation is three percent, the difference in

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2 terms of the Latino population and District 31.

3 SENATOR NOZZOLIO: 51 or 31?

4 MR. MONTILLA: 31. So let's check on  
5 that, right?

6 All right. As you look into again  
7 reviewing your proposal for Senatorial District  
8 31 I want you to consider the community in the  
9 west of the Bronx and northwest basically because  
10 it's a community of interest that is very tied  
11 together with northern Manhattan. You can see  
12 bridges -- it's a community that conduct a lot of  
13 business together, cultural celebrations,  
14 shopping area, they go to church together, so  
15 it's a community, it's basically a neighborhood  
16 altogether in itself, separated by the East River  
17 but it doesn't mean that it's a different  
18 community. So those communities are really tied  
19 together and are totally unique in terms of their  
20 characteristics as opposed to the community that  
21 the district includes down south all the way to  
22 34<sup>th</sup> I guess. I'm not looking at the map but I  
23 guess to the boundaries of the district to the  
24 south.

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2           Let me continue with my remarks. In  
3 terms of the next part we would like also to  
4 submit for your consideration a proposal for  
5 congressional district that have already been  
6 presented to you that unites the Spanish-speaking  
7 communities sharing national origin, religion,  
8 economic ties, family ties, living in the  
9 corridor or Corona Queens to University Heights,  
10 Kingsbridge in the Bronx to Washington Heights in  
11 Manhattan here. And that community basically  
12 will include Broadway Avenue northbound from 140<sup>th</sup>  
13 Street until 207<sup>th</sup> Street. Just imagine, as I  
14 describe them, from Broadway to 07<sup>th</sup> [phonetic]  
15 Street in Manhattan cross the bridge eastward  
16 into West Fordham Road and into Bronx on Pelham  
17 Parkway. From there from Huntington River  
18 Parkway southbound, crossing the Whitestone  
19 Bridge into Route 678 and then Northern Boulevard  
20 westbound until 77<sup>th</sup> Street in Queens.

21           In terms of the neighborhoods that that  
22 particular proposal includes in New York County  
23 it will include Hamilton Heights and from  
24 Hispanic voting district on 140<sup>th</sup> Street

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2 northbound Broadway. Washington Heights, of  
3 course, and I think my computer died here so let  
4 me check one second. Just one second, I  
5 apologize for that, and I have the testimony  
6 here. In the Bronx County -- let me go back --  
7 in New York County and say Washington Heights  
8 inward on Marble Hill.

9 In the Bronx County the neighborhoods  
10 include University Heights, Kingsbridge South,  
11 Bedford Park, Fordham University, Bronx Zoo,  
12 Morris Park, Westchester. To the east Throg's  
13 Neck and also in Queens County it'll include  
14 College Point, North Corona, Corona-Jackson  
15 Heights to the east. So as we have submitted to  
16 you the Spanish speaking population of the State  
17 of New York has grown exponentially in the last  
18 ten years, are meriting the opportunity to elect  
19 their candidate of choice in an additional  
20 majority-minority congressional Hispanic  
21 district.

22 Spanish-speaking communities will be  
23 better represented in the U.S. Congress by a  
24 Spanish-speaking representative if they choose

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2 and have the opportunity to elect one of course.  
3 Immigrant communities from the Dominican Republic  
4 are one single community of interest, mostly  
5 concentrated in three New York neighborhoods:  
6 Corona in Queens, University Heights, Kingsbridge  
7 in the Bronx and Washington Heights in Manhattan.  
8 The majority of the New York City and New York  
9 State elected officials from the Dominican  
10 American origin represent constituencies from  
11 these three neighborhoods, two state senators you  
12 know, two state assembly representatives and  
13 three New York City council members. So creating  
14 this congressional district seems to be the most  
15 logical step towards affording this community  
16 fair and equitable representation.

17 We look forward to continue to work with  
18 you, to contribute in your efforts to make sure  
19 that New Yorkers and particularly the New York  
20 City residents achieve a fair and constitutional  
21 redistricting. Thank you.

22 SENATOR NOZZOLIO: Thank you very much  
23 and we appreciate your input. I would ask -- and  
24 I'm sure all my colleagues would agree, if you

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2 would be so kind as to put the specifics either  
3 in a document or an email, submit it to LATFOR as  
4 soon as possible, like tonight or tomorrow  
5 because we all are on a renewed deadline for  
6 Congress and we would welcome your specifics. I  
7 mean generally described it but if you have map  
8 or if you have any more specific description,  
9 descriptive language or both that would be great.

10 MR. MONTILLA: Yeah, we already  
11 submitted by email to your email, the way you  
12 have it listed on the website.

13 SENATOR NOZZOLIO: This recent proposal?

14 MR. MONTILLA: Right and the legends and  
15 everything, the narrative and everything for your  
16 consideration.

17 SENATOR NOZZOLIO: Excellent.

18 MR. MONTILLA: We definitely look  
19 forward for you to consider that seriously.

20 SENATOR NOZZOLIO: Thank you very much.  
21 Look forward to -- likewise.

22 Douglas Mendez? Good evening, Mr.  
23 Mendez.

24 MR. DOUGLAS MENDEZ: Honorable members

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2 of the task force I'm Douglas Mendez. I'm a  
3 physician. And I'm here to support the creation  
4 of a new district to better represent our  
5 community. As we all know, the Spanish-speaking  
6 communities have grown exponentially in the last  
7 ten years. Deserving for that reason the  
8 opportunity to elect their candidate of choice b  
9 creating an additional congressional Hispanic  
10 district.

11 The Spanish-speaking community will be  
12 better represented in the U.S. congress by a  
13 Spanish-speaking representative. Immigrant  
14 community from the Dominican Republic are one  
15 single community of interest mostly concentrated  
16 in three well-known areas of New York. The  
17 majority of the New York City and New York State  
18 elected officials from Dominican and American  
19 origin represent constituencies from these three  
20 neighborhoods. We have two state senators, two  
21 state assembly representatives and three New York  
22 City councilmembers.

23 A district connecting this community  
24 will represent important progress. Such a

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2 district could easily be created without negative  
3 impacting other community or violating any  
4 principle of fair apportionment.

5 Adding a new Latino congressional  
6 district will be an appropriate response to the  
7 tremendous growth of our community in New York  
8 City and beyond. And in addition to making  
9 history creating this new Latino district will  
10 bring people into the political process who have  
11 previously felt shut out of our system. Further  
12 then, it will contribute to strengthen our  
13 democracy and make our government more  
14 representative of the people.

15 My present here is to urge you to  
16 present proposal that include this new Latino  
17 congressional district and also to keep community  
18 of common interest together when considering  
19 Senate and Assembly line. It is good to stress  
20 the fact that for too long communities of  
21 community interest have been divided by partisan  
22 and incumbency reasons.

23 As a result of that we do not have a  
24 single congressional representation. Disregard

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2 the fact that we have been here since the early  
3 '50s and still do don't have the adequate  
4 representation, even though we are by descent the  
5 largest minority in this country.

6 This is my testimony and I hope you take  
7 it into consideration.

8 SENATOR NOZZOLIO: Thank you Doctor very  
9 much. Felipe Febles? I apologize for  
10 mispronouncing your name; would you be so kind to  
11 pronounce it for me?

12 MR. FELIPE FEBLES: (Speaking Spanish).  
13 (Interpreted by Mr. Welquis Lopez): The  
14 Dominican - - the Bronx as formed in 1989. He's  
15 the sub-director of the Grand Parade of  
16 Dominican, the Dominican Grand Parade. Our  
17 purpose to be here this afternoon is -- we have  
18 1,300,000 people in the Dominican Grand Parade in  
19 the Bronx. Our community Dominican -- our  
20 community has grown tremendously. We want to ask  
21 the commission -- we're working very hard to make  
22 sure that we have a Dominican representation as a  
23 congressman in the area in the northern Manhattan  
24 district and the Bronx.

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2 Our community especially we contribute  
3 in all angle of commerce, the Dominican community  
4 -- okay in 2000 -- you can help there -- in the  
5 year 2000 we were not included in the census and  
6 now, ten years later we are not included yet.

7 The bottom line: we want to have a  
8 Dominican representative in this area because  
9 we've been here for a long time and we want to  
10 make sure that we're represented. That's why we  
11 came here in front of you to make a proposal so  
12 you take into consideration what I just said  
13 about having the first Dominican representative  
14 in Congress, so we can enjoy the benefit that  
15 everybody else enjoys in the area.

16 I also want to make sure that since we  
17 are not included in the census the financial  
18 support that every community gets we don't get it  
19 because of that; we're not there.

20 Thank you very much.

21 FEMALE VOICE: Good afternoon. I try to  
22 speak a little bit English but my English not too  
23 good-looking. I say thank God because I'm here  
24 to be part of the district in lines [phonetic].

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2 So I hear you say you don't want to cut nobody  
3 fingers, nobody hands. We don't want that  
4 either, only we needs equal opportunity and the  
5 federal representation.

6 I don't want to be guys [phonetic] and  
7 use a shoe [phonetic] because I know you got the  
8 responsibility to make sure the New Yorkers have  
9 the opportunity to one speaker. That's why we're  
10 here because our community needs that  
11 opportunity.

12 I'm a single mother. In 2000 my two  
13 sons they don't have boat [phonetic] but now I'm  
14 grandmother for seven grandchilds and my  
15 granddaughter yesterday was 15 years old. She  
16 almost grown [phonetic]. My family is growing  
17 too faster, thus is a sample how my community is  
18 growing faster for the last 20 years in New York.

19 I say - - to your guys to reflect our  
20 speak to take ours force to come here to speak to  
21 you to say please in focus in the grounds, the  
22 grounds of our community is very faster, you  
23 know, growing faster, very big. My community  
24 here from the Bronx -- I've been here for the

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2 last 35 years. My community specifically  
3 [phonetic] in the Bronx they have in the economic  
4 aid [phonetic] taxes rising that I says, how I  
5 says, grocery, and I say beauty salon, and I say  
6 elementary school and university we got a lot of  
7 people.

8 So we don't still want you cut anybody  
9 fingers, anybody hands, anybody head, but only we  
10 wants opportunity like this, you know, to think  
11 about our community. Thank you very much.

12 SENATOR NOZZOLIO: Thank you very much.  
13 Maria Luna? Maria Luna? Aldrin Monia? Aldrin  
14 Monia? Maria Luna? Aldrin Monia? Mark  
15 Escoffery Bay?

16 MALE VOICE: -- request the assistance  
17 of the New York Housing President Council  
18 witness. Thank you.

19 SENATOR NOZZOLIO: Excuse me -- very  
20 much. Miss, before you leave, Doug, Doug, would  
21 you get that lady? We need your name for the  
22 record.

23 MALE VOICE: I got it, got it.

24 SENATOR NOZZOLIO: You have it? Thank

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2 you. Could you -- this is Mark Bay?

3 MR. BAY: Mark Escoffery Bay.

4 SENATOR NOZZOLIO: Escoffery Bay. Mr.  
5 Bay, Escoffery Bay would you please introduce  
6 who's with you today?

7 MR. BAY: Okay. They're from the  
8 housing President Council, I'm going to have them  
9 introduce themselves.

10 SENATOR NOZZOLIO: Okay.

11 MS. MARIA FORBES: Yes, my name is Maria  
12 Forbes, I'm from Clay Avenue Tenant's Association  
13 under New York City Housing Authority, a  
14 development called Claremont Consolidated.

15 MS. SANDRA DeJESUS: I'm Sandra DeJesus  
16 from Eastchester Gardens, vice president.

17 MR. CHRISTOPHER MOLTREY: My name is  
18 Christopher Moltrey, TA president Murphy Houses  
19 Resident Association located at 1805 and 611  
20 Katonah Park North in the Bronx.

