

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

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COMMITTEE MEETING
PUBLIC HEARING

Before Kristy M. Williams, CVR, CCR
At Academy of Richmond County High School
910 Russell Street, Augusta, GA 30904
On Monday, October 25, 2021, Commencing at 6:00 p.m.

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APPEARANCES

Board of Elections:	Mr. Travis Doss
County Commissioners:	Hon. Sean Frantom Hon. Ben Hasan Hon. Alvin Mason Hon. Francine Scott
School Board Members:	Hon. Charlie Hannah Hon. Jimmy Atkins Hon. Venus Cain Hon. Helen Minchew
Legislature:	Rep. Wayne Howard Rep. Brian Prince Rep. Mark Newton Sen. Harold Jones

INTRODUCTION BY MR. FRANTOM.	3
PRESENTATION BY MR. DOSS	6
CONCLUSION BY MR. FRANTOM.	30
REPORTER'S CERTIFICATE.	33

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LEGEND OF THE TRANSCRIPT

dashes [--]	Intentional or purposeful interruption.
Ellipsis [...]	Unfinished thought. Speech halted.
Uh-huh	Used to indicate affirmation, agreement, or gratification.
Uh-uh	Used to say no or to emphasize a negative answer to a question, request, or offer.

(Words transcribed as spoken. Proper names may be phonetically spelled when correct spellings cannot be obtained.)

1 AD HOC COMMITTEE MEETING PUBLIC HEARING

2 AUGUSTA-RICHMOND COUNTY

3 [Pursuant to O.C.G.A. 9-11-28(d), Kristy M. Williams
4 has no contact 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 **MR. FRANTOM:** All right. Would like to welcome
12 everyone out to our third redistricting meeting here at
13 ARC. I'm Commissioner Sean Frantom and Chair of the ad
14 hoc committee here for the redistricting. I first want to
15 thank the School Board and all their efforts to -- from an
16 IT standpoint, from a hosting standpoint -- that they've
17 done over the four different locations that we are going
18 to, this being the third.

19 I want to welcome Dr. Bradshaw here tonight. Thank
20 you for being here, sir, and all that you do. Also want
21 to welcome Attorney Pete Fletcher, thank you for being
22 here. And our attorney as well, welcome. Thank you for
23 being here.

24 Tonight, we are joined also by Travis, the Assistant
25 Director, Travis Doss over there. He will be directing

1 the program piece and the slide presentation of it that
2 you'll have to get a lot of information and form an
3 understanding of why we're here tonight.

4 Again, we're here because every year, the US
5 Constitution says that we have to do a US Census, and that
6 every vote and every district must be balanced. And as
7 you know, in District 3, which I think many of you are,
8 reside in, District 3 had tremendous growth, 25%. And
9 we'll talk about what that means, the reason why we're
10 here, why we have to do what we have to do to balance out
11 the districts. Understand that this is because of the
12 Voting Rights of 1965, that they have to be equal in size
13 and comply with that.

14 We have guiding principles that this committee has to
15 stick to that we'll talk about tonight as well. And the
16 fact that this, the map that you have seen in the public
17 was a draft. It was a draft done by someone in Atlanta.
18 No one in this committee had any input in it. No one in
19 this committee has had any discussions about changes, or
20 things about the map. The map is not done. The map is
21 just a draft. It's a start. That's all it is. The
22 person that did it did not know your community or any
23 community. He just did it based on the numbers to make it
24 how he thought he wanted it to be from the redistricting
25 office. So understand that it is a start, and is no -- by

1 no means, no deals have been cut. No discussions have
2 been had by this committee and that's why we're out in the
3 public over these four different redistricting public
4 hearings to hear from you, and your comments on your
5 thoughts and what you would like to see happen.

6 I'd like now to introduce the committee. The
7 committee's made up of four Commissioners. It's made up
8 of four from the legislative body and four from the School
9 Board. I'm going to start to my left, and then we'll go
10 down to introduce each person on the committee.

11 **MR. HOWARD:** So that means I go first.

12 **MR. FRANTOM:** Yes, sir.

13 **MR. HOWARD:** Henry Wayne Howard, Representative for
14 House District 124. Happy to be here.

