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

MR. ROBERT RUGGERIERO 13
Chairman, Morris Park Business Alliance

MR. MARK GJONAJ 13
Community activist and concerned citizen

MR. ALBERT DIANGELO 13
President Morris Park Community Association

MR. JOE THOMPSON 13
President, 49th Community Council

MS. BERNADETTE FERRARA 13
Vice President Van Nest Neighborhood Alliance

MR. SILVIO MAZZELLA 13
Secretary, Morris Park Community Association

MR. GIA SAMATELLI 13
President Bronx Italian American Cultural Association

MS. MARY JANE MUSANO 46
Member Waterbury LaSalle Community Association

MS. BARBARA STRONCZER 49
President Bedford Moshulu Community Association

MS. MARCIA PAVLICKA 52

MR. J.P. SEAN COFFEY 55
Member Common Cause New York

MS. SHERRY SCANLON 70
Member Pelham Bay Merchants Association

MS. ADALINE WALKER 72
Community Board 7

MR. AL CHAPMAN 75
Kingsbridge Heights Neighborhood Improvement Association

MR. CHARLES LESNICK 77
Demographic Research and Reapportionment, 1-31-2012

President City Council City of Yonkers

MS. ELLEN HENDRICKS 80
MR. DON BLUESTONE 84
Executive Director Moshulu Montefiore Community Center

MR. FERNANDO TIRADO 88
Community Board 7

MR. GREG LOBO JOST 94
UNHP

MS. JOSE DIAZ 99
Constituent

MS. LORITA WATSON 101
Friends of Oval Park

MS. EMIL GOMEZ 103
Community Board 7

MR. MAXIMO PADILLA 108
Dominican Committee of New York

MR. MIGUEL SANTANA 110
Dominican American National Roundtable

MS. MARIA TERESA FELICIANO 110
President Dominican American National Roundtable

MR. NESTOR MONTILLA, SR. 110
Chair National Dominican American Council

MR. DOUGLAS MENDEZ 128

MR. FELIPE FEBLES 131

MR. MARK ESCOFFERY BAY 135

MS. MARIA FORBES 135
Clay Avenue Tenants' Association

MS. SANDRA DeJESUS 135
Vice President Eastchester Gardens
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Page</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Mr. Christopher Moltrey</td>
<td>135</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TA President Murphy Houses Resident Association</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mr. Keith Ramsey</td>
<td>135</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TA President Eastchester Gardens</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mr. Ed Manella</td>
<td>135</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TA President</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ms. Trelson</td>
<td>135</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TA President 1150-56 College Avenue</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mr. William Stanford, Jr.</td>
<td>144</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ms. Loretta Ruddock Smith</td>
<td>152</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ms. Aline Roberts</td>
<td>154</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mr. Horace Orton</td>
<td>156</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mr. Abraham Jones</td>
<td>158</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Executive Director Claremont Neighborhood Centers</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ms. Cathry Stroud</td>
<td>162</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>District Leader, 7th AD</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ms. Ottis Edwards</td>
<td>165</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mr. William Francis</td>
<td>166</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ms. Lowell Green</td>
<td>167</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ms. Carolyn Smith</td>
<td>167</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ms. Marjorie Ritzer</td>
<td>176</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mr. Kenny Agosto</td>
<td>177</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mr. Herman Francis</td>
<td>182</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ms. Aleatha Williams</td>
<td>186</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ms. Debra Myers</td>
<td>190</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mr. Herbert Moreira Brown</td>
<td>199</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mr. John Felder</td>
<td>207</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
ASSEMBLY MEMBER JOHN J. McENENY,
CHAIRMAN LEGISLATIVE TASK FORCE ON DEMOGRAPHIC
RESEARCH AND REAPPORTIONMENT: Afternoon. My
name is Jack McEneny, I'm a member of the
assembly representing Albany and parts of Albany
County and I am joined with my co-chair Senator
Mike Nozzolio from out in the Finger Lakes area
of the state. We expect to be joined a little
bit later by two other members on the assembly
side, the ranking Republican member Bob Oaks is
presiding over public hearing, at least he was
this morning regarding the budget. He tells me
he'll be here later. On the senate side Senator
Martin Dilan we expect him a little bit later as
well. Also up here on the dais to my immediate
right is Dr. Roman Hedges, who is the citizen
member of our committee if you will, and to the
left Welquis Lopez who is the citizen member
representing the senate. And also on the dais is
one of our co-executive directors which is
Deborah Levine. We welcome you today, we
appreciate the great interest in this important issue. We ask you at present we have 52 names here so we ask you to be concise as you can be with your comments. Those of you who have already testified on the subject here in the Bronx we had 50 people testify the last time. If you want to mind us what you said and can do so that's appreciated but to read the exact same statement over we'll be here all night. And I think out of consideration for some of the people here you might want to be as concise as you possibly can.

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

SENATOR MICHAEL NOZZOLIO, CHAIRMAN

LEGISLATIVE TASK FORCE ON DEMOGRAPHIC RESEARCH AND REAPPORTIONMENT: Thank you very much Assemblyman McEneny. I wish to thank the Bronx Museum of the Arts for the use of their facility.
I also wish to thank you, the citizens of the Bronx for your participation in these hearings. This is our 16th hearing across the state, the second in the second round of hearings that are two review the plans proposed. Those plans that are proposed are just that: plans that are proposals for consideration that we believe, from the Senate's perspective and I know the Assembly believes from the Assembly's perspective that they are presented and are good plans. But there is no plan that is perfect, and that the purpose of the hearings is to hear from you, the citizens of this borough, the citizens across New York State as to what you believe is a good part of the plan and what you believe should be changed in the plan. That's the great process that our democratic system is all about and that we welcome the opportunity to hear from you today and tonight.

I also should say that this hearing conducted beginning around 3:00 p.m. is the result of our first round of hearings that asked for hearings to be scheduled in the afternoon and
early evening. So citizens who otherwise
couldn't attend a hearing earlier in the day
would be allowed to attend this hearing.

Lastly I'd like you to know that the
testimony you provide today, if you have written
testimony please make sure that we have copies
because all your written testimony will be part
of the official record of the task force.

Anything you say will be video recorded, is being
video recorded. These machines here are to
record the testimony and that testimony will be
placed on the LATFOR website, that's the
Legislative Task Force on Demographic Research
and Reapportionment. This task force, which is
entrusted with the responsibilities is also want
to communicate to the rest of the state and
anyone that's interested outside the state as
well to look at the website and see the video
testimony that's part of this record.

So with that, no further ado, except to
reiterate what my colleague and good friend said
about the hearing, that we have well over 50 who
have signed up before today and there are a
number who have signed up already to be added to that list. So that will be a lengthy day, a lengthy evening. We ask you to be as pointed and as concise as you possibly can and then make your written comments part of the official record. Please don't feel free to read them all; we certainly will make them part of the record. Thank you very much. Any comments by our citizen participants? Both Mr. Hedges -- Dr. Hedges, and Welquis Lopez are the citizen nominees to this task force. It's a unique task force in the sense that it's, I believe, the only one in the legislature where there are non-legislators who are part of the voting membership on that task force, and that both Dr. Hedges and Mr. Lopez have been extremely helpful in their commitment and their input to the task force and their role on the task force. That's been very helpful. So without further ado our first witness is Mark Gjonaj.

ASSEMBLY MEMBER McENENY: Thank you. Would you please give your name for the record? Because this is being recorded and also when you
signed up if you want us to know your home address just -- otherwise just say the Bronx or something like that. You may discuss anything in the entire state redistricting Congress, Senate, Assembly, the maps that are out now and if you have a concern about Buffalo you should not wait to get to Buffalo to say it if that's a concern.

Have a seat, sir.

MR. ROBERT RUGGERIERO, CHAIRMAN MORRIS PARK BUSINESSESS ALLIANCE: Chairman I have a special request.

ASSEMBLY MEMBER MCENENY: Yes.

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

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

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

ASSEMBLY MEMBER MCENENY: Sure, yeah.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

MR. JOE THOMPSON: Joe Thompson, president of the 49th Precinct Council.

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

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

MR. RUGGERIERO: And I'm Robert Ruggeriero from the Morris Park Business Alliance.

ASSEMBLY MEMBER MCENENY: Thank you.

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

ASSEMBLY MEMBER MCENENY: Is that 5 percent?

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

ASSEMBLY MEMBER MCENENY: Where's the
other 95 percent? [Off mic conversation]. Of the district, not 5 percent of -- ?

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

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

SENATOR NOZZOLIO: No 20 percent. 20 percent.

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

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

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

MR. RUGGERIERO: My concern -- and again it seems that -- and again I'm not a politician, I'm a leader of a community organization. The other gentlemen and ladies will speak about the political part of it. I'm concerned that you've taken a part of Morris Park. Now as president of the Morris Park Association we represent about 2000 members in our community. Many of those members are in that area that has been taken
Now we have to deal with one elected official to get certain things that we need in our community; now we have to deal with two. And when you only have a small percentage of our community how much attention are you going to pay to Morris Park if the majority of your constituents are in another area? So that lessens our power as far as the community goes. And I was under the impression that we wanted community involvement in our political affairs. To do that the community needs to have a voice in our affairs of government. And unfortunately by doing this you take away a large portion of our membership that now do not have a voice with everyone else.

We had an incident not too long ago where a club in the lower end of our district which is up in -- it comes to a point, and elected officials it's a tail end so nobody seems to pay too much attention to it. The club's name was Calmer [phonetic] and the senator that was in that district did not do anything for us. We had
to get a senator from -- Senator Jeff Klein [phonetic] was the one who came down, was out of his district but he worked with us to help get that place closed down. But the senator that was in our district because it was a small area paid no attention to our concerns.

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

But I don't want to play that game; that's not a game that our citizens want. Our citizens want a continuity in our community where our community can speak and speak to elected officials and get some feedback from that elected official, not be brushed aside because we're only a small entity in that community. We've been lucky in the past, we've had some great elected officials in our neighborhood and they worked
very well with our community and now we're starting to divide up a community that was a very solid community.

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

I don't like the idea that we're a pawn in a political game; that's not what elected officials are supposed to do. They're supposed to take care of the people in their community and not divide us so that we become less powerful. When you divide Morris Park the power of the community association becomes less and therefore the voice of the people becomes less because now we can't speak for the people, all the people, we can only speak for a small section. So I beg
your indulgence to please look into this further and do what you can to help us.

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

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

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

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

MR. THOMPSON: No, really. And I really came from doing that this morning and we still have some members that are down at criminal court
on a case. Luckily I was able to get here and still have some people to represent them. I'm very happy to see civilian input on this council. And I appreciate the fact that Albany thinks enough of doing this and doing it right in thinking enough to come down here and listen to us 'cause I think it's awfully important.

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

MR. THOMPSON: My name is Joe Thompson.

ASSEMBLY MEMBER MCENENY: Thank you. Please proceed.

MR. THOMPSON: And I'm the president of the 49th Precinct Council. And I will say this, and after studying this state assembly redistricting proposal for community. I honestly see no legal or practical reason for the current plan. Why divided Morris Park Community? Why exchange Morris Park with an area east of Eastchester Road, which is Pelham Gardens? It makes very little sense to me. Both areas are predominantly Italian heritage folks. Both areas
are middle income, one and two family homeowners, thousands of union membership and honestly both areas have about the same amount of people. So to make this change just to make the change doesn't make sense to me.

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

We also look to Morris Park to balance out our neighborhood crime statistics because Morris Park is an extremely low crime area. Okay with the other areas I'm afraid are not the same. So with the number we get from Morris Park it
helps to balance out the rest of our precinct, which means that we are still considered a low-crime area, which means that we get more businesses that will come into our area, more working people that will come into our area.

