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2011 ILLINOIS STATE SENATE REDISTRICTING COMMITTEE
PUBLIC HEARING

Wednesday, April 6, 2011
Room 212 State Capitol
Springfield, Illinois

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1 COMMITTEE MEMBERS:

- 2 SENATOR KWAME RAOUL, Chairperson
3 SENATOR MICHAEL NOLAND, Vice Chairperson
4 SENATOR DALE A. RIGHTER, Minority Spokesperson
5 SENATOR JACQUELINE Y. COLLINS
6 SENATOR WILLIAM R. HAINE
7 SENATOR DON HARMON
8 SENATOR MATTIE HUNTER
9 SENATOR EMIL JONES III
10 SENATOR KIMBERLY A. LIGHTFORD
11 SENATOR EDWARD D. MALONEY
12 SENATOR IRIS Y. MARTINEZ
13 SENATOR SHANE CULTRA
14 SENATOR KIRK W. DILLARD
15 SENATOR MATT MURPHY

16 CLERK:

17 NATALIA SOLOMON
18
19
20
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1 CHAIRMAN RAOUL: The Committee on
2 Redistricting will be called to order.
3 Clerk, please take the roll.
4 THE CLERK: Senator Murphy?
5 SENATOR MURPHY: Here.
6 THE CLERK: Senator Luechtefeld?
7 SENATOR LUECHTEFELD: Here.
8 THE CLERK: Senator Duffy?
9 (No response)
10 THE CLERK: Senator Dillard?
11 (No response)
12 THE CLERK: Senator Cultra?
13 SENATOR CULTRA: Present.
14 THE CLERK: Senator Righter?
15 (No response)
16 THE CLERK: Senator Martinez?
17 (No response)
18 THE CLERK: Senator Maloney?
19 SENATOR MALONEY: Here.
20 THE CLERK: Senator Lightford?
21 (No response)
22 THE CLERK: Senator Jones?
23 (No response)
24 THE CLERK: Senator Hunter?

1 SENATOR HUNTER: Here.

2 THE CLERK: Senator Harmon?

3 SENATOR HARMON: Here.

4 Senator Haine.

5 SENATOR HAINE: Here.

6 THE CLERK: Senator Collins?

7 (No response)

8 THE CLERK: Senator Noland?

9 (No response)

10 THE CLERK: Mr. Chairman?

11 CHAIRMAN RAOUL: Here.

12 This is the second of several
13 hearings to be held on redistricting as the subject
14 matter. When we began our first hearing about a
15 week and a half ago in Chicago, we had a nearly
16 four-hour long hearing. We received testimony from
17 members of various communities. We intend on soon
18 rolling out a schedule for more hearings.

19 The hearings that we have scheduled
20 thus far after this one will be on April 16th in
21 Kankakee and on April 16th in Peoria and April 19th
22 in Cicero.

23 Senator Maloney, do you seek to be
24 recognized?

1 SENATOR MALONEY: Thank you,
2 Mr. Chairman.

3 In keeping with the precedent that we
4 set at our last committee hearing, I would like to
5 make a motion to allow everyone in attendance today
6 the option to take photos as long as they don't
7 interrupt the proceedings.

8 SENATOR HAINE: I second it.

9 CHAIRMAN RAOUL: It's been moved and
10 seconded.

11 Is there leave?

12 Leave being granted, that will be in
13 order.

14 Senator Hunter, you seek to be
15 recognized?

16 SENATOR HUNTER: Yes, Mr. Chairman.
17 I'd like to make a motion to allow any media present
18 to take still photos and to record the proceedings.

19 SENATOR HAINE: I second that motion.

20 CHAIRMAN RAOUL: It's been moved and
21 seconded.

22 Is there leave?

23 Leave being granted, that will be in
24 order.

1 Senator Harmon seeks to be
2 recognized.

3 SENATOR HARMON: Thank you,
4 Mr. Chairman.

5 I move that this hearing be
6 transcribed by the court reporter so that the
7 committee can have a full transcript of the hearing
8 which the committee can approve at a future hearing
9 once committee members and staff have had time to
10 review the transcript and make any needed
11 corrections.

12 SENATOR HAINE: I second that motion
13 also.

14 CHAIRMAN RAOUL: It's been moved and
15 seconded.

16 Is there leave?

17 Leave being granted, that will be in
18 order.

19 May I also add that a 198-page
20 transcript of our first meeting was received by
21 staff yesterday. It is my intent for the full
22 committee to approve today's transcript along with
23 the transcript from our first hearing when we meet
24 in Cicero on the 19th.

1 I'm going to read the witness slips.
2 If you intend on testifying today and you have not
3 filled out a witness slip, please make sure you do
4 so.

5 We've got Phyllis Logan from African
6 Americans for Legislative Redistricting, oral
7 testimony; Teresa Haley, Springfield NAACP, oral
8 testimony; Syed Ghazi, Asian American Institute,
9 Asian Broadcasting Network; Ahlam Jbara, Council of
10 Islamic Organizations of Greater Chicago; Sung Yeon
11 Choi and Ami Gandhi, Asian American Institute;
12 Whitney Woodward, Illinois Campaign for Political
13 Reform; Randy Becker and Dennis Fisher.

14 We will start with Teresa Haley from
15 the Springfield NAACP.

16 We do have a court reporter so please
17 state your name and your organization before you
18 start your testimony.

19 MS. HALEY: Thank you, Senator.

20 My name is Teresa Haley, T-e-r-e-s-a
21 H-a-l-e-y. I'm the president of the Springfield
22 Branch NAACP. I'm speaking on behalf of the state
23 convention of the NAACP, the state conference, as
24 well as members of the Divine Nine which are the

1 nine Black Greek organizations, and my co-partner --
2 I guess she walked out of the room so I'll go ahead
3 and get started on behalf of the NAACP.

4 Thank you for allowing us this
5 opportunity to speak before you today. There are
6 several things that we want to emphasize.

7 First of all, the Springfield branch
8 and the State NAACP welcomes the opportunity to
9 participate in this hearing on redistricting because
10 the process is important. It's more than political
11 outcome, and, more significantly, it's about the
12 communities and making sure that the communities
13 affected are represented in the process.

14 The NAACP is aware that redistricting
15 is a major impact on who wins the elections by the
16 extension of the types of legislative decisions
17 including the passage of laws, funding decisions,
18 and investments in our community.

19 Because the revised redistricting
20 boundaries are affected for at least ten years, it
21 is imperative that they represent fairly the
22 populations that are being served. It is important
23 that citizens feel welcome to participate in their
24 state and their local redistricting process.

1 Therefore, the NAACP will be monitoring the process
2 closely and looking forward to an opportunity to
3 engage in meaningful conversations as the plan is
4 introduced and developed.

5 Meanwhile, the history of our
6 communities of color have been faced with various
7 obstacles. In the political process, the NAACP
8 expects that the redistricting process on every
9 level, both statewide and local, will comply with
10 the state and federal Voting Rights Acts.

11 There appear to be a number districts
12 where the provisions of the Illinois Voting Rights
13 Act of 2011 will come into play. We look forward to
14 that opportunity to working towards a redistricting
15 plan that will provide fair and effective
16 representation.

17 The NAACP expects the process to be
18 responsive and accountable to communities of color
19 and that their interests will be reflected in the
20 new plans.

21 And also, on behalf of the Divine
22 Nine which are the Greek organizations, Pat is going
23 to list those organizations that are in partnership
24 with the NAACP.

1 CHAIRMAN RAOUL: I have two
2 additional witness slips. Pat Carpenter, National
3 Pan Hellenic Council, and Archie Lawrence.

4 MS. HALEY: Archie Lawrence, yes.

5 MS. CARPENTER: Good morning.

6 The organizations that are partners
7 with --

8 CHAIRMAN RAOUL: Please state your
9 name and your organization for the record.

10 MS. CARPENTER: Pat Carpenter,
11 president of Alpha Kappa Alpha local chapter,
12 Springfield, Illinois.

13 The Greek organizations that are
14 partnering with the NAACP are Iota Phi Theta, Delta
15 Sigma Theta, Zeta Phi Beta, Sigma Gamma Rho, Kappa
16 Alpha Psi, Alpha Kappa Alpha, Alpha Phi Alpha, Omega
17 Psi Phi, and Phi Beta Sigma.

18 MS. HALEY: We want to make sure that
19 our districts are represented well in terms of the
20 minority community. We want to ensure that there's
21 no packing, stacking and cracking going on in
22 Illinois. That is very important.

23 If you need for us to reemphasize
24 what those definitions are, we can do that at this

1 time but I'm sure that information was stated in
2 Chicago's hearing.

3 Does anybody need clarification on
4 packing, stacking and cracking?

5 At this time, I'd like to invite
6 Archie Lawrence. He's an attorney for our district,
7 our Springfield Branch NAACP to come up and say a
8 few words.

9 MR. LAWRENCE: Good morning. My name
10 is Archie Lawrence, and I'm vice president of the
11 Springfield Branch of the NAACP.

12 The reason why I'm here today is to
13 ensure that minorities are fairly represented in any
14 redistricting plan that may come about, and it is
15 especially important in areas such as the
16 Springfield area where we have as much diverse
17 representation as possible. Oftentimes we're
18 overlooked since we're downstate districts and we
19 don't get our fair share of having an opportunity to
20 elect a minority, especially to the State House, so
21 that's our reason for being here.

22 Thank you.

23 CHAIRMAN RAOUL: Do any members have
24 any questions?

1 Thank you very much for your
2 testimony.

3 Please add Senator Righter to the
4 roll.

5 Next we have Ahlam Jbara from the
6 Council of Islamic Organizations of Greater Chicago.

7 MS. JBARA: Good morning. Good
8 morning Senator Raoul, other senators. Thank you
9 very much for this opportunity today. I'm really
10 excited about being part of the redistricting
11 process this year.

12 Again, my name is Ahlam Jbara.
13 That's A-h-l-a-m; last name is Jbara (J-b-a-r-a),
14 and I'm with the Council of Islamic Organizations of
15 Greater Chicago. I'm the associate director.

16 Again, thank you very much for
17 holding the hearings today and giving us this
18 opportunity to come and talk about our communities.

19 The Council of Islamic Organizations
20 is a Muslim organization. We are a membership
21 institution of about 53 mosques, full-time
22 accredited schools, social service organizations,
23 civic organizations, faith-based institutions across
24 the State of Illinois.

1 I'm also an active member of the Arab
2 and Muslim community. I am also a board member of
3 the Arab American Action Network which is a social
4 service organization on the south side of Chicago.
5 I'm also a board member of Project Mobilize which is
6 a C4 organization that was just established to
7 mobilize the Arab and Muslim community on the south
8 side of Chicago.

9 I've done a lot of work within the
10 Arab and Muslim community from social services for
11 domestic violence survivors, working with the youth
12 on the south side of Chicago, the Arab African
13 American Latino youth. I've provided leadership
14 development trainings for the youth but also for
15 adults, organizing civic engagements, organizing
16 political work, doing voter education work with my
17 community.

18 I'm here today on behalf of the
19 Council of Islamic Organizations and our ethnically
20 diverse members. The council is a membership
21 institute, again, 53 mosques and other
22 organizations, and the Muslim American community in
23 Illinois is estimated to be about 400,000 and
24 growing. Again, we are very diverse, and we are

1 scattered across the state, mostly in the City of
2 Chicago and suburban areas, and the Muslim
3 community -- you're going to hear me say this over
4 and over again -- the Muslim community is very
5 diverse. It's Arab. It's African American. It's
6 African immigrants, Latino Americans, Asian
7 Americans, Turkish, Bosnian. We are rich in
8 diversity, rich in culture, and rich in language.