15 **MR. MASON:** Good evening. I'm Alvin Mason,
16 Commissioner of District 4 out in South Augusta, Hephzibah
17 area.

18 **MS. CAIN:** Venus Cain, District 9, Richmond County
19 School Board, and I'm also Co-Chair.

20 **MR. FRANTOM:** Sean Frantom, District 7, and Chair.

21 **MR. HANNAH:** Charlie Hannah, District 2, Richmond
22 County School Board.

23 **MS. MINCHEW:** Good evening. Helen Minchew, District
24 10 at-large, Richmond County Board of Education.

25 **MR. ATKINS:** Jimmy Atkins, District 8, Richmond

1 County Board of Education.

2 **MS. SCOTT:** Francine Scott, Super District 9, County
3 Commissioner.

4 **MR. HASAN:** Ben Hasan, Commissioner of District 6.

5 **MR. JONES:** State Senator Harold Jones, District 22.

6 **MR. FRANTOM:** Also not -- on the committee, not here
7 tonight is Representative Brian Prince, and Representative
8 Mark Newton. Those two individuals could not be here
9 tonight. All right.

10 We're first going to start with the presentation by
11 Mr. Travis Doss. We'll go through a lot of different
12 slides, a lot of different information. And we'll turn it
13 over to you, Travis.

14 **MR. DOSS:** All right. Welcome everyone to this
15 public hearing regarding local redistricting. As you were
16 coming in, we have the public comment sheets if you want
17 to make a comment after the presentation. Also, there's a
18 copy of the agenda and some of the information about the
19 district lines, the census information, and whatnot.

20 So let's talk about redistricting. Why we do this?
21 Well, the US Constitution requires that a census must be
22 taken every 10 years.

23 What's the difference between redistricting and
24 reapportionment. Well, reapportionment is where you take
25 the 435 congressional seats and you have to make them

1 balance throughout the United States. As you know,
2 Georgia has 14 congressional seats. And there have been
3 changes with the census. Some states have lost, some have
4 gained. Texas has picked up two, California has lost one,
5 same with New York. Florida has gained one, but Georgia
6 pretty much stayed the same. Now even though we have 14,
7 those same 14 will not be in the same places. You may
8 have seen in the paper where they're looking at -- we are
9 currently the 12th congressional district and they're
10 looking at the different changes that the 12 may be in
11 Richmond County and in our area. So when we look at that
12 with the reapportionment we have to look at redistricting.

13 Redistricting is where you have to balance those
14 census numbers throughout those different districts
15 because you have to make sure that all citizens are
16 represented equally.

17 So why do we redraw the District lines? Well, as I
18 said before, it's a requirement by law. We have to do
19 this. It is required by the US Constitution. It is
20 required to make sure that everyone has an equal vote and
21 an equal voice in their community. And is roughly -- you
22 have to make sure that each of those districts carry the
23 same weight.

24 So what about this redistricting committee? What is
25 their roll? Well, their role is to evaluate those

1 districts. In the handout that you received, you will see
2 in the districts where after the census, where the
3 districts are over-populated, and where those districts
4 are under-populated. And so it's this committee's role to
5 balance those districts, so they will redistrict the plan
6 to make sure that the different changes make it equal in
7 each district, and then they'll submit those plans to the
8 governing authorities. And by governing authorities, we
9 mean, they'll submit the plan to the County Commission for
10 approval and submit the plan to the School Board for
11 approval, and then it'll eventually go up to Atlanta for
12 their final approval.

13 So what is this committee's -- not doing? What is
14 their role not going to be? Well, one of the things,
15 their decisions will not affect your taxes. Their
16 decisions are not affecting public safety. They're not
17 going to alter the public school zones. That is what the
18 School Board does, not this redistricting committee.
19 They're not going to change your property assessments.
20 That's Mr. Kendrix job back there. That's what his office
21 and the Tax Assessor's Office do, not the redistricting
22 committee. And of course, they don't make policy
23 regarding economic development.

24 So let's talk about the structure of Richmond County.
25 Richmond County is made of eight single-member districts.

1 There's also two Super Districts, 9 and 10. And as you
2 see on this committee, we have -- everybody is represented
3 by two Commissioners, you have your single-member
4 Commissioner, and then you have your Super District that
5 also represents you. Every district has two Commissioners
6 that represent them. And each citizen, as I said, has
7 two, so in District 9, they're made up of 1, 2, 4, and 5,
8 and District 10 is made up of 3, 6, 7, and 8. And then,
9 of course, 1 through 8 is the single-member district.

