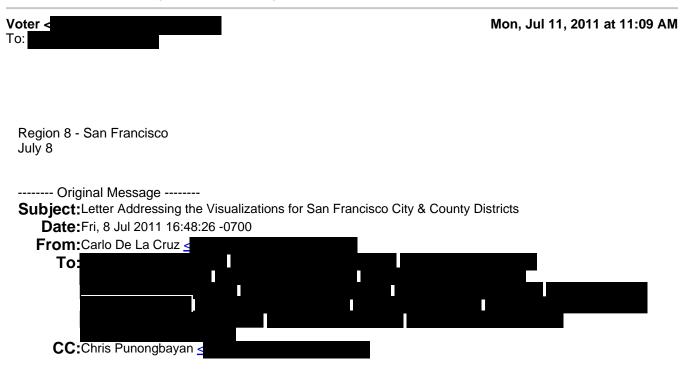
CA Citizen's Redistricting Commission Mail - Fwd: Letter Addressing the Visualizations ... Page 1 of 2



Singh, Ravi <

Fwd: Letter Addressing the Visualizations for San Francisco City & County Districts



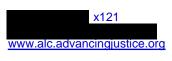
Dear Honorable Commissioners,

Thank you for this opportunity to provide input. Please find attached a letter regarding the new visualizations for the San Francisco Assembly Districts.

Thank you, Carlo De La Cruz

Carlo De La Cruz Special Projects Coordinator

ASIAN LAW CAUCUS Member of Asian American Center for Advancing Justice







2 attachments

VVSignatures.pdf

CRC Letter-SFAD.pdf

July 8, 2011

Via electronic mail California Citizens Redistricting Commission

Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: Comments About Visualizations for San Francisco City & County

Honorable Commissioners:

We, the undersigned, respectfully request that the neighborhoods of Excelsior, Visitacion Valley, Outer Mission, and Crocker Amazon be placed in the Eastern San Francisco Assembly District. Doing so will unite a socioeconomically cohesive, multi-ethnic community of interest that consists of these areas along with Chinatown, Bay View, Mission and Bernal Heights. This petition is submitted in response to the latest set of visualizations posted on the Commission's website on July 7, 2011.

The Excelsior, Visitacion Valley, Outer Mission, and Crocker Amazon areas share much in common with each other and also with the Bayview District. According to the San Francisco Planning Department, these neighborhoods share high rates of poverty; high rates of unemployment; and high densities of individuals born outside of the United States; low rates of educational attainment.

As attested to by community members at the May 21 Redistricting Hearing in Oakland, these areas also share much in common with Chinatown. From transportation routes to culture to commerce, these areas should be kept together as a community of interest. Some Chinatown-based organizations have even opened offices in the Visitacion Valley area due to the growing need for services and protection of rights. In particular, the Bayview community would be highly isolated if separated from the neighboring Excelsior and Visitacion Valley areas. We assert that these Eastern neighborhoods possess unique characteristics and should be kept together as requested by the petitioners undersigned and in testimony repeatedly submitted in earlier public hearings.

Moreover, the separation of the Mission and Bernal Heights districts from the neighboring Outer Mission, Excelsior, Visitacion Valley and Outer Mission areas is troubling as this division strikes against the unification of communities with shared socioeconomic interests. The Mission neighborhood is a cultural, commercial, and community hub for the Latino community. There are many shared characteristics across the Mission, Bernal Heights, Outer Mission, Excelsior and Visitacion Valley areas including the comparable rates of Spanish as the primary language spoken at home, linguistic isolation in Spanish-speaking households, foreign-born status, and low rates of educational attainment. We respectfully ask the Commission to honor the integrity of these highly Latino immigrant areas by keeping them united in the Eastern Assembly District.

In sum, these areas – Outer Mission, Crocker Amazon, Excelsior, Visitacion Valley, Chinatown, Bayview, Mission and Bernal Heights – compromise one multi-ethnic community of interest that is bound together by common socioeconomic issues and that should be kept together for purposes of its fair and effective representation.

Finally, the undersigned acknowledge the complexities and shared interests between the mostly immigrant Asian American and Latino communities with San Francisco's Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender (LGBT) communities. We support the efforts of the LGBT community and do not believe our interests are incompatible in finding a district configuration that enfranchises all communities. In fact, there are many in our communities who are both Asian American or Latino and LGBT-identified, and we share the same interest in being able to elect progressive candidates of our choosing to represent us in the State Legislature. We support the inclusion of the Excelsior, Visitacion Valley, Outer Mission, and Crocker Amazon into the Eastern San Francisco Assembly District.