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

So when you look at that and you say to yourself, "What can kind of tear this thing apart?" Well this is fragile as we do have people that move out. So it's very fragile. And if you take Morris Park, split it down the middle, split it right down Morris Park Avenue and you have representation and a different representation on the other side of the street, so we don't have that togetherness anymore. We don't have that unity that we need from Morris
Park because Morris Park doesn't have it. And if they ever lose that sense of unity, that sense that they can go to one elected official who speaks for the whole and will defend them and defend the whole. If we don't have that we start losing people.

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

Over the last four years Morris Park itself has donated 40,000 pounds of foods for our Christmas and Hanukkah end of the year
celebrations. So they're involved, but they're a good example for other communities. That's why they are the core group that we need

ASSEMBLY MEMBER MCENENY: Keep your time in mind.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

This Morris Park must be some place.

MALE VOICE: You're welcome anytime.

FEMALE VOICE: Come anytime.
ASSEMBLY MEMBER MCENENY: Who's next?

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

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

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

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

MR. GJONAJ: No just the assembly.

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

MR. GJONAJ: That's correct. We're very fortunate with our senator. Senator Klein was the previous assembyperson for the area as well
so he has long ties and roots to the community.

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

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

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

Thank you for allowing me to present my testimony at this public hearing and I'd like to begin by noting that the proposed redistricting plan violates the will of the people. On January 26th, 2012 the New York State LATFOR released a proposed redistricting plan for New York State Assembly that is unfair and illegal. Additionally hold hearings within a few days of releasing the plans is unreasonable because we were not allocated the sufficient time to digest the material fully and prepare to testify.

Although in a limited timeframe as you can see our community united, driven by passion
and disappointment which is clearly evidenced by the thousands of signatures gathered to protest the proposed redistricting plans. If the plan was to govern effectively it failed. If the plan was to disappoint and disenfranchise people in that case the plan succeeded.

In the interest of time my testimony today will address the 87th, 80th and 82nd proposed assembly districts and more specifically the Morris Park community and Bronx County. Historically the Morris Park community has been entirely in the 80th assembly district with the exception of a few streets on the western portion, which we believe would have been corrected during the 2012 redistricting and included into the 80th assembly district completing the Morris Park community.

The current proposed assembly district plan divides the Morris Park community into three assembly districts and are fundamentally split between the 80th and 82nd districts primarily for individual and political gain without any consideration to a unified community or assessing
the negative effects that it would bring upon it.

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

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

The Morris Park community opposes the current proposed redistricting plan because it splits our community. This plan will silence our voice, ease our political influence by diluting our voting strength solely for the purpose to protect an incumbent by eliminating potential challenges and potential candidates. Additionally it is my belief that our elected officials have horse-traded to remove potential candidates out of the 80th district which is evident by the fact that at least three potential candidates have been ironically removed from the district, therefore making the proposed plan
wrong, illegal and troubling for many reasons.

Encouraging competition is good.

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

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

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

Share interest of the Morris Park community: Morris Park community patrol, which patrols well outside the current proposed boundaries. The Columbus Day parade, the holiday lights on Morris Park, the New York City public
library, United State Post Office,

transportation. Morris Park Community

Association, which my colleagues spoke on earlier

which has serviced the area for 40 years. Morris

Park Alliance, which my colleague to the left

will testify in a few moments, are political

issues. The Morris Park community is actively

engaged with local politicians because of common

legislative needs and interests. We have

representatives that we hold accountable for

servicing the needs of our community. The

proposed plan would hinder our ability to hold

our elected officials accountable to address the

needs of this community.

The Morris Park community has

traditionally been able to protect the rights,

needs and interests of the residents, businesses

and organizations of this community because we

have been united with one voice. Splitting our

community into different assembly districts will

weaken our ability to meet the needs and

interests of the community and hinder our ability

to hold elected officials accountable to address
the needs of this wonderful and successful community.

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

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

The redistricting process must be more responsive to communities. For communities to be fairly represented in government the
redistricting process needs to recognize and be accountable to real communities. It should be the members of a community that choose the elected officials that they want to represent them and not the other way around where the elected officials choose which constituents they want to represent in their district. Legislators in a back room cherry-picking their constituents, trawling for donors or carving out challenges will only destroy political good will and the trust of the people. We hold elections to make sure elected officials are working and they continue to listen to their constituents.

For all of the above reasons we implore this task force prevent this community from being unnecessarily divided and redraw the lines of the assembly district plan to unite the interests of the Morris Park community and the Bronx County. We further call on all our elected officials to public denounce the proposed redistricting plan. We appeal to our local elected officials to serve and protect the interest of the constituents and meet the needs of the Morris Park community by
putting aside any personal issues, agendas and
self-interests. Silence from our elected
officials and words that lack action and
sincerity will be perceived as an approval of the
proposed redistricting plan. Therefore we pledge
to hold our elected officials responsible for
their actions or inactions on this matter and
remind them that November is around the corner
and the primaries are at your doorstep.

Thank you.

ASSEMBLY MEMBER MCENENY: Who's next?
And again give your name so the transcript will
say who's saying what.

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

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

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

SENATOR NOZZOLIO: Would you state your name?

MR. RUGGERIERO: Oh I'm sorry, I'm Robert Ruggeriero, I'm the chairman of the Morris Park Merchants' Association. And the specifics that we're talking about because of this overlapping jurisdictions, four years ago when I was asked to start the Merchants' Association I had two projects in mind; one was the New York State Main Street Grant Proposal which would help store businesses replace their storefronts and create a theme or a character to the community and also business improvement district supporting the city, by the City of New York.
Both projects have been languishing for the past four years because of these overlying gerrymandered lines and divisions. It wasn't until recently that I've agreed to accept the project three times the size of its original scope did now the second councilperson step in and take the position in the Van Nest community because I'm going to help his district along with the non-responsive councilperson. And the same thing in the state: my assemblywoman's been unresponsive for the past four years and now State Senator Jeff Klein has stepped forward and said, "Well if you take that half of the district I'll help you with your half of the district."

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

MS. FERRARA: Good afternoon. My name
is Bernadette Ferrara and I'm representing the Van Nest Neighborhood Alliance in the Van Nest area. And the Van Nest area does work in partnership with Morris Park. And what I could say with my testimony is I've been a long-time resident living in Van Nest for over 50 years and I'm learning just what redistricting is and reapportionment is and asking the question how will this constant splintering of our whole community impact our future ten years?

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

It's a bleak future for those of us who are staying put and fighting so hard for so
little. While there is this formula what about
the mission statement? Why are whole communities
splintered to appease reapportionment and not the
community needs.

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

Our neighboring community of Morris Park
has seen what this has done to Van Nest and we do
not want this division to continue either in Van
Nest or Morris Park. And I do want to point out
on the map what -- we're cut in half already and
that's right here. Van Nest is already cut and we already have natural borders: the 180th street and Morris Park on one side demographically and the M track up to East Tremont. And we have already been split and we're fighting but we're getting nowhere for the same reasons that Morris Park is having the problem. And we need it to stop. Thank you very much.

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

MALE VOICE: That is correct.

MALE VOICE: Senate district is fine with us.

SENATOR NOZZOLIO: Thank you very much.

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

FEMALE VOICE: -- the front desk upstairs. Her name is Dina she'll be happy to
take them from you.

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

Conceivably though, what option I would prefer, not that -- I come from the Marshall Loop [phonetic] Parkway area, I've had long ties to that area as well, but certainly it does not coincide with the immediate interest of Morris
Park and Pelham Parkway area. But in the realm of making an easy transition -- not that I'm in favor of it, but at the end of the day if a difficult choice has to be made the numbers which are evident between Pelham Gardens and Morris Park, two sections that are referred to and removed, the rest section and the remainder of Morris Park has been cut out with the balance here. If you took Pelham Gardens the numbers are almost identical: 6500 residents here, 6500 residents here, and still complying with the threshold.

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

Now let me just point something out: we
have the Federal Voting Rights Act of 1965 which protects, among others, Hispanics and African Americans and requires no diminution of representation they now have and where there's an opportunity to create a minority-majority district we do that.

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

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

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

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

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

ASSEMBLY MEMBER MCENENY: Thank you.

That's -- very good. Thank you.

MALE VOICE: Thank you very much ladies and gentlemen.

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

ASSEMBLY MEMBER MCENENY: You are signed up?

MR. SAMATELLI: Yes I am. It's pertaining to the 80th and the 82nd.

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

MALE VOICE: What's your name, sir?
MR. SAMATELLI: Samatelli, Gias Samatelli.

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

MR. SAMATELLI: Pertaining to the 80th and the 80th and the 82nd.

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

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

MALE VOICE: Good.


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

SENATOR NOZZOLIO: -- interruption.

Could we please have order and respect for the
speaker? Thank you.

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

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

And by the way when you splinter Morris Park you also take power away from us because we work together, all of those communities work
together. For instance, just to give you a little idea: Joe mentioned the court watcher's program, of which we just came from. One of the things our community is pushing for is stiffer penalties for quality of life crimes like graffiti and car theft, crimes that usually don't get much attention in the court. So we all feel that same way. We went to Senator Klein who has been just wonderful for us. And he came up with the court watcher's program and it's something that people from all of those communities that I just mentioned are involved in.

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

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

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

MS. MUSANO: That's okay. So as I was
saying it makes sense to keep us all together because we fight for the same things and we work very well together. As I said the court watcher's program is one even that we're all involved in as well as graffiti cleanup programs and programs like that.

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

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

SENATOR NOZZOLIO: Barbara Stronczer.

Would you be so kind as to pronounce your name correctly because I'm sure I did it incorrectly.

MS. BARBARA STRONCZER, PRESIDENT BEDFORD MOSHULUS COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION: Sure. My name is Barbara Stronczer and I am representing the Bedford Moshulu Association. We are a not-for-profit community association located in the
Bedford Park area of the northwest Bronx. I testify that the hearings last fall requesting that the new lines not divide the Bedford Park Norwood communities as was done ten years ago. I spoke about the fact that along Moshulu Parkway we had three different assembly districts.

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

If you look at the lines for the 34th senatorial district you will notice that the district covers the east Bronx and the Riverdale area. We see no reason for it to take a few buildings in the Bedford Park area. With these lines the headquarters of our association is located in the 34th district while most of our members reside in the 33rd district. I ask of what benefit is there to when an elected official
or a community to take these three blocks from the middle of the 33rd district and place it into the 34th senatorial district? The district needs to be co-terminus and not carved and divided as done ten years ago and now more so with these proposed lines. We are in favor of the governor's demand for independent redistricting.

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

MALE VOICE: What number assembly district --?

MS. STRONCZER: Right now I'm in the 80th.
MALE VOICE: In the proposed?

MS. STRONCZER: No in the current 80th. I have to look at the maps again because I'm hearing stories that I'll be in the 78th. Our assembly district along Moshulu is sliced and diced. It has been for ten years and that's why I spoke at the last hearing. And now we're sliced and diced both in the Senate as well as the Assembly and it's not helping our community. So I would appreciate anything you could do to help us out especially within the 33rd there because we have different buildings that are really several blocks away that were picked up. I don't know why, I mean if Bedford Park is going to be in the 34th fine but then keep us together as a neighborhood. Don't just pick up a building here or a building there then go up to Norwood and pick up a few more buildings.

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

SENATOR NOZZOLIO: Thank you for your testimony. Marcia Pavlicka [phonetic], Marcia?
MS. MARCIA PAVLICKA, : I'll answer to anything. Good afternoon. My name is Marcia Ann Pavlicka. I'm a homeowner and a taxpayer in the northeast section of the Bronx known as Country Club between Eastchester Bay and I-95. My assembly district is 82, Mike Benedetto. My senatorial district is 3-4, Jeff Klein.

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

Within our group of communities are Pelham Bay, Throg's Neck, Spencer Estates, Locust Point, Schuylerville, Ferry Point and our neighbors to the west, Morris Park. These communities believe in a viable merchant and shopping area, be it on Tremont Avenue in Throg's Neck, Westchester Avenue, Westchester Square or the Morris Park community. Our commonality includes our concerns regarding overdevelopment and illegal conversions within the 34th precinct, I'm sorry, the 34th district.
We have had through these years, the support and the assistance of our State Senator Jeff Klein, most recently understanding our need for quality of life issues such as foreclosures, graffiti removal and the loss of proper bus service to establish communities to shopping strips and to medical facilities.

