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2011 ILLINOIS STATE SENATE
SUBCOMMITTEE ON REDISTRICTING II
PUBLIC HEARING

April 21, 2011
Elmhurst City Hall
209 N. York Street
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PRESENT:

- SENATOR DON HARMON, Chairperson
- SENATOR RON SANDACK, Member
- SENATOR KIRK W. DILLARD, Member
- CLERK RON HOLMES

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1 CHAIRPERSON HARMON: Senate Redistricting
2 Subcommittee No. 2 will come to order.

3 Present are Senator Kirk Dillard,
4 Senator Ron Sandack, and myself, Senator
5 Don Harmon, serving as the Chair of the Subcommittee.

6 We apologize to all of you for getting a
7 late start. We had folks coming from all parts of
8 the state.

9 There is a sign-in sheet in the back of the
10 room. We appreciate it if you would sign in.

11 If you wish to present testimony today, you
12 can fill out a witness slip. These are available in
13 the back. And turn them into our staff here so we
14 know to recognize you.

15 I would like to welcome Representative
16 Dennis Reboletti and Representative Chris Nybo.
17 Thank you very much for allowing us to hold hearings
18 in your part of the world.

19 Mayor DiCianni, are you here?

20 MR. DiCIANNI: Yes. I'm here.

21 CHAIRMAN HARMON: Mayor, thank you very much
22 for letting me sit in your chair and use your gavel.

23 MR. DiCIANNI: My pleasure.

24 CHAIRMAN HARMON: Senator Dillard, for what

1 purpose do you seek recognition?

2 SENATOR DILLARD: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

3 I would like to make a couple of motions.

4 First, Mr. Chairman, I notice that we, once
5 again, have our friendly court reporter present.

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

12 SENATOR SANDACK: Second.

13 CHAIRMAN HARMON: All in favor say aye.
14 Opposed, nay.

15 Okay. The ayes have it.

16 The motion is adopted.

17 SENATOR DILLARD: My other motion,
18 Mr. Chairman, is I would like to make a motion to
19 allow any media present to be allowed to take still
20 photos and record the proceedings.

21 SENATOR SANDACK: Second.

22 CHAIRMAN HARMON: Moved by Senator Dillard.
23 Seconded by Senator Sandack.

24 All in favor, say aye. Opposed, nay.

1 The ayes have it, and the motion is
2 approved.

3 SENATOR DILLARD: And last, but not least,
4 keeping with the precedent at our last Committee
5 hearing, I would like to make a motion that anyone in
6 attendance today has the option to take photos as
7 long as they do not interrupt the proceedings.

8 SENATOR SANDACK: Second.

9 CHAIRMAN HARMON: It's been moved by Senator
10 Dillard, seconded by Senator Sandack.

11 All in favor say aye. Opposed, nay.

12 The ayes have it, and that motion is
13 approved.

14 Thank you, Senator.

15 And I think our clerk is ready to take the
16 formal roll.

17 Mr. Clerk? Please call the roll.

18 CLERK HOLMES: Senator Sandack.

19 SENATOR SANDACK: Here.

20 CLERK HOLMES: Senator Dillard?

21 SENATOR DILLARD: Here.

22 CLERK HOLMES: Senator Maloney.

23 CLERK HOLMES: Senator Jones.

24

1 Senator Collins.

2 And Chairman Harmon.

3 CHAIRMAN HARMON: Here.

4 We have sufficient numbers to take
5 testimony, so we are in business.

6 We have two witnesses. This is just a
7 prefatory remark for folks.

8 This is one of almost 30 Committee and
9 Subcommittee hearings at the Senate and House
10 collectively that we're having across the State of
11 Illinois to take public testimony on redistricting.

12 Every ten years, after the U.S. Government
13 performs its Census, we are charged with the task of
14 redrawing the Legislative district lines and the
15 Congressional district lines to account for
16 population shifts.

17 We follow the Illinois Constitution and the
18 state laws with respect to that task, as well as the
19 federal laws with respect to voting rights. It is a
20 very difficult challenge and requires public input.

21 So today, we have come to take your
22 testimony on the process itself, on the current
23 legislative districts, and on ideas for the next
24 round of legislative districts.

1 So we are very pleased to be here. We have
2 a collection of witnesses now forming.

3 Chairman Dan Cronin from DuPage County, are
4 you ready to go?

5 MR. CRONIN: Yes, sir.

6 CHAIRMAN HARMON: Thank you for being here,
7 Mr. Chairman.

8

9

TESTIMONY

10

BY

11

DAN CRONIN:

12

Thank you for the opportunity to sit with my
13 colleagues, former colleagues, and friends. And
14 welcome into the neighborhood.

15

It is fun to see you here, Senators Harmon
16 and Sandack and Dillard.

17

We are proud of our community, and we are
18 delighted that we can share some thoughts with you.

19

I also wanted to commend the Senate
20 leadership for your interest in the thoughts and
21 ideas that we have to share with you today.

22

I think it speaks volumes about the
23 professionalism of the Senate and the fact that you
24 are holding hearings and you're making the effort

1 here in the Elmhurst community that we really love
2 for all of us who have lived here.