10 So let's talk about the population. Back in 2010, we
11 have 20,549 people that did the census. And so the ideal
12 district was 25,069. In 2020, it went up to 20 --
13 206,607, so the ideal district is now 25,846. So we have
14 about a 3% growth in Richmond County so not a whole lot.
15 So of course, by taking those numbers, we take that total
16 population, and we divide it by eight, and that's how we
17 get the ideal district size. So what this committee will
18 need to do is to make sure that each of the districts meet
19 that ideal district size as close as possible.

20 Here is the breakdown. You will see from the 2012
21 redistricting and from the 2020 redistricting -- as you
22 can see in District 1, from the 2020 redistricting, they
23 lost about 5%. District 2 lost about 7%, almost 7 and a
24 half. District 3 gained 21%. So that 21% has to go
25 somewhere. District 4 lost 4. District 5 picked up about

1 1. Same with 6, 7, and 8; they lost between 1 and 2%. So
2 that's why we're doing what we're doing. We've got to
3 make those districts balance so you do not have that type
4 of deviation in the eight commission districts.

5 So how do we get started? Well, first we start with
6 all the district lines in Congress, State Senate and State
7 Representatives will be drawn by the General Assembly. As
8 you know, they're going to start meeting, I think it's
9 November 2nd. They go into special session to work with
10 the state lines. Likewise, the governing authorities, as
11 you see here, they will be working with the district
12 office. Back in 2000, the Richmond County School Board
13 and Richmond County Commission thought that or knew that
14 it would be beneficial that the School Board and the
15 County Commission shared the same district lines. Not all
16 counties in the State of Georgia do that. We could have
17 eight different County Commission lines and eight
18 different School Board lines. So it could be -- it could
19 really break up the neighborhoods a lot, it could really
20 break up precincts a lot, but because they saw a need to
21 make sure they mirror each other, that's what started this
22 ad hoc committee. We've been using this ad hoc committee
23 from the 2000 census, the 2010 census, and now the 2020
24 census.

25 So let's talk about, as Chairman Frantom said, this

1 committee is made up of 12 members. We have four from the
2 County Commission, four from the School Board, and four
3 from the Legislative Delegation. Together they developed
4 guiding principles. The guiding principles were in the
5 handout that you picked up as you came in today of what
6 they will use to basically base their decisions on trying
7 to come to a plan, and then, the final plan will have to
8 be voted on by each one of those governing authorities.
9 And once it's voted on, and everyone agrees on it, it goes
10 to Atlanta, and the plan is in place. And this plan will
11 be in place for the next 10 years, until the next census.

12 Chairman Frantom along with all the board members are
13 seated with their names there. We've got four from the
14 Commission, four from the School Board, four from the
15 Legislative Delegation.

16 So what are the guiding principles. Basically, the
17 guiding principles are a combination of legal
18 requirements, making sure that you don't live in a
19 minority group, or you don't change the district line that
20 gives a particular group less voice than another. There's
21 also the one person one vote rule that we have to go by,
22 and then there are other things that are also in those
23 guiding principles, such as keeping community interests
24 together, community keeping subdivisions together, and
25 they will look at those things to try and create a plan.

1 But as you know, your district lines, district lines have
2 to run somewhere. And where do they run? Down streets,
3 down streams, down railroad tracks. You can't create
4 districts without having a physical boundary. That's the
5 reason why, like, in voting precincts, your neighbor
6 across the street, may vote in one location and you vote
7 at another, as district lines have to run somewhere. They
8 have to go down a physical barrier.

9 How the ad hoc committee will work. Well, they'll
10 draft a plan, and that's the reason why for these public
11 hearings. They're going out to the community, they want
12 to hear from you, they want to hear your thoughts on the
13 best way to go and create these lines. As Chairman
14 Frantom said, this -- the plan that we currently have
15 right now is a draft plan that was presented based solely
16 on numbers and census numbers. They can take that plan
17 and try and work through it or they can scrap that plan
18 and start all over again, but that is the committee's
19 decision based on public comment about how they will
20 handle that.

