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6/16/2011

white 44

Public Input Hearing, at Culver City Hall

06.16.11 AU

Good Evening Commissioners,

My name is Keith Chattrapachai; I am a Secretary-General of Thai-American Chamber of Commerce of California, a Non-Profit Organization representing over 100 business owners around Thai Town.

I came to the hearing before you in LA on April 28, 2011 on behalf of the 103 members of the Thai-American Chamber of Commerce of California and very much appreciated your consideration. In the first draft released last Friday you have included Thai Town as part of the other 5 API communities namely Korean Town, China Town, Little Tokyo, Thai Town and Historic Filipino for the Senate District.

However, for the Assembly District you have proposed splits Thai Town into two separate Assembly Districts. This would have a significant impact on us. We have learned from the past 10 years of being straddled between two council districts, community interests and needs were not well served, and we are asking you to make a small change on Hollywood Blvd. to include all Thai Town into one Assembly District.

Thank you so much for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Keith Chattrapachai

Secretary-General

06.16.11AX

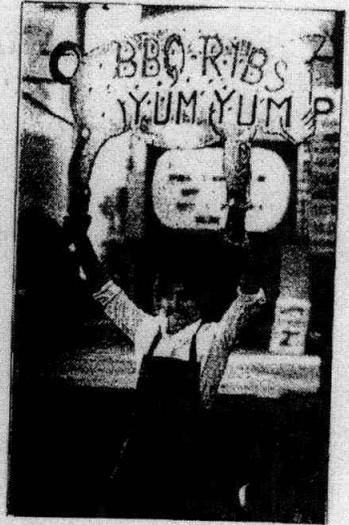
51
white

VALLEY

San Fernando, Santa Clarita,
Conejo, Simi and Antelope Valleys



DAVID BOHRER / Los Angeles Times



An aging sign recalls a bygone era for Reseda's once-popular shopping district. Today's merchants must use creative marketing techniques to lure customers from modern shopping malls to the city's rundown retail center.

Reseda Pursues Lost Popularity

Merchants Want Revitalization to Woo Customers Back From Malls

By GABE PUENTES, Times Staff Writer

Along Sherman Way in Reseda, cars whir day and night past a sign that reads: "Reseda Hub of the West Valley."

In the 1950s, Reseda was the west San Fernando Valley's shopping hub. But now, merchants say, the passing cars don't stop, so the people inside them don't shop—at least not in Reseda. Like the community it describes, the old, cracked, weather-worn sign needs a face lift.

A citizens panel last week proposed a plan to inject some life into the retail area at Sherman Way and Reseda Boulevard, which has been bled dry by enclosed shopping malls. The plan is an attempt to attract new office development and spruce up the aging commercial strips to once again attract strolling shoppers.

One tool to achieve that aim is to ban certain businesses, such as automotive repair shops, which the plan calls unnecessary and undesirable in a shopping area.

The panel, known as the Citizens Advisory Committee and appointed by Los Angeles City Councilwoman

Eric Pious, studied Reseda's problems for two years. Last year, at Pious' behest, the council imposed temporary development restrictions expected to remain in effect until the council acts on the committee's plan.

Despite their enthusiasm for the plan, committee members admit that mending Reseda's economic wounds probably will be a long, uphill effort.

"It's a big order," said the Rev. Lyle Gordon, a Baptist minister who chaired the 14-member committee. "It can't be done overnight, but we hope that what we've done will be a long-range solution to stop any further deterioration of downtown Reseda."

Although some commercial landlords in Reseda have criticized the plan, saying it would limit their options in developing their land, proponents say the business climate can only worsen if Reseda isn't cleaned up.

So few shoppers walk the streets of Reseda that delicatessen owner Eric Rubanowitz resorts to gimmicks to get motorists out of their



cars to buy his rib specials. Every evening, Rubanowitz has an employee stand in front of his Reseda Boulevard restaurant waving a wooden sign cut in the shape of a pig.

"Nobody goes to Reseda," he

lamented.

That's an exaggeration, of course, but shopping malls have steadily sapped Reseda of its customers. Boutiques and dress shops have been replaced by thrift stores and auto repair shops. Even neigh-

borhood residents stopped shopping in an area that once drew people from miles around.

