

BEFORE THE PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY, MARYLAND  
2011 REDISTRICTING COMMISSION

**Tuesday,  
June 21, 2011**

Pursuant to Notice, a public hearing was heard before the 2011 Prince George's County Redistricting Commission in the **Oxon Hill Library, 6200 Oxon Hill Road, Auditorium/Meeting Room, First Floor, Oxon Hill, Maryland, 20745**. The following is a transcript of this hearing only with the following members present:

REDISTRICTING COMMISSION MEMBERS PRESENT:

SHARON TAYLOR, CHAIR

DAVID C. HARRINGTON

TAMARA DAVIS BROWN

STAFF PRESENT:

RAJ KUMAR, DEPUTY COUNSEL

KATHLEEN H. CANNING, LEGISLATIVE OFFICER

KAREN T. ZAVAKOS, LEGISLATIVE OFFICER

**P-R-O-C-E-E-D-I-N-G-S****(PUBLIC COMMENT EXCERPT ONLY)**

1  
2  
3 MS. TUCKER: My name is Mary Frost Tucker. I live at  
4 11804 Mary Catherine Drive, Clinton, Maryland, just up the  
5 street from Tamara. I'd like to have a better understanding  
6 of the process. I spent many hours, it was yesterday, I  
7 guess it was yesterday, trying to figure out from the labeled  
8 Draft 1 map just what was constituting the boundaries. And I  
9 couldn't figure it out.

10 It looked - because I'm very interested in District 9,  
11 and I couldn't figure it out. And I said, oh, well, they  
12 will explain that at the Redistricting meeting. So I came  
13 and expected to see, you know, very detailed maps. And so I  
14 didn't. In fact, it wasn't much clearer than what I had on  
15 the internet. So then I'm a little - I need to understand  
16 the process because we're being asked to provide comments,  
17 but I don't - whoa, did I do something? Do I need to stand?

18 Okay. I need to understand how this is going to work  
19 because I can't really provide too much because you had  
20 mentioned drastic changes to District 9, and I'd like to sort  
21 of have a better understanding of the boundaries. So, say we  
22 provide some comments tonight and then, well, at what point  
23 does this become a little more set in concrete because is  
24 this my only opportunity? Are you going to come back after  
25 you have, I think you have one more meeting after this?

1           Can you come back with a map and what - at that time,  
2 there will be a lot more detail so we can understand?  
3 Because, at this point, I cannot really provide meaningful  
4 comments until I understand what you've done -- what you,  
5 this sounds (inaudible) - what's been done, I'm sorry, to  
6 District 9, not that I have issues with it. I just need to  
7 understand it.

8           One of the main things is, you know, we've put the,  
9 excuse me, Indian Head Corridor totally in District 8  
10 according to the map. And okay, so what's this line coming  
11 down? You know, what is - you know, I can see, you know,  
12 some - I just need to have a better understanding, and I need  
13 to know the process because - and need to understand. And if  
14 I don't give comments tonight, will I have lost my chance  
15 only (inaudible). Thank you very much.

16           CHAIR: Thank you so much.

17           MS. BROWN: We're going to try to respond and then we'll  
18 continue on, and everybody can just come in and stand and  
19 line up as you will. But with the - as Chair Taylor  
20 indicated with the Draft 1 Map, it's just an example of when  
21 we get your comments, we make some adjustments to the current  
22 districts based on the population change.

23           So what you see is the blue lines represent new boundary  
24 districts that we have created as a result of the April 9<sup>th</sup>  
25 public hearing, what we heard loud and clear from the Camp

1 Springs community of being unified. The yellow lines that  
2 you see are the existing County Council districts as you see  
3 them.

4 And what will continue to happen, this is our last  
5 public forum in terms of - not in terms of getting citizens'  
6 input, but last in terms of initial comments on what are the  
7 concerns of the citizenry with their current County Council  
8 boundaries. Last week we met, for example, at the Sports and  
9 Learning Complex, and one of the Council Members from  
10 Fairmount Heights, for example, pointed out how, on one side  
11 of the street all the odd numbers was in one County Council  
12 district, whereas, the other side of the street all of the  
13 even-number homes were in another Councilmanic district. And  
14 she would like to see all of Fairmount Heights unified.

15 So those are the kind of things that we are looking to  
16 hear from you tonight, not necessarily to comment on Draft 1.  
17 Once we take your comments, hear your comments tonight, there  
18 will be a, we will start the mapping process. There will be  
19 an initial draft and then the - what's our date? August 13<sup>th</sup>  
20 we'll have another public hearing. It's a Saturday meeting.  
21 We're trying to make sure that we meet in the evenings and on  
22 the weekends to make it convenient for citizens to come out  
23 and participate. It will be a Saturday meeting where you'll  
24 see our proposed map in August. Is it August 13<sup>th</sup>, Madam  
25 Chair? August 13<sup>th</sup>.

1           And then that way, you can actually comment on that  
2 specific map, and we will again take your comments into  
3 consideration. But this draft map is just something that we  
4 put together as an example of how we can manipulate and  
5 change the boundaries based on the comments and feedback that  
6 we hear from you tonight. Does that make sense?

7           MS. TUCKER: Yes.

8           MS. BROWN: Okay.

9           MR. SHEAN: Madam Chair, may I comment on that?

10          CHAIR: Yes.

11          MR. SHEEHAN: You also brought up a good question that  
12 I've heard many times is the boundaries represented in color  
13 are very irregular, and the question you had is where are  
14 they coming from and what do they represent. Again, these  
15 are the boundaries the Census Bureau has defined. A lot of  
16 them follow roads. Some of them follow streams. So they're  
17 very irregular.

18          And what, I can show you the raw data back there, and  
19 it's like a zip code map. They're all interconnected little  
20 circles. And what we've done is, if the population change  
21 was all one, the change was equal, we glued all of them  
22 together and made them brown. So, just because you see dark  
23 brown, there's a lot of little circles all embedded in there.  
24 Okay. I'm trying to show it so it's not so hard to  
25 understand.