21 They'll conduct a series of public hearings. As you
22 know, this is our third one. Our final one will be next
23 Wednesday at Wheelless Road Elementary School, same time, 6
24 p.m., so if you want to come back again, you'll get to see
25 Ms. Bailey, not me, Ms. Bailey. Ms. Bailey will be there

1 if you want to hear her presentation different from mine.
2 And so that will be our final public presentation. And
3 then of course, once the plan is done, you have a final
4 recommendation from both the Commission and the School
5 Board.

6 That's the schedule there. We had our first one was
7 at Belair, out in -- off of Harper Franklin Avenue. Then
8 we did Diamond Lakes. We're here at Richmond Academy, and
9 of course, Wheelless Road will be on Wednesday the 27th.
10 All public hearings start at 6 p.m. We have sign ups, if
11 anyone has not signed up, I'll check the sheets before we
12 leave. We have sign ups here. We'll also have a call in
13 period. Each speaker's given two minutes to speak so
14 remember that. Got a little clock that will be going off
15 to make you nervous when you see it countdown. You've got
16 two minutes.

17 And of course, then they'll take all of these
18 comments that were made, the Committee will get together,
19 go through those comments, and then make some of their
20 decisions.

21 Website. If you have not gone to the website,
22 there's a presentation that you have that you picked up.
23 We have a very robust website. Our IT department has
24 worked very hard in getting this website up-to-date with
25 the interactive maps, the guiding principles, these

1 presentations, agendas, anything and everything, pretty
2 much, that you want to know about the redistricting
3 process on that website. There's also opportunities for
4 input. If you want to make a comment, if you're not much
5 of a public speaker, don't feel comfortable speaking in
6 public, there's a comment section also on the website,
7 where you can also make your comments that will also be
8 presented to the committee.

9 Our next meeting will be on November the 10th. That
10 will be a full meeting, redistricting meeting. It's not a
11 public hearing anymore. It will be a meeting of the
12 committee to discuss the public comments and discuss the
13 sessions, and it will be at the Board of Education
14 building, 6 p.m. on November 10th. And that's it. Thank
15 you very much.

16 **MR. FRANTOM:** Thank you, Travis for that
17 presentation. As we get the comment portion of the
18 meeting started, just want to let anyone watching on
19 YouTube know the number to call in is 706-826-1304. All
20 the calls will come here. We're going to take as many in
21 front of me, and then if we see some light up, we'll go to
22 them as well. Again, 706-826-1304. If you'd like to
23 speak, this is your last opportunity. We're going to
24 close it up once we walk up front. We're good.

25 All right. So we're going to get started. Again,

1 the committee has agreed that if you have any questions,
2 we will stay here as long as you want to get those
3 questions asked after we're done with the meeting, but as
4 far as the -- this is a two-minute comment period, please
5 stick to the two minutes. When you do come forward,
6 please state your name and address for the record clearly
7 into the mic, and then try to speak as close as you can to
8 the mic as well.

9 Alright, so we're going to start with Mr. Rob
10 Mauldin. He's our first speaker. Please state your name
11 and address. Once you get done with your address, you'll
12 have two minutes, sir.

13 **MR. MAULDIN:** Thank you, appreciate it. My name is
14 Robert Mauldin. I'm here with my wife, Karen. We live at
15 2240 McDowell, and we also own a number of properties in
16 the community, some of which appear to be about to jump
17 ship, based on the proposed layout. Just reinforcing, we
18 do appreciate all the time and effort the members of the
19 committee have dedicated to this community, and I urge
20 everyone to keep that in mind when they're looking at all
21 the input that I know you get, both directly and
22 indirectly, and through these meetings. So we do
23 appreciate your interest and attention.

24 One of the things that concerns me is that, as
25 Commissioner Frantom identified, the map was drawn or

1 drafted in Atlanta. Well, this is a Augusta, Richmond
2 County, and I know that we have good leadership in
3 Atlanta, but they don't know anything to speak of other
4 than the members here that visit Atlanta on a regularly
5 regular basis. They're the ones that do know the
6 community.