3 It gives me a lot of pleasure to welcome my
4 friends and share some thoughts.

5 I wanted to express my thanks to the
6 Committee, which I have done.

7 Let me focus, if I may, please, on the
8 Census, some information, some data, and how it
9 relates to the proposition that I would like to share
10 with you today.

11 The 2010 Census redistricting data shows
12 that DuPage County has a population of nearly
13 917,000, which represents only a 1.4 percent growth
14 from the 2000 Census.

15 Regional forecasts in the Bureau of the
16 Census' annual estimates previously approximated our
17 growth to be at least 3 percent.

18 Well, they were wrong. I was quite
19 surprised to learn that the rate of our population up
20 in Cook County has slowed so significantly.

21 This clearly underscores that DuPage is now
22 considered a mature county, a rather urbanized county
23 and, for all intents and purposes, fully built out,
24 in terms of residential population.

1 The reality is that the population growth in
2 the region is migrating further out to Kendall, Kane,
3 Will, McHenry Counties.

4 In fact, one of the demographers said in
5 their comments that Kane County is the DuPage County
6 of yesterday.

7 And, you know, that hurt a little bit.
8 Because it is sort of like the first time that a
9 young person looks up to you and calls you sir and
10 ma'am.

11 You know what I mean? You know your
12 youthful days are over.

13 But only one of the county's nine townships
14 demonstrated double digit growth. And that would be
15 Naperville Township, with growth of about 17 percent,
16 Wayne Township 4.4 percent, Winfield Township at 2.4,
17 showing only marginal growth.

18 All three of these townships are located in
19 the western third of the county.

20 Conversely, the intermittent counties,
21 Addison and York Townships before and now the Addison
22 Township just a couple blocks to the north have
23 demonstrated population losses of less than one
24 percent.

1 Permit me to take just a moment to share
2 some demographic information as we analyze the
3 results of the data.

4 The non-Hispanic white population is
5 about 70.5 percent.

6 The Hispanic population has grown to 13.2
7 percent, which represents about a 50 percent growth
8 of the population.

9 The Asian American population is at about
10 10 percent.

11 African American population is at
12 4.5 percent.

13 Residents of DuPage County have been well
14 served by the county's legislative representatives
15 that have been present for the last decade.

16 Unlike our neighboring counties to the
17 north, south and west, our overall population
18 increased less than 1.5 percent, from 904,161 in 2000
19 to 916,924 in 2010. Just 12,763 additional persons
20 in the last decade.

21 The numbers tell the story. So does the
22 history of the past ten years.

23 Let's keep a map that has been fair and
24 equitable. Let's keep a map that recognizes the

1 special features of DuPage County, if I may.

2 This community broke off -- it's a part of
3 our history, our family history, that we don't really
4 talk about much. But DuPage County used to be part
5 of Cook County.

6 And in 1839, we broke away from Cook County.
7 And that's when the Founding Fathers at that time in
8 DuPage County came together and decided they were
9 going to name the county after a French fir tree.

10 But at that time, it was a well established
11 sentiment and a well established practice with local
12 governments, formation of local governments, school
13 districts, townships, all the various different
14 sanitary districts that were all within the confines
15 of DuPage County.

16 Since 1839 until today, I think it is really
17 well documented that the county is very intact,
18 confined to the boundaries of the County,
19 and we have enjoyed a certain measure of self-
20 sufficiency, if you will.

21 So my request and for your consideration is,
22 based on the static population growth, based on the
23 history, and based on the structure of local
24 government in the County of DuPage, I would ask that

1 you consider keeping the representatives, the
2 legislative districts, Congressional districts, in
3 the manner that keeps DuPage County intact as a
4 community, as a community at large, and a community
5 of interest.

6 So with that, I would be happy to try to
7 answer any questions. But I wanted to share those
8 thoughts with you.

9 And thank you so much for the opportunity to
10 do so.

11 CHAIRMAN HARMON: Thank you, Senator Cronin.
12 Any questions?

13 Senator Dillard.

14 SENATOR DILLARD: Thank you.

15 We do miss you in Springfield very much.
16 Although Ron is doing a good job, there is only one
17 Daniel Cronin, and we miss you.

18 So a couple of things.

19 I just want to clarify, when you say the
20 current map is fair, you are referring just to
21 DuPage County, right, not the state-wide map?

22 MR. CRONIN: Yes, forgive me.

23 I am speaking today as the County Board
24 chairman. That's my official role that I offer

1 today.

2 And I offer these remarks as an elected
3 official who represents the entire County of DuPage.

4 SENATOR DILLARD: And just another question.

5 You know, sometimes we get kidded about it.
6 But isn't it true that many, many of our residents,
7 when asked where are you from, probably say I am from
8 DuPage County, and we collectively refer to ourselves
9 as a brand?

10 MR. CRONIN: Yes.

11 I mean, really and truly I think, to the
12 extent that that sort of image, reputation,
13 identification, I think it's certainly a fair
14 statement.

