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Subject: an Outreach Session with testimony (a dramatization)
To: votersfirstact@crc.ca.gov

THIS IS A PUBLIC COMMENT

The attached PDF is meant to dramatize a possible session for the collection of testimony about Communities of Interest which information may affect how the Commission will construct various district boundaries.

Thanks,
Jim Wright
a voter from San Jose

[a Commissioner]

Good Afternoon Ladies and Gentlemen,

I am [Charles Chaplin], one of the fourteen members of your California Citizens Redistricting Commission. With me are two other members, [Mack Sennett] on my right and [Marilyn Monroe] on my left.

Each ten years the United States Constitution and Federal Law requires that everyone within the United States and its territories be counted. A census of the country is performed and certain elective office district boundaries are then adjusted to equalize the population among those districts within each state. Each state has the job of adjusting their own districts.

The purpose of the California Citizens Redistricting Commission is to draw district boundaries for members of the California State Assembly with 80 districts, the California State Senate with 40 districts, the California Board of Equalization with 4 districts and for California's Congressional delegation with approximately 53 districts. The number of Congressional districts is the result of an apportionment among all of the states to distribute the 435 seats of the House of Representatives in Washington, D.C. with roughly equal population in each district. Each state receives at least one seat in the House of Representatives.

Our charter to perform this task is from Proposition 11 in 2008 and Proposition 20 in 2010. We are to fairly create districts within California which are representative of you the citizens.

This meeting is to give you the opportunity to tell us about your communities and provide us with guidance as to which cities and neighborhoods need to be contained within the same district and thus enhance your ability to elect representatives of your choice in future elections. We are here to take your testimony.

What we need from you is information about your “Communities of Common Interest”. You must identify the geographic boundaries of each community and give reasons why that community should remain whole within the larger districts which we must define. Any additional information which you may wish to give us about each community will be accepted. We may ask you questions about your presentation to further define and understand your community.

There will be no decisions made at this meeting. We are here to listen to you.

This session is being recorded and a transcript and video/audio will be available on the WeDrawTheLines.ca.gov website a few days following this meeting.

Each speaker will be limited to 5 minutes plus any questions we may ask.

We are now ready to hear from you. Will the first speaker please approach the floor microphone and proceed.

[Citizen 1]

Good afternoon, I am [George Raft] and I live in Bell, California.

I believe that the city of Bell should remain within a single Assembly district to improve our ability to receive support from one Assembly person rather than for us to have to approach two different Assembly persons as is necessary today. Coordination with two representatives to address our problems is difficult. If we had only one to work with, perhaps life would be easier.

Questions?

Thank you,

[Citizen 2]

Hi, we got that little neighborhood over near 14th street and Vermont.

[Commissioner]: Will you please identify yourself and tell us where you live?

O.K. I'm [W.C. Fields] and I live at ■■■■■ Vermont Avenue in Los Angeles.

Nobody listens to us. Can you make sure that those guys in city hall pay attention to us and fix up those potholes in our streets?
Thanks,

[Citizen 3]

I am [Howard Hughes] from Hollywood. Our small neighborhood in Hollywood is between Harter Ave on the Northeast, Sepulveda Boulevard on the Southwest, Culver Boulevard on the Southeast and West Washington Boulevard on the Northwest. We call it “lately Italy” because most of us are of Catholic Italian descent. We like our little dense and close-knit community around our church and ask that you keep us in mind when you draw those lines for district boundaries which are near us. There are also many other members of our church living nearby and they are all part of our community. Thanks,

[Commissioner]: Is this in Hollywood?

No, actually, it’s in Culver City near the plant.

[Commissioner]: Thank you, next speaker please!