

1. Meeting Materials

Documents:

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TOWN OF HEMPSTEAD

TOWN HALL PAVILION

One Washington Street

Hempstead, N.Y. 11550

Redistricting Meeting

January 9, 2023

7:00 P.M.

BEFORE: CHAIRMAN HUDES

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A P P E A R A N C E S:

DOROTHY BRAIZLEY, COMMISSION MEMBER

ALBERT D'AGOSTINO, COMMISSION MEMBER

JOHN MACCARONE, TOWN ATTORNEY

TOWN OF HEMPSTEAD Redistricting Meeting 1.9.23 3

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TOWN ATTORNEY MACCARONE: Good

Evening, Ladies and Gentlemen, we are going to start the next Public Hearing of the Town of Hempstead Redistricting Commission.

So, I ask all of you, at this time, to, please, stand so we can recite the Pledge of Allegiance.

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

TOWN ATTORNEY MACCARONE: Anyone that would like to speak, please, sign in at the entrance so we can make sure everyone is heard.

At this time, I would like to call the roll.

TOWN ATTORNEY MACCARONE: Mrs. Braizley?

COMMISSION MEMBER BRAIZLEY: Here.

TOWN ATTORNEY MACCARONE: Mr. D'Agostino?

COMMISSION MEMBER D'AGOSTINO: Here.

TOWN ATTORNEY MACCARONE: Chairman Hudes?

CHAIRMAN HUDES: Here.

TOWN OF HEMPSTEAD Redistricting Meeting 1.9.23 4

1 TOWN ATTORNEY MACCARONE: One piece of
2 housekeeping, this afternoon, I was emailed a
3 letter, Members of the Board, which I sent to
4 all of you from the Law Office of Fred
5 Brewington.

6 And, we are going to make this letter
7 apart of the official record of the
8 Commission, at this time.

9 (Whereupon, "Can it be read aloud,"
10 was called out from the audience. After, the
11 following ensued.)

12 TOWN ATTORNEY MACCARONE: The letter
13 speaks for itself.

14 It is in the record.

15 (Whereupon, "read the letter," was
16 heard calling out from the audience. After,
17 the following ensued.)

18 TOWN ATTORNEY MACCARONE: It is ten
19 pages long. Mr. Brewington I expect to be
20 here.

21 First speaker is Michael Torre.

22 MICHAEL TORRE: Thank you very much.
23 Mr. D'Agostino, I am happy to hear that you
24 feel better for this Hearing.

25 My name is Michael Torre and I spoke

1 at a bunch of successive Hearings, now.

2 So, some questions I have, Tuesday you
3 said there was going to be a working Meeting
4 that the Public would be able to attend, is
5 that correct?

6 Please, stop my time.

7 TOWN ATTORNEY MACCARONE: That is
8 correct.

9 MICHAEL TORRE: When is that Meeting
10 expected to be scheduled?

11 TOWN ATTORNEY MACCARONE: Tuesday at
12 10:30, here, at Town Hall.

13 MICHAEL TORRE: Next Tuesday?

14 TOWN ATTORNEY MACCARONE: Tuesday.

15 MICHAEL TORRE: That would be the 17th
16 at 10:30 a.m., is going to be open to the
17 Public, a working committee hearing with the
18 Commissioners and yourself and the
19 Stenographer and the Consultant?

20 TOWN ATTORNEY MACCARONE: There will
21 be a Work Session at 10:30 on Tuesday.

22 I am not going to tell you who or who
23 isn't going to be here.

24 MICHAEL TORRE: Why not?

25 We are paying for them. We, as

1 taxpayers, are paying for them.

2 We have a right who is going to be
3 there.

4 How many expected - - once this map or
5 whatever is done from the Working Meeting is
6 completed, how long can the Public expect
7 until it is introduced to the Administrative
8 Calendar?

9 How many Hearings will there be once
10 it has been?

11 TOWN ATTORNEY MACCARONE: I expect the
12 Town Board, once they get the final map, they
13 will review it and they will set a schedule
14 pretty quickly.

15 MICHAEL TORRE: Do you know how many
16 or minimal Hearings the Public will have in
17 front of the Town Board Members?

18 TOWN ATTORNEY MACCARONE: It is the
19 intent of the Town of Hempstead Town Board to
20 comply with all the Federal and State
21 Statutes with regard to this.

22 MICHAEL TORRE: There is no date by
23 which this process is expected to be
24 finished?

25 TOWN ATTORNEY MACCARONE: I would

1 expect it will be finished at some point in
2 the next month or so because the election
3 process for 2023 will begin.

4 MICHAEL TORRE: Okay, I would like to
5 thank you very much for answering those
6 questions.

7 I would like to say this map is flawed
8 in almost every way.

9 The map for that proceeding was flawed
10 by only creating one majority/minority
11 District.

12 There are clearly enough residents of
13 a protected class to create three
14 majority/minority Districts, here, in the
15 Town of Hempstead based on the changing
16 demographics.

17 This map is a joke.

18 The fact that none of you guys respond
19 to anything that anybody out here says at
20 successive Meetings, on the record, is also a
21 joke.

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

24 MICHAEL TORRE: I want to point out
25 that on the website the plans are incredibly

1 hard to use.

2 I know that people can't actually
3 scroll to see where the district boundaries
4 lie and so I would ask if there was a way
5 that the materials on the website could be
6 more accessible to the public that be made
7 possible.

8 And that is everything I have for now.
9 So, I thank you very much.

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

12 TOWN ATTORNEY MACCARONE: Alcena
13 Goosby.

14 ALCINA GOOSBY: Good Evening.

15 I just have one comment regarding - -

16 TOWN ATTORNEY MACCARONE: Not to
17 interrupt, could you give your full name and
18 address.

19 ALCINA GOOSBY: Alcina Goosby,
20 Hempstead, New York.

21 Does that suffice?

22 TOWN ATTORNEY MACCARONE: Yes.

23 ALCINA GOOSBY: Um, I am aware that,
24 um, Uniondale is proposed to, um, be taken
25 away from Deputy Supervisor's Councilmanic

1 District.

2 It is very upsetting to not only
3 myself but the residents who fought to have
4 people's representation by a person of color.

5 As you remember, there was Goosby
6 versus the Town of Hempstead lawsuit that was
7 brought in the 1988 and it took 11 years for
8 that case to be won.

9 It is very important that the
10 residents be represented by a person who
11 looks like them, who knows what is at stake
12 and continues to fight for them.

13 I don't know how many people were here
14 for, um, Councilwoman Goosby, Deputy
15 Supervisor's Annual Kwanzaa event.

16 It was her 21st year and Uniondale
17 High School Choir performed.

18 Um, a tape of that performance was
19 sent to the Chairman of the Board of Carnegie
20 Hall who happens to be Robert F. Smith, the
21 richest African American in the country and
22 Uniondale Show Choir made history and
23 performed at Carnegie Hall two days later.

24 That is the kind of thing and kind of
25 show of talent, genius that Dorothy Goosby is

1 known for and continues to be known for.

2 And, I wanted to make that statement
3 to make sure we are not going to rollback the
4 progress that was achieved in Goosby versus
5 Town of Hempstead and that is what I have to
6 say.

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

9 TOWN ATTORNEY MACCARONE: Barbara
10 Heffner?

11 BARBARA HEFFNER: Good Evening.
12 Barbara Heffner (phonetic spelling), West
13 Hempstead.

14 Um, I really didn't come in here with
15 any plans to speak but as I sit here and I
16 look at this map and I think about everything
17 that has been going on politically in our
18 country and being involved in things that I
19 do with my union and workshops and on
20 antibiotics, I have to say as a human being, as
21 someone that I know needs to be able to
22 understand and see people for who they are
23 and what we can do for them, this map doesn't
24 do it.

25 And, I just look at this and say how

1 can you justify this, you know, it is all
2 about politics.

3 It is not about the people that we are
4 living with and around. And if we don't get
5 this out of our head, we are in big trouble
6 real big trouble.

7 You saw it in Washington and now we
8 are going to do it here in our town.

9 And, it has to stop somewhere.

10 Why can't the Town of Hempstead, the
11 largest Township in the United states do the
12 right thing and set an example for the rest
13 of our country?

14 Thank you.

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

17 TOWN ATTORNEY MACCARONE: Thank you.

18 Alex Subaru? (phonetic spelling)

19 ALEX SUBARU: Hi, good evening.

20 Like Ms. Heffner, I did not come to
21 this meeting with the intent of speaking, um,
22 but after looking at this map, um, I have to
23 echo the sentiments shown by the others, you
24 know, having one majority/minority district
25 where there could be three, should be three,

1 um, makes a lot of sense.

2 Um, one could say that America's
3 spirit animal is the gerrymander.

4 It certainly looks like it.

5 We deserve better.

6 We deserve a lot better.

7 Um, the Town of Hempstead is not made
8 up of, you know, just the people who run it,
9 it is made up of the people who live in it.

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

12 ALEX SUBARU: We go to work. We do
13 our jobs.

14 We come home and what we really want,
15 we don't want more than just, you know, what
16 we need.

17 We need people who are responsive to
18 our concerns, make sure that the potholes are
19 filled in, make sure the traffic lights are
20 working, make sure that people get what they
21 need, make sure, you know, that the Town
22 Clerk can give us our parking passes.

23 I know I pay for my parking pass every
24 year, two parking passes, believe it or not.

25 Um, so, we are trying to do our best.

1 I think the Town needs to do its
2 best.

3 We need to support it and if we do not
4 get the response, get the, um, representation
5 we need, then, we will go to the ballot box.

6 And, if we can't get our, um, you
7 know, it taken care of there, we will be
8 happy to see you in Court.

9 Thank you.

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

12 TOWN ATTORNEY MACCARONE: Audrey
13 Phillips?

14 AUDREY PHILLIPS: Good Evening.

15 Audrey Phillips, Elmont.

16 Um, I am not even sure where to start.

17 The clock is going to be my guide.

18 The maps on the Internet are
19 completely illegible.

20 I am amazed in 2023, we don't
21 actually have maps that people can zoom into
22 and out of so that they can get a clear
23 picture of where these lines connect and not
24 connect.

25 So, that is just a technical

1 observation.

2 I don't know if I should be
3 reasonably, rational and speak about the fact
4 that we do need those three majority/minority
5 districts because I am not sure that anyone
6 up there or anyone that has helped to draw
7 these maps actually hear what people say.

8 I find myself living in a Town with
9 six districts, I think it is and those people
10 that create this map really should be telling
11 why it is that in a town that has six
12 districts that there is only one Democrat
13 elected or at least someone who is on paper a
14 Democrat in the district.

15 These are things, some rational
16 questions.

17 I never thought that I would move to a
18 community and find myself, you know, a
19 political circumstance in which my government
20 rules. It does in the Town of Hempstead and
21 in the County of Nassau, for sure.

22 So, there are people who are going to
23 come up here that are much more articulate,
24 much more intelligent than I am to speak
25 about the numbers, to talk about the

1 Democrats, but the truth of the matter is,
2 for me and pardon my language, I'm not sure
3 why I would want to lend my voice to a
4 process that is relegated to be sexual
5 masturbation.

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

8 AUDREY PHILLIPS: I am walking into a
9 polling station and I am putting my dot for
10 someone who I'm going to be voting for seems
11 to have been relegated, now, to just an
12 action of masturbation.

13 It might feel good, but it sure as
14 hell isn't going to get us any children.

15 (Whereupon, laughter was heard from
16 the audience. After, the following ensued.)

17 AUDREY PHILLIPS: Thank you.

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

20 TOWN ATTORNEY MACCARONE: Thank you.

21 (Whereupon, the three-minute bell
22 rang. After, the following ensued.)

23 TOWN ATTORNEY MACCARONE: Pearl
24 Jacobs?

25 PEARL JACOBS: Pearl Jacobs,

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Uniondale.

Welcome to Nassau County, Alabama.

I am going to - - I am going to point my question towards Mrs. Braizley, maybe, perhaps, you can improvise, perhaps.

I have a question, so, what is the purpose of taking Uniondale's Industrial and commercial area and putting it in District 2?

So, obviously, you heard what we said, we said keep Uniondale whole.

But, I just know you don't care and that is why it was done.

But, I pose this question, what is the purpose of taking Uniondale's Industrial and Commercial are and making it in District 2?

COMMISSION MEMBER BRAIZLEY: It is an excellent question.

And, Ms. Jacobs, I did not draw the maps.

The maps were just sent to us.

We are reviewing the maps and listening to your comments.

My question about that was because the point was all the people that have to vote

1 are still in one cluster.

2 My question is, why would you want one
3 person to represent the people and someone
4 else to represent the resources of the
5 people?

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

8 COMMISSION MEMBER BRAIZLEY: So, we
9 are in the process of listening to you.

10 Well, while we are listening, it does
11 not mean that we are not looking at the plans
12 and we are not reading and listening to your
13 concerns.

14 And, when we have our working meeting
15 as a group, we can discuss those things
16 together.

17 We haven't had a meeting as a group as
18 of yet.

19 But, the maps were not drawn by the
20 Committee people that are sitting, here.

21 The maps were drawn by a company that
22 was, um, outsourced by the Town and, now,
23 this is our opportunity as a Town to look at
24 and listen to the constituents and, then,
25 make those decisions.

1 So, I agree with you, Ms. Jacobs.

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

4 PEARL JACOBS: This map further
5 disenfranchises an already disenfranchised
6 community, okay.

7 And, my answer to that is this is - -
8 this map is drawn like that and I know they
9 get feedback from the Council people and
10 whoever is involved in overseeing this map,
11 the answer to that is to remove Uniondale tax
12 revenue, that is the reason to remove the
13 money from Uniondale and to gerrymander our
14 funding for future tax revenue.

15 That is exactly what this is about, to
16 remove our tax dollars.

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

19 PEARL JACOBS: It is all about money.

20 And, this environment that we live
21 here in Nassau County, Town of Hempstead is
22 political prostitution, that is what it is,
23 politicians are prostituting themselves just
24 to stay in office.

25 (Whereupon, applause from the audience

1 was heard. After, the following ensued.)

2 PEARL JACOBS: And, I just want to add
3 a caveat to this, as the President of the
4 Civic Association of Uniondale for many
5 years, okay, I am not here to fight for
6 representation.

7 I am here to fight for our community
8 and to keep Uniondale, while I much less care
9 who represents Uniondale, as long as,
10 Uniondale is represented fairly and remains
11 whole.

12 Because they can put Attila the Hun,
13 ok, as a representative of Uniondale and it
14 will still hear my voice.

15 Thank you.

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

18 TOWN ATTORNEY MACCARONE: Jacob B.
19 James?

20 JAMES JACOBS: Good Evening, It is
21 really James B. Jacobs. Everyone says my
22 name backwards, the story of my life. No
23 love, no respect.

24 I am here and I didn't plan to speak
25 but here is the thing, just being a taxpayer

1 over thirty years in Uniondale, as a
2 resident, I look at what you did to Lakeview.

3 I look at what you did to Elmont. I
4 look at what you did to Baldwin.

5 I look at what you did to Hempstead
6 and Uniondale, where is the love like when I
7 first came out here thirty years ago?

8 This Nassau County, Town of Hempstead,
9 you constantly treat me like a second-class
10 citizen.

11 And, sometimes you get tired of that,
12 that is why I am so thankful that the John R.
13 Lewis Bill was passed by the State of New
14 York.

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

17 JAMES JACOBS: To show gerrymandering
18 is all about small, minorities and wanting to
19 control a majority that they have no
20 political inclination to recruit, respect
21 anything of that nature.