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

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

We the Bronx are proud to say that we live in the 34th senatorial district of the State of New York.

SENATOR NOZZOLIO: Thank you very much.

J.P. Sean Coffee.

MR. J.P. SEAN COFFEY, BOARD MEMBER

COMMON CAUSE NEW YORK: Good afternoon my name is Sean Coffee. Thank you for the opportunity to testify this afternoon. I currently serve as a member of the Board of Common Cause, New York. I'm happy to have this opportunity to testify about a matter that goes to the core of how our representative democracy should operate, drawing districts that best serve the collective interests of our citizens instead of the self-interest of our politicians.

I'm here today because the district maps drawn by LATFOR fall shockingly short of what the people of New York deserve and represent a brazen, broken promise by a majority of the Assembly and the Senate. I've submitted my remarks in print so I won't read them verbatim
now but I would like to allude to a couple things. In particular --

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

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

SENATOR NOZZOLIO: Thank you.

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

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

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

It was not to be. The failure of the legislature to keep the members' sworn promise to
refer the drawing of district lines to an independent non-partisan committee was a cynical breach of trust even by the low standards that New Yorkers have come to expect of Albany politicians. While legislators had ignored their commitment to an independent commission and opted yet again to draw the lines themselves one would have hoped that this task force would have mitigated that harm by drawing the new lines in a manner that at least approximated what an independent commission would have done.

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

When it became clear last year that the legislature was going to turn its back on the promise we at Common Cause commissioned the drawing of independent maps. Those maps were published in December, they're available for the
public, they're on the internet, on the website and they've drawn favorable reviews from those who are paying attention to this. I should note that the reform plan would address virtually every comment we've heard so far today. It keeps Morris Park together, the Van Nest area together, the communities of interest because that's the criteria we used.

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

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

It now runs from the South Bronx across the Harlem River into East Harlem in a jagged
shape that then continues across Central Park into the west 70s of the upper west side. Now Common Cause, when we put out our maps provided clear written justification for each district we drew. LATFOR did not do so and perhaps it's because there is no rational reason for the shape of SD 29, or SD 32 for that matter, which extends like four, like an alien's space invaders, four appendages across the South Bronx with no regard for neighborhoods or communities.

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

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

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

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

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

MR. COFFEY: It can be done, sir.

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

Well one of the things that's being worked on is a change in the constitution which could eliminate block on border and town on border in some areas so that we weren't forced to do some of the jagged things that you will have to do. We have been promised for LATFOR the revised maps, the ones that have block on border
like we're obligated to do and like the law will be obligated. We have yet, as of this morning, not received the Common Cause maps that are constitutionally passable. We are really looking forward to them.

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

SENATOR NOZZOLIO: So let me understand this, Mr. Coffey, you're against bridging a
community here or there; you're more likely to support lines that are rectangular or in effect don't unite a community on one side of a borough with another side, is that what you're proposing?

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

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

MR. COFFEY: No I think that's the one that actually doesn't do that. The Common Cause
maps keep it together, but right now as drawn by LATFOR SD 32 and SD 34 and SD 33 break up that part of the Bronx, am I right? Yes, I'm correct. And so --

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

MALE VOICE: [Off mic conversation].

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

MR. COFFEY: I sure am, proud member.

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

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

MR. COFFEY: But Senator the opportunity to do the right thing for ten years from now is no excuse to do the wrong thing in 2012. You can do the right thing this year, and we'll have to see what the constitutional amendment looks like.
I certainly when I signed the pledge I read it very carefully and nowhere in there did I see embedded when we talk about doing restricting right we're actually talking about 2022. I understood and I believe everyone who read the pledge and signed the pledge understood we were talking about doing the right thing now, which you could have done if you referred this to independent restricting. You chose not to do it.

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

So I think that it was certainly my understanding is that there would have been an independent redistricting proposal established in 2010 upon the return of the legislature, there was a series of post-election sessions and it just was not taken up in time to achieve the two
MR. COFFEY: But I think you'll agree with me, Senator, whatever we're talking about with regard to a prospective constitutional amendment, that should not be a license for this task force to promulgate highly gerrymandered districts this year. We can act to do the right thing this year. You still have a chance to do the right thing. You should take a hard look at the Common Cause maps, we can fix the block by block that you're asking for and we invite you to adopt them.

What you have done -- you cannot tweak these maps. And Albany's had a great year. As somebody who ran against Albany, as someone who is a reform candidate I was motivated to leave private life because I felt we needed significant change in Albany. You've had a good year. We've got a great governor, you've done some things. You risk that by the cynical effort here to have politicians pick their districts, to ignore the will of the people. You've already broken your
promise about independent redistricting. Do the
right thing and do this in a manner which at
least approximates independent redistricting.

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

MR. COFFEY: I understand, sir.

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

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

ASSEMBLY MEMBER MCENENY: No. And in
fairness I was just handed a note that at some
point before midnight last night we received by email, I think 10:30 or so we received by email the adjusted lines of which we'll take a look at.

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

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

SENATOR NOZZOLIO: Sherry Scanlon?

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

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

For example under the proposed lines most of these communities are homeowners' communities. These communities are connected by transportation systems that have been developed for the last two decades. Businesses both large and small in these communities rely on each other for survival. Senator Klein, regardless of those who he represents or not has always worked hard for his constituents. I know on hand that he has worked with the Pelham Bay merchants to acquire security camera for Keene [phonetic] Square park, which we have some problems there and now the
people who are causing the problems are aware there's a security camera. It has lessened tremendously.

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


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

SENATOR NOZZOLIO: Would you be so kind as to state your name for the record?
MS. WALKER: Hi, my name is Adaline Walker, also known as Adaline Walker Santiago. I'm a private citizen who has been residing in the 33rd senate district for the past 32 years. I'm sorry. My name is Adaline Walker and I've been residing the 33rd senate district for the past 32 years at 2869 Bainbridge Avenue, that's between 198th and 199th Street. If you look at the map, I don’t know if you have it in front of you, you can see my block is chopped.

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

Therefore I want to know how this
revised plan will be able to effectively unite us
to attain the proper resources to empower our
area in the fields of economic development,
education, health, land use, youth and senior
services, transportation, sanitation, safety and
for us to join in making long-term plans for our
community. This revised plan leaves me and my
neighbors isolated from one another.

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

I just want to add, besides what I have
written that these are individuals that my three
children grew up with. These are families I've known for a big portion of my life. And since 2010 I have served as a member of the Community Board 7 and in October 2010 became the elected first vice chair for I'm an Individual Who Cares, and advocates for my community. And to encounter such inexplicable configurations to divide my legislative district is totally unjustified.

I ask that you consider my recommendation for an independent process to reconfigure my area to keep our area as a 33\textsuperscript{rd} district united under one leadership of Senator Gustavo Rivera [phonetic] who's been very dedicated in supporting our needs of our community. And this is predominantly a Hispanic community and so we're asking you to listen to our request. Thank you very much.

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

MR. AL CHAPMAN, KINGSBRIDGE HEIGHTS NEIGHBORHOOD IMPROVEMENT ASSOCIATION: Good afternoon. My name is Alan Chapman, I live at 2875 Sedrick [phonetic] Avenue in the Bronx. And
I'm president of the board of directors of the
Kingsbridge Heights Neighborhood Improvement
Association. We're a non-profit organization
dedicated to empowering our community.

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

Therefore I believe there should be an
independent commission appointed to tackle this
chore and that the district lines are drawn by an
independent process designed to give the voters
the right to choose their legislators instead of
the legislators choosing who they will represent.
I join in the request that the lines be drawn to fairly represent the communities of interest in conformance with prevailing laws and constitutional requirements. Thank you.

SENATOR NOZZOLIO: The Honorable Chuck Lesnick.

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

Yonkers is a city of some 200,000 people, the fourth largest city in New York State. We have a school district that services 26,000 students and growing. Approximately one half of our local population is non-white, 45
percent of our households speak a language at
home that is other than English. Just under 14
percent of our residents live below the poverty
line but 72 percent of our schoolchildren come
from those families.

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

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

While I have no doubt that Senator Andre
Stewart Cousins who currently represents the 35th
district will continue to work for us with the same dedication and professionalism the next senators from the districts that include a divided Yonkers might not have that same interest. Furthermore the senate district that encompasses the east side of Yonkers represents the area of the city with the lowest percentage of public school children in the area where the constituents are typically less concerned with the funding of our public schools. Dividing a city that has spent significant effort in uniting its neighborhoods make no sense.

Currently 75 percent of our schoolchildren come from the southwest section of the city; we must not and cannot afford to lose our voice in Albany to speak up for our kids. While partisan politics clearly drove these proposed lines the results are constitutionally flawed and the representation of cities like Yonkers, which we weakened in the attempt to illegally create a new senate district. The Yonkers city needs and requires a state senate that puts most if not all of Yonkers into one
MS. ELLEN HENDRICKS, ON BEHALF OF MARY JANE CHIMSKY: Chairman Nozzolio, Chairman McEneny, members of the New York State Legislative Task Force on Demographic Research and Reapportionment. I'm Ellen Hendricks. I am reading a prepared statement from Legislator Mary Jane Chimsky.

"Good afternoon. My name is Mary Jane Chimsky. I am the Westchester County Legislator for the 12th legislative district which is comprised of the southern two-thirds of the Town of Greenberg abutting Yonkers in some parts. I also chair the Sawmill River Storm Water Advisory Board, otherwise known as SWAB, a body formed pursuant to the laws of Westchester County which is charged with the task of banding together the communities of the Sawmill River basin to improve storm water management. My legislative district,
along with certain other country legislative districts are contained within the existing 35th state senate district.

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

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

"Our existing state legislative districts makes sense because the Hudson River borders our municipalities, the Sawmill River,
the Sawmill River Parkway, the New York State Thruway, the Hudson line and the Metro North commuter railroad all run through these communities.

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

"The recent efforts of the Sawmill River SWAB to clear years of debris from the river, debris which cause damming and flooding during severe storms demonstrate the superiority of the district lines as currently drawn. Right now the vast bulk of the river is contained within the 35th state senate district. When it came time to work with the State Department of Transportation to clear debris from the parts of the river in
its right of way. One state senator was responsible for dealing with DOT. This made it more efficient for SWAB, DOT and the state senate to deal with the issue. Flooding issues, like transportation and so many other issues tend to break along our north-south corridors. So why should two or more state senators have to be involved with each one. These lines will multiple everyone's work and less will get done."

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

"It should also be noted that keeping the 35th senate district as it would be get a gesture of bipartisanship as it was originally drawn for a Republican and is currently represented by a Democrat."

"Before I close I would like to add more comments of more general import. First, given
how radically redrawn the districts in Westchester County are the senate should have come back to the people of Westchester to get their feedback. Not scheduling a hearing in Westchester under these circumstances suggest that the Senate does not care about Westchester residents' reaction to what has been done to them, that the Senate would just impose these lines on the citizens of our county. That is not right.

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

Thank you for your time and attention.

SENATOR NOZZOLIO: Thank you very much.

Don Bluestone? Don Bluestone?

MR. DON BLUESTONE, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

MOSHULU MONTEFIORE COMMUNITY CENTER: Okay, thank
you. My name is Don Bluestone, I am the executive director of the Moshulu Montefiore Community Center. We are in the Norwood section of the Bronx. I want to support what two of the speakers have already said, Barbara Stronczer and the representative from Community Board 7. But I want to give you some history.

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

If we are trying to fix and serve a minority community with public services we have completely failed. And as we look, somebody said
we're an overwhelming Hispanic community; we're probably about 50, 55 percent. We are heavily African American and a large growing East Asian community with a remnant Jewish and Irish community.