9 There is a cohesiveness within the
10 Muslim American community at large. We come from
11 different countries and ethnic backgrounds but we
12 share many cultural and social similarities. The
13 diverse Muslim community is in various clusters in
14 Chicago and neighboring suburbs.

15 As you will hear soon from the Asian
16 American Institute, they will be testifying today
17 about the growing population of Asians in the
18 Greater West Ridge area of Chicago as well as the
19 growing Asian population in the nearby suburbs such
20 as Skokie, Morton Grove, Naperville and those areas.

21 There's also a large Arab community
22 in the southwest suburbs such as Bridgeview, Oak
23 Lawn, Burbank, Justice, Worth, Illinois, Hickory
24 Hills. It's crucial and imperative that our voice

1 not be diluted in this process. It is crucial to
2 keep us together as a Muslim community of diverse
3 ethnic backgrounds so that our voice is heard and
4 we're able to voice our opinions and meet with our
5 legislators and talk about issues that affect us.

6 There's also a large African American
7 Muslim community on the southwest and southeast side
8 of Chicago, and we have mosques in those areas that
9 are organizing work in those communities. We want
10 to make sure also that communities are kept
11 together.

12 In all these areas, we actually have
13 schools and we have mosques and we have social
14 service organizations that are there organizing the
15 community and ensuring that their needs are met but
16 also listening to what other needs they may have.

17 We have seen it and heard it at the
18 Council of Islamic organizations from our very
19 diverse members. We've seen it firsthand. We have
20 heard the issues that our community faces such as
21 the need for linguistically and culturally
22 appropriate social services, especially for limited
23 English speakers; the need for cross-cultural
24 communications and understanding; the need for

1 increased citizenship and English services; also,
2 effectively serving students in schools with high
3 Asian, Arab, and African populations, and the need
4 to be heard by our elected officials.

5 Division of our community through
6 redistricting will erase our voices and make it even
7 more challenging to organize on our common issues.
8 This will in turn affect our ability to conduct
9 voter registration as we have been doing for the
10 past ten years, campaigns like census outreach,
11 voter education, mobilizing our community around
12 issues like racial profiling and education and
13 educate our community members about the electoral
14 process.

15 Our social and religious institutions
16 are built within already established communities and
17 serve to help disseminate critical information
18 regarding these services. Our communities face a
19 host of common issues such as the need for
20 culturally and linguistically appropriate social
21 services, especially for those with limited English
22 speaking.

23 If the district lines divide these
24 integral community institutions, it will be an

1 additional challenge for our community to overcome.
2 District lines will have a direct effect on how
3 responsive our elected officials will be to our
4 needs. For example, we will be working to establish
5 relationships with state senators and
6 representatives on the southwest side, city and
7 suburbs, and near the Devon community in Chicago.
8 They understand our issues such as civil rights,
9 zoning, social services, English and citizenship
10 classes, language access, and state and municipal
11 government.

12 The Arab, Asian, African American,
13 and Latino communities have taken initiative over
14 the past few years to organize our community
15 members, develop our youth in civic engagement,
16 increase the number of registered voters, conducting
17 voter education and get out the vote campaigns, and
18 increasing our involvement with the electoral
19 process.

20 There are overlapping populations
21 within the Muslim American community and the Asian
22 American community, and there are similar cultural
23 and social concerns that both groups share. For
24 that reason, the Asian American Institute and other

1 pan-Asian efforts seek input of the Muslim American
2 community during various projects related to civic
3 engagement, including census outreach, voter
4 education, and redistricting advocacy.

5 I hope our years our testimony today
6 and our years of activism and organizing is taken
7 into account by this committee in the redistricting
8 process. We are unique as an ethnically diverse,
9 but still distinct, and cohesive community of
10 interest. The CIOGC is focused on the people and
11 our community. We want to be treated fairly during
12 the redistricting process. It is important that the
13 redistricting process is transparent. District
14 lines have a real impact on whether we as minorities
15 can participate in government and make a positive
16 difference in our communities. We want to be
17 grouped together so that we can elect candidates of
18 our choice who can be responsive to our needs.

19 We worked with the Asian American
20 institute to create maps with specific boundaries
21 for the north side of Chicago, northern suburbs, and
22 the Asian American Institute will present those maps
23 to the committee today.

24 Thank you.

1 SENATOR RAOUL: Please add Senator
2 Dillard and Senator Jones to the roll.

3 Are there any questions for this
4 witness?

5 SENATOR HUNTER: I have a question,
6 Mr. Chairman.

7 SENATOR RAOUL: Senator Hunter.

8 SENATOR HUNTER: Mrs. Jbara, welcome
9 to Springfield.

10 MS. JBARA: Thank you.

11 SENATOR HUNTER: During your
12 presentation, on numerous occasions you've
13 referenced Arab Muslim community.

14 MS. JBARA: Uh-huh.

15 SENATOR HUNTER: And I've always
16 thought that, and maybe this is due to my own
17 ignorance but I've always thought that all Arabs are
18 Muslims.

19 Is there a difference?

20 MS. JBARA: Yes, there is, Senator.
21 Not all Arabs are Muslims and not all Muslims are
22 Arab. We have also Arab Christians in Illinois and
23 all across the Middle East as well, so we have Arab
24 Christians and we have Arab Muslims, and also within

1 the Muslim community, we have a very ethnically
2 diverse community: African, American, Latino, so
3 forth.

4 SENATOR HUNTER: Thank you.

5 CHAIRMAN RAOUL: Any other questions
6 for this witness?

7 Thank you very much for your
8 testimony today.

9 And I apologize if I mispronounce
10 this; Mujahid Ghazi, Asian Broadcasting Network.

11 Please state your name the right way.

12 MR. GHAZI: Actually, when we come
13 here, we lose our middle name, so my legal name is
14 Syed Ghazi, but actually, I'm Mujahid Ghazi, the
15 name given by my parents. That's one of the things
16 which we share, the Asians, culturally, and we lose
17 most of those. There are thousands of Khans,
18 thousands of Syeds, and that's one of the security
19 problems also.

20 CHAIRMAN RAOUL: Just for safety for
21 the court reporter's sake, can you spell your name?

22 MR. GHAZI: M-u-j-a-h-i-d, and the
23 last name is Ghazi (G-h-a-z-i).

24 CHAIRMAN RAOUL: Thank you so much.

1 MR. GHAZI: Dear Chairman Senator
2 Raoul and members of the Senate Redistricting
3 Committee, first of all, let me thank you all for
4 allowing me to speak here today.

5 What has brought me here is a
6 continuous and consistent restlessness, insecurity,
7 and a sadness of loss which harms most of my
8 community members in their newly adopted country and
9 also the second generation Asian Americans who are
10 living here simply because they don't have any voice
11 in any public office at the local, the state and
12 federal level. This is predominantly because of the
13 present district lines which cut them into smaller
14 groups, not because of any lack of political and
15 social activism.

16 Let me give you a brief history of my
17 involvement and example to emphasize what I'm trying
18 to prove, Senators.

19 I have been involved with South Asian
20 community in the Chicago area since 1990. I have
21 lived in the north side of Chicago since that time.
22 I ran a community broadcasting network since 1994,
23 started first ever local Pakistani Urdu TV program
24 in 1994, and first ever Urdu/Hindi talk show in

1 North America in 1997.

2 I write in more than two ethnic
3 newspapers and correspond for four television
4 networks. I have been a board member of human
5 service organizations like Hamdad and Metropolitan
6 Asian Family Services. I am part of Community
7 Builders, a very active group of South Asians mainly
8 from India and Pakistan which organizes seminars and
9 workshops to educate the community at large on
10 political, social, civic and mental health issues.
11 My relationship with my community is more than
12 casual, Senators. I am a social and political
13 activist, a journalist and a resident of Rogers Park
14 in the West Ridge area. I have seen Devon Avenue,
15 which is a very strong business district in the
16 north side, as a thriving business district, and I
17 am seeing its decline now.

18 In 1999 during a meeting of business
19 and community leaders on TIF funding, when I
20 confronted the alderman of 50th Ward, Mr. Bernard
21 Stone, against his one-sided attempt to impose
22 zoning on the side streets of Devon Avenue during
23 daytime hours and pointed out that it will kill the
24 businesses, he responded that the business owners

1 are not his concern and he doesn't care about them.
2 He only cares for his voters.

3 Mind you, all those businesses were
4 bringing revenue and providing jobs to the local
5 residents, mostly South Asians.

6 Since then, the parking situation and
7 its accompanied hazards have killed this business
8 district. The profound effects of parking problems
9 in this area have been analyzed and documented in
10 the 2007 West Ridge Community Survey, which is on
11 file with the Asian American Institute. Similar
12 lack of responsiveness from not just city but also
13 state officials makes it quite difficult for
14 community members to have their problems resolved
15 effectively.

16 The South Asian community is
17 increasing in numbers in Rogers Park, West Ridge,
18 and Albany Park neighborhoods at a phenomenal rate.
19 This area is referred to as the North Chicago
20 cluster in the Asian American Institute's testimony
21 being submitted today. The upward movement of this
22 group towards north is also part of the social
23 phenomenon increasing the South Asian population in
24 the near north suburbs of Lincolnwood, Skokie,

1 Morton Grove, Niles and Des Plaines which are partly
2 encompassed in the Skokie area and Des Plaines area
3 clusters as defined by Asian American Institute.

4 Our religious and educational
5 institutions, social service organizations and many
6 small and large businesses are in these areas. They
7 have their unique social needs and humanitarian
8 issues. There are seniors who could not communicate
9 or participate with the outside world because of the
10 language barrier and become prisoners in their own
11 homes. There are newly immigrated women raising
12 children but lacking communication skills with their
13 teachers or health care workers because of language
14 and other social hurdles. There are undocumented
15 kids, Senators, hundreds of them, suffering for what
16 they haven't done consciously or intentionally.

17 There are even men who couldn't assimilate in the
18 system because of lack of language and social skills
19 or other communicative problems. There is domestic
20 violence, child and parent abuse which most of the
21 time goes unnoticed. These are just a few examples
22 of the growing need for culturally and
23 linguistically appropriate social services, services
24 that are threatened when legislators do not feel

1 accountable to our community.

2 Honorable members of the committee,
3 our country is going through a critical time which
4 puts national security on top priority. Our
5 security agencies and diplomatic missions need
6 people with multilingual and multicultural skills.
7 By neglecting the local populations of immigrants
8 and their children, we are failing to nurture people
9 who could be very useful for national security and
10 other beneficial purposes.

11 These social, cultural and
12 educational deficiencies cannot effectively be dealt
13 by dividing similar populations instead of uniting
14 them.

15 If you divide communities of
16 interest, you promote social and cultural ailments,
17 and if you keep them together, you promote a healthy
18 environment for social and communal growth.

19 All Asians, whichever country or
20 region they come from, share lots of common values.
21 They face almost the same problems and hurdles as
22 immigrants. You have the power to facilitate in
23 creating districts which could help these people to
24 get maximum benefit of our system to promote their

1 social, cultural and educational well-being. This
2 will help create a healthy state and nation.

