

1
2 COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF PHILADELPHIA
3 COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE
4
5

6 301 W. Hunting Park Avenue
7 Philadelphia, Pennsylvania
8 Wednesday, August 31, 2011
9 5:20 p.m.

10 PRESENT:

11 COUNCIL PRESIDENT ANNA C. VERNA
12 COUNCILMAN DARRELL CLARKE
13 COUNCILMAN W. WILSON GOODE, JR.
14 COUNCILWOMAN MARIA D. QUINONES-SANCHEZ
15 COUNCILWOMAN MARIAN B. TASCO

16 RESOLUTION 110523 - Resolution calling on City
17 Council's Committee of the Whole to hold
18 public hearings to educate and inform citizens
19 on the redistricting process for City Council
20 Districts in order to create an open and
21 transparent process and opportunity for public
22 engagement and input for City Council's
23 consideration.
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2 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: Good
3 evening and welcome. This is the second
4 of four hearings that will focus
5 exclusively on the matter of councilmanic
6 redistricting. Every ten years, it
7 becomes Council's duty to redraw the
8 boundaries for the City's ten
9 councilmanic districts. Before we carry
10 out that responsibility, we want to
11 provide the public with an opportunity to
12 weigh in. We have a big task before us
13 and we welcome your input.

14 I want to thank you for your
15 attendance and your interest this
16 evening, and I also want to thank my
17 colleague Councilwoman Sanchez for
18 hosting this evening's meeting. So
19 without further adieu, it's my pleasure
20 to recognize Councilwoman Sanchez.

21 COUNCILWOMAN SANCHEZ: Thank
22 you, Madam President.

23 Before we begin with brief
24 opening remarks, I want to provide an
25 opportunity for our host, Esperanza, to

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2 say some welcoming remarks, the Reverend
3 Luis Cortes.

4 REVEREND CORTES: Sure. We
5 want to welcome everybody. We're glad
6 you're here. Thank you.

7 (Applause.)

8 COUNCILWOMAN SANCHEZ: I have
9 never seen him be that brief.

10 Thank you, Reverend. Everyone
11 is admiring how beautiful Esperanza
12 Academy is. This is always an
13 opportunity to show off some of the great
14 things in the district.

15 I want to thank the Council
16 Redistricting Working Group, under
17 President Verna, for their willingness to
18 hear and work with redistricting and
19 allowing for me to serve on this
20 committee in this very important issue.
21 And I want to thank my colleagues who
22 came out a week before Labor Day to be
23 here and all of you who are present. As
24 President Verna mentioned, we are all
25 very eager to hear your input, your

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2 definitions of neighborhoods and some of
3 the things that you think is important
4 before we draw a draft map, that we'll
5 then have an additional public hearing
6 once that draft map is done.

7 So Councilwoman Tasco, my
8 colleague, Majority Leader Tasco,
9 Councilman Wilson Goode, President Verna,
10 thank you for coming. I do expect some
11 other members of -- some other colleagues
12 of mine to join us.

13 And with that, we have a
14 sign-in sheet. If you haven't signed in
15 already, Justin DiBerardinis from my
16 office is here. We will call you. We
17 are allowing for three-minute testimony,
18 although we are going to allow for
19 additional time from the Azavea people
20 who are here to testify a little bit
21 about the mapping work that's being done
22 citywide.

23 So with that, I'm going to call
24 the first three people, because I think
25 we have three spaces, and then I'll call

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2 the next three people so they can come
3 testify. So we're going to start with
4 our host. That's what happens when
5 you're host. The Reverend Luis Cortes,
6 Reverend Bonnie Camarda to come before.
7 I'm going to leave you guys as a panel,
8 and then we'll do Jose Oyola, Juan
9 Cartagena, Angel Ortiz and Joe Garcia
10 from LatinoLines.

11 (Witnesses approached witness
12 table.)

13 REVEREND CORTES: Thank you,
14 Council President Verna and Councilwoman
15 Quinones and the rest of our Council
16 colleagues. Thank you for coming. Thank
17 you for holding this meeting within the
18 Latino community. We are grateful that
19 you have come into our community to hear
20 from us and that you're taking a
21 proactive stance towards listening to the
22 concerns of our city's residents.

23 I'm speaking this evening on
24 behalf of Hispanic Clergy, because I do
25 have two hats, and I'm speaking on behalf

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2 of Hispanic Clergy of Philadelphia, and
3 I'm joined by Hispanic Clergy President
4 Reverend Bonnie Camarda. As many of you
5 know, Hispanic Clergy has been an active
6 presence in civic and community issues
7 since 1982. This is our third time
8 testifying at a redistricting hearing,
9 and we're hopeful that this time we will
10 not be disappointed by the outcome as we
11 have been in the past.

12 It is clear to us that the
13 district boundaries in our community have
14 been gerrymandered for City Council and
15 by City Council for decades. In fact, it
16 is an embarrassing truth that our
17 Hispanic community in Philadelphia is
18 referenced around the nation by other
19 Hispanic communities as one of the
20 negative -- as an example of the negative
21 things that can happen to a neighborhood
22 that doesn't organize and advocate for
23 itself. I have been asked by my
24 community development colleagues in New
25 York, Miami, Los Angeles and other

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2 cities, How can the Latino community be
3 divided the way you are? Don't democrats
4 control the City?

5 I'm ashamed to have to respond,
6 Yes, they do, and this is how we are
7 treated.

8 Our Hispanic community in North
9 Philadelphia is clearly defined by the
10 use of Spanish and its particular Latino
11 and Caribbean culture. It occupies a
12 contiguous geographic area, but even
13 today, after the 2000 redistricting
14 struggle, we find the geographically
15 contiguous Hispanic community fractured
16 into parts of four different councilmanic
17 districts. We're in the 1st, the 5th,
18 the 9th and, of course, the 7th.

19 The issue goes beyond poor
20 treatment. It is in fact illegal, and as
21 clergy we believe it is immoral. The
22 Hispanic community has been fractured and
23 separated unnaturally, with implications
24 for our voice in political
25 representation.

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2 As a religious organization
3 with a stake in the welfare of our
4 communities, we have chosen to present
5 two maps. The first incorporates the
6 physical addresses of all the
7 Spanish-speaking churches in our city and
8 how we remain divided, though we are one
9 community. The second map proposed by
10 Hispanic Clergy of Philadelphia as an
11 ideal covers the geographic area that
12 includes a vast majority of our churches,
13 over 90 percent of them. It is a
14 rectangular tract boarded by Girard
15 Avenue in the south, Olney in the north,
16 9th Street on the west and Whitaker
17 Street on the east.

18 We come to you today in good
19 faith, but we wonder about the
20 transparency of a process that asks us to
21 testify without providing us any insight
22 into what Council is thinking and where
23 the lines may be drawn. We are concerned
24 that the vote dilution that has occurred
25 in the past will continue to be fostered

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2 in our community. We implore you to not
3 encroach upon our community and continue
4 to fragment us. We request that you
5 provide us with the 60 percent Citizens
6 of Voting Age number we should have
7 received in 2000.

8 I thank all the members of City
9 Council for the opportunity to present to
10 you today. It is a privilege which the
11 Latino church does not take for granted.
12 God bless our city and our City Council.

13 Thank you.

14 (Applause.)

15 REVEREND CORTES: We have the
16 two maps we referenced, which you have in
17 the testimony, are also there, and what
18 it clearly shows is that we are divided
19 among four districts. Our Hispanic
20 churches don't work as four different
21 district churches. We work as one, and
22 we all happen to be in what is basically
23 a two-mile rectangle, geographic
24 rectangle. This should have been our
25 district 20 years ago. We're hoping that

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2 in this next redistricting, it will be
3 our district.

4 I thank you, and I don't know
5 if there's any questions.

6 COUNCILWOMAN SANCHEZ: Reverend
7 Camarda, do you want to add anything?

8 REVEREND CAMARDA: Thank you.

9 COUNCILWOMAN SANCHEZ: Thank
10 you. Thank you for helping us.

11 Any questions?

12 (No response.)

13 COUNCILWOMAN SANCHEZ: Thank
14 you.

15 REVEREND CORTES: Thank you
16 very much.

17 COUNCILWOMAN SANCHEZ: Our
18 next --

19 COUNCILWOMAN TASC0: Could I
20 ask a question? Are you asking us to
21 consider thinking of drawing the
22 boundaries along the red dots?

23 REVEREND CORTES: Well,
24 we're -- I'll show you here.

25 COUNCILWOMAN SANCHEZ: On the

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2 second one.

3 REVEREND CORTES: If you look
4 at where the bulk of our churches are,
5 you can see that they go from Godfrey
6 Avenue or you can take Olney Avenue
7 south. And so we're not saying exactly
8 where you would put the line, but what
9 we're saying is that this be taken into
10 consideration as the major way of -- one
11 of the ways to inform how you're going to
12 redistrict our community.

13 Does that help?

14 COUNCILWOMAN TASCO: Thank you.

15 REVEREND CORTES: Thank you,
16 Councilwoman.

17 COUNCILWOMAN SANCHEZ: Thank
18 you.

19 Our next panel consists of Jose
20 Oyola, Juan Cartagena, Angel Ortiz and
21 Joe Garcia from LatinoLines.

22 (Witnesses approached witness
23 table.)

24 COUNCILWOMAN SANCHEZ: Do we
25 have your written testimony?

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2 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Yes, we
3 do, Your Honor. I'll get that for you.

4 COUNCILWOMAN SANCHEZ: Anyone
5 who has walked in the room lately, if
6 you're here to testify, we have a list.
7 Justin DiBerardinis, who is off to the
8 left, will gladly take your name so we
9 can add you to the list.

10 You may proceed.

11 MR. OYOLA: Good evening,
12 members of City Council and good evening
13 to the community here of North
14 Philadelphia, and for those of you that
15 don't live in this area, welcome to our
16 neighborhood. I want to start by saying
17 my name is Jose Oyola of LatinoLines and
18 also the Marketing Director for the
19 National Congress for Puerto Rican
20 Rights. LatinoLines is a coalition of
21 non-partisan civic activists, devoted
22 members of the Latino community and
23 longtime Philadelphians. Testifying with
24 me today is Juan Cartagena, President and
25 General Counsel of Latino Justice PRLDEF.

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2 This national organization based in New
3 York City is expert in voting
4 redistricting issues. Judge Cartagena is
5 a constitutional law and civil rights
6 attorney with extensive litigation
7 experience in the areas of voting rights,
8 employment discrimination, education and
9 language rights. He is a former
10 municipal court judge in New Jersey.

11 As the recent census numbers
12 have confirmed, Philadelphia finally
13 reversed the five decades of losing
14 population, thanks mainly to growth in
15 the Asian and Latino communities. An
16 impressive gain has been registered in
17 the Latino community of over 59,000
18 residents, and almost all of that growth
19 was in the Latino population center in
20 and around Philadelphia's 7th
21 Councilmanic District and areas that used
22 to be the 7th Councilmanic District.

23 It has also been widely
24 reported by numerous authorities that the
25 7th Councilmanic District is one of the

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2 most gerrymandered districts in both the
3 City and in our nation. For too long,
4 the Latino community has been
5 gerrymandered, diluting its voting
6 strength and in many instances eroding
7 its viability as a community of interest.
8 For years, voting districts in Latino
9 neighborhoods have been cracked,
10 fractured, packed and diluted, costing
11 residents their true power and place at
12 the table.

13 LatinoLines is respectfully
14 asking that our growth in the City's
15 census be reflected with a natural,
16 logical 60 percent Latino population for
17 the 7th Councilmanic District. Sixty
18 percent is not an arbitrary number that
19 simply looks to create a district that is
20 simply Latino. Anything less than 60
21 percent drops our citizens' voting age
22 below 50 percent.

23 The district is only as strong
24 as its voting base. Currently, the
25 Latino population within and surrounding

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2 the 7th District has all the elements
3 that represent a community of interest.
4 With a properly drawn district, we have
5 the population, the voting age population
6 and, most importantly, the citizens'
7 voting age population that will give us a
8 true reading on our actual electoral
9 strength. All of this can be achieved by
10 simply encircling the present community
11 of interest that for so long has been a
12 group of pawns in a political game of
13 chess - you take this one, give me that
14 one - so long as the bishops, the queens
15 and the kings are protected.

16 The Puerto Rican/Latino
17 community has spent a lot of time and
18 effort working to restore the health of
19 their own community. Organizations like
20 ASPIRA, APM, Esperanza, Congreso and
21 Taller Puertorriqueno were all started by
22 the Puerto Rican community and have been
23 serving all the residents of North
24 Philadelphia. We have worked hard to
25 educate our children, create economic

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2 prosperity, preserve our culture and have
3 made significant contributions to the
4 economic and educational development of
5 the City of Philadelphia. If we have all
6 the elements to create a district that
7 gives this community of interest which
8 has contributed and continues to
9 contribute so much its proper place at
10 the table with 60 percent Latino
11 population and 50 percent citizens'
12 voting age population, it is the
13 responsibility of our elected officials
14 to uphold that number. Anything less
15 than 60 percent simply will not do
16 justice.

17 We are respectfully asking the
18 Philadelphia City Council to draw new and
19 proper lines to reflect the viable and
20 growing Latino communities in our city,
21 with the ultimate goal of allowing their
22 political voices to take their natural
23 course among the leadership of the City
24 of Philadelphia.

25 For more history on this entire

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2 matter, Attorney Juan Cartagena of Latino
3 Justice PRLDEF will discuss the Voting
4 Rights Act of 1965 and how it prohibits
5 the dilution and fracturing so noticeable
6 in the current 7th Councilmanic District.
7 Attorney and former City Councilman Angel
8 Ortiz will detail the trail and
9 trajectory of gerrymandering that put the
10 current lines of the 7th District in
11 conflict with the Voting Rights Act of
12 1965. He will show how this community of
13 interest historically has had and
14 continues to have their civil rights
15 violated under those terms. And our
16 colleague Joe Garcia will summarize our
17 points and look to the future.