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

We used to say that our, in the last, when we were broken up that our building was the armpit of Riverdale; based on this I don't even want to tell you what part of our body is now
going to be the part of Riverdale. This makes no sense.

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

ASSEMBLY MEMBER McHENRY: Thank you.

Fernando Tirado.

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

Dear members of the task force, thank you for the opportunity to present the following testimony over the proposed redistricting of the Assembly and Senate districts in the northwest section of Bronx County. It is the contention of the resident and organizations that I’ve had the opportunity to review the proposed districts that they have not been designed in their best interest. The proposals blatantly disregard rules to keep districts compact and divide communities needlessly, in some instances separating community resources in one district from the residents who use these resources into
This flawed process of drawing lines on a map to satisfy political interest allows individuals to hand pick their constituents and tear apart communities that have little knowledge of or interest in actually representing, which is the political equivalent of strip mining.

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

The division of Norwood and Bedford Park into the 33rd and 34rd senate districts, historically these close-knit communities have shared the same senatorial seat, the 33rd district. Now the lines are so radically drawn
as to offer no explanation other than allowing an elected official to hand pick his constituents. Both neighborhoods have a very high Hispanic population whose voting strength is not diluted over these two seat. In some cases the lines for both districts are separated by only one block, with the 33rd district nearly encircling the 33rd district in several locations.

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

MR. TIRADO: [Interposing] I'm sorry, the 33rd and 34th senate districts is one part of my testimony and the other part of my testimony is regarding the 78th, 80th, and 81st assembly districts.

SENATOR NOZZOLIO: Thank you.

MR. TIRADO: You're welcome. In some cases the lines for both districts are separated by only one block with the 34th district nearly encircling the 33rd district in several locations. Additionally the newly-designed 34th district manages to isolate two major hospitals, a
recreation center, a community center and other
major amenities for itself and exclude a majority
of the residents within proximity of them
ensuring that their voices — that of future
developments in these amenities.

The isolation of Jerome Park into the
34th district, Jerome Park which consists of major
assets such as Lehman College, the Jerome Park
reservoir, Harris Field, Tracy Towers and various
other residents to the north have also been
historically associated with the 33rd district.

As currently drawn this neighborhood is
removed from but still surrounded by the 334rd
district in an obvious instance of gerrymandering
Jerome Park is now a peninsula of the 34th
district and nearly isolated from other
communities that share the same senate district.

The division of Kingsbridge Heights and
local assets between the 78th and 81st assembly
districts, principally located in the 78th
district Kingsbridge Heights, a primarily
Hispanic community has now been dissected nearly
in half. Additionally the waterfront that was a
part of the 78th district has been restricted entirely into other neighboring districts. Once again we have an example of both people in the community and its resources being carved up against their interest as with the 33rd senate district Lehman College a long time amenity is singled out and removed as are a number of schools that have been historically associated with the 78th district which local children still attend.

The 80th district's continued division of the communities of Bedford Park and Norwood they newly resigned district still split Norwood in nearly half and retains a handful of blocks in Bedford Park thereby ensuring that these small communities have diminished capacities to elect someone who could best represent their interest. In area these two neighborhoods reflect approximately 15 percent of the total area and less than a third of the total population of the 80th district. This is a formula for political disenfranchisement and is part of the reason why voter turnouts are so low and voters tend to be
pessimistic about the election process.

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

I just want to also say what is not included in my testimony that I've heard many people before me talk about wanting to support the 34th district. And it's okay to support your district. Everybody deserve the right to support their district. However in the supporting of your district you're going to disenfranchise another district and you don't see the obvious,
that you would not want that same issue to happen
to them. I think that it's a disservice to the
people of the Bronx and to people in communities
as a whole.

So that is my testimony thank you very
much.

ASSEMBLY MEMBER MCENENY: Thank you.

Greg Lobo Jost.

MR. GREG LOBO JOST: Hi, good afternoon.

My name is Gregory Lobo Jost, I'm a Bronx
resident. I live in one of those buildings in
Norwood that Don Bluestone was referencing that I
guess has a legacy of a lot of white folks who
still live in it and we got drawn out of the 33rd
senate district and into the 34th in a very
bizarre shape. I also work nearby in the
Fordham-Bedford neighborhood and have been
involved with a lot of mapping work and pay
attention to a lot of the different districts and
would also reiterate that Norwood and Bedford
Park, as folks have been saying, you've been
hearing, have been divided up consistently in the
assembly districts and we felt good about our
state senate district and now folks are really frustrated because all of our districts were divided up and that's really why you're hearing from a bunch of us.

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

So in terms of the neighborhoods being carved up I just want to point out something that was I read in the newspaper last week where Assemblyman Jeff Dinowitz was cited in the Riverdale Press, he said Assemblywoman Naomi Rivera -- this is the 80th assembly district that kind of cuts through where I live also that she wanted to keep Tracy Towers in her district, which might explain some of the odd turns in the district lines. And so I don't know, reading this I'm thinking, "Wow, okay so I'm one of the people that lives on that little stretch between -- " you know, she's representing Morris Park that everyone was talking about before and then
she wants Tracy Towers which is this 800-unit Michelama [phonetic] building kind of on the other end of Moshulu Parkway and all of us in the middle of Moshulu Parkway, which is in between the neighborhood that everyone else was talking about, Norwood and Bedford Park are basically collateral damage in her wanting to put that in her district.

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

As for the state senate district we've also been talking a lot about the 33rd and 34th districts not surprisingly because as I put in my testimony just kind of try to get the outline in white of the district it's like words cannot describe what this district looks like. I don't
even know; I can't even begin to think like what shape this is.

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

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

So I don't know, all I want to say I guess in conclusion is just that maybe we should
just thank whoever drew these lines because they're so obvious that this partisan system doesn't work and maybe we have to have independent redistricting, I mean this, the lines that were drawn to me makes the biggest case that I can think of. I couldn't make such a good case for independent redistricting as the lines - as what I've seen between the deviation and the like the absurdity of the district lines. And that's all.

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

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

MR. JOSE DIAZ: Yes good afternoon everyone and I am really not prepared to actually testify but I'll be brief. I live at Reservoir Place which is part of the 33rd district. And I would like actually to give everyone a chance, actually the residents, the people who do not have a chance, like myself, to actually select what they want, not to have someone because of power, because of their position which will
actually dictate as to what they want, like a
couple of the previous speakers mentioned before
it's something that would be unfair.

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

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

SENIOR NOZZOLIO: Thank you very much
Mr. Diaz. Lisa Sills Short? Lisa Sills Short?
Lorita Watson?

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

SENIOR NOZZOLIO: Good afternoon.

MS. WATSON: -- afternoon; it's almost
there. I'm ready. Hello my name is Lorita Watson, I am -- I live in the Norwood area of the Bronx, born and raised Bronx Heights [phonetic]. I would like to state that I'm also a Friends of Williams Bridge Oval, a recent $80 million renovation project in the northwest of the Bronx and it's actually a small park, a 25-acre park.

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

As we build further out of community in our park we have had continuous leadership and a big part of what helped us bail out the park while we were doing this we had leadership from Senator River, Councilman Capelle [phonetic] and Assemblyman Dinowitz and we had much assistance from them in just one district.
Much of what we have accomplished in our park and surrounding neighborhood because of what we have accomplished we became a model for the friends of -- a community group that supports our community and it's a very diverse community and getting other people involved and different areas has been a big part of it.

And as we look to extend to the community, the park area and the libraries and the rest we need continuous representation. The park is a gem in our neighborhood and we need for it and the surrounding area to be part of one district, the 33rd, which also covers Bedford and Moshulu areas, as I said, who we now have a working relationship with Bedford. So it's very good for our two communities to stay together and we want this to be the case and that's basically what I wanted to say, and that you need to really think about what you're doing here. The areas, up Montefiore, up Gunhill [phonetic] Road and the rest, we are a community and we want to stay a community and as we build out and look at the resources that we use from MPC, which is Moshulu
Preservation Corporation there's a lot of community involvement and we want to keep it going. Thanks you.

SENATOR NOZZOLIO: Thank you very much.


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

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

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

Good afternoon my name is Emil Gomez. I am a CPA and I live in the Bronx. I have looked at the proposed senate districts on the LATFOR
website. While being an accountant I marvel at the allocation of populations within the proposed districts. The system in which they were derived must be called into question. When I look at the proposed maps I compared my senate district, 33, with those of the 2002 and 1992 years. Even accounting for slight deviations in area size the proposed 2012 map in no way resembles what it was in the past.

This inconsistency can be attributed to many things which some of the other speakers have pointed out to you today. I would like to add to those concerns by adding that the redistricting process runs contrary to New York State law. Specifically I would like to cite Article 4-100 of the Election Law, section 380 of the law states that each election district should be in compact form. Clearly by reviewing the enclosed maps, which I'm sure you have, the process here is failing; compact form is nowhere to be found. SENATOR NOZZOLIO: Election district are you talking [crosstalk]?

MR. GOMEZ: I'm with the 33rd district,
sir, and if you look at that proposed map for 2012 it no way resembles what it was.

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

MR. GOMEZ: Senate districts, yes sir.

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

MR. GOMEZ: Okay. All right.

SENATOR NOZZOLIO: Mr. Gomez just to enlighten me: how far is it from -- you think you live in the 33rd.

MR. GOMEZ: Well I live in Laurelard [phonetic] Place and I believe it carves -- the new map carves myself out of the 33rd district.

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

MR. GOMEZ: Oh no no, I believe that I would like to stay within the 33rd district boundaries. I believe Senator Rivera is representing myself and the constituents in that area very well.
SENATOR NOZZOLIO: I thought I heard you saying; I just wanted to clarify it.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

SENATOR NOZZOLIO: Thank you Mr. Gomez.
Reverend Dr. Charles Gorlick? Reverend Dr. Charles Gorlick? Thomas Durham? Thomas Durham?
Thomasina Busby? Thomasina Busby? Leon Johnson?
Leon Johnson? Yolanda Torres? Yolanda Torres?
Sharon Jarvis? Sharon Jarvis? Anthony Raviccio?
Maximo Padilla?

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

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

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

SENATOR NOZZOLIO: Are you testifying?
MALE VOICE: Yes.

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

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

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

We know that in the last century reflects that the Dominican community is the majority. It is unjust and I guess we want
justice and they want to make sure that the representation and since they have the largest majority -- it is not minority, it is majority, that it should be represented in a congressional district, they want to be sure that a congressional district is designated for the Dominican community. Thank you.

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

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

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

SENATOR NOZZOLIO: Good afternoon.

Thank you.
MR. SANTANA: Good afternoon.

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

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

I pointed out the astonishing growth of the Latino population of the United States and in
New York State specifically, a growth that according to the principles governing the redistricting process should be reflected in the new maps.

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

We were somewhat disappointed that this task force moved towards not increasing the Latino population in this district but rather I guess widening the senate district, District 31\textsuperscript{st}, bringing it down from its actual percentage of Latino population to 56 percent. We request that you reconsider and reiterate our request to
strengthen Latino influence in this district by adding it to the Latino community from the west Bronx rather than extending it south to include a community that might not have as much in common with Washington Heights as the west Bronx will do. Additionally, and I know that this hearing is addressing the maps for the Assembly and the Senate but we would like to propose to you a congressional district that will unite the communities of the west Bronx, northern Manhattan and Corona Queens, which encompasses the fast-growing Dominican American populations that share commonalities and challenges. Just district will be an appropriate response to the tremendous growth of community in New York City and can be created without negatively impacting over communities or violating any principles of fair apportionment.

Another valuable benefit of creating this district will be bringing people into the political process that had previously been kept from it and thus making government more representative of the people. In a democracy the
principle of one person, one vote is a sacred concept and if this principle is to apply in New York then ensuring a greater voice for Latinos in the halls of power is a challenge facing this task force. We look forward to working with you with this committee to contribute in your effort to make sure that New York achieves fair and constitutional redistricting. Thank you.

