

4/15/11 Speaker 13

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Brian Murillo, Fresno

Hello, my name is Brian Murillo and I live in Fresno. I am here because I believe in representative democracy, and therefore it is imperative that the interests of my community are held intact – that they are not divvied up – so that we can have effective representation in the state legislature and Congress.

I have a map here of my neighborhood: it's a relatively new development south of Shaw and west of Freeway 99, which serves as a physical boundary that separates us from other parts of town. There is also a light-industrial corridor that further separates us.

My area is quasi-rural, where the city meets the country. We are a neighborhood of working and middle class people in general. It is certainly not affluent. It is the antithesis of many north Fresno neighborhoods where the people are better educated; typically college-educated and live in opulent homes. They have more assets in terms of amenities and outlets for entertainment and other investments by business. The neighborhoods are cleaner and safer, and possess better public schools.

My neighborhood is ethnically and racially diverse. On my block, there are white, Hispanic, East Indian, and even biracial families. This also stands in contrast to much of north Fresno that is monochromatically white.

In terms of occupation, we are a mix of white and blue-collar workers: there are four Fresno County sheriffs in my neighborhood. My neighbor across the street is an unemployed construction worker whose wife is a teacher. My Indian neighbors are truckers who occasionally park their semis around the corner. My other neighbor is a stay-at-home mom and her husband is a businessman.

We have many kids in the neighborhood. They run and play in the street – riding bikes and quads, and shooting hoops in the street. The age of the children ranges from teenagers down to very young children. There are very young families. One of my neighbors has newborn and a young daughter. My other neighbor has a toddler. Moreover, my younger brother is a teenager. Therefore, there are young families just starting out. I have not seen any empty-nesters.

The majority of these families are first-time homeowners. We have only seen a couple of foreclosures. My mom and I regularly drive the nearby streets to observe any changes that are occurring, aesthetic improvements, and changes to give us ideas for our home. These are new homes; our house was built in 2009. Our house is just under 2,000 square feet with four bedrooms. There are a number of two-story homes.

There is a brand new elementary school and they are in the process at the corner of Ashlan and Bryan constructing a new middle or high school. Just across from those on Grantland you have a brand new stadium that was built a couple of years ago around the same time as the elementary school. Therefore, we have rising property taxes.

So in conclusion, I want to underscore that my community deserves representation at the state and federal level that reflects the attributes and characteristics that I have just described. This is imperative because there is a litany of communities that are similar to mine that also deserve adequate and fair representation in our governing system. I feel strongly that my community connects to those districts such as the Southeast section of Fresno, West Fresno and even to the rural communities to the west. In fact, I know both intricately because I lived in Kerman for my whole life up until two years ago.

4/15/2011

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Brian Murillo - Google Maps



Notes BRIAN MURRILLO
FRESNO, NORTHWEST
West of Fwy. 99, South of Shaw

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Brian Murillo
FRESNO
West of Fwy. 99, East of Grantland Ave.
South of Shaw Ave., North of Dakota Ave.

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