22 And, my thing is the taxpayer, my
23 dollar is just as green as any other area and
24 any other zip code.

25 And, I want you to show the same

1 amount of respect to us in the County and the
2 Town.

3 And, my wife did ask a good question
4 because if you look at the map of District 2,
5 it doesn't say Uniondale.

6 When it comes to marketing for some
7 reason or another when you Google, Uniondale,
8 Hempstead and Baldwin, there is always a
9 negative connotation.

10 When you go to Levittown, Garden City,
11 Salisbury, you get good reviews.

12 I don't understand that.

13 I do understand why it is done. You
14 constantly try to divide our citizens and I
15 get tired of it.

16 Please, do the right thing so we do
17 not have to bring a lawsuit to correct the
18 matter.

19 Thank you.

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

22 TOWN ATTORNEY MACCARONE: Thank you.

23 Patty Harris?

24 PATTY HARRIS: Patty Harris of
25 Uniondale.

1 I have been in Uniondale since I was
2 about seven years old.

3 Now, I am fifty-seven, so, I have been
4 there a long time, as long as I can remember
5 being in Uniondale as a kid.

6 When we use to cross lines, that line
7 wasn't visible, that we were taught, you
8 can't cross over to Garden City.

9 But, now, Garden City wants to take
10 our Commercial area.

11 Now, the reason is because we are
12 wealthy in our land.

13 It is like when we were slaves, they
14 take because they know that we know how to do
15 what we have to do in order to live.

16 So, now that you want to take other
17 areas and add it onto Garden City because you
18 already have the building over there saying
19 it is "Garden City," when they are in
20 Uniondale.

21 Oak Street is Uniondale, but they have
22 Garden City zip codes because of this so
23 called line that you are doing.

24 (Whereupon, applause from the audience
25 was heard.

1 After, the following ensued.)
2 Now, Uniondale is rising up.
3 You can't do anything to us.
4 The only thing that you could do to us
5 is try to move us out, but guess what, that
6 is not working because, now, we have so many
7 people living in Uniondale, that want to come
8 to Uniondale.

9 They want to come to Hempstead.

10 They want to come to Roosevelt.

11 You know why?

12 Because we are a community that knows
13 how to rise.

14 So, over the weekend, I was watching
15 some movies about slavery because this is
16 what it reminds me of, it reminds me that
17 taking from us is the only way that would
18 make you more important in your area.

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

21 PATTY HARRIS: So, now - - so, now,
22 that we are gathering with people that want
23 to see the minorities and our people of color
24 to stay whole and I appreciate that they come
25 out in all races to help us to save our way

1 of moving to our dignity of having what we
2 work for.

3 Thank you.

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

6 TOWN ATTORNEY MACCARONE: Thank you.

7 Karen Montelbano?

8 KAREN MONTELBANO: Karen Montelbano,
9 Baldwin, Civic Association, Government
10 Liaison.

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

13 KAREN MONTELBANO: We appreciate the
14 Commission starting to listen to some of the
15 things we wanted, people have asked for,
16 like, holding these Hearings at this hour,
17 after work, providing feedback to those who
18 can't come, like doing things online, adding
19 stuff online.

20 So, we are asking you to listen to our
21 Number 1 request for Baldwin and that is to
22 keep Baldwin whole.

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

25 KAREN MONTELBANO: Right, now, we are

1 two districts but we are one zip code.

2 We are one School District.

3 We are one Census-designated place.

4 We want one voice for all and that is
5 not just the Baldwin Civic Association.

6 You should have received a letter from
7 the Baldwin Oak Civic Association asking for
8 that, as well.

9 We achieve that on State level.

10 The Skyline document that you have
11 posted online says, "cores of existing
12 districts, villages and towns should be
13 maintained."

14 How is that maintained in that
15 division?

16 We are diverse communities with
17 minorities.

18 The John Lewis Voting Rights Act, it
19 puts the burden on local governments with
20 records of discrimination to prove that
21 certain voting changes once harmed voters of
22 color before they go into effect, meaning,
23 voter dilution.

24 Consider some of the other areas you
25 could have included with us, South Hempstead,

1 Freeport, Baldwin share School Districts,
2 school students with them.

3 We have Sani-2 goes into South
4 Hempstead.

5 We have Rockville Centre going back
6 and forth with students, okay, even
7 Oceanside.

8 You got to keep Baldwin whole.

9 There is no reason for that division.

10 Thank you.

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

13 TOWN ATTORNEY MACCARONE: Thank you.
14 Ronald McManus?

15 Mr. McManus?

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

18 TOWN ATTORNEY MACCARONE: Reggie
19 Thompson?

20 Ms. Thompson?

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

23 TOWN ATTORNEY MACCARONE: Is it Rebbie
24 Charles or Charles Rebbie?

25 REGGIE THOMPSON: Good Evening,

1 everyone.

2 It really was not my intention to
3 speak at all this evening because I have been
4 to so many redistricting meetings throughout
5 last year but it is a shameful and disgrace
6 to know that this is 2023 and you still are
7 going to take us back to 1923.

8 Do you know what happened, January 6,
9 2023?

10 People of color worked very hard and
11 they burned the Town down because someone of
12 my color looked at someone who wasn't my
13 color.

14 So, when - - Fred Brewington knows
15 that I am a fighter.

16 When he comes here, I still will be
17 fighting with him because whatever this map
18 is, I haven't a clue.

19 I live in the Village of Hempstead.

20 I can't even show you were my Village
21 is right, now.

22 Yes, I am upset.

23 I am angry and I am mad.

24 And, I will be speaking to everyone
25 that I know who may not look like me all over

1 the United States.

2 I will be having conversations with my
3 friends that live in other States, so that
4 they will know what Nassau County is doing
5 because it is a sin.

6 It is a sin what is happening, here.

7 And, many people who feel that we are
8 not human beings, they need to know that we
9 have rights and we are not going to continue
10 to let this go and that is all I have to say.

11 Think about what you are doing because
12 the fight is beginning.

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

15 TOWN ATTORNEY MACCARONE: Thank you.

16 Charles Rebbie?

17 CHARLES REBBIE: Charles Rebbie,
18 (phonetic spelling), Roosevelt, New York.

19 I am here on behalf of John Lewis.

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

22 CHARLES REBBIE: John Lewis, all his
23 life, fought for equal rights in this United
24 States.

25 And, here we are and just destroying

1 what he had done.

2 I don't understand why Uniondale is
3 displaced because it has the Coliseum, I
4 understand that.

5 I understand that.

6 Um, Uniondale is displaced because
7 there is money here.

8 But, you cannot pull wool over
9 people's eyes, today, maybe you could do it
10 in the '50's and '60's.

11 But, now people that are educated,
12 people will stand for what is right.

13 And, if you don't believe it, look
14 around you.

15 People aren't taking things and
16 sitting down anymore, people are getting up
17 and speaking out, as you can see at this
18 moment.

19 We are not here to push anybody
20 around.

21 We are here to try - - not try, we are
22 here for rights of others.

23 We got children that are growing up.

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

1 CHARLES REBBIE: They are going to see
2 that what we allowed you guys to do, this
3 map, here, they will say, "Dad, why did you
4 allow that?"

5 And, I have to explain that.

6 I will tell you something, that Court
7 is very near.

8 And, when we get it to Court, I hope
9 the jury is going to understand.

10 What I understand, you just can't do
11 things like this in 2023.

12 Thank you.

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

15 TOWN ATTORNEY MACCARONE: Thank you.
16 Felix Procacci?

17 FELIX PROCACCI: Felix Procacci,
18 Franklin Square.

19 Since the last redistricting meeting
20 on January 3rd, the Town has yet to post
21 information about the Town's redistricting on
22 social media platforms but continue to post
23 information about the Town's Mulch Fest ad
24 nauseam.

25 (Whereupon, laughter was heard from

1 the audience. After, the following ensued.)

2 FELIX PROCACCI: The Town sent out an
3 email regarding today's redistricting meeting
4 but it was entitled, "Hempstead Town hosts
5 Three Kings Celebration."

6 The email contained five posts and
7 once, again, the information regarding
8 redistricting was put at the bottom of the
9 email proceeded by four other posts which
10 included the Three Kings Festival, the Mulch
11 Fest, Lacrosse, Animal Shelter and last,
12 Redistricting.

13 The Town can't even afford to send a
14 free email dedicated to this redistricting
15 process.

16 That shows, that speaks volumes.

17 Drawing a map is hard. Sending an
18 email is easy and you can't even do that.

19 So, that shows where management of
20 this Town is at, keep people away at all
21 costs.

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

24 FELIX PROCACCI: At the last meeting,
25 the Town Attorney interrupted me making a big

1 deal about how redistricting meeting was
2 Noticed on the front page of the website.

3 If this is such a great place, why
4 don't you put the Mulch Fest there and don't
5 put it on social media and put the
6 redistricting on social media instead.

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

9 FELIX PROCACCI: The Mulch Fest was
10 put on the front page, too, with a big banner
11 but not the redistricting meeting.

12 No banner for the redistricting
13 meeting because this is not important to you.

14 It is said that the Redistricting
15 Commission is listening to residents, not
16 only me, I would say the same thing, make
17 residents aware of this and you have done
18 little.

19 You just pay lip service to it.

20 It is sad you can't send a free email
21 for this by itself.

22 That shows where your management is
23 at.

24 That shows that you don't really want
25 fair maps for people.

1 You want to just railroad this. Shove
2 it down everyone's throat.

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

5 FELIX PROCACCI: Once, again, you need
6 to fix Democrats 2 and 3.

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

9 FELIX PROCACCI: Why does Franklin
10 Square stick out in the pink area?

11 I don't know if you had a kid draw it,
12 they would color pink until you reach the
13 line, the number of residents and go to the
14 next District, here.

15 You kind of went all over the place.

16 (Whereupon, the three-minute bell
17 rang. After, the following ensued.)

18 FELIX PROCACCI: Thank you.

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

21 TOWN ATTORNEY MACCARONE: Margaret
22 Marh?

23 MARGARET MARH: Good evening, my name
24 is Margaret Marh. (phonetic spelling).

25 I am from Merrick, New York.

1 Um, I just cannot believe that we are
2 discussing this right, now.

3 From the fractured, disgraceful
4 Republican Party in Washington that tries to
5 win at all costs to Nassau County sending
6 George Santos to Congress is such a disgrace.

7 I can't even believe it.

8 I mean I really am sick to my stomach
9 to then redistricting and putting forth lines
10 that are not fair to everybody that lives in
11 the areas is a disgrace.

12 You should be learning from what
13 happened or what is happening in Washington
14 and who you sent to Washington to give you a
15 clue to respect people, everybody.

16 It doesn't matter what color, respect
17 people, help them.

18 It is a disgrace and you should be
19 ashamed of yourself, if you can't figure that
20 out and do the right thing.

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

23 TOWN ATTORNEY MACCARONE: Mrs.
24 Pullman?

25 MRS. PULLMAN: Good evening, my name

1 is Mrs. Pullman.

2 I am a resident of Malverne, New York.

3 Thank you for the opportunity to speak
4 here today.

5 I am also a parent in the Malverne
6 School District.

7 First, I like to express deep concern
8 about the process getting here, the lack of
9 transparency and the speed with which this is
10 taking place.

11 On December 29, 2022 at 11:00 a.m. in
12 the mist of a holiday weekend, Notice was
13 posted on the Town of Hempstead website.

14 It announced that the proposed maps
15 along with the meeting on January 3rd and the
16 one tonight.

17 It is mindboggling to think that was a
18 reasonable amount of Notice for such an
19 important consequential meeting for our
20 communities.

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

23 MRS. PULLMAN: Furthermore, the
24 accessibility issues that have been raised
25 are stunning with the current proposed maps

1 being completely illegible.

2 However, the existing maps as posted
3 on the website are clear and legible, which
4 demonstrates that there is the capacity to
5 make legible maps for the website.

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

8 MRS. PULLMAN: Between the timeline
9 and accessibility, inaccessible information,
10 this process has all the markings of not only
11 being undemocratic but by design intended to
12 have, at least, a number of people involved.

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

15 MRS. PULLMAN: Secondly, as was
16 stated, many times, forty-seven percent of
17 the Town of Hempstead is made up of people of
18 color and the Town Board should, obviously,
19 more closely reflect that.

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

22 MRS. PULLMAN: Not only does the
23 proposed redistricting ignore the need for a
24 more representative Town Board, it is
25 literally separating communities with shared

1 interests, shared resources and shared
2 experiences.

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

5 MRS. PULLMAN: As a resident of
6 Malverne and frankly as a Latina, I like a
7 proposed district that includes Malverne,
8 Lakeview, Baldwin, Rockville Centre and
9 Freeport, just as a gander at something that
10 might be a little more fair.

11 For example, Malverne and Lakeview
12 share a School District.

13 We are on PTA's together.

14 We have organized interests together.

15 We collaborate as neighbors and we
16 share a mutual investment in our children's
17 education and our community's future.

18 These shared interests, the shared
19 resources and experiences should drive these
20 maps not partisan strategizing.

21 Without that, communities of color
22 will continue to lack the voice that we
23 deserve, that as taxpayers we deserve, as
24 human beings and citizens of these
25 communities and dividing it through these

1 lines that really works against community
2 interests.

3 I also want to add this is not just
4 about representation and communities of color
5 but representative leadership that is
6 invested in what matters most to the
7 communities that it serves and benefits
8 everyone.

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

11 TOWN ATTORNEY MACCARONE: Darlene
12 Allan?

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

15 TOWN ATTORNEY MACCARONE: Diana Mann?

16 DIANA MANN: I really wasn't going to
17 speak tonight, but listening to everybody,
18 basically, I am ready to cry.

19 I live in Baldwin.

20 I have been here for fifty-four years,
21 all right.

22 And, you are trying to separate our
23 Town.

24 You are trying to separate all the
25 Towns and make them all together.

1 I don't know what is going on with
2 that map.

3 It is horrible.

4 It is the most disgraceful map I have
5 ever seen.

6 And, I have no idea why you are doing
7 that.

8 (Whereupon, "Oh, I do," was heard
9 yelling out from the audience. After, the
10 following ensued.)

11 DIANA MANN: Oh, you do? I don't know
12 why.

13 This is so powerful, okay, living
14 where I live and it has just been a
15 wonderful, wonderful time.

16 My kids were born, here.

17 They grew up, here, okay.

18 I am still living here. I go and,
19 then, I start to look at this map and I am
20 saying you are breaking up our Town, why?

21 You are putting other towns together
22 and mushing this up.

23 This is not a way to do it. You
24 cannot do this.

25 This is the most horrible, horrible

1 map that I have seen.

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

4 TOWN ATTORNEY MACCARONE: Jen
5 Peretzky?

6 JEN PERETZKY: I am from Baldwin, um -
7 -

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

10 JEN PERETZKY: I want to talk about
11 the ability to share power that this is not a
12 zero-sum game that if my side gets something,
13 then, it is taken away from your side.

14 It doesn't have to be that way.

15 And, when, I think about it, um, what
16 can I say, I am Jewish.

17 We have, um, even if we are not
18 religious, we are impute with the idea of
19 repairing the World and this is the World in
20 disrepair.

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

23 JEN PERETZKY: My grandparents
24 immigrated to, um, possibly to escape with
25 their lives to escape oppression.

1 So many of my neighbors are one or two
2 generations away from oppression in Europe.

3 So, I don't like to see people that I
4 live with oppressed, um, and yet Republicans
5 seem to feel, "Well, I got mine and you are
6 not getting yours."

7 And, that is what the map reflects.

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

10 JEN PERETZKY: And, I said this the
11 last time, too, that, um, yes, we are 47.5
12 percent, um, people of color, um, in, um, in
13 Nassau County.