21 MR. KEITH RAMSEY: Keith Ramsey,  
22 Eastchester Gardens TA president.

23 MR. ED MANELLA: Ed Manella - - TA  
24 president.

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2 MS. TRELSONS: Ms. Trelsons [phonetic]  
3 as TA president 1150-56 College [phonetic]  
4 Avenue.

5 SENATOR NOZZOLIO: Can I just ask,  
6 before you begin, have any of you signed? If so  
7 --

8 MALE VOICE: Yes.

9 SENATOR NOZZOLIO: Then would you be so  
10 kind as to just give me your names again so I can  
11 make sure they're crossed off the list?

12 MS. FORBES: Maria Forbes.

13 MR. MOLTREY: Christopher Moltrey.

14 MS. TRELSONS: And Ms. Trelsons.

15 MR. RAMSEY: Keith Ramsey.

16 MR. MOLTREY: Christopher Moltrey.

17 SENATOR NOZZOLIO: Keltrel Simmons?

18 FEMALE VOICE: Yes.

19 SENATOR NOZZOLIO: - - did you get those  
20 names?

21 MR. MOLTREY: Christopher Moltrey.

22 MR. BAY: Okay good afternoon, I'm Mark  
23 Escoffery Bay, I'm the district leader for  
24 Assembly District 77. I'm here in regards to the

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2 proposed lines and I'm opposed to it, along with  
3 my group of my constituents. One of the main  
4 things that I'm opposed to is the lack of  
5 representation of Afro Americans in the proposed  
6 lines.

7 Right now Afro Americans is almost 30  
8 percent of the Bronx yet we are only represented,  
9 quasi represented in one district. Now I know you  
10 are going to say yes, we have three black  
11 assembly people here in the Bronx, which is Eric  
12 Stevenson and Vanessa Gibson but they don't  
13 preside over black majority district; their  
14 district is largely Latino. So we really have  
15 one so-called quasi-black district and that's  
16 Carl Hasty [phonetic]. Now Carl Hasty's district  
17 does not represent necessarily black Americans;  
18 it is primarily Jamaicans and Caribbeans. So  
19 black Americans have zero representation in these  
20 new lines and they have zero representation in  
21 the lines ten years ago. And now with the new  
22 proposal there is no difference.

23 We're also not fairly represented in the  
24 senatorial lines that were being proposed because

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2 now Ruth Hassell-Thompson's [phonetic] district  
3 which represented the Jamaican area of the Bronx  
4 and the African American area of the Bronx is now  
5 abrogated and it now solely represent the  
6 Caribbean section of the Bronx and a miniscule  
7 portion of Afro American.

8 Now what happened with these lines is  
9 that should these lines go on as proposed you  
10 would be unwilling participants in what I  
11 consider to be political genocide of the African  
12 American representation period in this city  
13 because you'll have zero representation. And I  
14 want to point specifically that we can have two  
15 representation of African American districts  
16 because they have Coop City in Assembly District  
17 82 and that can be brought over to create another  
18 African American district.

19 And down in the South Bronx where there  
20 are African Americans at large they're just not  
21 representative because a majority Latino choose a  
22 black representative it is their choice. It's  
23 not the black Americans in that district who  
24 chooses. And now with the senatorial new

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2 proposal senatorial lines they now move the  
3 Latino district over now to encompass the area  
4 that Ruth Hassell-Thompson has vacated, which is  
5 now a threat to the 79<sup>th</sup> district; it's now a  
6 threat to the 77<sup>th</sup> district and now with the other  
7 -- I think it's the 33<sup>rd</sup>, no not the 36<sup>th</sup>, the 33<sup>rd</sup>  
8 Gustavos [phonetic] district coming down, it  
9 further jeopardized my assemblywoman Vanessa  
10 Gibson's district and it's going to weaken black  
11 representative and weaken the black constituents  
12 of the Bronx and we'll be poorly represented. So  
13 I'm here today to ask you not to perpetuate the  
14 monstrosity of political genocide against my  
15 people and bring Ruth Hassell-Thompson's district  
16 back down so that she can represent both Afro  
17 Americans and the Caribbean community and at  
18 least quasi satisfy and it won't fully satisfy or  
19 fully represent the true numbers but at least  
20 we'll get something out of this deal and right  
21 now Afro American is getting nothing out of this  
22 deal when I study these lines.

23 I thank you for you listening.

24 MS. FORBES: My name is Maria Forbes

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2           again. I would like to thank you for coming and  
3           allowing us to speak. Senator Ruth Hassell-  
4           Thompson represents over 13 New York City Housing  
5           Authority developments in the lower South Bronx  
6           area. As he indicated if you take Ruth Hassell-  
7           Thompson and move her further north she will,  
8           from her 21 New York City Housing Authority  
9           developments she will only have 4, and that is --  
10          it's a opposition to disservice us in that  
11          manner.

12                   This woman has come out and made herself  
13          readily available to us before any other elected  
14          official in this area has ever been. She is the  
15          only elected official that has come out and  
16          represented us, met with us and I can't even  
17          begin to tell you just our family days alone just  
18          coming out to our family days, servicing us in  
19          different areas that we need assistance in and we  
20          support her and her endeavors as well.

21                   But to take away and move her further  
22          north and then mix us with a mixed population  
23          that another senator would pick up and encompass  
24          us with another ethnicity he's already taking on

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2 a problem that he wouldn't be able to begin to  
3 address a hand to 'cause he'll have 13 Housing  
4 Authority developments that is all African  
5 American and would need additional assistance.  
6 So we're just here to opposed and we're asking  
7 that you leave Ruth Hassell-Thompson in her area  
8 and that's all I have to say.

9 MALE VOICE: Okay good day to all.

10 MR. FORBES: For the record I just  
11 wanted to name the Housing Authority development  
12 she represents: Claremont Consolidated consists  
13 of seven tenant associations. You have 1100  
14 Teller [phonetic] Avenue which these people were  
15 here and left. You have 1162 Washington Avenue.  
16 You have Finley [phonetic] Avenue, you have Clay  
17 Avenue, you have 1020 College Avenue which  
18 represents our senior citizen development, you  
19 have 1150 College Avenue which the TA president  
20 is here herself and she will speak, you have 1064  
21 Teller Avenue. That's Claremont Consolidated  
22 alone, that's seven developments. Then you have  
23 Webster Houses, you have Butler Houses, you have  
24 Morris Houses, you have McKinley Houses, you have

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2 Claremont Parkway and you have Forest Houses  
3 which the TA president left and was here as well.  
4 Then you have concourse village, the 44<sup>th</sup> Precinct  
5 council sits in her district as well as Community  
6 Planning Board 4 and Murphy Houses which is here  
7 in the lower South Bronx and all of this would be  
8 affected by y'all removing her from our area.  
9 And that's for the record.

10 MR. MOLTREY: Good day to all. My name  
11 if Christopher Moltrey, I am president of Murphy  
12 Houses Resident Association located at 1805  
13 Katonah Avenue and 6211 Katonah Park North. I  
14 appreciate the redistricting committee for giving  
15 me the opportunity testify in regards to the  
16 proposed redistricting. Once again I feel as  
17 though I'm in a whirlwind. All elected officials  
18 who feel we deserve the best as we continue to  
19 work for the developments and communities we  
20 reside in. Our communities and residents deserve  
21 the best, we deserve to have safe streets and  
22 safe communities for our seniors, youth, working,  
23 non-working residents and it is apparent that  
24 resident leaders need continuous leadership

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2 training to empower ourselves and our  
3 communities.

4 Nor other senator who covers the  
5 district has never supported or cared as much as  
6 Senator Ruth Hassell-Thompson. Senator Ruth  
7 Hassell-Thompson has not only given the Bronx  
8 South residents advice on empowerment she has  
9 taught us empowerment through the meetings,  
10 classes and trainings here in the Bronx South.  
11 Thus far it has been a process with positive  
12 results.

13 We are demanding the redistricting  
14 committee revisit and reconsider the  
15 redistricting lines that would remove Senator  
16 Ruth Hassell-Thompson from the Bronx South. If  
17 this occurs we will have to start from the  
18 beginning, as my constituent states. We do not  
19 want to remove the most influential and  
20 empowering senator that Bronx South has had in  
21 many years. My hope is that we will work  
22 together to achieve the best for all parties  
23 concerned and help one another to achieve this  
24 goal.

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2                   Redistricting Senator Ruth Hassell-  
3 Thompson will have a devastating negative impact  
4 on the community and the residents of the South  
5 Bronx community. Thank you, Christopher Moltrey,  
6 TA president Murphy Houses Resident Association.  
7 Thank you.

8                   MR. BAY: Just to close to let you know  
9 to continue with the proposed lines. It's not a  
10 matter of disenfranchising race or ethnicity; you  
11 will be disenfranchising a large amount of people  
12 who by right ought to be heard and we ought to be  
13 heard in government. Thank you for your  
14 listening.

15                   SENATOR NOZZOLIO: William Stanford, Jr.

16                   MR. WILLIAM STANFORD, JR.: Let me know  
17 when you're ready.

18                   SENATOR NOZZOLIO: We will sir, and  
19 thank you.

20                   MR. STANFORD: Correction, that's  
21 William Stanford, Jr., a/k/a Mr. X okay? Before  
22 I testify let me tell you what I experienced  
23 earlier today also before today. September 8<sup>th</sup>  
24 you held a public hearing regarding this agenda

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2 at Bronx - - Community College. I gave you my  
3 email address. I discovered - - on the previous  
4 day. You know how I discovered it? Gustavo  
5 Rivera [phonetic] mentioned it to me, okay? On  
6 September 8<sup>th</sup> I gave him a email address. Did you  
7 email this event to me? No you didn't. Do you  
8 know how I discovered this event? I spoke to his  
9 assistant Maria Anna Rose [phonetic]. If I  
10 hadn't seen her yesterday I wouldn't know  
11 anything about this event.

12 When I arrived at both sites, when I  
13 arrived here I was on the wrong site. I was at  
14 1046 Grand Concourse Boulevard. We was supposed  
15 to enter this side, which is 1040 Grand Concourse  
16 Boulevard. You had posted signs stating we  
17 should enter the north end not the southern end  
18 which is where we are now, which I don't  
19 appreciate. Okay we stood there, stood there and  
20 waited, spoke to a female guard said, "We can't  
21 see you - - yet because there's no guard  
22 patrolling the area." What does that have to do  
23 with us? We didn't come here to see the guards.  
24 Technically we didn't come here to see you. I

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2 don't appreciate that.

3 Another thing I don't appreciate is when  
4 I spoke to that lousy female employee back there  
5 I told her I pre-registered, she didn't have my  
6 name on the list, which gives me the impression  
7 the names I saw, the typed names I saw 'cause one  
8 of the people who pre-registered before  
9 yesterday. Okay? She pissed me off in  
10 September, she pissed me off again this month. I  
11 don't appreciate that.

12 So my question is for you and her, since  
13 you both pissed me off is are you confused? Are  
14 you stuck on stupid or are you just mentally  
15 retarded? I don't appreciate that. I really  
16 don't. If you hold forums say in the future you  
17 have to tell us which side we enter, the north or  
18 southern end. Hello? And you have to post  
19 signs. That's common sense. And you need to  
20 straighten her out 'cause she don't know what the  
21 hell she's doing.

22 MALE VOICE: What you should be doing is  
23 making sure that - - .

24 MR. STANFORD: Michael let me know when

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2 you're ready. Michael, let me know when you're  
3 ready. That's the second time.