18 Thank you very much for this
19 opportunity to look at this longstanding
20 civil rights problem.

21 Juan.

22 MR. CARTAGENA: Good evening.
23 Good evening, members of the Philadelphia
24 City Council. First of all, thank you
25 for giving me this opportunity. I'm

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2 going to try to speak very quickly, and I
3 will submit by tomorrow what I have on my
4 screen here for your records.

5 My name is Juan Cartagena. I
6 run one of the important Latino civil
7 rights organizations in the country, and
8 I have been doing work on redistricting
9 in about ten states now currently. I may
10 not look it, but this is my fourth round
11 of redistricting, and I'm very happy to
12 tell you that I personally have been
13 involved in redistricting efforts here in
14 Philadelphia several rounds ago.

15 In many ways, Latino Justice
16 has already testified before you. I'm
17 not going to repeat what was given to you
18 as testimony several weeks ago by my
19 associate counsel Jose Perez. That
20 testimony was supporting the proposal by
21 LatinoLines for the district that Jose
22 Oyola just mentioned. I actually want to
23 give you a different perspective, both
24 historical and national, on the issues
25 that confront you today, because they're

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2 not very easy issues to grapple with.

3 The first one is actually historical.

4 The Puerto Rican community
5 especially and the Latino community in
6 general of Philadelphia has a long
7 history of challenging, sometimes in
8 courts, sometimes before Congress, some
9 of the impediments that get in the way of
10 full and fair equal treatment when it
11 comes to voting representation, and these
12 are issues that also are commonplace
13 throughout the country for Latino voters
14 and Puerto Rican voters.

15 You may or may not know but
16 back in the 1970s, it was this community
17 in the case called Arroyo versus Tucker
18 which established the underpinnings for
19 bilingual assistance at the voting booth
20 that so many people of Philadelphia and
21 others indeed in Pennsylvania and
22 throughout the country enjoy today. In
23 fact, Congress since 1975 cited both
24 Philadelphia's electoral apparatus and
25 New York City's electoral apparatus

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2 saying that if they can conduct bilingual
3 education in those two major
4 metropolises, they can conduct it
5 anywhere else in the country where the
6 assistance is needed for Spanish-speaking
7 citizens of the United States.

8 Fast forward just a simple ten
9 years after that, the Hispanic
10 reapportionment committee case, which I
11 worked on personally, along with my
12 colleague here Angel Ortiz, we worked on
13 challenging the redistricting of the
14 State House here in Pennsylvania, the
15 180th District. We were under a legal
16 standard that was very, very hard to
17 prove, that we had to prove that the
18 actions of the legislation were done
19 intentionally to hurt Puerto Rican
20 communities in Philadelphia. We fell
21 short of that legal standard even though
22 there was admission in the record that
23 Puerto Rican communities were divided on
24 purpose to horse-trade with republicans
25 in the outer suburban ring.

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2 I say that to you because
3 although the law has now changed -- and
4 we could have won that case had the law
5 been brought today -- the fact of the
6 matter is, that set the stage for the
7 first ever person to be elected to the
8 State House in Harrisburg from this part
9 of the state, and it also set the stage
10 for this young man sitting next to me to
11 eventually run for office and become one
12 of your colleagues back in the 1980s.

13 But I venture to say that I was
14 here in 1982 when we worked on the case,
15 and now it is close to 20-some-odd years
16 later, almost 30, right? Almost 30
17 years, and the vibrant Puerto
18 Rican/Latino community of Philadelphia
19 unfortunately can only really point to
20 one elected representative among your
21 City Council and one elected
22 representative in Harrisburg on every
23 level, legal, political and I venture to
24 say moral. That's just wrong. It makes
25 no sense for a vibrant democracy to fail

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2 to find ways to incorporate this
3 community.

4 It is not just a function
5 either that these communities are not
6 registered to vote and race as they
7 should be or they don't turn out to vote
8 and race as they should be as well,
9 because even if they turned out and faced
10 that equal, their counterparts in the
11 African American or the white community,
12 the impediments that I just told you
13 about sometimes get in the way.

14 You have a wonderful
15 opportunity now to not only reward the
16 growing strength of a vibrant part of
17 Philadelphia, reward it because its
18 population growth led to the fact that
19 the City didn't lose that much population
20 over time the last ten years. You have a
21 chance to reward it with a district
22 that's solid enough to survive no matter
23 what happens in the next political
24 machinations of the next ten years.

25 You have a wonderful

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2 opportunity as well to stop the
3 manifestation of a very bizarrely drawn
4 district, which on most measures looks
5 odd on paper. And I work on
6 redistricting. This is my fourth round.
7 Redistricting, believe it or not,
8 appearances matter. The way things look
9 signal what is going on when they were
10 created. So you have an excellent
11 opportunity to both create a compact
12 district that rewards this community
13 that's vibrant and growing.

14 And I will end with this.

15 Throughout the country I worked in many
16 jurisdictions in which sometimes the
17 challenge is how to create/preserve
18 districts in the face of loss of
19 population. You have the opportunity
20 now, as I said before, to reward a
21 growing part of the City that is only
22 asking for a measure of solace in knowing
23 that the district that you create in the
24 next couple weeks will stand the test of
25 time and be strong enough to continue to

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2 represent -- they can elect whoever they
3 want, but at least they have an
4 opportunity to, as I say, integrate
5 further the halls of Philadelphia City
6 Council and in some ways the halls of
7 Harrisburg, too.

8 Thank you very much.

9 COUNCILWOMAN SANCHEZ: Thank
10 you.

11 MR. ORTIZ: Welcome, Madam
12 President.

13 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: Nice
14 seeing you.

15 MR. ORTIZ: My friends, Wilson
16 and Marian, and my very, very close
17 friend, Maria Quinones.

18 To quote Maria today from the
19 papers, we're trying to fix 40 years of
20 mistakes. Although they were really not
21 mistakes. They were done very on
22 purpose.

23 Marian has been in the struggle
24 with me over this district since the
25 beginning. Council President Verna was

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2 there when we needed last ten years ago.

3 Wilson, well, he has a father that

4 started it. He has the one Mayor that

5 stood up in the 1980s and said that a

6 Latino district has to be structured and

7 put forward, and he kept his word. He

8 was the first Mayor to veto a

9 redistricting plan. And it's 40 years.

10 Maria said it very well today. It is 40

11 years. The City has grown and we have

12 grown. Everybody else has lost

13 population or not grown at all. The

14 Northeast was 90 percent Caucasian when

15 we all started this. Today it's only 58

16 percent. When they added that ungodly

17 tail, it was to dilute the Puerto Rican

18 and Latino vote at that time. Well, we

19 got to cut that tail. That tail has to

20 come off. That's one of the mistakes

21 that Maria was speaking about when she

22 said we're trying to fix 40 years of

23 errors. We have to do that.

24 We have to give the Puerto

25 Rican/Latino community at this point in

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2 time, after all of these years of
3 struggle -- Juan said it very clearly.
4 In 1981, '82, we were challenging the
5 State House and Harry Ganotti and
6 McIntire and all of those individuals,
7 and the democratic party actually said,
8 We divided the Puerto Rican community on
9 purpose in order to strengthen other
10 democratic districts. Well, those days
11 are passed, because we have grown. We're
12 more sophisticated, and we have a very
13 enlightened and political community.

14 The people that make up
15 LatinoLines are second-generation Puerto
16 Rican kids, who now are no longer kids,
17 who are professionals, who are
18 technocrats, but also very politically
19 savvy and understand what the political
20 process is and what it entails. It isn't
21 something that we have to go through
22 every four years wondering whether we're
23 going to have representation in City
24 Council of our choosing. We have to have
25 assurances that we are going to have

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2 representation in City Council, at least
3 in this one district, of a person of our
4 choosing, not to be wondering about it,
5 not to be put forward in a sense that
6 people with money can come in, other
7 special interests can develop and
8 campaign. No. The Latino community has
9 grown and it has grown in a certain
10 geographic area. The Reverend said it.
11 Most of the churches are in this
12 district. Those are the evangelical
13 churches, but the Catholic churches that
14 Puerto Ricans go to, except the one in
15 Spring Garden, are in this area.

16 So at this point in time, what
17 we're saying is fix the errors of 40
18 years. We no longer can continue
19 accepting the circumstances that were put
20 forward. And I think as Maria said
21 today, we're going to fix the 40 years of
22 mistakes that were not really mistakes,
23 because they were done on purpose, and
24 it's about time that we redress that and
25 make this community whole.

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2 So, Councilwoman, thank you.

3 President, welcome to the barrio.

4 Marian, you went to the barrio. Wilson,
5 you went to the barrio. Welcome to the
6 barrio.

7 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: Thank
8 you.

9 MR. GARCIA: Thank you for
10 being here. I'm Joe Garcia of
11 LatinoLines and I'm also Vice Chair of
12 the National Congress for Puerto Rican
13 Rights.

14 Our community came home with
15 60,000 people, according to the United
16 States Census of 2010. If you just
17 enclose the current areas of new Latino
18 population growth, it naturally fits in
19 the 7th District, and the City would have
20 a reasonable, healthy and more
21 economically viable 7th District.

22 Two provisions of the Voting
23 Rights Act of 1965, Sections 228 and
24 5-29, prohibit the use of voting
25 practices or procedures, including

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2 redistricting plans, that dilute minority
3 voting strength. The extremely peculiar
4 shape of the 7th Councilmanic District,
5 the obvious dilution, the fracturing, the
6 fact that it combines communities with
7 different interests, all make market as a
8 classic example of gerrymandering. And
9 let's remember, not only were the people
10 removed from this district, but the
11 economic engines and businesses were also
12 removed from this district.

13 If you look at a map of the 7th
14 from 1960, the SugarHouse Casino would
15 have been in the 7th Councilmanic
16 District. All of that economically
17 thriving waterfront would have been in
18 the 7th District. And what a crushing
19 irony, SugarHouse, named for an industry
20 chosen for its historic presence in this
21 area of Philadelphia. SugarHouse, a name
22 chosen because of all the sugar that came
23 in from Jack Frost and other sugar
24 companies to Philadelphia for refinement.
25 And along with that sugar from Puerto

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2 Rico came the Puerto Rican sugar cane
3 workers, who built that industry through
4 hard work, expertise and remained loyal
5 Philadelphians. To think that we are
6 separated from our community of interest,
7 separated from our friends and neighbors,
8 separated from the waterfront and the
9 successful industry that was so
10 diligently, painstakingly worked to build
11 up. This crushing irony can no longer be
12 allowed to exist.

13 (A group of people entered room
14 chanting "Fund education, not
15 incarceration.")

16 (Pause.)

17 COUNCILWOMAN SANCHEZ: We want
18 to thank the folks who have joined us.
19 This is looking like a typical Council
20 session. And we thank them, and we'd be
21 happy to have them testify on
22 redistricting.

23 (People continue chanting.)

24 COUNCILWOMAN SANCHEZ: We want
25 to thank our education advocates. We

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2 need to proceed with our hearings, and we
3 want to be very respectful. We got your
4 message. We need to continue to take the
5 testimony. We appreciate the efforts of
6 our education advocates. Again, we'd be
7 happy to have you testify on
8 redistricting, but out of courtesy to the
9 witnesses and the business, we want to
10 proceed. We acknowledge your presence
11 here and your concern, and we're going to
12 ask you to allow us to proceed with our
13 hearings.

14 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER:

15 Absolutely. We're called Professionals
16 for Progress, and we just wanted to make
17 the point that since May 26th, City
18 Council passed a resolution to sue the
19 Governor for inadequately funding the
20 School District of Philadelphia. We just
21 want all of you here to know what we're
22 about and why we're here. And that's
23 simply what it's all about.

24 COUNCILWOMAN SANCHEZ: We

25 appreciate that. We thank you. We've

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2 heard you loud and clear over the course
3 of the last couple of months as this
4 controversy has unveiled itself. Again,
5 we appreciate it, and we welcome you in
6 our Council Chambers during our normal
7 proceedings in Council on Thursday to
8 publicly testify on the record those
9 concerns. We thank you very much.

10 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Thank
11 you.

12 COUNCILWOMAN SANCHEZ: We can
13 proceed, Mr. Garcia.

14 MR. GARCIA: Thank you. Well,
15 we're talking about the crushing irony of
16 the SugarHouse. So this crushing irony
17 can no longer be allowed to exist. This
18 illegality can no longer be allowed to
19 exist.

20 In the name of the 1965 Voting
21 Rights Act, we want our district back, we
22 want our neighbors back in our district,
23 and we want the boundaries to include the
24 economic engines that would make our
25 district flourish in the future. With a

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2 proper 7th Councilmanic District, the
3 Latino community of Philadelphia will
4 finally have in this century what it
5 should have had in the last.

6 Lastly, we respectfully request
7 that City Council release the maps and
8 background notes/work on this to date,
9 and we would like to see this on
10 September 1st, 2011. The citizens of
11 Philadelphia deserve to see these maps
12 sooner rather than later. The currently
13 allotted timeframe regarding the City
14 Council map is far too short for
15 meaningful response. As has been
16 mentioned in all the public discourse on
17 this matter, the need for forthright
18 transparency is of the highest priority.
19 LatinoLines looks forward to seeing the
20 Council's maps and looks forward to
21 testifying at that time as well.

22 Thank you very much for your
23 time and consideration today.

24 COUNCILWOMAN SANCHEZ: Thank
25 you.

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2 MR. ORTIZ: If I may. You have
3 an opportunity. I know that -- I don't
4 know if there are 12 votes, but if we
5 don't make and fix those mistakes, I hope
6 we have enough people to not allow 12
7 votes to go forward.

8 COUNCILWOMAN TASCO: Thank you,
9 Angel. Thank you. Message is loud and
10 clear.

11 COUNCILWOMAN SANCHEZ: Thank
12 you. We'll proceed. We have Rachel
13 Lawton from the League of Women Voters
14 and Jerry Mondesire from the NAACP and
15 Will Gonzalez from CEIBA.

16 (Witnesses approached witness
17 table.)