The committee's recommendations cover an area roughly along Sherman Way between Hesperia

Please see RESEDA, Page 10

#51 white

RESEDA: Merchants Want to Woo Customers From Malls

Continued from Page 8

and Wilbur avenues and Reseda Boulevard between Saticoy and Kittridge streets.

No new automotive businesses would be allowed if the plan is approved by the City Council next year. About 40 other types of new businesses, including thrift stores, pornographic businesses and pawnshops, would also be banned. No existing businesses would be forced to leave.

Zoning laws would be changed to allow construction of a mall-like cluster of retail shops on one block of Sherman Way and a six-story office building on another. All development would have to conform to the plan's standards for landscaping, parking, lighting, signs and architectural design.

Instead of competing with the big malls, the plan envisions a future Reseda shopping area comparable to the trendy strip of specialty stores along Ventura Boulevard west of Van Nuys Boulevard in Sherman Oaks, city planner Deuk Perrin said. Office development would bring an infusion of workers who could be potential shoppers, he said.

"It's not like driving into Glendale," which has a reputation as a pleasant place to shop on foot, said Steve Aufhauser, a committee

member and owner of an art supply store on Reseda Boulevard. He said that Reseda has become the subject of "bad jokes and B-rated movies."

"There's an overabundance of auto mechanics, transmission, tire body shops and that type of low-income, low-rent type of buildings," said Bernard Zwick, president of a Reseda baby-supply store chain.

Of Zwick's 22 stores in California, Arizona and Hawaii, only his Reseda store draws fewer customers from the surrounding neighborhood than from communities farther away, he said.

Malls Are Big Draw

Therein lies the heart of Reseda's problem, merchants agree. Shopping malls draw customers from all over the Valley, but Reseda has trouble even getting its own residents to shop on Sherman Way or Reseda Boulevard, said Ann Kinzie, director of the area's Chamber of Commerce and a citizens committee member.

Much of the business that Reseda does get is "destination retail," in which shoppers come to the area for a specific item, such as one of Zwick's baby cribs, said Lee Ambers, a land-use consultant who does work in the Reseda area.

Unlike members of redevelop-

ment agencies, backers of the plan have no legal powers to force property owners to upgrade their properties. Backers must rely on demand for retail shopping and office space to encourage shop owners to refurbish their businesses and to entice developers into the area, Perrin said.

The plan's proponents and critics agree that its success depends on whether investors will take a risk on residents' support for new retail businesses. They disagree about the answer to that question.

"All those nice things" in the committee's plan "are only going to take place if the market warrants it," said Bernard Richter, a commercial landlord who has criticized the committee's revitalization plan.

Richter, whose land on Sherman Way is occupied by seven automotive businesses, organized a group of about 20 landowners last year to oppose temporary development restrictions expected to remain in effect until the City Council decides on the Reseda plan.

He said his opposition is not based on fears that the plan would cost him money. In fact, he believes that his land would become more valuable because the plan would restrict space for automotive businesses.

Richter said he opposed the plan

because it would hurt Reseda. He predicted that its ban on certain kinds of businesses will deter investment and reduce the value of some properties.

"Unprofitable and unsalable commercial properties will accelerate Reseda's decline," he said.

Economic Growth

Picus, however, said Reseda is positioned to benefit from continued economic growth elsewhere in the Valley.

"If people find Ventura Boulevard too expensive and Warner Center too expensive, they'll say, 'Hey, look at Reseda. It's viable and it's centrally located,'" she said.

Reseda, with a population of about 61,000, had an estimated median household income of \$32,991 in 1988, according to the U.S. Census. By comparison, the estimated 1988 median income was \$28,688 for all of Los Angeles County and \$42,582 in the hillside community of Tarzana, immediately south of Reseda.

Kinzie spends an hour each day driving through Reseda to look for graffiti or storefronts that need cleaning up. Recently she complained to city building inspectors about an auto repair shop that was storing engine parts in an open area

visible from the street.

Fixing Reseda might require little more than improving the area's looks, Kinzie said. Landscaping and other proposed improvements, including two crosswalks and six traffic lights to ease walking through the area, can make a difference, she said.

