

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 165th 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

INDEX

	Page
MR. ROBERT RUGGERIERO Chairman, Morris Park Business Alliance	13
MR. MARK GJONAJ Community activist and concerned citizen	13
MR. ALBERT DIANGEOLO President Morris Park Community Association	13
MR. JOE THOMPSON President, 49 th Community Council	13
MS. BERNADETTE FERRARA Vice President Van Nest Neighborhood Alliance	13
MR. SILVIO MAZZELLA Secretary, Morris Park Community Association	13
MR. GIA SAMATELLI President Bronx Italian American Cultural Association	13
MS. MARY JANE MUSANO Member Waterbury LaSalle Community Association	46
MS. BARBARA STRONCZER President Bedford Moshulu Community Association	49
MS. MARCIA PAVLICKA	52
MR. J.P. SEAN COFFEY Member Common Cause New York	55
MS. SHERRY SCANLON Member Pelham Bay Merchants Association	70
MS. ADALINE WALKER Community Board 7	72
MR. AL CHAPMAN Kingsbridge Heights Neighborhood Improvement Association	75
MR. CHARLES LESNICK	77

Demographic Research and Reapportionment, 1-31-2012

President City Council City of Yonkers

MS. ELLEN HENDRICKS	80
MR. DON BLUESTONE Executive Director Moshulu Montefiore Community Center	84
MR. FERNANDO TIRADO Community Board 7	88
MR. GREG LOBO JOST UNHP	94
MS. JOSE DIAZ Constituent	99
MS. LORITA WATSON Friends of Oval Park	101
MS. EMIL GOMEZ Community Board 7	103
MR. MAXIMO PADILLA Dominican Committee of New York	108
MR. MIGUEL SANTANA Dominican American National Roundtable	110
MS. MARIA TERESA FELICIANO President Dominican American National Roundtable	110
MR. NESTOR MONTILLA, SR. Chair National Dominican American Council	110
MR. DOUGLAS MENDEZ	128
MR. FELIPE FEBLES	131
MR. MARK ESCOFFERY BAY	135
MS. MARIA FORBES Clay Avenue Tenants' Association	135
MS. SANDRA DeJESUS Vice President Eastchester Gardens	135

Demographic Research and Reapportionment, 1-31-2012

MR. CHRISTOPHER MOLTREY TA President Murphy Houses Resident Association	135
MR. KEITH RAMSEY TA President Eastchester Gardens	135
MR. ED MANELLA TA President	135
MS. TRELSON TA President 1150-56 College Avenue	135
MR. WILLIAM STANFORD, JR.	144
MS. LORETTA RUDDOCK SMITH	152
MS. ALINE ROBERTS	154
MR. HORACE ORTON	156
MR. ABRAHAM JONES Executive Director Claremont Neighborhood Centers	158
MS. CATHRY STROUD District Leader, 7 th AD	162
MS. OTTIS EDWARDS	165
MR. WILLIAM FRANCIS	166
MS. LOWELL GREEN	167
MS. CAROLYN SMITH	167
MS. MARJORIE RITZER	176
MR. KENNY AGOSTO	177
MR. HERMAN FRANCIS	182
MS. ALEATHA WILLIAMS	186
MS. DEBRA MYERS	190
MR. HERBERT MOREIRA BROWN	199
MR. JOHN FELDER	207

MS. CHERYL SIMMONS OLIVER

213

1 Demographic Research and Reapportionment, 1-31-2012

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

1 Demographic Research and Reapportionment, 1-31-2012

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.

1 Demographic Research and Reapportionment, 1-31-2012

2 I also wish to thank you, the citizens of the
3 Bronx for your participation in these hearings.
4 This is our 16th 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

1 Demographic Research and Reapportionment, 1-31-2012

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

1 Demographic Research and Reapportionment, 1-31-2012

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

1 Demographic Research and Reapportionment, 1-31-2012

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

1 Demographic Research and Reapportionment, 1-31-2012

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

1 Demographic Research and Reapportionment, 1-31-2012

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 49th 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.