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

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

This approach requires the creation of
majority Latino districts or Latino opportunity districts that will allow us to elect candidates of our choice in numbers commensurate with our population.

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

The electoral benefits of majority-minority districts became evident after the 1990 round of redistricting. State legislators construed ten new majority Latino districts and shortly thereafter seven Hispanic freshman joined the House of Representatives. Justice O'Connor defended this radical change in Section 5 by citing five sociological studies that she claimed
suggested that the most effective way to maximize minority voting strength may be to create more influence or coalitional districts. The majority minority districts remain the primary means through which Hispanic communities can elect their preferred candidates.

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

In closing I ask you to approve a new legislative map that joins the Latino population of Washington Heights, the northwest Bronx and Corona/Jackson Heights communities of Queens, ultimately establishing a majority Latino
district will provide us the opportunity to elect a Congress member of our choice. Thank you.

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

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

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

MR. SANTANA: Yes.

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

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

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

MR. NESTOR MONTILLA, SR., CHAIR NATIONAL DOMINICAN AMERICAN COUNCIL: Thank you. Good
afternoon. My name is Nestor Montilla, I'm the chairman --

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

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

ASSEMBLY MEMBER MCENENY: Happy birthday.

MR. MONTILLA: Thank you. On behalf of the National Dominican American Council I would like to thank you for the opportunity again address the committee regarding the redistricting process in New York State. We have reviewed your released Assembly and Senate maps already and particularly regarding senate district 31, rather
than increasing the percentage of Latino population as we proposed back in September you decreased the percentage by almost 4 percent. We would like to reiterate our recommendation of increasing the Latino population of senatorial district 31 to include the west Bronx community which shares many commonalities with the remaining of the district and for reasons we outlined back in our testimony in September at Bronx Community College.

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

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

MR. MONTILLA: The Hispanic population was decreased.
SENATOR NOZZOLIO: Decreased?

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

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

MR. MONTILLA: Fifty-six.

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

MR. MONTILLA: Right. Based on the demographics that we have right now in the neighborhood as you realized the Latino population grew dramatically. So the district was changed somehow by taking down south to 30, if I'm not mistaken, I'm not looking at the map -- to 24 from 59th Street down to 24. I know that part of Riverdale was removed under your proposed map but instead of automatically assuming that the district should grow with the population that
actually achieved the highest increased you cut that population four percent. That's based on my calculations, I mean if I'm not doing my math right please I apologize for that but I think I reviewed that and that's my calculation.

SENATOR NOZZOLIO: I'm sorry if I may, Senator Dilan had just showed me that the numbers, in terms of population -- thank you Senator for having this with you. The Hispanic population of this district is 56.32 percent. It was 57.43 percent so that's less than -- our number show it's less than a one percent change and then the voting age population of Hispanic back last time was 53.25 percent; this has actually gone up; it's 53.7 percent. So I just hope -- and I mean I'm not quarreling with you, I just want to make sure we have the right numbers and you have the right numbers, and I don't see a four point difference there. Well let's do this: let's table that and look into it and we'll discuss who has what numbers, what reference points we're using and what those current numbers are. Again our numbers don't show a change.
MR. MONTILLA: We'll check on that and adjust our testimony if that's the case and -- well can I ask you a question, members of the committee? Would you explain to me what was the rationale behind extending senatorial district 31 down south instead of assuming that the Latino increase in term of the population north of Manhattan married to the extension of the modification of that district among that population? Because to me the people who live down south of the district right now it's totally different community than the community that lives in northern Manhattan. And keeping a community of interest together, which is one of the fundamental principles drawing maps makes me to think about the rational that you utilize. Can you explain that to me, just for me to understand because those are two very different communities to my understanding.

SENATOR NOZZOLIO: First of all tried to minimize any changes, particularly in those districts that require absolute compliance to the Voting Rights Act. There were a couple of major
issues demographically that had to be dealt with. The first is a 100,000 person loss in the black community of fewer black Americans from the census of 2010 versus 2000. Yet in spite of that loss the voting acts require no retrogression.

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

MR. MONTILLA: Right. I just was called the percentages again from someone in the audience and based on that particulate person's calculation is three percent, the difference in
terms of the Latino population and District 31.

SENATOR NOZZOLIO: 51 or 31?

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

All right. As you look into again reviewing your proposal for Senatorial District 31 I want you to consider the community in the west of the Bronx and northwest basically because it's a community of interest that is very tied together with northern Manhattan. You can see bridges -- it's a community that conduct a lot of business together, cultural celebrations, shopping area, they go to church together, so it's a community, it's basically a neighborhood altogether in itself, separated by the East River but it doesn't mean that it's a different community. So those communities are really tied together and are totally unique in terms of their characteristics as opposed to the community that the district includes down south all the way to 34th I guess. I'm not looking at the map but I guess to the boundaries of the district to the south.
Let me continue with my remarks. In terms of the next part we would like also to submit for your consideration a proposal for congressional district that have already been presented to you that unites the Spanish-speaking communities sharing national origin, religion, economic ties, family ties, living in the corridor or Corona Queens to University Heights, Kingsbridge in the Bronx to Washington Heights in Manhattan here. And that community basically will include Broadway Avenue northbound from 140th Street until 207th Street. Just imagine, as I describe them, from Broadway to 07th [phonetic] Street in Manhattan cross the bridge eastward into West Fordham Road and into Bronx on Pelham Parkway. From there from Huntington River Parkway southbound, crossing the Whitestone Bridge into Route 678 and then Northern Boulevard westbound until 77th Street in Queens.

In terms of the neighborhoods that that particular proposal includes in New York County it will include Hamilton Heights and from Hispanic voting district on 140th Street
northbound Broadway. Washington Heights, of course, and I think my computer died here so let me check one second. Just one second, I apologize for that, and I have the testimony here. In the Bronx County -- let me go back -- in New York County and say Washington Heights inward on Marble Hill.

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

Spanish-speaking communities will be better represented in the U.S. Congress by a Spanish-speaking representative if they choose
and have the opportunity to elect one of course. Immigrant communities from the Dominican Republic are one single community of interest, mostly concentrated in three New York neighborhoods: Corona in Queens, University Heights, Kingsbridge in the Bronx and Washington Heights in Manhattan. The majority of the New York City and New York State elected officials from the Dominican American origin represent constituencies from these three neighborhoods, two state senators you know, two state assembly representatives and three New York City council members. So creating this congressional district seems to be the most logical step towards affording this community fair and equitable representation.

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

SENATOR NOZZOLIO: Thank you very much and we appreciate your input. I would ask -- and I'm sure all my colleagues would agree, if you
would be so kind as to put the specifics either in a document or an email, submit it to LATFOR as soon as possible, like tonight or tomorrow because we all are on a renewed deadline for Congress and we would welcome your specifics. I mean generally described it but if you have map or if you have any more specific description, descriptive language or both that would be great.

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

SENATOR NOZZOLIO: This recent proposal?

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

SENATOR NOZZOLIO: Excellent.

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

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

Douglas Mendez? Good evening, Mr. Mendez.

MR. DOUGLAS MENDEZ: Honorable members
of the task force I'm Douglas Mendez. I'm a physician. And I'm here to support the creation of a new district to better represent our community. As we all know, the Spanish-speaking communities have grown exponentially in the last ten years. Deserving for that reason the opportunity to elect their candidate of choice by creating an additional congressional Hispanic district.

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

A district connecting this community will represent important progress. Such a
district could easily be created without negative
impacting other community or violating any
principle of fair apportionment.

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

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

As a result of that we do not have a
single congressional representation. Disregard
the fact that we have been here since the early '50s and still do don't have the adequate representation, even though we are by descent the largest minority in this country.

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

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

MR. FELIPE FEBLES: (Speaking Spanish).

(Interpreted by Mr. Welquis Lopez): The Dominican -- the Bronx as formed in 1989. He's the sub-director of the Grand Parade of Dominican, the Dominican Grand Parade. Our purpose to be here this afternoon is -- we have 1,300,000 people in the Dominican Grand Parade in the Bronx. Our community Dominican -- our community has grown tremendously. We want to ask the commission -- we're working very hard to make sure that we have a Dominican representation as a congressman in the area in the northern Manhattan district and the Bronx.
Our community especially we contribute in all angle of commerce, the Dominican community -- okay in 2000 -- you can help there -- in the year 2000 we were not included in the census and now, ten years later we are not included yet.

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

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

Thank you very much.

FEMALE VOICE: Good afternoon. I try to speak a little bit English but my English not too good-looking. I say thank God because I'm here to be part of the district in lines [phonetic].
So I hear you say you don't want to cut nobody fingers, nobody hands. We don't want that either, only we needs equal opportunity and the federal representation.

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

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

I say -- to your guys to reflect our speak to take ours force to come here to speak to you to say please in focus in the grounds, the grounds of our community is very faster, you know, growing faster, very big. My community here from the Bronx -- I've been here for the
last 35 years. My community specifically [phonetic] in the Bronx they have in the economic aid [phonetic] taxes rising that I says, how I says, grocery, and I say beauty salon, and I say elementary school and university we got a lot of people.

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


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

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

MALE VOICE: I got it, got it.

SENATOR NOZZOLIO: You have it? Thank
you. Could you -- this is Mark Bay?

MR. BAY: Mark Escoffery Bay.

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

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

SENATOR NOZZOLIO: Okay.

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

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

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

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

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

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

MALE VOICE: Yes.

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

MS. FORBES: Maria Forbes.

MR. MOLTREY: Christopher Moltrey.

MS. TRELSONS: And Ms. Trelsons.

MR. RAMSEY: Keith Ramsey.

MR. MOLTREY: Christopher Moltrey.

SENATOR NOZZOLIO: Keltrel Simmons?

FEMALE VOICE: Yes.

SENATOR NOZZOLIO: -- did you get those names?

MR. MOLTREY: Christopher Moltrey.

MR. BAY: Okay good afternoon, I'm Mark Escoffery Bay, I'm the district leader for Assembly District 77. I'm here in regards to the
proposed lines and I'm opposed to it, along with my group of my constituents. One of the main things that I'm opposed to is the lack of representation of Afro Americans in the proposed lines.

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

We're also not fairly represented in the senatorial lines that were being proposed because
now Ruth Hassell-Thompson's [phonetic] district which represented the Jamaican area of the Bronx and the African American area of the Bronx is now abrogated and it now solely represent the Caribbean section of the Bronx and a miniscule portion of Afro American.

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

And down in the South Bronx where there are African Americans at large they're just not representative because a majority Latino choose a black representative it is their choice. It's not the black Americans in that district who chooses. And now with the senatorial new
proposal senatorial lines they now move the Latino district over now to encompass the area that Ruth Hassell-Thompson has vacated, which is now a threat to the 79th district; it's now a threat to the 77th district and now with the other -- I think it's the 33rd, no not the 36th, the 33rd Gustavos [phonetic] district coming down, it further jeopardized my assemblywoman Vanessa Gibson's district and it's going to weaken black representative and weaken the black constituents of the Bronx and we'll be poorly represented. So I'm here today to ask you not to perpetuate the monstrosity of political genocide against my people and bring Ruth Hassell-Thompson's district back down so that she can represent both Afro Americans and the Caribbean community and at least quasi satisfy and it won't fully satisfy or fully represent the true numbers but at least we'll get something out of this deal and right now Afro American is getting nothing out of this deal when I study these lines.

I thank you for you listening.

MS. FORBES: My name is Maria Forbes
again. I would like to thank you for coming and allowing us to speak. Senator Ruth Hassell-Thompson represents over 13 New York City Housing Authority developments in the lower South Bronx area. As he indicated if you take Ruth Hassell-Thompson and move her further north she will, from her 21 New York City Housing Authority developments she will only have 4, and that is -- it's a opposition to disservice us in that manner.

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

But to take away and move her further north and then mix us with a mixed population that another senator would pick up and encompass us with another ethnicity he's already taking on
a problem that he wouldn't be able to begin to
address a hand to 'cause he'll have 13 Housing
Authority developments that is all African
American and would need additional assistance.
So we're just here to opposed and we're asking
that you leave Ruth Hassell-Thompson in her area
and that's all I have to say.