Zwick agreed. "The area is not clean," he said. "People are not drawn to it to shop, and I think the cleanliness and landscaping and things like that are real important."

Share Your Views

The Valley Edition of The Times welcomes the views of readers. Letters should be as brief as possible and are subject to condensation. They must include signature, valid mailing address and telephone number. Pseudonyms and initials will not be used. Send letters to: Valley Editor, Los Angeles Times, 20000 Prairie St., Chatsworth 91311.

My name is LISA P. TYLER
and I live/work in LIVE IN LOS ANGELES & WORK IN
INGLEWOOD.

06.16.11 AY

(Describe any non-partisan organizations in South L.A./statewide in which you may be involved and people you may be representing through your testimony)

(State whether you can elect a candidate of choice in the Assembly, Senate or Congressional district drawn by the CRC in the first draft maps/whether you believe that the district accurately reflects your communities of interest.)

The Assembly & Congressional district(s) in the draft maps

1

~~My community of interest is Inglewood. We have formed a coalition to work on airport related issues. Your map splits the airport away creating the need for our coalition to deal with several sets of elected officials to express our concerns.~~
We believe Inglewood should be connected with Westchester. Many of these Inglewood residents work at the airport that supports their families. Please identify social and economic differences/similarities. How should the lines be revised, if at all? Be specific.) *Keep our voice strong.*

3

UNION CITY HALL WAS TOO SMALL. PLEASE HAVE ANOTHER MEETING.

2

THE EFFECTIVE WORK IN MY COMMUNITY OF INTEREST & COALITION CLEARLY DEPENDS ON CONTINUED LINK WITH LAX & THE AIRPORT. PUT IT BACK WHERE IT WAS

PLEASE KEEP OUR VOICE STRONG.

06.16.11 BB -

#88
white

My name is Leslie Gersicoff. I am a Jewish community professional from the Fairfax area.

I am here today to present testimony on the Mid-City West area community making up Beverly Hills, Westwood, Fairfax, Pico-Robertson, Hancock Park and Beverlywood.

I do not claim to speak on behalf of any of the organizations I am about to mention, but their location and service area clearly shows a community of interest that this Commission did not recognize in drafting the first round of maps.

Since the 1960s, this area has made up the core of the Jewish community. We have over 25 synagogues in this area: the Jewish Federation is located on the north side of Wilshire just off La Cienega along with over 15 Jewish communal organizations in the area, ranging from Jewish Labor Committee on 3rd & Flores, the National Council of Jewish Women on Fairfax, just north of Canter's, the American Jewish Committee located on Pico & Rexford, the Simon Weisenthal Center in Pico-Robertson, the Anti Defamation League in Westwood just across from Century City and the Skirball Museum at Mulholland and Sepulveda.

The one Jewish hospital in Los Angeles is Cedar Sinai.

Neighborhood Councils such as Mid-City West, South Robertson and Greater Wilshire have large Jewish representation.

Organizations like Community Enhancement Services provides heating assistance for the elderly and poor from Hancock Park to Fairfax to Pico Robertson. Organizations like SOVA and the Freida Mohr Senior Center serve the large senior population that lives in these areas.

More than 15 Orthodox synagogues dot La Brea, Highland, Olympic and Pico. There are three major Persian Jewish synagogues in Beverly Hills, Westwood and Fairfax.

The Holocaust Museum anchored in Pan Pacific Park serves as the location for Yom Hashoah, the day that Auschwitz was liberated.

There are also a number of Jewish day schools in the area including Sinai Akiba in Westwood, Pressman Academy at Beth Am on La Cienega just south of Olympic and Temple Isaiah at Pico next to the Fox Studios lot.

I recognize that religious affiliation may not be a factor the way other classes may be, but there is a clear community of interest that exists, linking Westwood, Beverly Hills, Pico Robertson, Beverlywood, Hancock Park, Beverly-Fairfax, Beverly Hills and even Bel Air. The proposed district map(s) dilutes this community of interest by adding in neighborhoods that are not really connected to these areas.

Coastal communities such as Venice, Marina Del Rey, Westchester and even Santa Monica don't have the same character, demographics or resources as the communities east of the 405. Just like the Asian communities such as Thai Town and Koreatown have a distinct and different character, demographic profile and resources.