1 Demographic Research and Reapportionment, 1-31-2012

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 last 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

1 Demographic Research and Reapportionment, 1-31-2012

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

1 Demographic Research and Reapportionment, 1-31-2012

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

1 Demographic Research and Reapportionment, 1-31-2012

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

1 Demographic Research and Reapportionment, 1-31-2012

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

1 Demographic Research and Reapportionment, 1-31-2012

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

1 Demographic Research and Reapportionment, 1-31-2012

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 49th 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

1 Demographic Research and Reapportionment, 1-31-2012

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 49th 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

1 Demographic Research and Reapportionment, 1-31-2012

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

1 Demographic Research and Reapportionment, 1-31-2012

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

1 Demographic Research and Reapportionment, 1-31-2012

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

1 Demographic Research and Reapportionment, 1-31-2012

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.

1 Demographic Research and Reapportionment, 1-31-2012

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

1 Demographic Research and Reapportionment, 1-31-2012

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 26th, 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

1 Demographic Research and Reapportionment, 1-31-2012

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 87th, 80th and 82nd 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 80th 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 80th 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 80th and 82nd districts primarily for
23 individual and political gain without any
24 consideration to a unified community or assessing

1 Demographic Research and Reapportionment, 1-31-2012

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 80th 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

1 Demographic Research and Reapportionment, 1-31-2012

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

1 Demographic Research and Reapportionment, 1-31-2012

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

1 Demographic Research and Reapportionment, 1-31-2012

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

1 Demographic Research and Reapportionment, 1-31-2012

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

1 Demographic Research and Reapportionment, 1-31-2012

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 publicly 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

1 Demographic Research and Reapportionment, 1-31-2012

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

1 Demographic Research and Reapportionment, 1-31-2012

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.

1 Demographic Research and Reapportionment, 1-31-2012

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

1 Demographic Research and Reapportionment, 1-31-2012

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

1 Demographic Research and Reapportionment, 1-31-2012

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

1 Demographic Research and Reapportionment, 1-31-2012

2 that's right here. Van Nest is already cut and
3 we already have natural borders: the 180th 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

1 Demographic Research and Reapportionment, 1-31-2012

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

1 Demographic Research and Reapportionment, 1-31-2012

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

1 Demographic Research and Reapportionment, 1-31-2012

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

1 Demographic Research and Reapportionment, 1-31-2012

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

1 Demographic Research and Reapportionment, 1-31-2012

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 80th and the 82nd.

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?

1 Demographic Research and Reapportionment, 1-31-2012

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 80th
8 and the 80th and the 82nd.

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

1 Demographic Research and Reapportionment, 1-31-2012

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 34th 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

1 Demographic Research and Reapportionment, 1-31-2012

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

1 Demographic Research and Reapportionment, 1-31-2012

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

1 Demographic Research and Reapportionment, 1-31-2012

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 33rd,
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 33rd and the 34th senatorial
14 districts. These new lines are totally
15 unacceptable to our community residents.

16 If you look at the lines for the 34th
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 34th district while most of our
23 members reside in the 33rd district. I ask of
24 what benefit is there to when an elected official

1 Demographic Research and Reapportionment, 1-31-2012

2 or a community to take these three blocks from
3 the middle of the 33rd district and place it into
4 the 34th 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 34th 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 33rd 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 80th.

1 Demographic Research and Reapportionment, 1-31-2012

2 MALE VOICE: In the proposed?

3 MS. STRONCZER: No in the current 80th.

4 I have to look at the maps again because I'm
5 hearing stories that I'll be in the 78th. 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 33rd 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 34th 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?

1 Demographic Research and Reapportionment, 1-31-2012

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 34th precinct,
24 I'm sorry, the 34th district.

