

1. Meeting Materials

Documents:

[20230103-VERBATIM.PDF](#)

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TOWN OF HEMPSTEAD

REDISTRICTING MEETING

ONE WASHINGTON STREET

TOWN HALL PAVILION

HEMPSTEAD, NEW YORK 11550

January 3, 2023

10:30 A.M.

BEFORE: GARY HUDES, CHAIRMAN

APPEARANCES :

ALBERT D'AGOSTINO, ESQ., COMMISSION MEMBER (VIA
PHONE)

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DOROTHY BRAZLEY, COMMISSION MEMBER

JOHN MACCARONE, HEMPSTEAD TOWN ATTORNEY

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1 TOWN ATTORNEY MACCARONE: Mr. Chairman,
2 with your permission, we would like to start.

3 CHAIRMAN HUDES: Absolutely.

4 TOWN ATTORNEY MACCARONE: I have a brief Page | 3
5 announcement.

6 One of the Commission Members tested
7 positive for COVID a couple of days ago, so, Mr.
8 D'Agostino is on the phone and he is going to
9 listen, there will be no vote, today - - to all
10 of the comments and he is watching by livestream,
11 as well.

12 Okay, at this time, I like everyone to
13 stand so we can say the Pledge of Allegiance.

14 (Whereupon, the Pledge of Allegiance was
15 recited by the Assembly. After, the following
16 ensued.)

17 TOWN ATTORNEY MACCARONE: Just so everyone
18 is clear, the maps were released.

19 They are on the website and everyone that
20 would like to speak has the absolute right to
21 speak today, okay.

22 We have a list and if you are not on the
23 list, I will ask again if anyone would like to
24 speak.

25 So, the first person listed on the

1 Speakers' List is Janet Peretzky. (phonetic
2 spelling.)

3 JANET PERETZKY: Very sorry to say this
4 but, um, I see that the Republicans are continuing Page | 4
5 the practice of packing and cracking.

6 Um, you have packed District 1 and, um, my
7 District, I am from Baldwin Harbor.

8 So, I see that, um, Baldwin was, again,
9 divided.

10 Baldwin is in a District with Freeport and,
11 then, all the South Shore communities going East.

12 Um, that totally dilutes the vote of my
13 area, Baldwin Harbor which is largely Democratic,
14 Freeport, which is largely Democratic and the
15 other communities that tend to be largely
16 Republican.

17 So, again, you know, um, my vote doesn't
18 count.

19 Um, Baldwin, um, which is a very powerless
20 unincorporated area, um, will not have, um, will
21 be represented, I guess, by several people who,
22 um, you know, aren't all that interested, um, and
23 um, this is where we are.

24 So, my question is truly, truly, why are
25 the Republicans afraid of

1 sharing power?

2 Is it if power is shared, um, it has to be
3 more transparent.

4 Certainly, um, decisions have to be made, ^{Page | 5}
5 um, um, incorporating more people and more diverse
6 opinions and, um, and more areas of, um, interest.

7 And, um, we will be touting, um, um,
8 additional people to have influence in the Town of
9 Hempstead.

10 I guess I am answering my own question but
11 truly this map does nothing.

12 We didn't need to have a Hearing. This is
13 what you intended to do.

14 There is no new minority/majority district
15 which would only be fair, given, um, the
16 demographics of the Town of Hempstead.

17 And, again, um, you have cracked Baldwin
18 and, um, you know, my vote in Baldwin Harbor won't
19 count.

20 It will be cancelled out in Wantagh and
21 Seaford, I don't think that is fair.

22 And, um, I have nobody that really is
23 representing my area.

24 That is all I have to say.

25 I think it is shameful, I really do.

1 This is not a Democratic map.

2 This is not a democratic, small "D".

3 Thank you.

4 (Whereupon, the three-minute bell rang.

5 After, the following ensued.)

6 TOWN ATTORNEY MACCARONE: Thank you.

7 (Whereupon, applause from the audience was
8 heard. After, the following ensued.)

9 TOWN ATTORNEY MACCARONE: The next speaker
10 Felix Procacci.

11 FELIX PROCACCI: Felix Procacci, Franklin
12 Square.

13 I had sent an email to the Town
14 Redistricting Commission to Notice this Meeting,
15 to send an email blast out.

16 Um, they did send an email blast that
17 included this Meeting but the blast is entitled
18 "the goats are excited about the mulch fest."