15 And I think there is ample evidence to
16 demonstrate that there is an independence, there is a
17 pride. I mean, it used to be the motto of this town,
18 "City of Elmhurst, a Proud Community."

19 I think the fact that there is some
20 separateness of pride, a demonstration of what we
21 believe is a way to govern and a way to interact in
22 the community that is special to this community.

23 If you look at the formation of the local
24 governments, they are all confined within this

1 county.

2 SENATOR DILLARD: So you don't want to see
3 that diluted?

4 MR. CRONIN: I don't. No.

5 I think there is something very significant
6 about this community that deserves its own brand of
7 representation.

8 SENATOR DILLARD: Thank you. We do miss
9 you.

10 Mr. CRONIN: Thank you.

11 CHAIRMAN HARMON: Thank you.

12 MR. CRONIN: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

13 CHAIRMAN HARMON: Why don't we next hear
14 from our host today as the Mayor of Elmhurst,
15 Mayor DiCianni, today.

16 Mayor, are you ready to proceed?

17 MR. DiCIANNI: Yes.

18 CHAIRMAN HARMON: Welcome to the
19 Redistricting Committee.

20

21 TESTIMONY

22 BY

23 PETER DiCIANNI:

24 Thank you, Mr. Chairman, fellow Senators.

1 And I appreciate and welcome you to the City of
2 Elmhurst. And we appreciate the openness with this
3 process.

4 As Mayor, I think my biggest concern, and I
5 think the people of Elmhurst's biggest concern, is we
6 try to keep our town as intact as possible.

7 We have the privilege of having two fine
8 State Representatives, Dennis Reboletti and Chris
9 Nybo, and also two fine State Senators, one of which
10 is right next to you, Chairman, Mr. Ron Sandack, and
11 also Senator Pankau.

12 So I think our biggest concern is that this
13 map does not cut our town up a whole lot and that
14 representation is strong and we, as a community just
15 under 50,000 people, are able to leverage those four
16 legislators in a great fashion where we've got
17 greater representation, our voices are heard, and we
18 get things done.

19 We have had significant capital projects
20 that have come to our community in the street and we
21 know perhaps some serious concern of sewers and a lot
22 of things in the future, and it's important that we
23 keep those relationships strong.

24 And our fear, I think, as a community is if

1 our town does get cut up -- let's say six or eight
2 legislators -- that our voice would not be as strong.

3 So those are I think the big concerns that
4 we have in the City of Elmhurst. And probably you
5 will hear that from many of the Mayors here today as
6 well, too.

7 But we appreciate your willingness to come
8 to our fair city and hear us out. It's important.
9 Springfield is very, very vital to all cities and
10 municipalities, but Elmhurst especially.

11 We appreciate your time and consideration.

12 CHAIRMAN HARMON: Thank you, Mr. Mayor.

13 Any questions?

14 Senator Dillard.

15 SENATOR DILLARD: Mayor, thanks for opening
16 up your beautiful City Hall for us. We really
17 appreciate it. Wish we had facilities this nice in
18 Springfield sometimes.

19 When we look at the community of interest
20 and perhaps ways that legislative boundaries would be
21 drawn, you are sitting right on the Tri-State
22 Tollway, right on the County Line.

23 And, you know, I grew up a little eastward
24 from here as a young man, and I think I am very

1 familiar with the area.

2 If we go into Maywood and cities to the
3 east, I mean, are there differences between those
4 communities?

5 And Senator Cronin testified a little bit
6 about a mindset that we have and a philosophy of
7 government.

8 But what are your feelings, if you were to
9 be represented by a legislator from Cook County, you
10 know, who may come from Bellwood, Hillside, or
11 Maywood?

12 MR. DiCIANNI: Well, with all due respect to
13 the municipalities to our east, they are all fine
14 municipalities, but -- and actually, I was born to
15 the east as well and came from Lyden Township before
16 I went to Elmhurst.

17 But there is a difference, and that's why we
18 moved to Elmhurst. And we want to try to keep the
19 quality of life that we have here.

20 We have, again, great representation that I
21 think exemplifies, I think -- one legislator that
22 represents us who I went to fifth grade with.
23 Another one was an Alderman here in the City of
24 Elmhurst.

1 I think that speaks volumes to the
2 rootedness of our legislators and their knowledge of
3 our local needs and wants and what the community
4 expects.

5 Unlike the communities to our east, you
6 know, we have our own water reclamation district. We
7 don't rely on Cook County for those types of needs.
8 So many of your needs are very, very different.

9 We have a unit school of government here,
10 many of them communities to our east, and elementary
11 middle school districts, high school districts.

12 We've solved all those problems. We have
13 addressed those back in the '70s and became a
14 district in 1974.

15 So I really feel that, again, a strong sense
16 of community here in our own community. I respect
17 those to our east. They do a fine job, given the
18 circumstances they have to deal with.

19 But I think the needs and wants are
20 considerably different.

21 SENATOR DILLARD: What's -- if you know,
22 Mayor, what's the boundary, the eastern boundary
23 between the Proviso High School district and York
24 Township High School?