18 COUNCILWOMAN SANCHEZ: Rachel,
19 ladies first. You got two gentlemen
20 sitting there.

21 MS. LAWTON: Thank you. Good
22 evening, Council President Verna,
23 Councilwoman Quinones-Sanchez and other
24 members of City Council, Councilman Goode
25 and Councilwoman Tasco. I am Rachel

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2 Lawton, President of the League of Women
3 Voters of Philadelphia. On their behalf,
4 I wish to thank City Council for passing
5 a resolution this spring to hold public
6 hearings on redistricting. Tonight, the
7 League is delighted to participate in one
8 of the three scheduled hearings designed
9 to solicit public testimony.

10 For more than 90 years, the
11 League of Women Voters has sought to
12 promote political responsibility through
13 informed and active participation in
14 government. Such empowerment is
15 dependent on our insistence for
16 transparency and openness in the
17 deliberation and decision-making of our
18 elected officials. This hearing, as well
19 as fairshapepa.org, the League of Women
20 Voters of Pennsylvania's website
21 sponsored jointly by the League and
22 Common Cause, is a wonderful way to
23 educate Philadelphia's citizens about the
24 challenges of redistricting.

25 Soliciting input from

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2 statistical experts, citizen opinion and
3 computer-generated proposals should
4 further provide a valuable exchange of
5 critical ideas.

6 As part of this process, the
7 League requests the City Council consider
8 the following: First, Philadelphia's
9 1,526,006 residents should be evenly
10 divided into the ten City Council
11 districts. To ensure that every
12 Philadelphia resident's vote has equal
13 power, Council should make every effort
14 to reapportion the current city
15 population among the ten districts evenly
16 as possible.

17 Secondly, districts should be
18 compact. Simply put, when citizens
19 examine the future Philadelphia City
20 Council district map, districts should be
21 aligned next to one another and in solid
22 blocks, whenever possible. Such a
23 configuration would suggest a
24 non-partisan, objective approach that
25 respects wards and communities that need

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2 to have clear, consistent representation.

3 This will not be an easy task,
4 considering the number and diversity of
5 wards in the City. It is the League's
6 position that unless absolutely
7 necessary, no ward should be divided in
8 forming a City Council district.

9 While some current City Council
10 districts have fairly contiguous
11 boundaries, Philadelphia has the
12 unfortunate distinction of having
13 District 5 and District 7 being labeled
14 as two of the most gerrymandered
15 districts in the nation.

16 Third, the Home Rule Charter
17 should be amended to require citizen
18 participation in the redistricting
19 process. It appears that a conflict of
20 interest exists when incumbents are
21 solely responsible for redrawing
22 political boundaries that potentially
23 impact their own reelection.

24 Fourth, the Home Rule Charter
25 should be amended to extend the current

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2 six-month redistricting deadline after
3 receiving census data. Given the many
4 variables, more time is needed to analyze
5 information, draft proposals, seek public
6 input and revise as needed. A new
7 deadline should be determined following a
8 study of the effectiveness of other state
9 and local timelines.

10 Fifth, once City Council has
11 proposed new districts, we recommend you
12 hold another series of public hearings to
13 introduce the plan map and allow for
14 citizen review and clarification. We
15 might also suggest locating such events
16 in various districts around the City to
17 enhance public participation, especially
18 if Council proposes that wards must be
19 divided.

20 In closing, I want to thank
21 City Council for your kind attention as
22 well as the opportunity to testify.

23 COUNCILWOMAN SANCHEZ:

24 Councilman Goode has a question.

25 COUNCILMAN GOODE: Thank you.

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2 Good evening. Thank you for
3 your testimony. You talked twice in your
4 testimony about division of wards within
5 Council districts, and I understand that
6 issue, but my question is, do you
7 actually believe that the wards probably
8 should be redrawn based upon the census
9 as well?

10 MS. LAWTON: We don't have a
11 position on that yet. That's something
12 we haven't discussed.

13 COUNCILMAN GOODE: You do
14 realize that the wards are not equally
15 drawn now?

16 MS. LAWTON: Yeah. This is why
17 we said this is a challenging undertaking
18 looking at all of this. This is why
19 partly we're recommending that more time
20 be given to you to look at this issue.

21 COUNCILMAN GOODE: So we would
22 not redraw the wards, but probably the
23 most politically unfair thing out here
24 right now is the way the wards are drawn
25 even more so than the Council districts.

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2 MS. LAWTON: Well, that's
3 something to take under -- I'll bring
4 that back to the Board and to the League
5 and let's look at that and see what
6 possibly can be done in the future about
7 that. So that's a good point.

8 COUNCILMAN GOODE: Thank you.

9 COUNCILWOMAN SANCHEZ: Thank
10 you.

11 COUNCILWOMAN TASCO: I'd like
12 to add to that. The last time we redrew
13 wards was in '83-'84 while I was City
14 Commissioner. We divided some
15 wards/divisions because they were
16 unfairly drawn, and it's a legal issue.
17 So you have to take it to the courts and
18 to the City Commissioners. The Council
19 does not draw them.

20 MS. LAWTON: That was going to
21 be my question.

22 COUNCILWOMAN TASCO: The City
23 Commissioners, last time that happened
24 the Committee of Seventy sued the City
25 Commissioners to redraw the boundaries

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2 and some of the wards of divisions
3 because some divisions had more
4 population than other divisions, thereby
5 diluting the vote of the residents. So
6 it's something that should be taken
7 before the Commissioners.

8 MS. LAWTON: Okay. Good point.

9 MR. MONDESIRE: Good evening,
10 Madam President Verna and members of City
11 Council. My name is Jerome Mondesire,
12 President of the NAACP, Philadelphia
13 branch, and President of the NAACP,
14 Pennsylvania State Conference. On behalf
15 of our nearly 2,500 members in the City,
16 I am profoundly grateful to have this
17 opportunity to testify today before the
18 City Council on the very important
19 subject of redistricting. At the NAACP's
20 most recent national convention in Los
21 Angeles last month, the national
22 organization adopted a resolution that
23 all branches throughout the U.S. should
24 take a very active role in the
25 reapportionment and legislative

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2 realignment discussions taking place this
3 year in cities and states throughout the
4 country. As such, we at the NAACP
5 Philadelphia branch are pleased to
6 participate in this and any other public
7 forums with the all-important question of
8 how legislative districts are to be based
9 or drawn based on the 2010 census report.

10 Philadelphia shows small but
11 significant gain in population in the
12 last census count. The City now boasts a
13 growing population of at least 1.5
14 million persons. Thankfully, unlike
15 previous years, there does not seem to be
16 any debate on possible undercount of
17 residents this time.

18 At the same time, we are
19 cognizant of the fact that most of the
20 growths in Philadelphia's most recent
21 population has come from the influx of
22 new immigrants, mainly from
23 Spanish-speaking countries and others
24 from Eastern Europe. Furthermore, most
25 of this population appears to have arisen

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2 in those neighborhoods that are east of
3 Broad Street, which traditionally has
4 been a key demarcation border in previous
5 realignment decisions. As such, the
6 NAACP is very concerned that these new
7 citizens be properly informed about the
8 reapportionment process, and to this end,
9 we in the NAACP are very proud of our
10 role in convincing this Council to extend
11 extra hearings this month to public
12 forums in this and other areas. The
13 NAACP was very concerned that a one-day
14 hearing in City Hall in the middle of a
15 workday, in the middle of a hot summer
16 would not have provided enough time to
17 hear from all the citizens who will be
18 profoundly affected.

19 In addition, we're here today
20 to urge City Council to proceed to make
21 all suggested boundaries of future
22 districts available in map form and that
23 those maps be distributed to the public
24 well in advance of future Council
25 decisions prior to the final vote for

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2 passage next month.

3 The NAACP also requests that
4 these maps be placed on the Internet in
5 order that the largest number of
6 Philadelphians understand how and why the
7 new boundaries were designed.

8 We also request that City
9 Council take into consideration the
10 considerable language barriers faced by
11 many of our new neighbors and that the
12 new boundaries be translated so that they
13 are understandable to those for whom
14 English is not their native tongue.

15 Finally, as the
16 Spanish-speaking population in
17 Philadelphia has grown in the past ten
18 years, the NAACP urges this Council to
19 take into consideration the creation of
20 an East of Broad Street District that
21 does not fracture or indiscriminately
22 splinter the many cohesive neighborhoods
23 where Spanish citizens reside.

24 Basically we're saying give the
25 Hispanic members of our city a compact

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2 district for which they have been
3 fighting for more than 40 years. And you
4 should know that the NAACP is prepared to
5 go to court to work on this behalf with
6 any group not in line, Hispanic Clergy or
7 any other group. We strongly want to
8 work with our Hispanic brothers and
9 sisters to give them a piece of the
10 democracy that has been denied them
11 almost half a century.

12 Thank you.

13 (Applause.)

14 MR. GONZALEZ: Buenos tardes.

15 Good afternoon, members of City Council.
16 My name is Will Gonzalez. I'm the
17 Executive Director of CEIBA, a coalition
18 of community-based organizations in the
19 Latino community. We are here to support
20 LatinoLines' simple map for the 7th
21 Councilmanic District, to respectfully
22 urge you to please issue your proposed
23 map and legislation as soon as possible
24 and to please make a commitment to return
25 to this very room after you -- some time

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2 soon thereafter so that we can comment on
3 the work of your proposal.

4 We know it's a tough job to try
5 to draw maps. We also know that there
6 are things other than justice that come
7 into play, and we urge you to respect
8 your oath and to please issue a fair map
9 for the communities of Philadelphia.

10 We also believe that it is time
11 for another district to wear the tail, or
12 whatever you want to call that unusual
13 shape that makes the current version of
14 the 7th Councilmanic District an
15 embarrassment and makes it one of the
16 most gerrymandered districts in the
17 country.

18 A lot has been said about the
19 community of interest that is the Latino
20 community, but in a place that prides
21 itself as being a city of neighborhoods,
22 we must also look at how redistricting
23 affects each neighborhood and as each
24 neighborhood is a community of interest.
25 And so we believe that the proposed map

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2 by LatinoLines takes into account the
3 community of interest not only of the
4 Latino community but of the neighborhoods
5 that are within that proposed map.

6 So to summarize again, we
7 respectfully urge you to adopt a simple
8 design for the 7th Councilmanic District
9 that takes into account the community of
10 interest that is the Latino community and
11 the neighborhoods within it and to please
12 present your proposed legislation and
13 plan as soon as possible and to please
14 return here to give us a chance to
15 comment on it.

16 Thank you very much.

17 (Applause.)

18 COUNCILWOMAN SANCHEZ: Thank
19 you. Following the list, I have Aida
20 Capia, Stephanie Singer and then Robert
21 Cheetham. Aida Capia, Stephanie Singer
22 and Robert.

23 (Witnesses approached witness
24 table.)

25 COUNCILWOMAN SANCHEZ: I guess

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2 if it's okay with you, Robert, Stephanie
3 can start as you set up.

4 MR. CHEETHAM: Absolutely.

5 MS. SINGER: Hello. My name is
6 Stephanie Singer. I am here with two
7 hats on. First of all, as the ward
8 leader of the 8th Ward, Democratic Ward
9 Leader of the 8th Ward, and I thank the
10 City Council for giving me a chance to
11 speak to you on this topic.

12 The 8th Ward -- I want to thank
13 also all the people who welcomed me and
14 my fellow 8th warders to this
15 neighborhood, because this is not my
16 neighborhood, and yet part of the 8th
17 Ward is in the 5th Council District, and
18 I believe there are probably -- there are
19 a lot of Latino people in this
20 neighborhood who live in the 5th Council
21 District.

22 Could I have the people here
23 from the 8th Ward stand up, please.

24 (Some witnesses stand up.)

25 MS. SINGER: So some of them

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2 are in the 5th Council District.

3 And I want to -- and I also
4 speak on behalf of my colleague, Lindsey
5 Deering, who is the ward leader, the
6 republican ward leader, of the 8th Ward.
7 Our ward is split between two Council
8 districts. And worse than that, my own
9 neighborhood is split between two Council
10 districts, and it has -- and that fact
11 disenfranchises us. And we respectfully
12 ask that you put the 8th Ward in one
13 Council district or, at a very minimum,
14 if you have to split the 8th Ward, please
15 split it along a natural boundary. I can
16 look across the street and wave at people
17 who are in a different Council district.

18 So that's as the 8th Ward
19 democratic leader. As a candidate for
20 City Commissioner who hopes to improve
21 voter turnout and political engagement in
22 this city, I am very concerned with the
23 shapes of our Council districts. When
24 people have healthy natural relationships
25 with their elected officials, people

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2 vote.

3 We have a crisis in this
4 country. People have lost faith in
5 government, and in Philadelphia there are
6 many people who do not have faith in
7 government, and it is partly because of
8 the shapes of the districts.

9 I spoke the other day with
10 Jannie Blackwell. She's District 3.
11 That's the yellow one there on the map,
12 and it's nice and compact, and she can go
13 to four events in her district on one
14 night because it's compact.

15 So I urge you to give all
16 Philadelphians compact districts. I urge
17 you not to split neighborhoods. I urge
18 you to make the Council districts reflect
19 the geography of the City.

20 Thank you very much.

21 COUNCILWOMAN SANCHEZ:

22 Councilman Goode has a question.

23 COUNCILMAN GOODE: Thank you.

24 Ms. Singer, following up on my
25 previous question, should the ward maps

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2 be redrawn as well?

3 MS. SINGER: I'm definitely
4 open to that. There are great
5 discrepancies between the different
6 wards, absolutely, but I don't think they
7 can be redrawn in time for this
8 redistricting.

9 COUNCILMAN GOODE: That's not
10 the question. The question is whether
11 they should be redrawn, should they be
12 proportional, should they be proportional
13 to population, should they be
14 proportional to voter registration?
15 What's your vision for how the ward maps
16 should be changed themselves?

17 MS. SINGER: I believe that
18 that would give people a better
19 connection. What you described would
20 give people a better connection to their
21 ward leaders and the ward structure and
22 their government, and that would be a
23 good thing.

24 COUNCILMAN GOODE: I guess my
25 question is -- I guess I phrased it

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2 wrong. I shouldn't say do you believe or
3 should they be. Do you think that
4 legally and morally we are bound to
5 redrawing the ward maps as well?