4 SENATOR NOZZOLIO: I'm not Michael, but  
5 I'm --

6 MR. STANFORD: I'm speaking to him.

7 SENATOR NOZZOLIO: Well then look at  
8 him, don't look at me.

9 MR. STANFORD: I'm looking at him; I'm  
10 not looking at --

11 SENATOR NOZZOLIO: [Interposing] Well  
12 it's hard to see your eyes behind your --

13 MR. STANFORD: [Interposing] You don't  
14 have to see my eyes, John, just listen to what  
15 I'm telling you. Okay? Thank you.

16 Now in the future when you hold your  
17 events can you email them to me since I gave you  
18 my email address? Thank you. That would be  
19 gladly appreciated.

20 Now let me get to my testimony because I  
21 don't want to tie anyone up. And by the way keep  
22 your private conversations out there. Okay?  
23 Thank you. You told us to keep our private  
24 conversations out there; I expect you to do the

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2 same. Okay?

3 Michael, you have a question or a  
4 statement?

5 SENATOR NOZZOLIO: I'd like you to stop.  
6 Would you please? Would you please have order  
7 for Mr. Sanford.

8 MR. STANFORD: It's Stanford.

9 SENATOR NOZZOLIO: And whenever you're -  
10 - Stanford, Mr. Stanford. And whenever you're  
11 ready to begin your testimony please begin, your  
12 time is running.

13 MR. STANFORD: Okay. I have basically  
14 one proposal regarding the state and federal,  
15 state and federal government since you don't  
16 cover the city government. Whether some of these  
17 districts should cover two boroughs [phonetic] or  
18 three for that matter is the right answer, I  
19 don't know, but a while back I said, or back in  
20 September I said they should just cover one  
21 borough only, but all you have to do is just go  
22 by some of the cross streets like Gunhill Road,  
23 also the vertical streets like Webster Avenue and  
24 just take Gunhill Road, Fordham Road, Webster

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2 Avenue, Third Avenue. Third Avenue, Katonah  
3 Avenue, Gunhill Road, Fordham Road. Why can't  
4 you do it that way? To me it's more consistent  
5 that way. You ever consider doing that?

6 And also you didn't have any agendas  
7 regarding this forum, which made no sense, no  
8 agendas. You should have agendas.

9 ASSEMBLY MEMBER MCENENY: You're the  
10 agenda. We're listening to you. You're not hear  
11 to listen to us. We will interrupt if we have a  
12 question and don't understand what you're saying.  
13 We will interrupt if you see something where  
14 somebody needs clarification. In answer to your  
15 question does that add up to 125,000? You tell  
16 me. How many people does it add up to? We need  
17 125,000 roughly.

18 MR. STANFORD: Okay so if you could --

19 ASSEMBLY MEMBER MCENENY: This is a law.  
20 It's all known, it's widely dispersed, there's a  
21 LATFOR website. Somehow 150 people managed to  
22 find their way in there and didn't seem to have  
23 the same problem as you.

24 MR. STANFORD: Okay well just saying

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2 that you didn't have any agendas regarding this  
3 public -- I don't -- regarding that public  
4 hearing.

5 ASSEMBLY MEMBER MCENENY: The agenda is  
6 the maps have been out for a few days.

7 MR. STANFORD: I haven't seen them.

8 ASSEMBLY MEMBER MCENENY: They're on the  
9 LATFOR website. That's what all these people are  
10 talking about; somehow they saw those maps, some  
11 are talking about Congress where there are no  
12 maps from us but there are maps from others.

13 MR. STANFORD: Okay. Okay I didn't get  
14 a chance to log onto your website but still I'd  
15 like to know what's happening before -- . If I  
16 give you my email address I expect you to email  
17 future events to me. But if you think, well if  
18 you feel -- how do I put it? -- if you feel  
19 neglecting me is more important, just like the  
20 MTA, then I feel sorry for you because I feel  
21 like I'm dealing with the MTA right now. I'm not  
22 fucking [phonetic] dealing with LATFOR I'm  
23 fucking dealing with the MTA. I feel like I'm at  
24 3/4ths [phonetic] some [phonetic] Madison Avenue.

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2           There's no excuse for that. Like I said, I gave  
3           you my email address on September 8<sup>th</sup>, I'm sure  
4           you still have it. I submit, resubmit [phonetic]  
5           it to her earlier today. You could have emailed  
6           this event to me. There's no excuse for that.  
7           I'm innocent [phonetic].

8                         But as I said, regarding the districts  
9           try, let's try my suggestion: Gunhill Road,  
10          Fordham Road, Webster Avenue, Third Avenue,  
11          Katonah Avenue, either between Webster and Third  
12          Avenues, between Third and Katonah Avenues or  
13          between Webster and Katonah Avenues, between  
14          Gunhill and Fordham Road or between Fordham Road  
15          and Bedford Park Boulevard. That's just a  
16          suggestion from me regarding the state and  
17          federal government districts 'cause you don't  
18          cover the city government district. That's all,  
19          that's just my suggestion. You could try it if  
20          you want 'cause to me it's more consistent. You  
21          got Third Avenue, you got Katonah Avenue, you got  
22          Prospect Avenue, Third Avenue, the streets that  
23          hold buses. That's what you should go by, the  
24          streets that hold buses and divide the districts

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2 that way. Go straight across, up and down like  
3 squares, rectangles.

4 SENATOR NOZZOLIO: Thank you very much.  
5 Your testimony's part of the official record.  
6 You're videod. This is videod. And that  
7 suggestion is interesting and we certainly will  
8 look into it.

9 MR. STANFORD: Yes and like I said in  
10 the future, starting tomorrow, if you hold public  
11 hearings I want to see email letter. I don't  
12 want to hear, "I couldn't send you a e-bo  
13 [phonetic] letter, I didn't have time," I don't  
14 want to hear it. I gave it to you, you got no  
15 excuse.

16 MALE VOICE: All right, thank you.

17 SENATOR NOZZOLIO: Loretta Smith.  
18 Loretta Buddock [phonetic] Smith.

19 MS. LORETTA RUDDOCK SMITH: Good  
20 evening.

21 SENATOR NOZZOLIO: Good evening, Ms.  
22 Smith. You've got a whole delegation with you it  
23 looks like.

24 MS. SMITH: Okay.

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2 SENATOR NOZZOLIO: Are any -- Ms. Smith  
3 before you begin are any of the ladies and  
4 gentlemen coming up with you, did any of you sign  
5 up for this?

6 MR. SMITH: Yes, yes sir we did. We  
7 certainly did. I did. I did.

8 SENATOR NOZZOLIO: Let's start with the  
9 lady that's just sitting down in the black, if  
10 you could give us your name please. Let's see a  
11 show of hands: who signed up? Okay if you would  
12 give your name to Ms. Levine. Levine -- getting  
13 everybody's name wrong. Everybody's name wrong.  
14 Good evening.

15 MS. SMITH: Okay. Good evening.

16 SENATOR NOZZOLIO: Thank you very much.  
17 Please, as you speak let us know who you are for  
18 the record.

19 MS. SMITH: Mr. Chairman, members of the  
20 commission my name is Loretta Ruddock Smith. I  
21 am a homeowner, I represent Education [phonetic]  
22 Council of 35,000 children and I'm on the board  
23 of the housing company, represent 35 buildings.  
24 I'm a resident also of this community and - -

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2 District 77 who is here to testify regarding the  
3 redistrict proposal that was recently made  
4 public.

5 Specifically I would like to discuss  
6 three different criteria by which a proposal map  
7 should be judged. They are keeping community  
8 united -- we must make sure that neighborhoods  
9 are not fractured by district line that divided  
10 our community and can cause unnecessary confusion  
11 for many local families.

12 Too often the lines for political  
13 districts such as state assembly, state senate  
14 and members of Congress are drawn without the  
15 appropriate consideration for communities and  
16 neighborhood. The resulting boundaries have  
17 fractured community and divide neighbors and  
18 family in a haphazard manner that confuse  
19 residents and make it difficult for constituency  
20 to know who their representatives are.

21 Thank you and God bless America.

22 SENATOR NOZZOLIO: Thank you.

23 MS. ALINE ROBERTS: Good afternoon

24 Chairman and members of the commission. My name

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2 is Aline Singho [phonetic] Roberts. I'm a  
3 resident of the 77<sup>th</sup> assembly district, which  
4 Assemblywoman Vanessa Gibson represents and I'm a  
5 lifelong resident of the Bronx. And I'm here to  
6 testify regarding the redistricting proposal  
7 which we've been discussing this afternoon.

8 Specifically I would like to comment on  
9 certain criteria by which the proposed maps  
10 should be judged. In particular counting all of  
11 our residents at home the full implementation of  
12 the legal requirement mandating the counting of  
13 incarcerated individuals as part of the community  
14 where they reside is essential. Doing so assures  
15 that communities of color, primarily those with  
16 substantial numbers of African American and  
17 Latino residents would no longer be as under-  
18 represented as they historically have been.

19 This important law gives a more accurate  
20 population count and makes it easier to secure  
21 federal funding for essential services in  
22 communities such as the Bronx that have too often  
23 been given less than their fair share.

24 I would also like to comment on behalf

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2 of my colleagues here, like to appeal to the  
3 commission that the Gateway Mall and waterfront  
4 not be eliminated from the assembly district 77.  
5 This area has fought hard and long to establish  
6 economic development opportunities for this  
7 community's children, families as well as those  
8 returning from incarceration who need  
9 opportunities to become more gainfully employed,  
10 respectable taxpaying members of the community.

11 The Gateway Mall and waterfront  
12 [phonetic] is a vital community economic engine  
13 and a primary example of that and it should be  
14 maintained as an essential part of the assembly  
15 district 77. Thank you.

16 MR. HORACE ORTON: Good afternoon,  
17 ladies and gentlemen. My name is Horace Orton.  
18 [Off mic conversation].

19 SENATOR NOZZOLIO: While we're waiting I  
20 just want to say to the last speaker that this  
21 commission has fully complied with the Prisoner  
22 Relocation Law, that there were no regulations  
23 with that law, there were no guidelines, there's  
24 no user manual. Thanks to the commission members

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2 and particularly Dr. Hedges this process moved  
3 forward and we were able to identify and geo-code  
4 a considerable number; a considerable number are  
5 not being counted at all, which I think is a big  
6 inadequacy of the law, but it's the law that we  
7 have to comply with. And so that has been done.  
8 Yes sir?

9 MR. ORTON: Thank you very much. My  
10 name is Horace Orton, I'm judicial delegate in  
11 the Bronx. I've been in the Bronx all my life.  
12 I am first generation, second generation and now  
13 I have children and adults and have grandchildren  
14 also. We love the Bronx.

15 Working together we need to make sure  
16 that African Americans, Latinos and people of  
17 color receive the full representation of the  
18 state government that are due. Despite the  
19 historical efforts to implement the Federal  
20 Voting Rights Act and other legislation in the  
21 manner that opens the doors of opportunity to  
22 representation people of color have remained  
23 unrepresentative in governments throughout the  
24 State of New York.

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2 Faced with the lasting impact of  
3 discrimination based on race and ethnicity it  
4 remains vital for redistricting [phonetic] to  
5 take into account the need to fully address this  
6 underrepresentation and make the goal a priority.  
7 Please take that into account. Thank you very  
8 much for my part.

9 SENATOR NOZZOLIO: Thank you.

10 MR. ABRAHAM JONES, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR  
11 CLAREMONT NEIGHBORHOOD CENTERS: Good evening.  
12 Before I begin you were speaking about geo-coding  
13 with the formerly [phonetic] -- can you elaborate  
14 on that little bit more because that was what I  
15 was going to touch on and maybe I may not need to  
16 make those particular comments.

