

AUGUSTA-RICHMOND COUNTY
RICHMOND COUNTY BOARD OF ELECTIONS
AD HOC REDISTRICTING COMMITTEE MEETING

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COMMITTEE MEETING

Before Julie M. Brackett, CVR-M, CCR

At the Augusta-Richmond County Municipal Building

530 Greene Street, 2nd Floor, Augusta, Georgia

On July 20, 2021, Commencing at 12:00 p.m.

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APPEARANCES

Board of Elections: Ms. Lynn Bailey

County Commissioners: Comm. Sean Frantom
Comm. Ben Hasan
Comm. Jordan Johnson

School Board Members: Mr. Charlie Hannah
Mr. Jimmy Atkins
Ms. Venus Cain
Ms. Helen Minchew
Rep. Wayne Howard
Rep. Brian Prince
Rep. Mark Newton
Sen. Harold Jones

County Administrator: Mr. Odie Donald
Chief Information Officer: Ms. Tameka Allen
Presenting Guest: Ms. Gina Wright,
Executive Director
Mr. Brian Knight,
liaison

Attorneys: Ms. Zena McClain-
Haymon City of Augusta
Law Department
Mr. Pete Fletcher
Board of Education

INDEX TO COMMITTEE MEETING

	<u>Page</u>
INTRODUCTION/OPENING BY MS. BAILEY.	3
SELECTION OF CHAIR/VICE CHAIR BY MS. MCCLAIN-HAYMON.. . . .	7
PRESENTATION BY MS. WRIGHT.	13
GUIDING PRINCIPLES FOR THE COMMITTEE BY MS. MC-CLAIN-HAYMON.	57
WEB PORTAL AND TRANSPARENCY BY MS. ALLEN.	60
CERTIFICATE OF COURT REPORTER.. . . .	76

COURT REPORTER'S NOTES

An interruptions, trailing off, and incomplete sentences are represented by -- in the body of the transcript.

Brackets [] are for clarification in the body of the transcript.

1 AD HOC COMMITTEE MEETING

2 AUGUSTA-RICHMOND COUNTY MUNICIPAL BUILDING

3 [Pursuant to O.C.G.A. 9-11-28(d), Julie M. Brackett
4 has no contract with any of the parties or their counsel.
5 The court reporter's charges are the usual and customary
6 charges for services within the industry and are available
7 upon request by either party, with no financial or
8 services discount being given to any party named in this
9 meeting.]

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11 MS. BAILEY: Good afternoon. I think the time has
12 come for us to begin our meeting so everyone should have a
13 couple of documents in their folder. One is a proposed
14 agenda for today's meeting and the second one is -- the
15 second one we'll talk about in a few minutes, but that's a
16 report basically from 2011, but I think still will give
17 you some pretty good insight into what we're about to
18 embark upon. So I'm going to start by giving a brief
19 introductory statement and then we'll follow the agenda as
20 listed.

21 So as you know, every ten years the district lines
22 for Augusta Commission and the Board of Education --

23 MR. DONALD: Ms. Bailey, one second. The folks
24 streaming can't currently hear you so we might need to
25 address that --

1 MS. BAILEY: Am I muted?

2 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: The IT mic is muted.

3 MS. BAILEY: Okay, so for the folks streaming, is
4 that good? Okay, cool.

5 So, I'm just give -- I'm starting off with the
6 introductory statement saying that, as we all know, every
7 ten years, the district lines need to be reviewed and
8 updated to reflect current population growth or decline
9 amongst the Commission and School Board districts. In our
10 case here in Richmond County, we are very fortunate that
11 the two sets of district lines mirror each other and
12 that's why this group is comprised of the membership that
13 it is, containing members of the Commission and School
14 Board, and also members of the legislative delegation
15 which are, in fact, our vehicle for moving this -- moving
16 this plan into law.

17 So as we go about this process it's going to be
18 y'all's duty and with our support -- staff support to make
19 sure that as we go through this process it's done properly
20 and legally, with plans developed by the local governing
21 authority, as I said earlier, must flow through the
22 General Assembly and through this legislative delegation.
23 And that will likely come up in the next session, the next
24 full session, not in the special session, that will be
25 called for the Congressional and Senate and House

1 redistricting, but in the regular session in January. So
2 that's kind of our time frame in what we're looking for, a
3 goal of having a plan to the General Assembly, hopefully
4 before they even get rolling there in the middle of
5 January.

6 The ad hoc redistricting committee which -- has used
7 this same format for the last two decades with
8 redistricting and this is the third time. I'm looking at
9 this dias and I see faces that have sat on this committee
10 before. So it's good to have some continuity in the
11 process and certainly y'all are welcome.

12 During the past redistricting process, the committee
13 utilized the services of a consultant to actually draw the
14 maps. The Augusta Commission has an item on the agenda
15 today that provides this group with the approval to seek
16 that consultant. We are working on doing an RFP for that
17 right now to bring that consultant on board. Now, the
18 consultant's role is multifaceted. But primarily will be
19 geared for the technical role so that as we're going
20 through our workshops and changes are identified that you
21 would -- that you all would like to see made in the
22 proposed plan, there will be instances where those changes
23 can be make on the fly, if you will, while we're in
24 meeting and they can generate these statistics right then
25 and there to see how that change would impact the overall

1 plan and whether or not it's feasible.

2 This is the initial meeting of the committee as you
3 know. At conclusion of this meeting, the committee should
4 have selected a Chair and a Vice-Chair, received
5 educational information for the process of redistricting,
6 be introduced to the concept of developing redistricting
7 criteria to guide the committee's work, and to set a date
8 for the next meeting.

9 The City of Augusta Law Department represented by
10 Counselor Zena McClain-Haymon; the Information Technology
11 Department represented by Tameka Allen, the board --
12 Richmond County Board of Elections represented by myself,
13 and the Board of Education represented by Counselor Pete
14 Fletcher will provide administrative support to this group
15 as you go about your business. We do have a court
16 reporter with us here today who will provide a verbatim
17 transcript of the conversations that we have today. The
18 meetings will be recorded, live streamed, and this meeting
19 is being live streamed today, and it will be available on
20 YouTube for view, you know, by the public at their
21 leisure.

22 Some of our committee members, specifically State
23 Representatives Howard, Prince, and Newton, are attending
24 this meeting today via Zoom. So we will manage -- excuse
25 me, manage that process as we go along. But they are here

1 and listening in as we speak.

2 So those -- for those of you attending via Zoom, if
3 you have a question about anything, I will -- I will try
4 to hover around this podium that I'm looking at now. I
5 see your faces or your names on the screen. And if you
6 have a question or you want to say something, if you'll
7 just raise your hand or bring it to my attention, I will
8 make the Chair, whoever that may be, aware at that time
9 and we can go from there.

10 Since there is no Chair quite yet, I will preside in
11 an administrative capacity until such time as the Chair is
12 selected by this group, which is the very next item of
13 business. As so with that, I will turn the meeting over
14 to Counselor Zena McClain-Haymon to talk to you about how
15 we go about the process of selecting a Chair and then
16 we'll be off and running.

17 MS. MCCLAIN-HAYMON: Thank you, Director Bailey.
18 Because you all are elected officials, I'm pretty sure
19 that you all have been through this process before. So
20 having said that, the method of nomination this afternoon
21 -- we'll have an open nomination, and I will begin with
22 the Office of Chair and we'll take nominations. So having
23 said that, nominations are now open for the Office of
24 Chair.

25 MR. HASAN: I would like to make a nomination.

1 MS. MCCLAIN-HAYMON: Yes, sir.

2 MR. HASAN: I would like to nominate Commissioner
3 Sean Frantom as Chair.

4 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Second.

5 MS. MCCLAIN-HAYMON: Any other nominations? Any
6 nominations for the Office of Chair? Any additional
7 nominations for the Office of Chair?

8 Hearing none, the nominations are now closed for the
9 Office of Chair. You can proceed with the vote.

10 [RESPONSE]

11 MS. MCCLAIN-HAYMON: Okay. So it's by majority,
12 everyone. So Sean Frantom is the Chair.

13 MR. FRANTOM: Appreciate it.

14 MS. MCCLAIN-HAYMON: I will now proceed with the
15 Office of --

16 MR. HASAN: Ms. McClain, make sure you count the
17 votes on the people calling in.

18 MS. MCCLAIN-HAYMON: Oh, I'm sorry. I forgot about
19 the Zoom thing.

20 MS. BAILEY: I saw hands go up for Representative
21 Newton and Howard. But Representative Prince, if you're
22 on the line and you would like to weigh in on this vote,
23 now would be the proper time to do that.

24 MS. MCCLAIN-HAYMON: Did you have a nomination, sir?

25 MR. NEWTON: I vote yes.

1 MS. MCCLAIN-HAYMON: Okay. Did anyone nominate
2 someone? Did I miss that?

3 MR. HASAN: It's just capturing a vote. You
4 mentioned here; you didn't mention there.

5 MS. MCCLAIN-HAYMON: Oh, okay. All right. So were
6 all hands raised?

7 MR. HASAN: Yes.

8 MS. MCCLAIN-HAYMON: So nominations are now open for
9 the Office of Co-Chair.

10 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: I would like to make a
11 nomination.

12 MS. MCCLAIN-HAYMON: Yes, sir.

13 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Vice-Chair.

14 MS. MCCLAIN-HAYMON: Vice-Chair, I'm sorry.

15 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: I would like to nominate Ms.
16 Cain.

17 MR. JOHNSON: Second.

18 MS. MCCLAIN-HAYMON: Are there any additional
19 nominations for the Office of Vice-Chair? Are there any
20 other nominations for the Office of Vice-Chair?

21 Hearing none, the nominations for the Office of Vice-
22 Chair is now closed. Ready to vote? All those in favor?

23 [RESPONSE]

24 MS. MCCLAIN-HAYMON: Okay. Thank you. Nominations
25 are complete. So you're going to announce the next item?

1 MS. BAILEY: Yes. So I'll -- at this point, we'll
2 turn the meeting over to Chairman Frantom.

3 Mr. Chairman, do you have everything you need with
4 the audio or the visual part so that you can see what's
5 going on with the votes that are coming via Zoom?

6 MR. FRANTOM: Yes, ma'am.

7 MS. BAILEY: Okay, very good. Thank you.

8 MR. FRANTOM: First of all, I just want to say thank
9 you. It's an honor to lead this group of fine
10 individuals, elected officials, here in Richmond County.
11 Can I get a motion to adopt the agenda before you?