19 The post within that email was about the
20 mulch fest and goats.

21 The second email in that post had to do
22 with the Animal Shelter.

23 And, the third post within that email had
24 to do with today and next Monday's Redistricting
25 Meeting.

1 And, then, at the bottom where they have
2 "upcoming events," the repeated the mulch fest,
3 that was it.

4 If that is not the intention of keeping Page | 7
5 people out of this, I don't know what is.

6 You sent out on December 23rd and December
7 24th, you sent out emails dedicated not "Around the
8 Town with Don Clavin," but dedicated to the mulch
9 fest.

10 If you go to the Town's Facebook page,
11 there are four posts about the mulch fest.

12 If you go to the Town's Twitter page - -

13 TOWN ATTORNEY MACCARONE: Mr. Procacci, I
14 don't want to interrupt, at the last Meeting, as
15 well as the Meeting before, we repeatedly said
16 that the website, there was a problem.

17 Now, I am not the most technological savvy
18 person but I looked at the website every single
19 day, you can't miss on our website the band at the
20 top that specifically says "redistricting
21 meeting."

22 So, if you go into the comments about the
23 Notice, you said it last time and they pulled it
24 up on our phones.

25 You cannot miss on our website this Notice.

1 I apologize for interrupting you, but you
2 repeatedly are making these comments.

3 FELIX PROCACCI: You are using up my time.
4 You didn't stop the clock. Page | 8

5 TOWN ATTORNEY MACCARONE: I will restore
6 your time.

7 You won't have to worry about your time.

8 FELIX PROCACCI: The top Twitter post, four
9 posts about the mulch fest.

10 No posts about the Redistricting Meeting.

11 On the Instagram Page, two posts about the
12 mulch fest.

13 No post about the Redistricting Meeting.

14 As far as you interrupting me, that is very
15 disrespectful.

16 You have infinite time after I speak to say
17 all and mislead people as you see fit.

18 This is what this is all about because you
19 didn't Notice the first set of Hearings that
20 happened.

21 You put it on the end of the calendar. I
22 signed up my profile in the Town of Hempstead.

23 I sign up for everything, the Town agenda,
24 everything.

25 I clicked every box to get an email alert

1 about everything that is going on in this Town.

2 I didn't get one alert entitled
3 "Redistricting Meeting."

4 Okay, I got the emails on mulch fest, that ^{Page | 9}
5 was working fine for some reason.

6 Your computers don't work when you are
7 Noticing about Redistricting Meetings.

8 I don't know why.

9 I have been a programmer for thirty years.

10 I never had such an issue where one topic
11 is excluded.

12 If the emails don't work, they don't work
13 for anything.

14 How can they just not work for
15 redistricting?

16 Okay, last time I said this proceeding is a
17 sham and you are proving me correct by your
18 actions prior to this.

19 This map, as the previous speaker said, is
20 just tweaked for population.

21 I ask that District 2, District 3 should be
22 more compact.

23 Why does Franklin Square stick up in the
24 pink area?

25 I don't know.

1 It should be more adjusted so it is more
2 compact.

3 If you fix these problems, everything will
4 fall into place instead of intentionally going Page | 10
5 around certain neighborhoods and adjusting because
6 you want to be in compliance with the law because
7 you want to isolate certain areas that is just
8 plain to see.

9 Thank you very much.

10 (Whereupon, applause from the audience was
11 heard. After, the following ensued.)

12 TOWN ATTORNEY MACCARONE: Thank you.

13 Claudia Verrecki. (phonetic spelling)

14 CLAUDIA VERRECKI: Claudia Verrecki from
15 Merrick.

16 The Census found that the Town of Hempstead
17 has a population of over seven hundred thousand.

18 Forty-seven percent of which are people of
19 color, yet, a Commission comprised of two
20 Republicans and one Democrat that only represents
21 only seventeen percent of the Town's population
22 led us to these racially discriminated maps, mean
23 to keep five out of six Republican incumbents in
24 office and keep communities of color at bay.