1 Demographic Research and Reapportionment, 1-31-2012

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

1 Demographic Research and Reapportionment, 1-31-2012

2 problems and concerns.

3 We the Bronx are proud to say that we
4 live in the 34th 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

1 Demographic Research and Reapportionment, 1-31-2012

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

1 Demographic Research and Reapportionment, 1-31-2012

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

1 Demographic Research and Reapportionment, 1-31-2012

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

1 Demographic Research and Reapportionment, 1-31-2012

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

1 Demographic Research and Reapportionment, 1-31-2012

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

1 Demographic Research and Reapportionment, 1-31-2012

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

1 Demographic Research and Reapportionment, 1-31-2012

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

1 Demographic Research and Reapportionment, 1-31-2012

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

1 Demographic Research and Reapportionment, 1-31-2012

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

1 Demographic Research and Reapportionment, 1-31-2012

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.

1 Demographic Research and Reapportionment, 1-31-2012

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.

1 Demographic Research and Reapportionment, 1-31-2012

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

1 Demographic Research and Reapportionment, 1-31-2012

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

1 Demographic Research and Reapportionment, 1-31-2012

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

1 Demographic Research and Reapportionment, 1-31-2012

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

1 Demographic Research and Reapportionment, 1-31-2012

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

1 Demographic Research and Reapportionment, 1-31-2012

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?

1 Demographic Research and Reapportionment, 1-31-2012

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 33rd senate district for the past 32 years.
6 I'm sorry. My name is Adaline Walker and I've
7 been residing the 33rd senate district for the
8 past 32 years at 2869 Bainbridge Avenue, that's
9 between 198th and 199th 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 34th senate district and to my
18 left, one block over on the other side it's going
19 to be allocated as also the 34th senate district,
20 leaving my short block right in the middle in the
21 33rd 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

1 Demographic Research and Reapportionment, 1-31-2012

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

1 Demographic Research and Reapportionment, 1-31-2012

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 33rd
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

1 Demographic Research and Reapportionment, 1-31-2012

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.

1 Demographic Research and Reapportionment, 1-31-2012

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 35th 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

1 Demographic Research and Reapportionment, 1-31-2012

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 35th

1 Demographic Research and Reapportionment, 1-31-2012

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

1 Demographic Research and Reapportionment, 1-31-2012

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 12th 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,

1 Demographic Research and Reapportionment, 1-31-2012

2 along with certain other country legislative
3 districts are contained within the existing 35th
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 35th 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 35th 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,

1 Demographic Research and Reapportionment, 1-31-2012

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 35th 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

1 Demographic Research and Reapportionment, 1-31-2012

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 35th 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

1 Demographic Research and Reapportionment, 1-31-2012

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

1 Demographic Research and Reapportionment, 1-31-2012

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

1 Demographic Research and Reapportionment, 1-31-2012

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 34th 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 34th
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

1 Demographic Research and Reapportionment, 1-31-2012

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 63rd 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 34th
20 district, not continuing to stay in the 33rd
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

1 Demographic Research and Reapportionment, 1-31-2012

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

1 Demographic Research and Reapportionment, 1-31-2012

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 33rd and 34rd senate districts,
22 historically these close-knit communities have
23 shared the same senatorial seat, the 33rd
24 district. Now the lines are so radically drawn

1 Demographic Research and Reapportionment, 1-31-2012

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 33rd district nearly encircling the 33rd
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 33rd and 34th senate districts is one part of
15 my testimony and the other part of my testimony
16 is regarding the 78th, 80th, and 81st 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 34th district nearly
22 encircling the 33rd district in several locations.
23 Additionally the newly-designed 34th district
24 manages to isolate two major hospitals, a

1 Demographic Research and Reapportionment, 1-31-2012

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 34th 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 33rd district.