12 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: I'll motion.

13 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Second.

14 MR. FRANTOM: Got a motion and a second. Please
15 raise your hand.

16 [RESPONSE]

17 MR. FRANTOM: Okay. All right. It's unanimous. All
18 right. Moving on to regular introductions. We'll start
19 down on my far left and we'll go and introduce everyone
20 that's on this committee.

21 MR. JOHNSON: All right. Good afternoon. Jordan
22 Johnson, Augusta Commission, District 1.

23 MS. MINCHEW: Good afternoon. Helen Minchew,
24 Richmond County Board of Education. I represent District
25 10 at large.

1 MS. CAIN: I'm Venus Cain. I represent District 9 on
2 the Richmond County Board of Education.

3 MR. FRANTOM: Sean Frantom, Commissioner of District
4 7.

5 MR. HANNAH: Charlie Hannah, Richmond County Board of
6 Education, District 2.

7 MR. ATKINS: Timmy Atkins, Richmond County Board of
8 Education, District 8.

9 SENATOR JONES: I'm State Senator Harold Jones, and I
10 represent District 22.

11 MR. HASAN: Ben Hasan, Commissioner of District 6.

12 MR. FRANTOM: All right. Mr. Howard, Representative
13 Howard? You're muted, sir. You're muted, sir.

14 REPRESENTATIVE HOWARD: Okay. Wayne Howard, House
15 District 124.

16 MR. FRANTOM: Representative Prince?

17 REPRESENTATIVE PRINCE: Brian Prince, House 126.

18 MR. FRANTOM: And Representative Newton.

19 REPRESENTATIVE NEWTON: Mark Newton, House District
20 123.

21 MR. FRANTOM: All right, thank you. Is there any
22 discussion before we move on, any comments, any thoughts?
23 Okay.

24 We're going to move on then to the presentation by
25 Ms. Gina Wright. She's the Executive Director of the

1 Legislative and Congressional Reappointment Office, and
2 she will be on the screen. Ms. Wright, it's all yours.

3 MS. WRIGHT: Thank you very much for having me today.
4 Before I begin, I still hear this echo coming through Zoom
5 so I don't know if you can hear that in the room because
6 it's going to get annoying if I hear that for 45 minutes.

7 MR. FRANTOM: We can hear you great here so if you
8 can bear with it.

9 MS. WRIGHT: Okay.

10 MR. FRANTOM: I can mute us and that may help.

11 MS. WRIGHT: Maybe. Can you all on Zoom hear me now?

12 MR. FRANTOM: Yes, we can hear you.

13 MS. WRIGHT: Let me see if it's echoing. Is that
14 better for the Zoom people?

15 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Yes, it's better.

16 MR. FRANTOM: Yeah, that works.

17 MS. WRIGHT: Okay. So I think maybe keeping the IT
18 camera mic muted is probably the best solution for that.
19 But thank you so much for having me. I appreciate the
20 invitation to come and speak today even through Zoom about
21 local redistricting to provide some information to you and
22 get you all and your committee started, hopefully, down
23 the path of redrawing your district maps.

24 What I'm going to do is share my screen so you'll be
25 able to see my PowerPoint and we'll go through that. It

1 has kind of two parts. The first part will be basically a
2 overview of just redistricting in general. And then the
3 second part is more specifically geared towards local
4 redistricting and the local process, and the changes that
5 were put in to that process a couple of years ago. So let
6 me go ahead and share my screen. Can you all see that on
7 your side?

8 MR. FRANTOM: We can. Yes, we can.

9 MS. WRIGHT: Great. Okay. So I'm just going to go
10 ahead and begin, and I understand I think that if you have
11 questions, we're going to save them till the very end. I
12 think that's what Ms. Bailey has said would work best, and
13 we can go through those at that point. So if you want to
14 take some notes or write your questions down, that might
15 be the best method to do it.

16 As I said, my name is Gina Wright. I'm the Executive
17 Director of the Office of Legislative and Congressional
18 Reapportionment for the Georgia General Assembly. I've
19 worked for this office specifically for almost 21 years
20 now. This will be my third redistricting cycle, working
21 through -- within the same office, working with the
22 General Assembly to redraw their maps, but also working
23 with local government and redrawing theirs, which is what
24 I learned on. That's where I started with working with
25 the local government, county commission maps, county

1 School Board maps. I have a super, great, wonderful
2 staff. They're very talented and we're all excited to
3 work through this process so let's dive in.

4 All redistricting, I'm sure you probably are aware,
5 kind of stems from the process of the census. The census
6 is a count that's taken of all residents in our country
7 every ten years. I'm sure you're aware of that, and the
8 actual count is the residence of the individuals as of
9 April 1st of the year that ends in a zero. And as we all
10 know, everything was a little different last year during
11 that time period as of April 1st so that's caused some
12 changes in the census in the way they have done the
13 process. A lot of things have been different, but they
14 did take the count and we're still going to wait on those
15 numbers. This process was actually mandated by the US
16 Constitution in Article 1, Section 2. So it is a required
17 process that they take a count of the people. The first
18 census was taken in 1790. So we've been taking a census
19 for a long time. Of course, the method has changed, and
20 who gets counted has changed, and the whole process is a
21 little different. This past cycle was the first time you
22 could actually submit your census responses online so that
23 was a great new feature that we were able to participate
24 in.

25 So once the census is taken, they give you new

1 population figures. The first round of information that
2 comes out is the apportionment totals, which is your state
3 total. We were actually provided this recently and that's
4 the only thing we know so far is the population of Georgia
5 is now 10,711,908 . And as you can see from the map that
6 you have here, Georgia is a slightly darker orange than
7 most states. We are in that 10 million to 25 million
8 range now, and there are only two states that are in the
9 darkest orange, as you can see. California and then Texas
10 are all above 25 million people.

11 Our population in 2010 was 9,687,653 so we have
12 gained over a million people in our state in the last
13 decade. This is a very significant growth. I know it's
14 important to what we'll be doing and as we redraw the
15 district. And we are -- as you can see on the map, we are
16 the eighth largest state in population. We were eighth
17 before. We're continuing to be eighth now in so the same
18 rank, but that's because we've had a good steady growth
19 pattern and that's kept us in that spot.

20 So what happens next once the census is taken and
21 they count the people and they come up with new numbers.
22 Well, new census numbers mean you're going to need new
23 maps, that is almost a guarantee. As you look at the new
24 census data and apply it to your maps, you will find that
25 the districts are no longer balanced. They are not equal

1 in population and that means that new maps are going to
2 need to be drawn to accommodate that.

3 So what happens is the district boundaries need to
4 change so you're going to shift the boundary lines so that
5 you'll have an equal number of people in every district
6 and the language is as equal as practicable, which means
7 if you can make it that equal, then you should make it
8 that equal. You should make it a goal to try and have the
9 same number of people in every district.

10 What is important to understand is that all districts
11 are effected by the changes. When a map has to be redrawn
12 at the local level, all the way up to the state level,
13 it's almost a guarantee that every district will be
14 changed at least a little bit, even those that are in the
15 corner or maybe districts who did -- grew just the right
16 amount and they have a good amount of people in it,
17 sometimes they still get a slight effect by the shifting
18 of the boundaries in districts nearby in other parts of
19 that county or other parts of the state. It's just the
20 effect of moving boundary lines to balance. And perhaps
21 you've even had changes in voting precinct lines so you
22 want to put a precinct back together that was split or
23 make some other adjustments there to make the map a better
24 map. So you can almost expect that every district will be
25 changed in some way when this process takes place.

1 So a little terminology just to give a clarification
2 from the beginning. I'm sure you're going hear these two
3 words a lot. They are used frequently but they actually
4 have very different meanings. Even though they are used
5 interchangeably, they are not the same thing and I want to
6 clarify that for you. Reapportionment is actually the
7 reallocation of the US Congressional Districts in the US
8 House, that happens after a decennial census. What the
9 process is is a formula is applied to that new census data
10 and they redistribute the 435 US House seats. Every state
11 is going to get one district so we know that that's going
12 to be the case. So you're going to have 50 already one
13 per state, but then there's 385 left and they have to
14 determine where do those go. And the process means that
15 you may or may not have the same number of House seats
16 when all is said and done, after the count is taken and
17 then they do this formula. And this process was
18 established also in the US Constitution in Article 2,
19 Section 3. This is a portion of how our Legislative
20 Branch was established so that we would have two chambers
21 in our Legislative Branch. One that is not based on
22 population, that is every state has an equal number of
23 members, which is our Senate where every state has two,
24 and then the US House was the branch that was determined
25 that would change and fluctuate with the growth within the

1 states. So this has been around a long time as well, the
2 process of reapportioning the US House districts.

3 Redistricting is just the redrawing of the district
4 boundary lines. With that goal of equal population in
5 mind, we shift the boundary lines within any given
6 district map to make them equal in population is the
7 primary goal, that is the process. It is redistricting
8 when you shift the lines. You're not changing the number
9 of districts that's there, you're just shifting the lines
10 so that you'll have a different looking map, and hopefully
11 your districts will be more equal in population than they
12 were before.

13 This can occur at all levels of election districts.
14 It can occur -- city councils, all the way up to our US
15 House districts that we have in Georgia, which we have 14,
16 and we'll still have 14 on this cycle.