Yes there are other distinct Jewish communities in Los Angeles. The Valley has its own distinct synagogues, organizations and resources, as does portions of Pacific Palisades and Brentwood, but the Valley is very different from the Mid-City West region and, distinct and separate from the core of communities I describe. Traffic patterns, different demographics and geography such as the Hollywood Hills and the 405 keep make them unique.

Thank you for permitting me to enter these comments into the record.

06.16.11 BC -

Culver City
white 89

The California Citizens Redistricting Commission Should Publish DVC Scores with Redistricting Plans

Thomas R. Belin, Ph.D.

Public comment for June 16, 2011
public input hearing of the California
Citizens Redistricting Commission

My name is Tom Belin. I was Speaker 83 at the April 28 Los Angeles public input hearing, and I submitted a written public comment on May 24 including a journal article I co-wrote describing a "density-variation/compactness" or DVC score, which is a one-number summary based only on census data and geography that can be used to evaluate redistricting plans. We showed in our article that plans having higher DVC scores tended to have less partisan bias and more districts where close elections could be expected.

It's not reasonable to expect citizens to judge how a redistricting plan will operate at a state-wide level simply by looking at a map of districts. If you would give us DVC scores alongside plans, as requested in multiple public comments, citizens could make further use of census data in informing their judgments. Next slide.

89
White

Why CCRC should publish DVC scores with redistricting plans

- **Access:** Calculation of DVC score requires access to specialty software
- **Data quality:** DVC scores depend on numerical precision of intermediate calculations
- **Freedom of information:** Public record documents scientific foundation of DVC scores and public interest in DVC scores
- **Accountability:** DVC scores will help keep CCRC accountable to voters, analogous to on-time arrival statistics keeping airlines accountable to consumers

I've urged the Commission to calculate and report a DVC score for each plan you bring forward for public consideration. If you were to block the release of this information and dictate that citizens are on their own, access to DVC information would be sharply limited, lack of standardization would give rise to all kinds of confusion, freedom-of-information principles would be violated, and accountability would be lost.

As I outlined in my May 24 public comment, it would be possible for you to report DVC information in entirely descriptive terms, such as, "The Commission received requests to publish information on density-variation/compactness (DVC) scores as outlined in a recent article in an academic journal [reference]. The DVC scores associated with the plans put forward here are 2.19 for Congressional districts, 3.37 for State Assembly districts, 1.47 for State Senate districts, and 13.16 for Board of Equalization districts."



הצלה OF LOS ANGELES
HATZOLAH
 EMERGENCY MEDICAL RESCUE

06.16.11 BD -

C.C. White #95

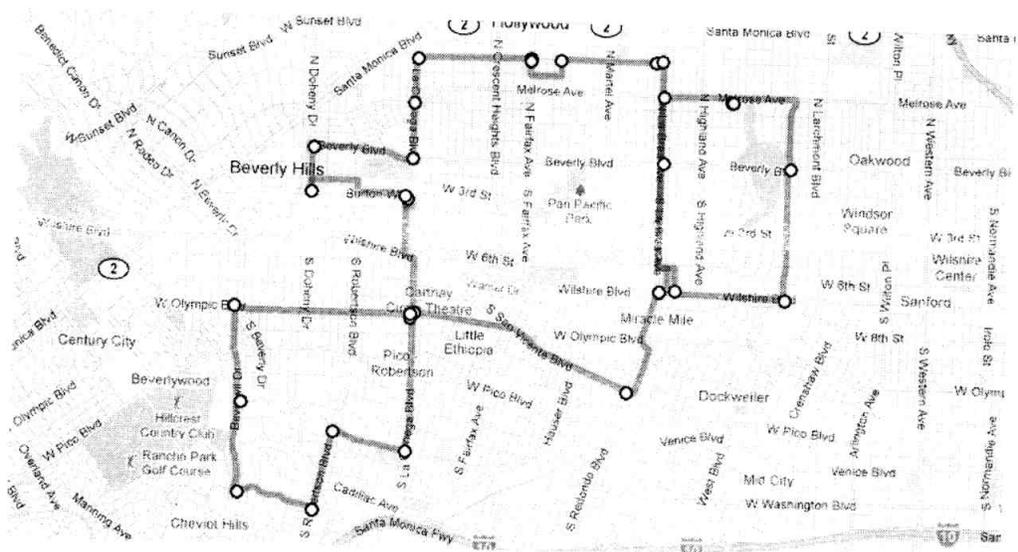
Dear Redistricting Commissioners,

We request that this letter be entered into the record for the Los Angeles County region regarding redistricting considerations.