17 SENATOR NOZZOLIO: Dr. Hedges would you  
18 like to go over the explanation?

19 DR. HEDGES: What we were able to do is  
20 take the addresses that we were given regarding  
21 the former homes, former residents of prisoners  
22 located in state prisons and look up that address  
23 and determine where that person lived physically.  
24 And with that information we were able to go

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2 through the entire state and adjust the  
3 population for every block that was affected as a  
4 result and put those people, as it were, back in  
5 their original residence. And we did that for  
6 all the people for whom we could locate an  
7 address and successfully find their resident.  
8 And --

9 MR. JONES: [Interposing] Thank you so  
10 much. Let me commend you on that. I commend  
11 you.

12 My name is Abraham Jones, I'm the  
13 executive director of Claremont Neighborhood  
14 Centers which is located on 169<sup>th</sup> Street and Third  
15 Avenue. I have lived in this particular  
16 community not too far from here. I also am an  
17 ordained minister attending the Bible Church of  
18 Christ at 1368 Morris Avenue. - - I also serve  
19 as executive trustee board member. As well I am  
20 second vice chair of Bronx Community Board number  
21 3 off of 169<sup>th</sup> Street and Boston Road.

22 I have to say with all due respect that  
23 I was just informed of some information that  
24 actually astounded me, I mean I'm literally

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2           devastated, I'm flabbergasted because I did not  
3           know and did not fully realize that most of the  
4           southern sections of the Bronx was removed from  
5           Senator Ruth Hassell-Thompson areas, our senator.  
6           And I'm mean I really -- I'm really, really, I'm  
7           perplexed, I mean I'm really, really stunned.  
8           And the reason why I can say that is as for  
9           someone who runs and organization as executive  
10          director of Claremont Neighborhood Center which  
11          is a foundation for Butler Houses, Morris Houses,  
12          Morris Senior Houses and Webster Houses and I  
13          know of the work that is being done by Senator  
14          Thompson with the Tenant's Association presidents  
15          who often hold their meetings at my center. I  
16          know of the work that's done by her with housing  
17          [phonetic] and senior centers, our first and  
18          oldest senior citizen center in the nation. I  
19          know the kind of support.

20                   And I also know of the gentleman that  
21                   would in all likelihood replace her. He happens  
22                   to be my senator in the district where I live at.  
23                   And I'm often told and confused with him; people  
24                   think that we look alike. He once told me that

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2 to make sure that as I walk the streets of the  
3 Bronx to do nothing wrong because he doesn't want  
4 anyone to confuse me with him. He's a very, very  
5 nice man; I get his newsletter, and with all,  
6 all, all due respect and deference I get the  
7 newsletters and the newsletters that I get I do  
8 not see --

9 SENATOR NOZZOLIO: [Interposing] Could  
10 you just -- we're discussing, debating who is our  
11 senator.

12 MR. JONES: Oh Ruby Diaz [phonetic].

13 ASSEMBLY MEMBER MCENENY: We all know  
14 Reverend Diaz; you're much handsomer than  
15 Reverend --

16 MR. JONES: Well thank you. Thank you  
17 very much. And I love the man; he's a wonderful  
18 man. I get his newsletters but I -- I've often -  
19 - and I can't help it but I must admit that I  
20 looked to see the kinds of organizations that he  
21 supports in his newsletters. I look to see the  
22 kinds of pictures that are taken, and while I do  
23 see African Americans in the newsletters I  
24 happened to notice that I don't see there's a lot

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2 of support given to African American leaders of  
3 organizations in the district, which is not  
4 saying anything. And it would be real, real  
5 disservice, it would be a dishonor, it would be  
6 an affront to African American community if you  
7 allow this travesty to take place with the kind  
8 of work that Senator Ruth Hassell-Thompson, she  
9 is someone that is so available, I mean she just  
10 -- she understands the heartbeat of the  
11 community. She understands the heartbeat of the  
12 community.

13 You know and so I just need to say that  
14 since my issue about addressing the prisoners has  
15 been addressed and as one of my colleagues has  
16 let me know that we also hear to speak about  
17 Assemblywoman Vanessa Gibson so I will turn it  
18 over to you.

19 MS. CATHY STROUD, DISTRICT LEADER 7<sup>th</sup> AD:  
20 My name is Cathy Stroud and I'm the female  
21 district leader here in the 7<sup>th</sup> AD [phonetic]. And  
22 I welcome you here because you're here and you  
23 chose the 77<sup>th</sup> for this hearing. We thank you for  
24 that.

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2           It would be such a loss to us to lose  
3           the waterfront, to lose the Gateway Mall in our  
4           district. You know we not only losing that but  
5           we losing the retail interests, the monies that's  
6           been allocated to the district, or opportunities  
7           to be involved in the hiring of our residents in  
8           the 77<sup>th</sup>. We need to continue to have our  
9           Assemblywoman Vanessa Gibson who is spicy, she's  
10          young, she's articulate. I mean this is a young  
11          lady who's just on top of the situation and we  
12          need her in our community. And you'll be doing a  
13          misservice, a misjustice to take her part of this  
14          district away from her.

15                 The 84<sup>th</sup> district already has 161<sup>st</sup>  
16          Street, they have 149<sup>th</sup> Street, business area,  
17          they have the Third Avenue and Yankee Stadium.  
18          Now if you want to give us Yankee Stadium we'll  
19          take it but you can't take everything away from  
20          us that we have been waiting for for so long. We  
21          have one of the poorest districts in the county.

22                 I run a food pantry and I -- my pantry  
23          services over 6,000 clients a month. That's just  
24          mine. We have about 15 here in the Bronx.

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2 Please, if you take these things away -- we're  
3 trying to make -- I don't want to tell you that I  
4 serve 6,000 people; I want those lines to  
5 diminish; that's our purpose. We want to  
6 alleviate hunger. Now you gonna take part of our  
7 district where there's money, the amount that's  
8 coming in has already declined? Don't do this to  
9 us. We need this young lady, we need you to  
10 keep the vibrancy that she has going. This young  
11 lady is all over the place. Anything that's  
12 happening, that's going on, whether it's for  
13 young kids graduating from elementary school,  
14 kindergarten or being there representing me at my  
15 daughter's funeral last Saturday she's all over  
16 the place.

17 We need her, we need this district, we  
18 need to keep the people that's poor, hungry,  
19 clotheless, living in shelters. Please. If  
20 there's anything that I've said that we can do  
21 today, we need. You've taken everything away  
22 from -- I also run an agency, computer lab. But  
23 guess what? Most of it I have to do alone even  
24 though we have because we don't have that member

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2 item anymore where you can even send us money  
3 that we get help for these young people who need.  
4 We're doing things. Please, we're stopping the  
5 balance in this area. We're doing things. She's  
6 involved in it. Do not, please, bother our  
7 district. We need your help in this area. Amen?  
8 Amen.

9 MALE VOICE: May I add one more thing  
10 please? She mentioned the river.

11 SENATOR NOZZOLIO: No. No no, sir, this  
12 lady hasn't spoken yet.

13 MALE VOICE: Oh I'm sorry.

14 MS. OTTIS EDWARDS: Mr. Chairman,  
15 members of the commission my name is Ottis  
16 Edwards and I'm a resident of the 77<sup>th</sup> assembly  
17 district. And I've been living in this area 40  
18 years. Counting all of our residents [phonetic]  
19 at home the full implementation of the legal  
20 requirement mandating the counting of  
21 incarcerated individuals as part of the  
22 communities where they resided and essentials  
23 [phonetic]. Do we assure that communities of  
24 color, primarily those of substantial numbers of

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2 African American and Latinos resident would no  
3 longer be as underrepresented as they  
4 historically have been this important law gives  
5 us a more accurate population count and make it  
6 easier to secure federal funding for essential  
7 service and communities such as the Bronx that  
8 have too often been given less than their fair  
9 share.

10 This commission effort to implement this  
11 new law makes important progress toward limiting  
12 the racial disparities that exist in New York  
13 State government by leveling one aspect of the  
14 playing field when counting population. While  
15 further changes may be made at the proposed maps  
16 I appreciate the hard work of the commission and  
17 believe that the map proposed for the 77<sup>th</sup>  
18 assembly district respects the communities of  
19 interest that residents share.

20 In closing I just want to thank you for  
21 your time.

22 ASSEMBLY MEMBER MCENENY: Thank you.

23 SENATOR NOZZOLIO: Marjorie -- I'm sorry  
24 William Francis. William Francis? Mr. Francis?

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2 MR. WILLIAM FRANCIS: Yes, I'm bringing  
3 with me two members of my community. One is the  
4 a member of the community board with me.

5 SENATOR NOZZOLIO: Mr. Francis are any  
6 of their names already listed?

7 MR. FRANCIS: Yes they are, Lowell Green  
8 --

9 FEMALE VOICE: Lowell Green, Carolyn  
10 Smith.

11 SENATOR NOZZOLIO: Whoa, one at a time.  
12 Lowell Green?

13 MS. LOWELL GREEN: Mhm.

14 MS. CAROLYN SMITH: Carolyn Smith.

15 SENATOR NOZZOLIO: Smith? Carolyn  
16 Smith. Thank you very much. Please put the  
17 microphone closer to you. Welcome and good  
18 evening.

19 MR. FRANCIS: Good evening. My name is  
20 William Minister William Francis. I'm a member  
21 of Community Board 7 at Kingsbridge Height,  
22 Morris area, the area is Bedford [phonetic] Park  
23 that you been hearing quite a bit about.

24 Before I read my statement, you know,

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2 I've been sitting here waiting to be called and  
3 for a while it kind of upset me, but we in the  
4 church say some meaning for evil: God means it's  
5 for good. Because as I've sat here one thing has  
6 come out about your redistricting that I have not  
7 heard anyone mention. But the main thing that  
8 has come out is that you have divided this area  
9 of the Bronx. You now have people fighting  
10 against each other to maintain their  
11 representation.

12 I have been -- I am 65 years old. I  
13 have been in this community for over 30 years. I  
14 have been this community when it was divided,  
15 white against black, black against Hispanic,  
16 Hispanic against black, black against white.  
17 Over those 30 years that I have been here I have  
18 seen these different groups of people come  
19 together for the betterment of their areas and  
20 the whole of their community. What you are doing  
21 now with this redistricting is tearing that down.  
22 That does not help the people of our communities.  
23 It does not help even the representatives of  
24 these communities.

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2           This redistricting is going to do away  
3 with 30 to 40 years of hard labor work of members  
4 of these communities where they have overcome  
5 racial, economic, educational differences and  
6 bound together for the betterment of the whole.  
7 And that's what redistricting is supposed to be  
8 about. It's not happening here gentlemen.

9           What you are doing is taking us back to  
10 pre-Civil Rights times. You really are. Because  
11 now people are going to be drawn on lines of  
12 racial -- and you've already heard it here. You  
13 heard the Hispanics say, "We want." You've heard  
14 the whites say, "Maintain." You've heard the  
15 blacks say, "I am not being represented." This  
16 is totally wrong. It is totally not acceptable.  
17 You have violated the principle rights of your  
18 job: to represent to the goodness of your  
19 representatives whether you be upstate or  
20 downstate you are New York State elected  
21 officials. How can you say this is going to help  
22 the state?

23           This will wind up in court. This will  
24 further divide people. It already has begun. I

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2 just asked you, I'm not going to bother with my  
3 statement, I will ask you to rethink in your  
4 heart what you've heard here today. You've heard  
5 the beginning of anger, of arguments, of  
6 disenfranchisement, of people going and saying,  
7 "I will not work with you." That does not help  
8 this community and it will not help this state.  
9 I thank you.