3 Honorable members of the committee,
4 let me address something which seems probably not
5 directly related to redistricting but has an
6 indirect relation. I belong to a community which is
7 continuously under surveillance since 9/11. I will
8 not deny the presence of religious extremism in a
9 minority of the Muslim population, same like it is
10 found in any other faith group but the majority of
11 my community is as American and as liberal as any
12 other person of a different faith. It is easy for
13 extremist elements to take advantage of a
14 discontented disrespected, disregarded, distressed
15 and divided community by exploiting the injustices
16 and disparities, insecurity and poverty. It is very
17 difficult to take advantage of a united, harmonious
18 and satisfied community. It is you honorable
19 members of the community who can give them this
20 harmony and strength.

21 Asian American Institute, Council of
22 Islamic Organizations and many grassroots
23 organizations are working hard to help the
24 legislators in identifying justified legislative

1 districts. The Pakistani, Indian and Bangla Deshi
2 community of the north side of Chicago endorses
3 these efforts and hope that the legislators would
4 work closely with these grass-root organizations.

5 Thank you very much.

6 CHAIRMAN RAOUL: Senator Dillard?

7 SENATOR DILLARD: Thank you very
8 much, Mr. Chairman.

9 Mr. Ghazi, like Senator Hunter, we're
10 all here to be educated.

11 Along Devon Avenue and places where
12 there's a heavy Asian population, people from India
13 or descendants from India and Pakistan, how do they
14 get along? Are they one community? Are they
15 separated? How do they get along in the United
16 States?

17 MR. GHAZI: Senator, thank you for
18 asking me this question concerning the background of
19 the political. A lot of people ask me that
20 question, but people who are here, whether they are
21 Indians or Pakistanis, they face same social
22 problems. They are in the same boat politically and
23 socially. A lot of their values, social and
24 cultural values are similar.

1 So, you know, away from that part of
2 the world where all these politics going on, we are
3 quite cohesive and united.

4 CHAIRMAN RAOUL: I have a question.

5 At our last hearing, we heard
6 testimony, and this is probably dealing with the
7 more eastern portion of Rogers Park, but we heard
8 testimony from a couple of citizens from Rogers Park
9 of their desire to separate Rogers Park from the
10 Evanston community, and I raise the question of
11 communities, ethnic communities of interest that may
12 spill over the municipal boundary, so we've got
13 these traditional redistricting principles that
14 conflict with one another.

15 Can you share your opinion on that
16 with regards to the areas that you referred to such
17 as Skokie and Chicago and -- I don't know all of
18 them.

19 MR. GHAZI: Mr. Chairman, you're
20 right. There are a lot of like small clusters which
21 are spread all around these big clusters, and
22 because of the redistricting purposes, we don't
23 know. We can't go beyond certain point because the
24 mappings are there.

1 But honestly, I think that as much as
2 possible if you can get these small clusters also
3 within these big clusters and keep this cohesion and
4 unity within the community for the purposes of
5 building a very effective electoral district, that
6 would probably promote a better governance and
7 better representation.

8 CHAIRMAN RAOUL: So do the clusters
9 spill over the municipal boundaries?

10 MR. GHAZI: Yes, they do.

11 CHAIRMAN RAOUL: Thank you so much
12 for testi fyi ng.

13 MR. GHAZI: Thank you much.

14 CHAIRMAN RAOUL: Next we have Ami
15 Gandhi and Sung Yeon Choi. Can you come up here?

16 And I apologize if I mi spronounced
17 your name, but if you would state your name and
18 spell it for the record as well.

19 MS. CHOI -MORROW: Well, Ami is going
20 to go first so you'll just have to wait a few
21 minutes.

22 MS. GANDHI: Hello everyone. My name
23 is Ami Gandhi. I'm the legal director of Asian
24 American Institute. Thank you for the opportunity

1 to provide input today. We will keep it brief.

2 My first name is spelled A-m-i. Last
3 name is G-a-n-d-h-i.

4 AAI is a Pan-Asian, nonpartisan,
5 nonprofit organization located in Chicago whose
6 mission is to empower and advocate for the Pan-Asian
7 community. We testified at the committee's hearing
8 on March 28th in Chicago, and we refer to that
9 testimony today which talked more about why
10 redistricting matters to our community, the legal
11 protections of our voting rights, current
12 demographics of Asian Americans in Illinois, the
13 need for transparency throughout the redistricting
14 process, and our commitment to working with other
15 minority groups and marginalized communities.

16 You are all by now familiar with the
17 example of the Greater Chinatown area in Chicago, a
18 cohesive community that has experienced unfair
19 fragmentation. We are also here, however, to bring
20 your attention to three other cohesive and compact
21 yet fragmented Asian American communities whose
22 residents have common ground in terms of history,
23 ethnicity, language, and social concerns.

24 The maps attached to our written

1 testimony submitted today, you all should have a
2 copy of that, those maps show the boundaries of
3 these three community clusters which we call just as
4 a shorthand the North Chicago cluster, the Skokie
5 area cluster, and the Des Plaines area cluster, and
6 each of these should be kept intact and not
7 fragmented during redistricting.

8 As you can see on the attached maps,
9 not only is there a high concentration of Asian
10 Americans in the area (you can see that by the
11 yellow and brown shading on the maps) but there is
12 also a plethora of institutions in the area that are
13 vital to our community members, and those are
14 represented by the dots that you see all over the
15 maps.

16 These clusters, which are the areas
17 defined by the red lines, contain between 24 and 31
18 percent Asian Americans, and they're currently each
19 splintered into three to five Illinois House
20 districts.

21 It should be noted that the cluster
22 lines are not district line proposals, and each
23 cluster makes up less than an entire district, and
24 what we're suggesting is that each of the clusters

1 should be incorporated into a larger district.

2 There is an attachment of the
3 demographics and the numbers of people and Asian
4 Americans and people of other racial backgrounds in
5 each of the clusters that's provided in our
6 testimony, and we're happy to answer any questions
7 at all about those details.

8 And we would like to clarify that in
9 order to determine the specific cluster boundaries,
10 again, that's the red lines on the attached maps,
11 AAI has spent significant time consulting community
12 leaders who live, work and serve residents in those
13 areas.

14 We have also discussed and we are
15 continuing to engage in discussions about these
16 boundaries with other minority communities including
17 Mexican American Legal Defense and Education Fund, a
18 committed partner of ours.

19 In this area represented on the maps,
20 there has been a significant growth of Asian
21 population over the last ten years ranging from 10
22 percent to 32 percent growth of Asians. The
23 residents in these areas have common ground not just
24 in terms of race but also in terms of social issues.

1 Most of the Asian Americans in this
2 area are Asian, Indian, Korean, Filipino, and there
3 are also clusters of Pakistani, Chinese, Vietnamese
4 and other Asian American residents in these areas.

5 Even though there is diversity within
6 these communities, Asian Americans are a cohesive
7 group that share many common concerns such as the
8 need for linguistically and culturally appropriate
9 social services which you've heard about in previous
10 testimony today, and these areas are truly a gateway
11 for many immigrants and new citizens who are in the
12 process of adjusting to life in the United States.

13 MS. CHOI-MORROW: Hello. My name is
14 Sung Yeon Choi-Morrow. That's spelled S-u-n-g
15 Y-e-o-n; last name is C-h-o-i - M-o-r-r-o-w, and I
16 am the community organizer at Asian American
17 Institute.

18 Thank you for this opportunity to
19 speak in front of you this morning. I'm going to be
20 focusing on one of the three cluster areas that AAI
21 is working on, and as the hearings progress we will
22 be bringing more information on the other areas as
23 well, but for today's purpose, if you could look to
24 the North Chicago cluster map which is the last map

1 in the attachments, and if you look at this area, it
2 is all in the City of Chicago, and it's mainly in
3 the neighborhoods of West Ridge and Albany Park, and
4 I think when we think about neighborhoods in
5 Chicago, we think of them as being distinct and in
6 individual neighborhoods, but in this case, we have
7 found that the Asian American population lives
8 pretty contiguously between West Ridge and Albany
9 Park, and it actually lies within five different
10 state House districts and three Senate districts,
11 state Senate districts.

12 The population in that area is mostly
13 Vietnamese, Filipino, Pakistani and Indian, and
14 there are other Asians such as Cambodians and
15 Koreans but not in as high numbers, and today, just
16 for example purposes, I wanted to talk about the
17 Filipino and the South Asian community because there
18 is a lot of movement and interaction between West
19 Ridge neighborhood and Albany Park.

20 And so if you look at our maps, there
21 are a lot of purple dots on Devon which is in West
22 Ridge, and a lot of that commercial area is actually
23 South Asian, so the Filipino residents that live in
24 West Ridge go to Albany Park for their groceries and

1 other retail services, and so there's a lot of
2 interaction for Filipinos who also worship in
3 parishes in Albany Park where there are, you know,
4 far larger numbers of Filipinos but because they're
5 fairly close in proximity, they tend to move fairly
6 fluid between those two neighborhoods.

7 And with the South Asian community as
8 we have seen the population grow in West Ridge, they
9 have started to settle in Albany Park as well, and
10 so there are mosques, places of worship and
11 religious institutions as well as major media
12 outlets that service folks that live in West Ridge
13 that are currently located in Albany Park.

14 And so when we showed this map to our
15 community members and asked them, you know, where we
16 should draw the line in terms of identifying a
17 cluster of cohesive Asian Americans, they were very
18 adamant on the fact that West Ridge and Albany Park
19 actually belong together as one cluster.

20 And so in conclusion, as Asian
21 Americans, we want to urge this committee to
22 continue hearing our stories and our testimonies, to
23 incorporate them into the process, and the Asian
24 American community is deeply concerned about having

1 equal opportunity to elect representatives of our
2 choice, and many community leaders have testified at
3 the Chicago hearing as well as here today in detail
4 about the cohesiveness of our community and the
5 great harm that we face as a result of unfair voter
6 dilution.

7 Asian American Institute urges the
8 committee to remain mindful of our rights and give
9 us a meaningful opportunity to review and respond to
10 draft maps.

11 Thank you.

12 CHAIRMAN RAOUL: Senator Righter?

13 SENATOR RIGHTER: Thank you,

14 Mr. Chairman.

15 Ladies, thank you for your testimony.
16 Ms. Gandhi, if I can ask you a question -- I guess
17 either one of you -- about the map that's on the
18 last page of your written testimony to which you
19 both referred.

20 I have been told since our hearing in
21 Chicago when we were together last that if you look
22 toward the bottom of the map, the bottom left-hand
23 corner that has the words Albany Park in it and the
24 number 40 and then above that there's kind of a

1 squiggly little, it looks like a meandering stream
2 to use a phrase from the last court case I think on
3 these maps, that curves just above that.

4 Now, I am told by our staff that the
5 census information indicates that the overwhelming
6 majority of individuals who are in that area there
7 are Latinos, not Asian Americans.

8 One I want to ask first if you agree
9 with that conclusion.

10 MS. GANDHI: I am glad that you asked
11 that question. There are a lot of Latinos actually
12 throughout the entire area of all the maps that
13 we've shown you, and that's why it's crucial that we
14 collaborate with MALDEF and other Latino advocates
15 and community members to try to come to a mutually
16 beneficial result during our advocacy.

17 So, yes, there are a lot of Latinos
18 all around this whole area and especially toward the
19 southern portion of this North Chicago area map. It
20 is actually for that reason that this cluster line
21 is drawn at Lawrence Avenue because we learned,
22 although this is an ongoing, fluid conversation with
23 groups such as MALDEF, but we learned that there's
24 such a high percentage of Latinos starting from

1 Lawrence and going south of that that it is some
2 groups' intention to advocate for majority/minority
3 Latino districts from Lawrence going south, and for
4 that reason, we, in order to be respectful of each
5 other's communities and each other's voting rights,
6 have come to a consensus with MALDEF to draw this
7 boundary line at Lawrence Avenue.