17 So as you also have probably heard or are aware,
18 there are a set of redistricting principles. They
19 underlie what we do when we redraw a map. We don't just
20 draw it however we want. We have certain legal
21 requirements that we have to think about and consider and
22 comply with as we work through every redistricting map
23 that is done. The main thing, of course, at the top is
24 that they must comply with the US and our state's
25 Constitution. The US Constitution does mention equal

1 population in reference to our congressional districts and
2 that the districts should be equal in population. And
3 when we draw our congressional district map in Georgia as
4 we have the past cycle, specifically we drew it to the
5 exact same population per district plus or minus one
6 person so every congressional district has the same number
7 of people in it, almost exactly. Our state Constitution
8 does spell out the number of districts that we have for
9 our state Senate and our state House. It lists those
10 numbers there. It also mentions that the districts should
11 be contiguous and I'll talk about that in a minute. But
12 those are a part of what the Constitutional requirements
13 are. There are also other legal requirements that have
14 come about as changes in the law had been developed
15 through the years. One is the voting rights act of 1965.
16 All maps need to comply with that, and that basically can
17 be confusing because we know there was a case back in 2013
18 that the Supreme Court struck down the formula for pre-
19 clearance submissions that Section 5 was still a real
20 section of the Voting Rights Act. They didn't get rid of
21 it. But also the one we really focus on at this point
22 because we're not submitting for pre-clearance at the
23 moment is the Section 2 portion of the Voting Rights Act.
24 Section 2 is the area that talks about how you cannot draw
25 maps or do any other changes in election procedure that

1 would basically discriminate based on race, color,
2 language, minority groups, things like that. Section 2 is
3 still very much alive and active and we do have to comply
4 with that with any map we draw. We also have to comply
5 with the Equal Protection Clause, 14th Amendment, which
6 says even though we are drawing districts to not
7 discriminate based on race, you can't make race the only
8 thing that you do consider when you draw a districts. It
9 can't be the main reason you draw a map. So you have to
10 reconcile those two principles that they are both legal
11 requirements that we have to consider as we work through
12 maps. And another thing you probably may have heard of
13 before is the idea of one person one vote. This has to do
14 with each district having that equal number of people in
15 them so that every person's vote counts the same when they
16 elect their candidate for what ever type of district that
17 might be. One of the things that we talk about sometimes
18 is the span of deviations that is acceptable, allowing a
19 district to be so much larger than the ideal or so much
20 smaller than the ideal. And what we try to, you know,
21 shift to after some other legal decisions and things like
22 that is that we draw the districts to be as equal as we
23 can and we don't apply a percentage range or deviation
24 range. We want them to be as equal as they can be with --
25 considering all the other factors that -- I'll mention a

1 few more in just a minute, but taking all of that into
2 account, you've got to draw the districts to be the same
3 size as possible.

4 So these are just some of the legal requirements that
5 go into drawing maps, but there are also several
6 traditional redistricting principles that are a part of
7 the process as well. Now, these can vary by jurisdiction.
8 They don't necessarily have to be the principals that
9 every state or every county or every, you know, group --
10 whatever group might be working on a map, they may not be
11 the same in every place, but these are ones that are
12 traditionally accepted and very often times used, and
13 you'll see these with other, you know, redistricting
14 criteria that come up. One of those is compactness.
15 There are many, many tests you can run to measure
16 compactness. Some people just think compactness is how it
17 looks in the eyes of the holder because with what you
18 think might be compact. But there are different ways to
19 gauge that. Basically it just means as much of the
20 district in the shape of the district is as close together
21 as it will be.

22 Contiguity means that all of the district touches
23 itself, meaning you don't have any little island pieces
24 that are detached from the district that are assigned to
25 that same district. All of the parts of the district are

1 contained together and linked together, and this was
2 mentioned, as I said, and our state Constitution.

3 Another redistricting principle is respecting
4 political boundaries. That can include several different
5 types of boundaries. It can be county lines when you're
6 working on the state map. It can be that you're trying to
7 keep counties from being divided between districts. At
8 your local level it might be your voting precincts.
9 You're trying to not split precincts, if at all possible,
10 when drawing your districts. You want to keep those
11 precincts together. In some other counties, I know you're
12 a consolidated government there. Other counties it might
13 be their towns or their cities. They want to keep all of
14 this town in this district and all of this town in another
15 district. So it's respecting those types of political
16 boundaries, that are established government boundaries,
17 legal boundaries as they are. Those are important,
18 especially with the precincts. That can be very
19 beneficial for your elections in your county to know the
20 precincts are not divided. They don't have different
21 ballot polls for their districts. So that can be a very
22 useful thing to consider as you draw your maps.

23 A fourth principle here is communities of interest.
24 Communities of interest can include various different
25 types of groups and can be defined in different ways.

1 There is not one particular way to measure what is a
2 community of interest. A community can define itself as a
3 community of interest. This might include things like an
4 area where all of the people's children attend the same
5 schools so it's school attendance zones. It might be an
6 area that shares a religious affiliation. It might be an
7 area that identifies with a common interest. Maybe it's a
8 common shopping center, maybe it's just another common
9 interest that they have in that particular region, that
10 those types of communities -- maybe a neighborhood is a
11 smaller level that you're at within your county. It could
12 be a large neighborhood or even a small neighborhood that
13 you identify as a unit. That might be something else to
14 consider on your redistricting maps.

15 And the last thing I want to mentioned here is
16 incumbent protection. This can be different at the state
17 level versus the local level because at the state level,
18 our state House and state Senate, and even our US
19 congressional members are reelected in two years. So
20 they're always going to be up for reelection every two
21 years. At the local level, terms are usually a four-year
22 term, and that could be something you have to consider
23 when you are drawing your maps, because -- and they have
24 been just recently elected to serve a term, a four-year
25 term, and you draw a map that draws them into a different

1 district now, and that district might be up for election
2 in two years. Well, you've effectively shortened their
3 term if you require them to run for reelection in two
4 years rather than four. So what you want to know is where
5 the incumbents do reside in your map so that you can try
6 to avoid shortening anyone's term. You want to make sure
7 that they are in a term -- or in a district that will
8 have the length of term that they were elected to serve
9 already before you go in to changing the map. That's just
10 something else to consider, especially at the local level.

11 So these are some various principles just to think
12 about along with the legal ones. They all play a role in
13 how you develop what your map is going to look like. So
14 contrary to some thoughts that think you just plugged in a
15 computer and let it spit out a map, well you could do
16 that. But it's much harder to do that and consider all of
17 these different things, as well as things that you may
18 have that are local interest to you. It's very hard to
19 make that happen. So we are trying to consider all of
20 these factors at one time in one map. You can see the
21 challenge that that creates and the difficulty that it
22 will bring when you want to reconcile all of these
23 different things and put them all into one map.

24 I would like to just briefly touch on an overview of
25 the process where we're at and where were going,

1 hopefully, over the next few months.

2 The new 2020 census data is delayed as I mentioned
3 earlier. Of course, everything last year was a little bit
4 different than expected. I'm sure it was for all of you.
5 What we are looking at now in a normal year, the
6 apportionment totals would have been released by the end
7 of the year 2020. So roughly by New Year's eve, December
8 31st of 2020, that did not happen. The census, of course,
9 was pushed back and their door to door non-response follow
10 up was delayed into the summer and then into the fall so
11 they didn't complete all of the work they needed to do to
12 provide that by December. So we just received the
13 apportionment total on April 26th of this year, and that
14 is only the statewide total, that 10,711,908 that I
15 mentioned earlier. That is only what they gave us; that
16 is all we have so far as the new 2020 data; that allowed
17 them to do that reapportionment that I mentioned and to
18 provide states the number of districts that they will
19 have, but at this point that's all that's been provided.
20 The Census Bureau is currently saying that data will be
21 arriving between mid August and late September. It will
22 be two different types of data -- not types, but two
23 different batches of data. There is going to be a legacy
24 format data that comes out they say in August, and a
25 different set that will come out in September -- not

1 different in terms of the content but the format will be
2 different. There will be additional tables and things
3 like that that they'll put with that. And that will be
4 the version that is actually provided to the official
5 different designated heads of government that will receive
6 that. So that will be going on between mid August -- late
7 August and into September when we'll receive that data.

8 Now, to compare and contrast that with a normal year,
9 we usually receive that in mid to late March so you can
10 see the time frame and how we're pushed back.

11 Also, there will be a series of public hearings that
12 have already begun across the state this summer. They are
13 going on now. We're right in the middle of them actually,
14 and you are probably aware of the one that was to be held
15 in the Augusta. It happened to just coincide with the
16 Governor's state of emergency warning for a hurricane
17 coming through. So I know that that was canceled but I do
18 believe that the intent is to reschedule it. I don't know
19 the date of that yet but once we know, I'm sure that
20 information will be shared and I'll make sure to reach out
21 and let you all know that that's been rescheduled.

22 Hopefully it will be. There are still several more to
23 come next week across the southern part of the state and
24 the central part of the state. And then there is also
25 another virtual public hearing that will be going on, I

1 believe on July the 30th, which will be a Zoom-based
2 public hearing as well. So those are going on now for our
3 chairman of both committees in the House and the Senate to
4 take feedback from anyone across the state of Georgia
5 about redistricting and the process that's going on now.

6 Once we do receive this data in the fall,
7 August/September time frame, we'll do -- began the
8 analysis with the new data. The new census data that
9 comes will be in a format that will give us county
10 population totals, and it will give us city population
11 totals. It will give us census block which is the very
12 smallest level of geography we use to draw maps. But it
13 will give us our population at that level, and that's what
14 we need to be able to do the redistricting that we'll
15 undertake, that you undertake here soon. That data will
16 come, we will need to take it and get some formatting done
17 on it, and get it into our system, and then we'll be able
18 to take that and apply that to every level map that we
19 have, both the state and the local level districts so we
20 can see how many people does it show are in these
21 districts now. And that's what you want to look at to
22 begin any redistricting. So look at the current numbers
23 with your -- the new numbers with your current district
24 because that will let you see where has the growth been,
25 where was there less growth, or maybe even a loss of

1 population. And that just gives you an idea of what
2 you're going to need to do as you begin work on your maps.
3 So that data analysis will begin in the fall after we get
4 new census data.

5 And it is anticipated that we will have a special
6 legislative session called by the Governor for
7 redistricting, that will be later into the fall. We don't
8 have a date for that yet. It has -- normally it would
9 have been in August but obviously that won't be the case
10 since we don't have the data yet. What we expect to
11 happen is that that will be late -- as late as we can
12 possibly do it because will need time to work with the
13 data. In that special session in the past we were able to
14 take up the local redistricting maps because we had had
15 five months to work on them. Because the local process
16 does take a little bit longer than the state-led process
17 simply because you're doing two areas, you're doing it at
18 the local level, and drawing your map, and adopting your
19 map, and working your map, and then passing it on the
20 General Assembly for them to adopt the map through the
21 legislative process. It takes a little bit more time to
22 do a local redistricting map. So I would anticipate that
23 because of the short time frame that most of the local
24 redistricting maps, if not all of them, will be taken up
25 during the beginning of the regular session in January of

1 2022. That's not concrete but that's what I expect,
2 simply because the time frame will not provide county and
3 local governments as much time as you're gonna need to
4 draw your map to, you know, present your map, do all the
5 things that you want to do with it, and have that ready to
6 go for a special session, and that could change but that's
7 what I expect at this point to be the case, is that local
8 maps will be adopted legislatively in the regular session
9 during -- in January 2022.