MALE VOICE: Okay good day to all.

MR. FORBES: For the record I just
wanted to name the Housing Authority development
she represents: Claremont Consolidated consists
of seven tenant associations. You have 1100
Teller [phonetic] Avenue which these people were
here and left. You have 1162 Washington Avenue.
You have Finley [phonetic] Avenue, you have Clay
Avenue, you have 1020 College Avenue which
represents our senior citizen development, you
have 1150 College Avenue which the TA president
is here herself and she will speak, you have 1064
Teller Avenue. That's Claremont Consolidated
alone, that's seven developments. Then you have
Webster Houses, you have Butler Houses, you have
Morris Houses, you have McKinley Houses, you have
Claremont Parkway and you have Forest Houses which the TA president left and was here as well. Then you have concourse village, the 44th Precinct council sits in her district as well as Community Planning Board 4 and Murphy Houses which is here in the lower South Bronx and all of this would be affected by y'all removing her from our area. And that's for the record.

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

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

We are demanding the redistricting committee revisit and reconsider the redistricting lines that would remove Senator Ruth Hassell-Thompson from the Bronx South. If this occurs we will have to start from the beginning, as my constituent states. We do not want to remove the most influential and empowering senator that Bronx South has had in many years. My hope is that we will work together to achieve the best for all parties concerned and help one another to achieve this goal.
Redistricting Senator Ruth Hassell-Thompson will have a devastating negative impact on the community and the residents of the South Bronx community. Thank you, Christopher Moltrey, TA president Murphy Houses Resident Association. Thank you.

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

SENATOR NOZZOLIO: William Stanford, Jr.

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

SENATOR NOZZOLIO: We will sir, and thank you.

MR. STANFORD: Correction, that's William Stanford, Jr., a/k/a Mr. X okay? Before I testify let me tell you what I experienced earlier today also before today. September 8th you held a public hearing regarding this agenda
at Bronx -- Community College. I gave you my email address. I discovered -- on the previous day. You know how I discovered it? Gustavo Rivera [phonetic] mentioned it to me, okay? On September 8th I gave him a email address. Did you email this event to me? No you didn't. Do you know how I discovered this event? I spoke to his assistant Maria Anna Rose [phonetic]. If I hadn't seen her yesterday I wouldn't know anything about this event.

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

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

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

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

MR. STANFORD: Michael let me know when
you're ready. Michael, let me know when you're ready. That's the second time.

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

MR. STANFORD: I'm speaking to him.

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

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

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

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

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

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

Michael, you have a question or a statement?

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

MR. STANFORD: It's Stanford.

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

MR. STANFORD: Okay. I have basically one proposal regarding the state and federal, state and federal government since you don't cover the city government. Whether some of these districts should cover two boroughs [phonetic] or three for that matter is the right answer, I don't know, but a while back I said, or back in September I said they should just cover one borough only, but all you have to do is just go by some of the cross streets like Gunhill Road, also the vertical streets like Webster Avenue and just take Gunhill Road, Fordham Road, Webster
Avenue, Third Avenue. Third Avenue, Katonah Avenue, Gunhill Road, Fordham Road. Why can't you do it that way? To me it's more consistent that way. You ever consider doing that?

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

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

MR. STANFORD: Okay so if you could --

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

MR. STANFORD: Okay well just saying
that you didn't have any agendas regarding this public -- I don't -- regarding that public hearing.

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

MR. STANFORD: I haven't seen them.

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

MR. STANFORD: Okay. Okay I didn't get a chance to log onto your website but still I'd like to know what's happening before -- . If I give you my email address I expect you to email future events to me. But if you think, well if you feel -- how do I put it? -- if you feel neglecting me is more important, just like the MTA, then I feel sorry for you because I feel like I'm dealing with the MTA right now. I'm not fucking [phonetic] dealing with LATFOR I'm fucking dealing with the MTA. I feel like I'm at 3/4ths [phonetic] some [phonetic] Madison Avenue.
There's no excuse for that. Like I said, I gave you my email address on September 8th, I'm sure you still have it. I submit, resubmit [phonetic] it to her earlier today. You could have emailed this event to me. There's no excuse for that. I'm innocent [phonetic].

But as I said, regarding the districts try, let's try my suggestion: Gunhill Road, Fordham Road, Webster Avenue, Third Avenue, Katonah Avenue, either between Webster and Third Avenues, between Third and Katonah Avenues or between Webster and Katonah Avenues, between Gunhill and Fordham Road or between Fordham Road and Bedford Park Boulevard. That's just a suggestion from me regarding the state and federal government districts 'cause you don't cover the city government district. That's all, that's just my suggestion. You could try it if you want 'cause to me it's more consistent. You got Third Avenue, you got Katonah Avenue, you got Prospect Avenue, Third Avenue, the streets that hold buses. That's what you should go by, the streets that hold buses and divide the districts
that way. Go straight across, up and down like squares, rectangles.

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

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

MALE VOICE: All right, thank you.


MS. LORETTA RUDDOCK SMITH: Good evening.

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

MS. SMITH: Okay.
SENATOR NOZZOLIO: Are any -- Ms. Smith before you begin are any of the ladies and gentlemen coming up with you, did any of you sign up for this?

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

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

MS. SMITH: Okay. Good evening.

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

MS. SMITH: Mr. Chairman, members of the commission my name is Loretta Ruddock Smith. I am a homeowner, I represent Education [phonetic] Council of 35,000 children and I'm on the board of the housing company, represent 35 buildings. I'm a resident also of this community and - -
District 77 who is here to testify regarding the redistrict proposal that was recently made public.

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

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

Thank you and God bless America.

SENATOR NOZZOLIO: Thank you.

MS. ALINE ROBERTS: Good afternoon Chairman and members of the commission. My name
is Aline Singho [phonetic] Roberts. I'm a resident of the 77th assembly district, which Assemblywoman Vanessa Gibson represents and I'm a lifelong resident of the Bronx. And I'm here to testify regarding the redistricting proposal which we've been discussing this afternoon.

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

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

I would also like to comment on behalf
of my colleagues here, like to appeal to the commission that the Gateway Mall and waterfront not be eliminated from the assembly district 77. This area has fought hard and long to establish economic development opportunities for this community's children, families as well as those returning from incarceration who need opportunities to become more gainfully employed, respectable taxpaying members of the community.

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

MR. HORACE ORTON: Good afternoon, ladies and gentlemen. My name is Horace Orton.

[Off mic conversation].

SENATOR NOZZOLIO: While we're waiting I just want to say to the last speaker that this commission has fully complied with the Prisoner Relocation Law, that there were no regulations with that law, there were no guidelines, there's no user manual. Thanks to the commission members
and particularly Dr. Hedges this process moved forward and we were able to identify and geo-code a considerable number; a considerable number are not being counted at all, which I think is a big inadequacy of the law, but it's the law that we have to comply with. And so that has been done. Yes sir?

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

Working together we need to make sure that African Americans, Latinos and people of color receive the full representation of the state government that are due. Despite the historical efforts to implement the Federal Voting Rights Act and other legislation in the manner that opens the doors of opportunity to representation people of color have remained unrepresentative in governments throughout the State of New York.
Faced with the lasting impact of discrimination based on race and ethnicity it remains vital for redistricting [phonetic] to take into account the need to fully address this underrepresentation and make the goal a priority. Please take that into account. Thank you very much for my part.

SENATOR NOZZOLIO: Thank you.

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

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

DR. HEDGES: What we were able to do is take the addresses that we were given regarding the former homes, former residents of prisoners located in state prisons and look up that address and determine where that person lived physically. And with that information we were able to go
through the entire state and adjust the population for every block that was affected as a result and put those people, as it were, back in their original residence. And we did that for all the people for whom we could locate an address and successfully find their resident.

And --

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

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

I have to say with all due respect that I was just informed of some information that actually astounded me, I mean I'm literally
devastated, I'm flabbergasted because I did not know and did not fully realize that most of the southern sections of the Bronx was removed from Senator Ruth Hassell-Thompson areas, our senator. And I'm mean I really -- I'm really, really, I'm perplexed, I mean I'm really, really stunned. And the reason why I can say that is as for someone who runs and organization as executive director of Claremont Neighborhood Center which is a foundation for Butler Houses, Morris Houses, Morris Senior Houses and Webster Houses and I know of the work that is being done by Senator Thompson with the Tenant's Association presidents who often hold their meetings at my center. I know of the work that's done by her with housing [phonetic] and senior centers, our first and oldest senior citizen center in the nation. I know the kind of support.

And I also know of the gentleman that would in all likelihood replace her. He happens to be my senator in the district where I live at. And I'm often told and confused with him; people think that we look alike. He once told me that
to make sure that as I walk the streets of the Bronx to do nothing wrong because he doesn't want anyone to confuse me with him. He's a very, very nice man; I get his newsletter, and with all, all, all due respect and deference I get the newsletters and the newsletters that I get I do not see --

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

MR. JONES: Oh Ruby Diaz [phonetic].

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

MR. JONES: Well thank you. Thank you very much. And I love the man; he's a wonderful man. I get his newsletters but I -- I've often -- and I can't help it but I must admit that I looked to see the kinds of organizations that he supports in his newsletters. I look to see the kinds of pictures that are taken, and while I do see African Americans in the newsletters I happened to notice that I don't see there's a lot
of support given to African American leaders of organizations in the district, which is not saying anything. And it would be real, real disservice, it would be a dishonor, it would be an affront to African American community if you allow this travesty to take place with the kind of work that Senator Ruth Hassell-Thompson, she is someone that is so available, I mean she just -- she understands the heartbeat of the community. She understands the heartbeat of the community.

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

MS. CATHY STROUD, DISTRICT LEADER 7th AD: My name is Cathy Stroud and I'm the female district leader here in the 7th AD [phonetic]. And I welcome you here because you're here and you chose the 77th for this hearing. We thank you for that.
It would be such a loss to us to lose the waterfront, to lose the Gateway Mall in our district. You know we not only losing that but we losing the retail interests, the monies that's been allocated to the district, or opportunities to be involved in the hiring of our residents in the 77th. We need to continue to have our Assemblywoman Vanessa Gibson who is spicy, she's young, she's articulate. I mean this is a young lady who's just on top of the situation and we need her in our community. And you'll be doing a misservice, a misjustice to take her part of this district away from her.

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

I run a food pantry and I -- my pantry services over 6,000 clients a month. That's just mine. We have about 15 here in the Bronx.
Please, if you take these things away -- we're trying to make -- I don't want to tell you that I serve 6,000 people; I want those lines to diminish; that's our purpose. We want to alleviate hunger. Now you gonna take part of our district where there's money, the amount that's coming in has already declined? Don't do this to us. We need this young lady, we need you to keep the vibrancy that she has going. This young lady is all over the place. Anything that's happening, that's going on, whether it's for young kids graduating from elementary school, kindergarten or being there representing me at my daughter's funeral last Saturday she's all over the place.

We need her, we need this district, we need to keep the people that's poor, hungry, clotheless, living in shelters. Please. If there's anything that I've said that we can do today, we need. You've taken everything away from -- I also run an agency, computer lab. But guess what? Most of it I have to do alone even though we have because we don't have that member
item anymore where you can even send us money
that we get help for these young people who need.
We're doing things. Please, we're stopping the
balance in this area. We're doing things. She's
involved in it. Do not, please, bother our
district. We need your help in this area. Amen?
Amen.

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

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

MALE VOICE: Oh I'm sorry.

MS. OTTIS EDWARDS: Mr. Chairman,
members of the commission my name is Ottis
Edwards and I'm a resident of the 77th assembly
district. And I've been living in this area 40
years. Counting all of our residents [phonetic]
at home the full implementation of the legal
requirement mandating the counting of
incarcerated individuals as part of the
communities where they resided and essentials
[phonetic]. Do we assure that communities of
color, primarily those of substantial numbers of
African American and Latinos resident would no longer be as underrepresented as they historically have been this important law gives us a more accurate population count and make it easier to secure federal funding for essential service and communities such as the Bronx that have too often been given less than their fair share.