8 Now, I'm not here to speak on their
9 behalf, and they could speak more clearly about
10 their position on these lines. However, it has been
11 an important part of our process to respect the
12 Latino community in exactly the area you're talking
13 about.

14 SENATOR RIGHTER: So let's focus on
15 that area. Actually, it's my understanding the blue
16 line is the current legislative line, correct?

17 MS. GANDHI: Correct.

18 SENATOR RIGHTER: The current line
19 carves most of that area out and takes it into a
20 district that runs south as I look at this map.

21 In that area right there which you
22 would propose which is obviously north of Lawrence,
23 in that area right there, what is the ratio of
24 Latinos to Asian Americans, do you know?

1 MS. GANDHI: I don't know for that
2 specific part of this cluster. I can find that out.

3 As you can see by the dark colors on
4 here, that shows the Asian density, which is high,
5 and I know that the Latino density is also high in
6 that area. I don't have the specifics about those
7 few blocks. I could certainly find out and get back
8 to you.

9 We do have the current demographics
10 for this whole area, this whole cluster, and that's
11 in the packet, and I can pull that page up right now
12 that talks about that overall cluster, and that
13 shows --

14 SENATOR RIGHTER: Well, and I don't
15 mean to interrupt. I appreciate that, but I'm just
16 talking about this one area down here because...

17 MS. GANDHI: That area, I don't have
18 that number offhand.

19 SENATOR RIGHTER: ...obviously, the
20 lines can move block by block.

21 MS. GANDHI: Right.

22 SENATOR RIGHTER: I would appreciate
23 if you'd get back to us on that. We're not going to
24 solve this problem here, and I want to show respect

1 to the committee's time.

2 And when you respond back, I guess
3 this is the issue I'd like you to have in mind.
4 Obviously we're charged with keeping certain areas
5 together and creating influence to districts where
6 they can, and the issue for the people who will draw
7 the lines is can you justify putting that particular
8 area in a district north as opposed to south where
9 it's my understanding the population is heavier
10 Latino.

11 Obviously I have not looked at that,
12 but that's the issue that I think that we need to
13 explore a little bit.

14 MS. GANDHI: And we believe that we
15 can. We certainly agree that that's an important
16 principle to keep in mind when drawing the maps.
17 We're in full agreement with you, and I can get back
18 to you about the detailed racial breakdown in that
19 area.

20 And the overall cluster, I'm just
21 looking at the demographic breakdown here and it's
22 27 percent Latino, 24 percent Asian. In that
23 overall cluster that's drawn for that specific area,
24 we'll get back to you with details.

1 SENATOR RIGHTER: Okay. Thank you.

2 Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

3 CHAIRMAN RAOUL: I have a question
4 that's similar to the question I asked earlier about
5 the conflict between communities of interest and
6 municipal boundaries.

7 I don't know if you were in the
8 hearing a week and a half ago when witnesses talked
9 about the Woodlawn and the Englewood communities,
10 and I think there was one other community, and they
11 talked about this notion of keeping the neighborhood
12 as defined by the City of Chicago together.

13 Now, that obviously conflicts
14 sometimes with certain specific neighborhoods with
15 keeping other types of communities of interest
16 together. I just wanted you to share your opinion
17 on that issue just generally.

18 MS. GANDHI: Our general stance, and
19 we've stated this also during the reform hearings
20 over the course of the last few years, AAI's general
21 stance is that keeping minority community of
22 interest united and respecting the voting rights of
23 those residents should be a higher priority than
24 respecting municipal boundaries.

1 That said, you can see on our cluster
2 proposals that at least one of those does stay
3 within the Chicago municipal boundaries. However,
4 Sung Yeon can speak more about the other clusters
5 and the reason that it crosses municipal boundaries.

6 CHAIRMAN RAOUL: And I'm with you on
7 the municipal boundaries. I'm going a little bit
8 more narrow to the neighborhood, at least the
9 so-called neighborhood boundaries.

10 I mean, obviously I guess if your
11 sentiment with regards to the municipal boundaries
12 is that keeping those voting rights communities
13 together usurps the municipal boundary, I'd imagine
14 you'd feel it would do the same to the neighborhood
15 boundary.

16 MS. CHOI -MORROW: Right. I think
17 that, you know, there are certain areas in Chicago
18 where neighborhoods are very distinct and they have
19 certain natural boundaries that kind of carve out a
20 neighborhood, but we don't see that in the case of
21 this neighborhood here.

22 And, you know, with all due respect
23 to the folks that drew up these neighborhoods, you
24 know, that happened years ago, and, you know, the

1 population that lives there does not respect those
2 lines and say, okay, well, we're Indian so let's
3 live in West Ridge. You know, they live where they
4 have to, where they can afford, where they have easy
5 access to transportation, easy access to social
6 services that speak their language and are
7 culturally appropriate, and so, you know, they've
8 kind of sprawled south from West Ridge into Albany
9 Park.

10 And so, you know, as Ami stated
11 earlier, we think it's more important for us to
12 respect our community as they're forming in the City
13 of Chicago versus respecting the lines that were
14 drawn before they got there.

15 MS. GANDHI: It's a matter of how you
16 define the neighborhoods exactly as Sung Yeon
17 articulated, and we think that the primary respect
18 should be placed on the opinion of the people who
19 live and work and serve clients in those areas, and
20 that's how we come up with our proposals and those
21 are the proposals that we suggest you should place
22 primary focus on.

23 CHAIRMAN RAOUL: Senator Jones?

24 SENATOR JONES: Thank you,

1 Mr. Chairman.

2 Looking at the map, could you clarify
3 for the record the AA institutions, what type of
4 institutions they are, what they represent as well?

5 MS. CHOI-MORROW: Sir, the purple
6 dots that are on the maps are religious institution,
7 cultural or language institutes where they teach an
8 ethnic language or culture, cultural dances or art.
9 They are also businesses such as grocery stores,
10 restaurants, and other small businesses that are
11 owned by specific ethnic owners that service, you
12 know, folks in that language.

13 MS. GANDHI: They would also include
14 social service organizations that are sensitive to
15 the needs of the people in the Asian American
16 community so that might have some special
17 linguistical or cultural competence to serve clients
18 in our communities, so we came up with these dots by
19 talking people who live and work in these
20 neighborhoods by asking what are the places that are
21 important to you, that you frequent, that are
22 important to people in your family and your
23 community.

24 CHAIRMAN RAOUL: Senator Haine?

1 SENATOR HAINE: Thank you, Ladies,
2 for being here.

3 I'm from downstate near St. Louis so
4 your testimony, although I've been to Chicago many
5 times over the years, certainly is a window on a
6 rich, vibrant culture, diverse. It should remind
7 all of the people of Illinois what a great asset we
8 have in our immigrant communities.

9 I do have one -- and you pointed out
10 and the previous witnesses pointed out this rich
11 diversity, and maybe you've done it and so I'm off
12 base here, but I would like to see some specific
13 input from these communities which you refer to that
14 are listed, the Filipinos, the Vietnamese, there's a
15 strong Vietnamese community in South St. Louis I'm
16 familiar with, the many others that are listed in
17 the Asian American Institute, that they are on board
18 specifically with these proposed clusters so we
19 don't get crossways with, and not to in any way
20 depreciate what you're saying, but just so we are
21 assured that the older, more organized communities
22 aren't setting the tone for some of the newer ones
23 that may be lost in the shuffle. I want to be
24 comfortable that, for example, the Vietnamese

1 community has a strong place in these clusters.

2 Do you see what I'm saying?

3 MS. CHOI -MORROW: Yes. Thank you for
4 bringing that up.

5 If you look on page 2 of our
6 testimony, we have listed a number of organizations
7 that actually had firsthand participation in helping
8 us draw these cluster lines. We literally had a
9 meeting of two or three hours where people sat in a
10 room and said, no, this line needs to move two more
11 blocks east and this lines needs to move, and, you
12 know, it was a combination of Indians, Pakistani s.
13 We had both Dr. Ghazi and Ahlam in the room. We had
14 Koreans there. We had Cambodians there, and there
15 are folks that we have not put on this list that we
16 work with that could not make it to that mapping
17 meeting so we did not list them just for, you know,
18 that very specific purpose.

19 MS. GANDHI: We were conservative in
20 this list you see on page 2. It's, honestly, just a
21 sampling of the many organizations and community
22 leaders and residents who we've talked to. We
23 wanted to be conservative in the list we give just
24 to be very careful about how we frame it.

1 So this list is people who actually
2 sat with us in a very extended meeting and series of
3 conversations to weigh in on the cluster lines, and
4 there have been many, many more people who we, and
5 especially Sung Yeon, our community organizer, has
6 talked to about redistricting and political
7 representation in general.

8 MS. CHOI -MORROW: And to state
9 further that they are on board with what we are
10 doing and that we check in with them whenever we
11 want to move lines or, you know, when we wanted to
12 group Albany Park and West Ridge together, we
13 checked in with the Vietnamese organizations, we
14 checked in with the Filipinos, we checked in with
15 everyone to make sure that that was something they
16 could agree with or that they, you know, that they
17 were okay with and that they thought it made sense
18 for their community as well.

19 SENATOR HAINE: Good. Yeah, this is
20 a new era, and that's great. I appreciate that.
21 Thank you.

22 CHAIRMAN RAOUL: Thank you so much
23 for your testimony.

24 MS. CHOI -MORROW: Thank you.

1 CHAIRMAN RAOUL: We next have Phyllis
2 Logan on behalf of African Americans for Legislative
3 Redistricting.

4 MS. LOGAN: Good morning. Thank you
5 to the Illinois Senate Redistricting Committee for
6 the public forum. Thank you.

7 My name is Phyllis Logan. I am the
8 Housing Committee Chair for the Westside Branch of
9 the NAACP of Chicago. I am here today in my
10 capacity as the co-chairperson of the African
11 Americans for Legislative Redistricting. It's a
12 statewide coalition of black civic groups and
13 leaders concerned with redistricting.

14 The right to vote is meaningless if
15 one's vote isn't effective, and a vote is only as
16 effective as the boundaries of the district in which
17 it is cast. The 2001 mapping was effective for
18 African American voters in Illinois. There is no
19 quarreling with success nor should the legislature
20 fix what's not broken.

21 Our coalition's previous testimony
22 before this committee on March 28th set forth the
23 legal and the constitutional bases for maintaining
24 black voting strength and representation in the

1 current remapping. I refer you to that testimony
2 for questions of a legal nature. I am here today to
3 stress the practical importance of maintaining black
4 voting strength and representation in the current
5 remapping.

6 Quite simply, the 2001 map was a
7 success from the standpoint of African Americans and
8 indeed from the standpoint of history. In procuring
9 a democratic majority, that map helped to produce
10 the first black state senate president in Illinois'
11 history and is one of a few in the nation's history.

12 The 2001 map also created the
13 district from which Barack Obama launched his United
14 States Senate campaign which in turn made his
15 presidency possible.

16 Apart from the ascension of these
17 high profile African American legislators to
18 historic leadership positions, the 2001 map has
19 delivered effective representation for African
20 Americans in Illinois. Under the 2001 map, black
21 state legislators have chaired important committees
22 such as insurance, elementary and secondary
23 education appropriations, small business empowerment
24 and workforce, housing, financial institutions,

1 revenue, health and human services and pensions and
2 investments.