10 So that's a little bit of just the time line of where
11 we are right now. As I have mentioned, the process with
12 legislative redistricting, obviously we are going to need
13 to adopt legislation and the Georgia General Assembly will
14 pass the bill just like any other bill, to redistrict our
15 statewide maps for our US House, our state Senate, and our
16 state House, and even the Public Service Commission
17 because they qualify by district, they run statewide with
18 a map that they follow after. So those four maps will
19 most likely be taken up during that special session. The
20 other types of local maps that also need legislation are
21 County Commission map, County Boards of Education, and
22 Independent City School Board maps also require
23 legislative action to adopt a new map. City Council's are
24 a little bit different because they can function under
25 home rule. They can redraw their map that way. It's a

1 little bit unique in that they can do that. There are
2 some qualifications to it and as far as I understand,
3 consolidated governments may or may not be able to operate
4 under that home rule as well, but that's a different
5 conversation that -- would be very specifics to each
6 consolidated government that you look at. These all have
7 to have legislative actions so you can see, it will be a
8 busy special session and it will be a busy regular session
9 next year as we undertake all of these different types of
10 maps that will need legislative action to approve those
11 new districts.

12 So that's just an overview of redistricting in a sort
13 of nutshell. Just to give you a few basic ideas and facts
14 and information that will help you as you begin to think
15 about what you all want to do as a committee for drawing
16 your local maps, but all of that information will need to
17 be a part to consider.

18 There is a little bit different process for local
19 government maps and local redistricting and I want to go
20 through that with you. It is a little bit more step-
21 intensive. There's a few more things that you have to do
22 for local redistricting that are different from what we do
23 at the state. But what I want to go through is explain
24 that to you and then I'll have a graphic that will show
25 you. So if you're a visual learner, hopefully the graphic

1 will help you see exactly what those steps mean for you as
2 you work through the process, redrawing the local maps.

3 So what we found in the last decade, 2011, 2012,
4 redistricting with local governments, was that there were
5 new ways that local governments were choosing to draw
6 their maps. If you back up to 2001, 2002, when I was
7 first starting right out of college, there weren't that
8 many options to redraw your map. There weren't that many
9 types of software; there weren't online redistricting
10 programs; there weren't all these new things that you have
11 access to now. Most counties did not have GIS or a
12 planning department then. Some counties didn't even have
13 a computer, I kid you not, in 2001. They worked with
14 counties who had County election offices that didn't have
15 computers. So we've come a really long way. Where we are
16 in 2011, 2012, 10 years ago, local governments were
17 choosing to work with other groups because they had new
18 technology; they had their own staff; they had online
19 programs that they could try and draw their own maps,
20 manipulate their own maps and to work those things out.
21 And there was also a lot more interest in it, in just
22 redistricting in general in 2011 and 2012, then there had
23 been in the past. What we anticipate is that has only
24 increased and grown even more since then, so we expect
25 that that will be what we see in 21 and 22, as well. The

1 issue that cropped up because of all the various different
2 methods that we could use to draw your local maps was that
3 sometimes local governments would use a method of
4 redrawing or a consultant or a group that might not be
5 experienced in redistricting and all of those principles
6 and legal requirements and things that we saw that I
7 mentioned before. They might be able to do the map, they
8 might be able to do the mapping, but they didn't
9 understand all of the rest of those factors. So when it
10 comes through our office, which it did then and it will
11 now, to prepare for legislation which is what we have to
12 do to put that into a bill, we would find things that we
13 saw in the maps or in the data that goes with the maps
14 that were questionable, and sometimes maybe not good, and
15 sometimes maybe not legal. So we would question that; it
16 would cause a delay in the process; it would cause us some
17 bumps in the road by trying to get things squared away so
18 that that map would be in the best possible format and the
19 best possible map to be adopted legislatively. So what we
20 thought was we need to put these steps in order and make
21 sure the process is clear and understandable and in a
22 process that hopefully will prevent any delay in
23 legislation. We don't want -- in local government that if
24 you draw your map with us or if you draw it with someone
25 else, but we don't want you to have issues with your map.

1 We want your map to be the best map, in the format you
2 want it to be so that it will be ready to go. We also
3 want that for the members of the General Assembly who we
4 work for so that when they're ready to have the
5 legislation drafted, they don't have to say, oh, wait,
6 there's an error in this map or, oh, wait, we've got to go
7 and have this fixed, or the county needs to go back and
8 look at that. We don't want to have those thoughts. We
9 want it to just be ready to go and to flow smoothly and
10 everything go as quickly as possible, not just because it
11 should, but also because of the time issue that we're in.
12 We don't want to have any snags. And, of course, when we
13 adopted this legislation and had this passed by the
14 General Assembly in 2019, we had no idea that we would be
15 in a time crunch with this, but here we are and luckily we
16 had chosen to go that path and the members were agreeable
17 to help us get that put in order so we would have a
18 quicker, hopefully smooth process.

19 So all this bill did in 2019, Bill 177, is just
20 change and organize the steps in the local redistricting
21 process and to spell that out specifically what needs to
22 happen so that hopefully we prevent the delays in the
23 legislation. And I want to walk you through the steps so
24 you understand exactly what you will need to do as a
25 committee there, and that's both of your Boards there,

1 your Board of Education and your County Commission Board,
2 what you'll need to do.

3 So the first step that is spelled out in there is to
4 request a legislature to sponsor you. What that means is
5 to sponsor you through my office, not just locally but --
6 and it can be any of them. It can be more than one if you
7 want a group of them, but we really just need it to be one
8 to just sponsor you and say that when you get ready to
9 deal with my office in whatever capacity you choose --
10 I'll talk about that in a minute, but when you're ready to
11 work with my office, that they are aware of your interest,
12 that they know that you want to work with us, and that
13 they're okay with that. They are saying that it is okay
14 because my office is a back office of the General
15 Assembly. We work for the House and the Senate. That's
16 who we work for. So because we want them to be aware that
17 we are working with their local government, they need to
18 say okay with that. We want to make sure they know that.
19 So reach out to one of them; you can do that at any time.
20 You can do that now; you can that in the next few weeks
21 and go ahead and just request that they sponsor you. All
22 we need in my office is a simple letter or an email on --
23 you know, has their signature or their letterhead, that
24 says I sponsor Richmond County to work with the
25 Reapportionment Office on their new Board of Commissioner

1 map or their new Board of Education map, or they can put
2 both in one message is fine, and sign it. They can email
3 it. They can hand-deliver it. They can have their
4 administrative assistant here hand-deliver that, that's
5 fine. Whatever they choose to do, and we'll have that on
6 file so we'll know that there is a legislative point of
7 contact when we have questions or if we have issues or if
8 anything comes up, we'll who that is. It does not mean
9 that they are drafting that legislation. It does not mean
10 they're sponsoring legislation. It just means that
11 they're sponsoring you to work with our office. They may
12 change who they choose to draft, you know, to do the
13 legislation when the time comes, and that's totally up to
14 them and the delegation of that particular county or your
15 particular county. That's up to those members to decide,
16 but to begin this process, you just need one of them to
17 say I know they want to start working on their maps, and I
18 sponsor them to do that. And that's pretty much what I
19 just said. It can be your state senator or your
20 representative. Another thing you may want to find out,
21 and some of your members of your committee who are
22 legislators might be able to tell you, if there are
23 certain requirements for your county legislative
24 delegation. Some counties or some groups of delegations
25 may have a -- they want the map to be adopted unanimously

1 by your Boards. I have seen that in some counties, or
2 maybe they just need it to be approved by the majority.
3 It just depends but you can ask and find out from your
4 members that are legislators. They can tell you things
5 like that. Like I said, they just need to notify my
6 office. And another thing that can be done as soon as
7 that is taken care of and one of your legislators may want
8 to do this as well, you can run a local ad to -- before
9 the session even begins. Now, you're not going to wait
10 until 60 days before session begins so you couldn't run
11 the ad until maybe say mid-November -- mid to late
12 November, and that is an ad that runs in your legal
13 ordinary [phonetic]. Your legislators know all about
14 running ads for their local legislation, and it just needs
15 to say that there will be before the general assembly of
16 those who deal with drawing the map of districts. If they
17 need -- your legislators need help with that, I could then
18 inform -- to just tell them to reach out to legislative
19 counsel and the Office of Legislative Counsel will be glad
20 to help you with your local ad that you can run. That
21 does not have to be when you have the map drawn. You can
22 do that ahead of time in anticipation of having the map
23 drawn so you don't have to wait. But you do have to wait
24 until -- it's within 60 days before the regular session
25 starts in January, that's when you plan to do your bill.

1 So those are the first step in the things you do now,
2 legislative sponsor, and you might want to ask some
3 questions and maybe even run your ad in November.

4 So the next thing you're going to want to do, and
5 this may be the things you want to think about as a
6 committee, is to determine who you're going to work with
7 to create a map. I know that Lynn has mentioned that you
8 want to have a consultant and that's definitely an option
9 that you have. You can hire that consultant. You can
10 also work directly with my office. My staff -- we're glad
11 to work with all the local governments. That's part of
12 what we do to draw the map right here in our office, and
13 if we do draw the map, if for some reason things with your
14 consultant end up not working out or you don't find one or
15 whatever, and you chose to work with our office directly,
16 we're glad to do that. It actually will save you a couple
17 of steps in the process, as you'll see in a minute. But
18 you might also use a GIS department if your GIS folks are
19 skilled with it. If you feel like you want to use an in-
20 house department, that's an option. Some people chose to
21 go with regional commissions. There are just a lot of
22 different options, but you do need to decide who you want
23 to work with and get that process set up, organized as to
24 how you're going to go about drawing your map with that
25 group or with my office, whichever way you chose to go.

1 Just like I mentioned with our office, if we are the
2 choice that you make or we are the choice you end up
3 making because you -- whatever, you change your mind, the
4 staff in my office is trained and experienced specifically
5 in redistricting. It is what we do. Everyone in my office
6 works really hard to learn and understand all of those
7 legal requirements and the traditional principles. Most
8 of my staff has been here for a long enough time and knows
9 what all of this is about. They've already seen it play
10 out over the last decade, and through the last cycle, but
11 we have a couple of new folks that are learning right now
12 and they're learning underneath all of us. So they're
13 going to know specifically how to draw a redistricting map
14 and how to listen to what all you all want to incorporate
15 and that's part of just who we are and what we do. The
16 services that we provide the local government we don't
17 charge you for it because it's going to need legislative
18 action on it and that is our job within the legislative
19 staff so we don't charge local governments to work with
20 them to draw their maps so there's that benefit. And as I
21 mentioned, it will make the process of drafting the
22 legislation a little bit easier. I'll show -- when I show
23 you the steps for that part, you'll see why. But that's
24 just part of -- if we draw it in-house and it's already in
25 our system and we can already vouch for, you know, what

1 all is in the content of that map in terms of meeting all
2 of those previously mentioned criteria.