25 These maps flagrantly violate the Voting

1 Rights Act of 1965 which prohibits racial
2 discrimination in voting.

3 "Under Section 5 of the Voting Rights Act
4 a change affecting voting, such as, redistricting ^{Page | 11}
5 plan may not be used by a covered jurisdiction
6 unless that jurisdiction can show that the change
7 has neither a discriminatory purpose nor will have
8 a discriminatory affect."

9 Maps that affectively deprive communities,
10 minority communities from having representation on
11 the Board, obviously, have a racially
12 discriminatory affect.

13 You selectively chose to abide by three out
14 of the six redistricting criteria: compactness,
15 contiguity and equal population.

16 You think you are complying with the
17 affected communities by keeping Elmont and
18 Lakeview whole, but you fail to abide by the two
19 criteria that prohibits redistricting based on
20 political and racial biases.

21 You selectively placed a community like
22 Elmont with a community like Garden City, in which
23 it has nothing in common.

24 You did make Elmont whole but by doing so,
25 you still managed to dilute the voices

1 of Elmont residents.

2 Maps were provided to you that fairly
3 redistrict the Town of Hempstead by creating three
4 minority/majority districts.

5 It will give half the population of the
6 Town of Hempstead representation on the Board.

7 It is bad enough that my tax dollars only
8 went to one set of maps unlike they do in the
9 County.

10 Curious, did you even bother to show the
11 alternate set of maps to your cartographer?

12 I ask that you reject the maps being
13 proposed today and consider maps that fairly
14 creates three minority/majority districts as the
15 2023 Census warrants.

16 Thank you.

17 (Whereupon, applause from the audience was
18 heard. After, the following ensued.)

19 TOWN ATTORNEY MACCARONE: Thank you.

20 Karen Montelbano is next.

21 KAREN MONTELBANO: Karen Montelbano, Park
22 Avenue, Baldwin, Government Liaison for Baldwin
23 Civic Association.

24 This is my second, actually, my third time,
25 here because I didn't want to speak

1 the first time because I was afraid I couldn't
2 speak the second time.

3 All right, when I came in, I said, we had
4 one zip code. Page | 13

5 We have one school district.

6 We have Grand Avenue uniting all of Baldwin
7 from top to bottom okay.

8 We also have successfully gotten us our
9 Hamlet designated as one Census designated place,
10 this time around, and yet, I asked you we have
11 three people we have to go to.

12 And, what did you do?

13 Oh, you reduced us to two and split us in
14 half.

15 I don't understand why.

16 You kept Wantagh whole.

17 You kept Seaford whole and yet Baldwin is
18 split.

19 Could somebody explain to me why you had to
20 split a small community that has over four hundred
21 people signing a petition that they want to be
22 whole?

23 What explanation do you have?

24 Is there any answer or do we not get
25 answers?

1 TOWN ATTORNEY MACCARONE: This is a proposed
2 map.

3 And the map maker, when he proposed it, had
4 to take into several considerations.

5 KAREN MONTELBANO: Could you stop my clock,
6 please.

7 TOWN ATTORNEY MACCARONE: One of which was
8 making sure that villages were kept whole, that is
9 specifically listed in the law, okay.

10 Hamlets are not.

11 KAREN MONTELBANO: Ha, ha, ha.

12 TOWN ATTORNEY MACCARONE: You are right
13 that the number of councilmanic districts were
14 reduced from three to two.

15 And, this is a work in progress.

16 We are here to listen to you about your
17 concerns about this proposed map.

18 And, I am sure the Commission will take
19 into account your concerns and recommend a map to
20 the Town Board.

21 And, the Town Board has the right, of
22 course, to amend that map before they adopt it.

23 And, there will be a Hearing with regard to
24 that.

25 KAREN MONTELBANO: My reading

1 of what you had put out that you were going to try
2 to keep communities together.

3 Yes, we ae an unincorporated village,
4 village, unincorporated, we are a hamlet.

5 Why can't we just have one representation?

6 It is totally, totally, incredible to me
7 and I would love to hear the explanation for why
8 it was split with a logical explanation.

9 And, I would also like to see a change
10 made.

11 Thank you.

12 (Whereupon, applause from the audience was
13 heard. After, the following ensued.)