13 As currently drawn this neighborhood is
14 removed from but still surrounded by the 334rd
15 district in an obvious instance of gerrymandering
16 Jerome Park is now a peninsula of the 34th
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 78th and 81st assembly
21 districts, principally located in the 78th
22 district Kingsbridge Heights, a primarily
23 Hispanic community has now been dissected nearly
24 in half. Additionally the waterfront that was a

1 Demographic Research and Reapportionment, 1-31-2012

2 part of the 78th 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 33rd 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 78th district which local children still
11 attend.

12 The 80th 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 80th 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

1 Demographic Research and Reapportionment, 1-31-2012

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 34th 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,

1 Demographic Research and Reapportionment, 1-31-2012

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 33rd
16 senate district and into the 34th 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

1 Demographic Research and Reapportionment, 1-31-2012

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 80th 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

1 Demographic Research and Reapportionment, 1-31-2012

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 33rd and 34th
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

1 Demographic Research and Reapportionment, 1-31-2012

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 33rd senate district but my building was
7 added on as a little tiny thing hanging down on
8 the 34th 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 34th district, enter the 33rd, go
12 back into the 34th, go back to the 33rd 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

1 Demographic Research and Reapportionment, 1-31-2012

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

1 Demographic Research and Reapportionment, 1-31-2012

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 33rd 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

1 Demographic Research and Reapportionment, 1-31-2012

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

1 Demographic Research and Reapportionment, 1-31-2012

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 34th district will be the
11 west side, as currently it's the 33rd altogether
12 now and the east side of the park will be the 33rd
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.

1 Demographic Research and Reapportionment, 1-31-2012

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 33rd, 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

1 Demographic Research and Reapportionment, 1-31-2012

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 33rd 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

1 Demographic Research and Reapportionment, 1-31-2012

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 33rd district,

1 Demographic Research and Reapportionment, 1-31-2012

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 33rd.

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 33rd district.

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

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

1 Demographic Research and Reapportionment, 1-31-2012

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.

1 Demographic Research and Reapportionment, 1-31-2012

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.

1 Demographic Research and Reapportionment, 1-31-2012

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?

1 Demographic Research and Reapportionment, 1-31-2012

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

1 Demographic Research and Reapportionment, 1-31-2012

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.

1 Demographic Research and Reapportionment, 1-31-2012

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 your 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

1 Demographic Research and Reapportionment, 1-31-2012

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 31st,
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

1 Demographic Research and Reapportionment, 1-31-2012

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

1 Demographic Research and Reapportionment, 1-31-2012

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

1 Demographic Research and Reapportionment, 1-31-2012

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

1 Demographic Research and Reapportionment, 1-31-2012

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

1 Demographic Research and Reapportionment, 1-31-2012

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

1 Demographic Research and Reapportionment, 1-31-2012

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

1 Demographic Research and Reapportionment, 1-31-2012

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.

1 Demographic Research and Reapportionment, 1-31-2012

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 59th 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

1 Demographic Research and Reapportionment, 1-31-2012

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.

1 Demographic Research and Reapportionment, 1-31-2012

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

1 Demographic Research and Reapportionment, 1-31-2012

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

1 Demographic Research and Reapportionment, 1-31-2012

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 34th I guess. I'm not looking at the map but I
23 guess to the boundaries of the district to the
24 south.

1 Demographic Research and Reapportionment, 1-31-2012

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 140th
13 Street until 207th Street. Just imagine, as I
14 describe them, from Broadway to 07th [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 77th 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 140th Street

1 Demographic Research and Reapportionment, 1-31-2012

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

1 Demographic Research and Reapportionment, 1-31-2012

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

1 Demographic Research and Reapportionment, 1-31-2012

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

1 Demographic Research and Reapportionment, 1-31-2012

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

1 Demographic Research and Reapportionment, 1-31-2012

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

1 Demographic Research and Reapportionment, 1-31-2012

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.

1 Demographic Research and Reapportionment, 1-31-2012

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].