3 If you choose to go with a GIS staff or other
4 consultants or groups, you're going to want to work with
5 them to draw whatever you want for your map. And then
6 what we ask as far as -- this is the structure and the
7 order of what happens now, that before your Boards take
8 action on that map, whether it's to pass it, approve it,
9 adopted it, accept it, whatever your action, your process
10 is, but before you do that, once you have come to an
11 agreement on a final map, you then submit that map to my
12 office for a technical review. And we're going to be
13 looking for those details, things that I mentioned, the
14 criteria before, it actually does spell out the details in
15 the legislation, what we would be looking for, reviewing,
16 and any of the things that we find, if we find anything,
17 we're going to reach out and let you know what we found,
18 and were also going to let your legislative sponsor know
19 what we found when we did that review. What happens, you
20 know, like I said this is before we -- you do anything to
21 adopt it, and what would happen after that is, if
22 everything is great, we don't see anything that we want to
23 point out to you or make sure you're aware of, will issue
24 a certification form that will come back to you or whoever
25 the point of contact is that sent to the map, that will be

1 the point that we respond to, and that certification form
2 will be assigned that we have already gone through it, we
3 brought it into our system, and we already know -- you
4 know, checked off on everything in the map that we see,
5 then we send that back to you. At that point, then you
6 would be able to take the steps to adopt that and approve
7 that map locally before we move towards the legislative
8 action. And if there are concerns that we find in the map
9 before issuing a certification, we can make those changes
10 here in our office. If you choose to do that, we can go
11 ahead and make a copy of it and fix whatever the issues we
12 might see are and send that copy back to you all, or --
13 that's one option, or you have the option of letting your
14 consultant or your group that drew it make those
15 corrections themselves. We can just let you know what
16 they are and then send it back, and let them do the work
17 on it. The issue with that is if that happens, then were
18 going to need it to be resubmitted again so we can review
19 and make sure that those changes were put in before we
20 certify and say everything checked out that we saw in the
21 map that we had finding concerns.

22 And then after you get the certification, whether
23 it's one way or the other, whether it's okay from the get-
24 go or whether we found anything we want to point out to
25 you or make changes that need to be made, then you'll be

1 in a position to go ahead and adopt that map and move
2 forward.

3 But here's the visual depiction of that. If you're a
4 visual learner, you like to see the images. If you're
5 working with -- this is if you're working with a
6 consultant and that -- or anybody outside of my office,
7 basically is what that boils down to. You work with them
8 to draw your map, you'll send the map to my office for a
9 technical review, and two steps. One of two things will
10 happen, where you're issued the certification and you'll
11 be ready to adopt that map locally and notify your
12 legislators, or we find some possible concerns or things
13 we just want to point out to you. You make the decision
14 on how you want to move forward with that. If we make the
15 adjustments here, if you say just go ahead and make the
16 fix there, if they're small things or inconsequential
17 little tiny details, maybe blocked out a sign or is
18 missing or a feature is not consistent, just want to
19 straighten it up and put it on the highway. If there are
20 things like that, we can make those adjustments and we'll
21 let you know, and then you can go right ahead and adopt
22 and notify your legislature. If you want your consultant
23 to fix it, that's fine. If you see the red line will put
24 you back up to here so that you'll have to send it in for
25 a second technical review just to make sure because what

1 we did find in our experience before is that the
2 legislators up here that we worked with on local
3 redistricting want their map that they are adopting into
4 bill to be correct. They want it to be accurate. They
5 don't want there to be any questionable things in it or
6 missing things in it. So this is why we sent a -- created
7 this process and enacted this is so that we can fix that
8 and have no problems in it before they draft legislation,
9 before we even gets to that point. So that's what this
10 process is about. So hopefully this map here -- map
11 diagram has helps you out a little bit with that.

12 So once you've adopted that map or we've gotten
13 through all those steps, and then you need to send
14 notification to your legislator of your desire for
15 legislation to enact that map. As I said, you can notify
16 us as well that you've done your formal process. If you
17 want to send that to us, that's fine. We'll file that
18 with your information here in our office but you do need
19 to let them know that you're ready for that next step to
20 happen, that you've done these other things, that you have
21 your certification form from my office, and you're ready
22 for legislation to be done. It does not automatically
23 happen. It's not going to be drafted until one of your
24 legislators, can be House or Senate, asks for that bill be
25 drafted, and they can already be in conversation with the

1 attorney for the legislative counsel about that or that
2 it's coming, or that they are intending to do that. They
3 can already have notified my office as well, but until
4 someone says I'm drafting this bill, I get information
5 from the legislator or the attorney of the legislative
6 counsel that the bill is being drafted, at that point we
7 will do -- what we need to do is to send them the
8 description that goes into the bill. But we don't just
9 automatically do it though. So even though we've looked
10 at your map and even though we have it in our system,
11 we're not going to prepare it for legislation until
12 somebody says were ready for that, we're ready for
13 legislation. So that needs to be something that the
14 members of your delegation, that you notify them that
15 you're ready and that you've done all the things and then
16 they can notify the attorneys and us to move forward with
17 that, just like they would to draft any other legislation.

18 And just throwing this out there so you're aware,
19 members of the General Assembly have the ability and the
20 authority to draft their own version of local districting
21 maps if they chose to. If they wanted to draw their own
22 version of the map and adopt it through legislation, they
23 could do that. Now, I'm not trying to frighten you in
24 saying that they will do that. It's not a very common
25 thing at all, but it could be done. They do have the

1 authority to do that or the authority to take a map that's
2 submitted and make their own changes to it, make it their
3 own version, and then move forward with that. They have
4 the authority to do that so I know you've got some great
5 legislators who are serving on your committee so I'm sure
6 that that will not be an issue. Y'all will be working
7 together to make this happen but just wanted to make that
8 something that you're aware of, as well as we work through
9 the process.

10 So to implement the map once you've gotten it through
11 the whole process, you've gotten legislation passed, when
12 they become official, when can they be implemented? And
13 of course with this condensed calendar, I know that you
14 want to be thinking about that and aware of how does that
15 happen, how does that work. So maps become official upon
16 their passage by the General Assembly and signature by the
17 Governor. Sometimes legislation will say it doesn't
18 require his signature, but that's when normally a map is
19 approved and it's official. Any kind of thing that
20 happens after that -- now, if your county, if you want
21 maps, if you want data, we'll be glad to give it that you,
22 but just know that until it has passed all the way through
23 the process, and until it has been finalized -- the
24 legislation has been finalized, then it's not really
25 official until all the steps are done. The map, data, any

1 assistance that you need to put that into effect and get
2 all those things to your local elections office if they
3 need that. But we would advise you to make sure the maps
4 get adopted formally all the way through the process
5 before you start making changes to voters, and to official
6 maps, and things that you keep record of there, just to be
7 sure that everything gets done and completed. I do think
8 that some of the county election offices might work
9 through -- going ahead and preparing the changes to the
10 voters in a test mode or in an inactive mode so that they
11 have it ready to go. And that may be something that the
12 county election offices want to consider. I'm sure that
13 you have a very great elections director there so I know
14 that she knows what she's doing, and I'm sure she can
15 advise on that. But that may be something to consider
16 because of the time issue that things are ready to go as
17 soon as they are finalized and adopted. But we are glad
18 to help in any way we can because we'll have that in our
19 system as well at that point.

20 And also just a footnote that you might want to be
21 aware of. As far as having the Voting Rights Act, earlier
22 I mentioned that in pre-clearance, that we used to be
23 under until 2013, we were a covered jurisdiction, under
24 the Section 4B formula of the Voting Rights Act. There is
25 legislation pending in Congress now that could potentially

1 reinstate a new formula and that pre-clearance might be
2 something that would be required again. If that is the
3 case, then your maps, of course, would not be finalized
4 until they had been pre-cleared by the Department of
5 Justice, if that happens. So that's possibility and it's
6 not a certainty at this point, and it's not something that
7 we are saying has to happen because obviously right now it
8 doesn't, unless that changes between now and then. I just
9 wanted you to be aware of the possibility that should that
10 happen, it might also add one more step to the process for
11 a map to become final and that would just give you an
12 additional extra time that you'd have to consider once you
13 submit for pre-clearance. Some of you may have been
14 through that before and remember what that was like so I
15 just wanted to put that out there so you're aware of the
16 possibility.

17 So as you begin to local redistricting process, there
18 are some conversations that you might want to consider.
19 I think y'all will already be down a little bit because
20 you've already formed your committee and so your beginning
21 these steps, but things that you might want to consider as
22 you work through it. Obviously, I've said it more than
23 once, maybe more than ten times, but speak with your
24 legislator. Make sure they're on the same page with you;
25 they know what you're working on. You've got some on your

1 committee. I know some of them so they're going to be
2 ready to work on this, but make sure they are aware of
3 what's going on locally and that they know you're working
4 on these maps and I know that yours will be. You want to
5 reach out to your county attorney and your School Board
6 attorney. They are going to be your legal counsel for
7 this process. So when you're making decisions about is
8 something legally compliant or not, you're going to want
9 to ask those questions to your attorney because ultimately
10 that is your legal counsel. That is who can answer that
11 and help you make the best determination for whether
12 something your drawing on your map is legal or not, that's
13 where you need to go for that.