3 During the 96th legislative session
4 alone, from 2009 to 2010, African American
5 legislators were the chief sponsors of more than 220
6 bills that became law. Throughout the past decade,
7 many of the hundreds of bills sponsored by African
8 American legislators have had a particular focus and
9 impact on minority communities throughout Illinois.
10 To highlight just a few examples, the African
11 American HIV/AIDS Response Act has increased the
12 availability of HIV testing in high-risk areas which
13 include many minority communities and authorizes the
14 state to expand Medicaid coverage to non-disabled
15 individuals living with HIV/AIDS. A state law
16 sponsored by then State Senator Obama expanded the
17 health care coverage for families in Illinois whose
18 income exceeded Medicaid limits, and most recently,
19 Illinois took the historic step of abolishing the
20 death penalty, a punishment disproportionately meted
21 out to blacks. That measure's chief sponsor in the
22 state senate was an African American.

23 I review these accomplishments to
24 impart one simple message to the Senate

1 Redistricting Committee. With all due respect,
2 please do not tamper with this African American
3 success story which is also a quintessential
4 American success story. African American voters and
5 legislators are now ingrained in the fabric of the
6 political legislative processes of Illinois.

7 In the 2010 midterm elections, black
8 votes constituted more than 36 percent of the total
9 votes received by the democratic gubernatorial
10 nominee who won the election by a mere 31,000 votes.
11 We were an even greater share of the vote for the
12 democratic candidate for the U.S. Senate.

13 Our coalition fully expects the
14 remapping to reflect our voting strength as the most
15 cohesive and loyal voting bloc in the state. Thus,
16 we do not expect any substantial changes relative to
17 the African American representation in either the
18 state legislative or the congressional remappings.

19 Our coalition's metric for assessing
20 any plan produced by the state legislature is quite
21 simple: Does the map respect existing relationships
22 between African American voters and their
23 representatives, and does the map recognize black
24 voters as the most cohesive and loyal partisans in

1 the political process? Respecting existing
2 relationships means counting black citizens in their
3 own communities. Thus, black inmates should be
4 counted in the communities from which they came and
5 are likely to return rather than where they are
6 incarcerated.

7 Respecting existing relationships
8 also means being cognizant of the effect of
9 political decisions of the past decade that have
10 dispersed black populations that resided in large
11 housing complexes that the City of Chicago chose to
12 eliminate. We do not believe that the involuntary
13 displacement of communities of color should occasion
14 still further harm to remaining communities of color
15 in the redistricting process. Instead, the
16 legislature must recognize that communities of
17 interest survive and transcend physical
18 displacements, and ultimately, the remapping should
19 reflect the continuing vitality of these communities
20 of interests.

21 Thus, where a representative's
22 district has experienced a decrease in population
23 due to the involuntary displacement of blacks from
24 the City of Chicago or elsewhere, mappers should

1 strive to maintain that district by adjoining like
2 minded voters who are likely to form a political
3 coalition with existing residents of the district.

4 Let me make one final point regarding
5 the need to respect existing relationships. Certain
6 commentators and media outlets have portrayed as a
7 foregone conclusion that Illinois' slower population
8 growth and diversifying demographics means that
9 black representation must be decreased. However,
10 these individuals and media have simply
11 misapprehended the census data and redistricting
12 process.

13 First of all, whites, not African
14 Americans, have experienced the greatest decrease as
15 a proportion of the state's population. In this
16 regard, the myopic focus on the black community and
17 the implication that black voters must bear the
18 brunt of demographic changes is misleading. The
19 most accurate characterization of the census data is
20 that Illinois is less white.

21 Second, as I stressed above, counting
22 population is one thing. Counting votes is quite
23 another. Black voters remain the singlemost
24 reliable democratic cohort in Illinois. The

1 redistricting process recognizes more than race and
2 ethnicity. It recognizes political performance as
3 well.

4 We urge you to be attentive to the
5 metrics we have outlined above.

6 Thank you very much for your time.

7 CHAIRMAN RAOUL: Senator Murphy?

8 SENATOR MURPHY: Thank you

9 Mr. Chairman.

10 Ms. Logan, I appreciate you being
11 here.

12 Do you believe that the map-drawing
13 process, through the map-drawing process, the
14 majorities here in Springfield ought to reward the
15 black community for their loyalty to democratic
16 candidates?

17 MS. LOGAN: No, I don't, but I will
18 say that the existing map works very well for the
19 existing legislators and contributing to the
20 services that are needed to the populations.

21 SENATOR MURPHY: Well, if you don't
22 mean that, then why do you bring up the context of
23 the loyalty of black voters to the democrat party if
24 not to remind them that those black voters need to

1 be rewarded in this process?

2 MS. LOGAN: It was not stated to be a
3 reward of any such. It was just to bring
4 recognition to the honesty, the loyalty of the black
5 voters.

6 SENATOR MURPHY: How should we in
7 drawing the map consider that point that you had
8 indicated is important, the loyalty to the democrat
9 party of the African American voters?

10 MS. LOGAN: I would think that when
11 we talk about remapping, leaving the map as it is
12 would possibly answer all those questions, just
13 leaving the map as it is.

14 SENATOR MURPHY: But you understand
15 though that we have to have the same number of
16 residents, people in each district, so leaving the
17 map exactly as it is isn't an option. Is that a
18 fair statement?

19 MS. LOGAN: That's a fair statement,
20 but we've also talked about reducing the number
21 down. Why not change the factors that are used for
22 the map such as the number of populations. Reduce
23 the number of populations; just leave the areas as
24 they are.

1 SENATOR MURPHY: I'm not sure -- I
2 didn't understand that.

3 MS. LOGAN: Well, if you remap, you
4 can remap by design and say we've reduced the factor
5 of the number of people that it takes to be in one
6 district.

7 SENATOR MURPHY: Well, wouldn't we
8 need more representatives then?

9 MS. LOGAN: No, not if the population
10 as a whole throughout Illinois has changed, has
11 reduced, decreased, and we're all working with the
12 same or waiting on the same mapping mechanisms as I
13 think you guys are to make sure we get the numbers
14 are intact.

15 SENATOR MURPHY: Well, but the
16 numbers in the legislative district, the Senate
17 district, we're going up from about 210,000 people
18 per district under the last map, the one that you
19 had touted as a success because it created the
20 democrat majority, and under the new numbers, it's
21 got to be about 217,000 or thereabouts.

22 So we know the number that need to be
23 in each legislative district. Now we have to draw
24 lines to fit those numbers, don't we?

1 MS. LOGAN: Yes, we do, and we're
2 waiting on all those factors to be in front of us as
3 well, but for the last two weeks now as we've been
4 working just as any of the other groups have been
5 working, we're fine tuning as well.

6 Not knowing the actual results or
7 resolve to the map, we are looking at the numbers,
8 so I guess once we get all of the numbers intact, we
9 would be able to focus more on either decreasing the
10 size of the district as it relates to the population
11 or redraw the map where you maneuver spaces.

12 SENATOR MURPHY: Ms. Logan, do you
13 anticipate that the NAACP will produce a public map
14 of their own in this process?

15 And if we can be of assistance in
16 that regard, the republican, senate republicans
17 anticipate making the software available in the
18 event that the NAACP wishes to do so.

19 MS. LOGAN: We are in communications
20 on that exact topic, and one of my chores today or
21 directives today was to see what information was
22 available for me to take back to Chicago.

23 SENATOR MURPHY: Wonderful. Thank
24 you for your testimony.

1 MS. LOGAN: You're welcome. Thank
2 you.

3 CHAIRMAN RAOUL: Senator Righter?

4 MS. LOGAN: Oh, I'm sorry.

5 SENATOR RIGHTER: That's all right.
6 Can I keep you for just a moment? Thank you.

7 Ms. Logan, at the hearing that we had
8 a week ago Monday in Chicago, we heard some
9 testimony along the lines of what you've given here
10 today concerning where prison inmates should be
11 counted in terms of the population, and you used the
12 same phrase that I think that I've heard from two or
13 three, at least two or three others in promoting
14 that idea, and it's that they shouldn't be counted
15 at the facility. They should be counted in the
16 areas where they're from.

17 How is that defined where they are
18 from? What does that mean exactly?

19 MS. LOGAN: From their communities.

20 SENATOR RIGHTER: Okay. We live in a
21 mobile society so let me give you a hypothetical.

22 Before someone was convicted and sent
23 to prison, they lived in neighborhood A for six
24 months and they lived in neighborhood B for six

1 months, and before that, they didn't live in
2 Illinois.

3 Who gets to count them --
4 neighborhood A or neighborhood B?

5 MS. LOGAN: I don't know. I think I
6 would wait for that to be defined in respect to how
7 it would work best, but if my child was taken away
8 to a different county after living with me on and
9 off their entire life, then that child would be
10 counted at my resident location. That's the way I
11 would calculate that.

12 If my child had never really left
13 permanently as would be stated to me, "ma, I'm gone
14 for good," then I know that my child is coming back.

15 SENATOR RIGHTER: Well, how do you
16 know that though? They may not choose to do so.
17 Just because they're counted from where they came
18 doesn't mean that they're required to move back to
19 that neighborhood after they're released from a
20 correctional facility.

21 MS. LOGAN: Well, I think the other
22 factors would be to ask that inmate where you're
23 returning to. I mean, that's why I said other
24 factors. There's other parts to this that we could

1 not conclude, number one, that they would choose to
2 go in a different direction, but we could many times
3 assume that they're going back home whether they
4 stay in the same house on the same block or a
5 different house on the same block. If they're going
6 back home, they're going back home. That's the way
7 we see it. And most times they do come back home.

8 SENATOR RIGHTER: Okay. That's fair.

9 All right. Thank you, ma'am. I
10 appreciate it.

11 CHAIRMAN RAOUL: Senator Luechtefeld?

12 SENATOR LUECHTEFELD: In your
13 testimony, you talked about.

14 MS. LOGAN: I'm sorry. I apologize.

15 SENATOR LUECHTEFELD: I'm sorry. In
16 your testimony, following up on Senator Righter's
17 question with regard to the correctional
18 institutions, I happen to live and my district is in
19 southern Illinois, and there are a number of
20 correctional institutions in my district.

21 One of the -- you know, I think he
22 brought up some very good points about where were
23 those people and where will they return to is really
24 hard to say and how long have they been there, and

1 all those things are very, you know, there's a lot
2 of questions there I think.

3 We in the district that I represent,
4 for instance, many of those institutions, the
5 communities that house those institutions are forced
6 to have larger water systems, larger sewer systems,
7 and have to furnish that particular institution with
8 things such as water and sewer and other facilities
9 which is expensive, and one of the reasons that they
10 are counted usually in those communities is that the
11 state reimburses communities according to
12 population.

13 That would be a problem I think for
14 many of those communities in southern Illinois who
15 presently have those correctional institutions.

16 How would you address that?

17 MS. LOGAN: I think it would be the
18 same as if our communities were anticipating funding
19 for the same totality of people in the communities.
20 I mean, that is truly a dividing line between who
21 gets funded and who doesn't for certain communities,
22 and we're stating that in order for our communities
23 to be able to retain the level of social services
24 that should come into our community, we should be

1 able to count our family members.

2 SENATOR LUECHTEFELD: But those
3 people are no longer there. They are being housed
4 in a different location, and many of their expenses
5 are taken on by those communities.

6 I mean, if that particular
7 institution was in your district, I'm going to guess
8 that you would hope that you could get state funding
9 and count those people so that your community could
10 get the money that you're talking about to provide
11 those services.

12 MS. LOGAN: Teresa is going to add
13 something.

14 MS. HALEY: Again, I'd like to add
15 something. My name is Teresa Haley, T-e-r-e-s-a
16 H-a-l-e-y. I'm the president of the Springfield
17 Branch NAACP.