1 CHAIR: And that ability to see up-close data, there's  
2 no rush here. When we finish with comments, let's - we can  
3 go back there. We - our standard with our meetings has been,  
4 after we do them, we sort of go back and look at all of the  
5 maps. And we're happy to do that so you can see in more  
6 detail and even the district maps that we've put up there  
7 that are the districts as they exist. So that kind of detail  
8 is available for us to take a look at.

9 Sir?

10 MR. HARRIS: Thanks. Madam Chair, Members of the  
11 Commission, my name is Martin Harris. I'm the President of  
12 the Whitehall Forest Homeowners Association down in Accokeek.  
13 I live at 15404 Overlea Court.

14 I understand the process and the numbers that have to  
15 drive this, and I understand the very difficult job the  
16 Commission has in trying to get this right. And I also do  
17 understand that the current map that we have right now is  
18 used as a, as you were referring to it, as an example.  
19 However, at this point, it's the only thing that we have to  
20 use as a foundation for where we're going from here. So I'm  
21 going to make the comments that I have based on what we've  
22 seen thus far.

23 Really, my main concern is the moving of Accokeek from  
24 District 9 to District 8 as has been reflected on this map.  
25 We have a very unique set of situations down in Accokeek, and

1 I know that you have certain (inaudible) that you're looking  
2 at legally as far as the numbers and where we go. But when  
3 you're doing this process, it's more than just about moving  
4 people from one place to another or, you know, shifting, you  
5 know, grains of sand to balance out a scale.

6 With that being said, a lot of things do hang in the  
7 balance for redistricting for us. Particularly the sense of  
8 the identity that we have down in Accokeek, we view ourselves  
9 really as being a more of a role-type of a community. We  
10 derive a lot of our identity from our history that way, and  
11 it's something that we value very greatly. I know that these  
12 numbers have to be balanced out, and I understand the need to  
13 do that.

14 However, what I would say is that I think that there are  
15 more natural relations and more natural congruity between  
16 other folks that lie on the District 8 line border, those  
17 particularly down in Accokeek. You mentioned the situation  
18 of the Camp Springs when they came out and they spoke in a  
19 unified voice to have their community unified. As we all  
20 know, it's bifurcated right now.

21 Camp Springs is influenced greatly by Joint Base  
22 Andrews, but I would also argue that they are very much  
23 influenced also by what happens at National Harbor. And it  
24 seems to me there is a very strong distinct tie-in with that  
25 area as well.

1 For us, we have concerns with everything that relates  
2 from transportation to development to small things like, well  
3 it seems like smaller things, like broadband access. And for  
4 us, the way we view those concerns are much more akin to the  
5 way people would in Eagle Harbor or in Brandywine, per se,  
6 view those concerns, as opposed to some of our neighbors not  
7 too far away in Fort Washington or in Oxon Hill.

8 So, what I'd like to get, stress to you all is that this  
9 is more than about just simply balancing numbers. We're  
10 talking about the characteristics of the community, the sense  
11 of how we identify ourselves. So, redistricting is a very  
12 important tool, which we would hope that you all will take  
13 the recommendation you cannot use that as a way to change how  
14 our community sees itself. And our representation in  
15 District 9 is very important to us.

16 CHAIR: Thank you so much.

17 MS. LEE: Hi, my name is Hope Lee. My address is 11601  
18 Gallahan Road, Clinton, Maryland. I am the President of the  
19 Chapel Hill Citizens Association in Chapel Hill, Maryland.  
20 Chapel Hill is an historic African-American community since  
21 1832. I want to make sure that you know I'm not saying 19,  
22 1832.

23 We were a very close community, and we had a lot of land  
24 that was undeveloped. What happened to us is developers came  
25 in, developed a certain area of the land, and then, I don't

1 know, succeeded, took it away from Chapel Hill, such as Jomar  
2 (phonetic), Potomac Mills. All of those places used to be  
3 part of Chapel Hill. They're no longer considered - the new  
4 National Capital Parks & Planning map does not include them  
5 in Chapel Hill. So, we're trying to hang on to what we have  
6 left.

7 Also, on the last time that the redistricting was done,  
8 we were split between 8 and 9. So one side of the road is in  
9 8, and one side of the road is in 9. Now, we - this is an  
10 advantage. We get to come to both meetings and compare  
11 notes. But it is a little wear and tear on us making all of  
12 the meetings. So, we're just asking that you kind of put us  
13 back together. Thank you.

14 CHAIR: Thank you so much.

15 MS. BROWN: Ms. Lee, just one question. You said that  
16 you live on Gallahan Road, and that's in which community  
17 again?

18 MS. LEE: Clinton.

19 MS. BROWN: That is in Clinton. Okay, I thought so.

20 MS. LEE: We're the first house in Clinton.

21 MS. BROWN: Okay. I know exactly where you are.

22 CHAIR: So, Ms. Lee, let me ask you another question.  
23 When we talked to - when the people from Camp Springs came,  
24 their position was they didn't really have a preference of

1 where they were as long as they were together. So how do you  
2 -

3 MS. LEE: That's exactly how we feel.

4 CHAIR: Okay. Thank you so much.

5 MS. JOHNSON: Good evening, my name is Theresa Johnson.  
6 I live at 9808 Stoneview Court, Upper Marlboro. We're a  
7 brand new community having found out since the last talking  
8 to - since the last redistricting. We're sitting there very  
9 worried because we listened at Camp Springs at the first  
10 meeting, and we border them. We have the Andrews Air Force  
11 BRAC practically right in our backyard. And we're looking at  
12 National Harbor down the road some.

13 I have been trying to get the people in my homeowners  
14 association to become involved. And they want to, but they  
15 share what this lady says. They don't know how to, and so  
16 they send me to all the meetings. And when I get back, they  
17 expect me to know and I don't know either. So, I really want  
18 some understanding tonight as to whether or not we should be  
19 worried because we are a new community and because we do  
20 border areas that seem to have some redistricting problems.

21 I am a retiree of Census, so I know about the figures,  
22 but I don't know the, how to redistricting.

23 MS. BROWN: Can you specify though for us or clarify  
24 what you think you should be worried about? Are you  
25 concerned about being moved? You're currently in District 9.

