## NEW YORK STATE

## LEGISLATIVE TASK FORCE ON DEMOGRAPHIC RESEARCH AND REAPPORTIONMENT

PUBLIC MEETING

PRISONER COUNT AND REALLOCATION

Room 124

State Capitol Building, 1st Floor
Albany, New York
Friday, November 18, 2011
1:39 p.m. to 2:10 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

DEBRA LEVINE

ROMAN HEDGES

WELQUIS LOPEZ

LEWIS HOPPE

2 (The meeting commenced at 1:39 p.m.)

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ASSEMBLY MEMBER JOHN J. MCENENY, CO-CHAIR, NEW YORK STATE LEGISLATIVE TASK FORCE ON DEMOGRAPHIC RESEARCH AND REAPPORTIONMENT: -thank everybody for coming. We have a full commitment here, both co-chairs and the members of the task This is a meeting, not a public hearing, force. as we just held our 14 public hearings and several meetings over the course of the last several months, and we have several items to I'd like to make some opening remarks discuss. but before I do that I'd like to give my fellow task force members starting with my co-chair Senator Nozzolio an opportunity to speak and then I'll take back the chair.

SENATOR MICHAEL F. NOZZOLIO, CO-CHAIR,

NEW YORK STATE LEGISLATIVE TASK FOR ON

DEMOGRAPHIC RESEARCH AND REAPPORTIONMENT: Thank

you, Assemblyman McEneny. Jack, it's been a long

road that you and I have travelled over the—and

members of the task force have travelled over the

past few months. We are back in the Capitol and

we decided this historic room in complement to

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the work you've done in the restorations and renovations of the Capitol. Thank you for all your great work in that endeavor. I'd like to introduce the members of the task force. On my left is Assembly-excuse me, Senator Martin Dilan. To his left is a citizen participant, Welquis "Ray" Lopez. To Ray's left is Executive Director of the task force Debra Levine. To my far-or to my near right is Assemblyman Bob Oaks. right is the citizen participant from the Assembly Roman Hedges and to his right is co-Executive Director Lew Hoppe. Each of us participated in now 14 hearings across the state. At one of our last hearings, it was hoped that this meeting today could-should be scheduled, and it would have been in time for the Court to have made its decisions on the establishment of the primary day in New York State. Senator Dilan was right at that hearing—in that meeting discussion, that he was not optimistic that the Court would act and decide today and Senator congratulations for being correct, and unfortunately, that's the case that we are now still without a primary date

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established in New York. We hope that it—as arguments and there will be finality to that issue on or around December 1st. With that Assemblyman, thank you. I know that we have a couple of issues that we need to focus on and that—and some additional meetings to schedule.

ASSEMBLY MEMBER MCENENY: Would anyone else like to make opening remarks? Senator Dilan?

SENATOR MARTIN M. DILAN, NEW YORK STATE
LEGISLATIVE TASK FORCE ON DEMOGRAPHIC RESEARCH
AND REAPPORTIONMENT: No, I was just wondering if
we had an agenda or is this the only issue we're
dealing with today?

ASSEMBLY MEMBER MCENENY: There are three items on the agenda. One is the number of prisoners to be repatriated back to their own neighborhoods. We wanted to discuss the public drawing session or what the equivalent might be, and we were hoping to discuss what the next round of public hearings would look like; although, based upon the recent Court decision, I think we're looking at something that will be different

1 Demographic Research and Reapportionment, 11-18-20112 than what we just went through.

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SENATOR DILAN: That was my only question.

ASSEMBLY MEMBER MCENENY: Assemblyman Oaks, did you have any opening comments?

ASSEMBLY MEMBER ROBERT OAKS, NEW YORK

STATE LEGISLATIVE TASK FORCE ON DEMOGRAPHIC

RESEARCH AND REAPPORTIONMENT: I don't other than

let's move forward.

ASSEMBLY MEMBER MCENENY: - - two
citizen participants - - the first issue and the
primary reason for meeting today was to see if we
could get some exact numbers that both of us
could agree on as to how many, pursuant to law,
how many people who are incarcerated in docks
facilities throughout the state could be
identified with appropriate and correct addresses
and therefore be geocoded back to the exact block
in their neighborhood. Unfortunately, we are
still in disagreement both among ourselves and
our staff is in disagreement on some of the
technicalities. The range of the number of
people who can be identified with an appropriate