Sincerely,

Titi Liu, Executive Director, Asian Law Caucus

Benjamin Leong, Co-Chair, Gay Asian Pacific Alliance

David Koon Hung Chan, Vice President and Secretary, Asian Pacific American Community Center (Visitacion Valley)

Marlene Tran, Spokesperson, Visitacion Valley Asian Alliance

Terrance Valen, Organizational Director, Filipino Community Center (Excelsior)

Active Leadership to Advance the Youth (Excelsior)

Babae (Excelsior)

Samahan ng Kababaihan (Excelsior)

Liwanag Kultural Center

Rachel Ebora, Executive Director, Bernal Heights Neighborhood Center

Vincent Pan, Executive Director, Chinese for Affirmative Action

Michelle Romero, Redistricting Fellow, Greenlining Institute

Antonio Díaz, Organizational Director, People Organizing to Demand Environmental & Economic Rights (Mission)

Qiu Quanhong, Executive Director, Compassionate Community Care

Hung Do Pham, Chairman, Vietnamese Community Center of San Francisco

Ben Ng, Program Coordinator, Tenderloin Housing Clinic

Angelica Cabande, Organizational Director, South of Market Community Action Network

Isidra Esther Macaraeg, Executive Director, Pilipino Senior Resource Center Jamie Woo, Community Outreach Manager, Consumer Action* Edward J. Hu, Esq., Attorney at Law, Law Office of Garrick S. Lew* Robert A. Fung, Esq., Lecturer Emeritus, Asian American Studies, San Francisco State University*

*Titles and affiliations for identification purposes only



Residents of Visitacion Valley (See attached pdf for cross reference):

Sun Shao Cian
Zhu Tian Yong
Louie Ying Zen
Auyeung Beyen
Eric Chan
He Zhun
Myar Joy
Bai Shao
Norren
Mary Chow
Sam Yang Fu
Wong Mok
Feng Bo Tian
Tang
Tau Sung
Gun Zheng
Chen Min Xan
Xu Jiaodun
Sze Ch
Chu Kieu
Suzy Dea
Ivory Fong
Linda Burton
Cheung Nui
Sui Yee Tang





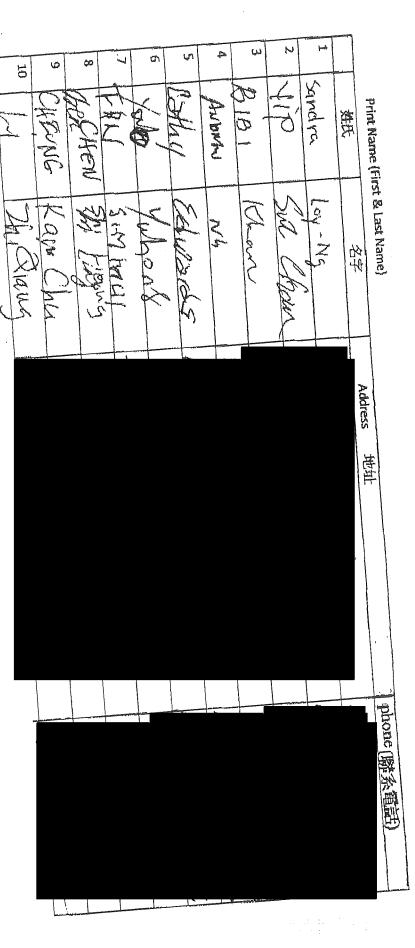
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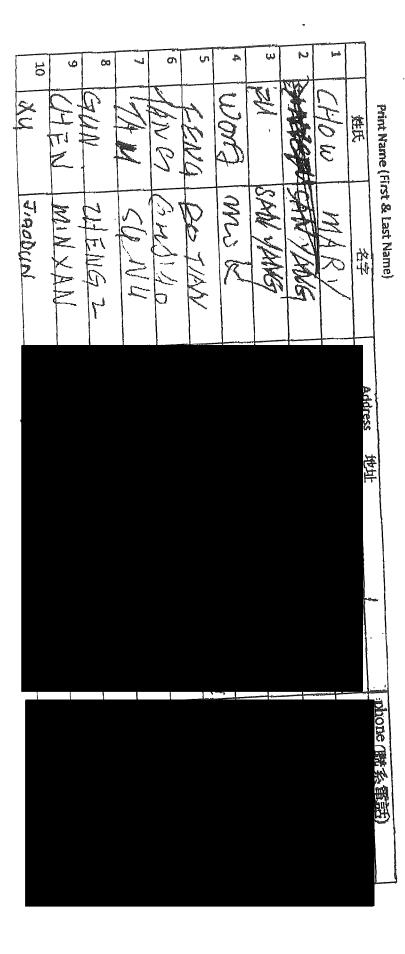
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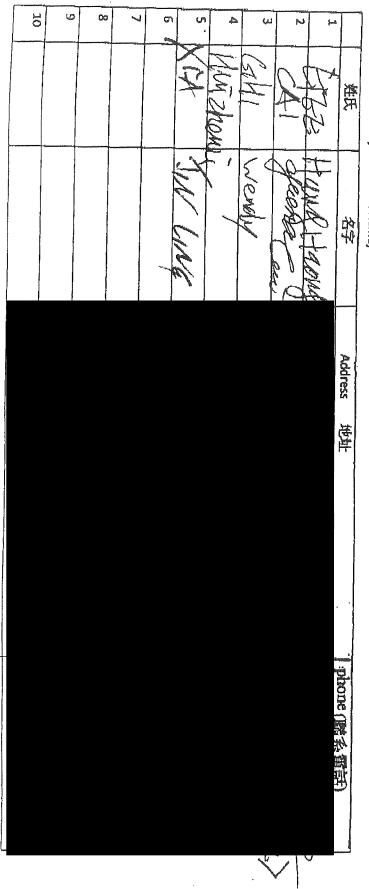
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