14 Um, I am not one, but, I am a person
15 and I feel for other people and I live among
16 the most wonderful people and very lucky.

17 Um, so, we should have three
18 majority/minority districts.

19 This might not be democratic one year.

20 Look, awe had a good surprise this
21 year.

22 You guys got Congress, for what it is
23 worth and how wonderful that is going to be
24 fore everyone, but - -

25 (Whereupon, laughter was heard from

1 the audience. After, the following ensued.)

2 JEN PERETZKY: Definitely
3 majority/minority districts and Baldwin
4 should be made whole, we, um, particularly,
5 um, because we are unincorporated.

6 We have been ignored, um, supposedly
7 we are getting, um, a large project that
8 would be both residential and commercial, I
9 believe it when I see it.

10 Um, someone will decide, "Well - -
11 (Whereupon, the three-minute bell
12 rang. After, the following ensued.)

13 JEN PERETZKY: "Let's go somewhere
14 else."

15 Who know and certainly, we will have
16 no choice in who the contractor is and
17 developer is, that has already been decided
18 away from us.

19 So, um, it is not a zero-sum game.

20 You can live, Republicans.

21 We, Democrats can live.

22 You can allow us to have a vote.

23 TOWN ATTORNEY MACCARONE: Thank you
24 very much. Thank you.

25 JEN PERETZKY: Thank you.

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

3 TOWN ATTORNEY MACCARONE: Tom Tidman?

4 TOM TIDMAN: Good evening, thank you
5 for this opportunity to speak.

6 I am encouraged by all the people that
7 have come out.

8 This is, by custom, some of the groups
9 I belong to, acknowledgement of our neighbors
10 and brothers and sisters that were here
11 before, um, we came onto this Island.

12 TOWN ATTORNEY MACCARONE: Thank you.
13 Could you give your name?

14 TOM TIDMAN: Tom Tidman, West
15 Hempstead, um - -

16 TOWN ATTORNEY MACCARONE: Thank you.

17 TOM TIDMAN: There is a song I grew up
18 with called "For what it is Worth."

19 And, the son says, um, in the song's
20 lyric, it is mostly saying, hooray for our
21 side.

22 And, I am part of a number of groups
23 that are trying to work towards unity, um,
24 and I do this, especially, for our young
25 people.

1 We heard one woman mention the
2 importance of children and finding ways to
3 work together for their good.

4 What kind of example is the largest
5 Township in the Country giving to our young
6 people when the divisive nature of our
7 politicians is constantly in social media and
8 everywhere else that they look?

9 Um, we said at the beginning of our
10 gathering that, "We are one Nation
11 indivisible," well, as I remember,
12 indivisible means you don't divide it up.

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

15 TOM TIDMAN: And, the Town of
16 Hempstead is multicultural.

17 I mean that is the beauty when I look
18 across the street.

19 I live by GW Elementary School and in
20 the morning I see parents walking their
21 children to school.

22 And, I see people with Yamakas,
23 Turbans and Saris, all of these varieties and
24 to me it encourages me.

25 I want to live somewhere - - the other

1 day there was a beautiful rainbow in our own.

2 It was an end-to-end rainbow filled
3 with those colors.

4 What I really like about this
5 opportunity to talk is that we have this
6 beautiful, diversity of food and music and
7 religions and political views.

8 Let's use them together. Let's blend
9 them together so that we can have a place for
10 our children that they will want to come back
11 and won't want to move away.

12 And, really our political leader have
13 the opportunity to set the example and come
14 to the table together.

15 So, I just encourage all of us to find
16 ways to build unity rather than division.

17 Thank you.

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

20 TOWN ATTORNEY MACCARONE: Thank you.

21 David Sweet?

22 DAVID SWEET: Good Evening. My name
23 is David Sweet.

24 I have been in Uniondale for almost
25 forty years and this is my first time coming

1 here in a while.

2 I wasn't aware of the redistricting
3 which, I believe, somebody had expressed
4 before.

5 And, I got this from an email from a
6 friend about tonight.

7 And, then, I heard Dorothy Goosby
8 speak on Saturday at an event and it
9 reinforced that.

10 Um, most of what I had wanted to
11 express have already been viewed already.

12 Um, one thing that I do agree with is
13 that there seems like a modern political
14 Tulsa - -

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

17 DAVID SWEET: And, we don't need that.

18 We just don't need that.

19 And, what I hear about Dorothy Goosby,
20 who has been a friend to the Uniondale
21 community for as long as I can remember.

22 I have to ask myself why, what is the
23 benefit?

24 And, then, like anything else, you
25 have to follow the money.

1 And, I read over the weekend about
2 this casino that is starting to happen right
3 there at the HUB, right there at the Nassau
4 HUB.

5 And, I said, there it is.

6 That is why they want to do this. It
7 is the way politics work, isn't it?

8 So, and I just want to put that out
9 there, when I saw that, I said, follow the
10 money.

11 Thank you.

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

14 TOWN ATTORNEY MACCARONE: Thank you.
15 Monique Davis?

16 MONIQUE DAVIS: Good evening. My name
17 is Monique Davis.

18 I am from Hempstead. The secretary of
19 the Hempstead Branch of the NAACP.

20 And, unfortunately, President Powell,
21 she couldn't make it but I am here speaking
22 on behalf of my Village of Hempstead people.

23 And, these preliminary maps, unjustly
24 and disproportionately affect the communities
25 of color and their dollars by dividing our

1 power, which, in turn, affects who gets
2 elected to advocate for our rights, our tax
3 dollars and our communities.

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

6 MONIQUE DAVIS: This painstaking long
7 and confusing process that we have to endure
8 to get to these maps that still need to be
9 fixed.

10 We must start putting people over
11 politics, over political parties.

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

14 MONIQUE DAVIS: And, the Town of
15 Hempstead should and can do what is right,
16 right, now.

17 Thank you.

18 TOWN ATTORNEY MACCARONE: Thank you.

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

21 TOWN ATTORNEY MACCARONE: Joanne
22 Phillips?

23 Ms. Phillips?

24 JOANNE PHILLIPS: Good Evening. My
25 name is Joanne Phillips. I am with the NAACP

1 of Hempstead.

2 And, my thing is this, a couple of
3 years ago, we had a pandemic and that
4 pandemic was to get a sense from a higher
5 power because he wasn't satisfied.

6 He is not satisfied with what goes on
7 down, here.

8 He walks among us.

9 He talks to us through people that try
10 to get us on the right track but we don't
11 listen.

12 We do what we want to do and we got to
13 learn one thing, there is a higher power that
14 is trying to get our attention.

15 And, he wants us to get it right
16 because if you don't get it right down here,
17 believe me, there is some place that you
18 would go and don't want to go there.

19 So, you get it right, right down here.

20 We got to have more love and affection
21 and encouraging each other and our kids.

22 Are we setting a good example for
23 them?

24 No, we are not.

25 I have a five-year old who says,

1 "Nani, you didn't hit the right button."

2 Well, you got to learn to do the right
3 thing.

4 I said, "You are so right."

5 A baby can tell us to acknowledge we
6 don't even know.

7 They come here from their Mother's
8 womb telling us how to work certain things
9 and we don't even listen to them, a baby.

10 My daughter, my granddaughter, great
11 grandkids, could make a better map to come
12 here to do a map.

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

15 JOANNE PHILLIPS: Let the kid draw the
16 lines.

17 I guarantee you they will draw black,
18 white, green, yellow, red and they have all
19 the colors because they are colorblind.

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

22 TOWN ATTORNEY MACCARONE: Thank you.

23 Doreen Davis?

24 Tamara Bailey?

25 TAMARA BAILEY: Hi, my name is Tamara

1 Bailey.

2 I am representing Elmont and Elmont
3 Cultural Center.

4 So, Long Island has always been about
5 lines, drawing the lines, redlining on Long
6 Island, um, so Long Island knows very well
7 how to separate people.

8 To this date, out of two hundred and
9 ninety-one communities on Long Island, Black
10 people only live in a majority of eleven to
11 this day.

12 Long Island has a long history of
13 prejudice and when you are looking at these
14 maps, you can clearly see the prejudice.

15 You can see the prejudice in the
16 representation of the Town, unfortunately.

17 And, this is not anything to get at
18 the Republicans or the Democrats because to
19 be clear, that is the way it is set up with
20 both parties but the Democrats can fight a
21 little bit harder.

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

24 TAMARA BAILEY: Um, Elmont has been
25 redistricted into an area with Salisbury.

1 I never heard of Salisbury and I am
2 sure most people from Elmont has never heard
3 of Salisbury.

4 (Whereupon, laughter was heard from
5 the audience. After, the following ensued.)

6 TAMARA BAILEY: I don't even know
7 where it is.

8 I think I might have past it on the
9 Long Island Railroad, I don't know.

10 To put us with the Towns that we don't
11 even know, we couldn't even point it out on a
12 map is unfair.

13 And, then, when you look closer at the
14 demographics, Salisbury is only one percent
15 Black, that doesn't make sense.

16 And, Uniondale, in the newly proposed
17 map, Elmont and Uniondale and North Valley
18 Stream, um, is within the map and, then, the
19 majority of White Republicans, upper middle
20 class area, that is the majority in that map.

21 And, um, like someone said earlier, it
22 is like we are being represented for the
23 resources but nobody wants to hear the people
24 that is actually from these areas because you
25 have the Industrial area of Uniondale.

1 You have the newly-built arena that
2 people in Elmont fought against that we are
3 not benefiting from right, now.

4 We - -

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

7 TAMARA BAILEY: So, I am asking all of
8 you that is on the Committee, I know Mrs.
9 Braizley, you are a fighter.

10 And, I know I trust and believe you
11 have the best interests of the people of
12 color but I am disappointed in the Tonw that
13 they would have such an incompetent person
14 making a map.

15 So, when making maps - -

16 (Whereupon, the three-minute bell
17 rang. After, the following ensued.)

18 TAMARA BAILEY: I want to say one more
19 thing when making the maps, think ab out its
20 competency of where School Districts are.

21 School Districts are not separated but
22 also cultural competency is something that is
23 very important, especially in 2023.

24 Thank you.

25 (Whereupon, applause from the audience

1 was heard. After, the following ensued.)

2 TOWN ATTORNEY MACCARONE: Ms. Johnson?

3 MIMI JOHNSON: Good Evening. My name
4 is Mimi Pear Johnson.

5 I am telling you I was so happy when I
6 saw Fred Brewington and Michael Perdy come
7 into the room.

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

10 MIMI JOHNSON: Because I know they
11 will speak to all the legal stuff, so, I
12 guess I get a chance to say the personal
13 stuff that sometimes people don't realize.

14 So, in 2013, one of the things that I
15 was very happy about, I was so, um, civically
16 engaged and so happy in Elmont.

17 We had nine Civics that - - nine
18 fantastic, fighting Civics for our community.

19 And, when we fought for this, um, for
20 Elmont, you know, I was so naïve, I thought I
21 would get a chance to participate in
22 something called "redistricting."

23 I thought I would get a chance to
24 participate in the census and, now, I can
25 draw maps.

1 Oh, this is really good and we started
2 talking and something that I saw ten years
3 ago, it wasn't like this.

4 Everybody was just fighting for their
5 own little personal block.

6 Now, we have such a diversity in ten
7 years, such a diversity, everybody is
8 fighting.

9 Everybody is fighting. Bellmore, oh,
10 God, thanks. Oh, my God, thank you so much.

11 What that says is there is a trend
12 that is changing.

13 So, what that map is trying to do,
14 sooner or later, it is not sustainable.

15 So, there is something that I thought
16 about and I am glad I don't have to talk
17 about the legal stuff, right.

18 Garden City has a reputation of not
19 having affordable housing.

20 Remember the lawsuit they lost?

21 There is no affordable housing.

22 There is no diversity, as far as, what
23 we would like to see on Long Island.

24 But, now, I am in there, I think I
25 should start going to those Meetings.

1 I think we should start being more and
2 more equals.

3 This is what is happening right, now,
4 because that is what you are going to force
5 to happen in a bad way.

6 We are asking you to do it in a good
7 way, in a good faith way.

8 So, I live in Elmont where there is an
9 Arena that doesn't benefit me, the people
10 that live across the street from - - like Ms.
11 Bailey said, they have garbage on their
12 lawns.

13 People are blocking their driveways.

14 But, guess what, most of the people
15 that come to the Arena or Belmont Racetrack
16 when they leave, we have to deal with it.

17 So, the Town of Hempstead, you are
18 responsible for our daily things.

19 So, sanitation, every time I see a,
20 um, a streetsweeper, I take a picture of it
21 because it is so illusive, right.

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

24 MIMI JOHNSON: We are not like other
25 Towns.

1 I can drive without dodging the
2 potholes.

3 Right on Village Avenue, there are two
4 big holes.

5 I have to call the Town to come and
6 fill it up.

7 Well, I am tired of the filling up.

8 I am tired of fighting for what we
9 should have, what we don't have.

10 During the Summer, 7th Avenue in Garden
11 City is closed.

12 I love it.

13 I can't go there because I look weird
14 there.

15 (Whereupon, the three-minute bell
16 rang. After, the following ensued.)

17 MIMI JOHNSON: Everyone is mingling
18 together, drinking in the area and this is
19 the kind of life - - this is the kind of life
20 that we are fighting for, but, we are not
21 getting.

22 And, the system stays in place to make
23 sure that we don't have that kind of life,
24 that we don't - -

25 (Whereupon, applause from the audience

1 was heard. After, the following ensued.)

2 MIMI JOHNSON: We work hard.

3 We work hard. This is the way you
4 want the system.

5 Okay, let's learn ab out it. We are
6 here.

7 TOWN ATTORNEY MACCARONE: Thank you,
8 Mrs. Johnson.

9 MIMI JOHNSON: Guess what, three
10 minutes, I understand and want to respect
11 that, but, I only have this time and another
12 ten years I wouldn't have it.

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

15 MIMI JOHNSON: The people that used to
16 fight ten years ago, some have passed away.

17 In Elmont, most of the Civics, there,
18 are only two Civics, now, that is actually
19 active, two and a half.

20 You know why?

21 Because the fighters are tired.

22 One of the saddest things I heard from
23 a Civic Leader told me, "Mimi, I am so tired
24 of making lemonade out of lemons," that is
25 what is happening.

1 You are wearing us down.

2 So, I say to the Commission, you
3 didn't draw this map, but the person that
4 drew the map is the same person on the
5 Legislative level.

6 He said he didn't consider - - on the
7 legislative level, he didn't consider our
8 testimonies, that is who drew your map, here,
9 for the Town.

10 He didn't consider us.

11 He said it. He did not consider us.

12 TOWN ATTORNEY MACCARONE: Thank you
13 very much.

14 MIMI JOHNSON: He doesn't consider us
15 and I am telling you our mindsets have
16 changed.

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

19 MIMI JOHNSON: Our mindsets have
20 changed.

21 TOWN ATTORNEY MACCARONE: Thank you.

22 Bob Barker?

23 BOB BARKER: Good Evening, everyone.

24 My name is Bob Barker and I represent
25 Elmont.

1 Um, I am, here, to actually concur
2 with most of the sayings, here, tonight in
3 reference to the redistricting of the maps
4 that is being proposed.

5 Elmont must remain whole.

6 It is very important that we have
7 Elmont as being transformed right, now, with
8 the new, UBS Arena and Belmont Racetrack,
9 but, again, we don't receive any kind of
10 entities in terms from these businesses.

11 Again, this map should be revised and
12 make sure that Elmont remains whole.

13 Thank you.

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

16 TOWN ATTORNEY MACCARONE: Ellie Wall?

17 (Whereupon, "She is coming. Give her
18 a minute," was heard called out from the
19 audience. After, the following ensued.)