1 MS. JOHNSON: Yes, we are.

2 MS. BROWN: So, the question is, are you concerned about  
3 being moved from District 9 to another district?

4 MS. JOHNSON: Because we hear Camp Springs sits right in  
5 our back, and they are divided in circles in more than one  
6 district, we really don't want that to happen. And we don't  
7 want to be accused of sitting by silently while this work is  
8 going on and not at least registering our fears. So, I've  
9 come to you tonight to get my fears over to you.

10 MS. BROWN: Ms. Johnson, that's exactly what you've  
11 done. I have known Ms. Johnson. I met her last year when I  
12 was running around talking about why the Census was so  
13 important, and I found out that she worked at the Census  
14 Bureau, retired from the Census Bureau. And she's  
15 everywhere, and I want to thank you again for being here and  
16 thank you for registering your concerns.

17 MS. JOHNSON: Thank you.

18 MS. BROWN: It's important to us.

19 MR. HUGGS: Good evening, my name is Ernest Huggs, and I  
20 live at 2311 Rosecroft Boulevard. I'm a resident of District  
21 8. I've been reviewing your maps in the back. I have a  
22 question that you - clarification. You have a target of  
23 96,125 within one map versus the other. One says population  
24 of 90,918. The other says 92,852. Which one do I actually  
25 look at?

1 MS. BROWN: The ones in the back?

2 MR. HUGGS: The ones here.

3 MS. BROWN: These along the line though are the  
4 districts as they exist.

5 MR. HUGGS: Okay, what's this right here?

6 MS. BROWN: That was the sample map that we put  
7 together, and the 98,000 is that target number that would  
8 allow us to have -

9 MR. HUGGS: The target on both of them is the same,  
10 96,125, okay.

11 MS. BROWN: Right.

12 MR. HUGGS: But the population on one was 90,918 on this  
13 one.

14 MS. BROWN: Current population.

15 MR. HUGGS: The 92,852 on the other one, I need to -

16 MANY VOICES: Current population.

17 MS. BROWN: The 90,000 is the current population. The  
18 92 is the proposed in the first draft.

19 MR. HUGGS: Proposed?

20 MS. BROWN: Proposed in the first draft.

21 MR. HUGGS: How do I reconcile the proposed versus the  
22 target?

23 MS. BROWN: Because of population growth, your district  
24 has to grow by a certain number. In order to keep the lines  
25 -

1 MR. HUGGS: Okay, I got a deviation in one of some 5200  
2 versus a deviation of 3200 in the other.

3 CHAIR: Let me let Mike clear that up.

4 MR. SHEAN: When you're looking at each map, it is  
5 showing the current population. What that represents is the  
6 population for 2010 within that existing Councilmanic  
7 district.

8 MR. HUGGS: Okay.

9 MR. SHEAN: So, when you're looking at district boundary  
10 8, and I add up all of the Census data total population for  
11 District 8, that gives you a value.

12 MR. HUGGS: Okay.

13 MR. SHEAN: And each one will be different. Did I  
14 answer your question?

15 MR. HUGGS: No, I'm still not clear. I understand what  
16 you said, okay, but I'm not clear about this deviation. But  
17 we'll work on - we're not going to hold you exact, but we'll  
18 work on trying to get that together.

19 MS. BROWN: Well, no, wait just one second. You don't -  
20 that's why we're here.

21 MR. HARRINGTON: The maps, okay, the map - turn around  
22 one second. You see those maps like right behind you?

23 MR. HUGGS: Let's look at District 8.

1 MR. HARRINGTON: Right. We'll look at District 8. Now,  
2 you see that map right there that you're pointing to right  
3 now with all the colors on it?

4 MR. HUGGS: Okay.

5 MR. HARRINGTON: That is the map as it is now.

6 MR. HUGGS: Let me go ahead and just walk back there.

7 MANY VOICES: Okay. Go ahead.

8 MR. HARRINGTON: Go right ahead.

9 UNIDENTIFIED FEMALE: The deviations are very confusing.  
10 I agree.

11 MR. HARRINGTON: Okay. So read out the number that you  
12 have (inaudible).

13 MR. HUGGS: Okay. District 8 is for the population it  
14 says is 90,918 (inaudible). The target is 96,125.

15 MR. HARRINGTON: Right.

16 MR. HUGGS: The difference between that number and the  
17 deviation is 5207.

18 MR. HARRINGTON: Okay. So, for your question, you're  
19 saying, what is your population, correct?

20 MR. HUGGS: No, no, no. I want to know, since you have  
21 90,918, but you have a target of 96,125, I want to reconcile  
22 these numbers versus what you have over here.

23 MR. HARRINGTON: Okay.

1 MR. HUGGS: You have 92,852, which is actually 2,000  
2 more than what's actually shown over here. So, I want to be  
3 able to reconcile what you're talking about.

4 MR. HARRINGTON: Remember what we said in the beginning.  
5 Now, the map that you just pointed to?

6 MR. HUGGS: Yes.

7 MR. HARRINGTON: So far, we received citizen input.

8 MR. HUGGS: Okay.

9 MR. HARRINGTON: Based on that citizen input, that is  
10 just a draft based on the input, okay. So that's just a  
11 draft. As we receive input tonight, then, of course, we'll  
12 look at other (inaudible). We just heard other testimony  
13 that said bring us together. That's going to cause a change  
14 to be considered on the drafts.

15 MR. HUGGS: And when you say draft, how do you -

16 MR. SHEAN: Redrawn lines.

17 MR. HUGGS: How do you create that increase?

18 MR. HARRINGTON: Because with the draft, considering -  
19 for example, some people said we don't want to be bifurcated  
20 in districts, all right. We don't want to be split anymore.  
21 So creating that then creates then different numbers in terms  
22 of population for redrawing lines.

23 So, we use the example of Camp Springs. When we take  
24 Camp Springs and say we want to try to put that in one

1 district, then that creates then a change in population.