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2 address ranges from a high of breaking 37,000 to a low pushing 29,000. Somewhere in between we 3 4 may have something we can both agree on, but we 5 are simply not there yet. I was going to recommend to the task force that one of the 6 7 things that I think we're moving toward is agreeing to what type of software should be used 8 9 to enhance that initial count that we made of the TIGER files, as they're known of the census, and 10 11 produces the lower number. We have used a 12 different kind of software that the Assembly was 13 using that agreed with that number and then went 14 several thousand more because it's a later form 15 perhaps of the software and identifies buildings 16 and blocks, for example, that people need to be 17 geocoded back to that simply are not there in the first type of software. I apologize for the 18 19 lateness of it, but I do have a LATFOR resolution 20 which would describe that upgrading of software, 21 and if we all agreed on it, we would probably 2.2 come to a quicker solution on exact numbers. 23 Senator, your comments?

SENATOR NOZZOLIO: Thank you,

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Assemblyman. I think it should be noted that there is little or no disagreement of members of the task force or the staff regarding the process that prisoners are extracted from their place of incarceration for the purposes of counting-that there is no question about the taking away of those numbers. We do have and continue to have, items of concern regarding the geocoding and placement and you had mentioned this, Assemblyman, I think I need to emphasize it exactly where those prisoners will be located in a geocoded process that is identical to the census process as possible and until we have, I mean, you shared with me the resolution moments before the committee met today that I am of the-I have no choice but to not support this amendment at this time an that certainly we will-I suggest that we continue the discussions and particularly with staff. And, again, I want to make our objections clear that we agree the statute requires the extraction of prisoners from their place of incarceration, but we do have some significant disagreements on the process and the

Demographic Research and Reapportionment, 11-18-2011 1 2 coding of those prisoners to their last known 3 address. Senator, could 4 ASSEMBLY MEMBER MCENENY: 5 we consider the resolution tabled for consideration at our next meeting? 6 7 SENATOR NOZZOLIO: It-certainly I would consider a motion, and I'll move to table this 8 9 and hopefully that the staffs can iron out what difficulties and differences there are on those 10 11 questions, and I think, again, the fundamental 12 question is the census and whether or not the 13 state is setting up a precedent to have its own 14 census in this process. 15 ASSEMBLY MEMBER MCENENY: Thank you. 16 Senator? 17 SENATOR DILAN: Yes, I just want to make it clear that I just received this resolution for 18 19 the first time. Are we making a motion to 20 consider this resolution, or are we making a 21 motion to just table it without considering it? 2.2 ASSEMBLY MEMBER MCENENY: T think-23 SENATOR DILAN: Even then I would have some questions based the resolution in view of 24

Demographic Research and Reapportionment, 11-18-2011 1 2 the fact that it's the first time that I see it, 3 and I want to understand the purpose of why 4 you're presenting the resolution. Is the purpose 5 so the Assembly and Senate could be on the same page with respect to the way that they geocode 6 7 the addresses? ASSEMBLY MEMBER MCENENY: That is 8 9 exactly the purpose of it. Perhaps we should rephrase it on submitting it for consideration at 10 11 the next meeting when people have had the chance 12 to digest it. 13 SENATOR DILAN: All right, so there then

would be no need to move—for a motion to table it.

ASSEMBLY MEMBER MCENENY: You are-you are correct, Senator.

SENATOR DILAN: All right.

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SENATOR OAKS: My only comment would be, you know, I appreciate having a few challenges In the consideration of time, you know, in yet. the interest of time, I would have liked to had us been at this today moving forward, but hopefully if we schedule something in the near

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future to be able to do this so that we can finally move forward.

SENATOR DILAN: Just one more concern is when would the next business meeting be so that would give me an idea of how long we're talking about when we would actually consider this.

ASSEMBLY MEMBER MCENENY: Well, we'll discuss that and set that at the end of this meeting. It looks like it would be the 5th, but let's wait and handle that as a-

SENATOR DILAN: It would definitely be done before anything else. That's the point. We would obviously we would be-

ASSEMBLY MEMBER MCENENY: Okay. Fine.

SENATOR NOZZOLIO: I, again, want to reiterate my concerns using enhanced or different software from the software used by the census bureau, again, we're—or a different counting or relocation process that we're—the professional staff of LATFOR did analyze this and continue to analyze it. These are career professionals dealing with census information and are experts in census information. This is not to denigrate

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any of the work that was done particularly headed up by Roman Hedges, who I complimented grabbing the bull by the horns, and again we are in major agreement on the need to reallocate and the numbers that are going to be reallocated, extracted from the prisons. But until we answer questions about the geocoding process further—hopefully this two-week period will allow us—well, I'm not—let me just say that. I have objections and I'm going to continue to have them until be proven otherwise.