6 MS. SINGER: I don't know the
7 answer to the legal question. On the
8 moral question, there are so many things
9 that need to be fixed morally in the City
10 and I don't know the answer to where that
11 falls.

12 COUNCILMAN GOODE: But the
13 reason I raise the issue is because we're
14 here discussing whether we should split
15 wards or not, but the truth of the matter
16 is, the wards are mapped in a more unfair
17 and unequal way than the Council
18 districts. And so it doesn't make much
19 sense to me to be as concerned about
20 splitting wards when the wards need to be
21 remapped anyway.

22 MS. SINGER: I would be happy
23 if you stopped the splitting of my own
24 neighborhood, which is definitely split
25 through a neighborhood. If you walk in

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2 Rittenhouse Square, the buildings on one
3 side are in the 5th Council District and
4 on the other side are in the 2nd Council
5 District.

6 COUNCILMAN GOODE: Well, we
7 don't map by neighborhoods. We map by
8 wards.

9 MS. SINGER: I think we would
10 get a better map of districts if we had a
11 better map of wards, yes.

12 COUNCILMAN GOODE: Thank you.

13 COUNCILWOMAN SANCHEZ: Anybody
14 else?

15 (No response.)

16 COUNCILWOMAN SANCHEZ: Thank
17 you.

18 You want to proceed?

19 We're going to allow additional
20 time at the request of the presenter.

21 MR. CHEETHAM: Members of
22 Council, members of the neighborhood here
23 and --

24 COUNCILWOMAN SANCHEZ: We can't
25 hear you that well, especially for the

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2 stenographer.

3 MR. CHEETHAM: Is this better?

4 Members of Council, members of
5 the neighborhood here that has welcomed
6 us, the folks who run the school that
7 we're in, thank you very much for hosting
8 this event here and giving us all an
9 opportunity to testify.

10 I am here representing a
11 contest that has been run over the last
12 several weeks. My company, Azavea, which
13 is a company that specializes in mapping,
14 in partnership with the Daily News,
15 Philly.com, WHYY and the University of
16 Pennsylvania, have been carrying out what
17 we call Fix Philly Districts, an open
18 redistricting contest that enabled any
19 member of the public, both here in
20 Philadelphia as well as anywhere in the
21 country, to go online, create their own
22 district map, follow the rules that
23 Council is required to follow and produce
24 a result. And I'm here this evening --
25 the contest closed on Sunday, and I'm

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2 here to unveil some of the results of
3 that.

4 I want to start out by saying
5 that none of this was carried out by
6 Azavea or any of our partners. We
7 restricted ourselves from being involved
8 in the process at all, other than to host
9 the website where people could draw these
10 plans.

11 So the contest began around
12 August 5th and ran through August 28th.
13 We were blown away by the amount of
14 interest that was shown here. Almost 500
15 people registered to create plans with
16 the system. More than a thousand plans
17 were started, and about 70 of those were
18 submitted for scoring and 31 were
19 submitted at the end of the contest to
20 actually participate in the competition.
21 This was way more than we ever
22 anticipated. This is in the middle of
23 August, with thunderstorms, hurricanes,
24 earthquakes and every manner of
25 interruption, as well as an opportunity

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2 to go to the shore and enjoy the weather.

3 People really got into this. We

4 literally had plans coming in at 11:57

5 p.m. on Sunday night. So we're very

6 excited by the degree to which people

7 wanted to get involved with this, and we

8 want to present this here as a

9 demonstration of what can be accomplished

10 through a public participation process

11 and the degree to which I think the

12 people of Philadelphia want to be engaged

13 in the activity of government and civic

14 participation.

15 We know -- we don't know all of
16 the people that submitted. They

17 submitted their names, but we don't know

18 things like gender and ethnicity and race

19 behind them, but we believe there's a

20 fairly broad participation from a lot of

21 different parts of the City. This was

22 not a few folks from Center City or

23 academics. It was a very broad geography

24 of people that participated.

25 I'm not going to announce the

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2 winners tonight. We haven't made final
3 decisions. I am going to simply show
4 some of the maps that people submitted
5 that we think present a number of
6 different approaches that can be taken to
7 redrawing the lines based on the latest
8 population. I'm not here to endorse any
9 one of these plans. We'd be happy to
10 provide the files and the maps behind
11 these if these would be of use to
12 Council, but they represent a number of
13 different approaches, as well as
14 demonstrate how difficult this process
15 can be and the challenges that you have
16 before you.

17 We required that everyone that
18 submitted a plan follow the same rules
19 that you are. They have to have ten
20 districts. They all have to be
21 contiguous. They have to have relatively
22 equal population. We used a plus or
23 minus 5 percent rule as the margin. All
24 ward divisions have to be assigned, and
25 they need to try to respect communities

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2 of interest, though there's no way for us
3 to quantitatively determine that.

4 We then enabled people to -- we
5 had leader boards set up, much like a
6 video game in which people could see how
7 they scored around equal population, a
8 compactness rule and whether or not they
9 split wards, as well as we wanted to have
10 some kind of score for respecting
11 communities of interest, but were not
12 able to come up with something in time
13 for the competition.

14 What we found was that people
15 that scored high in one particular metric
16 generally scored low on others. Getting
17 all of these right is not easy. It's not
18 a straightforward or simple task that you
19 have before you. And I will say that
20 anyone that scored very high probably did
21 not win overall in the contest.

22 We're going to be giving prizes
23 for the top scoring people in each of
24 these categories, as well as a best
25 overall and a few honorable mentions.

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2 We asked each person that
3 submitted a plan to write a short essay
4 about what sorts of values they
5 incorporated in creating their plans, and
6 they mentioned a number of different
7 things over and over in their
8 submissions. One of those was around
9 keeping communities of interest intact
10 and specifically identified Latino
11 communities of interest and African
12 American communities, as well as Asian
13 Pacific American communities. And in
14 almost every submission, this was a part
15 of what led them to draw the particular
16 lines that they did and one of the
17 considerations they had.

18 A number of submissions also
19 paid a lot of attention to respecting
20 natural boundaries, not just the rivers,
21 highways and parks, but also other types
22 of communities that we often don't think
23 of in the redistricting process, but
24 things like watersheds, the area around a
25 particular park, universities,

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2 development districts and so on, and many
3 of these were other considerations people
4 brought to the table.

5 The key challenges that we saw
6 people grappling with over and over, one
7 was trying to create a district around a
8 Latino community. You've heard a lot
9 about that here today. Wherever people
10 lived, this seems to be a common concern
11 for almost every submission we saw.

12 We also saw a couple of
13 submissions that paid particular
14 attention to the Asian and Pacific
15 American communities, and I'll show you
16 some examples of where people
17 incorporated that into their plans.

18 We heard a lot of people who
19 want to have a single Center City
20 district or a couple of Center City
21 districts, an east and a west, for
22 example. And I mentioned rivers and
23 highways and neighborhoods, and while we
24 don't have an official neighborhood map,
25 I think there are some common sense of

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2 where many of the neighborhoods lie and
3 how we might keep those together.

4 So I'll walk through four of
5 these. These are simply plans that
6 people submitted that we think are
7 potentially interesting ones.

8 In the lower left you'll see
9 the existing Council district map for
10 reference purposes and then the plan that
11 was submitted is up there.

12 Now, I would urge you not to
13 think about the numbering of the
14 districts. People simply assigned
15 numbers as they saw fit and we didn't
16 alter any of those to try to match the
17 existing numbers. So they're just to
18 differentiate across the ten districts.

19 The first of these is Plan No.
20 711, and the key thing that this
21 individual was aiming for was a Latino
22 district, and you can see a District 7
23 here, and that is the core starting point
24 for this person's drawing. They also
25 wanted to pay attention to other types of

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2 majority/minority districts and other
3 communities of interest and had a fairly
4 good compactness score as well.

5 The second of these was a plan
6 that aimed to create not only a Latino
7 community district, but a couple of
8 districts that had high proportions of
9 Asian Americans. In particular, the 7th
10 District here would have a greater than
11 50 percent Latino community, and a second
12 district up here, what they called
13 District 9, would be a 14 percent Asian
14 American, and District 1 down here would
15 have a 12 percent Asian American
16 community.

17 This person also, they split
18 Center City three ways. So they had a
19 very different opinion from some of the
20 folks who want to have a single Center
21 City district, but did their best to
22 respect natural boundaries running along
23 the rivers here and some of the other
24 natural boundaries in the City.

25 The third one is one that began

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2 as a Center City district and all of the
3 other districts sort of grew out from
4 there. This is Plan No. 1175. It had a
5 very high compactness score and preserved
6 almost all of the wards. Only five wards
7 were split here, which is pretty hard to
8 do. And they were within a plus or minus
9 two and a half percent population.

10 There are four African American
11 majority districts here of greater than
12 50 percent, a very strong Hispanic
13 district of greater than 40 percent, but
14 you'll also see that the Hispanic
15 community has been somewhat split across
16 three others. And so this particular
17 plan ended up preserving one thing and
18 compromising in another way.

19 And, finally, the last one was
20 called the Geographically Meaningful
21 Boundaries Plan, Plan No. 634. This one
22 has a Center City district, has a fairly
23 large Hispanic district/Latino district
24 in District 7 here, also has a similar
25 very multi-cultural district up in here

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2 that they also called District 9 that has
3 both Latino, African American and Asian
4 American composition, and did a fairly
5 good job of preserving many of the river
6 boundaries and so on.

7 So that concludes the computer
8 slide show here. I appreciate your
9 indulgence in allowing us to bring in
10 some electronic maps. This contest
11 literally closed on Sunday at midnight.
12 So we've been scrambling for a couple
13 days to sift through all the plans and
14 turn them into some maps that we can show
15 you here today.

16 We're going to keep working on
17 this and finishing scoring these. We
18 look forward to unveiling the top scoring
19 ones on Tuesday next week, but we want to
20 have a chance to at least share some of
21 these with you. We're happy to share
22 some of the electronic versions if you're
23 interested. The key point that I think
24 we wanted to make was that a public
25 participation process is something that

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2 the public is interested in, they're
3 engaged with and can produce some
4 successful and useful maps that might
5 serve as references for Council.

6 We applaud Council for holding
7 this public hearing today and look
8 forward to more such hearings in the
9 future. Thank you very much.

10 COUNCILWOMAN SANCHEZ: Thank
11 you, Robert. Councilman Goode has a
12 question.

13 COUNCILMAN GOODE: Thank you.

14 You said there were a number of
15 different measurements you judged by. I
16 think there were three or four. And you
17 said one couldn't be scored, and you said
18 that some proposals ranked high in some
19 areas and ranked low in other areas. Was
20 any consistency there in terms of where
21 there was conflict?

22 MR. CHEETHAM: I think that's a
23 tough question to answer. I would say
24 that if someone did extremely well at any
25 one score, they didn't do well at others.

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2 COUNCILMAN GOODE: So what were
3 the conflicts between?

4 MR. CHEETHAM: So if you have
5 very compact districts, you can draw very
6 compact districts, and we actually had
7 some mathematicians who wrote computer
8 programs to draw the most compact
9 districts possible. We had a submission
10 from Temple University and we had a
11 submission -- a number of submissions
12 from North Carolina and the university
13 team down there. But these compact
14 districts may look really compact and
15 really nice on the screen, but they split
16 neighborhoods, they don't reflect
17 geographic boundaries that we would all
18 think of as being important here in
19 Philadelphia, or they didn't do as well
20 from an equal population perspective.

21 If you balance the population
22 perfectly -- we actually had some people
23 who got it down to 88 people. The top
24 scoring plan from equal population has
25 only 88 people variance across all of the

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2 districts, but they didn't score well on
3 compactness. They got that one thing
4 optimized and they didn't do well on
5 other things, splitting wards and having
6 Latino districts and other types of
7 communities of interest. So this is not
8 an easy thing, and I think that was the
9 main focus of my point.

10 COUNCILMAN GOODE: Thank you
11 for the work you put into it. That was
12 extremely helpful. So of course I have
13 the last question to ask. Should the
14 ward maps be redrawn as well?

15 MR. CHEETHAM: I will tell you
16 that we had a ward splits score. It was
17 fairly easy for people -- we had a
18 six-way tie for first place and we
19 haven't decided who we're going to give
20 it to for not splitting wards.

21 You can create districts that
22 don't split wards, but you screw
23 everything else up. Excuse me. The
24 compactness comes out wrong, there's no
25 communities of interest and so on. So --

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2 COUNCILMAN GOODE: My question
3 was whether --

4 MR. CHEETHAM: The question is
5 should we do that? I think that's a
6 great question given that we don't have a
7 standardized neighborhood boundary for
8 the City. The wards sort of serve as a
9 proxy for that. I think it's a smart
10 idea to redo the wards. I think whether
11 or not and under what conditions that
12 gets carried, I think that's something
13 for Council to decide.

14 COUNCILMAN GOODE: Thank you.

15 MR. CHEETHAM: I think it's a
16 smart idea, though.

17 COUNCILMAN GOODE: Thank you.

18 COUNCILWOMAN SANCHEZ: Thank
19 you. Any other questions?

20 (Applause.)

21 COUNCILWOMAN SANCHEZ: We're
22 moving along. Again, for anybody who has
23 come in, we have a tally here if you
24 haven't signed up to testify.

25 We have Stella Tsai, Andy Toy.

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2 I'm going to put you folks together. And
3 then after that, I have Virgin Ortiz and
4 Wilfredo Rojas.

5 (Witnesses approached witness
6 table.)

7 MS. TSAI: Good evening,
8 Council President Verna and other members
9 of Council. My name is Stella Tsai. I
10 am a business litigation partner at the
11 firm of Archer & Greiner and also the
12 President of the Asian Pacific American
13 Bar Association of Pennsylvania. Our
14 mission is to promote justice, equity and
15 legal access for all Asian Pacific
16 Americans in the Commonwealth and serve
17 as a voice for our representative
18 attorneys.

19 I'm here to set forth our views
20 on why it is incumbent upon City Council
21 to ensure that Asian Americans have the
22 opportunity to participate fully in the
23 redistricting process and develop plans
24 that will provide all voters with equal
25 opportunity to elect candidates of their

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2 choice in accordance with the U.S.