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

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

ASSEMBLY MEMBER MCENENY: Thank you.

SENATOR NOZZOLIO: Marjorie -- I'm sorry

William Francis. William Francis? Mr. Francis?
MR. WILLIAM FRANCIS: Yes, I’m bringing
with me two members of my community. One is the
a member of the community board with me.

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

MR. FRANCIS: Yes they are, Lowell Green

--

FEMALE VOICE: Lowell Green, Carolyn
Smith.

SENATOR NOZZOLIO: Whoa, one at a time.

Lowell Green?

MS. LOWELL GREEN: Mhm.

MS. CAROLYN SMITH: Carolyn Smith.

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

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

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

I have been -- I am 65 years old. I have been in this community for over 30 years. I have been this community when it was divided, white against black, black against Hispanic, Hispanic against black, black against white. Over those 30 years that I have been here I have seen these different groups of people come together for the betterment of their areas and the whole of their community. What you are doing now with this redistricting is tearing that down. That does not help the people of our communities. It does not help even the representatives of these communities.
This redistricting is going to do away with 30 to 40 years of hard labor work of members of these communities where they have overcome racial, economic, educational differences and bound together for the betterment of the whole. And that's what redistricting is supposed to be about. It's not happening here gentlemen.

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

This will wind up in court. This will further divide people. It already has begun. I
just asked you, I'm not going to bother with my statement, I will ask you to rethink in your heart what you've heard here today. You've heard the beginning of anger, of arguments, of disenfranchisement, of people going and saying, "I will not work with you." That does not help this community and it will not help this state. I thank you.

SENATOR NOZZOLIO: Thank you very much.

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

I live on a street called Kings College Place but is not on your map but it's between East 211th Street and Gunhill. It's a very narrow little street, we're a little finger area in District 33 at the present time, the senate district.
My coop apartment overlooks Woodlawn Cemetery on East 211\textsuperscript{th} Street. You may not be aware of it since a number of you live upstate, but Woodlawn Cemetery --

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

MS. GREEN: Good. That's nice, thank you. But Woodlawn Cemetery goes East 211st Street to East 233\textsuperscript{rd} Street. And at East 233\textsuperscript{rd} Street there is another part of Van Cortlandt Park and from my house it's at least a good mile before you run into people who live in Woodlawn, where it looks like I will, my election [phonetic] district will now be facing toward Woodlawn, which is in the Bronx. But because of this natural dividing line at East 211st Street to 233\textsuperscript{rd} Street I will be a part of.

I do not shop in Woodlawn, I do not seek medical care in Woodlawn, I don't vote in Woodlawn. I occasionally maybe go once a month out to dinner there because there's a nice restaurant, and I use the ATM of my bank that's on McLean which is in Yonkers.
My community is Norwood, which is the area presently of the 33rd. Woodlawn and the end of Westchester, which I may become a part of in the new senatorial district is not my community of interest. And out of curiosity I would like to know why my little three streets got put into this area when there is a natural dividing line. And approximately one block down, more than that, two blocks, three blocks down is one little street that still stays in the 33rd district. I mean why this? If you can put one little street in why can't you put the rest of us from Bainbridge down to Webster, 211th to Gunhill. If you can't find it on the map I'll show you.

SENATOR NOZZOLIO: I found it.

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

MS. CAROLYN SMITH: My name is Carolyn Smith. I'm formerly from Buffalo. Right now I'm in the 33rd District which I thought was the 33rd until found out now after this meeting today I found out I'm in the 34th.

My concerns are as follow: what
happened to common interest as far as the community is concerned? We have right now we have our little interlopers or carpetbaggers coming from Manhattan and Queens is cutting up the Bronx, and in such a way where we're as the Bronx, as a whole -- I'm talking about all the ethnic groups in the Bronx, we're losing power. The Bronx has been on the rise here lately where we're trying to build up the Bronx but is someone from Manhattan going to give us -- ? Is someone from Queens that's going to give us housing? Because right now where I am we have a battle in Tracy Towers. I heard Tracy Towers mentioned a few times.

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

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

Thank you.

SENATOR NOZZOLIO: Thank you all.

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

MR. FRANCIS: If I may add, gentlemen,
the 33rd District, all right, which is Senator Gustavo Riveras, he's a newly elected senator and it took a lot for him to go against the establishment which did not support him. It was grassroots. It was us the people who got out there and worked to help get this senator elected. And he has proven to be a senator for our communities. And you have sliced his area almost in half. You've taken away the --

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

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

SENATOR NOZZOLIO: Thank you.

MR. FRANCIS: Okay. Senator Rivera, Gustavo Rivera was elected by the people. We want him to remain as a representative of the
people. Thank you so much.

SENATOR NOZZOLIO: Marjorie Ritzer?

Marjorie Ritzer? Marjorie Ritzer? Would you like a microphone brought to Ms. Ritzer?

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

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

MR. RITZER: Marjorie Ritzer, 3410 Paul Avenue, Bronx, New York 10468.
SENATOR NOZZOLIO: Thank you very much.

MR. KENNY AGOSTO: Good evening,

Chairman Nozzolio, Chairman McEneny, Ranking Senator Dilan and all the distinguished members of this honorable New York State LATFOR task force. My name is Kenny Agosto, I am a lifelong resident of the great borough of the Bronx and proudly serve as its duly elected district leader for the 80th assembly district, encompassing Allison [phonetic], Bedford Park, Bronxdale, Eastchester Gardens, Indian Village, Laconia, Morris Part, Norwood, Pelham Gardens, Pelham Parkway, Van Nest.

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

Earlier today you had a large contingent from Morris Park, and the gentleman earlier and the three people here earlier represent the 80th
assembly district. It's a beautiful diverse district.

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

We here in the 36th senatorial district which now we inherit a portion of the great Senator Ruth Hassell-Thompson now other parts of the 36th are going to be having less representation, a historical representation of such as [phonetic] Joseph Galiber [phonetic], Samuel Bee [phonetic] and Senator Ruth Hassell-Thompson now has been divided in half.

Norwood has been divided; other parts of the district have been divided. We understand what the constitution says, we understand what the state constitution says. We want to make sure that neighborhoods stay together, that people can grow together. We know that populations change; we know that there's going to be a tug-of-war, but we need to work this
together. And I hesitate to say that we need it before an independent redistricting plan but I just don't know how else we can get what we want and what we need. If one day your neighborhood has these markers and now the jurisdiction has changed everything's changed. We lose hospitals -- we had Einstein Hospital; we longer have Einstein Hospital. We had an interest in the Botanical Gardens; we know have the Botanical Gardens. We had the zoo; we no longer have the zoo. We had access to Lehman College; now we're away from those things. Where does it end?

I know that the Supreme Court says that political concerns can still take precedent and no one's arguing that. But why divide neighborhoods? Why divide communities? We have real problems here in the Bronx, and just like Buffalo and just like other parts of New York State we're economically depressed. We have high unemployment here. We have high health ailments here. Asthma, one of the highest in the nation. We have hypertension, we have HIV and AIDS, we have diabetes.
If you take away our institutions and the elected officials who represent it 'cause we have now, and last time I asked, it was before this distinguished board we had asked that try to take the plan of not divide neighborhoods, to try to take the plan of at least having at least 50 percent of one set community board district so we don't have to weigh the good elected from the bad elected 'cause then what happens when -- and it happened before 20 years ago, we lost Van Nest. And Van Nest has a market rise in crime 'cause there's no accountability. There's divided government.

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

So this is what we're asking: we're asking that you take another look at Common Cause's lines, that you take a look at NAACP
lines, that you take a look at other Latino, the Latino -- I'm sorry -- Latino Justice lines. And if you look at those things you saw that African Americans, Latinos, European Americans got all together and said, "We can divide this. We can have compact lines. We don't have to divide the neighborhoods." We could do a better job. We elect you to represent us and many of you do a great job. But we need, we need, the Bronx needs better representation in those areas and we don't want to lose those representation. So we want you to look at it, look at all the testimony of the people, look at Marjorie Ritzer, look at Carolyn Smith from the neighborhood, the people from Morris Park earlier and other people here that they look at that.

Right now we're behind schedule and they're confused. Now were going to have three elections, I know that has nothing to do with what we're talking about today, but it has something to do with elections because right now when we have to race to find out when's the primary and not know who are representatives are
and it's a whole new political history for the next ten years it's a disservice.

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

ASSEMBLY MEMBER MCENENY: Thank you.

SENATOR NOZZOLIO: Anthony Curry?

Anthony Curry? Okay. Peter Crogus? Peter Crogus? Herman Francis?

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

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

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

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

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

The Republican Party is doing nothing
though, and the Democratic Party is doing nothing
too. It's all going down to who's going to be in
charge of the allegation of the awarding of
contracts and the distribution of, once again,
tax revenue. Understand that the only fair way
is not gonna be anyone in the district [phonetic] to allocate all this; it's draw the line according to the number of population, let the chips fall where it's gonna fall.

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

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

Once again, the campaign for fiscal equity in New York City was won during a lawsuit
about the funding for the educational system.
That money's still tied up in Albany based on the state - - .

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

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

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

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

ASSEMBLY MEMBER MCENENY: Thank you.

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

ASSEMBLY MEMBER MCENENY: Feliciano.

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

ASSEMBLY MEMBER MCENENY: I think he already testified.

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

MS. ALEATHA WILLIAMS: Aleatha Williams. Good evening, my name is Aleatha Williams and I live in the Throg's Neck area of the Bronx and I'm a full-time college student at Mercy College
right now and I am also the founder and president of Youth Leaders on the move, a community-based organization that sponsors several trips and events annually to help increase the college acceptance rates among our graduating high school students and to mentor our high school students who live in the area of the Bronx. My senator is Jeffrey Klein and I'm here today to attest that he is an outstanding senator.

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

Last year in 2011 Senator Klein sponsored about 20 students from Truman High School with chaperones to attend the 40th annual caucus of the New York State Association of Black and Puerto Rican legislators. The educational excursion was a four-day weekend of mentoring guidance to help the students develop both academically and personally into mature teenagers to ready for their college years.
While their events included a keynote dinner, educational sessions and time so meet with elected officials -- I have a copy -- I'm sorry -- in June 2011 Senator Klein also continued this tradition of helping the youth of the Bronx by donating a $500 scholarship for a college-bound senior from Columbus High School. I have a copy of the article that was written by The Bronx Times highlighting Senator Klein's contributions.

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

SENATOR NOZZOLIO: Aleatha thank you very much Ms. Williams. What -- before you
leave, you're in college, or are you? What year in school?

MS. WILLIAMS: Oh, a sophomore.

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

ASSEMBLY MEMBER MCENENY: What's your major?

MS. WILLIAMS: Journalism.

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

MS. WILLIAMS: Thank you.

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

MALE VOICE: He's gone.

SENATOR NOZZOLIO: Rosa Aella? Debra
MS. DEBRA MYERS: Good evening and thank you for all your patience. My name is Debra Myers, I live in the 77th assembly district. Vanessa Gibson is my assemblywoman; my state senator is State Senator Jose Serrano, Jr. My congressman is his father, Jose Serrano, Sr.

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

And I know my doctors, my fire department, my police department we don't look at
color, we don't look at racial things. When we come out and they come out, they go out to help we help whoever because that's our duty as American citizen. And that's the way I feel about it.

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

So my job is to see that the Bronx is beautified with a lot of flowers up and down the concourse. All of my superintendents and other community groups we all working together for that. And that's what we all hear in the Bronx who are testifying should believe in that we are one Bronx. And I'm proud of my borough
president, Reuben Diaz, Jr. because that's what he believes, that we are one Bronx, that's it. You understand? We're going to get the money.