2 Okay, don't look at that map anymore.

3 MR. HUGGS: Well, I wanted to know because earlier you  
4 said, you said that the yellow line was the current and the  
5 blue was - so, that's when I looked at this.

6 UNIDENTIFIED: No.

7 MR. HUGGS: No? Okay.

8 MR. HARRINGTON: No. Just this map right here, that's  
9 what he was describing before. So what he did was he took  
10 all the Councilmanic districts, which the blue line  
11 represents, and overlaid that with the draft.

12 MR. HUGGS: Okay.

13 MR. HARRINGTON: Okay, so that you can see that, when we  
14 take into account some of the citizen input and begin to put  
15 then, try to put communities under one district, then that  
16 changes the population. And you see then the changes in  
17 lines that may cause increases in population.

18 MR. HUGGS: Hopefully. Now, when I say that hopefully,  
19 I'm speaking from my standpoint.

20 MR. HARRINGTON: Sure.

21 MR. HUGGS: Hopefully I can relay this to my people,  
22 because they're going to be a little confused as I am about  
23 what's going on. But you are saying that, after tonight, you  
24 will have another. Hopefully this will be resolved.

1 MS. BROWN: For instance, let's say that we go back and  
2 we, in the pool of ideas or citizen input, we take the  
3 software and we say to the software, you got to put Accokeek  
4 back in District 9 because that is a more synergistic  
5 relationship with District 9. That's going to shift the  
6 numbers, because what we described earlier were the early  
7 agreements that we made to start this process with the  
8 existing maps to try to minimize the split of Census-  
9 designated places.

10 And so, as we take these comments and get the software  
11 to move around to incorporate what people are saying, those  
12 numbers will change with the goal of meeting all the  
13 requirements of the law and meeting the policy considerations  
14 that we chose, which were, you know, like not splitting  
15 Census-designated places. And then we - then our, we have to  
16 test that for its legality and, you know, for a good map.  
17 But this process is where we get that input.

18 So, on August 13<sup>th</sup>, after we've put all of everyone's  
19 thinking in, we come back with something that we can't say,  
20 oh, well that's just a sample. We've got to come back to you  
21 on August 13<sup>th</sup> with a real proposal, okay.

22 MS. ZAVAKOS: And then I just want to - Mr. Huggs, I  
23 just want to give you the, what's legally permissible that's  
24 been upheld by the Supreme Court. And you were asking about  
25 the deviation. The population change in terms of the

1 criteria for equal population, the deviation shouldn't be  
2 more than plus or minus five percent. So, right now for -

3 MR. HUGGS: That's within that range?

4 MS. ZAVAKOS: Yes. So I think that was also kind of  
5 confusing to you, but as long as it's within plus or minus  
6 five percent, so it can be minus four percent, plus four  
7 percent, minus three percent, plus three percent, two percent  
8 and so on.

9 MR. HUGGS: Okay.

10 MS. ZAVAKOS: So, I just wanted to explain.

11 MR. HUGGS: As long as it's an increase, it's fine. If  
12 there's a decrease, I'm in trouble.

13 MR. ZAVAKOS: Well, again, and then, once we take your  
14 comments, we still have to look at where the population  
15 shifts were. We just can't say, okay -- we're going to do  
16 our best to honor all of the requests that the public has  
17 given to us. But nevertheless, the numbers are what the  
18 numbers are, and the population increases where they are are  
19 in the districts where they are. And we do have to work with  
20 those numbers. And so, we will diligently make sure that we  
21 take into account your comments, but again, it's going to be  
22 based on the actual population growth or decrease. Any other  
23 comments?

24 CHAIR: Mr. Harrington.

1 MR. HARRINGTON: Thank you. If I can just say in just  
2 two seconds, all right I give me five, there was a question  
3 earlier raised about process, and so I just wanted to sort of  
4 raise that question that I think would give a level of  
5 understanding.

6 I congratulate the Commission for coming up with the  
7 draft so that then, in terms of your input, the questions and  
8 the comments that you're raising are very good and rich  
9 comments with respect to, okay, where's my community going to  
10 be in all this? So we had an earlier comment that said,  
11 okay, my community is moving from, I think it was, District 9  
12 now to District 8. And that affects then the quality of the  
13 community conversation that we have on issues like  
14 development, issues like setting up traditions, (inaudible).

15 So then, we take and there were other comments to say,  
16 you know, we are, we find that being split between two  
17 districts hurt us in terms of trying to, you know, attend  
18 meetings, and perhaps we'd like to consider, regardless of  
19 what district we're in, being in one district, right. So,  
20 what the draft is is saying, okay, we hear these comments.  
21 And it was interesting the consistency of some of these  
22 comments.

23 But the draft is saying that each, comments that we've  
24 heard we tried to make some adjustments, which may cause  
25 increases or decreases in population given the priorities

1 that you've stated. So what this meeting, again, is about  
2 is, all right, look, I've looked on the map. I've looked on  
3 the draft. And here's what we hope that, as you deliberate  
4 then this complex stuff, that you take into consideration as  
5 you move to then a final draft or proposal - this is not a  
6 proposal by the way. I underscore the word draft. This is  
7 not a proposal.

8         So, when we move to proposal in August, then you'll see  
9 then more clarity in terms of where your neighborhood may  
10 lie. So I just wanted to provide that sort of insight around  
11 the process, and hopefully your comments will continue to say  
12 that we have some, you know, we have some observations around  
13 them.

14         Number six.

15         MR. COLSTON: Zero six, yes. Forgive me cause I'm a  
16 Howard man, you know, and I do (inaudible) wearing these  
17 things. Good evening, my name is Freddie Colston. That's C-  
18 O-L-S-T-O-N. I live at 119 Onondaga Drive in Forest Heights,  
19 Maryland. So what's in my neighborhood? I am the  
20 (inaudible) to the Town of Forest Heights as well as the  
21 Democratic Chief Election Judge in the State of Maryland,  
22 Prince George's County.

23         Process, how many meetings would this take place for a  
24 final decision to be made? Secondly, who will rectify the  
25 decision to be made? And how much input before the final

1 vote is taken that the public will have in order to make this  
2 process happen?