3 Constitution and the Voting Rights Act.

4 Point number one, the Asian
5 American population is growing. Asian
6 Americans nationwide have grown rapidly
7 in every decade since the repeal of the
8 restrictive immigration quotas in 1965.
9 According to the census 2010, that trend
10 has continued.

11 Asian American growth has also
12 outpaced the total growth of the cities
13 and counties in which they reside. In a
14 2008 report by the Brookings Institution,
15 metropolitan Philadelphia has the
16 greatest and fastest growing immigration
17 population among its peers. Twenty-eight
18 percent of Pennsylvania's Asians reside
19 in Philadelphia. Asians now constitute
20 6.3 percent of Philadelphia's population,
21 6.5 percent of its voting population,
22 which is a 41 percent increase from 2000.
23 Asians reside in neighborhoods including
24 Chinatown, Olney and South Philadelphia.

25 Point number two, Asian

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2 Americans need to increase political
3 representation and influence. Asian
4 Americans are increasingly becoming
5 citizens through naturalization and
6 registering to vote. According to the
7 census, Asian Americans have high voter
8 turnout, and as reported in the Daily
9 News last May, Asian Americans were very
10 excited about the prospect of putting an
11 Asian American in City Council, and we
12 continue to be hopeful. However, at this
13 point, very few Asian Americans are
14 elected to City Council, State
15 Legislature or Congress.

16 And our third point is that
17 districts should keep neighborhoods and
18 communities together. The U.S. Supreme
19 Court has recognized that race can be one
20 of several factors considered in the
21 drawing of district lines, together with
22 other traditional redistricting criteria.
23 These include, one, compactness and
24 contiguity; two, respecting political
25 subdivisions; three, preserving

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2 communities of interest; and, four,
3 protecting incumbents and meeting
4 political goals.

5 The Federal Court in Diaz
6 versus Silver recognized that Asian
7 Americans in Manhattan's Chinatown and
8 Brooklyn's Sunset Park were a community
9 of interest that should remain unified
10 within the 12th Congressional District.
11 The court specifically recognized the
12 following factors and shared community
13 concerns: cultural background; economic
14 status; common media markets; shared
15 community services and organizations,
16 including health clinics, stores, public
17 transportation, workplaces, voting
18 patterns, common languages and dialects
19 and common country of origins.

20 Several Asian American and
21 other minority communities throughout
22 Philadelphia share common concerns and
23 socially economic characteristics. We
24 urge City Council to take a close look at
25 those neighborhoods and ensure that these

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2 Asian American and communities of
3 interest are kept together and not
4 splintered among newly drawn lines. In
5 particular, as City Council engages in
6 the process of redrawing the lines, we
7 urge City Council to protect the voting
8 rights and collective interest of the
9 growing Cambodian American community in
10 and around Olney and Logan. For
11 practical reasons, we believe that the
12 divisions within the 42nd Ward and others
13 may be vulnerable to redistricting, as
14 they are contiguous to the now infamous
15 boundaries of the 5th and 7th
16 Councilmanic Districts, which are the
17 subject of hot debate.

18 In closing, the right to vote
19 is fundamental and something we do not
20 and will never take for granted. Asian
21 Americans are a vital economic asset to
22 this region and the Commonwealth. We are
23 a growing population. We are motivated.
24 We make political contributions. We
25 matter, and we vote. Redistricting is a

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2 serious matter, and we are here to ensure
3 that this constitutional right to vote is
4 protected for all Asian Americans and all
5 Philadelphians. For these reasons, we
6 respectfully request Council be mindful
7 of their obligations to uphold the Voting
8 Rights Act and the Constitution and draw
9 lines which give racial minorities a full
10 and fair opportunity to vote.

11 Thank you.

12 (Applause.)

13 MR. TOY: Good evening, Council
14 President Verna and members of City
15 Council. My name is Andrew Toy, and I'm
16 here as a member of the Asian Pacific
17 Americans for Progress, or APAP,
18 Philadelphia Chapter. I also serve on
19 the Boards of the Philadelphia Chinatown
20 Development Corporation and the Americans
21 for Democratic Action. Thank you for the
22 opportunity to speak today to address
23 community concerns with the anticipated
24 City Council map redistricting.

25 Unfortunately, I cannot comment

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2 on any proposed district remapping by
3 City Council, as there has been no access
4 to them or transparency in the discussion
5 thus far. Holding this hearing in a
6 neighborhood after work is a step in the
7 right direction, but, more importantly, I
8 hope that you hear our concerns and
9 incorporate them into your decisions on
10 the draft maps, which should be revealed
11 to the public immediately.

12 One of the reasons I ran for
13 City Council was to give a voice to many
14 who feel left out of the decisions that
15 can either move our city forward or hold
16 us back. I hope that with a willingness
17 to have greater transparency and openness
18 and with tools like Azavea's that give
19 citizens greater access to information,
20 we can be more inclusive and many more
21 will want to be and be able to
22 participate in our great democracy. By
23 the way, Azavea is a Philadelphia company
24 that is known across the country for its
25 work with geographic information systems

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2 and other great work.

3 The U.S. Congress has also
4 recognized the need for more openness in
5 introducing just this past year in 2010
6 the Redistricting Transparency Act of
7 2010, HR 4918. In particular, as an
8 Asian American, I am concerned that Asian
9 American, Latino and other minority
10 voices are not shut out through a bad
11 remapping process. As you know,
12 Philadelphia only gained population the
13 last census because of gains in these and
14 other immigrant populations. We must
15 embrace these changes and respect these
16 voices, for without them, our city will
17 shrink and decline.

18 It is also clear that there is
19 court precedent to mandate that these
20 communities of interest not be split to
21 dilute their voices. APAP has drawn a
22 map on the Azavea website that shows
23 there are at least five districts that
24 can show significant concentrations of
25 Asian American populations. The APAP --

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2 the amended APAP map shows the 1st, 2nd,
3 3rd, 9th and 10th districts having
4 significant Asian American populations.
5 In particular, the 9th District if drawn
6 compactly shows around a 14 percent Asian
7 American population, the highest of any
8 district in the City. The 1st District
9 get around 12 percent and the 3rd, around
10 10 percent.

11 I know that there are many
12 within the Asian American community who
13 do not want their communities to be split
14 into many districts. They are looking
15 forward to continuing and growing the
16 relationship with their District
17 Councilpeople with a more unified voice.
18 A remapping approach such as APAP's will
19 help to give that greater voice to Asian
20 Americans and other underrepresented
21 communities that will serve the City
22 well.

23 Thank you.

24 COUNCILWOMAN SANCHEZ: Thank
25 you.

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2 (Applause.)

3 MS. TSAI: Council President

4 Verna, could I just -- sorry. Council
5 Quinones-Sanchez, I have a corrected
6 version of my testimony which I submitted
7 to Ms. Garcia. So I would like that to
8 be incorporated into the record.

9 COUNCILWOMAN SANCHEZ: Do you
10 have a copy we can put here for the
11 record?

12 MS. TSAI: I wish I did. Well,
13 I do, but it's a little marked up. So
14 I'll try to get one as soon as possible.

15 COUNCILWOMAN SANCHEZ: Thank
16 you.

17 We were proceeding with Virgin
18 Ortiz from Esperanza 5th Street Corridor
19 and Wilfredo Rojas. And then I would ask
20 that Vivian Ortiz and Iris Violeta be
21 prepared to testify after these two.
22 After that I have Thomas D. El, John
23 Lavery, Ms. Rorng Sorn, Jordan Gwendolyn,
24 Steve Kimbrough, Doron Toussig, Mike
25 Mechella and Trudy Haynes.

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2 So we'll proceed.

3 Mike McCrea. How can you mess
4 up Mike's name? Sorry, Mike.

5 MR. McCREA: That's okay.

6 COUNCILWOMAN SANCHEZ: So we'll
7 proceed. Virgin is not here, so we'll
8 proceed with Wilfredo.

9 Vivian Ortiz and Iris Violeta,
10 you want to come join him.

11 (Witnesses approached witness
12 table.)

13 MR. ROJAS: Good evening. My
14 name is Wilfredo Rojas and I serve as the
15 President of the Delaware Valley Voter
16 Registration Education Project, which is
17 a non-profit organization dedicated to
18 providing outreach, education and
19 technical assistance to reach and
20 increase Puerto Rican and Latino voter
21 participation.

22 On behalf of Philadelphia's
23 growing Puerto Rican/Latino community and
24 our supporters from the Philadelphia
25 communities, we applaud your decision to

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2 hold these meetings in the community. It
3 is hoped that you leave here feeling the
4 pulse of citizens who are turning to you
5 to do the right thing in creating Council
6 districts which are constitutionally
7 sound and allow for fair and equal
8 political representation in our city for
9 all communities of interest. The
10 Delaware Valley Voter Registration
11 Educational Project urges City Council to
12 respect communities of interest and
13 incorporate in your new redistricting
14 plan quantitative and qualitative data in
15 determining whether residents of a
16 district might be fairly and effectively
17 represented.

18 As I sit here today, I feel
19 like Reds in the movie The Shawshank
20 Redemption played by Morgan Freeman, who
21 for 40 years came before the parole board
22 and was always denied. Now, I'm not
23 going to use any of the epithets that he
24 used the last time he finally was
25 approved, but I do want to remind Council

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2 that we've been coming to you for 40
3 years with hats in hands trying to get a
4 district where we can elect a
5 representative to actually serve the
6 interests of our community.

7 "We're a city of the future,"
8 Mayor Michael Nutter proudly announced at
9 a press conference in response to the
10 release of the United States Federal
11 Census Bureau's 2010 report. "People can
12 be anywhere. They are choosing to live
13 in Philadelphia," he added. Well,
14 according to the new census numbers for
15 Philadelphia, we added 8,456 residents to
16 Philadelphia. I also add, I contributed
17 to that by adding a 5-year-old son and a
18 3-year-old daughter.

19 While our city saw the loss of
20 81,810 white residents, a drop of 12.7
21 percent, and the black population
22 remained steady, declining only by 0.3
23 percent, Latinos and Asians are choosing
24 to live in Philadelphia. The Asian
25 population grew 42.3 percent to 95,521

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2 and the Latino population increased 45.5
3 percent to 187,611. Philadelphia added
4 58,683 Latino residents, which helped
5 drive the overall population increase.

6 Latinos are increasingly
7 becoming the future of the City, as Mayor
8 Nutter indicated, with the increased
9 presence of compact and contiguous
10 neighborhoods in the 7th Councilmanic
11 District. As Latino leaders have said in
12 all past councilmanic redistricting
13 hearings, it is time to strengthen the
14 7th Council District in a manner that
15 ensures the residual opportunity to elect
16 the person of its choosing as a community
17 of interest.

18 Time and time again, Council's
19 drawn plans have been long Latino
20 political representation rhetoric, but
21 short on specifics that truly represent
22 political subdivision boundaries to the
23 extent possible compliance with one
24 person, one vote of the federal Voting
25 Rights Act. The one person, one vote

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2 constitutional requirement, which
3 respects the integrity of Philadelphia
4 neighborhoods, has been ignored to
5 protect other communities at the expense
6 of the political refinement of the
7 growing Latino communities.

8 Reviewing demographic and
9 socioeconomic information from the 2010
10 U.S. Census, we'll see that income,
11 linguistics, isolation, housing,
12 educational attainment and unemployment
13 are prevalent in the Latino community.
14 We have the lowest income of any group in
15 Philadelphia. We have the highest
16 dropout rate of any group in
17 Philadelphia. We have the worst housing
18 of any group in Philadelphia. We also
19 have the lowest voter participation rate
20 of any group in Philadelphia, and a lot
21 of that is attributed to the fact that we
22 don't see anything tangible in having us
23 go to the polls to elect someone. With
24 the election of Maria Quinones -- and I
25 would be remiss if I didn't mention that

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2 our former City Councilman Rick Mariano
3 is joining us here today -- we were able
4 to step it up and get more services in
5 the 7th Councilmanic District because we
6 have someone who understands us, who came
7 from that community and who respects the
8 wishes of the Latino community.

9 With those problems, we also
10 need to -- and, Councilman Wilson Goode,
11 I agree with you, Philadelphia is about
12 ward politics and I agree that we have to
13 restructure the wards, because Latinos
14 are not concentrated in many wards, and
15 when we win one time, we lose the next
16 four years. So we have to -- if we're
17 going to strengthen our political
18 representation, politics start from the
19 bottom. Let's say all politics is local.
20 In Philadelphia all politics is ward
21 driven. And we need to get elected more
22 Latino ward leaders so we can get into
23 the business of being able to negotiate
24 with other ward leaders to elect people
25 that represent our interest as a

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2 community. And I'm saying that because
3 we need to build a generation of Latino
4 leaders that are going to be leaders for
5 a multi-cultural, multi-racial society,
6 because as Americans of Puerto Rican
7 descent, we have the same rights. We
8 came here to Philadelphia. We struggled
9 hard and we built our communities after
10 undergoing years of outright
11 discrimination and being ignored by the
12 powers that be.

13 The 7th Councilmanic District
14 as proposed by LatinoLines this year,
15 maybe members of City Council are not
16 chomping at the bit to support. However,
17 I think that it needs to be looked at as
18 a model, as the starting point for the
19 creation of the ten Council districts in
20 Philadelphia.

21 With that, I just want to thank
22 you again for allowing us to come before
23 you and for taking into consideration the
24 quest of Latinos to have a community of
25 interest in the 7th Councilmanic District

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2 and in Philadelphia.

3 Thank you.

4 (Applause.)

5 MS. ORTIZ: Good evening and I
6 want to thank all of you for allowing us
7 the opportunity to voice our concerns.

8 My name is Vivian Ortiz. I am the
9 President of the National Conference of
10 Puerto Rican Women. We are here to
11 testify on behalf of our Puerto Rican
12 women and children in the 7th District
13 and the surrounding City area. We're
14 looking for a fair distribution of
15 boundaries so our Hispanic women get the
16 proper resources.

17 We are concerned about the
18 education, the school resources, the City
19 programs for our children, our single
20 mothers, our battered women. This is
21 just to name a few. We need a voice
22 representing our community, and that's
23 why we're here. I feel it's very
24 important that we stress this to you. I
25 hope that you take that into

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2 consideration.