18 We've had this discussion for quite
19 some time even at our national convention. We
20 believe that if an inmate, let's say he has two or
21 three years left on his sentence and at the time
22 that he completes his sentence, he's going to return
23 back to his home community, let's say Cook County.
24 We need to have funding and jobs available for that

1 person returning back to their community.

2 If they're counted in the community
3 in which they're housed or imprisoned in, that money
4 is going to stay in that community for ten years.
5 That money somehow needs to be transferred back to
6 that community where that inmate or that released
7 person is going to provide jobs, housing, and
8 whatever other things that they need to survive.

9 SENATOR LUECHTEFELD: So to follow up
10 on your argument then, some of the prisoners should
11 be counted in the place that they're going to
12 return, but if a prisoner is there for life, then it
13 shouldn't.

14 So are you saying that you would like
15 to then take that facility and some of the people in
16 that, maybe if it houses 3,000 people, 700 of them
17 who might be getting out soon, that count should be
18 made to their home community, but the others should
19 stay in the community that they're going to be in
20 for the next 20 years? Is that the argument you're
21 making.

22 MS. HALEY: That's not exactly the
23 argument that I'm making, but that makes sense to
24 us.

1 When we look at it, let's say if we
2 can compromise and we say someone is going to be
3 released in the next five or six years. At that
4 midpoint, for ten years, that funding is going to go
5 to the community in which they are housed, but if we
6 know an inmate is going to be released in the next
7 five years, let's make concessions to have that
8 money returned back to the community.

9 SENATOR LUECHTEFELD: So then you
10 would make a differentiation between --

11 MS. HALEY: Yes, most definitely.

12 SENATOR LUECHTEFELD: And the reason
13 I bring this up, I really never thought about this
14 until I've had several questions from the media
15 saying how do you feel about counting those
16 prisoners in their home district, and it was
17 something I really had not thought a lot about, and
18 I guess I was looking for arguments either way.

19 MS. HALEY: In working for the State
20 of Illinois, one of the things that I discovered
21 personally is when an inmate is released, if they're
22 not trained when they come back to their
23 communities, there aren't any jobs available, and so
24 if a lot of the money is coming from the census for

1 the next ten years, it's important that those
2 fundings go back to that community.

3 SENATOR LUECHTEFELD: So you would
4 recommend then actually not giving the full count
5 but some of those prisoners?

6 MS. HALEY: I think there has to be
7 some type of compromise, yes, most definitely.

8 SENATOR LUECHTEFELD: I see. Okay.

9 CHAIRMAN RAOUL: I appreciate debate
10 on prison population, but, you know, we probably
11 want to stay, with the time constraints we have, to
12 the actual redistricting. I know that there was a
13 bill that fell short in the House, so we've got time
14 constraints, so let's try to stay with the matter.
15 Thank you.

16 Any other questions of this witness?

17 Thank you for your testimony.

18 Let's add Senator Martinez, Senator
19 Collins and Senator Lightford to the roll.

20 Our next witness is Dennis Fisher,
21 Shelby County.

22 MR. FISHER: Good morning. Thank you
23 for the opportunity to speak before the committee.

24 I am Dennis Fisher (F-i-s-h-e-r), and I represent

1 Shelby County. We are a county in south central
2 Illinois. We have 20,000 people. We have four
3 state representatives, three state senators, and two
4 U.S. congressmen.

5 I'm here today to seek less
6 representation. The way our county is divided right
7 now, Shelbyville is the county seat, and it is split
8 in half. Most of our people are confused where to
9 go, who their representatives are, their legislators
10 are, and we would like to see the county kept intact
11 in a redistricting or, at worst case scenario, cut
12 in half so we can go down to two state reps or two
13 state senators.

14 I will keep it brief because that's
15 about all I have. We want to see less
16 representation. We have 20 townships, 33 precincts,
17 and our biggest problem is people are just confused.
18 They don't know who to go to, who to talk to because
19 the way the county is divided.

20 Thank you.

21 CHAIRMAN RAOUL: Senator Righter?

22 SENATOR RIGHTER: Mr. Fisher, how are
23 you today?

24 MR. FISHER: I'm doing fine. Thank

1 you.

2 SENATOR RIGHTER: I want to thank
3 you, as one of those three state members of Shelby
4 County, I want to thank you for making the trip over
5 and providing your input which I think is very well
6 thought out. Thank you very much.

7 MR. FISHER: Thank you.

8 CHAIRMAN RAOUL: You know, I'm not
9 violating my rules, but there used to be a really
10 good restaurant in Shelbyville with a big 32 ounce.
11 What's the name of that restaurant I used to go down
12 to in Shelbyville?

13 MR. FISHER: I'm not familiar which
14 one you're talking about.

15 CHAIRMAN RAOUL: It's off the topic
16 anyway.

17 MR. FISHER: But it sounds good
18 though.

19 CHAIRMAN RAOUL: Thank you.
20 Any other questions for this witness?
21 Thank you.

22 MR. FISHER: Thank you for your time.

23 CHAIRMAN RAOUL: Randy Becker?

24 MR. BECKER: Thank you, Chairman and

1 Senators, for allowing me to speak today.

2 My name is Randy Becker. I'm from
3 Effingham County.

4 I have about the same agenda as
5 Dennis Fisher has. Our little county down there is
6 23,000 registered voters. We have 37 precincts. We
7 have 15 townships. We are all basically the same
8 you might say. I see everybody here with different
9 ethnic groups and looking for representation.

10 We're actually looking for
11 representation through less representation. We have
12 the same problem. We have three senate districts
13 and three representative districts, and we feel that
14 sometimes we get lost in the shuffle having so much
15 representation.

16 I spoke with our county clerk. This
17 is an issue at election time, getting all the
18 ballots into the right districts. We actually have
19 six little precincts in our county that have two
20 state representatives and two state senators, and
21 our election judges, it's a continual thing to make
22 sure that everybody gets the right vote, the right
23 ballot to vote. You know, you have that one vote
24 and you want to make it count, and we've had several

1 people that have ended up with the wrong ballot.
2 There's been issues, and yet there's not a lot we
3 can do about it; just mistakes happen, especially
4 down there.

5 So anyway, it's one of those things.
6 I would hope that when you're redrawing the map that
7 you could consider putting us again as one county or
8 maybe even splitting us into just two districts.

9 So I'll be brief and thank you for
10 your time.

11 CHAIRMAN RAOUL: Senator Righter?

12 SENATOR RIGHTER: Mr. Becker, how are
13 you today?

14 MR. BECKER: I'm just fine.

15 SENATOR RIGHTER: Actually, if
16 there's a constituent from Champaign County and
17 Wabash County shows up, then all four of the
18 counties that are split in my district will be
19 represented here today, so maybe they're on their
20 way.

21 MR. FISHER: Well, I looked around
22 and...

23 SENATOR RIGHTER: Maybe they're on
24 their way.

1 MR. FISHER: Yeah, I looked around
2 today and didn't see anybody.

3 SENATOR RIGHTER: Wabash is a long
4 drive.

5 MR. FISHER: Right; it's a long
6 drive.

7 SENATOR RIGHTER: Let me ask you,
8 you've been here for the hearing since it started?

9 MR. BECKER: Yes.

10 SENATOR RIGHTER: Okay. And you've
11 heard testimony about the importance the witnesses
12 said of keeping communities of interest or similar
13 populations together. You listened to that,
14 correct?

15 MR. FISHER: Well, similar
16 population. I'm like you, similar interests is how
17 I would look at it.

18 SENATOR RIGHTER: All right. Tell me
19 about Effingham County. Is there a divide in
20 Effingham County when it comes to interests or
21 whatnot that would justify my district line running
22 along the railroad tracks in Altamont for example?

23 MR. BECKER: I really don't think so.

24 SENATOR RIGHTER: Okay. So based on

1 the arguments you heard earlier today from other
2 witnesses, your conclusion would be Effingham County
3 belongs all in one district, right?

4 MR. BECKER: Yes.

5 SENATOR RIGHTER: That's a fair
6 point. Thank you, Mr. Becker. I appreciate that.

7 CHAIRMAN RAOUL: I don't know the
8 restaurants down there.

9 Senator Luechtefeld?

10 SENATOR LUECHTEFELD: I don't know
11 that you have to answer this question, but it
12 occurred to one of us here that you had what, three
13 senators in your district?

14 MR. FISHER: Three state senators.

15 SENATOR LUECHTEFELD: Which one of
16 them is the best?

17 (Laughter)

18 SENATOR LUECHTEFELD: Senator
19 Righter, by the way, is one of them.

20 MR. FISHER: Yes, yes. I'm going to
21 plead the Fifth.

22 SENATOR LUECHTEFELD: Like I said,
23 you don't have to answer that.

24 MR. FISHER: Plead the Fifth.

1 CHAIRMAN RAOUL: Thank you so much
2 for your testimony.

3 MR. BECKER: Thank you.

4 CHAIRMAN RAOUL: Whitney Woodward,
5 Illinois Campaign for Political Reform.

6 MS. WOODWARD: Hello. Good morning.
7 My name is Whitney Woodward. I'm with the Illinois
8 Campaign for Political Reform which is a
9 nonpartisan, nonprofit public interest group that
10 researches and advocates for transparency and
11 accountability in government and politics.

12 For the last 18 months, we have been
13 working to educate the public about redistricting
14 and how it affects their government. Much of our
15 work has been to highlight the lack of sunshine and
16 opportunities for public involvement in the remap
17 process and to advocate that the General Assembly
18 conduct the 2011 redistricting in a more transparent
19 manner.

20 While we are pleased that this
21 committee has taken numerous steps to increase
22 awareness about the remap through public hearings
23 such as this one and a website, the fact remains
24 that this committee has yet to commit to the most

1 meaningful measure of all -- the public vetting and
2 editing of draft legislative and congressional
3 districts.

4 This committee and its counterpart in
5 the House have already committed to going beyond the
6 four public meetings required by the redistricting
7 bill that was passed last session and signed into
8 law this March. That is commendable, but as we
9 explained during the debate on that proposal, it's
10 not only the quantity of the committee hearings but
11 also the quality of those hearings that matters.

12 Already, members of the public have
13 offered detailed definitions of their communities,
14 outlined problems with existing borders, and even
15 used their organization's limited resources to
16 create maps. But what is this committee going to do
17 with that material? Is that information submitted
18 from the public going to be taken into consideration
19 by map-drawers and will their comments be
20 incorporated into the new map or will the hours of
21 testimony already taken by this committee, the
22 additional hours yet to come, and the public
23 comments solicited by this committee's website be
24 disregarded when the borders are finally

1 constructed?

2 Unfortunately, if this body does not
3 make draft maps available to the public for
4 evaluation well in advance of a vote and if it does
5 not provide an opportunity for the public to propose
6 changes and have those modifications considered in a
7 public forum, the transparency initiatives you've
8 already undertaken will be viewed as hollow
9 gestures. Map-drawing has already begun, and
10 residents in Illinois are eager to see your work
11 product.

12 After this committee and the House
13 Redistricting Committee have gathered information
14 from the public through hearings and online
15 submissions and after the map has been completed,
16 this committee should publish those drafts online in
17 a format that all can access.

18 Along with those proposed districts,
19 the committee should make available tables
20 explaining the demographics of the proposed
21 districts and a narrative that explains the
22 map-drawers' rationale. This description will help
23 residents, who historically have been kept in the
24 dark about the establishment of these new borders,

1 understand the proposed map that will guide their
2 elections for the next ten years and possibly
3 forestall some questions and opposition.