3 CHAIR: Well, we've had - we -

4 MR. COLSTON: Who are we?

5 CHAIR: The Commission. The Commission on the  
6 Administrative office of the Council, after they appointed  
7 us, our first process was to create a portal so that the  
8 community could see inside of this process. So, very  
9 quickly, we were able to get a website that was accessible to  
10 the public so that our public meeting schedule was there.  
11 Our very early weeks were really with the Administrator  
12 helping us to gear up for this process.

13 That was most of March. On April 9<sup>th</sup> was our first  
14 public hearing, and we've had three additional public  
15 hearings in June. This is the last of those three. We will  
16 have another on August the 13<sup>th</sup>. But the portal that we  
17 created, which we thought was very important, allows you  
18 access to our schedule so that you can come to any public  
19 meeting that we have, in which we have the micro-discussions  
20 that would include how to incorporate all of these important  
21 comments in our process.

22 But on August 13<sup>th</sup>, we come back with a map that we  
23 believe incorporates all of the public comments that we've  
24 gotten, including what is required by the law, including the  
25 policy considerations that this Commission agreed upon.

1 Then, you will be there again, and you will comment again.  
2 After that, as Karen said, once we get additional comments on  
3 that map that we propose, we will then do some additional  
4 work. And then we have to submit that to the Council.

5 Then the Council - we have to submit our final draft  
6 after showing you the draft, making some additional changes.  
7 We have to give that to the Council by September 1<sup>st</sup>. And,  
8 Karen, would you repeat what the process is after that?

9 MS. ZAVAKOS: Yes, after the plan is submitted, the  
10 Council will hold a public hearing on the proposed plan.  
11 We'll then, after 15 but not more than 30 days, after it's  
12 submitted they are able to make changes to that plan. That  
13 public hearing will be advertised, so the public is  
14 encouraged to attend.

15 If there are no changes made, then by the end of the  
16 legislative year, which is November 30<sup>th</sup>, this plan as  
17 submitted could take effect as enacted in Council without  
18 further action.

19 CHAIR: So, really, quite frankly, what we are getting  
20 an opportunity to do is to incorporate community comments and  
21 bring what we believe is the best product before the Council.

22 MR. COLSTON: Okay. Consider this also.

23 CHAIR: Yes, sir.

1 MR. COLSTON: You say computers, may I ask individually  
2 not be as (inaudible) in the computer skills (inaudible), so  
3 you will not be returning to anybody?

4 CHAIR: No, that's not possible because the County is so  
5 large. But that is, in fact, part of the reason why it was  
6 so important to us to have so many meetings for this process  
7 because we will need part of - it's important for people to  
8 be present to speak to their concerns.

9 MR. COLSTON: Thank you.

10 MS. BROWN: Sure, thank you.

11 MS. HOLMES: Good evening, I'm Angela Holmes, new  
12 President of Camp Springs Civic Association, 4612 Cedell  
13 Place, Temple Hills, Maryland - excuse me, Camp Springs.  
14 That's the post office down in Temple Hills.

15 My question is this. Did Camp - did having Camp Springs  
16 divided, did that really affect our chances with BRACs?  
17 We're not included in BRAC. Clinton was. We weren't. And I  
18 was just wondering if that was, had a part in it, because I  
19 know that, because we weren't unified, we weren't together.  
20 And it's just a question.

21 MS. BROWN: I don't, well, I don't know if we can speak  
22 to that question. I mean, that has - I don't know if that  
23 has anything to do with redistricting. But we did hear you  
24 and your community very loud and clear on April 9<sup>th</sup> about some

1 of the impact that may have occurred because you were not  
2 unified. And BRAC could have been one of those.

3 MS. HOLMES: Well, at the BRAC meeting, it was actually  
4 brought up so that's why I was asking if any of that  
5 discussion was done with the Commission, because when we had  
6 BRAC actually come out, part of the reason we weren't able to  
7 participate is because we weren't solidified.

8 CHAIR: No, but that came, that came through, as the  
9 Commissioner was saying, that came through loud and clear  
10 from the Camp Springs community at the April 9<sup>th</sup> meeting, the  
11 extent to which your bargaining or negotiating skills were  
12 impeded by your, that split. That was absolutely clear to  
13 us, but, you know, we really can't speak to -

14 MS. HOLMES: Got it. Thank you.

15 CHAIR: Thank you so much.

16 MR. BENBOW: Good evening, everyone, my name is Andrew  
17 Benbow, 3516 Chadwick Court, Temple Hills, Maryland. My  
18 question is whether there will be an opportunity to comment  
19 that doesn't require your physical presence at one of these  
20 hearings, i.e., maybe on this website, which I just checked  
21 it out. It's not working. The website is not working right  
22 now. Right now it's not working.

23 UNIDENTIFIED FEMALE: Yes, it is.

24 MS. ZAVAKOS: Yeah, we were just on it not too long ago.

25 MR. BENBOW: Just now?

1 MS. ZAVAKOS: Yes.

2 MR. BENBOW: Okay. Well I stand corrected. I stand  
3 corrected. Thank you very much. I stand corrected. I  
4 apologize.

5 MS. BROWN: That's okay. Mike, would you go back to the  
6 slide with the Commission's website? There is a place on the  
7 website.

8 MR. BENBOW: Is it this website here?

9 MS. BROWN: Yes.

10 MR. BENBOW: Okay. Yeah, I'll recheck it, but thank you  
11 very much.

12 MS. BROWN: But as you see on the slide, there is a  
13 comment on redistricting.

14 MR. BENBOW: Yes.

15 MS. BROWN: There's a box there. You can type into that  
16 box, and the comments will go, as Mr. Raj Kumar mentioned, it  
17 will go straight to the County Administrator's staff. And  
18 he'll be able to, if there's a question or comment, he'll be  
19 able to respond, but he'll also make sure that we get a copy  
20 of what your comments are, so that we can consider those into  
21 the deliberation without having to be present at our meeting.