The Los Angeles Orthodox community constitutes roughly one-quarter to one-fifth of Los Angeles' 621,000 Jewish population, and is made up of a combination of Modern Orthodox and Hasidic Jews, most of whom trace their roots to Eastern European Jewish populations that moved to the area from the 1930s to the 1960s or Middle East Jewish populations that moved here from the 1970s to the 1990s.

We follow strict religious observance as set forth in the first five books of the Hebrew Bible. We do not operate cars or machinery on Saturdays and worship and conduct education separated by gender. We also follow strict rules regarding preparation of food, which requires that we only shop at stores and restaurants that follow these rules and are certified by a rabbi that they have done so.

Because of our deep religious observance and limitations on our transportation on the Sabbath, these populations tend to focus on tightly-knit neighborhoods in the Beverly-Fairfax area, Hancock Park and Pico Robertson/Beverlywood (see the map below), with smaller populations in southern Beverly Hills and Valley Village in the San Fernando Valley.



The communities in the Los Angeles Basin are particularly interdependent, sharing their own ambulance service (Hatzolah), utilizing the only Jewish hospital in the region at Cedar Sinai and attending over 20 small private schools and forty or more synagogues in the area.



הצלה OF LOS ANGELES
HATZOLAH
EMERGENCY MEDICAL RESCUE

#95
white

We have strong representation on the three neighborhood councils covering the region (South Robertson, MidCity-West and Greater Wilshire), all of whose borders also closely mirror those of our community.

Most of our businesses are locally owned, in walking distance, and cater to the needs of the religiously observant in the neighborhood.

In the past, our Los Angeles Basin communities have been divided between districts, such as between the 42nd and 47th Assembly District, the 23rd and 26th Senate District and the 30th and 33rd Congressional District. Only our County Supervisorial district has kept our community representation whole.

Because of the distinct character of our community and the importance of having representation that understands our unique cultural and religious observances, we would like to set forth in the strongest terms our desire to keep our representation under a single Assembly, State Senate and Congressional district, uniting the Beverly-Fairfax, Hancock Park and Pico-Robertson/Beverlywood areas into single districts.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Zvi Brenner

Chairman

06.16.11 BE -

White
c.c.
#96



DEL REY HOMEOWNERS AND NEIGHBORS ASSOCIATION

June 16, 2011

VIA EMAIL, U.S.P.S. and HAND DELIVERY
Citizens Redistricting Commission
901 P Street Suite 154-A
Sacramento, CA 95814

Re: The Del Rey Neighborhood of Los Angeles

Ladies and Gentlemen:

Attached is a map showing the boundaries of Del Rey, a community of about 30,000 residents (per Census 2010). Most of our residents and businesses are in the City of Los Angeles, but we do have a small section that is unincorporated county land. Our primary boundaries are: Marina del Rey on the "west," Playa Vista on the "south," Culver City on the "east," and on the "north," the alleys behind the Culver City businesses that front on Washington Blvd..

For the residents and businesses of Del Rey, we would like to have ONE Congressional District, ONE State Senate District, ONE Assembly District and ONE Board of Equalization District. Presently, we do have ONE State Senator, Ted Lieu, and ONE Board of Equalization member, Chairman Jerome Horton.

However, we have THREE Congressional Districts: 36th (formerly Jane Harman, west of Centinela Ave.); 35th, Maxine Waters (east of Centinela Ave.); and 33rd, Karen Bass, zip code 90232.

We also have THREE Assembly Districts: 51st, Steven Bradford; 53rd, Betsy Butler; and 47th Holly J. Mitchell.