14 TOWN ATTORNEY MACCARONE: Thank you.

15 Next we have Ellen Smiley.

16 ELLEN SMILEY: Ellen Smiley, Levittown.

17 Um, I am going to skip the majority of my
18 comments.

19 They were covered eloquently by somebody
20 else.

21 But, I would like to know that there is
22 going to be a separate email that goes out talking
23 specifically about the Commission Hearings coming
24 up, not that it is buried inside of something
25 else.

1 "Around the Town with Don Clavin," has no
2 problem, has no problem getting out.

3 I like to see that same mailing used
4 specifically for information about upcoming
5 economic Hearings on the redistricting because it
6 is a critical piece of our lives going forward for
7 the next ten years.

8 Thank you.

9 TOWN ATTORNEY MACCARONE: Thank you.

10 (Whereupon, applause from the audience was
11 heard. After, the following ensued.)

12 TOWN ATTORNEY MACCARONE: Amir Veroni.

13 (Phonetic spelling)

14 AMIR VERONI: Amir Veroni, Valley Stream.

15 Firstly, I want to wish Mr. D'Agostino a
16 good recovery from COVID and I hope you are well.

17 Um, I just have a few questions, if you
18 could stop my time.

19 First, would Members of the Public be
20 permitted to speak, again, at the January 9th
21 Hearing?

22 TOWN ATTORNEY MACCARONE: Yes.

23 AMIR VERONI: Okay and, when will these
24 maps be introduced on the Town Calendar to be
25 voted on?

1 TOWN ATTORNEY MACCARONE: That hasn't been
2 determined yet.

3 AMIR VERONI: Could you stop my time?
4 Could you stop my clock I have another question? Page | 17

5 Will there be any other Hearings before the
6 Board votes on it for the Members of the Public to
7 be heard besides the January 9th Hearing?

8 TOWN ATTORNEY MACCARONE: Yes.

9 AMIR VERONI: Are there any dates?

10 TOWN ATTORNEY MACCARONE: Not at this time.

11 AMIR VERONI: Okay, do you know, how many
12 Hearings will there be?

13 TOWN ATTORNEY MACCARONE: That is to be
14 determined.

15 AMIR VERONI: Okay, this sounds awful
16 important.

17 Is there any feedback from the Commission
18 Members?

19 How many Hearings do you think we should
20 have, how many more Hearings?

21 TOWN ATTORNEY MACCARONE: Well, the
22 Commission is going to have, at least, one more
23 Meeting.

24 Then, they are going to have a Work Session
25 and they will recommend the map to the Board

1 after that, the Town Board will determine how many
2 Hearings they will have.

3 AMIR VERONI: Now, you call this a "work in
4 progress," don't you think we should have one
5 extra Hearing?

6 Well, just to comment on the maps.

7 While there are less municipalities, like
8 my area of Valley Stream that are split up, you
9 are not keeping places and school districts.

10 Many speakers came up during the first two
11 Hearings to ask for Elmont and Valley Stream, like
12 minded communities to be put together and these
13 maps don't do that.

14 And, rather than agree with the public, you
15 guys are just sitting here pretending to listen
16 and taking notes but Skyline wasn't told about the
17 concerns people have in these communities.

18 Onto School Districts, I am still shocked
19 that the lawyer for the Lawrence School District
20 would continue to support splitting up his own
21 school district, in addition to the Five Towns and
22 that really speaks to the political motivations of
23 the two Republican Commission Members who are
24 regular donors of the Republican Party and it
25 really speaks to their true motivations, here.

1 However, this will, ultimately,
2 disenfranchise voters to have their fair share - -
3 fair voice for their community to be represented.

4 And, while I hope that the Commission Page | 19
5 changes course on these maps, I doubt you will,
6 because you have to show us that you are listening
7 to what residents are saying.

8 Thank you.

9 TOWN ATTORNEY MACCARONE: Thank you.

10 (Whereupon, applause from the audience was
11 heard. After, the following ensued.)

12 TOWN ATTORNEY MACCARONE: On my current
13 list, there are no other names for speakers.

14 You will update it?

15 There is one more, Michael Torre.

16 MICHAEL TORRE: Thank you very much.

17 Any particular reason why the mic is back,
18 here, instead of me getting to speak closer to the
19 Commission Members?