22 MR. BENBOW: Sure, that is absolutely great. Now, this  
23 slide show that you have here is also on the website?

24 MS. BROWN: It is.

25 MR. BENBOW: Great. Thank you very much.

1 CHAIR: Thank you.

2 MS. HOFFMAN: My name is Sally Hoffman, and I'm  
3 representing my community, which is Forest Knolls, Fort  
4 Washington Forest in Fort Washington. And I have a deep  
5 concern about this whole process because there are certain  
6 issues, which we're dealing with in our community, and we're  
7 very proud that Mr. Harley here is helping us with these  
8 issues. He is in District 9.

9 Mel Franklin is addressing so many issues that are  
10 important to us, and it seems like it's a very bad time for  
11 this whole redistricting to occur, at least for us. And I'm  
12 serious about this. Number one, we're starting with the new  
13 County Executive, who's got a whole new agenda. We have new  
14 Council people, who are receptive to our needs. (Audio stop)

15 MS. BROWN: (Audio resumes) Fort Washington address. So  
16 I can say, for example, with looking at the Draft One map, I  
17 don't know if that map reflects because we've been going  
18 through a lot of different variations of the maps. However,  
19 again, one of the considerations is this is not to split  
20 communities. And when I say communities, I don't mean  
21 subdivisions. I mean communities like Fort Washington,  
22 Clinton, that all have an identity together. And the  
23 majority of Fort Washington is in District 8. Forest Knolls  
24 is in District 9.

25 MS. HOFFMAN: And Fort Washington Forest too.

1 MS. BROWN: And Fort Washington Forest. I don't know  
2 about - I shouldn't say Fort Washington Forest because -

3 MS. HOFFMAN: That's where we're now one community.

4 MS. BROWN: Community.

5 MS. HOFFMAN: Under community association.

6 MS. BROWN: Right. And so the, based on what we've  
7 heard from all of the public hearings, there seems to be a  
8 unified voice that we should not split Census-designated  
9 places, meaning unincorporated areas. We shouldn't split  
10 Fort Washington. We shouldn't split Clinton. We shouldn't  
11 split Camp Springs, all of those. We shouldn't split  
12 Accokeek. We shouldn't split the communities that have that  
13 identity together.

14 MS. HOFFMAN: Actually, our community has more identity  
15 with Accokeek than it does with the rest of Fort Washington.

16 MS. BROWN: Exactly, exactly.

17 MS. HOFFMAN: Because I, let's see, I moved to the area  
18 to Fort Washington 35 years ago, and, since I moved there,  
19 they changed the boundaries of Fort Washington to include  
20 what used to be part of Oxon Hill, part of Temple Hills, part  
21 of I don't think Camp Springs, but Temple Hills. These areas  
22 were changed just a different post office box.

23 MS. BROWN: But to answer your question, we're legally  
24 obligated by the County Charter to undertake this process  
25 because of the Census. So every ten years - I know it seems

1 like a bad time now, because you've got new representation in  
2 and you have someone that's accountable to you and that's  
3 great.

4 But the fact of the matter is is that, every ten years  
5 after the Census, we have to take into account the population  
6 change. Whether that will specifically affect you, but we  
7 will make notation that Fort Washington Forest or Fort  
8 Washington Knolls, now a unified community, more closely  
9 identifies itself with Accokeek.

10 MS. HOFFMAN: With Accokeek, definitely.

11 MS. BROWN: Okay.

12 MS. HOFFMAN: Okay, thank you very much.

13 MS. BROWN: Great. Thank you.

14 MS. ROBINSON: Good afternoon, I'm Patricia Robinson and  
15 I live in Accokeek, and I'm a homeowner and a business owner.  
16 I own Little Foot Enrichment Learning Center, and that's at  
17 15404 Livingston Road in Accokeek, Maryland.

18 I agree with the speaker that just spoke on a couple of  
19 issues, and I also hear you as well. You have a job. You  
20 have to do it. This is something that's going to happen, and  
21 the fact that you're holding these meetings is to help you  
22 decide on which way to make it happen. And I think pretty  
23 much everybody's clear on that. It's just who's going to be  
24 where and when?

1           And so we're here. We're here to voice our opinion to  
2 say, hey, I don't want to be there. I want to be here. I'm  
3 a part of this. I'm a part of that. Hopefully, you'll hear  
4 it and say it's worth it to do it this way in the best  
5 interests of everybody. In Accokeek, we are rural, and we  
6 like it. I'm a small center, and I think I'm the only day  
7 care center in Accokeek. We're small and we're rural, and  
8 we'd like to stay that way.

9           Moving us to District 8, there's no rural. District 8  
10 will move us out of the rural area that we - we are rural.  
11 Accokeek is rural, and we don't want to be moved out of  
12 rural. And I agree that we have now (inaudible), and we're a  
13 strong community in Accokeek. I'm a part of the Accokeek  
14 Civic Association also. And we're small, and we just want  
15 the best, you guys to hear, and do the best that you really  
16 have to do.

17           I've accepted that we have to do this. I'm just in  
18 hopes that we're just 5,000 over what needs to be moved, and  
19 that's a small piece of the pie. And I want to ask you guys  
20 just leave us alone. And I thank you for having this  
21 meeting, for allowing us to come out, and raise our hands and  
22 say, hey, listen to me. And I'll see you guys again, I'm  
23 sure, at the second meeting as well.

24           MS. BROWN: Thank you.

1 CHAIR: What an honor to the process, because that is  
2 exactly why we're doing this. And I think what I feel so  
3 good about is because this input is what's going to make us,  
4 help us create the best product.

5 MS. ROBINSON: Absolutely.

6 CHAIR: And one that you will feel good about. You  
7 know, I don't know that everybody gets what they want, but we  
8 can certainly give it a try with this input. And I think  
9 that's what's important to us. So thank you so much.