SENATOR DILAN: Can we just, for the record and for the sake of the public to know, can someone describe to us what are the technical hang ups right now so everyone can be on the same page as to what we're talking about?

ASSEMBLY MEMBER MCENENY: The standard software that we used does not include blocks that very clearly exist and can't automatically geocode people back to those blocks. For example, to point out, and we can give other examples if this remains still to be a source of concern at the next meeting, but for example, the

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state offices that house the Senate, the Assembly, a number of state and city offices, and the LATFOR offices doesn't exist in the type of software that was used, and the software that we used to enhance it-just standard software, but a different version, 250 Broadway does exist, and if somebody were to be found to have been sent into docks custody with 250 Broadway they would be back there and they would be added, so the numbers that are produced by the enhanced software are more complete in our opinion by several thousand people. We're not talking 10,000 people here; we're talking several thousand up into the 30s and certainly not down We want to make this as accurate as around 29. possible. We don't want to slow up the process in the big picture. We have 19,200 people in the-19,200,000 people in the State of New York, but we have an obligation and a few fiduciary responsibilities to make things as accurate as possible. Nobody is changing census numbers. One is going through a process we've never done before. I'm convinced that we've made a lot of

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progress in a number of areas, but we need more work so that everybody is comfortable with the methodology. And in order to agree with new numbers other than that base, this resolution or something very much like it would have to be passed allowing for the enhancement, and I understand, Senator, you have questions of appropriateness, legality, and of accuracy and it is our hope on this side of the House that you will-or at least this side of the aisle-that we can answer those questions which you can certainly can ask those, but this is just to get this out to early so people can understand exactly what it is we're going to need if we use the numbers that I believe we're going to use.

SENATOR NOZZOLIO: Assemblyman, you said it very well. I think, though, that our concern, to try to summarize, is to focused on the type of software being used to code the—it's called geocoding these individuals as their taken away from the places where the United States Census Bureau has indicated they are to be. In this reallocation process, it appears important to use

1 I	emographic Research and Reapportionment, 11-18-2011
2	the same census TIGER software that is used by
3	the United States Census Bureau, and until we can
4	iron out these wrinkles, I think that certainly
5	has to be our position. That's why I made these
6	arguments and will continue to look but hopefully
7	we can find some middle ground but I think that's
8	our position to date.
9	ASSEMBLY MEMBER MCENENY: Any other
10	members?
11	SENATOR DILAN: I would just like to
12	second your motion in support of the resolution.
13	ASSEMBLY MEMBER MCENENY: Pardon me.
14	SENATOR DILAN: In support of the
15	resolution.
16	ASSEMBLY MEMBER MCENENY: All right, but
17	we agreed it wasn't a motion—
18	SENATOR DILAN: I understand.
19	ASSEMBLY MEMBER MCENENY: -but to
20	endorse the-
21	SENATOR DILAN: I'm just seconding.
22	ASSEMBLY MEMBER MCENENY: -contracts. I
23	appreciate it. I'm not offering it as a
24	resolution.

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SENATOR DILAN: I understand for whatever it's considered. I'm agreeing with you, sir.

ASSEMBLY MEMBER MCENENY: Thank you. Ι hope we can come to terms at the next meeting. The next question that came up at the last meeting was the series of public hearings, and the original thought was since we had had 14 public hearings, most of them I would point out were scheduled by the Assembly staff of LATFOR, that the Senate would go and schedule another 14 hearings. Now the difference in the two airings are very different, somewhat more controversial. The first hearings tend to be more conceptual. A lot of keep my community together or break me apart from a certain area, we have less in common with these people than we do with those people, good representation calls for a certain cohesiveness, arguments that perhaps the district was balanced back at the last census but when we read the Voting Rights Act of 1965 which calls for not only reducing minority representation but also where possible enhancing particularly when

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you can create a minority/majority district that even if a district was something everyone agreed on ten years ago, the increase in minorities, something like 42% increase in just Asians alone in Queens. You've heard all the numbers. It's very important to adjust these lines to reflect those changes in accordance with the Voting Rights Act-the federal Voting Rights Act of 1965. So these kinds of broad questions, most of them offering very vague specifics will turn into something very different because the staff is now and will continue to draw districts. districts will be drawn reflecting economic, and social, and political needs and also will take into consideration the people who submitted The submitted it verbally, they testimony. submitted it in writing, some people submitted it certainly well over 2 or 300 of them submitted them at the public hearings, all of which is by the way on the LATFOR website, so if you said something it is now going to live forever in cyberspace, and others just simply mailed things in, or sent them in electronically. Some sent us