20 TOWN ATTORNEY MACCARONE: It is the normal
21 way the Town Board does it.

22 MICHAEL TORRE: Okay, that is a recent
23 change since the Meeting I spoke at in November.

24 So, you said this was a work in progress.
25 Is there a date by which the Town Board must

1 ratify the new maps?

2 Please, pause my time.

3 TOWN ATTORNEY MACCARONE: No.

4 MICHAEL TORRE: So, there is no deadline. Page | 20

5 Okay, is there any expected opportunity to
6 hear from Commission Members, themselves, before
7 this map gets introduced to the Town Board?

8 Please, pause my time.

9 TOWN ATTORNEY MACCARONE: The Commission
10 Members have the opportunity, now or at any other
11 Meeting to address their concerns if they like,
12 but we are here to listen to you, that is the
13 basic premises of these Hearings.

14 And, I think, quite frankly, I think based
15 upon the map, a lot of the concerns that were
16 addressed at the first two Meetings have, in fact,
17 been addressed by this map, not all of them, but
18 some of them.

19 MICHAEL TORRE: That is preposterous,
20 virtually, none of the communities concerns were
21 represented by the folks in North Valley Stream
22 wanted to be put together by Lakeview being pulled
23 apart.

24 It seems that Freeport and Baldwin and
25 Roosevelt have been re-chopped up, so that is

1 not adequate.

2 To my recollection, these maps were
3 introduced to the website on December 20th and,
4 then, the Hearing notes were added over the
5 Christmas weekend and fully updated on the 26th or
6 27th of December.

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7 If you go look at the website, right, now,
8 that blaring message that you said Mr. Procacci
9 didn't see is not on the website.

10 I just looked at it.

11 So, I wanted to make sure the Hearing feed
12 was working.

13 So, do any of the Commission Members have
14 anything to say about these maps that we are
15 introduced?

16 Please, pause my time.

17 CHAIRMAN HUDES: As was mentioned by the
18 Town Attorney, we are here to listen to what the
19 public has to say.

20 We are here to listen.

21 MICHAEL TORRES: Okay.

22 CHAIRMAN HUDES: I think that is the most
23 important thing that we can do.

24 MICHAEL TORRES: I don't agree that is the
25 most important thing that you can do, this

1 Appointed, Republican Majority appointed
2 Commission with uneven number of Members, we need
3 to hear what you think about this because quite
4 frankly, it doesn't seem like anyone is listening ^{Page | 22}
5 to anyone, so - - I just wish there is more
6 opportunity for the public to go on the record.

7 I wish the Town could be more transparent
8 in the process.

9 Do you expect that a new Board Member will
10 be appointed at a Meeting before this process is
11 done and, then, get to vote on this map?

12 Please, pause my time.

13 TOWN ATTORNEY MACCARONE: That hasn't been
14 determined, yet.

15 MICHAEL TORRE: So, someone who has not
16 been chosen will have an opportunity to choose
17 their voters.

18 Let us not forget what redistricting is
19 about, letting residents have an opportunity to
20 choose their legislators and not have legislators
21 potentially choose their District.

22 (Whereupon, applause from the audience was
23 heard. After, the following ensued.)

24 MICHAEL TORRE: Do you know anything about
25 that?

1 I look forward to speaking, again, next
2 week.

3 Thank you.

4 TOWN ATTORNEY MACCARONE: Thank you.

5 (Whereupon, applause from the audience was
6 heard. After, the following ensued.)

7 TOWN ATTORNEY MACCARONE: My list doesn't
8 have anyone else.

9 (Whereupon, "I signed in," was heard.
10 After, the following ensued.)

11 TOWN ATTORNEY MACCARONE: Let us start,
12 here, I saw your hand, first.

13 KAREN MOSKOWITZ: My name is Karen
14 Moskowitz.

15 And, I serve as one of the Co-Chairs of the
16 League of Women Voters of Nassau County
17 Redistricting Committee.

18 Thank you for the opportunity to address
19 the Commission today.

20 The League is a non-partisan, grassroots,
21 non-profit encouraging informed and active
22 participation in our democracy.

23 The League takes the position on a variety
24 of public policy issues but never supports or
25 opposes any political party or candidate.