3 As everyone has been noting,
4 the 2010 Census Bureau proved that the
5 Hispanic community has grown immensely,
6 the Asian American community as well. We
7 are looking for a fair distribution that
8 serves our needs, as Mr. Rojas was
9 saying. We need representation that
10 understand our community. We want to
11 give, we're willing to give, and we're
12 there to say placiente, as we always say.
13 That's just my opinion. We hope that you
14 take our concerns into consideration when
15 dividing the districts. We do need
16 representation in the political, social
17 and economic levels here in Philadelphia.

18 Thank you.

19 (Applause.)

20 MS. TORRES: Buenos noches. My
21 name is Iris Violeta Colon Torres.
22 Welcome to Nueva Esperanza. This mean
23 hope. So I hope that this is a meeting
24 of hope.

25 One thing that saddened me is

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2 that when I was last week talking to some
3 ladies around, because I go around the
4 neighborhood, and as a matter of fact,
5 I'm part of the National Conference of
6 Puerto Rican Women and sitting here next
7 to the national President, and I was
8 asking the people, Are you coming, are
9 you coming, some of them said to me,
10 Well, why? Is it going to change
11 anything? Other people said (witness
12 talking in Spanish.) They would not
13 understand me. And rightfully so.
14 There's not an interpreter here. So if
15 anyone doesn't speak the language of
16 Shakespeare, they can't testify in front
17 of you.

18 But I feel like I went back in
19 the past. In 2000, I went to Harrisburg
20 to testify on the same matter when I
21 believe Angel Ortiz was
22 Councilman-at-large, and I was at that
23 time President of the National Conference
24 of Puerto Rican Women, and I was looking
25 throughout history and everything about

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2 this (witness speaking in Spanish) with
3 this gerrymandering thing, and I said,
4 Oh, my God. In the 1800, what happened
5 in Boston, they made like a salamander,
6 and it became a famous word that you
7 still using today.

8 Now, it was so sad later on
9 when I finally realized that the map was
10 sent out that we didn't have anything to
11 envy. For what? From Boston? We have
12 our own snake in Philadelphia. So it was
13 what? It was a wonderful experience.
14 Look at that. We are now competing with
15 Boston. But we won. I think the snake
16 look better than the salamander, because
17 its native is a symbol of strength for
18 me.

19 But what I'm here to tell you
20 is that I would like to tell City
21 Council, to remind you friendly, that
22 remember that you work for the people.
23 You do not work for the party. You work
24 for the people. And sometimes when these
25 mappings are doing, when the census come

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2 and everything, everybody thinks about
3 their political affiliation and their
4 parties. We had a very, very strong
5 battle with the democratic party this
6 past time to be able to elect Marie
7 Quinones-Sanchez here, because she wasn't
8 even endorsed by the party because she
9 wasn't the sect person that the party was
10 looking.

11 So I'm looking at these mapping
12 and history repeating. I'm very
13 concerned that the thinking would happen,
14 that these map will be done thinking
15 about the political parties and
16 boundaries and not thinking about the
17 people. The people in Philadelphia are
18 smart, even though they don't come to
19 these meetings. Some of them are very
20 busy working. Some women work two jobs.
21 They're single mothers. And when they
22 have a little free of time, usually one
23 of the babies get a cold and they have to
24 rush to the hospital and do things. We
25 are in very bad economical times. We

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2 just came from the earthquake, to the
3 storm, to this, to that, and people were
4 all confused about that. But one thing
5 that people are not confused, people are
6 hopeless in the City. They are hopeless
7 in the government.

8 The other day when they were
9 talking about the school superintendent
10 leaving with so much money and we don't
11 have the money for our children, people
12 were like really hurting. I saw women
13 crying on the street.

14 I talk to a lot of people out
15 there, because I do. It's part of my
16 job, and people are hopeless. So
17 hopefully this meeting in here will give
18 us a little hope and that the next time
19 that City Council wants to do something,
20 hopefully we'll have interpreters
21 available so that the people in the
22 community could come and feel that they
23 are a part of it, that it's not la gente
24 grande or one side of people.

25 (Applause.)

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MS. TORRES: That we could make
our own decision.

So, again, please, City Council people, I'm very happy and thank you for allowing me to come here and sit at the last minute to testify. But remember, you work for the people, not for the party.

Thank you.

(Applause.)

COUNCILWOMAN SANCHEZ: Thank you, Iris. Well noted.

Thomas D. El, republican ward leader in the 32nd Ward; John Lavery; and Ms. Rorng Sorn from the Cambodian Association of Greater Philadelphia. My apologies. People butcher my name, too.

(Witnesses approached witness
table.)

MS. SORN: Well, good evening, Madam President and member of City Council. Thank you so much for the opportunity for me to share my testimony. Actually, it was really short notice and

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2 I did not have a chance to put in
3 writing, but I just want to reiterate
4 what Stella Tsai --

5 COUNCILWOMAN SANCHEZ: Can you
6 say your name for the record? You might
7 want to spell it for the stenographer.

8 MS. SORN: My name is Rorng
9 Sorn and I am the Executive Director of
10 the Cambodian Association of Greater
11 Philadelphia, and we have office in
12 Olney, Logan and also in South
13 Philadelphia, and for the past at least
14 six years, we've been very active trying
15 to educate our community who really had
16 no previous knowledge or understanding of
17 be able to vote, to really exercise their
18 right to vote.

19 So I'm here today again to
20 reiterate what Stella Tsai and Andy Toy
21 was talking about and also to please try
22 to keep our community together, because
23 we already as a minority of a minority.
24 We have very small voice, but
25 collectively we can have a bigger voice.

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2 So we just wanted to ask for your
3 consideration the thing that -- because
4 when we trying to encourage our member to
5 go out to vote or to exercise their
6 right, the City have to look at the
7 number of people, how many percent in
8 that area who need assistance in
9 language. So it have to be the number a
10 little bit bigger in order for us to get
11 that. So we would like for you to
12 consider and to really take into
13 consideration to keep our neighborhood
14 together and to also protect our
15 fundamental right just -- right to vote
16 and also the economic and the community
17 together.

18 So I appreciate your attention,
19 and thank you so much.

20 COUNCILWOMAN SANCHEZ: Thank
21 you.

22 (Applause.)

23 COUNCILWOMAN TASC0: I'd just
24 like to thank Rorng for coming out to
25 testify. I invite you to come next

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2 Tuesday at Einstein, because that is your
3 neighborhood. Thank you.

4 MR. LAVERY: Good evening,
5 ladies and gentlemen of the Council.
6 Thank you for this opportunity to speak
7 before you. I appreciate your long and
8 intensive attention to us as the hours
9 drag on. My name is John Lavery and I'm
10 the Executive Director of The Lighthouse,
11 an organization that has served the
12 citizens of the 7th Councilmanic District
13 since 1893. We operate two community
14 centers in the district, one at the
15 corner of Lehigh and Mascher, the other
16 at the corner of Somerset and Howard, as
17 well as our crown jewel, our 15-acre
18 field complex at the corner of Front and
19 Erie.

20 For 118 years, The Lighthouse
21 has fought for such issues as jobs,
22 education, women's rights and the rights
23 of Latinos in our community. Over the
24 years, The Lighthouse has sought to end
25 such scourges as substance abuse and

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2 hunger. In short, The Lighthouse has
3 worked and continues to work to secure a
4 better future for the members of our
5 community.

6 But the injustice represented
7 in the existing lines of the 7th District
8 rival any of the causes The Lighthouse
9 has taken up in the past century. The
10 Mayor's Chief of Staff said that the 7th
11 Councilmanic District is considered one
12 of the most gerrymandered districts in
13 the United States.

14 In addition to my affiliation
15 with The Lighthouse, I can also say that
16 I lived for over a decade in the very
17 senatorial district outside of Boston for
18 which the term gerrymandering was
19 invented. But having either lived or
20 worked in both districts, I can say the
21 7th District gives even gerrymandering a
22 bad name.

23 Now, I don't know the
24 intentions behind those who are
25 responsible for the current configuration

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2 of the 7th District, but I do know its
3 effect. The original gerrymandered
4 district in Massachusetts was drawn for
5 political purposes, to preserve and
6 protect a political party that was in the
7 ruling majority at the time. It appears
8 the 7th was drawn to punish and penalize
9 an ethnic group that is now the majority
10 in the district. It seems to me,
11 therefore, it's too mild of a term to
12 refer to the 7th as merely gerrymandered.
13 The term was used because the original
14 district in Massachusetts vaguely
15 resembled the shape of a salamander in
16 appearance. That being said, the
17 immediate image that came to my mind when
18 I first saw the shape and impact of the
19 current 7th was that of a hooded medieval
20 executioner with its axe blade raised
21 high, poised for his deadly stroke. In
22 this case, I can tell you that blow has
23 been delivered to the next Latinos who
24 are being denied their rights of choice
25 by the current 7th configuration.

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2 Now, I fully understand that
3 may be a bit too harsh or grizzly of an
4 image, but the dire effects of the
5 current configuration cannot be denied.
6 So in the spirit of Lighthouse's
7 century-long commitment to community
8 athletics and the City's enduring pride
9 in its sports team, let me offer a more
10 stylized image of the current 7th - that
11 of Ryan Howard with his bat cocked ready
12 to punish an opposing pitcher's fastball.
13 While we all cheer for the punishment
14 that that swing brings to the hapless
15 pitcher's offering -- let's call that
16 punishment "Howarding" -- the punishment
17 or Howarding of the 7th's current lines
18 brings to Latinos nothing to cheer about.
19 It is an injustice that the Council now
20 has the power to redress. Let's do it
21 now before the term gerrymandering is
22 replaced by Howarding in all our
23 children's textbooks and this travesty of
24 justice is forever linked with our
25 community.

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2 With all due respect, I urge
3 the distinguished members of the Council
4 to return the 7th to its 1960s integrity
5 and eliminate the injustice that Latinos
6 in the 7th have suffered for too long.
7 Restore the 7th Councilmanic District to
8 a contiguous and logical shape that
9 ensures a Latino majority of 60 percent
10 population.

11 Thank you for the opportunity
12 to speak to you this evening.

13 (Applause.)

14 COUNCILWOMAN SANCHEZ: Thank
15 you. We are going to continue. We got
16 Jordan Gwendolyn, Steve Kimbrough, Doron,
17 and then Mike McCrea and Trudy Haynes are
18 our last to testify.

19 We want to thank everyone for
20 their patience.

21 (Witnesses approached witness
22 table.)

23 MS. DAVIS: Hello, everyone.
24 Thank you for holding this meeting right
25 now.

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2 I just want to clarify
3 something. My last name is Davis. My
4 middle name is Gwendolyn, despite what my
5 personal Facebook profile says, and I
6 prefer female pronouns, and I am speaking
7 for myself and it may not be reflective
8 of Liberty City Democrats as a whole.

9 But anyway, I just wanted to
10 say this about the gayborhood, a place
11 where I often like come to receive
12 services and to sometimes play. I do not
13 believe that Mark Squilla, who will be
14 coming in as the 1st Council -- member of
15 the 1st Council District, is fit to
16 represent the gayborhood. One of the
17 reasons why I think Squilla would be a
18 bad choice is because he is the machine's
19 choice.

20 The queer community has
21 depended on public servants who act on
22 principle and who are willing to buck the
23 party bosses. Squilla, whose campaign
24 was spooied by many of the powerful party
25 bosses in Philly, I'd be worried -- it

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2 seems like the type of person who would
3 sell us out if they gave the word. And
4 he also got endorsed by Councilperson
5 DiCicco, who although he's had a good
6 past of dealing with the queer community,
7 he is taking actions against the queer
8 community's interest as of late in 2011,
9 including the homelessness
10 criminalization bill, which thankfully
11 was watered down, but not after
12 massive -- but after massive outcry, and
13 his no vote on the sick days bill, the
14 bill being supported by various LGBTIQ
15 organizations.

16 This is why I propose that the
17 gayborhood be shifted over to the 2nd
18 Council District, which will as of 2012
19 be represented by Kenyatta Johnson in
20 exchange for the 1st expanding to the
21 Navy Yard and into the 26th Ward.
22 Mr. Johnson was endorsed by the Liberty
23 City Democrats as someone who is present
24 in the candidates, and I can say that in
25 compliance with the LGBT competence and

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2 other poverty issues which affect many
3 members of the queer community to be a
4 representative for all members of the
5 queer community, no matter what their
6 life experiences may be.

7 So, again, I want to thank you
8 for this opportunity to speak. And
9 although like there's a lot of different
10 interests here, I can say like I spoke up
11 and I have the right to complain for the
12 next ten years.

13 (Applause.)

14 COUNCILWOMAN SANCHEZ: We fully
15 expect you, Jordan Gwendolyn, to be
16 there.

17 MR. KIMBROUGH: Members of the
18 Council, thank you. I have prepared
19 remarks which I'm giving you, and they're
20 not much longer than the three minutes,
21 but I'm going to try to honor your
22 three-minute limit as best I can.

23 My name is Steve -- so I'll
24 truncate some of what's here.

25 My name is Steve Kimbrough.

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2 I'm a Professor at the University of
3 Pennsylvania at the Wharton School. I am
4 a Decision Scientist. I specialize
5 broadly in what's called computational
6 intelligence. I'm speaking here as a
7 member of what we call Team Fred. Now,
8 this team submitted one of the -- we were
9 one of the contestants in the Azavea
10 competition, and we think it's a great
11 thing, this competition. And I'm not
12 here to flog any particular plan. I'm
13 making a subtle point. George Bush is
14 famous for saying, It's not my job to
15 nuance. It's my job to nuance, so --

16 COUNCILWOMAN SANCHEZ: Please
17 speak into the microphone for the
18 stenographer. I'm sorry.

19 MR. KIMBROUGH: So what I want
20 to do is -- I think the contest is a
21 great thing, but I want to make a
22 slightly different point that is
23 complementary to it, and I think I have
24 some positive news for you. Anyway,
25 that's my intention.

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2 It just takes me a couple of
3 minutes to explain, and here it goes.