14 Your county election supervisors, I know that you are
15 already discussing this there and so I know you're good to
16 go, but definitely consider them when drawing the maps.
17 They have a different take on what is effective and what
18 works, and what is helpful to them and is helpful to the
19 voters in the county. So you might want to reach out to
20 them when you're working on a draft just to get their
21 input on maybe something that could be done better or
22 changed, or a precinct that could be put together, or
23 whatever it could be. But just consider that conversation
24 with them as well. And, of course, your county and city
25 residents. I don't know -- every county and cities have

1 different policies for how they proceed through a
2 redistricting process. But if you have any time, you
3 know, for public input, or you have a map presentation,
4 you know, evening or something with one of your meetings
5 to show it to the public, just consider those
6 conversations as well as you work through your
7 redistricting process and your map because, as I
8 mentioned, the interest has definitely increased from what
9 it used to be. People are interested in what's going on
10 with redistricting and I'm sure at the local level, they
11 will be as well. So those are just some things I want to
12 point out to you to consider. I'm sure you seen these
13 maps before. This is your current County Commission and
14 School Board map. The districts are, of course, in
15 different colors and the numbers of the district. This
16 map was drawn by Federal court in 2012, I believe, and
17 they had a technical expert that the courts elected to
18 work with them to draw the map and, well it was me. So I
19 drew this map for you all with the court and this has been
20 the map that you have been using since then. Just to show
21 you in talking about how we draw districts as close to
22 equal as possible, it was the courts decision to try and
23 do that exactly. So you can see that the deviations of
24 these districts -- these are the total population figures
25 for one through eight districts, and this was the 2010

1 population we used at the time. How many people above or
2 below the ideal size for the district each one is. And so
3 you're talking about 57 above, 20 below; 12 above, 42
4 below; 31 below, 9 above; 114 below, 126 above. So from
5 highest to lowest, you're looking at a span of about 240
6 people in your full county of districts that have that
7 have 25,000ish people per district. So this is only
8 slight deviations and you can see here as far as
9 percentage ranges go, a lot of times there's plus or minus
10 5 percent. That was kind of what used to be the
11 acceptable frame people mentioned a lot in redistricting.
12 But you can see here that you're looking at a plus or
13 minus .5 percent range so that's trying to draw as equal
14 as possible. And you can also see the blue dash lines on
15 this map are your voting precincts and so you see a lot of
16 blue lines following the districts. That means that those
17 precincts are whole and not split. They are completely
18 within the districts that they were draw to be in. So you
19 might have some splits in a few places, but for the most
20 part, you've got full precincts, so that helps as well.

21 Now, you have another -- this map is, of course, used
22 for Commission districts and School Board districts, as
23 I'm sure you know, and you have eight. So that means you
24 have eight School Board and eight commission which means
25 there are 16 incumbents whose addresses you would need to

1 know where they are on this map, and those I'm sure have
2 changed since then so you'd want to be aware of that as
3 you go to shift to know who's being -- that you have one
4 of each Board in each district. So that's another
5 challenge that you'll face hopefully, when you draw this
6 map. And it's difficult when you have that many but just
7 something else to consider that you're not shortening
8 anyone's term by where you've drawn them into that
9 district.

10 You also have a unique feature there which is a super
11 district map, and a super district maps are Districts 9
12 and 10. They are made from groupings of your districts,
13 and they too are drawn as equal as possible. So you can
14 see here that there are roughly 35 people below, 34 people
15 above so a span -- what is that, 69 from top to bottom,
16 and their percentage deviation is at a .03 percent toward
17 the negative. So they are very, very, very close to the
18 same size in population for each of your two super
19 districts. And to show you what those look like on top of
20 the eight other districts, you can see District 9 is made
21 up of Districts 1, 2, 5, and 4, and District 10 is made up
22 of 7, 3, 8, and 6, and they do have to be contiguous, as I
23 mentioned. They have to all touch each other and be
24 grouped in such a way that you would have that equal
25 population which made it, you know, the pairing has to be

1 balanced out as well as you grouped those together. So
2 that's the other unique thing that you get to do in your
3 county, that's not necessarily something that all counties
4 have but you have those super districts there. That's
5 something else to think about as you draw your maps and
6 how you will group those districts together to form your
7 super districts as well.

8 So that is the bulk of my presentation and what I
9 want to share with you and I'm glad to take questions from
10 you all at this point, and hopefully it won't wipe this
11 guy with these pieces when we try to put them together.
12 I'll go ahead and share this for you as well. This is
13 contact information for our office and I can tell you too,
14 the website link here has got a lot of information about
15 redistricting, especially at the state level right now,
16 information on public hearings, information on where you
17 can watch those videos of the public hearings. It's got
18 some basic census information for the state. It's got
19 other redistricting information about the process, and it
20 has a link on there that you can submit comments to our
21 House and Senate committees about our state law
22 redistricting, right there on the page if you click that
23 button that you'll find when you scroll down on our page
24 under the big references tab. Then you can submit
25 comments to committees about anything to do with the

1 redistricting process. Your thought or opinions, or
2 whatever you want to share with them -- the chairman and
3 the members of committee, you can submit that right there.
4 So I recommend you to bookmark that page and make note of
5 it, and our contact info if you need to get in touch with
6 us. And we're really glad to work with you and I'll be
7 glad to take questions. I'm gonna --

8 MR. FRANTOM: Okay.

9 MS. WRIGHT: -- stop sharing.

10 MR. FRANTOM: Gina, we greatly appreciate your wealth
11 of knowledge and kind of setting us in the right
12 direction. My first question was can we get a copy of
13 that presentation after tomorrow? Can you send it to all
14 the members of this committee?

15 MS. WRIGHT: I can do that. I'll send it to Ms.
16 Bailey and I think she can get that to you.

17 MR. FRANTOM: Great. All right. Committee members,
18 any questions? Commissioner Hasan, do you have a
19 question?

20 MR. HASAN: I do.

21 MR. FRANTOM: Okay. Can't hear you.

22 MR. HASAN: Can you hear me now?

23 MR. FRANTOM: Yep.

24 MR. HASAN: Yes, ma'am. Thank you, ma'am, for the
25 information you shared with us. But did I understand you

1 correctly saying that in actually to get started on the
2 map itself, we have to notify the legislature by 60 days
3 prior to getting started?

4 MS. WRIGHT: Right. So notifying legislature because
5 you will end up having to bring it through the General
6 Assembly is just part of the process for us to be aware of
7 the fact that you are beginning work on that, and that
8 they need to be notified that you're beginning work on
9 that. So, yes, that's usually the first step. But since
10 you have members of the legislature on your committee,
11 they're already aware of the fact that you're going to be
12 working on that so I think you've got that taken care of.
13 They just need to send a sponsorship letter to my office,
14 at some point, if you chose to work with my office to
15 draft the map.

16 MR. HASAN: So is that just for your office or if we
17 are dealing with a consultant, either way?

18 MS. WRIGHT: So if you're not going to draw the map
19 in our office, we don't need a sponsorship letter to do
20 that. We really wouldn't need to be in contact with the
21 members of the legislature until they're ready to have
22 legislation done. But we also will keep them abreast of
23 what's going on so when we receive a map from review, that
24 also helps us know who to reach out to that -- to let them
25 know we received your map for review and that we're

1 beginning the process, preparing it in our system because
2 it will have to be done that way before we can draft
3 legislation. So notifying them from the get-go is really
4 just the best way to make sure that everybody is on the
5 same page.

6 MR. HASAN: Thank you, ma'am. Thank you, sir.

7 MS. WRIGHT: You're welcome.

8 MR. FRANTOM: Any other questions? Ms. Bailey?

9 MS. BAILEY: Great presentation, Gina. Thank you
10 very much. I just have a couple of questions.

11 In order to -- it's clarification really for the
12 committee. In order to keep our options open because at
13 this point we're not sure, one, if we'll find a
14 consultant, two, if we'll find one that we like, or three,
15 if we'll find one that we can afford. I mean there are
16 lots of things to think about when it comes to finding a
17 consultant. So in order to keep things rolling for us
18 I've been in contact Gina -- with Ms. Wright's office to
19 ask in what capacity they can provide services to our
20 county if we wanted them to go forward and at least
21 provide a preliminary plan for this group or maybe even
22 two options for a plan for this group to look at to get
23 started on the process. And so my question is -- a couple
24 of questions.

25 Number one, Gina, can you talk a little bit about

1 what kind of expectation -- if we go through your office,
2 what kind of expectation we might have for approximately
3 when we might see a plan from you guys. Of course, we're
4 not going to hold you to it, but it's just for planning
5 purposes. Also I would be interested in knowing if once a
6 plan comes to you guys, and -- or if we submit through a
7 consultant and you guys are reviewing for technical
8 compliance, about how long might we expect, if you have an
9 estimation of how long that technical review would require
10 from your office?

11 MS. WRIGHT: Okay. As far as the expectation of the
12 time frame of working with us, a lot of that will depend
13 upon the flow of what other counties will be reaching out
14 to us at the same time. Of course, we have 159 counties.
15 All of them don't require district maps, but we expect to
16 be busy. But we also expect to work on a flow basis with,
17 you know, who is reaching out and the order in which we
18 receive them. And, of course, the level of complexity
19 will also play in. So I don't have a way to pinpoint a
20 specific time frame. I don't anticipate that we'll even
21 really have data that we can do anything with to draw out
22 any kind of map and do that analysis that we need to do
23 until sometime after Labor Day, at least. That will be
24 the earliest we would have something to work with. So
25 between then and through the rest of the calendar year we

1 would have plenty of time to work on local maps as they
2 come in, and we turn them around and do the work as
3 quickly as we can, of course. But it does depend on the
4 flow, the pace, and of course, we will also be working on
5 the state-wide redistricting at the same time. I suspect
6 most of my focus will be on state-wide maps and I've got a
7 local redistricting coordinator who's on this call, that's
8 Brian Knight, and some of my other staff that will be
9 working on a lot of local redistricting. So I expect them
10 to turn those around fairly quickly. I can't get you the
11 exact dates though just because I just don't know.

12 As far as your second question about submitting for
13 technical review. Technical review for us probably won't
14 take as long as it would be to draw a whole plan. So once
15 you submit something to us, we'll have to import it, and
16 assuming everything imports correctly without any
17 difficulty, in the legislation and in the code, I think it
18 spells out more of the details on how to submit it to us.
19 But once we do that it really isn't a lengthy process to
20 do that review, but that's -- again, that's going to be
21 new thing for us too. We've not done that in this
22 particular method in the past. This is new, but I don't
23 expect it to take very long once we have the map. And
24 once we import that map, and if everything goes smoothly,
25 I would expect us to be able to turn that around hopefully

1 within 48ish to 72 hours, depending upon again, the work
2 flow and what -- where we are.

3 MS. BAILEY: Thank you, Mr. Chair.

4 MR. FRANTOM: Okay. Any other comments, questions?
5 Okay, can I get a motion to receive the information?

6 MR. HASAN: I'll move.

7 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Second.

