

Barbara Paget

From:
Sent: Tuesday, March 03, 2009 7:17 PM
To: Barbara Paget
Subject: Fwd: Interested Persons Meeting
Attachments: redistricting.doc

Ms. Paget, I wrote your address wrong and this was returned to me. I forwarded it to your PIO and I hope you will still take our concerns into testimony. I regret my error, and hope we are not penalized for it.

If you are maintaining a list of interested persons, please include me.

Thanks again, and look for the attached.

Carol Stuart,

Harvey Milk Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender Democratic Club, San Francisco.

-----Original Message-----

From:
To: barbarap@bsc.ca.gov
Cc:
Sent: Tue, 03 Mar 2009 02:14:01 -0500
Subject: Interested Persons Meeting

Bureau of State Audits
Barbara Paget

Dear Ms Paget:

Please include the attached letter regarding the Interested Persons Meeting, as public testimony. I am sorry that I was not able to send this to you ten days prior to the hearing, as the State Auditor asked, but I only learned of the Hearings in the last few days. Thank you for your attention to this.

With best wishes,

Carol Stuart,

Harvey Milk Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender Democratic Club, San Francisco, California

Barbara Paget
Bureau of State Audits
555 Capitol Mall, Suite 300
Sacramento, CA 95814
barbarap@bsc.ca.gov

2 March 2009

Dear Ms. Paget,

I write as a member of the Harvey Milk Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender Democratic Club in San Francisco, and its designated representative to the California redistricting initiative, brought about by Proposition 11. I ask that this letter be included in the official testimony of the Interested Persons Meetings for all persons wishing to provide comments regarding the selection of the Citizens Redistricting Commission.

I understand that hearings held in San Diego, Los Angeles, Fresno, San Francisco and this afternoon in Sacramento, are meant primarily to address the selection of a Citizens' Redistricting Commission.

As a representative from the Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender community, I offer that our voice be heard and that our community be represented on the Commission. It is imperative that our community not be disenfranchised in this process.

Recently, the Harvey Milk L/G/B/T/DC learned that for the last eight years, San Francisco has been excluded from the United States Census Bureau's American Housing Survey (AHS), a survey conducted during the decade that provides a snapshot of urban data vital to defining current demographics within our City. The same may well be true of other urban settings, such as Los Angeles and Sacramento. For example, the AHS excludes residents in what it calls, "no usual home," settings. In San Francisco, and most assuredly in Los Angeles, and possibly in Sacramento, these would include a great many seniors, disabled and working poor living in single-room occupancy hotels. As a result, there is evidence of a tremendous undercount not only of L/G/B/T tenants, but also Latino, Asian, Asian Pacific Islander, Hispanic and African Americans in the American Housing Survey. Relying alone on the census for demographics to define community then, would by definition, disenfranchise a great many of California's most marginal among its minority communities.

The State Auditor's roll in this process must be one of inclusion, transparency, and fairness. We ask to be included. We ask to participate in the dialogue. We have historically been excluded from consideration in the Federal Voting Rights Act, and yet we remain a discriminated minority across the country. By including our voice in this process, the State Auditor of California can demonstrate her continued commitment to equality and engaged collaboration.

Thank you for allowing us to provide our thoughts about the selection of the Citizens Redistricting Commission.

Sincerely,

Carol Stuart,
Representative to the Prop 11 Redistricting Initiative,
Harvey Milk Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender Democratic Club, San Francisco, CA