7 I would also note, that I was a little concerned that
8 members that are most affected in terms of their district
9 impacts are not included in the committee. So whether
10 that was by choice of not being invited, or by choice of
11 their not attending or participating, I would urge you to
12 work closely with those members, as even if they are not
13 senior members of the commission, they do represent us and
14 do know the local area. Thank you.

15 **MR. FRANTOM:** Thank you, sir. Next up, Mr. David
16 Dunnagan. Again, if you could state your name and address
17 for the record, sir.

18 **MR. DUNNAGAN:** May I give my time to Mr. George Bush
19 who came in late?

20 **MR. FRANTOM:** I have his name, but if you -- yeah,
21 his name's down as well.

22 **MR. DUNNAGAN:** If he's allowed to speak --

23 **MR. FRANTOM:** Yep, his name's down.

24 **MR. DUNNAGAN:** So I'll be very brief. No one that
25 I've talked to has liked draft number one.

1 **UNKNOWN SPEAKER:** State your --

2 **MR. DUNNAGAN:** Sure.

3 **MR. FRANTOM:** -- yeah, name and address.

4 **MR. DUNNAGAN:** David Dunnagan, 1429 Monte Sano
5 Avenue. I'm a resident, business owner in D-3. No one
6 I've talked to likes draft number one. Several of you
7 have told me, it's just draft number one. When can we
8 just move on to draft number two, and then draft number
9 three until we get it right. That's my question. Let's
10 -- I didn't go to the other three meetings. There's one
11 more or two, there's one more after this, but can we move
12 on to draft number two? That's my question.

13 **MR. FRANTOM:** Thanks, sir. Again, we will have our
14 first next meeting on the 10th -- the 10th or 11th?

15 **UNKNOWN SPEAKER:** The 10th.

16 **MR. FRANTOM:** The 10th, and that's when we, you know,
17 we want to hear the public input first. Ms. Sherri
18 Brunkow. Sorry if I'm saying your name wrong.

19 **MS. BRUNKOW:** Hi, I'm Sherri Brunkow. I live at 2227
20 Central Avenue. And my concern is why isn't my
21 Commissioner, Catherine McKnight on this commission? I
22 would not -- I did not want Commissioners from other
23 districts that don't represent me deciding what should be
24 split and not split. And furthermore, as far as the
25 census is concerned, Summerville is not the area that's

1 grown, it's the other areas in District 3 that have been
2 over-populated, not ours, so it's not fair to separate our
3 neighborhood when it's not us that's overgrown. Thank
4 you.

5 **MR. FRANTOM:** Thank you. Marcy Wilhelm.

6 **MS. WILHEIM:** Marcy Wilhelm, 2928 Bransford Road. I
7 think I know ever last one of you here. The reason we
8 came this evening is quite simple. We have two
9 neighborhoods that are very active neighborhoods. One is
10 a preserved historic destination. Another one works with
11 lots of committees. I happen to represent Forest Hills,
12 1200 families. The calls that I've been getting probably
13 mirror the calls you guys have been getting and so it's an
14 impossible task. I think the reason both of these areas
15 have been growing is because of their proximity to the
16 college. As the college grows, those two neighborhoods
17 are going to grow. And so you have a very strong
18 community of interest, that is not well-served by breaking
19 up. You have needs in those communities that are not
20 present in the other 6 or 7 districts. And so that is
21 something that really caught in my mind because it's --
22 it's an important one. You have -- we feel like if you go
23 to the school -- same schools and you're bussed into two
24 different districts, you somewhat dilute your impact
25 through your, your selective district to take care of your

1 neighborhood. We've had a very fine really -- Forest
2 Hills has had an excellent relationship working with
3 engineering and county companies and we've never had any
4 problems that I'm aware of with the educational -- with
5 the Board of Education from our district, so we are not
6 anxious to break that up as you can imagine. So thank you
7 for the time you're putting into this and your patience
8 with everybody that keeps harassing you. Let's hope you
9 can figure it out.

10 **MR. FRANTOM:** Thank you. Ms. Heather Barbarino.
11 Heather.

12 **MR. MASON:** Is that you?

13 **MS. BARBARINO:** I thought I just signed in, but I
14 didn't want to speak. But I do actually have a --

15 **MR. FRANTOM:** Okay, just come to the mic, please,
16 ma'am. State your name and address for the record please.