10 MS. ROBINSON: And we thank you for that.

11 CHAIR: Thank you.

12 MS. MOONEY: Hello, my name is Jemisa Mooney (phonetic),  
13 and my address is 501 Abbington Place, Oxon Hill, Maryland.  
14 And like Ms. Johnson, I believe, let me preface my comments  
15 by saying don't kill the messenger. Anybody in the room, I  
16 am new to my community. I live in River Ridge Estates. Our  
17 community is the closest to the National Harbor. We border -  
18 it's 659 homes. We border the Oxon Hill Manor and the Harbor  
19 itself on both sides of Oxon Hill Road.

20 So, a couple of my residents are very interested in  
21 redistricting and have sent me here with all of their  
22 questions because, one, they want to get involved and don't  
23 know how, but their main concern is about zip code  
24 boundaries. On that side of Oxon Hill Road and 210, their  
25 concern is that we identify more with Fort Washington. And

1 because of the proposed development of the Tanger Outlets and  
2 WalMart and, while our wonderful Councilman is here, we're  
3 working with them on some of the transportation issues and  
4 crime and things.

5       There are questions in - a group of about 40 of us got  
6 together, and I was sent here alone. I want to make that  
7 clear. I was sent by myself, and my community is a mix of  
8 retirees and things, so some of them have been active in the  
9 community and fighting for a long time.

10       There are questions about zip code boundaries and if the  
11 Commission addresses that in the redistricting process  
12 because of the fact that that community has been moved around  
13 a couple of times. It was Fort Washington at one point. Now  
14 it's Oxon Hill for the last 20 years. They want to go back  
15 to Fort Washington because of the fact that the crime on the  
16 side by Eastover and some of the other communities around  
17 that general area affect our home values, home sale prices.  
18 And with the foreclosure rates and things being the way they  
19 are right now, that's a major concern.

20       So, also I think they were also concerned about --  
21 nevermind, you already addressed that question earlier. That  
22 was it.

23       CHAIR: I'm not sure that we have dealt with this from  
24 the zip code perspective. We've dealt with it from the Fort  
25 Washington, Oxon Hill are Census-designated places that we

1 would keep together. I think the zip code issue speaks to  
2 another, that's kind of another issue.

3 MS. MOONEY: Okay, so that won't be addressed by this  
4 Commission?

5 CHAIR: No, no.

6 MS. MOONEY: Do you know where they - where would they  
7 take that?

8 (Aside discussion.)

9 MR. HARRINGTON: The postmaster.

10 MS. BROWN: Camp Springs also has that issue because,  
11 just like here, their President, Ms. Holmes, was about to say  
12 Suitland.

13 MS. HOLMES: No, I was about to say Temple Hills.

14 MS. BROWN: You were about to say Temple Hills.

15 MS. HOLMES: Right.

16 MS. BROWN: Camp Springs, they have various post  
17 offices, Temple Hills, Suitland post office. Don't you have  
18 one other post office as well?

19 MS. HOLMES: Mm-mm.

20 MS. BROWN: No, just those two. Okay.

21 MS. MOONEY: So you all don't work with the postmaster?

22 MS. BROWN: No.

23 MR. HARRINGTON: That's a federal issue.

24 MS. MOONEY: Okay.

1 MR. HARRINGTON: But it's a good question, very good  
2 question.

3 CHAIR: Any more questions? We would just - one more.

4 UNIDENTIFIED: Just a question, note one of the new  
5 changes noticed was that Indian Head Highway Corridor was put  
6 all in District 8 and wanted to know if there were comments  
7 that went along with that or any discussion, or is that just  
8 the way the numbers worked out?

9 MS. BROWN: I believe that's the way just the numbers  
10 worked out. But then, again, there are other variations. We  
11 just used that as an example, but that was just, I think, one  
12 variation to show how the district would look if we put, I  
13 believe, Camp Springs - wait a minute. Hold on. Let me just  
14 look.

15 Trying to confirm, but I believe that's one scenario  
16 that we put all of Camp Springs in nine. And so that, yes,  
17 that's how the numbers ended up playing out. And just so  
18 that you'll know, when you change one district, it actually  
19 affects all nine districts, not just your contiguous  
20 districts of 8, 7 and 6. Because, as you know, we had one  
21 County Council district that actually lost population, which  
22 we're going to have to make up as well. And so we have to  
23 consider that.

24 And also, at the April 9<sup>th</sup> hearing, we heard from a group  
25 called the Fannie Lou Hamer PAC, which was very concerned

1 about making sure that we keep a majority minority district  
2 in District 2, I believe it is, that has a large Hispanic  
3 vote. One of the important things that you need to recognize  
4 that we have to do by law and because of what the Supreme  
5 Court has done with respect to redistricting, this is about a  
6 democratic process of ensuring one person, one vote.

7 And so we don't want to dilute, we don't want to come up  
8 with a map that dilutes any votes as well. And so we are  
9 taking all of your comments into consideration, but we have  
10 to look at how it not only affects 8 and 9, because, yes, we  
11 are at this portion of the County, but the shifts in 8 and 9  
12 will also affect Districts 5, 6, 7, 1, 2 and 3. You  
13 understand? Okay.

14 CHAIR: So, in fact, incorporating your comments means  
15 that we have to make sure we can do that and still follow the  
16 law.

17 MS. BROWN: Right.

18 MR. HARRINGTON: (Inaudible.)

19 CHAIR: Exactly.

20 UNIDENTIFIED FEMALE: And it seems like, if Accokeek  
21 goes back into 9, you're going to have a lot of balancing to  
22 do.

23 CHAIR: Exactly, exactly.

24 MS. BROWN: It's okay. We're going to give it a shot.

1 MS. ALDRICH: Good evening, my name is Linda Aldrich. I  
2 live at 1800 Clayton Drive in Oxon Hill, and I just have the  
3 request that, the neighborhood that I am, there's this small  
4 niche that was kind of carved out and put into seven, that it  
5 would be put back into District 8.

6 CHAIR: What is it?

7 MS. ALDRICH: It's over like in the Barnaby Manor area,  
8 Potomac. It's just one little niche of like Oxon Hill that  
9 got carved out and it's in seven.