1 Demographic Research and Reapportionment, 1-31-2012

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

1 Demographic Research and Reapportionment, 1-31-2012

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

1 Demographic Research and Reapportionment, 1-31-2012

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.

1 Demographic Research and Reapportionment, 1-31-2012

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

1 Demographic Research and Reapportionment, 1-31-2012

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

1 Demographic Research and Reapportionment, 1-31-2012

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

1 Demographic Research and Reapportionment, 1-31-2012

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 79th district; it's now a
6 threat to the 77th district and now with the other
7 -- I think it's the 33rd, no not the 36th, the 33rd
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

1 Demographic Research and Reapportionment, 1-31-2012

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

1 Demographic Research and Reapportionment, 1-31-2012

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

1 Demographic Research and Reapportionment, 1-31-2012

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 44th 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

1 Demographic Research and Reapportionment, 1-31-2012

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 is 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.

1 Demographic Research and Reapportionment, 1-31-2012

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 8th
24 you held a public hearing regarding this agenda

1 Demographic Research and Reapportionment, 1-31-2012

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 8th 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

1 Demographic Research and Reapportionment, 1-31-2012

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

1 Demographic Research and Reapportionment, 1-31-2012

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

1 Demographic Research and Reapportionment, 1-31-2012

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

1 Demographic Research and Reapportionment, 1-31-2012

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

1 Demographic Research and Reapportionment, 1-31-2012

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.

1 Demographic Research and Reapportionment, 1-31-2012

2 There's no excuse for that. Like I said, I gave
3 you my email address on September 8th, 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

1 Demographic Research and Reapportionment, 1-31-2012

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.

1 Demographic Research and Reapportionment, 1-31-2012

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 - -

1 Demographic Research and Reapportionment, 1-31-2012

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

1 Demographic Research and Reapportionment, 1-31-2012

2 is Aline Singho [phonetic] Roberts. I'm a
3 resident of the 77th 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

1 Demographic Research and Reapportionment, 1-31-2012

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

1 Demographic Research and Reapportionment, 1-31-2012

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.

1 Demographic Research and Reapportionment, 1-31-2012

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

1 Demographic Research and Reapportionment, 1-31-2012

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 169th 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 169th 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

1 Demographic Research and Reapportionment, 1-31-2012

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

1 Demographic Research and Reapportionment, 1-31-2012

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

1 Demographic Research and Reapportionment, 1-31-2012

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 7th AD:
20 My name is Cathy Stroud and I'm the female
21 district leader here in the 7th AD [phonetic]. And
22 I welcome you here because you're here and you
23 chose the 77th for this hearing. We thank you for
24 that.

1 Demographic Research and Reapportionment, 1-31-2012

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 77th. 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 84th district already has 161st
16 Street, they have 149th 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.

1 Demographic Research and Reapportionment, 1-31-2012

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

1 Demographic Research and Reapportionment, 1-31-2012

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 77th 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

1 Demographic Research and Reapportionment, 1-31-2012

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 77th
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?

1 Demographic Research and Reapportionment, 1-31-2012

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,

1 Demographic Research and Reapportionment, 1-31-2012

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.

1 Demographic Research and Reapportionment, 1-31-2012

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

1 Demographic Research and Reapportionment, 1-31-2012

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 211th 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.

1 Demographic Research and Reapportionment, 1-31-2012

2 My coop apartment overlooks Woodlawn
3 Cemetery on East 211th 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 233rd Street. And at East 233rd
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 233rd 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.

1 Demographic Research and Reapportionment, 1-31-2012

2 My community is Norwood, which is the
3 area presently of the 33rd. 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 33rd 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, 211th 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 33rd District which I thought was the 33rd
22 until found out now after this meeting today I
23 found out I'm in the 34th.

24 My concerns are as follow: what

1 Demographic Research and Reapportionment, 1-31-2012

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 33rd 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

1 Demographic Research and Reapportionment, 1-31-2012

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 34th 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,

1 Demographic Research and Reapportionment, 1-31-2012

2 the 33rd 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

1 Demographic Research and Reapportionment, 1-31-2012

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.