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specific maps, some sent us a narrative. Well, now the second hearings will be more controversial, less philosophical, and less academic. We will have a map, and we ask people to participate in what Senator Dilan mentioned the last time, drawing sessions. So we expect people to come in and not say, "This is terrible. I don't like it" but to aid us in the drawing and say that this neighborhood here which has xthousand people really belongs here, and if you do that, then we realize the district that you drew would then be too heavy, so therefore it should shed blocks in another direction. It's more complicated. It requires more skill. It's more than just an opinion, and we have a number of groups who have been working, some coalitions in many cases to try to get the appropriate maps. The maps that we draw will reflect in some cases many opinions, and we suspect that they will bring about many opinions from the audience and Senator, I think, we passed on those 14 schedules, and now we have a new crisis in that the Court as the Senator mentioned has turned

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down New York's bid for an extension, so one more September primary would occur, and Senator, I'm going to let you talk about that, and if you would explain what it does to your thinking on the sessions to be held.

SENATOR NOZZOLIO: Thank you very much, Assemblyman. Those 14 hearings that you describe very well allowed well over 370 people to testify directly, and the LATFOR website is still available for anyone that wishes to submit written testimony. We had hearings that lasted well over 50 hours in terms of the quantity of the amount of time that was spent in developing that testimony. We also had a great number of suggestions regarding additional public participation, and I would like to see and I know you have also recommended that we have the public engage in additional reviews where their own legislators, nights and weekends, as this moves forward and the LATFOR will, I believe, schedule some hearings during the next round, also nights and weekends, so that we can have some additional opportunities for people, as you call drawing

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maps while we are taking their public input. think that is a public drawing opportunity, and we are certainly are in lockstep with those recommendations. Thank you, Assemblyman, for sharing your thoughts there. The political calendar in New York State is about to see additional upheaval. Upheaval that I am frankly surprised that the Department of Defense rejected the opportunity for a continuation of a September primary in New York State citing that it was not going to be a significant hardship on this state. We heard from Erie County and from Westchester County, the two larger counties in upstate, as well as the participants from the Board of Elections who indicated an accelerated primary will result in a significant unfunded mandate for those Board of Elections across New York State. Election districts have to be redrawn, polling places have to be reestablished. There are just enormous costs that are going to have to be engaged in by local governments because of this federal ruling, and I think it's cavalier to-when I read those words that say it would not be a

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hardship. Well, they obviously did not listen to the testimony that we listened to because we certainly heard from that time and again local and government officials concerned that these costs would be extreme.

ASSEMBLY MEMBER MCENENY: I should say in some cases we had both Democratic and Republican election commissioners side by side singing the same tune if you will.

SENATOR NOZZOLIO: And as much as I hoped my good friend, Senator Dilan, was not going to be right in his admonitions last time that we would have by this time, this date, the November 18th, a decision by the Courts in terms of what primary date, we do not have that date. Hopefully by our next meeting, and we should decide today when that will be, by our next meeting, I hope we will have an answer so we can accelerate the hearing process if necessary that we may end up being in Brooklyn on Christmas Eve so Senator Dilan, we know you're inviting us all over for Christmas dinner that we are not certain where and when the hearings will be but this we

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hopefully will have a completed hearing schedule for LATFOR through the months of January on if we have what-depending on what type of window we will have. Remember, too, that once the plans are proposed and adopted by the legislature and is signed into law by the Governor, the Justice Department has a full 60 days to review New York's plans under the Voting Rights Act and it's clear we're giving-getting that advice the Justice Department utilizes the entire 60 day That moves the primary date, if it's process. moved up, which it will be, that means the petition process also has to be moved sooner in the year on the calendar and that will create significant time pressures that we hope to be responsive to those pressures. At our next meeting which I would like to move if we could as a resolution, Assemblyman, asking for participation on the 5th of December in this room if it's available, or someplace in the Capitol, if it is not to have the LATFOR hearing for the agenda of scheduling the next round of LATFOR hearings.