1 MR. DiCIANNI: I am trying to think, here.

2 Well, I would have to say that probably 294,
3 290 would be that, to describe it in the easier
4 terms.

5 There is a little of Berkley that comes in
6 to the west side of Elmhurst about a block.

7 But, for all intents and purposes, the
8 highways.

9 SENATOR DILLARD: Is that part of Berkley on
10 which side of the highway?

11 MR. DiCIANNI: It's on the west side of
12 the highway about one block away on the west side of
13 294.

14 So that would go to Proviso, but --

15 SENATOR DILLARD: Big, gigantic
16 multi-lane --

17 MR. DiCIANNI: Absolutely, absolutely.

18 Yes. There is definitely significant
19 separation between the two.

20 Again, I respect, and I work with those
21 mayors on a regular basis. We have had some common
22 issues with transportation and stuff.

23 But a lot of our issues are different. Our
24 education issues, our municipal issues, we work

1 together when we can, but we definitely have
2 different wants and needs.

3 SENATOR DILLARD: Thank you.

4 CHAIRMAN HARMON: Any other questions?
5 Thank you, Mr. Mayor, very much.

6 MR. DiCIANNI: Thank you, Mr. Chairman,
7 Senator.

8 CHAIRMAN HARMON: Our next witness is
9 Bob Peickert from the Democratic Party of Dupage
10 County.

11 Mr. Peickert, are you ready to proceed?

12 MR. PEICKERT: I am.

13 CHAIRMAN HARMON: Welcome to the
14 Redistricting Committee.

15 MR. PEICKERT: Thank you. Welcome to
16 Elmhurst.

17 CHAIRMAN HARMON: Thank you.

18

19 TESTIMONY

20 BY

21 MR. PEICKERT:

22 My name is Bob Peickert, P-e-i-c-k-e-r-t.

23 I am a resident of Elmhurst, Chair of the Democratic
24 Party for DuPage County.

1 I would first like to thank the members of
2 the Redistricting Committee for providing us the
3 opportunity to present information about the impact
4 of redistricting in our communities.

5 This is a difficult task, but we appreciate
6 your time and effort in opening up this process to
7 the public.

8 I'd like to review some important statistics
9 and facts about DuPage County, some similar to
10 Chairman Cronin's, but a lot different, in terms of
11 application of these statistics.

12 We have a population here of a million
13 people, larger than five states and the District of
14 Columbia. The voter population is well in excess of
15 a half a million people.

16 In the past ten years, DuPage has
17 experienced a dramatic change in demographics with
18 the influx of new residents, many from Cook County.

19 As former residents of Cook County and
20 elsewhere moved to DuPage, we also have seen an
21 increasing number of minorities and minority
22 communities.

23 Nearly 30 percent, as pointed out by
24 Chairman Cronin, of the residents in DuPage are

1 African American, Asian, or Hispanic.

2 Although the majority of these changes
3 appear to be on the eastern end of DuPage, we also
4 see areas, such as Glendale Heights near the center
5 of DuPage, experiencing an increasing minority
6 population, especially with the Asian community.

7 In the 2008 primary, for the first time
8 ever, there were more registered Democrat voters than
9 Republicans by a margin of approximately 10 percent.

10 In the 2008 general election, again, for the
11 first time ever in DuPage County, a Democratic
12 presidential candidate received more votes than the
13 Republican candidate by a similar margin.

14 The same election saw three Democrats
15 elected to the County Board, the first time these
16 Democrats served on the County Board in approximately
17 37 years.

18 In 2006, local and state Democratic
19 candidates received approximately 45 percent of the
20 vote, with one candidate running for state office
21 receiving approximately 49 percent.

22 DuPage County has over 740 precincts in 9
23 townships. 11 House and 5 Senate districts are
24 entirely in or bordering DuPage.

1 Of the over 740 precincts, approximately 24,
2 3 percent, are represented by a Democratic House or
3 Senate member.

4 All of these demographics and statistical
5 facts point to a changing constituency. And the
6 obligation of this committee is to guarantee that
7 residents are represented fairly in Springfield.

8 The current Senate district boundaries do
9 not account for the changing population in DuPage.
10 The redistricting process is about fairness and
11 creating districts that reflect the changing
12 demographics in a particular area.

13 With a significant number of Cook County
14 residents moving to DuPage, especially in the eastern
15 portion of Elmhurst, Bensenville and Addison,
16 districts that overlap DuPage County and Cook County
17 represent a logical starting point.

18 I am confident that this Committee will give
19 the utmost consideration to the demographic realities
20 in DuPage.

21 Thank you again for your time.

22 CHAIRMAN HARMON: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

23 Any questions?

24 Senator Dillard.

1 SENATOR DILLARD: Welcome.

2 MR. REICKERT: Thank you.

3 SENATOR DILLARD: Maybe you read the law
4 different than I do.

5 But I don't believe we can draw districts
6 based on politics. I think we can just do them based
7 on population.

8 Do you have a different reading, where you
9 think we are allowed to carve out Republican and
10 Democrat and Libertarian districts?