10 SENATOR NOZZOLIO: Thank you very much.

11 MS. GREEN: My name is Lowell Green.  
12 I've lived in the Bronx approximately 30 years  
13 and I'm also a member of Community Board 7 and  
14 I've been so for a number of years. And as you  
15 can see I'm white and I'm middle class and I live  
16 in the Bronx and I don't live in Riverdale, I  
17 live in Norwood, and I'm very proud that I live  
18 in Norwood.

19 I live on a street called Kings College  
20 Place but is not on your map but it's between  
21 East 211<sup>th</sup> Street and Gunhill. It's a very narrow  
22 little street, we're a little finger area in  
23 District 33 at the present time, the senate  
24 district.

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2 My coop apartment overlooks Woodlawn  
3 Cemetery on East 211<sup>th</sup> Street. You may not be  
4 aware of it since a number of you live upstate,  
5 but Woodlawn Cemetery --

6 SENATOR NOZZOLIO: [Interposing] You can  
7 say hello to my uncle who's there.

8 MS. GREEN: Good. That's nice, thank  
9 you. But Woodlawn Cemetery goes East 211st  
10 Street to East 233<sup>rd</sup> Street. And at East 233<sup>rd</sup>  
11 Street there is another part of Van Cortlandt  
12 Park and from my house it's at least a good mile  
13 before you run into people who live in Woodlawn,  
14 where it looks like I will, my election  
15 [phonetic] district will now be facing toward  
16 Woodlawn, which is in the Bronx. But because of  
17 this natural dividing line at East 211st Street  
18 to 233<sup>rd</sup> Street I will be a part of.

19 I do not shop in Woodlawn, I do not seek  
20 medical care in Woodlawn, I don't vote in  
21 Woodlawn. I occasionally maybe go once a month  
22 out to dinner there because there's a nice  
23 restaurant, and I use the ATM of my bank that's  
24 on McLean which is in Yonkers.

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2 My community is Norwood, which is the  
3 area presently of the 33<sup>rd</sup>. Woodlawn and the end  
4 of Westchester, which I may become a part of in  
5 the new senatorial district is not my community  
6 of interest. And out of curiosity I would like  
7 to know why my little three streets got put into  
8 this area when there is a natural dividing line.  
9 And approximately one block down, more than that,  
10 two blocks, three blocks down is one little  
11 street that still stays in the 33<sup>rd</sup> district. I  
12 mean why this? If you can put one little street  
13 in why can't you put the rest of us from  
14 Bainbridge down to Webster, 211<sup>th</sup> to Gunhill. If  
15 you can't find it on the map I'll show you.

16 SENATOR NOZZOLIO: I found it.

17 MS. GREEN: Right. And it seems really  
18 out of context to move us. Thank you.

19 MS. CAROLYN SMITH: My name is Carolyn  
20 Smith. I'm formerly from Buffalo. Right now I'm  
21 in the 33<sup>rd</sup> District which I thought was the 33<sup>rd</sup>  
22 until found out now after this meeting today I  
23 found out I'm in the 34<sup>th</sup>.

24 My concerns are as follow: what

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2 happened to common interest as far as the  
3 community is concerned? We have right now we  
4 have our little interlopers or carpetbaggers  
5 coming from Manhattan and Queens is cutting up  
6 the Bronx, and in such a way where we're as the  
7 Bronx, as a whole -- I'm talking about all the  
8 ethnic groups in the Bronx, we're losing power.  
9 The Bronx has been on the rise here lately where  
10 we're trying to build up the Bronx but is someone  
11 from Manhattan going to give us - - ? Is someone  
12 from Queens that's going to give us housing?  
13 Because right now where I am we have a battle in  
14 Tracy Towers. I heard Tracy Towers mentioned a  
15 few times.

16 I was in the 33<sup>rd</sup> District. We had  
17 Gustavo Rivera who's been working very hard to  
18 help us in terms of our rent struggle 'cause as  
19 it stands if he's not there -- he's familiar with  
20 our building. If it's not there I face rent of  
21 more than 33 percent, even higher than that  
22 because it will put us very, very high on the  
23 market value list.

24 Now will Riverdale fight for us? 'Cause

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2 their rent is much -- the rent that they pay in  
3 Riverdale is much higher than what we're paying  
4 but will they fight for us? Because if the rent  
5 in my area is increased then the housing that I  
6 live in will cease to be affordable. So I'm  
7 talking about what happened to the common  
8 interest of the community? We have someone who  
9 is working with us but we're not too sure if this  
10 is going to happen if we go into the 34<sup>th</sup> area.

11 Thank you.

12 SENATOR NOZZOLIO: Thank you all.

13 FEMALE VOICE: As Mr. Francis pointed  
14 out this is dividing the Bronx. The Bronx has  
15 stopped being burned. We're trying to grow back  
16 and we've worked very hard to become important,  
17 upscale, and working to improve our lives as  
18 everyone has tried to say here today. And  
19 whatever you do with this redistricting is not  
20 going to make the Bronx better; it's going to  
21 make it worse. And all of us who've spoken here  
22 today want a better Bronx and we've worked very  
23 hard to have a better Bronx.

24 MR. FRANCIS: If I may add, gentlemen,

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2 the 33<sup>rd</sup> District, all right, which is Senator  
3 Gustavo Riveras, he's a newly elected senator and  
4 it took a lot for him to go against the  
5 establishment which did not support him. It was  
6 grassroots. It was us the people who got out  
7 there and worked to help get this senator  
8 elected. And he has proven to be a senator for  
9 our communities. And you have sliced his area  
10 almost in half. You've taken away the --

11 SENATOR NOZZOLIO: Sir, I think in the  
12 interest of time --

13 MR. FRANCIS: Okay in the interest of  
14 time I will hurry up, sir. But I'm going to say  
15 this, okay, because there were people who were  
16 allowed to come up here and speak who were not  
17 even signed in and they were given 15 minutes. I  
18 think that it would be all right to give me  
19 another three. I thank you so much for that  
20 privilege.

21 SENATOR NOZZOLIO: Thank you.

22 MR. FRANCIS: Okay. Senator Rivera,  
23 Gustavo Rivera was elected by the people. We  
24 want him to remain as a representative of the

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2 people. Thank you so much.

3 SENATOR NOZZOLIO: Marjorie Ritzer?  
4 Marjorie Ritzer? Marjorie Ritzer? Would you  
5 like a microphone brought to Ms. Ritzer?

6 MS. MARJORIE RITZER: This was a very  
7 interesting and educational afternoon. I've had  
8 a nice time listening to you gentlemen. But I  
9 don't like the redistricting, what you're doing  
10 to my neighborhood. I live in the northwest  
11 Bronx, and we're very happy there. But now I see  
12 that two other senators want to take over Tracy  
13 Towers and I live in Scott Towers. I saved my  
14 money to have a coop, and I'd like to stay here  
15 because it's a beautiful neighborhood, the people  
16 are nice. We have a mixed group of people in my  
17 building, we get along fine together. So why do  
18 they always want to mix us up? Let us be, and I  
19 thank you gentlemen for helping us.

20 SENATOR NOZZOLIO: Thank you very much.  
21 Could you please, Ms. Ritzer, because this is  
22 recorded could you just state your name?

23 MR. RITZER: Marjorie Ritzer, 3410 Paul  
24 Avenue, Bronx, New York 10468.

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2 SENATOR NOZZOLIO: Thank you very much.

3 MR. KENNY AGOSTO: Good evening,  
4 Chairman Nozzolio, Chairman McEneny, Ranking  
5 Senator Dilan and all the distinguished members  
6 of this honorable New York State LATFOR task  
7 force. My name is Kenny Agosto, I am a lifelong  
8 resident of the great borough of the Bronx and  
9 proudly serve as its duly elected district leader  
10 for the 80<sup>th</sup> assembly district, encompassing  
11 Allison [phonetic], Bedford Park, Bronxdale,  
12 Eastchester Gardens, Indian Village, Laconia,  
13 Morris Part, Norwood, Pelham Gardens, Pelham  
14 Parkway, Van Nest.

15 I will not repeat what has been said  
16 here in interest of time. The last time we met  
17 in the Bronx I testified and I implored the task  
18 force that the new districts, that new districts  
19 be drawn responsibly and thoughtfully. In light  
20 of the newly proposed maps it appears that's gone  
21 on deaf ears.

22 Earlier today you had a large contingent  
23 from Morris Park, and the gentleman earlier and  
24 the three people here earlier represent the 80<sup>th</sup>

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2 assembly district. It's a beautiful diverse  
3 district.

4 Because of political concerns you have  
5 separation, whole cultural institutions wiped out  
6 from the map. Projects that people worked on no  
7 longer can claim it their own because now they  
8 belong in a wholly new jurisdiction.

9 We here in the 36<sup>th</sup> senatorial district  
10 which now we inherit a portion of the great  
11 Senator Ruth Hassell-Thompson now other parts of  
12 the 36<sup>th</sup> are going to be having less  
13 representation, a historical representation of  
14 such as [phonetic] Joseph Galiber [phonetic],  
15 Samuel Bee [phonetic] and Senator Ruth Hassell-  
16 Thompson now has been divided in half.

17 Norwood has been divided; other parts of  
18 the district have been divided. We understand  
19 what the constitution says, we understand what  
20 the state constitution says. We want to make  
21 sure that neighborhoods stay together, that  
22 people can grow together. We know that  
23 populations change; we know that there's going to  
24 be a tug-of-war, but we need to work this

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2 together. And I hesitate to say that we need it  
3 before an independent redistricting plan but I  
4 just don't know how else we can get what we want  
5 and what we need. If one day your neighborhood  
6 has these markers and now the jurisdiction has  
7 changed everything's changed. We lose hospitals  
8 -- we had Einstein Hospital; we longer have  
9 Einstein Hospital. We had an interest in the  
10 Botanical Gardens; we know have the Botanical  
11 Gardens. We had the zoo; we no longer have the  
12 zoo. We had access to Lehman College; now we're  
13 away from those things. Where does it end?

14 I know that the Supreme Court says that  
15 political concerns can still take precedent and  
16 no one's arguing that. But why divide  
17 neighborhoods? Why divide communities? We have  
18 real problems here in the Bronx, and just like  
19 Buffalo and just like other parts of New York  
20 State we're economically depressed. We have high  
21 unemployment here. We have high health ailments  
22 here. Asthma, one of the highest in the nation.  
23 We have hypertension, we have HIV and AIDS, we  
24 have diabetes.

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2           If you take away our institutions and  
3           the elected officials who represent it 'cause we  
4           have now, and last time I asked, it was before  
5           this distinguished board we had asked that try to  
6           take the plan of not divide neighborhoods, to try  
7           to take the plan of at least having at least 50  
8           percent of one set community board district so we  
9           don't have to weigh the good elected from the bad  
10          elected 'cause then what happens when -- and it  
11          happened before 20 years ago, we lost Van Nest.  
12          And Van Nest has a market rise in crime 'cause  
13          there's no accountability. There's divided  
14          government.

15                 We all sit together, we all legislate  
16                 together but there's division. If one is a good  
17                 legislator like Senator Ruth Hassell-Thompson and  
18                 now she loses the neighborhood then that other  
19                 person, doesn't matter who it is, if they're not  
20                 on the ball in their district we lose. The  
21                 people loses.

22                 So this is what we're asking: we're  
23                 asking that you take another look at Common  
24                 Cause's lines, that you take a look at NAACP

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2 lines, that you take a look at other Latino, the  
3 Latino -- I'm sorry -- Latino Justice lines. And  
4 if you look at those things you saw that African  
5 Americans, Latinos, European Americans got all  
6 together and said, "We can divide this. We can  
7 have compact lines. We don't have to divide the  
8 neighborhoods." We could do a better job. We  
9 elect you to represent us and many of you do a  
10 great job. But we need, we need, the Bronx needs  
11 better representation in those areas and we don't  
12 want to lose those representation. So we want  
13 you to look at it, look at all the testimony of  
14 the people, look at Marjorie Ritzer, look at  
15 Carolyn Smith from the neighborhood, the people  
16 from Morris Park earlier and other people here  
17 that they look at that.