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

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

The other part of my community is that we have -- yes, we do, we have a large Hispanic population in the community and we do have Hispanic representation. But for the Dominican population of my community many of them are not registered voters because they are not American
citizens and even right on 170th Street many of them are allowed to just go and vote for the President of the Dominican Republican. So they are not telling you that yes, they provide a lot of economic access to our community with the livery service, with the stores but many of them because they are not American citizens they're not registered voters so they haven't completed the census and they are allowed to vote for the president of their county in the Dominican Republic and then we allow that. And that's not a problem.

So in order for us to -- I don't feel that the 77th AD will get its fair share because of the way we have -- the way our population is spreaded. Right now with this redistricting we do not have a representation of a hospital because Bronx-Lebanon Hospital is not -- it's in the 33rd senate district. Then we have -- Lincoln Hospital is in another district. So when you come in terms of monies from the hospitals or like they said, Gateway, we're not privy to those things.
And I'm one of those people who I attend my community planning board meetings and I've been there to hash out the new parks and from the Yankee Stadium benefits agreement. I've been there to see all the things that we fought for from community planning board number 4 yet the people who fought for all of these services for this community they're now -- it's now being taken away and given to other, you know, representatives who did not represent us for these things.

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

We have a homeless shelter at 3339 Park Avenue that is going to receive $75 million over a ten-year period for 200-bed men, you know, transient. And they put it right next to junior
high school 145 which children are in fifth grade
to eighth grade. Now that's a travesty to our
community and I felt that this money would be
best used if we would built affordable housing.
I don't care if they took the money and sent the
money to Buffalo or to Nyack where there's land.
We could build other communities in our state
with that money.

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

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

MS. MYERS: Yes, I will summarize. What
I'm saying is I'm tired of hearing that we are
the poorest congressional district in the United
States. We receive a lot of money and Title One
educational monies from the federal government to
educate our children yet they're not being educated. So when you're looking at what they're trying to do down here -- and I'm speaking for the Bronx because I know the Bronx. All this money that's coming down into our community yet I don't see the fruitfulness of it in terms of our children being properly educated to go onto colleges that, you know, and become productive members of this community. We need to redistrict those lines where we're going to have people who are educated and who really care and who will do the analytical research into what is going on and how our state and our federal dollars are being spent here in the Bronx and in the entire New York City, all right? Because right now it's really going -- the economics that we're facing here in the city because of this redistricting, the way the politicians want it it's all because of the fat cats I would put it because it's not about the people; it's who they're going to benefit in terms of the institutions.

We have the hospitals. The hospitals do a lot of research, a lot of good research. But
if you look at when they say the 77th AD we have
the most poverty people on who are on public
assistance and who are on Medicaid and these
people purposely are going to doctors' offices
unnecessarily. We need to teach them good
health.

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

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

So this trying to -- we are actually
destroying ourselves. We are actually destroying
ourselves, all right? I was very disappointed
with a lot of the testimony here because we are
supposed to be one Bronx supporting one another. That's how this country was built. I don't want to hear this anymore. Men are out there dying in the wars for our freedom and people don't even understand that our Constitution of the United States what it means and what we're here and what we are about, all right? We are about freedom; with freedom comes responsibility, you understand? And you are not free until you are responsible. And that's the way I teach my children. You're free when you're responsible for yourself.

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

In this Bronx here we're one Bronx but we need to become responsible for each, you know, for ourselves. All right?
SENATOR NOZZOLIO: Well thank you.

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

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

MR. HERBERT MOREIRA BROWN: Moreira Brown.

ASSEMBLY MEMBER MCENENY: Before you start, Mr. Moreira Brown, people who are not citizens are counted, so are college students that are here that may have voting residence elsewhere; they are counted in the census. We don't count voters; we count people. And if they're not a citizen, if they vote in another country they're still counted. Just a point of clarification. Please proceed. Thank you.
MR. BROWN: Okay. My name is Herbert Moreira Brown, I'm a resident of Coop City. Coop City lies in the northern part of the 82nd assembly district and when you look at Coop City, if you look at the map of the 82nd it's not -- there's no community of interest with the rest, southern part of the 82nd.

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

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

MR. BROWN: My son?

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

CHILD'S VOICE: Hello [phonetic].

MR. BROWN: Okay have a seat.

SENATOR NOZZOLIO: Thank you very much.

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

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

MR. BROWN: When you look at the map
Coop City is more contiguous with the eastern part, the eastern third of the 83rd. When I talk about that let's say if you go down from Bay Chester from number five train, I'm sorry, look at number five train as being the dividing line because it is in some instances a dividing line between the eastern part of 83rd and the western. Now when you start looking at Coop and you look at the instance the bus line's 28 to 26, they go east to west, west to east. Basically we as a community in Coop City we really don't have any connection to the Throg's Neck are, to Pelham Bay, that's cut off by Pelham Parkway going out to City Island and to Audrey [phonetic] Beach. It's also cut out by the -- I believe it's the Metro North or the Amtrak that goes all along underneath the 95. And I think that when you look at -- for instance when 3 o'clock if you drive by Coop City and Coop City Boulevard it's a stream of individuals, students, that leaving Truman High School going into what - - when I was growing up -- I've been up there since 1970 when my parents moved up to Coop City
we called it the Valley, and that's that part
east of the number five train, all right, and I
guess west of I-95.

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

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

The point that I'm trying to say is that
when you make a district, you can't look at a map and just say, "Okay, we're going to cut this out and here's I-95 and everything east of I-95 goes into 82nd." We have absolutely no connection with the southern part of the 82nd. And I understand that there are some people who would like to have the 82nd, the southern part of the 82nd and some parts of Morris Park and Pelham Parkway made a part of the 82nd. I think that when you start looking at it you need to look at where people are flowing because when you start talking about education, when you start talking about schools you know an assemblyman's going to worry about that school that's in his assembly or her assembly district. Now if there's other individuals that go to that school that are outside the assembly district they may care but they still have to wait, work on their voters. I think that there's enough -- the assemblyman for the 83rd is the chairperson of the Bronx Democratic Party; I think that it's -- he seems to be doing a good job or you know, it's not easy to be chairperson of the Bronx Democratic Party
and he's still there. I think he was to move a little west people would just -- the chairperson of Bronx Democratic Party representative but I do think that Coop City and that eastern part of the 83rd and the southern part now -- also I'm talking about when I say the southern Gunhill Road and Allerton Avenue going west I think that there's a real need to look at making another contiguous district where there is a true community of interest.

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

So I think that that's where our community of interests are and I think that when you start making these districts, you know I know that Coop City used to be predominantly Jewish, okay, but not it's predominantly black and
Hispanic, and I'm not going towards racial lines, I'm going towards who's actually going and going into those areas and where, you know, who's coming to Bay Plaza, all right? And the people coming to Bay Plaza are the ones that are going, drive east to west. And generally in the Bronx you drive east to west. Well not every -- some people drive north and south but a lot of times the neighborhoods go east to west. Now of course they're bounded by north and south boundaries but you know, a lot of the flow, like Gunhill Road, Allerton is east to west.

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

And oh and one other point I'd like to make: there are very few districts that have part A district leader and part B district leader. The reason why I believe, and I'm not a historian, the reason why I believe they have the A district leader and B district leader instead
of one district leader for the assembly district
is because it's such a disparate district that it
may be one of those elongated districts where the
people in the north really have nothing to do
with the people in the south. So they have to
give them two different district leaders so they
can go when they go to the democratic committee
meetings that they can report on their
communities.

You can't have a community running from
basically Connors [phonetic] Street all the way
south to the Throg's Neck bridge. I mean and
that's what the 83rd does and that is not a
community; that is just -- you just saying, okay
we're going to make this, we're just going to
carve this out without looking at who lives there
and what makes them tick. And if those
individuals in the southern part of the 82nd would
like to add Morris Park or what have you, I think
that what you should look at is the interests of
the people and let those politicians run and get
their votes. The politicians shouldn't be
guaranteed any lines; they should be voted in by
the people -- republic, right? We have a representative democracy and I believe that that's how it should be and I do hope that you would look at the 82nd and looking at developing those. It's going to be another ten years if it's not done now, or a seat [phonetic] where Coop City's actually in community, of an interest of community with the rest of its neighbors which is basically across -- across I-95. I thank you for listening and have a good evening.

SENATOR NOZZOLIO: Thank you, and thank you Ian.

IAN: Bye.


MR. JOHN FELDER: Good evening, gentlemen. My name is John Felder, I live at 1131 Ogden Avenue in the Bronx in the 77th district. My councilwoman is Vanessa Gibson. My senator is Jose Serrano, Jr. My congressman is Jose Serrano, Sr. I've lived in the Bronx 40 years in Highbridge [phonetic]. I've watched it
change demographically from Irish American to African American and Hispanic American and now Haitian American and Caribbean Americans. I've written for the Highbridge Horizon Newspaper for six years and I've always tried to bring realistic journalism to my community which went on the web and people were reading my article as far as Belize and Central America.

I had a formal education in New York City and a few years in college and I did a lot of studying about American politics and history. I know that Barack Obama's not the first black president; he's the seventh black president based on DNA genealogy and I published that in the paper. I had to bring documentation because America is really misinformed politically and ethnically. The founding fathers of our country were given money by African Americans to buy shoes for the troops to fight the British when George Washington was president. That black man's name was John Hanson. He was the first president of the United States when this was a congress of confederation. They've whitened his
face up in the Smithsonian museum but he was a black mole [phonetic].

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

These people came here tonight to plead their cases to keep their communities. Next year I'll be 62; I'll be signing off on my Social Security. I've been an auto mechanic all my life. My children only know that they're father worked for himself. My daughter has a B.S. in
biology medicine. She's living in Japan. I have my home in South Carolina paid for already. When I go on vacation I drive a 35 foot motor phone. I drive a Cadillac and I have a Jeep.

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

You know we lost a great president when we lost John Kennedy. We lost a great president when we lost Abraham Lincoln. But they stood for something. They stood for all the people. If you read books about Abraham Lincoln you'll find that he was ridiculed and criticized in his political endeavors for picking up a black child and kissing him, and the other white citizens of
America say, "How dare you kiss a lowly Negro?"

Little did they know that the Negro would save the union at Manassas, Virginia from the Southern Confederates. And the sons of Frederick Douglass and Louis Lattimore [phonetic] fought on the front lines.

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

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

SENATOR NOZZOLIO: Thank you very much Mr. Felder and best wishes to you. Mickey Owens [phonetic]? Abraham Jones. Fidel Malea [phonetic]. Now is there anyone else whose name
has not been called who would like to speak?

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

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

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

It is imperative that we be afforded --

SENATOR NOZZOLIO: You're talking senate now.

MS. OLIVER: Yes, I'm talking the Senate, yes, it is imperative that we, as African Americans and Caribbeans and Latinos have a right
for self-determination. It is imperative that we have an opportunity for economic enhancement and development, and by merging us into another district you are depriving us of that opportunity.

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

SENATOR NOZZOLIO: Could you go through those numbers again?

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

SENATOR NOZZOLIO: Right and what district?

MS. OLIVER: That's the 82nd district and we're the district the gentleman was talking about; that's our assembly district.

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

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

ASSEMBLY MEMBER MCENENY: Well we don't cross -- in the assembly we don't cross the city
MS. OLIVER: You're not crossing the city line by going into Throg's Neck. Of the Throg's Neck area you're not crossing any city lines --

ASSEMBLY MEMBER MCENENY: [Interposing] No, no.

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

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

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

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

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

ASSEMBLY MEMBER MCENENY: Oh okay, all right, I understand now.
MS. OLIVER: Okay stay with me because when you know I've lived in the Bronx all of my life so I apologize for that. It's not going to work to move us eastward so that we are a part of City Island. That's not going to work. Throg's Neck that's not going to work. Country Club, the communities are not communities of interest at this time. Thank you so very much for hearing me.

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

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

(The public hearing concluded.)
CERTIFICATE

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