1 A review of the Commission's proposed maps
2 reveals deliberate manipulation of district lines.

3 As we saw ten years ago, districts have
4 been drawn for the benefit of legislators without ^{Page | 24}
5 concern for the needs of many of its residents, in
6 particular, communities of color.

7 These communities, now, comprise over forty
8 percent.

9 Forty percent of the Town's population and
10 dozens of residents gave testimony in this very
11 Chamber clearly articulating why districts need to
12 be extensively redrawn.

13 Multiple defects cause the maps to fail to
14 adhere to relevant provisions of the U.S.
15 Constitution and Federal Voting Rights Act and to
16 New York Municipal Home Rule Law and John R. Lewis
17 Voting Rights Act.

18 For example, boundaries of current
19 districts gerrymandered ten years ago, have merely
20 been tweaked in order to conform to the new five
21 percent population deviation rule as a result of
22 districts that are still not compact.

23 For example, District 3 meanders up the
24 western edge of the Town, narrows into a skinny
25 bridge near the Southern State before broadening

1 again, to take a sizable chunk out of District 2.

2 Hempstead Village, a Minority/Majority
3 community has been divided despite the fact that
4 its population could easily fit into a single
5 district.

6 We remind you that the John R. Lewis Voting
7 Rights Act affords protection to racial, ethnic
8 and language Minority groups.

9 Your proposed maps do not equitably
10 represent communities, thereby diluting their
11 voting strength.

12 We also remind you that the Municipal Home
13 Rule Law forbids districts to be drawn in order to
14 favor or disfavor incumbents or political parties.

15 We recommend that the Commission
16 responsibly redraw those maps before they are
17 submitted to the Town Board in order to avoid the
18 time and expense the Town will incur from
19 challenges by both residents and good government
20 groups.

21 Thank you.

22 (Whereupon applause from the audience was
23 heard. After, the following ensued.)

24 TOWN ATTORNEY MACCARONE: Thank you.

25 MIMI PEAR JOHNSON: Good Morning,

1 my name is Mimi Pear Johnson (phonetic spelling)
2 from Elmont, New York.

3 So, all the rules, everything that Karen
4 and everyone has said is absolutely right. Page | 26

5 But, I want to take everyone to those maps.

6 So, when you look at the yellow, that is
7 Elmont, Valley Stream and it goes into the Five
8 Towns.

9 That yellow part, that is Franklin Square.

10 So, yes, you have put Elmont and North
11 Valley Stream together but you fail at everything
12 else.

13 So, what this map shows is exactly what we
14 have been fighting for since 2013.

15 So, in 2013 that map was illegal.

16 It did not go to Court. The Plaintiff
17 backed out of that Court against the Town for the
18 illegal map.

19 So, you are starting off with the current
20 map that is not correct and, now, you have
21 exacerbated it because 2013 we could have had, at
22 least, two Minority/Majorities.

23 It didn't happen.

24 The Census to 2020 shows us that it is even
25 greater of an increase of population in the Black

1 and Brown communities in the Minority communities.

2 Elmont, alone, raised their response rate
3 of the census by ten percent.

4 Elmont alone has over two thousand new
5 residents as of 2020.

6 And, since then, I am sure it has increased
7 even more.

8 So, you have a District that has South
9 Asians, Asians, Caribbeans, African Americans and
10 so many Hispanics and what you aggressively done,
11 not you, the map, per say, which is a tool in
12 continuously dividing, cracking and gerrymandering
13 our Black communities.

14 What they did was take Franklin Square out
15 of District 2 and took Franklin Square southwest
16 and, then, took Elmont, northeast to where we have
17 nothing in common with Garden City going towards
18 Salisbury.

19 But the thing that is really interesting is
20 that they took out Franklin Square and then
21 skipped over to West Hempstead, so, if you look at
22 that yellow squiggly square next to it, that is
23 West Hempstead.

24 So, here is the question for the map-
25 drawer, what is the reasoning for you to take out

1 Franklin Square and, then, to continue our
2 District 2 in West Hempstead?

3 (Whereupon, the three-minute bell rang.
4 After, the following ensued.)

