

April 30, 2011

Dear Redistricting Commission,

This is regarding the Redistricting Commission hearing my friend and I attended last Friday, April 29, 2011 in city of San Gabriel. We arrived in the appropriate window of time and received a speaking number of 125. My friend, Olga Alvizo was given number 126.

Unfortunately, due to the mismanagement of the speaker selection process, our concerns were never expressed nor recorded. A major violation of our right to participate in the hearing process has occurred. Pomona is not being fairly represented. I am gravely concerned that the lack of input from those who received a higher number to testify, but left because of the "gaming of the numbers" that took place, will have a negative impact of the design of the Districts by the Commission.

I understand the speaking numbers were distributed on a first come, first serve basis, which caused me to get a higher number for my turn to testify. The groups of other people who arrived at the hearing before us received the "lower numbers" because they lived closer in the surrounding communities of San Gabriel Valley. They came in large groups, and each individual received a "speaking number" in numerical order. Some of the folks from Pomona arrived in the appropriate window of time, 6:00-9:00 p.m., but were handed a higher number because of their arrival time. They were expected to wait on their specific number to be called in order to testify, which were several hours of waiting. As a result, some left early for the same reasons we did, thus causing an inequity in participation. This "gaming of the system" is a violation of our right to be heard. This process caused us to wait a few hours which became very tiresome on a Friday night after a long work week. After 9 p.m. we weren't sure our higher number would be given the opportunity to speak so we left without testifying. We were bitterly disappointed.

The commission staff needs to coordinate a more fair system of allowing people to testify needs to be addressed. If the method of speaking order was organized more like a lottery system where those who came to testify were each given a number and that same corresponding number was placed in a hat, to be pulled out for every witness, then more of Pomona residents would have voiced their concerns. I highly recommend the Commission utilize the above lottery process for selecting concerned witnesses to speak at the upcoming hearing in Norco this Thursday, May 5, 2011 from 6:00-900 p.m..

So my concerns are still recorded, please record the above complaint and my concerns below.

I and many others who didn't testify do not want Pomona placed in an Assembly/Senate/Congress district where there are no common interests within the neighborhoods. Non-profit organizations like Habitat for Humanity; Boys & Girls Clubs, Spirit of Manhood, LULAC National Educational Service Center, Soledad Enrichment Action Center,

Soccer leagues, numerous unnamed organizations offer programs in Pomona, Chino, Montclair and Ontario. There are also non-profits who work with other at risk youth that work between these four cities. We draw from the parents in the neighborhoods to support the educational efforts of our youth in the surrounding communities. We collaborate with other cities to leverage our resources in order to build and develop programs that benefit the surrounding communities.

In this time of economic strife, we must continue to lean on one another for support and synergy. This is not the time to try and forge new relationships with communities where we have no common bonds. We live, play and work in the Inland Empire. This is where we want our legal and policy interests represented, with people we know and trust.

Regards,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read 'Maria Teresa Pinedo', written in black ink.

Maria Teresa Pinedo