8 MR. FRANTOM: Got a motion and a second. Please
9 raise your hand in voting in the yea.

10 [RESPONSE]

11 MR. FRANTOM: Okay. Thank you again, Ms. Wright, for
12 everything.

13 MS. WRIGHT: You're very welcome and if you come
14 across questions later on, feel free to reach out.

15 MR. FRANTOM: Okay. Thank you so much.
16 All right.

17 We're going to move forward to our next agenda item,
18 discussing the guiding principles of the committee. As we
19 set the framework for this, are we just -- we're not going
20 to be voting on anything, we're just setting the framework
21 of the initial things of that?

22 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Correct.

23 MR. FRANTOM: Correct. Okay. So we'll kind of --
24 moving forward as quickly as possible here. We've got
25 about 15 minutes.

1 MS. MCCAIN-HAYMON: I will be very quick because Ms.
2 Wright did an excellent job, and you've received a very
3 comprehensive report, and I will encourage all of you to
4 study that. The guiding principles for which this
5 committee will develop will be principles that will guide
6 you during this process. They are mainly legal
7 principles. Thankfully you have very experienced
8 attorneys here in the form of Mr. Brown, and Mr. Fletcher,
9 and myself, that will give you additional guidance with
10 regard to the legal aspect. But I want you to keep in
11 mind these guiding principles. The long-standing
12 fundamental Federal law, AKA traditional principles such
13 as equal population in the prohibition on racial
14 discrimination. Other states specific redistricting
15 principles, the only one that is demanded by the state
16 Constitution is that the districts be contiguous.
17 However, these states' redistricting committee in 2011
18 adopted additional criteria, such as compactness,
19 contiguity, preservation of political subdivision,
20 preservation of communities of interest, and avoiding
21 pairing incumbents. Okay, that's permissive but it's not
22 required. There are additional principles out there,
23 emerging principles, from which you can decide as a
24 committee if that's something that you want. Again, I
25 will encourage you to go online because you can find those

1 -- that information online, study the PowerPoint
2 presentation. And at our next meeting, we can come
3 together and you guys can vote on it. Additionally, you
4 can have your attorney discuss it and we can put together
5 a set of legal principles to present to you all from which
6 you can vote on. So as a committee, you have the option
7 of deciding on that and I'll leave it to you all to
8 discuss.

9 MR. FRANTOM: Okay, thank you. Any questions or
10 feedback? Representative Jones.

11 SENATOR JONES: Thank you. My question is as far as
12 feedback. Is it possible for the attorneys for the County
13 and also the School Board, if possible, to give us their
14 potential guiding case law that they're going to be
15 following because there's a lot of case law that's
16 actually out here in this area. If we could get that,
17 that this -- these are the -- the potential -- this is the
18 case law that we look at that guides redistricting
19 principles and therefore we can kind of have an idea of
20 that.

21 MR. FRANTOM: Okay. Can you speak to that?

22 MS. MCCAIN-HAYMON: The principles are --

23 MR. FRANTOM: So people at home can hear you.

24 MS. MCCAIN-HAYMON: The principles are legal
25 concepts. The law is very complex and very nuance. So

1 you can adopt principles over a general principles, and as
2 we go through this process, the attorneys can get together
3 and we'll be able to give further legal guidance. But we
4 can put together general principles, but in terms of
5 giving a specific law that will not -- that cannot be
6 done.

7 MR. FRANTOM: Representative Jones, any follow up?

8 SENATOR JONES: Senator Jones?

9 MR. FRANTOM: Sorry, Senator Jones?

10 SENATOR JONES: I'm good, thank you.

11 MR. FRANTOM: Okay. All right. Any other questions?

12 All right, can I get a motion to receive this information?

13 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: So moved.

14 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Second.

15 MR. FRANTOM: I got a motion and second. Please
16 raise your hand in vote yea.

17 [RESPONSE]

18 MR. FRANTOM: Any nays? Everybody's unanimous. All
19 right.

20 Agenda item number seven, discussion of web portal
21 and transparency plan, and that's Tameka Allen, the Chief
22 Information Officer. Thank you so much for being here
23 today.

24 MS. ALLEN: Good afternoon, I'll be just a quick.
25 During the previous redistricting project, one of the most

1 important parts of the project was the transparency
2 offered to our citizenry and the ability for the citizens
3 to be involved in the process. With this in mind, the
4 Information Technology Department has already started the
5 process of developing the web portal for the public to
6 capture the information for the new redistricting project.
7 This includes the maps and any other documents that this
8 ad hoc committee would like to share. This site will also
9 offer the ability for the public to provide feedback
10 utilizing a form system. So, again, transparency is going
11 to be the key to providing the project to -- providing
12 information during this project and Information Technology
13 is going to do what we can to make sure that the public
14 has input throughout this project. And all the
15 information is going to be readily available to our
16 citizenry. So we are looking to have this web portal up
17 and running toward the end of August, and making sure that
18 every piece of information that this body would like to
19 share is available to our citizenry. So if there are any
20 questions, I'll address any questions that you may have at
21 this point.

22 MR. FRANTOM: Any questions from the committee?
23 Commissioner Hasan?

24 MR. HASAN: Yes, sir. Ms. Allen, how are you doing,
25 ma'am?

1 MS. ALLEN: I'm doing fine, sir.

2 MR. HASAN: Does it also mean when we have our
3 meetings back in the chamber in particular, that --
4 because I think eventually there are going to be at
5 different locations across the city though so it can be
6 kind of different. But I just want to ask, I was assuming
7 because it just dawned on me, that any time we meet as a
8 body, would that be -- also be on the website?

9 MS. ALLEN: Yes. Anything that this committee
10 proposes that we have available to the public, yes sir, we
11 will make sure that information is available.

12 MR. HASAN: So it would be more of the information
13 than the actual live meeting?

14 MS. ALLEN: Yes, sir.

15 MR. HASAN: -- from across the city?

16 MS. ALLEN: Yes, sir.

17 MR. HASAN: All right, thank you.

18 MS. ALLEN: All available information, yes, sir.

19 MR. HASAN: All right, thank you.

20 MR. FRANTOM: For clarification, you're saying it
21 will be -- like this is live right now, is it not?

22 MS. ALLEN: Yes, sir. This is --

23 MR. FRANTOM: Okay. So when we go to other
24 locations, will it be live or not live?

25 MS. ALLEN: This information will not -- no, it will

1 not be live.

2 MR. FRANTOM: Okay.

3 MS. BAILEY: Not necessarily.

4 MR. FRANTOM: Not necessarily. Okay.

5 MS. BAILEY: It really just depends on whether the
6 facility that we chose to go to is set up to do this or
7 not. But at minimum we'll have a court reporter there so
8 we'll have the verbatim minutes out there, and any
9 associated maps and documents, etcetera.

10 MR. FRANTOM: Okay. Mr. Atkins.

11 MR. ATKINS: I would like for us just to explore the
12 idea that all of the meetings be via live streamed so to
13 keep the community as informed as possible. When you
14 mentioned different facilities, I mean -- I think I'm okay
15 in making this offer, but any of our Richmond County
16 Public Schools we could make available for such type, and
17 any of those we would have the capability of doing a live
18 stream from, along with the help of our IT department at
19 the School Board. But to me, I just think it's very
20 important to keep the community as informed as possible
21 and to be as transparent with this whole process as
22 possible.

23 MR. FRANTOM: Yes, sir. I totally agree. Ms.
24 Bailey, did you have a follow up to that?

25 MS. BAILEY: I was just going to add in there that

1 typically -- what we've done in the past, it doesn't mean
2 that's what we need to do this time, and thank goodness
3 technology has emerged and we're in a lot better position
4 as we speak. We even met at commission chambers or at the
5 School Board main office, and we hit the road for public
6 hearings only as we had -- we had a total of six meetings
7 last go round as work sessions, and we had -- excuse me,
8 we had seven meetings, and then we had four public
9 hearings. One of those was in conjunction with a
10 workshop. So we went on three separate occasions out into
11 the community so we could seek public input. Thank you.

12 MR. FRANTOM: Okay. Commissioner Hasan, do you have
13 a follow up?

14 MR. HASAN: No, no follow up.

15 MR. FRANTOM: Okay. All right. Do -- Mr. Atkins,
16 I'm going to come back to you on this one. Do you want --
17 do we want to make a motion that we're going to put all
18 the meetings live stream?

19 MR. ATKINS: I'll be glad to do that. I'll move that
20 all meetings going forward live stream.

21 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: I second.

22 MR. FRANTOM: Got a motion and a second.

23 MR. HASAN: Before you go on, I just have a question

24 --

25 MR. FRANTOM: Sure.

1 MR. HASAN: -- around that. I support fully so would
2 that means is that your IT will get with our IT because
3 we're definitely going to need it on the City's website.
4 Are you going to try to attempt to post it now on both
5 sites, the School Board website as well as the City's?
6 But for the most part the City is going to have to have
7 access to it because we're creating --

8 MR. FRANTOM: I think we can work together and make
9 that happen.

10 MS. ALLEN: And we can work together to make that
11 happen.

12 MR. FRANTOM: All right. So we got a motion and a
13 second. Please vote by raising your right hand on the
14 yea.

15 [RESPONSE]

16 MR. FRANTOM: All right. Thank you. Any nays? All
17 right. Passed with unanimous vote. Thank you so much for
18 your time --

19 MS. ALLEN: You're welcome.

20 MR. FRANTOM: -- and we look forward to having you
21 help us out with us. All right. Moving on.

22 Any comments, questions, concerns, before we move to
23 the next agenda item? All right.

24 Our next agenda item is setting meeting date and our
25 Vice-Chair definitely wants to weigh in on this one,

1 making sure we meet at 3:30 --

2 MS. CAIN: 3:30 forward.

3 MR. FRANTOM: 3:30 moving forward any day that the --
4 3:30 time moving forward at least, kind of open the floor
5 up. Any discussion on this one? Senator Jones.

6 SENATOR JONES: It was not on that issue. We can
7 cover this and I'll come back to it.

8 MR. FRANTOM: Okay. Mr. Atkins.

9 MR. ATKINS: Just to be mindful that, you know,
10 School Board meetings are at four o'clock the second
11 Tuesday, and then six o'clock the third Tuesday, and I
12 think you guys meet the first and third Tuesday as your
13 commission meeting at two o'clock, or pretty much every
14 Tuesday then. And if you guys are like us, we like to
15 limit the number of times we necessarily have to come
16 together, but if we're going to do it late in the
17 afternoon that may present an issue. So just --

18 MR. FRANTOM: Well, I mean can you meet other days
19 than Tuesday?

20 MR. ATKINS: Normally not, not unless it's something
21 --

22 MR. FRANTOM: Yeah, so if we can keep it on a Tuesday
23 at least.

24 MS. CAIN: I was going recommend on Wednesday. I
25 think all of us pretty much agreed on Wednesday.

1 MR. FRANTOM: Okay.

2 MS. CAIN: If we could start between, you know, 4:00.
3 That gives me time to get here, but if not I can take
4 leave, for those of us who still work.