20 TOWN ATTORNEY MACCARONE: Okay.

21 (Whereupon, "I am speaking for my
22 ancestors," was heard calling out from the
23 audience. After, the following ensued.)

24 ELLIE WALL: My name is Ellie Wall. I
25 am eighty-one years old.

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

3 ELLIE WALL: In High School, President
4 Kennedy said, "Ask not what your Country can
5 do for you, but what you can do for your
6 Country."

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

9 ELLIE WALL: In the United States of
10 America, I am African American, born in the
11 United States.

12 I am eighty-one years old. I had good
13 fortune to meet some of the greatest leaders
14 in this County in all walks of life, all
15 nationalities.

16 And, in High School and in Freeport, I
17 didn't have one Black teacher from Elementary
18 School or High School.

19 I attended Mormon State College.

20 People said, "How are you going to go?
21 How are you going to make it?"

22 My Mother said, "Do your best."

23 My sister said, "Don't count on any
24 teachers to teach you."

25 And, my Father said, "That stuff is

1 "going to get you nothing but trouble."

2 (Whereupon, laughter was heard from
3 the audience. After, the following ensued.)

4 ELLIE WALL: We are citizens of the
5 United States of America, pay Federal, State
6 and Local taxes.

7 It is the responsibility of this
8 government, whether it is Republicans or
9 Democrats in office, we pay.

10 Everybody here pays taxes.

11 You cannot skip, because you won't
12 have your house, your home.

13 You won't have anything because I have
14 to pay money and I want to pay.

15 I want to pay my fair share.

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

18 ELLIE WALL: That is our
19 responsibility as good citizens of America
20 but we have a big responsibility, no
21 struggle, no victory, that is what I do.

22 My key thing is working with children,
23 letting them know life is what you make it.

24 You be the best you can be because you
25 are the future and it is up to you to read

1 and write.

2 Education, when I was teaching
3 kindergarteners, I tell everyone in Roosevelt
4 I teach, to come to school and get a good
5 education.

6 Listen and learn and read and write.
7 If I fall down, I can get back up.

8 I used to teach with right and left
9 hands, you got two hands, to eyes, you have
10 to build up your whole body and mind because
11 in this World you have to have the ability to
12 be willing to understand.

13 It is up to us to be an asset, to be
14 willing to make a difference wherever we go.

15 When I traveled all over the World,
16 they said, "how are you going to do it?"

17 Where there is a will, there is a way.

18 My key thing, I use tennis as a
19 vehicle to help with problems.

20 I teach tennis. I am still doing it
21 at 80 in Roosevelt Park and the little kids,
22 I have a good time with them because they are
23 trying to be the best they can be.

24 It is up to us as adults.

25 (Whereupon, the three-minute bell

1 rang. After, the following ensued.)

2 ELLIE WALL: And, being responsible,
3 that is very important.

4 I keep up with the news, I mean, what
5 is going on in Washington.

6 Last week was an insult but the key
7 thing about that it is not about - - it is
8 about our Country.

9 It is our World. It is up to us to
10 make a difference in this World.

11 If I can go to college and my Mother
12 went to the 3rd grade and my Father went to
13 the 8th grade and one came from South Carolina
14 and one came from Florida and I am in a worst
15 condition, I came from Long Island.

16 And, I was determined to make a
17 difference in all my classes, in all my
18 programs.

19 I was fortunate to be involved with
20 sports and community where you work together
21 and shared in everything like that.

22 So, you have each one of us to be an
23 advocate for freedom, justice and equality.

24 I am 81, I have had a fair life.

25 I met Dr. King.

1 I have been to jail. I have been to
2 prison as an activist in the 60's.

3 People said, "You went to jail, you
4 won't be able to get a job."

5 If I don't make a change, we will have
6 no jobs.

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

9 ELLIE WALL: Stand up, President said,
10 you go up there to that demonstration at
11 Morgan in Baltimore, Maryland, I will be put
12 out of school.

13 First of all, I knew I had to get off
14 campus.

15 If I don't show up at night in the
16 dorms, they would put me out of school.

17 So, I took two buses until my Senior
18 year so I wouldn't be put out of school while
19 demonstrating.

20 I was an involved activist.

21 Every weekend we went out around
22 Baltimore demonstrating for freedom, justice
23 and equality.

24 A lot of people were from Connecticut.

25 Let me tell you when I went to

1 Maryland, students from Freeport High School
2 that I went to, was there.

3 You know why we went to Maryland and
4 Baltimore, Maryland because they said they
5 will kill Gwendolyn Richardson because she is
6 an activist there.

7 Here I am in Baltimore, Maryland,
8 Glenbury, Maryland, so, we went down there.

9 I thought I was in another Country.
10 People said, "Oh, it rained, busloads came,"
11 from everywhere, every nationality was there.

12 It started pouring down rain and a
13 White guy said, "Did God send the rain
14 because he didn't want us to struggle?"

15 When we went back to the church, we
16 realized a lot of people got beat up.

17 People threw stuff at him.

18 I said, "God sent the rain so we could
19 have another day to fight for freedom,
20 justice and equality."

21 TOWN ATTORNEY MACCARONE: Thank you.

22 ELLIE WALL: Life is what we make it.
23 Nothing promised us.

24 You are the reason why America is what
25 it is, the people sitting right, here.

1 It is up to us to make a difference.

2 TOWN ATTORNEY MACCARONE: Thank you.

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

5 TOWN ATTORNEY MACCARONE: Charles
6 Oliver?

7 CHARLES OLIVER: Charles Oliver from
8 Uniondale.

9 By the way, Roosevelt, New York, the
10 first thing I like to say, I am an United
11 States Veteran.

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

14 CHARLES OLIVER: In 1984, I went into
15 the Military to serve our Country.

16 The same thing I seen as I left to go
17 fight for the United States, I am saying is
18 going on right, here in our township.

19 I have been in Roosevelt and Uniondale
20 for over fifty years.

21 I am fifty-seven years old.

22 But, you have to be careful on how you
23 guys treat people in their past because the
24 same thing may come up in the future.

25 And, I say that, our leaders we

1 appoint, you guys to represent us and I am
2 going to say we can't change the people
3 around us, but, you guys, we will change the
4 people around us.

5 Saying that if you can't do what we
6 need you to do to fight for us, then, we need
7 to change you guys.

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

10 CHARLES OLIVER: So, just be careful
11 and I say this and I am coming from my
12 ancestors and the people from the past, we
13 have fought a long, hard road.

14 I remember when they uttered before,
15 we couldn't go to Garden City. We couldn't
16 go to Merrick.

17 Times are changing.

18 The people are awakening.

19 We need you guys to wake up and
20 realize what we are saying to you guys that
21 we need you all to fight for us or we will
22 change you.

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

25 TOWN ATTORNEY MACCARONE: Thank you.

1 Bernise Wallace? Ms. Wallace?

2 BERNICE WALLACE: Good Evening. My
3 name is Bernice Wallace.

4 I am from Uniondale. I am from the
5 group, "I wasn't prepared to speak."

6 I just have some questions, so I am
7 kind of going to stick to my script but I am
8 listening to everybody.

9 I didn't realize what this Meeting was
10 all about.

11 I came here in support of Dorothy Goos
12 by, the Councilwoman who has been a pillar of
13 our community.

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

16 BERNICE WALLACE: As long as I can
17 remember, I talked to my kids and they say,
18 "Oh, yeah, Goosby," she always shows up to
19 all the events and very supportive and very
20 involved in our community.

21 And, it concerns me her jurisdiction
22 is going to be changing and I say, how can
23 you change a jurisdiction when she is an
24 elected official in the middle of, you know,
25 the year, the term?

1 You are going to take away her
2 jurisdiction and give it to somebody else,
3 that is not who we voted for and that
4 concerns me.

5 And, I also wanted to know what bylaws
6 existed that allow this to happen?

7 And, um, you know, we should be
8 alerted to, you know, what is going on
9 because that means that your vote doesn't
10 count.

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

13 BERNICE WALLACE: That is not what
14 voting is.

15 So, um, that is what my concern was
16 and also if, um, she was going to be given to
17 another jurisdiction, who is going to
18 represent us?

19 That was a big concern of mine.

20 Um, and as I am listening to everyone,
21 also, and I am learning about this, not
22 knowing it was about redistricting.

23 Just on a personal note, um, if I was
24 at work and I am in charge of something, my
25 Boss would say, "Okay, Bernice, you do this.

1 You do this."

2 He would give me, so to speak, he
3 would give me the map and I would do the map.

4 And, if I did a map like that and I
5 handed it in, he would say, "what is this?"

6 "It is not acceptable and you expect
7 me to go in front of everybody and give them
8 this? I will not have everybody ask me a
9 million questions. It doesn't make sense."

10 And, for you guys to have this, um,
11 put out, by whomever you hired and this is
12 representative of what you had to pay this
13 person and they put you out there, they put
14 you, you know, on blast with this, okay, to
15 have to face all of these people with all of
16 these questions without you guys even,
17 saying, giving it back to them, say, "Oh, no,
18 no, no."

19 Okay, if that is not what you are
20 doing, then, there is a hidden agenda, okay.

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

23 BERNICE WALLACE: Because you wouldn't
24 allow someone to put this out like that if
25 there was something else to benefit that you

1 don't think that we realize, but, we do
2 realize it because as someone said before,
3 "follow the money."

4 And, you want to break up Uniondale -
5 -

6 (Whereupon, the three-minute bell
7 rang. After, the following ensued.)

8 BERNICE WALLACE: - - into two parts
9 of Uniondale, so that they get the money and
10 the tax revenue and the resources, that is
11 not going to work.

12 Um, we are not going to stand for
13 that.

14 And, now that I know that this is kind
15 of like what it is about, I have been a
16 resident of Uniondale over thirty years.

17 All my children graduated from the
18 Uniondale School District.

19 They are all well-educated.

20 They are all College graduates. They
21 are all successful.

22 I want to make sure that continues
23 because I have grandchildren that are here
24 and I expect the same thing for them.

25 TOWN ATTORNEY MACCARONE: Thank you,

1 Mrs. Wallace.

2 Janine Maynard?

3 JANINE MAYNARD: Good Evening. First,
4 I would like to say, thank you to everyone
5 who is here and all the wonderful things that
6 are being said.

7 The Town of Hempstead really does have
8 a lot of assets and it is wonderful to be
9 part of that community that will step up.

10 Um, I am representing Uniondale.

11 I am part of the Greater Area Action
12 Coalition.

13 And, the last two Hearings I had
14 spoken on the map, problems with the
15 labeling.

16 Those labeling issues were corrected
17 on the map and the second occasion - - and
18 in the paperwork, it wasn't yet corrected.

19 So, it turned out that, you know, we
20 get half a solution and a back slap.

21 So, I come here, tonight, saying I
22 have experienced this map as half a solution
23 and a back slap.

24 You didn't divide us into more than
25 two districts.

1 However, by removing Deputy
2 Supervisor, Senior Councilwoman Goosby from
3 that area, you are definitely harming the
4 voice and unity of Uniondale.

5 We worked very hard to be a unified
6 Uniondale.

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

9 JANINE MAYMARD: We fought different
10 levels of the fight and we expected our
11 representatives to understand that.

12 And, what I see here in the separation
13 of the residents or the largest residential
14 portion from the largest commercial portion
15 and also one that has many of our
16 intellectual and cultural assets when you
17 separate those people from those spaces, what
18 are you doing?

19 So, I am going to revisit some of what
20 is going on.

21 At the Nassau HUB, Senior Councilwoman
22 was the Co-Chair of the Community Benefits
23 Committee.

24 She helped us have a voice and
25 stakeholders' portions in being able to say

1 what happened and what the hopes were of the
2 community.

3 What is the sense in removing her from
4 that area and giving the other representative
5 access to space that is not primarily
6 residential.

7 So, you can't claim it is about the
8 numbers of the people.

9 And, then, you dip down, that little
10 pink, dip down over there is RXR Plaza.

11 It is not residential.

12 This is not about representing the
13 voters.

14 What are you doing?

15 What are you doing when you separate
16 people from their assets?

17 All right, it is going public.

18 We know that they are considering a
19 casino there.

20 We don't have all of the facts, but,
21 darknet, we need our representation.

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

24 JANINE MAYNARD: It is time to do the
25 right thing make us whole.

1 (Whereupon, the three-minute bell
2 rang. After, the following ensued.)

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

5 TOWN ATTORNEY MACCARONE: Thank you.
6 Davis Sharpe?

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

9 TOWN ATTORNEY MACCARONE: Angela
10 Martino?

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

13 TOWN ATTORNEY MACCARONE: Tanya
14 Carter?

15 ANDRE STERNAN: I will take Tanya
16 Carters' spot.

17 TOWN ATTORNEY MACCARONE: Give your
18 name and address, please.

19 ANDRE STERNAN: My name is Andre
20 Sternan. (phonetic spelling.)

21 434 Nassau Road. Okay, so, what I
22 would like to say about this, I was asked to
23 come here, I didn't feel like coming here
24 because I got better things to do, all right.

25 So, I have been doing the African

1 American News T.V. for thirty years.

2 I started out with Public Enemy, as a
3 rapper and, now, I am an old rapper and I am
4 tried.

5 I am doing a movie that is "Last B.
6 Boy," and it is about the Roosevelt Roller
7 Rinks that you guys tore down and built
8 Valdor Court.

9 So, we can start there.

10 When you disenfranchise a community, I
11 will tell you what, you, as - - we used to
12 call you, "A Town of Apartheid."

13 I will tell you what you do when you
14 disenfranchise people, doing this movie about
15 the Roosevelt Roller Rink, we had to do our
16 research to make it as accurate as possible
17 because we wanted to know why Dr. J., Eddie
18 Murphy, Charlie Murphy, Public Enemy, Aaron
19 Hall, Baby Jerry from Full Force, Howard
20 Stern, we wanted to know what made Roosevelt
21 create all of these billion dollar Superstars
22 and it was the Roosevelt Roller Rink.

23 It was the Parks, Centennial Park, St.
24 Francis Street Park and the Park Henry Street
25 and Roosevelt Park and all of the youth

1 programs that were there, that is why you had
2 all of those mega superstars coming out of
3 that community.

4 When you do something like this, you
5 are killing all of the future people like
6 that.

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

9 ANDRE STERNAN: So, I am going to
10 document that.

11 We will also document what you did to
12 St. Francis Park which has been abandoned.

13 The first time I saw St. Francis
14 Street Park, I saw Professor Griff (phonetic
15 spelling) who was on the cover of Black Belt
16 Magazine in 1981, teaching Marshal Arts
17 Classes in St. Francis Street Park.

18 Right, now, the way you are doing our
19 community, it is padlocked.

20 It is padlocked for thirty years.

21 So, get it together because when we,
22 who are creators and performers, we don't
23 like wasting our time coming to these
24 meetings for these apartheid, racism moves
25 that you do on communities of color.

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Now - -

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

ANDRE STERNAN: Now, you tell me how this movie is going to end because you guys are just here in the Town of Hempstead but the Planet Earth is watching you.

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

TOWN ATTORNEY MACCARONE: My list has ended as far as people signing up.

I see Mr. Brewington is there.

We will get to everyone.

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

TOWN ATTORNEY MACCARONE: We will get to everyone.

Why don't you go.

CLAUDIA BEREKY: Claudia Bereky (phonetic spelling) from Merrick.

The census found that forty-seven percent of the Town of Hempstead are people of color, yet, a Commission comprised of two Republicans and one Democrat who only

1 represents seventeen percent of the Town's
2 population while leading us to these racially
3 discriminated maps meant to keep Republican
4 incumbents in office and keep communities of
5 color at bay.