11 MR. PEICKERT: I am pointing to the fact
12 that the influx of residents from Cook County
13 represented in these minority communities might
14 account for the fact that there is a big change in
15 the numbers of Democrats that vote in DuPage.

16 CHAIRMAN HARMON: Any further questions?

17 SENATOR DILLARD: No.

18 CHAIRMAN HARMON: Thank you.

19 Thank you very much for your testimony,
20 Mr. Peickert.

21 Next, we have Mayor Hartwig, the Mayor of
22 the Village of Addison.

23 Mayor, are you ready?

24 MR. HARTWIG: I am.

1 CHAIRMAN HARMON: Thank you very much for
2 being here. Welcome to the Redistricting Hearings.

3

4 TESTIMONY

5 BY

6 LARRY HARTWIG:

7 We welcome you to the suburb of Addison.

8 We welcome you here to our wonderful suburb
9 of Elmhurst.

10 And we do happen to share a great
11 relationship with the City of Elmhurst, with Mayor
12 DiCianni, with all of the other mayors in our area.

13 And I, too, want to thank you for the open
14 nature of this process.

15 I think it's extremely important that our
16 residents do feel that this is an open and fair
17 process, that you are able to listen to and hear the
18 concerns from our local communities, and that, once
19 you have come up with a map, that we have an
20 opportunity to comment on the map, to study it, and
21 to make those kind of comments.

22 But just to give you a little bit on
23 Addison.

24 I think Chairman Cronin's comments are all

1 applicable and applicable to our community as well.

2 Being at the eastern end of DuPage County,
3 we are a developed community, one that has seen just
4 a small amount of growth in the past ten years.

5 But we are somewhat unique as well.

6 Addison has one of the larger industrial
7 parks in the State of Illinois; by some calculations,
8 about the fifth largest.

9 And we have a large minority population as
10 well. It is a very diverse community, one that has
11 been diverse in housing, going from the very
12 affordable starter homes, starting apartments, and we
13 top out at about a \$2 million home. So everything in
14 between.

15 Our industrial park is primarily mom and pop
16 small business. If we're talking about jobs, jobs,
17 jobs, we know that they are created through small
18 business. And our industrial park is an extremely
19 important part of that.

20 And I give that by way of background,
21 because currently we are represented by two
22 representative districts.

23 Representative Reboletti represents
24 approximately 85 percent of our community.

1 Representative Coladipietro maybe about 10 or
2 15 percent. We have one Senatorial district,
3 Senator Pankau.

4 I would ask that we try to keep it as close
5 as possible without dividing Addison up. Because
6 it's important that we have we have a Representative
7 that understands the nature of a community like
8 Addison, especially our industrial park.

9 If a person is divided up in their
10 representation to all different groups, they don't
11 get the full flavor of the importance of industry,
12 and especially the importance of these people that
13 are the small businessman and woman, companies that
14 range probably from a half a dozen employees up to
15 maybe 150 or 200, people that really have put it all
16 on the line. They have mortgaged their houses.
17 That's how they have moved ahead.

18 So people get a true understanding -- and I
19 know our current Representatives have spent a lot of
20 time talking and spending time in our business
21 market.

22 They have also been with our minority
23 community, which has grown. We are about just under
24 40 percent Hispanic right now, with a lot of other

1 Asians, other types of groups that have come in.

2 If the goal is to unify the community, to
3 have a strong industrial park that is a strong,
4 vibrant community that is a part of this culture of
5 DuPage County, with the strong independence that we
6 have, the strong relationships that we have enjoyed
7 with our neighboring communities and solving joint
8 problems.

9 So my request would be very similar to
10 Mayor DiCianni's.

11 To the extent possible, to keep Addison --
12 we are happy with the way it is; but, to the extent
13 possible, not to divide it up into three, four, five
14 Representative districts and the like amount of
15 Senatorial districts.

16 So anything you could do would be greatly
17 appreciated.

18 CHAIRMAN HARMON: Thank you, Mayor.

19 Questions?

20 Senator Sandack.

21 SENATOR SANDACK: Mayor, I was struck by
22 something you said in your comments.

23 You want to see or have the opportunity to
24 comment on the map after it's finalized, I assume.

1 MR. HARTWIG: That's correct.

2 SENATOR SANDACK: Just kind of elaborate a
3 little bit on why you think that is important.

4 MR. HARTWIG: I think it is important -- I
5 mean, I'm here at the beginning, at the outset, to be
6 able to hopefully influence your thoughts and your
7 recommendations.

8 And then, just like my residents will come
9 to me and ask once the decision is made or a
10 recommendation is made, they would like the
11 opportunity to comment.

12 And I would like to be able to take a look
13 and see, have you been able to follow some of those
14 principals as you move forward with your mapping.

15 SENATOR SANDACK: Thank you, Mayor.

16 CHAIRMAN HARMON: Further questions?

17 Mayor, just for your information and for
18 that of others who are here, Chairman Kwame Raoul,
19 who chairs the full Redistricting Committee, has made
20 a commitment to a public hearing after the first map
21 is proposed.