4 This narrative will help you as
5 lawmakers respond to critiques of the map by
6 offering justifications and shedding light on
7 map-drawers' intent.

8 It should come as no surprise to you
9 that thanks to advances in technology, media
10 coverage, and community engagement, the 2011
11 redistricting cycle will be subject to unprecedented
12 scrutiny. It is both in the public interest and
13 your interest as lawmakers to proceed with this
14 remap in a meaningfully transparent and accountable
15 way.

16 We recognize that the process of
17 drawing districts is a very difficult task. In this
18 committee's Chicago hearing last week, some
19 individuals testifying before this body offered
20 conflicting advice about how the district should be
21 drawn. There will likely be areas of disagreement
22 in future hearings as well.

23 While it may seem impossible to pass
24 a map that pleases all individuals and interest

1 groups, it is quite possible for you to pass a map
2 that the public has had ample time to study and
3 influence.

4 We look forward to working with
5 Chairman Raoul, this committee and all members of
6 the General Assembly to ensure that the public is
7 given a meaningful role in this important process.

8 CHAIRMAN RAOUL: Amongst the
9 conflicting testimony that we had at the last
10 hearing is what is ample time. Some people
11 suggested one week; some people suggested two weeks.

12 What are you suggesting?

13 MS. WOODWARD: You know, the more
14 time the better. Two weeks would be great. We
15 recognize that there are deadlines established by
16 the constitution.

17 You know, right now we're looking at
18 what, a month and a half, more than a month and a
19 half before a map can be passed of the simple
20 majority if I'm not mistaken, so considering that
21 maps are already being drawn now, I think that two
22 weeks is an unreasonable request. A week would be
23 understandable, but, you know, producing those maps
24 online and holding regional hearings, that would be

1 the best way to do so.

2 CHAIRMAN RAOUL: And do you see value
3 in a hearing like today, in a hearing like we had in
4 Chicago where people are coming forth with their
5 maps and their submaps and their clusters and so
6 forth, and, as you said, they're sometimes
7 conflicting, but do you see value in that
8 information to a mapmaker or do you think we're
9 wasting time in having these premap hearings?

10 MS. WOODWARD: I certainly believe
11 there's value in them. I personally find them very
12 interesting, and I'm learning more about my own
13 community.

14 The concern that we have is that, you
15 know, what sort of mechanism will be created so that
16 people can know that the testimony that they've
17 submitted has been considered.

18 Like I said, we understand that there
19 are going to be different perspectives or advice
20 from members of the community about how to draw
21 districts, you know -- well, this is my community;
22 no, actually, it's a little bit different.

23 I think what's important is that the
24 public feels that its voice is being heard and

1 acknowledged and considered, and the way that that
2 can be accomplished is through, you know, releasing
3 draft maps in advance of a vote and then holding
4 hearings to discuss those maps and to provide some
5 sort of narrative or explanation for why the
6 districts are drawn the way they are.

7 Right now you look at the map and
8 people don't have any idea.

9 CHAIRMAN RAOUL: I'm learning in this
10 process, and, you know, you were at our Chicago
11 hearing, and we had four hours long of information
12 that we got from the public, and, as you just
13 indicated earlier, a lot of it was conflicting. A
14 narrative would almost have to be an encyclopedia if
15 we get this information from all throughout the
16 state.

17 You know, we spent time today talking
18 about, we heard testimony from the Asian American
19 Institute and they provided three little submaps.
20 That's a small portion of the State of Illinois.

21 MS. WOODWARD: Sure.

22 CHAIRMAN RAOUL: We would have to
23 write a book.

24 MS. WOODWARD: Well, I understand

1 what you're saying, and perhaps we aren't looking
2 for pages upon pages explaining each district but to
3 say, you know, this is District 1, it runs from here
4 to here, and it includes these wards. It's
5 contained entirely within Chicago, and here's why,
6 you know, there are these communities which we have
7 kept whole within this district.

8 There are ways to go about it.

9 CHAIRMAN RAOUL: Can you see the
10 danger of that though? So what you include in the
11 narrative and what you don't put in the narrative,
12 there may be some information that one community may
13 have offered at a hearing that's not in the
14 narrative that you're suggesting? Can you see the
15 danger in --

16 MS. WOODWARD: If I'm understanding
17 what you're saying, you're suggesting that if a
18 community says we would like say this geographic
19 area to remain whole and if it isn't maintained
20 whole in the district -- is that what you're saying?

21 CHAIRMAN RAOUL: If in the narrative
22 you're suggesting that -- you're suggesting
23 information we should have in a limited narrative.
24 When you have a limited narrative, you're obviously

1 excluding other information.

2 MS. WOODWARD: Sure, but those can be
3 discussed in the hearings on the map.

4 CHAIRMAN RAOUL: Right. And you
5 followed the hearings, right?

6 MS. WOODWARD: Yes.

7 CHAIRMAN RAOUL: And you've followed
8 all of this information that's been given?

9 MS. WOODWARD: I've followed it. I
10 don't know if I understood it.

11 CHAIRMAN RAOUL: It's complex. I
12 understand.

13 MS. WOODWARD: It is very complex.

14 CHAIRMAN RAOUL: And we've only
15 covered certain parts of the state thus far.

16 MS. WOODWARD: Sure.

17 CHAIRMAN RAOUL: Senator Harmon?

18 SENATOR HARMON: Thank you,
19 Mr. Chairman.

20 Ms. Woodward, you've testified that
21 maps are being drawn right now.

22 What maps are those?

23 MS. WOODWARD: Well, not only other
24 community maps but we've also heard from our

1 coalition partners and other community groups that,
2 you know, the caucuses are beginning the process of
3 drawing maps.

4 Certainly once the census data was
5 released in February, I understand that the -- I
6 don't have any technological background on this but
7 it's a difficult process to input all the census
8 data and to begin drawing those, and, you know, it's
9 an ongoing process and we respect that.

10 SENATOR HARMON: Which caucuses? I
11 think it would be news to our caucus that maps were
12 being drawn.

13 MS. WOODWARD: I personally have not
14 viewed any maps. However, organizations that I work
15 with have heard about districts being drawn and have
16 been in communication with members.

17 SENATOR HARMON: Has anyone seen
18 maps? Has anyone testified that they've seen maps?
19 I don't think any of us have seen maps.

20 MS. WOODWARD: I personally cannot
21 testify to having seen any maps. I have not seen
22 any maps.

23 However, my organization works in
24 coalition with a number of organizations, and they

1 have heard from members of, you know, the
2 map-drawers in the caucuses who are drawing district
3 maps.

4 SENATOR HARMON: All right. I think
5 we'd certainly like to nail down this hearsay. If
6 you could ask your coalition partners to testify
7 that they have seen maps, it would be very useful to
8 us. We'd like to know if there are maps being
9 drawn.

10 MS. WOODWARD: Sure.

11 CHAIRMAN RAOUL: Senator Maloney?

12 And I echo that as chairman of this
13 committee. You know, I want to know what caucuses
14 have been drawing maps.

15 SENATOR MALONEY: Thank you,
16 Mr. Chairman.

17 In your testimony in the second to
18 last paragraph, it says, "While it may seem
19 impossible to pass a map that pleases all
20 individuals and interest groups..."

21 I was at the first meeting over
22 probably a year ago. I made that conclusion after
23 about ten minutes, that we are not going to be able
24 to pass a map that satisfies all interest groups.

1 It seems that your support of any map
2 is contingent on the fact that we continue this
3 public open process which I think the chairman and
4 the committee have done.

5 Given that situation and given the
6 fact that we publish a map that people would have an
7 input to look at for a week or two or whatever that
8 might be, does your organization support a map on
9 that basis, the fact that it was an open process,
10 the fact that everybody had input because, as I
11 said, no matter what type of map is passed, we are
12 going to have difficulties having all groups accept
13 it.

14 MS. WOODWARD: Sure, I think I
15 understand your question.

16 ICPR is a nonpartisan, nonprofit.
17 We'll probably not, you know, support or oppose a
18 map, but what we are concerned about...

19 SENATOR MALONEY: I'm sorry. Not
20 support what?

21 MS. WOODWARD: We will not support or
22 oppose a map per se. What we are talking about is
23 the process, that we want an inclusive transparent
24 process, and we would certainly support and applaud

1 the General Assembly if it continues to build on the
2 initiatives that it's already undertaken to bring
3 more sunshine into this remap process.

4 SENATOR MALONEY: So in the final
5 analysis, you would not take a public position on
6 the map?

7 MS. WOODWARD: I do not believe so.
8 I can, you know, I can discuss this. I don't think
9 that we've gotten that far. You know, without
10 having a map in front of us, I don't know if we're
11 ready to say whether or not we would commit to such
12 a thing.

13 SENATOR MALONEY: Thank you.

14 MS. WOODWARD: If the committee had a
15 moment, I just had a couple of questions related to
16 the congressional redistricting first of all.

17 In the last redistricting cycle, from
18 my research, it appears the General Assembly gave
19 great deference to the congressional delegation in
20 drawing its districts in the past, and I was
21 wondering in this year, should the delegation
22 propose its own districts, if the General Assembly
23 might make those proposed maps available online.

24 CHAIRMAN RAOUL: What proposed map?

1 MS. WOODWARD: Should the
2 congressional delegation propose its own district
3 map of, you know, of the congressional districts.

4 CHAIRMAN RAOUL: I haven't spoken to
5 the congressional delegation or the congressmen so,
6 you know...

7 MS. WOODWARD: Is that something that
8 would be considered though?

9 CHAIRMAN RAOUL: We consider any
10 input that every citizen of the State of Illinois
11 has to give. That's why we have these hearings. If
12 a congressman showed up today offering some input,
13 then, just as you have given input, we would receive
14 their input.

15 MS. WOODWARD: Great.

16 CHAIRMAN RAOUL: And we would post it
17 online like any other committee.

18 MS. WOODWARD: And that website is
19 great. There's a bunch of information and maps and
20 copies of written testimony.

21 In addition to that, any comments
22 that might be submitted via the website or through
23 e-mail, would those be made available online through
24 the committee's website?

1 CHAIRMAN RAOUL: We'll do our best to
2 make everything that we get available online, but,
3 you know, we're in the business of doing a whole lot
4 of things in these next couple of months, and so
5 we're trying to be as transparent as we can be
6 without being naked.

7 MS. WOODWARD: Sure, and I only ask
8 because I recognize that the state is quite large
9 and the committee only has so much time, and so for
10 individuals who might not be able to physically
11 appear and present testimony in committees, I would
12 just want their comments to be entered into the
13 public record and available online.

14 CHAIRMAN RAOUL: You know, we're
15 going to follow the same spirit as we have been
16 following for the last year and a half of conducting
17 these redistricting hearings. I don't know what you
18 feel about that historic process but we're going to
19 continue with that same spirit.

20 MS. WOODWARD: Thank you very much.

21 CHAIRMAN RAOUL: Before I call the
22 next witness, pursuant to Senate Rule 3-3, I move
23 that the Senate Redistricting Committee create the
24 following subcommittee, Subcommittee on

1 Redistricting 1, and that subcommittee shall operate
2 under the following provisions:

3 Each subcommittee shall consist of
4 nine members, six appointed by the chairperson,
5 three appointed by the minority spokesperson. The
6 subcommittee members shall serve at the pleasure of
7 their respective appointing authorities and may be
8 replaced at will by the applicable appointing
9 authority. The chairperson shall designate one of
10 his appointees as chairperson of each subcommittee,
11 and the chairperson of each subcommittee shall have
12 authority to set the time and place of subcommittee
13 meetings, preside over subcommittee meetings, and
14 submit any subcommittee reports to the committee.