From the first Congressional redistricting map (Crenshaw-Leimert Park) that was posted on Friday, June 10, 2011, it appears that you have kept all of Del Rey in a single Congressional district that does not include Culver City, but does include Marina del Rey and the Los Angeles International Airport. That is a good choice for us, and we would

Citizens Redistricting Commission
Public Input Hearing – Culver City
June 16, 2011
Page 2

#96

recommend that the boundaries of our Senate and Assembly districts be patterned as closely as possible after those of the proposed Congressional district..

On the June 10, 2011, maps, we are still split into two Assembly districts with Centinela Ave. as the dividing line. The part of Del Rey that is east of Centinela should be included with Santa Monica, and Playa Vista (south of Jefferson, but west of Centinela Ave.) should be joined with Westchester – Playa del Rey.

The new state Senate district map also appears to split Del Rey in two. Again, this is not advisable because many of the families that live in the eastern part of Del Rey are involved with schools and recreational facilities in the western part of Del Rey.

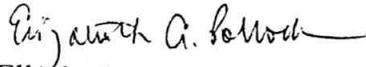
We have no problem with remaining in the Board of Equalization's Los Angeles district.

Del Rey is a "community of interest" as that term is defined by the state Constitution. Del Rey celebrated its 105th anniversary in 2008, and it would like to celebrate its 110th anniversary by being recognized as a single political unit in Congress and in the state Legislature.

Thank you for your consideration.

Very truly yours,

DEL REY HOMEOWNERS & NEIGHBORS ASSOCIATION



Elizabeth A. Pollock
President

Enclosure: Map of Del Rey

DRH&NA - [REDACTED] - Los Angeles, CA 90066

[REDACTED]