5 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: You going to put that into
6 motion?

7 MS. CAIN: I'd like to put that into motion,
8 Wednesday at four o'clock.

9 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: I second that motion.

10 MR. FRANTOM: Motion and second. Any other
11 discussion?

12 REPRESENTATIVE PRINCE: What is the motion?

13 MR. FRANTOM: Wednesdays, four o'clock start time.

14 REPRESENTATIVE PRINCE: Well, let me ask. I just
15 heard us talk about trying to be transparent and everybody
16 sort of chimed in.

17 MR. FRANTOM: Yep.

18 REPRESENTATIVE PRINCE: Can we not move it to later
19 in the evening when most people are sort of off work,
20 things like that so that they can chime in?

21 MR. FRANTOM: For sure. All right. Some more
22 discussion. Anybody else have --

23 REPRESENTATIVE PRINCE: -- four o'clock put it tight
24 for me.

25 MR. FRANTOM: Okay, absolutely. Me too. Mr.

1 Johnson.

2 MR. JOHNSON: When we say Wednesday, are we talking
3 every Wednesday or --

4 MR. FRANTOM: No, just -- we're trying to pick a day
5 and then we'll look at the Wednesday --

6 MR. JOHNSON: Okay. All right, thank you.

7 MR. FRANTOM: All right. Back to Commissioner Cain.

8 MS. CAIN: Representative Prince and I do agree that
9 we could look at changing it to possibly like at six
10 o'clock. That way if we do have community people who want
11 to come and be here to listen, most of them will be off of
12 work at six o'clock or soon getting off of work and could
13 be here in time. The Wednesdays we meet six o'clock would
14 be fine if that's agreeable with everyone.

15 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: I second it.

16 MR. FRANTOM: Okay. Any other discussion? Okay, so
17 we have a motion the second Wednesday at six o'clock.
18 We'll pick that first Wednesday in just a second here. In
19 favor vote, raise your right hand.

20 [RESPONSE]

21 MR. FRANTOM: Okay. We've got Wednesdays at six
22 o'clock unanimously. All right. First Wednesday, Ms.
23 Bailey, will kind of -- what do you think based on -- we
24 know we got to do the principles and the time frame, how
25 many more times before we -- we heard it's not coming out

1 until after Labor Day. What does that look like in your
2 mind?

3 MS. BAILEY: I think the way it looks to me is that
4 perhaps in a couple of weeks time, after everyone's heard
5 from legal as far as the formation of the guiding
6 principles, that the group go ahead and convene, whether
7 it's in person or via Zoom, however it's done, to just
8 discuss the guiding principles and adopt guiding
9 principles because we're going to need those in place in
10 order for anybody to begin drawing a map for us. So if we
11 could go ahead and get that done, that would be great.
12 And then my suggestion would be that some of those
13 meetings would be held likely around the first part of
14 September after Labor Day, when the data becomes available
15 or at such time that either a consultant or the
16 redistricting office has a map for this group to look at
17 to begin its work.

18 MR. FRANTOM: Okay. So with that being said, one
19 meeting between now and when the numbers come out after
20 Labor Day would suffice in your mind?

21 MS. BAILEY: Yes, sir.

22 MR. FRANTOM: Okay. So how does Wednesday, the
23 August 11th look for the committee?

24 MR. ATKINS: Mr. Frantom, can I -- Commissioner
25 Frantom, can I ask a question --

1 MR. FRANTOM: Sure.

2 MR. ATKINS: -- of Ms. Bailey?

3 MR. FRANTOM: Absolutely.

4 MR. ATKINS: Lynn, at our next meeting, will we need
5 to determine then if we're going to look at having an
6 outside firm assist with the drawing of the maps that --
7 or do we need to wait till we actually have the data?

8 MS. BAILEY: I doubt that we'll be able to reach that
9 decision by that point in time just because whichever way
10 we go with consultant, it's going to have to go out for
11 RFP which, you know, all that stuff takes time. So I
12 don't see that happening in two weeks time. So it's
13 possible that we may begin the process with the map drawn
14 by the redistricting office in Atlanta. And if we -- you
15 know, if we do find a consultant that we like and can all
16 come to terms with, then we would bring them in after the
17 fact to help drive us through the process, conduct public
18 hearings and so forth.

19 MR. FRANTOM: Okay. Commissioner Hasan.

20 MR. HASAN: Yes, I think -- we might be -- we will be
21 just be coming back from Savannah around that time and our
22 meeting could very well be on whatever date that is. I
23 don't know when are we coming back?

24 MR. FRANTOM: We come back on the 10th.

25 MR. HASAN: We come back on the 10th? The 10th is

1 what, on a Tuesday? So that means our meeting could very
2 well be the 11th but then we just leave out there and go
3 straight to that evening, six o'clock? Okay.

4 MR. FRANTOM: Yeah. If the 11th works for everybody
5 -- Ms. Minchew?

6 MS. MINCHEW: I'm sorry, I will be out of town on the
7 11th.

8 MR. FRANTOM: Okay. How does the 18th look for
9 everyone? 18th work, Mr. Hasan?

10 MR. HASAN: Yes, sir.

11 MR. FRANTOM: Senator Jones, are you? All right.
12 Okay.

13 SENATOR JONES: Mr. Chair?

14 MR. FRANTOM: Yes, sir.

15 SENATOR JONES: I'm sorry, actually the 18th?

16 MR. FRANTOM: Okay. All right. So let's --

17 MS. CAIN: So how about we just put it back to where
18 we had it -- because we're not -- everybody had --

19 MR. FRANTOM: Back to the 11th?

20 MS. CAIN: Yeah, because everybody's going to always
21 have something on their schedule, and then from here on
22 out, we can plan it ahead of time, and then everyone will
23 know where they need to be. But if we start trying to --

24 MR. FRANTOM: Yeah, totally agree.

25 MS. CAIN: -- we're not going to come to a date where

1 everybody can be here. Not everyone is going to be able
2 to be here every meeting. So let's just pick a date and
3 roll with it.

4 MS. BAILEY: Can we just confirm with both legal
5 counsel that they are in a position to make this committee
6 prepared by that point in time?

7 MR. FRANTOM: Sure, absolutely.

8 MR. FLETCHER: I see no problem with that.

9 MR. FRANTOM: Okay. Good. All right, can I get a
10 motion to have our next meeting on Wednesday, the 11th,
11 August 11th at 6:00 p.m.?

12 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: I move.

13 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Second.

14 MR. FRANTOM: Second, thank you.

15 Ms. Bailey, lastly, before we -- is there any other
16 business? Sir Jones.

17 SENATOR JONES: I had a question for both bodies, for
18 the Commission and also the School Board. Are they on
19 legal holds as far as all the commission is concerned as
20 far as the School Board or general or the --

21 MR. HASAN: You did the first and a second but you
22 didn't actually vote.

23 MR. FRANTOM: All right, sorry about that. Moving
24 too fast here. If we can go ahead and vote on the 11th,
25 please raise your hand in affirmative vote?

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[RESPONSE]

MR. FRANTOM: Okay. It's unanimous. Yep, Mr. Prince? Yep, yep, thank you. All right. Sorry about that. Thank you, Mr. Senator Harold Jones.

SENATOR JONES: So the question was was the Commission and the School Board are on legal holds. And what I mean by that is General Assembly members, we have to keep all of our information. And I was just wondering with the School Board and also General Assembly, School Board and Commission are the same, what kind of legal holds? All information we have with regard to redistricting, whether it's a text message, anything, we are required to keep.

MR. FRANTOM: Mr. Fletcher, can you, an attorney, speak to that?

MR. FLETCHER: I'm not sure I understood his question.

REPRESENTATIVE PRINCE: But I'm not sure of that answer. We can check with the lead lay counsel -- the -- and, of course, figure out why we're --

MR. FLETCHER: I'm not sure I understand the question. Can you --

MR. FRANTOM: Can you repeat the question?

SENATOR JONES: It's just a general question. Is there a legal hold on the Commissioners and also on the

1 School Board members as far as keeping all information
2 regarding redistricting?

3 MR. FLETCHER: Not that I know of. I mean it's an
4 open records law. In an open meetings log we'll keep
5 those records, and I think any text messages back and
6 forth between y'all are subject to the request of open
7 records. But I don't think there is a requirement that we
8 have a separate file for what we do.

9 SENATOR JONES: Okay.

10 MR. FLETCHER: We haven't done it in the past.

11 MR. FRANTOM: Any other discussion, comments.

12 Ms. Bailey, I would ask that if we can -- by the
13 11th, if we can get like a contact information sheet of
14 all the members so we have it in our little binder here,
15 of all the contact information. I would greatly
16 appreciate that.

17 MS. BAILEY: Yes, sir, will do. And I'll make sure
18 to -- I get this presentation out to you all as well as
19 soon as I receive it.

20 MR. FRANTOM: Any other comments, concerns? Ms.
21 Cain.

22 MS. CAIN: Will our meetings be held here or will we
23 hold them at the Board? Last year we were at the Board so
24 I don't -- we didn't --

25 MR. FRANTOM: I would hope they won't move around.

1 Ms. Bailey, what are your -- I mean --

2 MS. BAILEY: I don't know that it would matter where
3 we do it as, you know, as long as we're set up to
4 accommodate it. I think the School Board has that
5 fabulous facility down there so if you guys would like to
6 host from time to time, and, you know, we can trade off,
7 or however. I don't think there's any particular rule
8 written about that.

9 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: We'll make that happen.

10 MR. FRANTOM: Okay. All right, any other business?
11 Can I get a motion to adjourn?

12 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: So moved.

13 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Second.

14 MR. FRANTOM: All right. This agenda meeting is
15 adjourned. Thank you.

16 [Meeting adjourns at 1:30 p.m.]

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I hereby certify that the foregoing transcript consisting of pages numbered 3 through 75 is a true and correct transcript of the proceeding held before me; that said hearing was reported by the method of Stenomask.

I further certify that I am not kin or counsel to the parties in the case, am not in the regular employ of counsel or said parties, nor am I otherwise interested in the result of said case.

This the 5th day of August, 2021.




JULIE M. BRACKETT, CVR-M, CCR

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