22 So we can in fact take testimony and try to
23 make sure that we reflect that in the final product.

24 So thank you for that.

1 MR. HARTWIG: Well, thank you, Senator.
2 That is important, and I am glad to hear that.

3 Because I think the open process that you
4 are developing is extremely important, and I think
5 our residents appreciate that.

6 CHAIRMAN HARMON: Thank you very much,
7 Mayor.

8 MR. HARTWIG: Thank you.

9 And good luck with the work that you have
10 before you.

11 CHAIRMAN HARMON: Thank you.

12 Our next witness is Paul Fichtner, resident
13 of Elmhurst, and a member of the DuPage County Board.

14 Mr. Fichtner, welcome to the Redistricting
15 Hearings.

16

17 TESTIMONY

18 BY

19 MR. FICHTNER:

20 Thank you, Mr. Chairman and Senators, and
21 welcome to Elmhurst.

22 I want to thank the Committee Chairman for
23 holding this legislative hearing.

24 My name is Paul Fichtner, and I have been a

1 resident of Elmhurst for the past 18 years. 9 of
2 those years were spent as an elected member of the
3 Elmhurst City Council. And currently I am on my
4 second term as a DuPage County Board member.

5 I would ask for two considerations from the
6 legislature on this issue.

7 One, don't split a community into different
8 districts unless absolutely necessary.

9 And, two, give residents an opportunity to
10 view and comment on the proposed map before it is up
11 for a final vote.

12 I know you had just mentioned that the
13 Senate has committed to opening a hearing after the
14 first map is proposed.

15 But my understanding is the House is not
16 committed to that. So hopefully the House would
17 commit to that as well as the Senate.

18 I realize it is impossible to keep all
19 communities whole within a particular legislative
20 district.

21 As a County board, we are working on our own
22 map now, and there are instances where we have to put
23 a single community into two county board districts.
24 It's not desirable, but on occasion it's unavoidable.

1 But I think special consideration must be
2 given to a border community. This hearing today is
3 taking place in the City Council Chambers of a border
4 community.

5 Elmhurst borders between counties, DuPage
6 and Cook. Elmhurst borders school districts, because
7 Elmhurst is one school district in the entire
8 community.

9 And because we have Cook County as the
10 border, that also means we have very different
11 property tax, sales tax, gas tax, and legislative
12 agendas on each side of the border.

13 There are recognized differences between
14 Cook communities and DuPage communities for
15 everything from public transit, CTA, PACE, to even
16 the mechanism of how each county gets its water, the
17 DuPage Water Commission versus water reclamation
18 district.

19 These topics and more will eventually lead
20 to legislative support of some kind or another.

21 DuPage and Cook communities also have
22 separate legislative agendas.

23 The DuPage Mayor's managers conference lobby
24 legislators for the 36 communities in DuPage County.

1 And Cook County has a separate legislation,
2 representing 37 Cook County communities that border
3 DuPage County.

4 If there were no differences and this border
5 didn't matter, separate legislative entities such as
6 the different mayor and manager conferences would not
7 have to exist. But they do.

8 It is a recognition of different needs
9 for different areas that a community must contend
10 with -- and, by extension, its legislature must
11 contend with -- because of a political border.

12 The rumors that I am hearing with regards to
13 redistricting involve not just putting Elmhurst in
14 the two legislative districts, but putting small
15 parts of Elmhurst into three or four legislative
16 districts and then have those legislative districts
17 cross the major political border into Cook County.

18 Communities within DuPage have grown into a
19 unique place with its own particular issues, people
20 and needs, just as communities in Cook have
21 collectively grown into a unique place with its own
22 particular issues, people and needs.

23 It would be difficult for any legislator to
24 properly represent a large community as a whole if it

1 is split off into several small pieces and
2 distributed to multiple legislative districts whose
3 majority of that district is in an entirely different
4 county.

5 Our community's wants and needs, from roads
6 to grant proposals, will be diluted because of this
7 fractional representation, compared to the unfair
8 advantage whole communities that other legislative
9 districts would have.

10 The message you would be sending with such a
11 map is that Elmhurst does not deserve to have
12 adequate representation and be heard as a whole.

13 So please keep border communities intact so
14 the majority of the community is within its own
15 county. And whatever shape the map takes, allow the
16 communities time to comment on it.

17 There have been some important legislation
18 coming out of Springfield lately regarding
19 transparency. It would be a shame if the
20 consideration of transparency did not extend to the
21 proposed map before a final vote.

22 Thank you very much.

23 CHAIRMAN HARMON: Questions?

24 Mr. Fichtner, just a couple of questions for

1 you.

2 Can you share with us the source of the
3 rumors you've been hearing?

4 MR. FICHTNER: Various other elected
5 officials that would have some knowledge of the
6 process currently going on down in Springfield, as
7 well as staff.