18 Right now we're behind schedule and  
19 they're confused. Now were going to have three  
20 elections, I know that has nothing to do with  
21 what we're talking about today, but it has  
22 something to do with elections because right now  
23 when we have to race to find out when's the  
24 primary and not know who are representatives are

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2 and it's a whole new political history for the  
3 next ten years it's a disservice.

4 God bless you. Please reconsider and  
5 think about us, think about the neighborhoods.  
6 We're going to think about Buffalo; we want you  
7 to think about the Bronx. Thank you very much.

8 ASSEMBLY MEMBER MCENENY: Thank you.

9 SENATOR NOZZOLIO: Anthony Curry?  
10 Anthony Curry? Okay. Peter Crogus? Peter  
11 Crogus? Herman Francis?

12 MR. HERMAN FRANCIS: Good evening  
13 everyone. My name's Herman Francis. I'm a  
14 member of Community Board 1, also chairperson of  
15 the - - Community Board 1.

16 I'm a firm believes in solutions. And a  
17 man once said, quote, "History is a great  
18 teacher." Understand that fact. Politicians  
19 create this mess. It's up to the politicians  
20 which - - . Hearken back to 1787 when this  
21 country got founded. You got to ask yourself  
22 what was your ancestors doing that particular  
23 time in 1787?

24 When we jump forward to 1861 to 1865

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2 which defined the United States of North America  
3 and New York State. Once again 1861 to 1865  
4 determined that New York City is a democratic  
5 city but the rest of the state is republican  
6 which put us in the paradox we in today.

7 In order to find a solution one must  
8 look back to what put you in the position that  
9 you're looking for a solution for. Well  
10 basically politics and the way your election  
11 [phonetic] process goes it's all about control,  
12 control of the district using of the tax revenue  
13 to protect the interest of whoever.

14 The only group that's going to benefit  
15 from all this, and according to all the testimony  
16 I heard is the real estate industry, dude  
17 [phonetic] because the way - - throughout this  
18 particular state.

19 The Republican Party is doing nothing  
20 though, and the Democratic Party is doing nothing  
21 too. It's all going down to who's going to be in  
22 charge of the allegation of the awarding of  
23 contracts and the distribution of, once again,  
24 tax revenue. Understand that the only fair way

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2 is not gonna be anyone in the district [phonetic]  
3 to allocate all this; it's draw the line  
4 according to the number of population, let the  
5 chips fall where it's gonna fall.

6 It's - - electoral process - - hearken  
7 back to the Voting Rights Act of 1965 which was  
8 the outgrowth of direct physical attack on a  
9 segment of the population for demonstrating their  
10 human right to vote. Everybody else would piggy  
11 back - - that but yet very few of their ancestors  
12 - - was out there on that front line as my  
13 ancestors were. Understand that particular fact.  
14 It took me [phonetic] at least a year 2012.

15 If we go what we supposed to -- and  
16 everybody talk about how economically depressed  
17 Bronx County is according to your scum [phonetic]  
18 it'd be the poorest county in the nation in terms  
19 of the capital income because of the drain of the  
20 resources which goes back to my bone of  
21 contention that politicians started this;  
22 politicians got to fix this.

23 Once again, the campaign for fiscal  
24 equity in New York City was won during a lawsuit

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2 about the funding for the educational system.

3 That money's still tied up in Albany based on the  
4 state - - .

5 The MTA, a state-run agency created by  
6 Rockefeller, Republican governor, once again, the  
7 city has a big population but yet go not get any  
8 resources because it's controlled by the state.  
9 We addressed the presidential [phonetic] which  
10 his very good and well.

11 Somebody mentioned the housing  
12 authority. New York City Housing Authority, most  
13 people don't seem to realize the population of  
14 the New York Housing Authority is it was taken as  
15 a separate entity be it [phonetic] 28<sup>th</sup> largest  
16 city in the United States.

17 Some of us understand this but I do not  
18 blame you gentlemen up there and ladies, ma'am.  
19 But yet it ought to come back, this situation.  
20 People have to get up and go out there and vote  
21 and organize themselves. We understand this  
22 system but yet if - - I suggest as a solution we  
23 just draw the lines according to population.  
24 Understand about the Voting Rights Act but yet

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2 let the chips fall where there's gonna fall.

3 So - - every community out there will  
4 get their fair allocation of the resources that  
5 area available by they tax dollars and the  
6 services that they supposed to provide for.

7 ASSEMBLY MEMBER MCENENY: Thank you.

8 SENATOR NOZZOLIO: Mary Grisham? Mary  
9 Grisham? Dr. Maria Teresa --

10 ASSEMBLY MEMBER MCENENY: Feliciano.

11 SENATOR NOZZOLIO: I'm sorry, Dr. Maria  
12 Theresa Feliciano? Nestor Montilla?

13 ASSEMBLY MEMBER MCENENY: I think he  
14 already testified.

15 SENATOR NOZZOLIO: Udicella Tapia  
16 [phonetic]? Siegfried Gonzales? Georgy T.  
17 Robinson? Cathy Stroud? Aleatha Williams. Good  
18 evening Aleatha Williams and you brought your own  
19 cheering section; that was great. And welcome  
20 and please for the record state your name.

21 MS. ALEATHA WILLIAMS: Aleatha Williams.  
22 Good evening, my name is Aleatha Williams and I  
23 live in the Throg's Neck area of the Bronx and  
24 I'm a full-time college student at Mercy College

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2 right now and I am also the founder and president  
3 of Youth Leaders on the move, a community-based  
4 organization that sponsors several trips and  
5 events annually to help increase the college  
6 acceptance rates among our graduating high school  
7 students and to mentor our high school students  
8 who live in the area of the Bronx. My senator is  
9 Jeffrey Klein and I'm here today to attest that  
10 he is an outstanding senator.

11 I can attest to the fact that he's more  
12 than willing to enrich and enhance his district  
13 through his efforts and monetary contributions in  
14 support of our mission to help college, I mean  
15 high school students.

16 Last year in 2011 Senator Klein  
17 sponsored about 20 students from Truman High  
18 School with chaperones to attend the 40<sup>th</sup> annual  
19 caucus of the New York State Association of Black  
20 and Puerto Rican legislators. The educational  
21 excursion was a four-day weekend of mentoring 101  
22 guidance to help the students develop both  
23 academically and personally into mature teenagers  
24 to ready for their college years.

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2           While their events included a keynote  
3 dinner, educational sessions and time so meet  
4 with elected officials -- I have a copy -- I'm  
5 sorry -- in June 2011 Senator Klein also  
6 continued this tradition of helping the youth of  
7 the Bronx by donating a \$500 scholarship for a  
8 college-bound senior from Columbus High School.  
9 I have a copy of the article that was written by  
10 The Bronx Times highlighting Senator Klein's  
11 contributions.

12           We are not preparing to go to Albany in  
13 about three weeks to attend the 41<sup>st</sup> annual caucus  
14 of the New York State Association of black and  
15 Puerto Rican legislators from Friday to Monday  
16 February 17<sup>th</sup> to 20<sup>th</sup> in 2012 and we will be able  
17 to make that trip happen because of Senator  
18 Klein's efforts. And I'm here today to say  
19 please do not take Senator Klein away from this  
20 district. We need him tremendously as our  
21 advocate friend and mentor and first class  
22 senator. Thank you.

23           SENATOR NOZZOLIO: Aleatha thank you  
24 very much Ms. Williams. What -- before you

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2 leave, you're in college, or are you? What year  
3 in school?

4 MS. WILLIAMS: Oh, a sophomore.

5 SENATOR NOZZOLIO: A sophomore? Well  
6 you are an extremely poised young lady and we  
7 appreciate you coming here today and testifying.  
8 Best of luck in your future endeavors. Thank  
9 you.

10 ASSEMBLY MEMBER MCENENY: What's your  
11 major?

12 MS. WILLIAMS: Journalism.

13 ASSEMBLY MEMBER MCENENY: Very good.  
14 That's not the last we've heard.

15 MS. WILLIAMS: Thank you.

16 SENATOR NOZZOLIO: Thank you. Leslie  
17 G.? Leslie G.? Ellen Hodick? Ellen Hodick?  
18 I'm going to finish this sheet and then ask  
19 anyone who is here if your name has not been  
20 called and you wish to testify please say so.  
21 This sheet begins with B. Arthur Richardson.  
22 Agedio Samatelli?

23 MALE VOICE: He's gone.

24 SENATOR NOZZOLIO: Rosa Aella? Debra

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2 Myers?

3 MS. DEBRA MYERS: Good evening and thank  
4 you for all your patience. My name is Debra  
5 Myers, I live in the 77<sup>th</sup> assembly district.  
6 Vanessa Gibson is my assemblywoman; my state  
7 senator is State Senator Jose Serrano, Jr. My  
8 congressman is his father, Jose Serrano, Sr.

9 I'm just so happy to be here and I  
10 really thank you for your patience. The reason  
11 why I'm here is because it doesn't matter to me  
12 if you redo the districts or you don't do it.  
13 It's really up to each individual for what they  
14 put into their community. And it doesn't matter  
15 about the lines. That's the way I feel about it  
16 because I am a Bronxite and I believe in one  
17 Bronx, that we are all one. I'm an American  
18 citizen and I'm proud of my country, that's  
19 number one, and how this country came to be what  
20 it is is because people took the responsibility  
21 to build it to what it is today and we all worked  
22 together. And it doesn't matter where you live.

23 And I know my doctors, my fire  
24 department, my police department we don't look at

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2 color, we don't look at racial things. When we  
3 come out and they come out, they go out to help  
4 we help whoever because that's our duty as  
5 American citizen. And that's the way I feel  
6 about it.

7 So I'm going to work with everyone in my  
8 community and in the Bronx and in the City of New  
9 York. One of the things I do is I love to plant  
10 flowers and so I do a lot of beautification  
11 projects on the Grand Concourse. I live at 1560  
12 Grand Concourse and I am the president of my  
13 tenant's association. I live right across the  
14 street from Bronx-Lebanon Hospital so we have the  
15 Mount Edom [phonetic] malls which, you know, my  
16 councilwoman she put a lot of money into it and  
17 we have a beautiful mall over there.

18 So my job is to see that the Bronx is  
19 beautified with a lot of flowers up and down the  
20 concourse. All of my superintendents and other  
21 community groups we all working together for  
22 that. And that's what we all hear in the Bronx  
23 who are testifying should believe in that we are  
24 one Bronx. And I'm proud of my borough

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2 president, Reuben Diaz, Jr. because that's what  
3 he believes, that we are one Bronx, that's it.  
4 You understand? We're going to get the money.

5 What I am concerned about is because I  
6 am a resident of the 77<sup>th</sup> assembly district is  
7 because what people are not telling you they're  
8 not doing enough research to sit up here to find  
9 out what's actually going on.

10 In the 77<sup>th</sup> assembly district we are  
11 being bombarded by homeless shelters which are  
12 transient residents who are not voters. They  
13 don't vote because they just come into our  
14 community for really briefly a six-month stay.  
15 So they're not registered voters. We have SROs,  
16 we have homeless shelters. And these people  
17 really have not been counted as registered voters  
18 in our community. That's one part.