15 SENATOR HAINE: I second that motion,
16 Mr. Chairman.

17 CHAIRMAN RAOUL: It's been moved and
18 seconded.

19 Add Senator Noland to the roll.

20 Is there leave?

21 Leave being granted, the motion shall
22 carry.

23 Pursuant to Rule 3-3, I move that the
24 Senate Redistricting Committee create the following

1 subcommittee, Subcommittee on Redistricting 2, and
2 the subcommittee shall operate under the following
3 provisions:

4 Each subcommittee shall consist of
5 eight members, five appointed by the chairperson,
6 three appointed by the minority spokesperson. The
7 subcommittee members shall serve at the pleasure of
8 their respective appointing authorities and may be
9 replaced at will by the applicable appointing
10 authority. The chairperson shall designate one of
11 his appointees as chairperson of each subcommittee
12 and chairperson of the subcommittee shall have
13 authority to set the time and place of the
14 subcommittee meetings, preside over subcommittee
15 meetings, and submit any subcommittee report to the
16 committee.

17 SENATOR LIGHTFORD: Second.

18 CHAIRMAN RAOUL: Seconded by Senator
19 Lightford.

20 Is there leave?

21 Leave being granted, the motion shall
22 carry.

23 Teresa Mah, Coalition for a Better
24 Chinese American Community?

1 MS. MAH: It's just written
2 testimony.

3 CHAIRMAN RAOUL: Shavonda Fields.
4 I understand that there's a group of
5 you together.

6 MS. FIELDS: Yes, there's three.

7 CHAIRMAN RAOUL: Wallace Johnson and
8 Sondra Spellman.

9 MS. FIELDS: She stepped out for a
10 second.

11 CHAIRMAN RAOUL: Please state your
12 name and your organization.

13 MS. FIELDS: Okay. I'm Shavonda
14 Fields. Good morning, everyone.

15 Shavonda is S-h-a-v-o-n-d-a; last
16 name Fields, F-i-e-l-d-s.

17 Well, good morning. I am a resident
18 of the North Lawndale community and a part of the
19 Lawndale Alliance. That's the group that we're
20 representing here this morning, and just as an
21 introduction, and my colleagues will follow up, the
22 North Lawndale community is located approximately
23 three miles west of the Chicago downtown.

24 As of 2005, the racial composition

1 was about 93 percent African American, five percent
2 Hispanic, three percent white, .2 percent Asian and
3 3.5 percent of some other races.

4 The community continues to struggle
5 with issues of high rates of poverty and
6 unemployment, blighted commercial districts, high
7 crime, poor performing schools, high mortgage
8 foreclosure rates, and lack of access to decent and
9 affordable housing and limited access to health
10 care.

11 North Lawndale covers approximately
12 50 percent of the land mass in Representative
13 District 9 and 25 percent of Senate District 5.
14 Approximately 80 percent of North Lawndale's land
15 mass is in the 24th ward, and the 24th ward accounts
16 for approximately 50 percent of Representative
17 District 9's weighted vote and 25 percent of the
18 weighted vote for Senate District 5. North Lawndale
19 is in the Seventh Congressional District, and the
20 voters of the Representative District 9 tend to vote
21 democratic.

22 The Lawndale Alliance is a
23 neighborhood association of local residents who come
24 together on an ad hoc basis to address issues of

1 concern to the community through grassroots
2 community organizing, advocacy and community
3 outreach. We hold annual town hall meetings on a
4 number of topics including status reports on the
5 financial and programmatic performance of every TIF
6 that impacts the Lawndale community, the performance
7 of North Lawndale schools, the pros and cons of
8 hosting Olympic venue in North Lawndale, and a
9 status report on the impact of the mortgage
10 foreclosure crisis and the level of Neighborhood
11 Stabilization Program funding the community received
12 to put abandoned foreclosed properties back on the
13 property tax rolls as affordable housing units.

14 We currently work with State
15 Representative R. Turner II and a coalition
16 consisting of the Illinois Campaign for Accountable
17 Redistricting, The Independent Voters of Illinois-
18 Independent Precinct Organization, Empowered
19 Citizens of North Lawndale and the North Lawndale
20 Community News to conduct a three-part voter
21 education series focusing on the state's
22 redistricting process. It is our hope to develop a
23 series of remapping recommendations shortly after
24 the series ends on May 4th.

1 We're going to have our colleagues
2 address some of the concerns and some of the issues
3 with the redistricting.

4 CHAIRMAN RAOUL: Please state and
5 spell your name for the record.

6 MS. SPELLMAN: My name is Sondra
7 Spellman, S-o-n-d-r-a; last name is Spellman
8 (S-p-e-l-l-m-a-n). I'm from the Chicago area, 24th
9 Ward, Fifth District, Senatorial District.

10 Mr. Chairman, committee members, good
11 morning.

12 One of the concerns that we were
13 going to address is the reduction in the percentage
14 of African Americans represented in the Fifth
15 Senatorial District.

16 During a recent public meeting in
17 which democratic committeemen from the north and
18 west sides selected former Senator Rickey Hendon's
19 replacement, Secretary Jesse White indicated that
20 the Illinois Senate District 5 will become more
21 diverse after the redistricting process. The new
22 district is expected to include more whites and
23 Latinos as a percentage of the Illinois Fifth
24 Senatorial District's total population. Secretary

1 White mentioned that currently the Illinois Senate
2 District 5 is 55 percent African American.

3 An examination of the 2010 census
4 data indicated that in 2000, Senate District 5 had a
5 total of 210,497 people with 105,248 residing in
6 Representative District 9 and 105,249 residing in
7 the Representative District 10.

8 In 2010, Representative District 9
9 grew to 112,861 while the Representative District 10
10 population decreased to 95,447.

11 The total decrease for Senate
12 District 5 was only one percent which should not
13 require gerrymandering to the point of diluting the
14 African American percentage beyond the current 55
15 percent.

16 The 2010 census indicates that
17 Illinois population was 12,830,632 in 2010. This
18 would suggest that each new representative district
19 would have 108,734 people. This would mean that
20 Representative District 9's boundaries could be
21 drawn to reduce its population by 4,127 people and
22 Representative District 10's boundaries should be
23 drawn to increase the population by 13,287 people,
24 and the Senate District 5 boundaries should be drawn

1 to increase its total population by 9,160.

2 I respectfully request that the
3 Senatorial Redistricting Committee consider
4 redrawing the boundaries such that the overage from
5 Representative District 9 be applied to District 10
6 and the remaining 9,160 come from other
7 representative districts with an eye towards
8 maintaining a district that is 55 percent African
9 American.

10 Those are my concerns. Now we'll
11 have something from Mr. Wallace Johnson.

12 MR. JOHNSON: Good morning, everyone.
13 My name is Wallace E. Johnson representing Lawndale
14 Alliance. I'm the President of Lawndale Alliance.

15 My concern is the treatment of
16 prisoners in census count. Under current law,
17 incarcerated persons are not counted in the census
18 numbers of the community from which they originate
19 but in the populations of the towns in which they
20 are incarcerated.

21 As a result, the census number in
22 Chicago for African Americans is significantly
23 undercounted while the numbers in some downstate
24 communities is inflated by over 95 percent.

1 On top of that, representatives from
2 the district in which the prisoners are incarcerated
3 have a history of voting against legislation that
4 would enhance education, job training and
5 rehabilitation of prisoners. In effect, prisoners
6 have no representation, and this is a clear
7 violation of the "one man, one vote" guaranteed by
8 the Constitution.

9 On the other hand, legislators from
10 the prisoners' originating communities tend to be
11 the ones advocating for improved education and
12 rehabilitation services for prisoners who are not
13 counted in their districts' population.

14 To add insult to injury, downstate
15 towns are receiving entitlement funds for Community
16 Development Block Grants and Social Service
17 Development Block Grants that benefit their
18 communities but not the prisoners.

19 When the prisoners return home, their
20 originating communities are the ones who must help
21 them transition by providing housing, job training
22 and other social services. Unfortunately, the
23 originating communities don't get their full share
24 of funding because the prisoners were counted in the

1 downstate town's census statistics.

2 I respectfully request that the
3 legislators support Representative LaShawn K. Ford's
4 proposed legislation to ensure that prisoners are
5 included in the census counts from their originating
6 communities plus there's a question now since the
7 ruling with Rahm Emanuel on residency, which the
8 word "intent" was used in order to confirm his
9 residency in the City of Chicago for him to be
10 eligible to run for mayor of the City of Chicago.

11 The word "intent," I can tell you
12 that the prisoners that are incarcerated in the
13 downstate area did not have an intent to move, so
14 their original state of living should be counted
15 from where they come from.

16 So legally, the count downstate could
17 be illegal because of the word intent which was used
18 by the attorneys for Rahm Emanuel.

19 Using that, these prisoners left
20 articles from their originating state the same as
21 Rahm Emanuel, elected mayor of Chicago, left his
22 personal articles in his home to show that he did
23 not show intent of leaving his community and should
24 be counted in the community where he originated, and

1 I feel that this should be the same for the
2 prisoners. It was an involuntary removal that they
3 are incarcerated downstate. The intent of them
4 leaving their original state of residency was not
5 intentional for them to leave their homes.

6 So they should be counted in the
7 areas of origination instead of downstate;
8 involuntary intent of leaving their community.

9 Thank you.

10 CHAIRMAN RAOUL: Questions of any of
11 these witnesses?

12 Thank you for your testimony.

13 SENATOR HUNTER: Mr. Chairman, I'd
14 like to mention that Wallace Johnson is actually
15 Wallace Mickey Johnson formerly early of the Chicago
16 Bulls.

17 MR. JOHNSON: Thank you very much.

18 Any other questions?

19 CHAIRMAN RAOUL: How is your jump
20 shot?

21 MR. JOHNSON: It's not as good as it
22 used to be. Thank you very much.

23 MS. FIELDS: Thank you all.

24 CHAIRMAN RAOUL: I have a couple

1 announcements.

2 At our last hearing, we were asked
3 about the ability for the public to have access to
4 the technology to draw maps or have input.

5 Working in conjunction with the House
6 of Representatives, there is right now a public
7 works station in Room 401 of the Stratton Building.
8 We are also going to make a public work station
9 available very shortly in the City of Chicago, and
10 we'll be announcing the protocol for access to that
11 public works station as well so that the public can
12 have access to technology to draw maps.

13 With regards to our next hearings,
14 Subcommittee No. 1 will be having a hearing on
15 April 16th at 10 a.m. in Peoria at Peoria Red Cross.

16 Subcommittee No. 2 will be having a
17 hearing in Kankakee at noon at the Kankakee
18 Community College.

19 Is there anybody else here wishing to
20 testify?

21 The Committee on Redistricting is
22 hereby adjourned.

23 (Adjournment at 11:13 a.m.)

24

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1 STATE OF ILLINOIS)

2) SS:

3 COUNTY OF)

4 Laurel A. Patkes, being first duly sworn on
5 oath, says that she is a Certified Shorthand
6 Reporter, that she reported in shorthand the
7 proceedings given at the taking of said public
8 hearing, and that the foregoing is a true and
9 correct transcript of her shorthand notes so taken
10 as aforesaid and contains all the proceedings given
11 at said public hearing.

12

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15

Certified Shorthand Reporter
No. 084-001340

16

17

Subscribed and sworn to
before me this ___ day
of _____ 2011.

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Notary Public

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