8 So multiple people.

9 CHAIRMAN HARMON: Do they share a partisan
10 affiliation, or are they members of both parties?

11 MR. FICHTNER: I have heard from members of
12 one party on that.

13 CHAIRMAN HARMON: Can you help me
14 understand -- this is more out of curiosity, but for
15 a point of clarity -- the requirements, when you
16 redistrict the county board seats, do those districts
17 have to be precisely equal in population?

18 MR. FICHTNER: Yes.

19 CHAIRMAN HARMON: And how many communities
20 are split between county board districts today in the
21 current map, do you know?

22 MR. FICHTNER: I actually looked at that the
23 other night; and we have 36 communities or 37
24 communities in DuPage County, and I would say three

1 or four.

2 CHAIRMAN HARMON: Only three or four are
3 split, and you were able to achieve --

4 MR. FICHTNER: Correct.

5 CHAIRMAN HARMON: -- perfectly the
6 population?

7 MR. FICHTNER: Yes. And I think it is more
8 towards three.

9 CHAIRMAN HARMON: Are they dramatically
10 diced up in order to distribute the population,
11 feeding the other districts, to get that precise?

12 MR. FICHTNER: Would you repeat that?

13 CHAIRMAN HARMON: Sure.

14 Are those communities diced up into six or
15 seven or eight districts in order to feed the other
16 districts to get to perfect population parity?

17 MR. FICHTNER: No. The only splitting that
18 is done is one community has a small piece of it put
19 into another district.

20 So one community can be two districts, but
21 it is a very tiny part of that community.

22 CHAIRMAN HARMON: I compliment DuPage
23 County. You guys clearly are, you have people living
24 in exactly the right spot to get the appropriate

1 mathematical symmetry. That is quite remarkable.
2 And it's square, too.

3 I have one last question, and I would invite
4 the other witnesses to return if there is something
5 you want to add.

6 You talked about cutting communities up.
7 And some of the other witnesses talked about keeping
8 the representation even if their community had more
9 than one Senator or House district.

10 What if the reverse were to happen? What if
11 the representation were to be consolidated so you had
12 only one state Senator or fewer than you have today?

13 Is that an improvement or a detriment?

14 MR. FICHTNER: Relative to the way it is
15 now?

16 CHAIRMAN HARMON: Correct.

17 MR. FICHTNER: I would have to say anytime
18 you can keep one community for one representative,
19 that would be the best situation.

20 Second best situation would be, if you have
21 to have two representatives in one community, have
22 both those representatives from the same county.

23 CHAIRMAN HARMON: Okay. I ask because there
24 are folks who testify saying that they like having

1 more than one representative in their community in
2 Springfield.

3 And again, I am not requesting any of the
4 prior witnesses to come back to the table.

5 But if there is something on that particular
6 question, since I didn't ask you, we would be happy
7 to have your thoughts, either now or later.

8 So any further questions?

9 Thank you very much, Mr. Fichtner. I
10 appreciate it.

11 CHAIRMAN HARMON: I believe our final
12 witness submitting a slip so far is Mark Novak from
13 Addison Township, trustee.

14 Welcome to the Redistricting Committee.

15

16 TESTIMONY

17 BY

18 MARK NOVAK:

19 Thank you very much, again. Thanks for
20 having this here.

21 Good afternoon. My name is Mark Novak. I
22 am a trustee from Addison Township, and I have lived
23 in Addison for the past 33 years.

24 I also represent my county as a trustee on

1 the Board with the College of DuPage.

2 And I've also been a committeeman now for
3 the last ten years.

4 I am here today to address the concerns that
5 are affecting the districts and the township due to
6 the potential redistricting of elected officials.

7 I expect that the process will be
8 transparent, and the public would have adequate time
9 to review and comment on any map voted on by this
10 Committee.

11 Addison Township has been around for over
12 160 years. Our township is located in the most
13 northeast corner of DuPage County, and therefore
14 borders Cook County.

15 And although we share a line on a map, our
16 communities could not be more different.

17 Addison township is identical
18 demographically and naturally to our DuPage neighbors
19 to the west and to the south.

20 Our communities are tied together. We share
21 the same socioeconomic bracket, population, school
22 districts, community organizations, community events.

23 Our assessors share a forest preserve
24 commissioner, fire protection districts. We have

1 inter-developmental agreements, mutual aid
2 agreements, and even our mayor-manager
3 organizations.

4 Up until now, we've had elected officials
5 representing these interests by people from within
6 this community. These people are aware of DuPage
7 County's unique and treasured values.

8 These Representatives and Senators have
9 interest, they are one hundred percent vested, and
10 constituents of DuPage County.

11 Addison, Wood Dale, Bensenville, Itasca and
12 Elmhurst are vastly different from our Cook County
13 neighbors. There is even a barrier between our
14 towns, due to Highway 294, and a dozen square miles
15 of industrial complexes.

16 We have different needs and concerns. Our
17 properties are assessed differently, expansion noise
18 concerns from O'Hare Airport are different, local
19 business needs are different, and even the sales
20 taxes are different between DuPage and Cook Counties.

21 With who we leave with the next
22 Representatives and Senators, a line has to be drawn.
23 How could they not be divided between Cook and DuPage
24 County?