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white



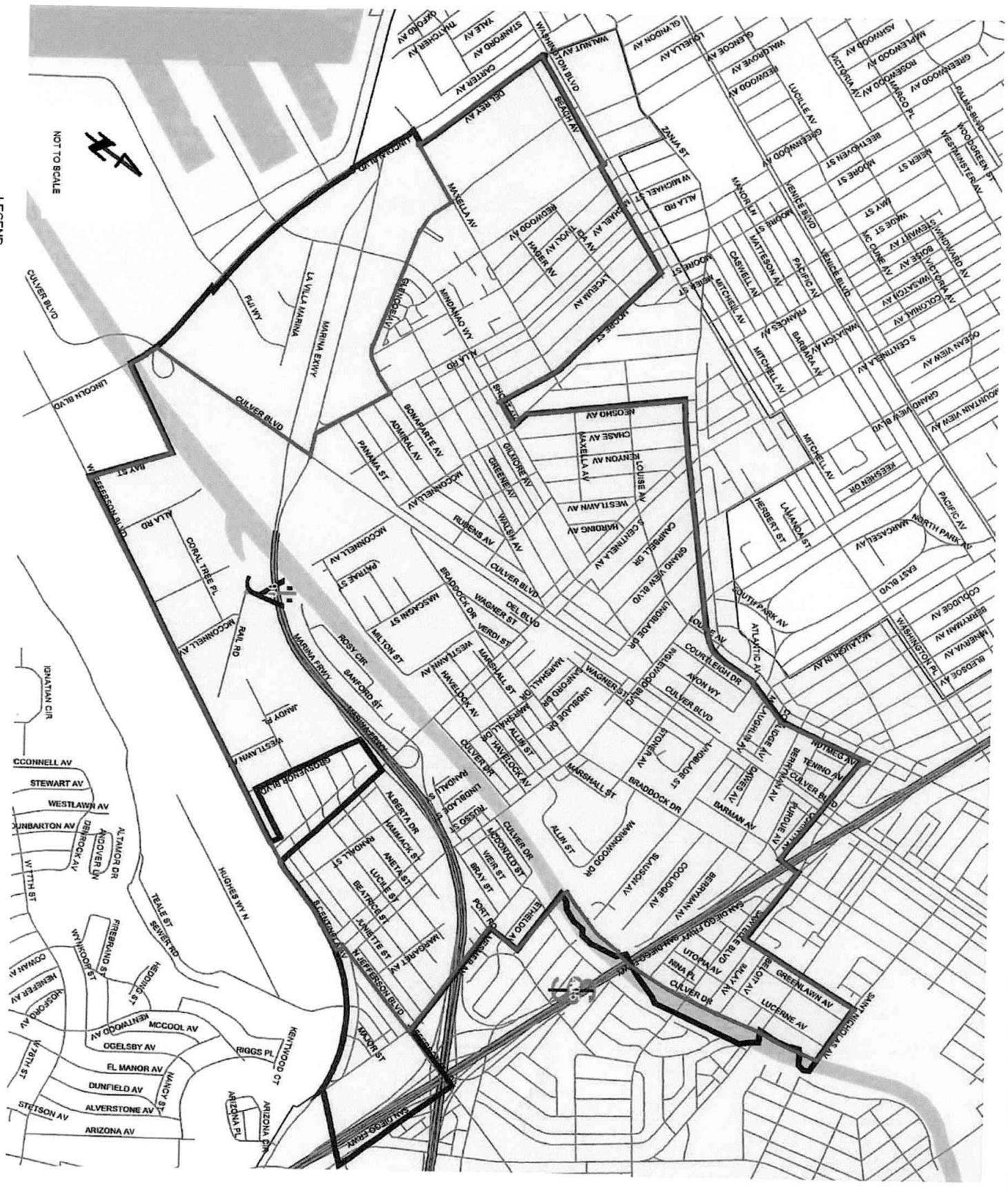
LEGEND

DEL REY HOMEOWNERS AND NEIGHBORS ASSOCIATION BOUNDARY

DEL REY BOUNDARY

HOMEOWNERS AND NEIGHBORS ASSOCIATION CITY OF LOS ANGELES

NOT TO SCALE



06.16.11 BN

My Testimony

6.16

Culver City

~~GREEN #18 WHITE~~

#19 Green

My name is LAWRENCE LUE and I am live/work in the community of

LOS ANGELES CHINATOWN (90012)

I am here today to share my perspectives on the First Draft maps. The Commission's maps affect my representation in the following way:

CHINATOWN IS A HISTORIC COMMUNITY, WELL ESTABLISHED, RESIDENTIAL AND CULTURAL NEIGHBORHOOD, WITH THE SINGLE GREATEST CONCENTRATION OF CHINESE IN THE CITY OF LOS ANGELES

The following communities share common social and economic characteristics to my community. (state the neighborhoods):

WITH ~~A~~ HIGH PERCENTAGE OF LINGUISTICALLY ISOLATED, MONOLINGUAL CHINESE RESIDENTS, CHINATOWN IS A CENTRAL CORE FOR SOCIAL SUPPORT, THE BOUNDARIES OF THE
LACITY HISTORIC CULTURAL NEIGHBORHOOD,
My community is different from (state the neighborhoods): COUNCIL DISTRICT CAPTURES THIS COMMUNITY/NEIGHBORHOOD

My recommendation is that the Commission INCLUDE THE COMMUNITY IN ONE remove the following communities:
ASSEMBLY DISTRICT RATHER THAN DIVIDE THIS SINGULARLY UNIQUE ETHNIC/CULTURAL NEIGHBORHOOD AMONG THREE(?)

My recommendation is that the Commission add following communities: PROPOSED ASSEMBLY DISTRICTS
THE COMMISSION'S FIRST DRAFT PROPOSAL WOULD ENSURE CHINATOWN WILL NOT RECEIVE FAIR REPRESENTATION

I can be reached at (add phone or email)



Signature

Lawrence J. Lue
LAWRENCE J. LUE

Date

6/16/2011

AMERICAN FactFinder



Census

Legend:

- Boundaries
 - State
 - 10 County
 - 10 Census Tract
- Features**
- Major Road
 - Street
 - Stream/Waterbody

Items in grey text are not visible at this zoom level

Census Tract 9800.15

- Total Population: 554
- Caucasian: 225
- Black: 98
- American Indian: 5
- Asian: 48
- Pacific Islander: 15
- Some other race: 131
- Mixed race: 32

Census Tract 9800.14

- Total Population: 239
- White: 199
- Black: 12
- Asian: 9
- Some other race: 13
- Mixed Race: 6

Census Tract 9800.31

- Total Population: 1,262
- White: 733
- Black: 223
- American Indian: 31
- Asian: 57
- Pacific Islander: 21
- Some other race: 138
- Mixed Race: 59

06.16.11 AZ

#211

green