4 Suppose that in doing
5 redistricting we could begin with a pool
6 of good plans. Let us call these the
7 contenders, as in on the waterfront I
8 could have been a contender. Each of the
9 contenders, think 20 or 30 in all, meets
10 the legal requirements for contiguity and
11 population size and is reasonably
12 compact. Deliberation, both public and
13 private, then focuses on these
14 contenders. Some contenders may be
15 better than others because of
16 neighborhood considerations, historical
17 reasons and, yes, even political factors.
18 Anyone at any time may, of course, add to
19 the list of contenders, provided the new
20 addition meets the legal requirements and
21 is reasonably compact. Adjusting a
22 contender is in fact a good way to
23 introduce a new, potentially better
24 contender, but any method at all is in
25 principle acceptable.

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2 People will disagree and in the
3 end, City Council must and should decide.
4 It is the job of the political process to
5 accommodate differing views and
6 interests, including and even especially
7 those not represented in any given
8 decision model or formula. The job of
9 deliberation, both public and private, is
10 to surface and give hearing to these
11 differing views and interests, the
12 wonderful thing about what we have here
13 today. The process I have described is
14 based upon the principle or even the
15 philosophy of solution pluralism. The
16 core idea is to base decision-making not
17 just on one supposedly best solution but
18 on a collection, a pool or a plurality of
19 reasonable solutions; that is, on the
20 contenders. The principle is to begin
21 deliberation with an ample, comprehensive
22 pool of attractive contenders.

23 Now, all of this sounds good
24 and commonsensical, but it has not been
25 genuinely possible. It has not been

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2 practicable, because there has been no
3 way of identifying a comprehensive pool
4 of contenders. This is needed because if
5 you buy us the start, you will buy us the
6 conclusion. Here is where our results,
7 Team Fred's results, come in.

8 Using modern optimization
9 techniques, combined with artificial
10 intelligence techniques, and adding in a
11 number of our own innovations, we have
12 produced a replicable method for finding
13 comprehensive pools of good contenders.
14 That is what is fundamentally new here.
15 Our methods can find very many very good
16 plans. These are plans you would be very
17 unlikely to find otherwise. It is this
18 that presents an opportunity for a
19 win-win situation. We think you'll find
20 plans that you'll like.

21 I am not speaking
22 hypothetically. Limiting ourselves only
23 to plans that did not break up any of the
24 City's 66 wards, we have discovered more
25 than 100 distinct contenders, plans that

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2 meet the legal requirements and that are
3 reasonably compact. Many of them look
4 great. No doubt most of them can be
5 improved by taking into account the
6 various views and interests expressed
7 today and above. We have posted these --
8 and should be. They should be adjusted.
9 They should be a starting point.

10 We have posted these plans on
11 the web. Anyone can view the maps. As I
12 said, more than 100. You should see for
13 yourself, and the URL is listed in the
14 testimony.

15 I have five points in
16 concluding, but in the interest of time,
17 I'll skip the last one.

18 The methods we have invented
19 and used are quite general. We have
20 worked at the ward level, but any level
21 is possible. Perhaps you would like to
22 divide the City into neighborhoods that
23 should not be split. We can easily do
24 that as well.

25 Two, in consequence of our

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2 methods being very general, they will be
3 useful for many districting issues beyond
4 voting. Think police, fire and other
5 services provided by the City. Here too
6 a philosophy of solution pluralism would
7 be very attractive and is now enabled by
8 the innovations we have made.

9 Three, we are acting here in
10 our roles as university researchers, with
11 complete transparency. All of our data
12 are already publicly available. We are
13 happy to make all of our software
14 available as well, and we would be
15 pleased to work with City Council or
16 other groups.

17 Four, and to conclude, this is,
18 to repeat, something new and different.
19 The genie is out of the bottle in the
20 sense that it is now possible to produce
21 for public discussions very many
22 high-quality solutions. This places a
23 very public burden of proof on anyone who
24 would insist on a much lower quality;
25 that is to say, gerrymandered, plan.

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2 We hope the City Council will
3 embrace this new opportunity. We believe
4 it is in the City Council's interest to
5 do so, and we offer to work with you in
6 that spirit.

7 Thanks for listening. I'll be
8 happy to answer any questions you have
9 now or later.

10 (Applause.)

11 COUNCILWOMAN SANCHEZ: I want
12 to recognize one of our colleagues,
13 Councilman Darrell Clarke, who has joined
14 us.

15 Councilman Goode has a
16 question.

17 COUNCILMAN GOODE: Continuing
18 on the same line of questioning from
19 before, do you believe the ward maps
20 should be redrawn?

21 MR. KIMBROUGH: I've been here
22 listening, so I've thought about that.
23 In one sense I wouldn't presume to tell
24 you that, but I'll say the following: As
25 I noted in the testimony, it would seem

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2 to be a very natural thing to want to do
3 to honor the neighborhoods, and if you --
4 but we don't have a really good
5 definitive, even authoritative
6 neighborhood map. So one opportunity in
7 redrawing the wards would be to have them
8 fit neighborhoods that you're happy to
9 live with and then redistrict in terms of
10 the wards. That is a very sensible thing
11 to do.

12 COUNCILMAN GOODE: What stuck
13 out in your testimony was the fact you
14 said if you start with false or wrong
15 assumptions, you'll end up with false or
16 wrong assumptions. Therefore, if the
17 ward maps are patently unfair and you're
18 forced to draw the districts based upon
19 those ward maps, that complicates
20 matters.

21 MR. KIMBROUGH: We're not
22 presuming to say these are good
23 districts. I'm not trying to say that.
24 I'm trying to show you that there's a lot
25 of reasonable districts possible. And so

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2 how it's actually going to come out
3 depends on just how unfair it is, and I
4 don't know the answer to that. You have
5 to judge for yourself.

6 COUNCILMAN GOODE: My question
7 is not whether the districts are fair or
8 not. I'm not even trying to argue too
9 heavily about whether the wards are fair
10 or not. I think an examination of that
11 will show they're unfair in a number of
12 different ways. I guess what I'm getting
13 to is simply that if the best process for
14 this is as you laid it out, that it's
15 based upon neighborhoods or based upon
16 other things that are important to us in
17 all facets of life, not just political,
18 then shouldn't the wards perhaps be based
19 upon those factors, and doesn't it start
20 with how we design that?

21 I'm actually sitting here
22 pulling up different maps from the City
23 Planning Commission and there are a
24 variety of different things. There are
25 health center maps, there are police

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2 districts.

3 So I guess the question is,
4 yes, we're talking about political
5 boundaries and in specific discussions
6 about Council districts, but if the way
7 the maps are really drawn politically or
8 by ward, isn't it essential that we look
9 at that ward mapping as well?

10 MR. KIMBROUGH: I would think
11 so, yes. It seems very, very sensible to
12 me.

13 COUNCILMAN GOODE: Okay. Thank
14 you.

15 COUNCILWOMAN SANCHEZ: Thank
16 you so much.

17 MR. KIMBROUGH: Thank you.

18 COUNCILWOMAN SANCHEZ: We will
19 continue with Doron, Mike McCrea and then
20 Trudy Haynes. Those are the last folks
21 that we have to testify.

22 (Witnesses approached witness
23 table.)

24 COUNCILWOMAN SANCHEZ: So we
25 will continue with Mike McCrea and Trudy

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2 Haynes.

3 MR. McCREA: Put me in a
4 familiar position, right?

5 I'm Mike McCrea and I'm a
6 member of the 42nd Ward. I'm a
7 committeeman of the 42nd Ward. And I
8 think my real comment was -- I didn't
9 really have any written testimony. My
10 real comment on this was, I think the
11 process is the thing that everybody gets
12 really upset about when you talk about
13 this. And while, again, as previous the
14 person said, he's been in four different
15 redistricting fights, this is my fourth
16 as well, and I hope I don't look that
17 old.

18 You know, one of the things --
19 I only have to go back to the last
20 redistricting to really kind of make a
21 lot of the points that have been made
22 here. Forty-second Ward was split up
23 between two Council districts previously.
24 I think we were about 75 percent in one
25 district and about 25 percent in another.

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2 At the end of the last redistricting
3 process, we were in three districts,
4 about 45 percent in one Council district,
5 about 35 in another and about 20 in a
6 third. And the third one actually went
7 right between the middle, you know. So
8 it went between. You got one ward,
9 another ward, and then the third one just
10 kind of came and split us right down the
11 middle. So basically we're split up into
12 thirds.

13 Now, I have to give them
14 credit, to the credit of all of them.
15 All three of them happen to be here
16 tonight, and they all have done what I
17 consider a pretty good job, but it's
18 just -- it's hard to juggle all those
19 balls when you got one ward and three
20 different Councilpeople. You got to
21 juggle all those balls. You can't have
22 all three at the same meeting, so you got
23 to have a meeting about something going
24 in one part of the division in one night,
25 in another part of the division another

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2 night and another part another night,
3 because you just can't get them all three
4 there on the same night, and it makes it
5 hard. And while we have a good ward
6 leader in Elaine Tomlin, it just makes it
7 more difficult for all of us, because
8 depending upon what part of the division
9 you live in depends on which
10 Councilperson you're going to. And you
11 kind of almost have to think about it
12 that way. So two is bad enough, but we
13 got split into three.

14 And myself, there were three
15 different bills, redistricting bills, the
16 last time, and each of those three bills
17 had me in a different district. So I'm
18 like who in the world is speaking for me?
19 I'm sitting here just talking about
20 myself. And I went down to the one
21 hearing that was a public hearing, which
22 was the day that you guys actually passed
23 that bill, and the amazing thing about it
24 was that they changed the bill at
25 lunchtime. So they redrew the whole line

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2 at lunchtime, and in an hour and a half,
3 they redid the whole thing and redid the
4 process and put it up again. And I was
5 the first one up in the afternoon, and
6 the first line I said -- and I'm sure you
7 remember, Council President. I got up
8 and I said -- I was speechless. I know
9 you find that hard to believe, but I was
10 speechless, and I said, What district am
11 I in? You just changed it again. In the
12 span of an hour and a half, you changed
13 the map, changed the divisions, changed
14 the whole thing again. I had to look on
15 it to see where I was. And in an hour
16 and a half, there were about ten people
17 behind me to testify, and then you voted
18 it out of committee. So that 50 people
19 that were in that room are the only
20 people that actually saw the final
21 version of that before it got voted out
22 of committee, and that's part of the
23 problem.

24 And through the process,
25 through those three different bills, each

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2 one having me in a different district, I
3 started out in one district, and then the
4 second bill came up and once that became
5 public, the Council representative --
6 and, again, to his credit, he kind of
7 answered me about this, but came out the
8 next day and said, I'm not interested in
9 serving those people. And then you come
10 out and it ended up going into a third
11 district.

12 So it's like the process itself
13 just didn't seem really fair to me and it
14 was just the process of you only had one
15 public hearing. The day that you voted
16 on the bill was the one public hearing
17 that you had, and in the span of an hour
18 and a half, you changed it and then the
19 50 people sitting in the room were the
20 only ones that actually saw the final
21 bill, the one that we're living with
22 right now. And that to me is a problem.
23 I mean, the public just didn't get any
24 input on that at all.

25 We realize a lot of the other

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2 problems that happened during that
3 process, but ultimately I think that was
4 the biggest problem of all.

5 And to answer your question,
6 Councilman Goode, I absolutely think they
7 need to be redrawn fair. I think the
8 ward boundaries need to be redrawn
9 better. I'll say it. I'm not afraid to
10 say it. I think so. I think part of it
11 is, if you're going to do it that way, if
12 you're going to do it as a ward-based
13 thing, if the wards aren't drawn right,
14 then the redistricting can't be done
15 right. I agree with you. The base map
16 of wards has to be better in order for
17 the redistricting to be better.

18 But as far as that goes, I
19 appreciate the fact that you did have a
20 public hearing here, but ultimately
21 still, we still haven't seen the draft
22 plan that you guys have yet and you got,
23 what, two weeks? So here I sit.

24 COUNCILWOMAN SANCHEZ: One
25 week.

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2 MR. McCREA: One week. And we
3 haven't seen it yet. It hasn't become
4 public. We don't even know what you guys
5 are talking about. We know. And I was
6 one of those people that actually went
7 online and actually did the whole plan
8 and submitted one to the gentleman
9 earlier. We were sitting at the one at
10 WHYY, what, a couple weeks ago when we
11 actually went over all that. You know, I
12 did that, and I took advantage of all of
13 that, but that's the whole problem. This
14 is it.

15 Granted, we have a public
16 hearing out here and this is great, but
17 what are we looking at? We don't know
18 what you're looking at. Now we do.

19 COUNCILWOMAN TASCO: We don't
20 either.

21 MR. McCREA: I mean, let's go.
22 It's a week away. And I think also we
23 should look into maybe extending it
24 longer and making it a longer process so
25 that we can do these things and talk

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2 through it, because it is a process. It
3 is a tough process. And those of us who
4 went through -- and I have to agree with
5 the guy who came up with a computer
6 program. When we went through it, it is
7 a hard process to do, splitting wards and
8 splitting neighborhoods and there's so
9 many factors to worry into it, not to
10 mention, you know, you look at the way
11 we're redistricting the City for
12 everything. The police districts are
13 different from the fire districts.
14 They're different from the school
15 districts. They're different from the
16 recreation districts. They're different
17 from the fire districts. Everyone has a
18 different -- and they all cross over.

19 In my neighborhood I'm in the
20 middle of four districts. At Frankford
21 Creek right there at Roosevelt Boulevard
22 right at the other end of my
23 neighborhood, four police districts meet
24 at that one spot. So depending on where
25 you're standing on Frankford, you walk

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2 one way on the Boulevard, four different
3 ways, you can be in four different police
4 districts, so...

5 COUNCILWOMAN SANCHEZ: No one
6 will arrest you.

7 MR. McCREA: Well, if I'm
8 standing in the middle, where do I go,
9 you know? You can sit there and argue
10 about who is going to arrest you right in
11 the middle, right?

12 But anyway, thank you. I
13 appreciate that.

14 COUNCILWOMAN SANCHEZ: Thank
15 you, Mike.

16 (Applause.)