1 In short, there have been no major changes
2 to the population demographics to warrant any
3 significant changes to this district.

4 These constituents here in Addison Township
5 have had our interests represented for years by those
6 from their own community who understand the needs of
7 their community.

8 It would simply not be fair and there is no
9 benefit to the residents of this township, DuPage
10 County or Cook County, to redraw the maps at this
11 time.

12 CHAIRMAN HARMON: Questions?

13 I have just one question for you, then. I
14 think one question. We will see.

15 Does the township share any demographic
16 similarities with your neighbors to the east across
17 the County line?

18 MR. NOVAK: I would assume that there is
19 some similarities. But we are definitely much more a
20 member of the rest of DuPage County.

21 If you go towards Bloomingdale Township,
22 your township, we are -- that's kind of been the
23 thoughts of everyone here today -- is that DuPage
24 County is in itself unique and very different; maybe

1 not very different, but definitely our own community
2 from Cook County.

3 CHAIRMAN HARMON: But Addison Township
4 itself, do you have the demographics resulting from
5 the most recent census?

6 MR. NOVAK: As far as what the percentage
7 breakdowns are between populations?

8 CHAIRMAN HARMON: Yes.

9 MR. NOVAK: I don't have that information
10 available.

11 CHAIRMAN HARMON: Has there been significant
12 Latino growth in Addison Township?

13 MR. NOVAK: I think, in general, Addison
14 Township has not grown that much at all.

15 CHAIRMAN HARMON: Has there been growth in
16 the Latino community?

17 MR. NOVACK: Yes, sir. There has been.

18 CHAIRMAN HARMON: Is that shared by your
19 neighboring DuPage County townships, that sort of
20 growth?

21 MR. NOVAK: I do not believe so.

22 CHAIRMAN HARMON: Is it shared by the
23 neighboring Cook County townships?

24 MR. NOVAK: I am not familiar with that

1 information.

2 CHAIRMAN HARMON: I represent much of Leyden
3 Township, which is adjacent, and there has been a
4 fairly dramatic growth in the Latino population along
5 your eastern border.

6 So it is just a curiosity as I heard your
7 testimony. So thank you.

8 Thank you very much.

9 MR. NOVAK: Thank you.

10 CHAIRMAN HARMON: Are there any other
11 witnesses seeking to testify?

12 Mayor, please, come on back.

13 I invited you, yes.

14

15 FURTHER TESTIMONY

16 BY

17 LARRY HARTWIG:

18 I will just give my opinion on that.

19 As I stated on my testimony, we have just
20 the one Senatorial district, and I find that to be an
21 advantage, that the person knows and can become
22 familiar.

23 And I would say, if we could have one
24 Representative district, that would be an advantage.

1 It's just a matter of knowing that probably you are
2 not going to be quite as lucky as DuPage County in
3 getting everyone lined up that way, but you are going
4 to have to do some dividing.

5 But to the extent that you can keep us
6 together, I think that is an advantage.

7 CHAIRMAN HARMON: So in your view, the
8 intensity of one representative's interest in your
9 community outweighs the chorus of representatives?

10 MR. HARTWIG: Yes. I believe that. Because
11 I think they understand the needs better, and they
12 could have a much deeper understanding.

13 And, of course, I am looking for
14 representatives that are able to relate with their
15 colleagues down in Springfield to be able to
16 communicate some of those needs.

17 CHAIRMAN HARMON: Thank you, Mayor.
18 Appreciate it.

19 Are there any other witnesses seeking to
20 testify at this hearing?

21 I would note just for your interest that
22 today also, in Carbondale, Illinois, far southern end
23 of the state, the other Subcommittee of the
24 Redistricting Committee is having a similar hearing,

1 taking testimony from our neighbors in Carbondale.

2 Our next hearing is scheduled for April 26th
3 in Yorkville at the Yorkville City Hall, at
4 10:00 a.m.

5 I also want to make sure folks know that
6 there is available at the Thompson Center in Downtown
7 Chicago and in the State Capital in the Stratton
8 Building public workstations where you yourselves can
9 access the data from the Census and the tools that
10 are required to experiment with map boundaries. And
11 you are welcome to do that.

12 If you produce a map that you would like to
13 submit to us, we encourage you to do that. And we
14 would be happy to take that into the record and
15 include that in our consideration.

16 Interested parties should contact
17 217-558-3036 to access either of the public
18 workstations.

19 Are there closing comments from my
20 colleagues on the Committee?

21 SENATOR DILLARD: No.

22 Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

23 CHAIRMAN HARMON: There being no further
24 business to come before the Senate Redistricting

1 Subcommittee No. 2, we stand adjourned.

2 (Whereupon, the above-entitled
3 proceedings were adjourned at
4 4:05 p.m.)

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1 STATE OF ILLINOIS)
) SS:
2 COUNTY OF L A K E)

3

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

11

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Certified Shorthand Reporter
License No. 084.002717

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18

19 Subscribed and sworn to
before me this ____ day
20 of _____ 2011.

20

21 _____
Notary Public

22

23

24