10 MR. HARRINGTON: Would you mind providing the address  
11 again please?

12 MS. ALDRICH: 1800 Clayton Drive.

13 MR. HARRINGTON: And historically, had you been in  
14 District -

15 MS. ALDRICH: We were in District 8 and then, when the  
16 redistricting happened ten years ago, we got put into seven.

17 MR. HARRINGTON: Ten years ago, you got put back into  
18 seven.

19 MS. ALDRICH: And it's just a small part of Oxon Hill  
20 that's in seven.

21 MR. HARRINGTON: Okay.

22 MS. ALDRICH: Thank you.

23 CHAIR: Thank you so much.

24 MS. TAYLOR: I just had a question. My name is Beverly  
25 Taylor, and I live at 6713 Edgeview Drive in Camp Springs.

1 When you change the numbers, is it also required that a  
2 certain amount of voting places be in that particular  
3 district according to the numbers? Am I saying that right?

4 MS. BROWN: You mean precincts, yes.

5 MS. TAYLOR: Precincts.

6 MS. BROWN: No.

7 MS. TAYLOR: Okay, that has nothing?

8 MS. BROWN: No, the - once we make the final changes and  
9 it's approved by the County Council in terms of the final  
10 districts, the County Council will then have to submit that  
11 plan to the Board of Elections to figure out what the new  
12 precinct boundaries will look like. But it will - it does  
13 not necessarily have to affect the number, but it probably  
14 will, but it does not have to.

15 CHAIR: And we check that earlier on. What many of you  
16 may know is, while we must be done by September 1<sup>st</sup>, the state  
17 redistricting process is also beginning to gear up. And I  
18 think our early analysis reveals that, for the election  
19 board, reconfiguring the voting districts was more affected  
20 by the state, the legislative redistricting process.

21 So, since we're moving toward the finish line, you  
22 should - I advise you to get yourselves geared up for that  
23 process. And we hope that the way we've conducted ourselves  
24 will somehow be helpful to them because what we're getting  
25 from all of you is really important to us.

1 MS. TAYLOR: Okay. And it was a big mix-up the last  
2 time this, you know - when we had redistricting, people  
3 didn't know where they had to go to vote anymore. And some  
4 of them weren't notified. So, thank you for all you do.

5 CHAIR: Thank you.

6 MR. ST. CYR: Good evening, I'm Zeno St. Cyr, II, the  
7 President of the Riverbend Citizens Homeowners Association.  
8 I live at 601 Riverbend Road in Fort Washington. I'm also a  
9 co-founder of GSCCAP, the Greater South County Coalition for  
10 Absolute Progress. I don't have a question, but I do have a  
11 comment.

12 This meeting, I think, has been very helpful. We very  
13 much appreciate the Commission's efforts to have several of  
14 these meetings around the county. I want to echo some of the  
15 comments that have been made here tonight, and also comments  
16 that have been made by some of my colleagues, particularly in  
17 Camp Springs and also Clinton, that we are very much hopeful  
18 that this Commission can bring some sensibility to the way  
19 the districts are currently drawn to help unify some of the  
20 areas that are split.

21 Some of the splits just absolutely do not make sense in  
22 the eyes of many of the residents having Camp Springs split  
23 three ways, Clinton split, Marlow Heights area split, even to  
24 a certain extent here in Fort Washington with a piece of us

1 being in District 9, notwithstanding the comments that we  
2 made here earlier tonight.

3       And we're also, to say one of the things that I was  
4 going to say, and that is that I'm hopeful that this process  
5 being conducted at a county level will also serve as some  
6 illumination, if not for a model outright, for our state  
7 legislators to follow and, in turn, for our federally elected  
8 representatives to follow for those congressional districts  
9 where, at the state and federal level, is even more  
10 craziness.

11       So, again, thank you for coming out tonight, and we look  
12 forward to the work that you're going to put into this and  
13 the districts that will be drawn for us to review at the next  
14 meeting. Thank you.

15       CHAIR: Thank you, Mr. St. Cyr.

16       MALE CITIZEN: Good evening, everyone. My name is  
17 (inaudible). I live at 2975 Brinkley Road. That's in Temple  
18 Hills. One, I just want to reiterate what the lady said a  
19 little bit earlier. I think it warrants to be repeated.  
20 Your maps, I think, are a little vague. I'd like to see some  
21 kind of query as far as to boundaries. I would suggest for  
22 your internet people some kind of a zoom-in option that we  
23 can - where I can at least see where the lines are.

24       Also, being or living in the Temple Hills area, I think  
25 there is some confusion. The postal zones are different.

1 Sometimes what you consider to be Temple Hills can be read as  
2 far as Hillcrest Heights and goes all the way down to -

3 MR. HARRINGTON: (Inaudible.)

4 MALE CITIZEN: Right. I mean it gets confusing. I  
5 would ask that your maps that they could at least outline  
6 what they consider to be Temple Hills, because what the post  
7 office says might be different from what you guys say. And  
8 that, I think that's very, very critical when it comes to the  
9 unincorporated areas.

10 But I would like to see some kind of query because then  
11 it allows me to participate a lot better because I can ask  
12 some of the important questions. But a zoom-in option may be  
13 what makes something very clear where I can see where Temple  
14 Hills is. Is it split? Is it not going to be split? And  
15 you can see exactly what the boundaries are. Then it allows  
16 me to really participate fully in the process. Thank you.

17 CHAIR: Thank you so very much.

18 MS. BROWN: Thank you.

19 CHAIR: Ladies and gentlemen, thank you so very much for  
20 coming and, if there are no other questions, the third  
21 meeting, the third June meeting of the County Council  
22 Redistricting Commission is adjourned. Thank you.

23 (Whereupon, the hearing was concluded.)

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CERTIFICATE OF TRANSCRIBER

I, Ruth Kerker Blair, hereby certify that the excerpt of the testimony given in the above-entitled matter was transcribed by me, and that said transcript is a true record, to the best of my ability, of said testimony.

I further hereby certify that I am neither a relative to nor an employee of any attorney or party herewith, and that I have no interest in the outcome of these proceedings.

This 20th day of July, 2011.

/s/ Ruth Kerker Blair

RUTH KERKER BLAIR