6 At the last Hearing I spoke of how
7 these maps flagrantly violate the Voting
8 Rights Act of 1965, which prohibits the
9 redistricting plan that has a discriminatory
10 purpose or affect.

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

15 But, now, we have the John R. Lewis
16 Rights Act of New York which was only passed
17 last June of last year.

18 It specifically prohibits impairing
19 the ability of the members of a protected
20 class to elect candidates of their choice or
21 to influence the outcome of elections.

22 Violation is established if political
23 subdivisions creates districts wherein
24 candidates of electable choices preferred by
25 Members of the protected class would usually

1 be defeated or voting patterns are racially
2 polarized and under the totality of
3 circumstances, the ability of Members of the
4 protected calls to elect candidates of their
5 choice or to influence the outcome of
6 elections is impaired.

7 Placing Elmont in a district with
8 Garden City does just that.

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

11 CLAUDIA BEREKY: The Voting Rights Act
12 prohibits redistricting based on political,
13 racial biases.

14 The John R. Lewis Voting Rights Act
15 even more specifically rules that a Town must
16 allow the protected class to elect candidates
17 of their choice or to influence the outcome
18 of elections.

19 If the Town approves these proposed
20 maps, it is in serious violation of both the
21 Voting Rights Act.

22 Fair alternative maps were provided to
23 you by creating three majority/minority
24 districts, half of the population of the Town
25 of Hempstead will have the chance to elect

1 representatives to the Board.

2 It is not bad enough that my tax
3 dollars went to draw only one set of maps,
4 unlike they do two sets in the County.

5 I, again, ask you to reject the tax-
6 paid maps proposed here and consider maps
7 that fairly create three majority/minority
8 districts as 2023 Census warrants.

9 TOWN ATTORNEY MACCARONE: Thank you.
10 Amelia Archibold?

11 RESIDENT ARCHIBOLD: Good Evening,
12 everybody.

13 I really wasn't going to speak,
14 tonight.

15 It is truly an honor to be here.

16 My name is Bishop Archibold (as heard)
17 and I am from Elmont.

18 It is sad to see and hear each and
19 every one of you tonight speak and talk in
20 the manner that you are speaking about, the
21 gerrymandering and what is being done to all
22 of us as people.

23 And, really it excites me that there
24 are many diverse people of color here,
25 tonight saying the same thing, right.

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

3 RESIDENT ARCHIBOLD: As I was sitting
4 down and I heard the variety of people, men
5 and women getting up to talk, after this
6 Meeting is over, we all need to meet and get
7 together with Mr. Brewington and what we need
8 to show people, I think, you are the Attorney
9 for this situation, here, that is going on.

10 I have been watching you sir and I got
11 to tell you about yourself, you are rude,
12 disrespectful and condescending towards
13 every man and woman that got up, here and
14 spoke, no matter what color they were.

15 You ought to be a shammed of yourself.

16 We ought to be able to get rid of you,
17 take you of your position, that you out of
18 your seat because it is out tax dollars that
19 paid for people like you to sit up there.

20 I am just being straight up with you,
21 Bro.

22 I am a Disabled Veteran. I fought for
23 this Country and I have a right to tell you
24 what I am telling you.

25 You don't belong in that seat, you

1 don't.

2 I watched you just be condescending
3 and slay in your facials and body language
4 towards men and women as they got up, here
5 and talked and tried to tell you how they
6 felt.

7 You have no right to do that, none
8 whatsoever.

9 Mimi, you are right.

10 We are going up in Garden City. You
11 want to put us over there, they are going to
12 see me.

13 They are going to see me, Bro.

14 I am that guy.

15 I am that guy.

16 I am going to walk up in your Parks.

17 Don't tell me to get out of Garden
18 City.

19 Don't tell me to get out of Garden
20 City.

21 Let's see how far we get.

22 Friend, we are going to get together
23 with you, everybody, here.

24 Let's get together, Black, Brown and
25 Green, Yellow, let's work with Mr. Brewington

1 and take you all to task, that is what we are
2 going to do.

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

5 TOWN ATTORNEY MACCARONE: Will Foskey?

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

8 TOWN ATTORNEY MACCARONE: Lamont
9 Johnson?

10 LAMONT JOHNSON: Good Evening,
11 everyone.

12 My name is Lamont Johnson from
13 Hempstead.

14 I just want to say a few things.

15 I am not going to speak too much about
16 the map but I have been sitting here.

17 I have been watching the audience and
18 different people that spoke and I hear
19 terminology like minorities being put around
20 and when I am listening, it sounds like I am
21 listening to people from 1963 instead of
22 2023.

23 Everyone in this room has the ability
24 to stand up.

25 Everybody in this room has the ability

1 to say something.

2 You don't have to wait to be part of a
3 group to say something.

4 You don't have to wait for an Attorney
5 that you may feel that is spectacular to
6 speak for you.

7 There is two types of Court, there is
8 the court of public opinion, which this is
9 the court of public opinion.

10 People speak but that doesn't do much.

11 So, whatever you don't agree with you
12 have to get an Attorney, that will represent
13 you to get what you want.

14 That is the only thing way to make
15 change in the United States is by Court.

16 The Civil Rights Movement, everything
17 that happened, happened in courtrooms.

18 So, this is great, the public-opinion
19 thing but I want everybody to stop looking
20 down at yourself, people.

21 You sound like a bunch of oppressed
22 people in a minority thing and then you get
23 upset because a few people that don't look
24 like you are sitting here.

25 You pay the same taxes, probably more

1 than anyone in this room.

2 So, start thinking a little more of
3 yourselves.

4 That is my message to everyone, start
5 thinking more of yourself and forget about
6 the map because what many of us do, we put
7 boundaries on what we can do and who we are,
8 okay.

9 Get out the box, tear down your own
10 artificial lines.

11 We have these own boundaries and lines
12 that we allow people to use us, you know.

13 Just because you're Democrat, just
14 because you are Republican, just whatever you
15 are, doesn't make you a better person.

16 And, people fall into that.

17 We hear "Republican", we automatically
18 think, bad.

19 And, then, they hear "Democrat" they
20 automatically think good.

21 When the bottom line is like the young
22 man said before and he made a great point, he
23 made one of the greatest points, the thing in
24 Uniondale it is not about Black, Brown.

25 It is about one thing.

1 It is about green and once you
2 understand that, your vote is powerful. Make
3 it count.

4 Don't let anybody take advantage of
5 your vote, whether it is Democrat or
6 Republican.

7 And, the people, here, there are a lot
8 of people here that are very great in their
9 neighborhoods.

10 They are doing great things.

11 They are leaders. Stand up. You
12 don't have to wait for one person to stand up
13 and speak for you.

14 We all have the ability to stand up
15 and something, so, do something for your
16 people.

17 Do something for your community.

18 Thank you.

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

21 TOWN ATTORNRY MACCARONE: Thank you.

22 Ameil Veroni?

23 AMEIL VERONI: Ameil Veroni: (phonetic
24 spelling.) Valley Stream.

25 I just want to touch on some new

1 points that I didn't get to last time,
2 specifically Hamlets.

3 Um, I want to emphasize the need to
4 put Elmont and Valley Stream together, as
5 well as, making North Valley Stream whole,
6 which is not done in the proposed map, as
7 well as, making sure that Inwood residents
8 are represented by a full Five Towns.

9 As many people know, the Town of
10 Hempstead handles their roads, sanitation.

11 They already are not represented by
12 like-minded communities.

13 And, let's be frank, nobody comes out
14 and votes in Sanitation Elections.

15 So, they don't have a voice there.

16 When it comes to the Five Towns
17 splitting up, Woodmere and North Woodmere,
18 especially when they have a common School
19 District, does not make sense at all.

20 And, one of the good ways to, um, make
21 sure Hamlets are fully represented is to make
22 sure that the School Districts are together.

23 And, while it may not be required by
24 the law, it is something that will keep these
25 communities together.

TOWN OF HEMPSTEAD Redistricting Meeting 1.9.23 90

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

3 AMEIL VERONI: And, one of the cases
4 in point is that when the Town of Hempstead
5 IDA granted an unfair PILOT tax abatement to
6 Green Acres Mall, the residents of Valley
7 Stream had voice to speak out on the Town
8 Council.

9 And, that was going to cost them over
10 six million dollars out of their School
11 Budget.

12 And, the only voice that they had was
13 Nassau County Carrie Solage, who fought
14 against the Town of Hempstead.

15 And, Valley Stream District 30, which
16 was mostly affected includes North Valley
17 Stream, which you are splitting up in this
18 proposed map and that has residents that are
19 predominately people of color and they didn't
20 have a voice in the Town Council.

21 And, if they did, this would not have
22 happened.

23 And, lastly, I would just like to
24 touch on the point of the lack of
25 transparency.

1 I just checked all of the social media
2 accounts, Facebook, YouTube Instagram, you
3 name it, there is no posting on there.

4 Also, the lack of Public Hearings, two
5 Hearings before the maps and two after,
6 really shows that this process is a disgrace.

7 In addition, the Town of Hempstead,
8 also conveniently finds money to send out
9 mailers right before the elections to promote
10 their favorite candidates.

11 They never found money for the
12 redistricting process.

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

15 AMEIL VERONI: And, also, I like to
16 say I understand at the next working meeting,
17 the mapmakers won't be there.

18 And, I think that in and of itself is
19 a disgrace because they are paid by taxpayer
20 money.

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

23 AMEIL VERONI: And, it really shows it
24 is a shame the Town of Hempstead didn't even
25 follow Nassau County's process and many

1 people had complaints about that and just not
2 follow that standard really shows how this
3 process was rigged from the start.

4 And, unfortunately, I feel the only
5 remedy to fix this is through the Courts.

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

8 TOWN ATTORNEY MACCARONE: Thank you.

9 Charlene Thompson?

10 CHARLENE THOMPSON: Good Evening. My
11 name is Charlene Thompson.

12 I am an Attorney by profession and
13 have been a resident of Nassau County for
14 fifty-six years.

15 I have lived in Freeport, Roosevelt,
16 Hempstead Village, Uniondale.

17 I currently reside in Baldwin.

18 During that time, I have taken great
19 pride in servicing my community in many
20 capacities.

21 I also had the pleasure of serving
22 Nassau County government and what is, now,
23 known as the Office of Community Development
24 from 2002 until 2010.

25 And, the Incorporated Village of

1 Hempstead as Commissioner of Community
2 Development Agency from 2018 to 2021.

3 I have served under both Democratic
4 and Republican Administrations.

5 I have had the unique opportunity to
6 experience the interplay of local politics
7 and government from both sides of the aisle.

8 I have studied this interplay between
9 local politics and our government systems and
10 its impact on communities that have
11 historically been disenfranchised by Nassau
12 County.

13 And, as a Member of the Faculty of
14 Politics/Economics and Law Department at SUNY
15 Old Westbury, I also had the pleasure of
16 teaching a course called, "The Politics of
17 Race and Class," which examines the landmark
18 Case of Goosby vs. the Town Board of
19 Hempstead, where the at-large voting system
20 was found to have violated Section 2 of the
21 Voting Rights Acts of 1965.

22 The Town was, then, required to adopt
23 six, single Member Districts to be
24 in compliance with the equal protection clause
25 of the 14th Amendment.

1 And, today, I am here to bear witness
2 to what I have learned and hope what I,
3 personally, observed will shed light on those
4 proceedings.

5 Those in power will do whatever they
6 can do to stay in power.

7 Most often - -

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

10 CHARLENE THOMPSON: - - At the
11 expense of the historically disenfranchised
12 people, that warrants repeating, those in
13 power will do whatever they can to stay in
14 power, most often, at the expense of
15 historically disenfranchised people.

16 The 2020 Census has confirmed that the
17 Town of Hempstead, as well as, the County of
18 Nassau has become increasingly diverse.

19 Those demographic shifts within the
20 County and Town show that racial ethnics,
21 minorities, make up a politically significant
22 majority of the voting population in several
23 legislative and councilmanic districts.

24 We need only to look at the most
25 recent County-wide election to see the

1 significant impact of what has proven to be a
2 key-swing vote within those majority/minority
3 communities.

4 One of the many issues I have today is
5 the fact that we have an outside entity
6 trying to look at our communities.

7 Everyone who knows from any part of
8 the Country or any part outside of Long
9 Island knows Long Island is and the Town of
10 Hempstead and Nassau County is unique in its
11 composition and the individual personalities
12 or our communities.

13 You can't have someone outside coming
14 in and telling us how to divide up our
15 communities.

16 (Whereupon, the three-minute bell
17 rang. After, the following ensued.)

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

20 CHARLENE THOMPSON: I request a few
21 more second to make my final points.

22 And, so, when these outside entities
23 take a look at our communities, they don't
24 understand cultural similarities, political
25 similarities, racial similarities and

1 | affinities that unite us as communities.

2 | And, so, when we turn to these
3 | proposed redistricting maps on its face, we
4 | see that these communities have been carved
5 | up and what should be called, "the Incumbent
6 | Protection Plan."

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

9 | CHARLENE THOMPSON: Communities with
10 | natural geographic, social, cultural and
11 | racial, as well as, political alignments have
12 | been dismembered.

13 | I ask that this Commission make a
14 | greater effort to take this into account and
15 | look at the increasing diversity of the Town.

16 | Align common interest of our
17 | communities when we redraw those final
18 | redistricting maps.

19 | Thank you for your time and attention.

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

22 | TOWN ATTORNEY MACCARONE: Thank you.

23 | Tammy Williams?

24 | TAMMY WILLIAMS: Well, it is good to
25 | be home.

1 Tammy Williams, I am representing the
2 cultural center in Elmont.

3 I had the pleasure of actually running
4 for Town Council in 2015, so, we know all
5 about gerrymandering in Elmont because when
6 you're standing on one side of the street and
7 your neighbors can't even vote for you and
8 they actually went in the polls to vote for
9 you.

10 I said, "Welcome to gerrymandering."

11 So, ten years ago, five years ago and,
12 now, we are here in 2023.

13 So, I pose a solution to the beautiful
14 people in the room and thank you so much for
15 having us.

16 So, what do we do?

17 And, do we know?

18 We know that the system is broken.

19 We know the redistricting process is
20 secretive, partisan and political.

21 So, how do we fix a broken system?

22 And, this is what I tell my students.

23 We are going to create a solution and
24 we are all going to meet and we are going to
25 organize and we are going to take the power

1 away from the politicians.

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

4 TAMMY WILLIAMS: So, for example, we
5 can look at California, Michigan, Montana,
6 Ohio, Utah and I am here in New York State
7 which is the City of Syracuse, which has a
8 citizen-led non-partisan redistricting model
9 for best practices.

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

12 TAMMY WILLIAMS: So, you say,
13 "Professor Tammy, well, how does that work?"

14 It works like this, you have a
15 fifteen-member all volunteer, um,
16 Redistricting Commission, that would be
17 tasked to follow the Constitution and the law
18 and that means drawing districts roughly
19 equal in population, compacted, adjacent to
20 one another.

21 That means communities like Valley
22 Stream and Elmont, who share the same School
23 Districts. Dah.

24 Who didn't think of that?

25 The whole process will be open to

1 public participation, debate, the same way we
2 are doing, here.

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

5 TAMMY WILLIAMS: And, where do we
6 begin?

7 Oh, woe, community organizer,
8 implement a ballot initiative.

9 This is how you take away the power,
10 politicians, direct democracy.

11 We go and get our petitions signed,
12 right?

13 Everyone does, for office, why not get
14 a ballot initiative signed by the voters?

15 So, we will take the anxiety out of
16 the room and say, "Okay, we will put it on
17 the ballot in November."

18 And, this is what we will do to
19 eliminate the status quo.

20 We will implement this new model, one
21 that would create the balance between power,
22 between elected officials and citizens.