19 The other part of my community is that  
20 we have -- yes, we do, we have a large Hispanic  
21 population in the community and we do have  
22 Hispanic representation. But for the Dominican  
23 population of my community many of them are not  
24 registered voters because they are not American

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2 citizens and even right on 170<sup>th</sup> Street many of  
3 them are allowed to just go and voter for the  
4 President of the Dominican Republican. So they  
5 are not telling you that yes, they provide a lot  
6 of economic access to our community with the  
7 livery service, with the stores but many of them  
8 because they are not American citizens they're  
9 not registered voters so they haven't completed  
10 the census and they are allowed to vote for the  
11 president of their county in the Dominican  
12 Republic and then we allow that. And that's not  
13 a problem.

14 So in order for us to -- I don't feel  
15 that the 77<sup>th</sup> AD will get its fair share because  
16 of the way we have -- the way our population is  
17 spreaded. Right now with this redistricting we  
18 do not have a representation of a hospital  
19 because Bronx-Lebanon Hospital is not -- it's in  
20 the 33<sup>rd</sup> senate district. Then we have -- Lincoln  
21 Hospital is in another district. So when you  
22 come in terms of monies from the hospitals or  
23 like they said, Gateway, we're not privy to those  
24 things.

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2           And I'm one of those people who I attend  
3 my community planning board meetings and I've  
4 been there to hash out the new parks and from the  
5 Yankee Stadium benefits agreement. I've been  
6 there to see all the things that we fought for  
7 from community planning board number 4 yet the  
8 people who fought for all of these services for  
9 this community they're now -- it's now being  
10 taken away and given to other, you know,  
11 representatives who did not represent us for  
12 these things.

13           And what I want to bring to the  
14 attention of you, Senator, I want you to know  
15 that right now in the 77<sup>th</sup> AD this transient  
16 housing we take up 29 percent of the homeless  
17 people of New York City. And we cannot get  
18 affordable housing built anymore in this  
19 community because most of the realtors are now  
20 wanting to turn buildings into homeless shelters.

21           We have a homeless shelter at 3339 Park  
22 Avenue that is going to receive \$75 million over  
23 a ten-year period for 200-bed men, you know,  
24 transient. And they put it right next to junior

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2 high school 145 which children are in fifth grade  
3 to eighth grade. Now that's a travesty to our  
4 community and I felt that this money would be  
5 best used if we would built affordable housing.  
6 I don't care if they took the money and sent the  
7 money to Buffalo or to Nyack where there's land.  
8 We could build other communities in our state  
9 with that money.

10 So when they're telling you that they  
11 want to cut off certain things, the HPD, the  
12 Housing Preservation Development said they do not  
13 fund housing money to transient hotels. So that  
14 means we're going to lose money in getting new  
15 buildings of affordable housing.

16 SENATOR NOZZOLIO: Ms. Myers excellent  
17 points and I wish we could spend more time on  
18 those questions tonight. We can't. But could  
19 you summarize and conclude?

20 MS. MYERS: Yes, I will summarize. What  
21 I'm saying is I'm tired of hearing that we are  
22 the poorest congressional district in the United  
23 States. We receive a lot of money and Title One  
24 educational monies from the federal government to

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2 educate our children yet they're not being  
3 educated. So when you're looking at what they're  
4 trying to do down here -- and I'm speaking for  
5 the Bronx because I know the Bronx. All this  
6 money that's coming down into our community yet I  
7 don't see the fruitfulness of it in terms of our  
8 children being properly educated to go onto  
9 colleges that, you know, and become productive  
10 members of this community. We need to redistrict  
11 those lines where we're going to have people who  
12 are educated and who really care and who will do  
13 the analytical research into what is going on and  
14 how our state and our federal dollars are being  
15 spent here in the Bronx and in the entire New  
16 York City, all right? Because right now it's  
17 really going -- the economics that we're facing  
18 here in the city because of this redistricting,  
19 the way the politicians want it it's all because  
20 of the fat cats I would put it because it's not  
21 about the people; it's who they're going to  
22 benefit in terms of the institutions.

23 We have the hospitals. The hospitals do  
24 a lot of research, a lot of good research. But

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2 if you look at when they say the 77<sup>th</sup> AD we have  
3 the most poverty people on who are on public  
4 assistance and who are on Medicaid and these  
5 people purposely are going to doctors' offices  
6 unnecessarily. We need to teach them good  
7 health.

8 So we need to understand something, that  
9 this redistricting that they want to do is not to  
10 benefit the people of the Bronx, all right?  
11 They're destroying communities with the way  
12 they're trying to do it.

13 It doesn't bother me because I sit back  
14 and I'm very analytical. My children are no  
15 longer living in the Bronx and a lot of children  
16 who live in my building they've gone onto  
17 colleges but they go on the computer and they'll  
18 tell you exactly what's going on. So if I don't  
19 want to shop in certain areas and certain  
20 community I'm not going to do it.

21 So this trying to -- we are actually  
22 destroying ourselves. We are actually destroying  
23 ourselves, all right? I was very disappointed  
24 with a lot of the testimony here because we are

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2 supposed to be one Bronx supporting one another.  
3 That's how this country was built. I don't want  
4 to hear this anymore. Men are out there dying in  
5 the wars for our freedom and people don't even  
6 understand that our Constitution of the United  
7 States what it means and what we're here and what  
8 we are about, all right? We are about freedom;  
9 with freedom comes responsibility, you  
10 understand? And you are not free until you are  
11 responsible. And that's the way I teach my  
12 children. You're free when you're responsible  
13 for yourself.

14 We're not going to take here and I'm  
15 going to keep dragging them up. No. I only want  
16 more for a person that they want -- I want more  
17 for them than they want for themselves. I tell  
18 my children that: I will help you if you're  
19 willing to help yourself but I'm going to drag  
20 you because you're going to get me tired. So  
21 that's what I've seen here.

22 In this Bronx here we're one Bronx but  
23 we need to become responsible for each, you know,  
24 for ourselves. All right?

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2 SENATOR NOZZOLIO: Well thank you.

3 MS. MYERS: And that's my testimony. I  
4 love everyone, you understand God bless America  
5 and I don't care how you draw those lines because  
6 I know who I am as an individual and I'm always  
7 going to do the right thing and plant my flowers  
8 and make my concourse beautiful and my building  
9 beautiful and we're always going to get along.  
10 Thank you and God bless you all.

11 SENATOR NOZZOLIO: Ms. Myers thank you  
12 very, very much. Chauncey Young? Herbert  
13 Moreira?

14 MR. HERBERT MOREIRA BROWN: Moreira  
15 Brown.

16 ASSEMBLY MEMBER MCENENY: Before you  
17 start, Mr. Moreira Brown, people who are not  
18 citizens are counted, so are college students  
19 that are here that may have voting residence  
20 elsewhere; they are counted in the census. We  
21 don't count voters; we count people. And if  
22 they're not a citizen, if they vote in another  
23 country they're still counted. Just a point of  
24 clarification. Please proceed. Thank you.

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2 MR. BROWN: Okay. My name is Herbert  
3 Moreira Brown, I'm a resident of Coop City. Coop  
4 City lies in the northern part of the 82<sup>nd</sup>  
5 assembly district and when you look at Coop City,  
6 if you look at the map of the 82<sup>nd</sup> it's not --  
7 there's no community of interest with the rest,  
8 southern part of the 82<sup>nd</sup>.

9 The kids in Throg's Neck don't go up --

10 SENATOR NOZZOLIO: [Interposing] Excuse  
11 me, Mr. Moreira Brown. Who's your assistant back  
12 there?

13 MR. BROWN: My son?

14 SENATOR NOZZOLIO: Would you ask them to  
15 come up with you?

16 CHILD'S VOICE: Hello [phonetic].

17 MR. BROWN: Okay have a seat.

18 SENATOR NOZZOLIO: Thank you very much.

19 MR. BROWN: Thank you. And when you  
20 look at the map --

21 SENATOR NOZZOLIO: You got a pencil --  
22 taking notes, that's good. Got some notes.  
23 That's great.

24 MR. BROWN: When you look at the map

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2 Coop City is more contiguous with the eastern  
3 part, the eastern third of the 83<sup>rd</sup>. When I talk  
4 about that let's say if you go down from Bay  
5 Chester from number five train, I'm sorry, look  
6 at number five train as being the dividing line  
7 because it is in some instances a dividing line  
8 between the eastern part of 83<sup>rd</sup> and the western.

9 Now when you start looking at Coop and  
10 you look at the instance the bus line's 28 to  
11 26, they go east to west, west to east.  
12 Basically we as a community in Coop City we  
13 really don't have any connection to the Throg's  
14 Neck area, to Pelham Bay, that's cut off by Pelham  
15 Parkway going out to City Island and to Audrey  
16 [phonetic] Beach. It's also cut out by the -- I  
17 believe it's the Metro North or the Amtrak that  
18 goes all along underneath the 95. And I think  
19 that when you look at -- for instance when 3  
20 o'clock if you drive by Coop City and Coop City  
21 Boulevard it's a stream of individuals, students,  
22 that leaving Truman High School going into what -  
23 - when I was growing up -- I've been up there  
24 since 1970 when my parents moved up to Coop City

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2 we called it the Valley, and that's that part  
3 east of the number five train, all right, and I  
4 guess west of I-95.

5 Now a number of students go to Truman  
6 High School and that's where you have a  
7 commonality of interest. You know, you could  
8 actually make a district, making Coop City,  
9 eastern part of the 83<sup>rd</sup> and then you could ride  
10 up Bartow Avenue, Bartow I think it's Kingsland.  
11 Bartow Avenue runs into Gunhill Road and then you  
12 take one block, a small little block and then  
13 Allerton.

14 So there's enough of a community of  
15 interest in that part, for instance I went to  
16 Advantage [phonetic] Child [phonetic] High  
17 School, you used to have to take -- back then it  
18 was I think the 15 and the 17 'cause they changed  
19 the numbers, the buses that went across Gunhill  
20 Road. I'd have to take the 15 from Coop City to  
21 Advantage Childs. Now most of the people that  
22 live in the northeast Bronx, the Valley and Coop  
23 City a lot of them just go to Truman.

24 The point that I'm trying to say is that

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2           when you make a district, you can't look at a map  
3           and just say, "Okay, we're going to cut this out  
4           and here's I-95 and everything east of I-95 goes  
5           into 82<sup>nd</sup>." We have absolutely no connection with  
6           the southern part of the 82<sup>nd</sup>. And I understand  
7           that there are some people who would like to have  
8           the 82<sup>nd</sup>, the southern part of the 82<sup>nd</sup> and some  
9           parts of Morris Park and Pelham Parkway made a  
10          part of the 82<sup>nd</sup>. I think that when you start  
11          looking at it you need to look at where people  
12          are flowing because when you start talking about  
13          education, when you start talking about schools  
14          you know an assemblyman's going to worry about  
15          that school that's in his assembly or her  
16          assembly district. Now if there's other  
17          individuals that go to that school that are  
18          outside the assembly district they may care but  
19          they still have to wait, work on their voters. I  
20          think that there's enough -- the assemblyman for  
21          the 83<sup>rd</sup> is the chairperson of the Bronx  
22          Democratic Party; I think that it's -- he seems  
23          to be doing a good job or you know, it's not easy  
24          to be chairperson of the Bronx Democratic Party

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2 and he's still there. I think he was to move a  
3 little west people would just - - the chairperson  
4 of Bronx Democratic Party representative but I do  
5 think that Coop City and that eastern part of the  
6 83<sup>rd</sup> and the southern part now -- also I'm talking  
7 about when I say the southern Gunhill Road and  
8 Allerton Avenue going west I think that there's a  
9 real need to look at making another contiguous  
10 district where there is a true community of  
11 interest.