1 Demographic Research and Reapportionment, 1-31-2012

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 80th 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 80th

1 Demographic Research and Reapportionment, 1-31-2012

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 36th senatorial district
10 which now we inherit a portion of the great
11 Senator Ruth Hassell-Thompson now other parts of
12 the 36th 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

1 Demographic Research and Reapportionment, 1-31-2012

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.

1 Demographic Research and Reapportionment, 1-31-2012

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

1 Demographic Research and Reapportionment, 1-31-2012

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

1 Demographic Research and Reapportionment, 1-31-2012

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

1 Demographic Research and Reapportionment, 1-31-2012

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

1 Demographic Research and Reapportionment, 1-31-2012

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

1 Demographic Research and Reapportionment, 1-31-2012

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] 28th 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

1 Demographic Research and Reapportionment, 1-31-2012

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

1 Demographic Research and Reapportionment, 1-31-2012

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 40th 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.

1 Demographic Research and Reapportionment, 1-31-2012

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 41st annual caucus
14 of the New York State Association of black and
15 Puerto Rican legislators from Friday to Monday
16 February 17th to 20th 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

1 Demographic Research and Reapportionment, 1-31-2012

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

1 Demographic Research and Reapportionment, 1-31-2012

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 77th 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

1 Demographic Research and Reapportionment, 1-31-2012

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

1 Demographic Research and Reapportionment, 1-31-2012

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 77th 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 77th 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

1 Demographic Research and Reapportionment, 1-31-2012

2 citizens and even right on 170th 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 77th 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 33rd 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.

1 Demographic Research and Reapportionment, 1-31-2012

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 77th 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

1 Demographic Research and Reapportionment, 1-31-2012

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

1 Demographic Research and Reapportionment, 1-31-2012

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

1 Demographic Research and Reapportionment, 1-31-2012

2 if you look at when they say the 77th 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

1 Demographic Research and Reapportionment, 1-31-2012

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?

1 Demographic Research and Reapportionment, 1-31-2012

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.

1 Demographic Research and Reapportionment, 1-31-2012

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 82nd
5 assembly district and when you look at Coop City,
6 if you look at the map of the 82nd it's not --
7 there's no community of interest with the rest,
8 southern part of the 82nd.

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

1 Demographic Research and Reapportionment, 1-31-2012

2 Coop City is more contiguous with the eastern
3 part, the eastern third of the 83rd. 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 83rd 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

1 Demographic Research and Reapportionment, 1-31-2012

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 83rd 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

1 Demographic Research and Reapportionment, 1-31-2012

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 82nd." We have absolutely no connection with
6 the southern part of the 82nd. And I understand
7 that there are some people who would like to have
8 the 82nd, the southern part of the 82nd and some
9 parts of Morris Park and Pelham Parkway made a
10 part of the 82nd. 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 83rd 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

1 Demographic Research and Reapportionment, 1-31-2012

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 83rd 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

1 Demographic Research and Reapportionment, 1-31-2012

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 82nd 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

1 Demographic Research and Reapportionment, 1-31-2012

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 83rd 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 82nd 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

1 Demographic Research and Reapportionment, 1-31-2012

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 82nd 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 77th
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

1 Demographic Research and Reapportionment, 1-31-2012

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

1 Demographic Research and Reapportionment, 1-31-2012

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

1 Demographic Research and Reapportionment, 1-31-2012

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

1 Demographic Research and Reapportionment, 1-31-2012

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

1 Demographic Research and Reapportionment, 1-31-2012

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

1 Demographic Research and Reapportionment, 1-31-2012

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 82nd 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

1 Demographic Research and Reapportionment, 1-31-2012

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.

1 Demographic Research and Reapportionment, 1-31-2012

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.



Brian Henderberg,

Transcriptionist

February 4, 2011

Date