23 So, let's get to work.

24 We will roll up our sleeves. We will
25 enjoy this little process, here.

1 We will take it to Court and we will
2 also safeguard our democracy for our future.

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

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

7 TOWN ATTORNEY MACCARONE: Thank you.

8 Julie Parellis? (phonetic spelling)

9 JULIE PARELLIS: I am Julie Parellis
10 (phonetic spelling) from Hewlett.

11 And, I have been here for, in the
12 area, for twenty-three years.

13 I will be really brief because there
14 were so many amazing speakers here and I am
15 not one of them.

16 I just want to say the Five Towns
17 really can't be divided in the way you have
18 done it.

19 We need to look at the similar
20 lifestyles.

21 We need to look at a population
22 density.

23 We need to look at all of these
24 critical issues and we can't be placed with
25 the Towns that you have done and broken us up

1 into.

2 And, I just want to say we are all
3 looking at you.

4 Our eyes are on you.

5 I wanted to - - one of the things that
6 is really very upsetting to me, at this
7 meeting, is you have heard all of these
8 speakers talk about all of these critical
9 issues but we haven't heard from any of you.

10 And, one of the things that we haven't
11 heard is that you haven't told us why are we
12 redistricting?

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

15 JULIE PARELLIS: And, why have you
16 made the decisions that you have made?

17 There is an agenda, here, clearly and
18 we haven't heard from any of you about it.

19 And, I invite you, this is an
20 opportunity for you to stand up, here with
21 us, tonight and to tell us why were these
22 decisions made?

23 What was the rationale and the
24 thinking behind all of the many, many changes
25 that you made?

1 I invite you to do that. We would all
2 be very, very appreciative.

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

5 TOWN ATTORNEY MACCARONE: Thank you.
6 Eddie Funderberg?

7 (Whereupon, "what happened to the
8 answer," was called out from the audience.
9 After, the following ensued.)

10 TOWN ATTORNEY MACCARONE: Patricia
11 Mellizzio?

12 (Whereupon, "What is the purpose of
13 this Meeting," was called out from the
14 audience. After, the following ensued.)

15 PATRICIA MELLIZZIO: My name is
16 Patricia Mellizzio. I am from Merrick.

17 And, I need to tell you that this is
18 not equality.

19 This is not justice.

20 This is not a democracy.

21 And, how dare you try to pull it over
22 us, that. (Indicating.)

23 And, that needs to be changed.

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

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TOWN ATTORNEY MACCARONE: Sir?

ANTONIO KELLY: I really wasn't going to say anything.

Good Evening, this is not the decision-makers, you all.

So, don't attack them, okay.

They are the middleman, that is who they are but what I wanted to say is we come up here, they make us say the Pledge, right, "with liberty and justice."

For who?

For who?

(Whereupon, "for all," was called out from the audience. After, the following ensued.)

ANTONIO KELLY: "For all," so, where is the liberty and where is the justice?

And, then, we sing, "Oh, say does that star spangle banner yet wave or the land of the" - -

(Whereupon, "free," was chanted from the audience. After, the following ensued.)

ANTONIO KELLY: "And, the home of the" - -

(Whereupon, "brave," was chanted from

1 the audience. After, the following ensued.)

2 ANTONIO KELLY: Right, where is that?

3 Why do they make us do that if they
4 are not going to enforce that?

5 I mean - -

6 ANTONIO KELLY: That is not unity.

7 Right there, that is not freedom,
8 right there and we have to know who to attack
9 and it is not these people up, here.

10 They are the ears.

11 They are the ears. They are going
12 back because they are not elected officials,
13 right.

14 Just remember that, they are not
15 elected officials and I think some of you,
16 you all need to know that because I am
17 hearing the anger, but these are not the
18 people that you should be angry at.

19 They are here to get your information,
20 that is what they are here for.

21 That is what they are here for, that
22 is why this man records.

23 That is why I am livestreaming and
24 they maybe livestreaming this to take the
25 information back to the people who actually

1 makes the decisions.

2 They need to know we are angry.

3 Honey, don't get mad at me, I just
4 want the anger and energy to be directed at
5 the right people, that is all.

6 TOWN ATTORNEY MACCARONE: Sir?

7 ANTONIO KELLY: These are not the
8 people, that is all I am saying.

9 TOWN ATTORNEY MACCARONE: Sir, your
10 name for the record?

11 ANTONIO KELLY: Antonio Kelly.

12 TOWN ATTORNEY MACCARONE: Lisa Ortiz?

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

15 TOWN ATTORNEY MACCARONE: Meta
16 Mereday? Ms. Mereday?

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

19 Michael Konig? Michael?

20 META MEREDAY: Hang on a second.

21 TOWN ATTORNEY MACCARONE: I am sorry.

22 META MEREDAY: I will accept your
23 apology for, now.

24 Meta Mereday, Baldwin resident.

25 To Antonio's point and it just reminds

1 me, tomorrow, 10:30, Town of Hempstead, the
2 elected officials are here, so, carry it
3 over, bring it back, you know, like I said at
4 another Meeting, pack up the babies, the
5 Seniors, the lunch, show up and stand up.

6 (Whereupon, 10:00 o'clock, we are
7 working," was called out from the audience.
8 After, the following ensued.)

9 (Whereupon, "we can't show up," was
10 heard called out from the audience. After,
11 the following ensued.)

12 META MEREDAY: Stream it, stream it.

13 (Whereupon, "you can't hear my voice
14 if you are streaming," was heard called out
15 from the audience. After, the following
16 ensued.)

17 META MEREDAY: You are on my time, now
18 okay.

19 (Whereupon, laughter was heard from
20 the audience. After, the following ensued.)

21 META MEREDAY: I am working. I am an
22 advocate for Veterans.

23 If you can't show up, write it, okay.

24 Just today, I sent a letter off to the
25 Governor and I cc'd the Attorney General,

1 earlier today in the mist of caregiving.

2 Like the brother said, earlier, I am a
3 product of the Roosevelt School District.

4 Proud.

5 One of the reasons, when I was seven
6 years old, we had a teachers' strike and WABC
7 sent a news crew out to the school and we saw
8 the program on the news, 7:00 o'clock news,
9 WABC, the reporter stood in front of my
10 elementary school and said "from this poor
11 pocket of suburbia."

12 I come to tell you a story, I never
13 grew up in a poor pocket of anything.

14 I am a proud product of that wonderful
15 square mile knowns as Roosevelt, New York.

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

18 META MEREDAY: Now, I am in Baldwin
19 but I call myself a resident of the community
20 of underserved.

21 I am a 911 first responder. Don't ask
22 me why I went down but I was there, okay.

23 Got the red band to show all of my
24 conditions.

25 I stand with the forefathers, the

1 brothers that spoke.

2 I am Native Americans. I come from
3 Cherokee, Apache, Sequoias from South
4 Carolina, South Dakota and African Americans
5 and Native Americans, okay, had to work
6 together.

7 We have to work together instead of
8 the diversity in the room which is
9 substantial but, it is important, again, as
10 Antonio said, don't fight the middleman, go
11 to the top.

12 Go to the top. We are going to Court.
13 I am not wasting anymore energy talking about
14 this, now.

15 Nassau County maps are going to be
16 December 17th, again, in the daytime.

17 If we want to take it in the back,
18 they do it in the daytime.

19 (Whereupon, "January 17th," was called
20 out from the audience. After, the following
21 ensued.)

22 META MEREDAY: They are doing
23 something this month.

24 I said, "December" because that is my
25 month.

1 January 17th, be there or be square.

2 We are going to Court, that is a
3 given.

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

6 META MEREDAY: But it is how we are
7 going to be represented, not only in that
8 Courtroom, for the Town of Hempstead, but,
9 also, from Nassau County.

10 It starts, here.

11 Everybody is saying, "organize, show
12 up," okay, I know the people in the room.

13 I know the fighters in the room.

14 We are fighting ten years ago, okay,
15 to get our feelings hurt, so, this is not the
16 time to be divisive.

17 We have to work together.

18 We have to work collectively and we
19 have to work smart.

20 And, I will wrap up because I have
21 also been thrown out of this Chamber twice
22 and Nassau County a couple of times.

23 But, it is all good.

24 I just want to say, again, I am glad
25 to know that, that young man that almost died

1 on a football field, okay, Damar Hamlin, is
2 safely home in Buffalo, back in New York
3 State.

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

6 META MEREDAY: Lastly, there is an
7 African American woman fully credential, the
8 Clerk of the House of Representatives, Cheryl
9 Johnson, who held the gavel on this Country
10 through fifteen votes of foolishness that was
11 heard around the World.

12 She was African American, okay.

13 She has got a law degree from Howard
14 University, a distinguished woman,
15 historically Black college, okay.

16 So, don't tell me that my people
17 collectively, my people should not have a
18 voice and a vote.

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

21 META MEREDAY: But, now, it is time
22 for all of you to use your voice and your
23 vote and if you can't be there, show up
24 somehow.

25 Stop making excuses, make it happen.

1 Thank you and goodnight.

2 TOWN ATTORNEY MACCARONE: Thank you,
3 Michael Pernick.

4 MICHAEL PERNICK: Good Evening,
5 everyone. Good Evening, Commissioners.

6 My name is Michael Pernick. I am an
7 Attorney with the Legal Defense Fund, where I
8 specialize in voting rights and
9 redistricting.

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

12 MICHAEL PERNICK: Thank you. I also,
13 in my personal capacity served on and still
14 serve on the Nassau County Temporary
15 Redistricting Advisory Committee but I am
16 here, today, to talk about a letter that my
17 organization, the Legal Defense Fund in
18 partnership with my colleague, Fred
19 Brewington, Civil Rights Attorney, Randolph
20 McLaughlin and friends and colleagues at
21 Latino Justice submitted to you all, earlier,
22 today, it was a ten-page letter that walks
23 through the law of redistricting.

24 And, it walks through our assessment
25 of this proposal that you have on the screen

1 before us, today.

2 And, I will tell you the key takeaway
3 from that, this proposal risks violating the
4 law.

5 It risks violating the Federal Voting
6 Rights Act of 1965.

7 It risks violating the John R. Lewis
8 Act of New York State which is new
9 legislation that we just passed last year.

10 Now, there are a lot of things that I
11 could talk about, I only have a couple of
12 minutes, so, I will focus on the cracking of
13 the Black and Latino communities in Elmont
14 and Valley Stream.

15 Here is what the law requires under
16 the Federal and State Voting Rights Act.

17 The Town of Hempstead is required,
18 required as affirmative obligation to ensure
19 the communities of color, of an equal
20 opportunity to participate and elect
21 candidates of choice.

22 And, the law lays out a series of
23 tests and questions that it will examine to
24 determine whether that obligation has been
25 met.

1 Now, the law tells us in a Town like
2 Hempstead which we know has had history of
3 racially, polarized voting which we know has
4 a history of violating the Voting Rights Act.

5 There is a particularly important
6 obligation to ensure that the map that passed
7 doesn't dilute communities of color.

8 Now, how can a map dilute a community
9 of color?

10 One way is through something called
11 cracking.

12 Cracking is when there is a community,
13 a Black or Latino community that might be big
14 enough to elect a candidate of choice but
15 that community is fractured in two.

16 So, voters in that community are
17 denied an opportunity to elect any
18 representative to the local government and
19 that is precisely what is happening in Valley
20 Stream and Elmont.

21 Black and Latino voters in Elmont are
22 paired with White voters in Garden City,
23 Salisbury and New Hyde Park.

24 Black and Latino voters in Valley
25 Stream are paired with White voters in

1 communities like Franklin Square, Woodmere,
2 Lawrence, as a result the Black, Latino
3 voters in Valley Stream, Elmont communities
4 are denied, denied that opportunity to elect
5 candidates of their choice.

6 And, we know it doesn't have to be
7 this way because maps have been submitted.

8 In our letter, we provided two more
9 maps that demonstrate that it is easy to draw
10 up a plan that unifies Valley Stream and
11 Elmont.

12 (Whereupon, the three-minute bell
13 rang. After, the following ensued.)

14 MICHAEL PERNICK: Draw a plan that has
15 better population, equality.

16 I only have one more minute, may I
17 finish up?

18 TOWN ATTORNEY MACCARONE: Go ahead.

19 MICHAEL PERNICK: Thank you.

20 Draw up a plan that has better
21 population, equality, is more compact.

22 There is a better job of preserving
23 political subdivisions and hamlets than this
24 proposal.

25 It doesn't have to be this way.

1 It is possible to do better, to
2 provide the Black and Latino voters in Elmont
3 and Valley Stream with that opportunity to
4 elect a candidate of choice and also to do a
5 better job of meeting all the other criteria
6 under State Law.

7 Now, I will wrap up by pointing out we
8 have had dramatic shifts here in the Town of
9 Hempstead over the last ten years.

10 Hempstead's White population has
11 fallen dramatically.

12 Ten years ago, it was sixty-eight
13 percent, now, it is fifty-three percent.

14 Communities of color have grown.

15 Now, Hempstead is 38.5 percent Black
16 and Latino.

17 We have fifty-three percent White,
18 38.5 percent Black and Latino, but, we only
19 have one district in which Black and Latino
20 voters can elect a candidate of their choice,
21 that is only sixteen percent but five
22 districts where White voters would still be
23 in a majority, that is eighty-three percent
24 of the votes.

25 And, this map risks perpetuating that

1 severe under-representation of Black and
2 Latino communities.

3 So, you have an opportunity to not
4 only prevent unnecessary litigation because
5 we don't want to go into Court.

6 Hopefully, we can resolve it in this
7 process.

8 You have an opportunity to prevent
9 litigation, an opportunity to do the right
10 thing.

11 And, I am happy to be a resource to do
12 that.

13 TOWN ATTORNEY MACCARONE: Mr. Pernick,
14 just so you know, so, you know, when I
15 received your letter, today, it was emailed
16 to all the Members of the Committee when we
17 opened the Committee Meeting, today, we made
18 I apart of the record.

19 And, they were given copies for their
20 review.

21 MICHAEL PERNICK: Thank you very much
22 for doing that.

23 We appreciate it.

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

1 TOWN ATTORNEY MACCARONE: Fred

2 Brewington? Fred Brewington?

3 FRED BREWINGTON: Good Evening,
4 everybody.

5 No justice, no justice?

6 (Whereupon, "no peace," was heard
7 chanting from the audience. After, the
8 following ensued.)

9 FRED BREWINGTON: If you expect to
10 have peace in this house, we need to do
11 something about what is up on that screen,
12 up, there because I heard somebody mention
13 that their grandchild could do a better job
14 on a computer.

15 Who said that? (turning to audience.)

16 You said that? Tell your grandchild
17 come on, let's sit down and talk.

18 (Whereupon, laughter from the audience
19 was heard. After, the following ensued.)

20 FRED BREWINGTON: Um, my brother
21 Michael Pernick spoke eloquently about the
22 Voting Rights Acts of 1965 and the John R.
23 Lewis Voting Rights of New York State which,
24 by the way, does something for all of us in
25 this room.

1 It takes the Voting Rights Act of 1965
2 that has been gutted over the years and gives
3 us all the tools that we need to try to right
4 the wrongs that are attempted to be done by
5 that map.

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

8 FRED BREWINGTON: And, my concern,
9 here, is that part of the process that you
10 should be engaged in as Commissioners, they
11 are not elected officials, they are appointed
12 and they are here to help collect information
13 and educate the community.