5 MIMI PEAR JOHNSON: And, then, you went
6 straight over to Uniondale.

7 So, don't tell me it is the number of the
8 Census because Elmont, Valley Stream, Franklin
9 Square, Bellerose Village, South Floral Park,
10 Floral Park, New Hyde Park is enough for District
11 2 and that would have been a perfect
12 Minority/Majority where everyone in that District
13 would have had a fair share of choosing their
14 elected officials.

15 But, if you go deeper into this map, you
16 will notice something else that happened, there is
17 an overwhelming increase of the Democrats in
18 Nassau County.

19 So, again, if you look at the numbers, we
20 are talking about numbers, numbers of population
21 and numbers of voters and that is what this map
22 does to the Black community.

23 It took away, again, just like 2013, the
24 voices of the Minorities in Nassau County.

25 TOWN ATTORNEY MACCARONE: Thank you.

1 (Whereupon, applause from the audience was
2 heard. After, the following ensued.)

3 TOWN ATTORNEY MACCARONE: Anyone else?

4 DAN OPPENHEIMER: Good Morning. I am Dan Page | 29
5 Oppenheimer, a resident of the Village of
6 Hempstead.

7 I would like to commend the Commission on
8 placing all of the information on the website,
9 even though that is just a basic starting point,
10 it is more than what Nassau County Redistricting
11 Commission managed to do for many, many weeks.

12 This does give us an opportunity to look at
13 the maps and look at the data that Skyline
14 Consulting has put up.

15 One of the most revealing and interesting
16 information to me is in the three-page Summary
17 that Skyline Consulting has prepared and that is
18 on the website, also.

19 If anyone, here, has not looked at it, I
20 would recommend that you read it and it
21 specifically lists the six regulations covering
22 the local redistricting, um, Home Rule Law.

23 And, to me, it reveals how, at least, three
24 of those are not being met.

25 The maps clearly in this proposal do meet

1 People population by some standards but there is a
2 little bit of a contradiction on that, also.

3 So, I will skip down to voting age
4 population and total population.

5 The variance, now, in the existing
6 Districts it varies quite a bit as noted.

7 In the proposed districts among all
8 populations, it is very close.

9 But when you look at the voting age
10 population, it is not nearly as close.

11 So, my comment, my question for the
12 Commission to consider in the standards for
13 drawing the districts, what is the gold standard?

14 Is it total population?

15 Is it voting age population?

16 Is it citizen population?

17 What standard is considered the highest,
18 most effective standard to be followed?

19 I am not sure that Skyline speaks to that
20 or describes which one they select.

21 When they refer to the Village of
22 Hempstead, it says voting age non-Hispanic, Black
23 Majority District and in the population variance,
24 it refers to all population.

25 So, that is a discrepancy of two different

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measurements in drawing the maps.

Um, political consideration that is Number 4 under the Home Rule Law and it says, "a new redistricting rule states that district shall not be drawn to discourage competition or favor or disfavor incumbents, candidates or political parties. All changes during redistricting have positive and negative effects."

And, "many Commissions avoid looking at political data at all to insulate themselves from conscious, political bias."

So, my comment, my question to this Commission, have you avoided looking at political data at all to insulate yourself from conscious political bias?

Thank you.

(Whereupon, applause from the audience was heard. After, the following ensued.)

TOWN ATTORNEY MACCARONE: Thank you.

Anyone else?

(Whereupon, no response was heard. After, the following ensued.)

TOWN ATTORNEY MACCARONE: Okay, Mr. Chairman, I ask for a Motion to adjourn to January 9th.

TOWN OF HEMPSTEAD REDISTRICTING JANUARY 3, 2023

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CHAIRMAN HUDES: I would like to make a Motion to adjourn until January 9th at 7:00 p.m.

COMMISSIONER MEMBER BRAZLEY: Second the Motion.

(Whereupon, a vote of aye was heard by all Board Members. After the following ensued.)

CHAIRMAN HUDES: I call this Meeting to an end.

(Whereupon, the official Meeting of the Town of Hempstead Redistricting Commission was concluded.)



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CERTIFICATE BY COURT REPORTER

I, do hereby certify that the foregoing testimony in the matter of the Hempstead Town Board Meeting held on January 3, 2023, consisting of pages 1 through 33 inclusive is an accurate transcription of my cryptic notes.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I SET MY HAND THIS DAY.



CFM

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