1 I	Page 2 Demographic Research and Reapportionment, 11-18-2011
2	ASSEMBLY MEMBER MCENENY: I'd like to
3	second that. Pass it on for consideration or
4	discussion.
5	SENATOR OAKS: Did you have a specific
6	time for that? Afternoon?
7	SENATOR NOZZOLIO: Because of travel it
8	would be early afternoon.
9	SENATOR OAKS: Thank you.
10	WELQUIS LOPEZ, NEW YORK STATE
11	LEGISLATIVE TASK FORCE ON DEMOGRAPHIC RESEARCH
12	AND REAPPORTIONMENT: Same time, like 1:30 or
13	SENATOR NOZZOLIO: Would 1:00-
14	MR. LOPEZ: One o'clock sounds good.
15	SENATOR NOZZOLIO: Is that acceptable?
16	One o'clock on the 5th is the resolution.
17	Senator Dilan?
18	SENATOR DILAN: Yeah, I just have
19	several questions. First of all, I just want to
20	say that I'm very pleased that this task force is
21	seriously considering the public drawing
22	sessions, and I'm happy that that's occurring,
23	but I believe that there is several issues that
24	need to be addressed prior to that point.

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Obviously a completed database also dealing with the prisoner issue should happen prior to that, and also in view of the fact that I know the committee has been very inclusive of the public testimony et cetera, but I don't believe that we have had clear criteria in terms of how we are going to draw the lines. For example, there's been a lot of testimony as to the size of the Senate, and I think that that's perhaps another issue that should be resolved before we even get to the point of drawing so the public can know are we drawing a 62-member Senate. Some have talked about an odd side number Senate, and I think that the public has to have the same information that we have so those issues need to be resolved before we even get to the drawing stage.

SENATOR NOZZOLIO: Agreed.

SENATOR DILAN: Okay.

ASSEMBLY MEMBER MCENENY: Obviously,

Senator, the goal is to take the month of

December and what we have left of this month and
to come up with a draft and a piece of

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legislation that will be subject to amendment at the end of the process and then passed on to the full legislature for a vote. So roughly speaking drawing between now and the end of the calendar year, public hearings at the same time we're going through sessions starting up probably post-State of the State, which is on the 4th this year, and it means a lot of doubling up and perhaps somewhat of a compacted schedule. If in fact the primary occurs as early as June, it would mean we would have to have a finished product with whatever amendments need to be made probably around the first week of February. the decision were made—and by the way it's not LATFOR's decision, to go all the way to the 18th of August then that might be a little less time pressure on it but not much.

SENATOR DILAN: I just have one more question. I believe that we're, as a task force, waiting for two Court decisions. Is that correct?

SENATOR NOZZOLIO: That's correct.

SENATOR DILAN: We're waiting on a

1	Page 2 Demographic Research and Reapportionment, 11-18-2011
2	ruling on the date of the primary, and we're also
3	waiting on a decision with respect to the
4	constitutionality of the Chapter 57 law of 2010,
5	is that correct?
6	ASSEMBLY MEMBER MCENENY: The date of
7	the primary is an easier question to answer.
8	That's December 1st there'll be a hearing. We
9	would hope there'd be a decision as well. And
10	the other one-
11	SENATOR NOZZOLIO: I'll respond to
12	Senator Dilan's question on—I don't believe,
13	Senator, that the Commission is awaiting the
14	determination of the Court on the
15	constitutionality of the prison litigation.
16	SENATOR DILAN: So we're moving ahead?
17	SENATOR NOZZOLIO: Well, we already
18	agreed to extract—
19	SENATOR DILAN: Okay.
20	SENATOR NOZZOLIO: We-I cannot agree as
21	a member yet on the additions, but we agree on
22	the subtractions under the statues, but we're not
23	waiting for the Court to act.
24	SENATOR DILAN: Okay. You can agree on

1	Demographic Research and Reapportionment, 11-18-2011
2	the subtractions but not the additions; however,
3	at the end of the day those that are not added
4	back on, those are not going to be counted
5	anyway. Is that my understanding?
6	SENATOR NOZZOLIO: That's the way the
7	statute is worked. Yes, Senator.
8	SENATOR DILAN: Okay. Thank you.
9	SENATOR NOZZOLIO: We have a motion on
10	the meeting date.
11	SENATOR DILAN: I second it.
12	ASSEMBLY MEMBER MCENENY: All in favor?
13	[Chorus of ayes]
14	ASSEMBLY MEMBER MCENENY: Opposed? Is
15	there any additional information that anyone
16	wants to give or any other issues before the task
17	force? Hearing none, I'll entertain a motion to
18	adjourn. All in favor?
19	[Chorus of ayes]
20	(The meeting concluded at 2:10 p.m.)

## CERTIFICATE

I, Aimée Robinson, do hereby certify that the foregoing typewritten transcription, consisting of pages number 1 to 28, inclusive, is a true record prepared by me and completed from materials provided to me.

Aimee Robinson

Aimée Robinson, Transcriptionist

\_\_November 29, 2011 \_\_\_\_\_ Date