17 COUNCILWOMAN TASC0: Maria,
18 could I ask him a question?

19 Just we're talking about
20 neighborhoods today, and we did end up
21 with one of the wards split between the
22 three District Councilmembers here, and
23 we were talking about that today in terms
24 of how you define neighborhoods and we
25 sort of looked at that 42nd Ward and

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2 there are several neighborhoods within
3 that ward.

4 MR. McCREA: You're right.
5 You're correct.

6 COUNCILWOMAN TASC0: So while
7 the split came with three different
8 Councilmembers, it reflected the
9 neighborhood of that ward.

10 MR. McCREA: Oh, it did. I do
11 believe that. I do agree with that, but
12 I mean, if you're splitting it up three
13 ways, I think part of it was they brought
14 the other one right through the middle
15 and it kind of like -- even though
16 they're different neighborhoods, there's
17 a lot of common problems between those
18 and it's like, well, then I got to go to
19 you for one, I got to go to her for
20 another and I got to go to him for
21 another, and it could be 15 blocks apart
22 and I got to go either to him or to her
23 or to her, but --

24 COUNCILWOMAN TASC0: But you
25 live in one of those neighborhoods.

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2 You're dealing with those issues in your
3 neighborhood.

4 MR. McCREA: Oh, yeah. Sure.

5 COUNCILWOMAN TASC0: So you
6 just go to your Councilperson.

7 MR. McCREA: Oh, yeah, but if I
8 got something that's happening in the
9 neighborhood right next to mine, it
10 concerns me just as well. I mean, if I
11 got a kid who gets robbed five blocks
12 away from me, that's just as much a
13 concern as it is in my block in my
14 neighborhood. I mean, that's part of it.
15 I mean, we as a group, not just in my
16 neighborhood -- I'm not that parochial,
17 you know. I look at the neighborhoods
18 outside of where I go, and if I go across
19 the Boulevard -- and you know really
20 well. I go across the Boulevard, there's
21 some problems over in Olney that we deal
22 with as well, and we have to deal with
23 those people and we have to deal together
24 with those issues. If I help them with
25 them, something they're going to come

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2 back and help me with something over
3 here, or if I help them deal with it, I'm
4 not going to get it from over in Olney,
5 it's not going to come my way if I help
6 them deal with it first. I mean, that's
7 part of --

8 COUNCILWOMAN TASCO: You're all
9 over the place. You're one of the few
10 all over the place, and we appreciate
11 your involvement in the entire community.
12 But my point was that when we did the
13 redistricting because based on all the
14 other stuff that was going on, it
15 reflects the --

16 MR. McCREA: And, again, I give
17 you credit, because all three of you have
18 been out in the neighborhood and all
19 three of you have addressed issues in
20 your parts of the neighborhood, so it has
21 kind of worked out on that way, but in
22 the long run, it kind of waters down our
23 political clout when it comes to things
24 like that.

25 COUNCILWOMAN SANCHEZ:

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2 Councilman Goode had a --

3 COUNCILMAN GOODE: It's very
4 quick. Technically, everyone has at
5 least eight Councilpeople, at least one
6 district and seven at-large. I just
7 wanted to remind everyone of that.

8 COUNCILWOMAN SANCHEZ: You're
9 all in his district.

10 MR. McCREA: Thank you.

11 COUNCILWOMAN TASCO: Thank you.

12 COUNCILWOMAN SANCHEZ: Thank
13 you, Mike.

14 Ms. Trudy Haynes, and then that
15 will conclude our witness list. Again,
16 thank everyone for coming.

17 MS. HAYNES: Thank you, Madam
18 President, Councilmembers. I may be here
19 under misconception. I thought that this
20 was going to be a meeting -- first of
21 all, I was terribly disappointed at the
22 one at Council, Council meeting, Council
23 headquarters. I thought this was going
24 to be a discussion. I thought there was
25 going to be a presentation on both sides

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2 that people could take in, and so far,
3 everyone has been concerned about that.
4 So I only have about a few questions, if
5 that's allowed. That's my job. I'm
6 Trudy Haynes -- I'm sorry. I didn't
7 announce myself -- and I'm a TV reporter.

8 COUNCILWOMAN SANCHEZ: We'd be
9 happy to take them for the record and
10 maybe if we can't respond to them all
11 today, that they be included for the
12 record.

13 MS. HAYNES: One, I think a lot
14 of people that are here tonight want to
15 know if this Commission feels confident
16 that they can reach the deadline, the
17 current deadline, or has there been some
18 consideration to extend the deadline?

19 COUNCILWOMAN TASCO: The
20 deadline will be when we finish, and if
21 we don't finish, there are consequences.
22 So we've been through this several times
23 before. So we pretty much know if we
24 don't meet whatever the deadline is, we
25 will come to some conclusion at some

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2 point.

3 COUNCILWOMAN SANCHEZ: The only
4 consequence in the timeline is that we
5 will not get paid if in fact Council does
6 not approve a final bill by -- our
7 deadline is September 9th. Based on the
8 payroll schedules, in our September 22nd
9 meeting if that doesn't happen, Council
10 will stop receiving pay, which it did in
11 1991 and in 2001. I think we're
12 committed to getting this as fair as
13 possible, and if that's the consequence,
14 those of us are going to have to bear it.

15 MS. HAYNES: Well, is the
16 Commission prepared to put something on
17 the table that people can look at?

18 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: As
19 soon as we have a plan ready, we
20 certainly will share it with -- the
21 Councilmembers will share it with our
22 community.

23 MS. HAYNES: I'm sure you will
24 when you have it ready, but the point
25 is --

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2 COUNCILWOMAN SANCHEZ: There is
3 no --

4 MS. HAYNES: Everyone knows
5 there's a deadline and everyone is trying
6 to meet that deadline.

7 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: We
8 are.

9 MS. HAYNES: Even the people
10 that are testifying. How can they absorb
11 what has to be done without something on
12 the table? They're putting things on the
13 table, but we're not getting a response
14 from the Commission.

15 COUNCILWOMAN SANCHEZ: I think
16 there's a commitment by us to try to
17 develop a consensus map. We are working
18 very aggressively to put forth a map that
19 we understand may not be the final map,
20 and we're committed to do so by September
21 8th to present something, and then we
22 will take as long as it's necessary for
23 us to get the nine and, as we've seen in
24 the past, 12 votes necessary in case of a
25 mayoral veto.

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2 MS. HAYNES: Councilman Goode
3 brought up a good point. You've been
4 asking people which way you should go,
5 take into consideration the wards or the
6 diversity or the number of people. What
7 is the Commission's criteria?

8 COUNCILMAN GOODE: I am not on
9 the committee. I have actually answered
10 this question for people that have asked
11 me this publicly. There are two things.
12 The district should be proportional and
13 the gerrymandering districts must be
14 changed. Those are two primary driving
15 things for me.

16 MS. HAYNES: Do all of the ten
17 districts have to be redesigned?

18 COUNCILMAN GOODE: They're
19 supposed to be proportional.

20 MS. HAYNES: So --

21 COUNCILMAN GOODE: By law. By
22 law, they should be proportional, and by
23 law, none of the districts should be
24 gerrymandered.

25 MS. HAYNES: Well, then I'm not

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2 going to --

3 COUNCILMAN GOODE: So the
4 process is actually defined for us
5 legally. People have bent the process in
6 the past, but legally there's no question
7 about what we're supposed to do and how
8 we're supposed to accomplish it.

9 MS. HAYNES: So when can the
10 public expect something from the
11 Commission that we can look at?

12 COUNCILWOMAN SANCHEZ: We
13 expect by September 8th to have the first
14 draft of a bill presented in Council.
15 That is the goal of the Commission, and
16 we're working -- it's August 31st. It's
17 Labor Day weekend. We've all been
18 working aggressively and we're committed
19 to this.

20 MS. HAYNES: So September the
21 8th is a possible time when --

22 COUNCILWOMAN SANCHEZ: There
23 will be a draft.

24 MS. HAYNES: A draft?

25 COUNCILWOMAN SANCHEZ: That's

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2 our goal.

3 MS. HAYNES: And then are we
4 permitted then to -- go ahead, Darrell.
5 I'm sorry.

6 COUNCILMAN CLARKE: No. Go
7 ahead.

8 MS. HAYNES: Are we then
9 permitted to discuss that draft or have
10 you already decided what it's going to
11 be?

12 COUNCILWOMAN SANCHEZ: All
13 legislative bills require a public
14 hearing before they can be voted. In the
15 case -- we will present it in Council on
16 the 8th. The Committee of the Whole will
17 have to hold a public hearing and we will
18 have to vote on it. As you all know, we
19 now are required to provide public
20 testimony during our Council, so there
21 will be three Council sessions in the
22 next month where there can be additional
23 public input before a final vote is
24 taken.

25 Councilman Clarke, you had

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2 something to add?

3 COUNCILMAN CLARKE: Thank you,
4 Councilwoman. First of all, I would like
5 to apologize for being late. I was
6 delayed in City Hall with two meetings.
7 I couldn't tear myself out of there. And
8 then I got to be honest with you, I kind
9 of got lost on my way up here.

10 MS. HAYNES: I did, too.

11 COUNCILMAN CLARKE: But I just
12 wanted to first say I want to thank
13 Councilwoman Quinones-Sanchez for
14 arranging this public meeting, a very
15 good turnout. It gives an opportunity to
16 the public to speak on an issue that is
17 traditionally viewed as an insider's
18 process.

19 Not to make excuses, but I
20 think anybody who has been paying
21 attention to the problem that's before
22 us, this is a very challenging process
23 because of the shift in population
24 primarily on one side of the City, in the
25 northern part of the City. The other

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2 part of the issue is somewhat
3 challenging. We're going to have an
4 overturn of a significant number of
5 Councilmembers, most of them District
6 Councilpeople. So you essentially have a
7 number of Councilpeople who just ran for
8 a seat, and they would obviously like to
9 be involved in the process. So you not
10 only have the incumbent Councilmembers,
11 you also have the nominees for the
12 various seats, who are not technically
13 elected. So that's a process that has
14 confused us, to a degree.

15 The other thing, that there was
16 actually some confusion as it relates to
17 when the actual census data was given to
18 us and was available for us to actually
19 start working on the process. In
20 addition to which, this happened in the
21 midst of what we consider a very crucial
22 School District hearing as it relates to
23 getting that resolved. So it was like a
24 whole lot of set of circumstances that if
25 they had not happened, we would have

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2 started on this much quicker. And as I
3 say, that's not an apology. That's just
4 a simple fact.

5 But the reality is, having, I
6 think, four of the five members here went
7 through the last Council process and I
8 got to tell you, there's a whole lot more
9 openness in this particular process.

10 There were multiple hearings, but those
11 multiple hearings were based on vetoes of
12 the Mayor, so it wasn't traditional
13 hearings, and all of those were in City
14 Council. So it was a different process.
15 And I think that this body and these
16 members have tried to accommodate as much
17 as possible, at a minimum, giving people
18 an opportunity to speak.

19 Ultimately, we will craft a
20 bill. If it takes for us to miss a few
21 paychecks -- I'm speaking for myself,
22 because I'm never going to talk about
23 anybody else's finances -- then maybe we
24 will have to miss a couple of paychecks
25 until we get this thing right. But I

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2 guarantee you that we will come up with a
3 proposal that hopefully is fair and as
4 reasonable as possible and correct with
5 some of the challenges. But I just don't
6 think given the significant change in
7 population that we're going to be in a
8 position to come up with ten squares.
9 It's just realistically not going to
10 happen. So there will be some districts
11 that look a little funny to the average
12 person, but at the end of the day, I
13 concur with Councilman Goode, that you
14 will have -- and I'm only going to speak
15 for him, because he's here. You will
16 have at least two great Councilpeople
17 representing you, whatever district you
18 end up in and Councilman Goode.

19 MS. HAYNES: I want to thank
20 the Commission for at least letting me
21 pose those questions, and I'll be posing
22 some more.

23 COUNCILMAN CLARKE: Thank you.

24 MS. HAYNES: Thank you.

25 COUNCILMAN CLARKE: Thank you,

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2 Madam Chair.

3 COUNCILWOMAN SANCHEZ: Thank
4 you. So we're going to conclude this
5 hearing and we're going to let our
6 President Verna close out with more
7 official information about further public
8 hearings.

9 I want to thank all of the
10 folks, Esperanza for hosting us, all of
11 the people that came out and testified.

12 (Applause.)

13 COUNCILWOMAN SANCHEZ: For the
14 record, especially the folks who have
15 been doing this for 30, 40 years, I
16 appreciate it. I was at Council late in
17 '91, and in 2001, I joined many of you on
18 that other side of the table, and having
19 been here, I want to agree with
20 Councilman Clarke, the spirit of
21 discussion has been very open among the
22 Council colleagues. This is a very
23 difficult task, but that's what you
24 elected us to do, and so we're going to
25 have to abide by our constitutional duty

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2 to produce a map that will not only pass
3 the smell test but the legal test and
4 hopefully some of the moral test for us
5 as citizens of the City of Philadelphia.

6 So with that, I want to thank
7 President Verna and the Committee for
8 allowing us to hold this public session,
9 and she will close out.

10 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: Thank
11 you.

12 Again, I thank you also, and I
13 would just like to announce that this
14 hearing is being continued until Tuesday,
15 September the 6th from 7:00 p.m. to 8:30
16 p.m. at Einstein Medical Center at --

17 COUNCILWOMAN TASC0: Broad and
18 Olney.

19 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: --
20 Broad and Olney.

21 So thank you all so very much.
22 I guess everybody knows where Broad and
23 Olney is. 5501 Old York Road. Thank
24 you. Thank you all again.

25 (Applause.)

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2 (Committee of the Whole

3 adjourned at 7:25 p.m.)

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2 CERTIFICATE

3 I HEREBY CERTIFY that the
4 proceedings, evidence and objections are
5 contained fully and accurately in the
6 stenographic notes taken by me upon the
7 foregoing matter on August 31, 2011, and that
8 this is a true and correct transcript of same.
9

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14 MICHELE L. MURPHY
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