14 There is no education going on with
15 regard to the community.

16 So, my request is going to be what
17 should be made part of the record, being this
18 letter coming from LDF, Legal Defense Fund,
19 NAACP, Legal Defense Fund, myself, my
20 brother, Randolph Scott McLaughlin and Latino
21 Justice, that you not only make it part of
22 the record, that you put it up on your
23 website so everybody can read it.

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

1 FRED BREWINGTON: And, that is a
2 specific request because if you want
3 transparency and you want to tell folks about
4 what this process is, that is supposed to
5 happen every ten years, that is why it
6 happens.

7 Redistricting must take place but it
8 must take place in a way that is legal and
9 respectful to the communities that are most
10 affected.

11 And, in this situation, it is the
12 Black and Brown communities of Nassau County
13 and Hempstead.

14 There is no question about that.

15 But what this map represents is
16 something and I will use whatever time I have
17 left, um, to talk a little bit about a big
18 concern.

19 Uniondale should not be treated as a
20 volleyball.

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

23 FRED BREWINGTON: When the Colonialism
24 of Africa took place they took diamonds and
25 they took oil.

1 They took natural resources.

2 When South Africa tried to put people
3 in Bantustan, people rose up to fight against
4 injustice.

5 South America corporations went in - -

6 (Whereupon, the three-minute bell
7 rang. After, the following ensued.)

8 FRED BREWINGTON: Is there anybody
9 that signed up that wants to give me their
10 time?

11 CHRIS WRIGHT: Chris Wright from
12 Levittown and I yield my time to Fred
13 Brewington.

14 FRED BREWINGTON: Thank you, Chris.

15 TOWN ATTORNEY MACCARONE: We will not
16 allow anybody to yield their time.

17 As the last time, Mr. Brewington, we
18 gave you a lot more time and we will do the
19 same, here.

20 FRED BREWINGTON: Thank you very much.

21 I don't know what the rules are.

22 TOWN ATTORNEY MACCARONE: Just be
23 respectful of the fact that it is usually
24 three minutes.

25 FRED BREWINGTON: When the rain forest

1 in South Africa were - - excuse me, South
2 America were raped, it was for economic gain.

3 So, that in a number of places where
4 we see Colonialism and those types of actions
5 taking place.

6 I want to speak truth to power, right,
7 now.

8 And, I am hoping that some of the Town
9 Board Members are listening to this because
10 they should understand that we have learned
11 the lesson that when you take away the
12 Coliseum and Reckson and all those things,
13 when nobody even lives there, the reason is
14 because your plotting and planning ahead to
15 take bread, water and food out of the mouths
16 of our children.

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

19 FRED BREWINGTON: So, I say this
20 without getting into a lot more, put it back.

21 Put it back. Put it back before you
22 have a next meeting, which I know is
23 tomorrow.

24 Tell your consultants - - I will be
25 finished in a minute and a half.

1 I promise I will sit down.

2 Tell your people that you contracted
3 with, not to steal from our children.

4 Tell them that they need to fix it and
5 not to do some political gerrymandering so
6 that other people can benefit at our expense.

7 I don't need to talk about the legal
8 stuff that is going to come down.

9 I am sure hoping we don't have to,
10 but, if anybody in here would like to be a
11 Plaintiff, see me before you go and I will
12 write your name down.

13 I don't care if you are White, Black,
14 polka dot, lottie dottie and everything, if
15 you want to be a Plaintiff in this case, let
16 your communities unite.

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

19 FRED BREWINGTON: I will say when my
20 boat sinks all boats sink but when there is a
21 high tide and all botas are solid, all boats
22 rise.

23 Let's do it together and I say that
24 and I will sit down in fifteen second because
25 Pastor Archibold made it very clear, there is

1 a time when people of good conscious and pure
2 heart can come together to make a difference
3 in a time when we know historically people
4 have been stepped on.

5 If we want to make it right, don't do
6 it with our mouths, do it with our actions.

7 And, now is the time for action,
8 brother and sister.

9 I thank you for your time.

10 Please, put this on your website so
11 people can read it.

12 Will that take place?

13 Can somebody tell me?

14 TOWN ATTORNEY MACCARONE: Thank you,
15 Mr. Brewington. We take everything into
16 consideration, everything that we hear today.

17 FRED BREWINGTON: I appreciate that.

18 If it is not going to be put on the
19 website, would you just tell people,
20 otherwise we can find a different way of
21 getting it out to the community.

22 If you are going to do that, then, we
23 don't have to duplicate that work.

24 And, I know that the authorities,
25 here, you are the Commissioners, you control

1 that, please, make a decision before you
2 leave.

3 Caucus, we will take five minutes and
4 tell us that you will put this information
5 that we gave you in a ten-page letter on your
6 website so that everybody from the
7 grandchildren to the grandparents have a
8 chance to make sure that your job as
9 Commissioners is to educate the community.

10 It is part of your job, right, takes
11 place.

12 TOWN ATTORNEY MACCARONE: Thank you.

13 COMMISSION MEMBER D'AGOSTINO: I have a
14 question of Mr. Brewington.

15 From my understanding, um, and I am a
16 bit confused about a comment that was made a
17 couple of times and you went into it, I think
18 what you are saying is that what you refer to
19 as a separation of the economics from the
20 people of Uniondale is somehow intended to
21 draw money away from that community.

22 And, I am a little confused by what
23 you said.

24 FRED BREWINGTON: I appreciate you
25 giving me more time to explain because I

1 don't want you to be confused.

2 COMMISSION MEMBER D'AGOSTINO: Let me
3 ask the question.

4 FRED BREWINGTON: I thought you did.

5 COMMISSION MEMBER D'AGOSTINO: No, no,
6 I didn't.

7 FRED BREWINGTON: Go ahead.

8 COMMISSION MEMBER D'AGOSTINO: The
9 School District lines remain the same.

10 The source of taxation and you
11 mentioned the children and the schools
12 naturally educate the children, the School
13 District lines remain the same, so, the
14 taxing unit, at least, for School taxes
15 remain the same, that is between 60 and 65
16 percent of the tax burden.

17 Now, as far as the general taxes, I am
18 unaware and maybe you can educate me as to
19 how those taxes would be changed but what I
20 am not understanding and I am not saying and
21 I read about the casino in Newsday this
22 weekend.

23 And, I was a little surprised, myself
24 but I don't understand how whatever the
25 revenue is being garnered and going to the

1 School District and going into the community,
2 how that changes with election districts.

3 And, I would like somebody to explain
4 it to me.

5 The money still follows the same track
6 as far as I know.

7 FRED BREWINGTON: Well, one of the
8 good things is that if you educate yourself,
9 you are prepared for double talking.

10 And, I want to be real clear that you
11 talked about the tax base with regard to
12 School and General taxes.

13 This is not about that money.

14 It is about the power and the
15 authority that makes decisions.

16 Right, now, Dorothy Goosby is the one
17 that has the say with regard to that area.

18 She is the one that stood up with
19 folks to make sure it didn't become that
20 fiction, "East Garden City."

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

23 FRED BREWINGTON: So when you and
24 there is no good faith reason for excising
25 that out of her district except for the power

1 control and authority that will come with the
2 resources that are going to be there.

3 That is why I started out with blood
4 diamonds.

5 That is why I started out - - if you
6 don't know what blood diamonds are, please,
7 just check it out, that is why I started
8 talking about resources and oil.

9 It is not just about the money and the
10 taxes that come into the district, that
11 being, the School District and the General
12 taxes, it is about the control and the say of
13 what happens in that area, what happens in
14 that area, what happens with jobs, what
15 happens with other resources, what happens
16 with businesses.

17 Because Dorothy Goosby or whoever
18 follows Dorothy Goosby, when she makes a
19 decision, that is going to be the case, will
20 have the ability to stand up and advocate for
21 the communities.

22 Right, now, Uniondale is cut out and
23 the person that would be in that position is
24 not representing Uniondale, they are
25 representing Garden City and other folks that

1 don't have anything to do with fight.

2 We have been taking that on for over
3 fifteen years and there has been an attempt
4 for a land grab and that land grab is an
5 opportunity.

6 We see what is happening and you can't
7 say, well, it is not affecting the taxes.

8 That is the double talk.

9 You don't have to try and impress me.

10 COMMISSION MEMBER D'AGOSTINO: I think
11 you misunderstood my question.

12 FRED BREWINGTON: My issue with that
13 is by asking that question you are misleading
14 these people because - -

15 COMMISSION MEMBER D'AGOSTINO: No, I
16 am not.

17 FRED BREWINGTON: - - asking that
18 question, if you are puzzled, the reason that
19 is a problematic question is because the
20 reality of that control, that land grab
21 cannot be justified any other way except for
22 the power, authority and control that is
23 brings from a financial point.

24 And, we got to speak truth. Truth is
25 what is going to set us free not doubletalk.

1 COMMISSION MEMBER D'AGOSTINO: Well, I
2 don't think my question is not doubletalk.

3 I still don't understand, at least, as
4 to 65, 60, 70 percent, whatever proportion of
5 school taxes that comes out of it.

6 And, by the way, I agree there is no
7 such place as "East Garden City."

8 It is Uniondale and I was here when
9 the demonstrations occurred on that and I
10 agree with that.

11 However, however, the decisions that
12 are made with respect to the tax revenues, at
13 least, the real estate tax revenues and
14 whatever the number is and in most districts,
15 it is somewhere between 60 and 65 percent.

16 Those decision are made by the School
17 Board, no by Dorothy Goosby.

18 However, I agree with you to the
19 extent that there are people, you people
20 would like to have represent you and I
21 understand that.

22 I didn't understand the numbers and
23 that is the only question that I raise.

24 (Whereupon, calling out from the
25 audience was heard. After, the following

1 ensued.)

2 COMMISSION MEMBER D'AGOSTINO: Thank
3 you for your response.

4 TOWN ATTORNEY MACCARONE: Thank you
5 for your response.

6 The next speaker is Clariona Griffith?

7 Clariona Griffith is the next speaker.

8 (Whereupon, calling out from the
9 audience was heard. After, the following
10 ensued.)

11 TOWN ATTORNEY MACCARONE: Clariona
12 Griffith is the next speaker.

13 (Whereupon, "How dare you say, "you
14 people," was heard yelling out from the
15 audience. After, the following ensued.)

16 TOWN ATTORNEY MACCARONE: Timothy
17 Bishop?

18 Is Mr. Bishop, here?

19 CLARIONA GRIFFITH: Good Evening.

20 TOWN ATTORNEY MACCARONE: Your name,
21 please.

22 CLARIONA GRIFFITH: It is Mrs.
23 Clariona Griffith.

24 First of all, before I get started,
25 um, you didn't mention fire taxes, so, I

1 definitely want to put that out to you.

2 And, also, um, no disrespect, I don't
3 think you should be referring to us as "you
4 people," okay.

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

7 CLARIONA GRIFFITH: It is not what you
8 say, it is how you said it.

9 And, you said it wrong.

10 So, let me clear that up before you
11 say, "you people,", that is very prejudice of
12 you.

13 As I move on, I would definitely like
14 to address certain things.

15 I used to be the President of the
16 Hempstead Chamber of Commerce, now, I am
17 Hempstead Village Trustee.

18 But, however you talk about it, it is
19 going to affect us by not having Senior
20 Councilwoman, Deputy Supervisor Goosby.

21 It does affect us because when you are
22 sitting on the phone and you are listening
23 to them in the middle of COVID talk about,
24 you know, what they are going to do to help
25 the community in terms of looking out for the

1 larger businesses like Roosevelt Field and I
2 sat on this phone during COVID and I am
3 telling them about Uniondale issues, too,
4 they didn't care about small businesses.

5 They said, "it is not a big deal. We
6 have to worry about Roosevelt Field."

7 These are things that happen when we
8 don't have representation.

9 They don't pay attention to the
10 smaller businesses.

11 They don't pay attention to us, okay.

12 So, these are the reasons why we need
13 people like Senior Councilwoman/Deputy
14 Supervisor Dorothy Goosby to actually
15 represent us.

16 Because when we have people like you
17 who say, "you people," you are the same
18 person on the line that is going to turn
19 around and say, "we don't need anybody to
20 worry about the small businesses. We don't
21 need nobody to worry about our children. We
22 don't need anybody to worry about, you know,
23 the fire department."

24 These are the things that you tend to
25 leave out, that is why it is important to

1 have the right type of representation.

2 We have been coming to these Meetings
3 non-stop talking about the fact that what you
4 guys like to do is actually crack everything
5 up, separate it, divide it and put everything
6 in your favor.

7 And, tonight, this is what we are
8 talking about.

9 We have been coming to Meetings non-
10 stop asking you guys to make sure that this
11 does not happen.

12 But, obviously, it is happening.

13 And, you sit there and you don't
14 understand what is going on.

15 Perhaps you need to ask Mr. Brewington
16 to give you a class on what is going to be at
17 stake, maybe you are not understanding what
18 we are going to have to deal with.

19 Thank you.

20 Goodnight.

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

23 TOWN ATTORNEY MACCARONE: Thank you.

24 TIMOTHY BISHOP: Hi, my name is
25 Timothy Bishop.

1 I am a former resident of Hempstead
2 and, now, I live in Baldwin.

3 I am a classroom teacher for twenty-
4 seven plus years.

5 Now, my concern of watching this being
6 livestreamed, we got in the car, brought my
7 wife, who is a Uniondale School Teacher, our
8 investment is to make sure that all children
9 succeed with the mindset that we are human
10 beings.

11 The segmentation of race, gender, any
12 classification other than "human" needs to be
13 sincerely considered as all of you speak here
14 because the children, that mindset is
15 changing.

16 What is coming if you do not take the
17 time to nurture those from Pre-K up to have
18 the mindset for our communities to be better
19 and stable, all will be lost.

20 You guys are the foundation. Your
21 children are learning from you.

22 So, what you say needs to be more
23 thoughtful because we come from an era where
24 you guys are segmenting from the younger
25 generation.

1 And, all of Long Island is going to be
2 lost because our children won't be able to
3 live here and some of our children won't want
4 to live here.

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

7 TIMOTHY BISHOP: And, Hempstead has to
8 understand and all surrounding towns, if I do
9 well, you do well, we all do well.

10 And, you really have to think before
11 you speak because life passes by in a blink
12 of an eye.

13 And, when I am in that classroom and I
14 am working with everybody's children, even
15 the ones that aren't in my class, I have one
16 hundred percent success rate with reading,
17 math, social studies, everything, every
18 subject they came to school for because they
19 understand I just don't want you to do well
20 on a State exam, I want you to be well mind,
21 body and spirit.

22 So, it saddens me and it almost
23 sickens me sometimes when You have - - you
24 guys are elders.

25 We are elders, we must, as the

1 teacher, help the student become the teacher,
2 then, the master.

3 And, when I say, "master," I don't
4 mean owner, I mean, master of success of what
5 can be, so, they can substantiate and make a
6 solid ground of success so they can live
7 because they are going to take this torch and
8 they are going to move forward.

9 Because a lot of you that I see, here,
10 I remember every single one of you and when I
11 am in the class speaking to the students, I
12 make sure that I acknowledge your position,
13 your effort, your care and your concern.

14 So, please, be more considerate with
15 what you are doing.

16 And, I will make sure that I get our
17 students from younger grades up, to be part
18 of this so they can help build - -

19 (Whereupon, the three-minute bell
20 rang. After, the following ensued.)

21 TIMOTHY BISHOP: - - our support, our
22 success, so, we can make the changes and do
23 the things that we need so we can get the
24 things that we want.