12 Then what our interests -- just like my  
13 son here, when he goes to school I'm interested  
14 in that. When I walk outside of school if I see  
15 something I actually -- if I didn't drop it I'll  
16 pick it up and throw it in the garbage. All  
17 right? I mean I don't want anybody hitting them  
18 in the head with it, you know, or throwing it and  
19 hitting me in the eye.

20 So I think that that's where our  
21 community of interests are and I think that when  
22 you start making these districts, you know I know  
23 that Coop City used to be predominantly Jewish,  
24 okay, but not it's predominantly black and

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2 Hispanic, and I'm not going towards racial lines,  
3 I'm going towards who's actually going and going  
4 into those areas and where, you know, who's  
5 coming to Bay Plaza, all right? And the people  
6 coming to Bay Plaza are the ones that are going,  
7 drive east to west. And generally in the Bronx  
8 you drive east to west. Well not every -- some  
9 people drive north and south but a lot of times  
10 the neighborhoods go east to west. Now of course  
11 they're bounded by north and south boundaries but  
12 you know, a lot of the flow, like Gunhill Road,  
13 Allerton is east to west.

14 And I think what you should do, and I  
15 believe that the governor stated that if they  
16 don't come back with lines that reflect true  
17 communities then he's going to veto it. And I  
18 think that the 82<sup>nd</sup> is one of those.

19 And oh and one other point I'd like to  
20 make: there are very few districts that have  
21 part A district leader and part B district  
22 leader. The reason why I believe, and I'm not a  
23 historian, the reason why I believe they have the  
24 A district leader and B district leader instead

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2 of one district leader for the assembly district  
3 is because it's such a disparate district that it  
4 may be one of those elongated districts where the  
5 people in the north really have nothing to do  
6 with the people in the south. So they have to  
7 give them two different district leaders so they  
8 can go when they go to the democratic committee  
9 meetings that they can report on their  
10 communities.

11 You can't have a community running from  
12 basically Connors [phonetic] Street all the way  
13 south to the Throg's Neck bridge. I mean and  
14 that's what the 83<sup>rd</sup> does and that is not a  
15 community; that is just -- you just saying, okay  
16 we're going to make this, we're just going to  
17 carve this out without looking at who lives there  
18 and what makes them tick. And if those  
19 individuals in the southern part of the 82<sup>nd</sup> would  
20 like to add Morris Park or what have you, I think  
21 that what you should look at is the interests of  
22 the people and let those politicians run and get  
23 their votes. The politicians shouldn't be  
24 guaranteed any lines; they should be voted in by

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2 the people - - republic, right? We have a  
3 representative democracy and I believe that  
4 that's how it should be and I do hope that you  
5 would look at the 82<sup>nd</sup> and looking at developing  
6 those. It's going to be another ten years if  
7 it's not done now, or a seat [phonetic] where  
8 Coop City's actually in community, of an interest  
9 of community with the rest of its neighbors which  
10 is basically across - - across I-95. I thank you  
11 for listening and have a good evening.

12 SENATOR NOZZOLIO: Thank you, and thank  
13 you Ian.

14 IAN: Bye.

15 SENATOR NOZZOLIO: Thank you very much.  
16 Bye bye. John Fielder? Is that Felder? Thank  
17 you, Mr. Felder.

18 MR. JOHN FELDER: Good evening,  
19 gentlemen. My name is John Felder, I live at  
20 1131 Ogden Avenue in the Bronx in the 77<sup>th</sup>  
21 district. My councilwoman is Vanessa Gibson. My  
22 senator is Jose Serrano, Jr. My congressman is  
23 Jose Serrano, Sr. I've lived in the Bronx 40  
24 years in Highbridge [phonetic]. I've watched it

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2 change demographically from Irish American to  
3 African American and Hispanic American and now  
4 Haitian American and Caribbean Americans. I've  
5 written for the Highbridge Horizon Newspaper for  
6 six years and I've always tried to bring  
7 realistic journalism to my community which went  
8 on the web and people were reading my article as  
9 far as Belize and Central America.

10 I had a formal education in New York  
11 City and a few years in college and I did a lot  
12 of studying about American politics and history.  
13 I know that Barack Obama's not the first black  
14 president; he's the seventh black president based  
15 on DNA genealogy and I published that in the  
16 paper. I had to bring documentation because  
17 America is really misinformed politically and  
18 ethnically. The founding fathers of our country  
19 were given money by African Americans to buy  
20 shoes for the troops to fight the British when  
21 George Washington was president. That black  
22 man's name was John Hanson. He was the first  
23 president of the United States when this was a  
24 congress of confederation. They've whitened his

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2 face up in the Smithsonian museum but he was a  
3 black mole [phonetic].

4 Then you had the other six presidents  
5 who based on DNA who were African Americans. But  
6 I'm looking over the 61 years that I've been  
7 living at the political agendas of this country.  
8 You have people in high positions of the  
9 political arena who still want to control people.  
10 They want to reduce world population from 7  
11 billion to 500 million, a number that they can  
12 control. Some of them are Anglo Saxon  
13 Protestants, Arabs, Muslims, Christians, what  
14 have you. But to have your bosses, because  
15 everybody has a boss, to send you out into  
16 communities and try to brainwash, bamboozle and  
17 behoove regular voting people into thinking that  
18 the American dream is real is not nice.

19 These people came here tonight to plead  
20 their cases to keep their communities. Next year  
21 I'll be 62; I'll be signing off on my Social  
22 Security. I've been an auto mechanic all my  
23 life. My children only know that they're father  
24 worked for himself. My daughter has a B.S. in

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2 biology medicine. She's living in Japan. I have  
3 my home in South Carolina paid for already. When  
4 I go on vacation I drive a 35 foot motor phone.  
5 I drive a Cadillac and I have a Jeep.

6 I am interested in you gentlemen going  
7 back for my friends and neighbors here in the  
8 Bronx that I won't be seeing after next year  
9 because I'll be living on the gravy train: do  
10 the best you can for them. Maybe they didn't  
11 plan their life as well as I planned mine and  
12 maybe they have nowhere to go other than to the  
13 projects with, you know, housing preservation and  
14 development corporation. But you know it's  
15 blessed to give to those people who are less  
16 fortunate than yourself.

17 You know we lost a great president when  
18 we lost John Kennedy. We lost a great president  
19 when we lost Abraham Lincoln. But they stood for  
20 something. They stood for all the people. If  
21 you read books about Abraham Lincoln you'll find  
22 that he was ridiculed and criticized in his  
23 political endeavors for picking up a black child  
24 and kissing him, and the other white citizens of

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2 America say, "How dare you kiss a lowly Negro?"  
3 Little did they know that the Negro would save  
4 the union at Manassas, Virginia from the Southern  
5 Confederates. And the sons of Frederick Douglass  
6 and Louis Lattimore [phonetic] fought on the  
7 front lines.

8 So when you make your decisions and your  
9 judgment calls think about the people who are  
10 less fortunate than you and make the right  
11 decision because some of them they can't help  
12 themselves and it's not right for us who are more  
13 fortunate than they are to just overlook them  
14 because we were given orders from the President's  
15 office or from the Congress's office for us to  
16 come down and be the bearers of bad news.

17 Look at these people. Think about what  
18 they said to you today and make the conscious  
19 decision to do what's right for America. Thank  
20 you.

21 SENATOR NOZZOLIO: Thank you very much  
22 Mr. Felder and best wishes to you. Mickey Owens  
23 [phonetic]? Abraham Jones. Fidel Malea  
24 [phonetic]. Now is there anyone else whose name

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2 has not been called who would like to speak?

3 MS. CHERYL SIMMONS OLIVER: And I'll be  
4 very brief. My name is Cheryl Simmons Oliver and  
5 I'm a resident of Coop City.

6 ASSEMBLY MEMBER MCENENY: Give you name  
7 again a little slower.

8 MS. OLIVER: Cheryl Simmons Oliver and  
9 I'm a resident of Coop City, and as you may be  
10 aware gentlemen and lady Coop City has 55,000  
11 residents. To take Coop City and merge it into  
12 the Throg's Neck community towards the east would  
13 be to disenfranchise the African Americans and  
14 Latinos that reside within that district. It is  
15 better served if it is allowed to remain, to  
16 continue in the manner in which it's laid out so  
17 that it still interfaces with the White Plains  
18 community which is a community of interest.

19 It is imperative that we be afforded --

20 SENATOR NOZZOLIO: You're talking senate  
21 now.

22 MS. OLIVER: Yes, I'm talking the  
23 Senate, yes, it is imperative that we, as African  
24 Americans and Caribbeans and Latinos have a right

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2 for self-determination. It is imperative that we  
3 have an opportunity for economic enhancement and  
4 development, and by merging us into another  
5 district you are depriving us of that  
6 opportunity.

7 I ask when you convene that you look  
8 very closely at where we are in our country at  
9 this present time.

10 SENATOR NOZZOLIO: Could you go through  
11 those numbers again?

12 MS. OLIVER: There're 55,000-plus  
13 residents within Coop City.

14 SENATOR NOZZOLIO: Right and what  
15 district?

16 MS. OLIVER: That's the 82<sup>nd</sup> district and  
17 we're the district the gentleman was talking  
18 about; that's our assembly district.

19 SENATOR NOZZOLIO: And you're concerned  
20 with the assembly?

21 MS. OLIVER: Of course, I'm most  
22 definitely concerned.

23 ASSEMBLY MEMBER MCENENY: Well we don't  
24 cross -- in the assembly we don't cross the city

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2 line.

3 MS. OLIVER: You're not crossing the  
4 city line by going into Throg's Neck. Of the  
5 Throg's Neck area you're not crossing any city  
6 lines --

7 ASSEMBLY MEMBER MCENENY: [Interposing]  
8 No, no.

9 MS. OLIVER: All you're basically doing  
10 as the gentleman said --

11 ASSEMBLY MEMBER MCENENY: [Interposing]  
12 - - the assembly districts all stay within the  
13 borough that they're in.

14 MS. OLIVER: And that is within the  
15 borough of the Bronx. All of this is contained  
16 right within the borough of the Bronx.

17 ASSEMBLY MEMBER MCENENY: But we don't  
18 go near White Plains; it's in the wrong --

19 MS. OLIVER: [Interposing] You're  
20 talking about White Plains, Westchester and I'm  
21 talking about White Plains, Bronx. They're two.  
22 Two White -- White Plains --

23 ASSEMBLY MEMBER MCENENY: Oh okay, all  
24 right, I understand now.

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2 MS. OLIVER: Okay stay with me because  
3 when you know I've lived in the Bronx all of my  
4 life so I apologize for that. It's not going to  
5 work to move us eastward so that we are a part of  
6 City Island. That's not going to work. Throg's  
7 Neck that's not going to work. Country Club, the  
8 communities are not communities of interest at  
9 this time. Thank you so very much for hearing  
10 me.

11 SENATOR NOZZOLIO: I believe that  
12 concludes the hearing. We thank all of you who  
13 have participated and appreciate the opportunity  
14 to hear your concerns. This hearing is now  
15 adjourned. The committee will reconvene tomorrow  
16 morning at 10:30, excuse me, is it 10:30 at the -  
17 - in Brooklyn. Thank you very much.

18 ASSEMBLY MEMBER MCENENY: There were 50  
19 people that testified the last time; 49 people  
20 this time. That's a good showing and I think  
21 moving it later in the day and going into the  
22 evening did help. Thank you.

23 (The public hearing concluded.)

C E R T I F I C A T E

I, Brian Henderberg, do hereby certify that the foregoing typewritten transcription, consisting of pages number 1 to XXX, inclusive, is a true record prepared by me and completed from materials provided to me.



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Brian Henderberg,

Transcriptionist

February 4, 2011

Date