25 Thank you.

1 TOWN ATTORNEY MACCARONE: Thank you.

2 We don't have anyone else on our list,
3 is there anyone that wishes to be speak?

4 MARIANO LAGALDI: My name is Mariano
5 Lagaldi. (phonetic spelling.)

6 I am the President of the Uniondale
7 Chamber of Commerce.

8 I really can't afford to be here
9 because I have to be at CBS News in the
10 morning but, here, I am.

11 So, I just want to say that a lot of
12 people covered a lot of the ground, here,
13 necessary, so, there isn't a lot else I can
14 say that hasn't been said already, other
15 than, the casino people met with me this
16 morning to try to convince me why they are
17 good for Uniondale.

18 I represent the area from Roosevelt
19 Filed Mall all the way down to Hibachi, that
20 is all Uniondale.

21 People call it "Westbury," "Garden
22 City."

23 We are about to file a lawsuit over
24 Amazon, over the Westbury store that they put
25 there for Whole Foods because the zoning gave

1 them the right to call themselves,
2 "Westbury," when they are in Uniondale and we
3 won that resolution.

4 And, they did it after the date in
5 which that all went into effect and to no
6 avail the Town just said, "whatever, call
7 yourself whatever you feel like it."

8 But that just makes it worse in
9 dealing with all the developers and the
10 commercial brokers up there because they call
11 it whatever they feel like it.

12 And, I have to spend all that time
13 that is fucking Uniondale.

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

16 MARIANO LAGALDI: It is like that
17 money pays for the School District which has
18 a budget of two hundred million dollars.

19 You cut off any of that funding, that
20 is it, we are the biggest chum in all of Long
21 Island because we will not be able to pay for
22 that.

23 And, so, for anyone that was concerned
24 about the casino working really hard to get,
25 here and all I get are complaints all morning

1 long on this issue which I knew nothing about
2 two days ago, is the fact the casino is
3 making a move whether it is true or not that
4 they can get things up, however, they want,
5 so, they can push in a casino that we don't
6 want.

7 We don't want a casino there.

8 (Whereupon, applause from the
9 audience. After, the following ensued.)

10 MARIANO LAGALDI: That's it,
11 goodnight.

12 TOWN ATTORNEY MACCARONE: Thank you.
13 Miss?

14 OLGA HERNANDEZ: Good Evening,
15 everybody.

16 My name is Olga Hernandez, Village of
17 Hempstead, Uniondale School District.

18 Most of what everybody said, I agree
19 with, but one of the things I am is I like to
20 be observant.

21 If I were in a Caucasian neighborhood,
22 there would be three microphones here and
23 people wouldn't be dragging themselves to
24 this spot.

25 (Whereupon, applause from the audience

1 was heard. After, the following ensued.)

2 OLGA HERNANDEZ: Okay, that is
3 unconscionable.

4 You want to pull the wool over your
5 eyes.

6 I don't say, "you," I mean the powers
7 that be.

8 But the Village of Hempstead has been
9 pushing for redevelopment, selling our
10 properties and ignoring us.

11 That case is still in Court and ground
12 cannot be broken until it is resolved.

13 By the same token, you look here, you
14 have many churches, liquor stores, all the
15 factors that are impressive to keep a
16 community down.

17 They tried to do it with Harlem.

18 Everybody was ghetto, Harlem, but,
19 when people of color brought Harlem up where
20 their brownstones are worth millions of
21 dollars, the powers that be tried to take it
22 away.

23 That was a big fight.

24 Right, now, the powers that be want to
25 keep us at bay, dividing voting districts

1 making it difficult for minorities to vote.

2 This is like an invisible KKK and the
3 whole thing is that you think that we are
4 oblivious to what is being given to us when
5 you give us peanuts and you give cashews to
6 other people.

7 I am sorry, I really disagree with
8 what is going on.

9 If you are our voices and it is being
10 taken back to them, you not only have to say
11 our words, but, you have to say how we
12 actually feel, our emotions.

13 You are raping us and you don't stop.

14 It is another foot being put in our
15 throats, invisibly, that is wrong.

16 Thank you, thank you for listening.

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

19 SUSAN KAY: My name is Susan Kay. I
20 am from Rockville Centre.

21 We talk about the HUB, do you know
22 what the biggest wasteland on the HUB is?

23 The Nassau Coliseum.

24 We are spending thousands and
25 thousands of tax dollars for what?

1 What for?

2 The Republicans try to say there is
3 nothing going on there.

4 In three to five years, that land will
5 be taken over by Northwell or NYU/Langone.

6 Thank you.

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

9 DOROTHY BROWN: Good Afternoon,
10 family.

11 I call everybody "family," because I
12 feel that everyone, we all are family.

13 My name is Dorothy Brown and I am from
14 Roosevelt and I am a Volunteer Firefighter
15 for over twenty years.

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

18 DOROTHY BROWN: And, I have been
19 through many, many things during this time
20 and I really didn't come to talk, tonight,
21 seriously, but, I couldn't help it, I had to
22 say something because we are all family.

23 I mean I hope that we would be able to
24 get this thing together.

25 I need my glasses.

1 I couldn't even read this. (Indicating
2 to screen.)

3 It didn't make sense, anyway, so, I
4 said, you know what, I forgot the glasses
5 when I look up there, I don't need to see
6 anymore.

7 I don't want to be angry.

8 I just want everybody - - can't we all
9 just get along just a little bit because we
10 are all in this together no matter what
11 happens, we all got to share, if it is good,
12 if it is bad or not.

13 It is like when we are going into a
14 fire, we are together.

15 I could go across the World, we are
16 together.

17 I was in 911. We were all together,
18 Black and White, we didn't see any colors.

19 We didn't see no colors anytime I went
20 into the building, we were hoping that
21 everybody would be able to go back home.

22 So, I would just like to see, just let
23 us all try to get this thing together.

24 It is not about an argument.

25 It is a little bit of you, a little

1 bit of me and if we put it all together, we
2 have something.

3 I have been living in Roosevelt for
4 over thirty-five years.

5 I raised six children.

6 I groomed them, "don't even worry
7 about what the other one is doing. If you
8 can't help nobody, then, shut up, you know,
9 if you can't help nobody do something," I
10 taught my six kids.

11 They all graduated from College except
12 my one son.

13 And, we both are mechanics, you know
14 what I am saying.

15 If we all can just pull it together,
16 man, and stop thinking so much of the evil
17 side, let just try to get this thing
18 together, we can do it.

19 Actually, the World didn't come
20 together with one color, it took two
21 together.

22 Let's believe this, one of us couldn't
23 do it, we need the other one.

24 So, let's do this.

25 Let's just do this, please.

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

3 TOWN ATTORNEY MACCARONE: Thank you.

4 Mrs. Thompson, we have certain rules.
5 There will be other Hearings where you will
6 be able to address the Town Board but we will
7 not have a case where people keep coming up.

8 If there is anyone else that hasn't
9 spoken, we would like to hear from them.

10 We are not going to allow people to
11 yield time.

12 I gave you extra time when you spoke.

13 (Whereupon, "I want to be responsive
14 to his question. I have particular insider
15 knowledge having worked in Community
16 Development," was called out from the
17 audience. After, the following ensued.)

18 TOWN ATTORNEY MACCARONE: And, your
19 experience and your will of wisdom I respect
20 you will get a chance in the future to do
21 that because if we let you then we will have
22 to let everybody.

23 I can't distinguish.

24 If you haven't spoken you are
25 absolutely allowed to speak.

1 PEGGY PERKINS: Good evening,
2 everyone.

3 My name is Peggy Perkins.

4 And, I am a resident, here, in
5 Hempstead. And, I am also a Mother of three
6 children.

7 I am also a community activist and
8 leader and I have to say how this is
9 disturbing.

10 We live in a community where as a
11 Black woman and I have two boys, 19 and 17,
12 this is our community, who is supposed to be
13 able to vote, who is supposed to learn how to
14 vote and be involved in their communities.

15 And, sad communities like Hempstead
16 are constantly being disrespected.

17 Constantly being in the backburner
18 because of racism.

19 As a community activist and leader,
20 it is my responsibility to do my due
21 diligence to serve the people and notify them
22 of what is going on.

23 And, it is very disrespectful of how
24 you guys do not notify.

25 You guys don't do that.

1 You guys don't do that. There should
2 have been many more people in this room but
3 because of the failure of notification
4 involving the community, not involving the
5 community, it is a shame like racism.

6 I am tired. I am tired of explaining
7 to my children what is going on.

8 I am tired of explaining to other
9 children.

10 I am tired of watching the government
11 constantly keeping us divided when we, as a
12 people, were doing everything that we can to
13 keep us unified.

14 We are demanding a change and it is,
15 now.

16 We want change and it is not to move
17 backwards. We have done all this work.

18 Dr. King's Birthday is on Monday, so,
19 if you are not going to represent him, do not
20 mention his name.

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

23 PEGGY PERKINS: And, I am proud to
24 share his Birthday, as well.

25 So, I stand, here, today and say with

1 everyone who has spoken, here, is that this
2 is the time to move forward not backwards.

3 And, it is time to take a stand
4 together.

5 We can talk about John R. Lewis.

6 We can talk about all of them but at
7 the end of the day, if you guys are not going
8 to represent us the way we need to be
9 represented, do not sit here in the seats.

10 We are all going to eliminate you
11 because when I sat there and canvased and
12 knocked on doors, it is sad that when you
13 guys did the redistricting, a lot of people
14 wasn't notified.

15 A lot of people, potential elected
16 candidate had to start all over and the
17 constituents were not notified.

18 They didn't know because of your
19 failure of not notifying the community.

20 So, as I am standing here, I am proud
21 to say I am about to be forty on Monday.

22 (Whereupon, the three-minute bell
23 rang. After, the following ensued.)

24 (Whereupon, "You look 21," was heard
25 calling out from the audience. After, the

1 following ensued.)

2 PEGGY PERKINS: Exactly, exactly, you
3 are right, I look like 21 but I came to
4 almost every meeting and I am fed up with the
5 disrespect you have provided to my community,
6 to every community in here.

7 Stand up and do the right thing
8 because our children are watching.

9 Your children's children are watching.

10 Do what is right and that is all I
11 have to say.

12 Thank you very much.

13 TOWN ATTORNEY MACCARONE: Thank you
14 very much.

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

17 JOSEPH VERONE: Good evening, my name
18 is Joseph Verone.

19 And, I live in West Hempstead.

20 Um, my claim to fame is I am "Papoo"
21 or "Grandfather" of Noel and Sophie that live
22 in West Hempstead.

23 And, I speak on their behalf because
24 they are too young to be able to fight for
25 themselves.

1 I am here because, um, I want the
2 County of Nassau to be a place for them to
3 grow up, that is a beautiful place and I am
4 so proud to be with all of these beautiful
5 people here because this is family.

6 And, um, and I look at this map and I
7 think of the reign of our former Past-
8 President and how voters rights have been
9 denied by not allowing people to have mail
10 ballots, long, long lines, in certain States
11 people were not allowed to vote unless they
12 had crazy I.D.'s, identification.

13 Did everything to prevent people from
14 voting.

15 We are not doing that here.

16 We are saying, sure, you can vote, we
17 are just going to divide up the area so that
18 your vote is worthless.

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

21 JOSEPH VERONE: And, we are not going
22 to accept this and I look at this map, here
23 and the gentleman on the top said that the
24 people designed the map will not even there
25 to answer questions, um, at the next meeting.

1 And, I want to say if the County paid
2 for them to use their programs to devise this
3 horrendous map, why are they not allowed to
4 defend what they have done?

5 It seems awfully strange to me if this
6 maps is such a beautiful design and it is
7 such a great way to divide us up, why aren't
8 there equal amount of people here defending
9 this map?

10 Not one person has been here to say,
11 "Hey, I love this map. This is great."

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

14 JOSPEH VERONE: Isn't that kind of
15 strange?

16 So, I leave you because I am a
17 religious person and in the Old Testament, it
18 says, "Justice, justice thou shall pursue."

19 And, none of us are going to walk out
20 of here and accept this map.

21 We are going to fight it, however we
22 have to.

23 If we have to go to Court, we will do
24 that.

25 We will fight together because we care

1 about our children, our grandchildren, our
2 community.

3 And, thank you have a good evening.

4 TOWN ATTORNEY MACCARONE: Thank you.

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

7 DARREN VALESQUEZ: Hello, everybody,
8 my name is Darren Valezquez. (phonetic
9 spelling).

10 I am from Westbury.

11 I am a campaigner with New York
12 Communities For Change.

13 Um, one thing I learned today, being
14 here is money does a lot of things, um, money
15 makes funny maps.

16 Money makes people wear empty suits.

17 Money makes people angry and money
18 makes us passionate because we have lack of
19 thereof.

20 I think a lot of people are pissed off
21 because we are already kind of tired and
22 exhausted at life.

23 We are exhausted having to work seven
24 days a week, eight days a week, twelve days a
25 week, whatever the fuck you want to call it,

1 excuse my language.

2 We are all tired and to make our lives
3 that much worse by making our lives more
4 complicated that is very dangerous.

5 Honestly, you are going to call people
6 to do things that they won't do if they
7 weren't put in that position in the first
8 places.

9 So, all I am really saying, think
10 about what you are advocating for and what
11 you are forcing people to be willing to do
12 for themselves and for the people they care
13 about.

14 Like our friend said, we are all
15 family and we all are willing to do whatever
16 we want for our family.

17 I am willing to die for my family. I
18 know you all probably are going to do the
19 same thing.

20 So, please, take care of my people.

21 Please, it is not that hard. It is
22 not that hard.

23 It really isn't, especially, like they
24 said I am relatively young in this room,
25 obviously, by heart, we are all young.

1 I really wish there was more
2 representation of my age group, too but, that
3 is not their fault, either.

4 Like they said, the information is not
5 out there.

6 I am only here because I had to look
7 for this information.

8 I had to go with my members and learn
9 from my members about what is going on here
10 and, um, it is heartbreaking.

11 I grew up in Westbury, you know, I
12 grew up out here and I had to learn the hard
13 way the way things really are out here.

14 And, um, it is not too late, you know.
15 Things could still change.

16 But, unfortunately, they only speak
17 one language and that is money, so, follow
18 the money.

19 If we can find a way to twist the
20 money enough, they will listen.

21 So, lets make that happen you all.

22 Thank you very much.

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

25 TOWN ATTORNEY MACCARONE: Thank you,

1 okay, Mr. Chairman, I would ask, at this
2 time, we make a Motion to adjourn.

3 CHAIRMAN HUDES; I recommend the Board
4 adjourn to Tuesday, 1/17 at 10:30 a.m. when
5 we shall meet in a work session open to the
6 public to consider making a recommendation to
7 the Town Board on the new district boundaries
8 and I also recommend we keep the record open
9 to continue receiving comments and make them
10 part of our records.

11 COMMISSION MEMBER D'AGOSTINO: Second.
12 (Whereupon, all said aye.)

13 COMMISSION MEMBER D'AGOSTINO: Mr.
14 Chairman, I move to adjourn and I like to
15 thank the public for their comments.

16 COMMISSION MEMBER BRAIZLEY: Second
17 the Motion.

18 (Whereupon all said aye.)

19 CHAIRMAN HUDES: We are adjourned.
20 Thank you.

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CERTIFICATE BY COURT REPORTER

I, as a Certified, Professional Court Reporter and Notary Public in and for the State of New York do hereby certify that the foregoing Redistricting Meeting consisting of pages 1 through 156 inclusive is an accurate transcription of my cryptic notes.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I SET MY HAND THIS DAY.

CFM

CERTIFIED COURT REPORTER

www.northshorecourtreporters.com

www.northshorecourtreporters@gmail.com

NOTARY PUBLIC - STATE OF NEW YORK