17 **MS. BARBARINO:** Hi, I'm Heather Barbarino at 2575
18 Henry Street, and this is my first meeting. I'm a new
19 resident in the Summerville area. We just purchased the
20 home at 2575 Henry so we're super excited to be part of
21 this -- the community. And I came from an area -- I was
22 born and raised in a small town outside of Pittsburgh on a
23 farm. I moved, but I also lived in South Jersey. And
24 with that house that we have up there, our taxes are
25 extremely expensive, the school districts are limited, we

1 have a very mixed and diverse group of neighbors which we
2 embrace and support. One of the questions that I have is,
3 I know that the gentleman earlier was discussing that what
4 this committee is responsible for, and so the question I
5 have is, you are going to potentially disrupt the
6 districts, and that you are not responsible for any form
7 of tax increases or changes in the community. But if you
8 do decide to rezone where we are, does that still impact
9 -- and you don't make those decisions, but do others make
10 those decisions based on your redistricting? So that is a
11 question I have because I'm new here and I'm not aware.
12 And I just would like to say thank you very much for
13 everything that you do. I love the community I'm in. So
14 far, my neighbors and the people that I've met so far have
15 been extremely welcoming. I would like to keep it that
16 way and not have the changes that could impact with people
17 who don't know our area. So I'm just asking for us to
18 continue to be a strong community and support each other.
19 So thank you, and sorry I signed the wrong form.

20 **MR. FRANTOM:** Thank you, and welcome to Augusta.

21 **MS. BARBARINO:** Thank you.

22 **MR. FRANTOM:** Ms. Tara Conway.

23 **MS. CONWAY:** Tara Conway, 1227 Meigs Street. Ten
24 years ago, Summerville was divided under redistricting and
25 this current proposal will further divide our

1 neighborhood. The guidelines say consideration should be
2 given to neighborhoods. Summerville is a National
3 Historic District, and in 1994, the city adopted our
4 guidelines and created a Historic Preservation Commission
5 to oversee the following of these guidelines. This is
6 actually our guideline book, it's quite extensive. I've
7 been attending the HPC meetings for nine years now and now
8 represent District 3 on the HPC. I know from experience
9 how valuable a Commissioner can be. Our current
10 Commissioner is very involved in our neighborhood and this
11 is what Summerville has needed. Catherine understands our
12 guidelines and supports following them. All of this makes
13 our neighborhood's needs very unique. We need to be made
14 one district again, District 3, as our needs are very
15 different from all the other historic districts. We need
16 our own voice and one Commissioner to represent us. By
17 further dividing Summerville you will take away the voice
18 of a very unique neighborhood and I don't think any
19 neighborhood should be divided. Thank you.

20 **MR. FRANTOM:** Thank you. I do want to make one
21 statement just in clarification. In 2010, there was 11
22 neighborhoods that were split and this committee is going
23 to do our best to put all neighborhoods together, but, you
24 know, it's -- it's a numbers -- it's going to be difficult
25 to do that, just to be honest with you. But I do want to

1 let people know that in 2010, there was 11 neighborhoods
2 that were split through this process. Ms. Jane Bennett?

3 **MS. BENNETT:** Right here. I am Jane Bennett. Do you
4 need my address?

5 **MR. FRANTOM:** Please.

6 **MS. BENNETT:** 504 Norwich Road, Augusta, Georgia,
7 30909. I find the selection and the composition of the
8 Augusta, Richmond County districting ad hoc committee
9 problematic and detrimental to the fair and representative
10 practices utilizing good government. District 3 has
11 absolutely no representation from the Augusta, Richmond
12 County Commission, yet it stands to be the most impacted.
13 The committee has broken up and destroyed it on several
14 separate occasions as documented by the media. Catherine
15 McKnight, as District 3's Commissioner, has requested
16 placement on the ad hoc redistricting committee and was
17 either ignored or bypassed. John Clarke, the Super 10
18 District Commissioner, which also comprises Districts 3,
19 6, 7, and 8 was never approached or appointed. I feel he
20 was overlooked or ignored. I ask, why?

21 **MR. FRANTOM:** Okay. Thank you.

22 **MS. BENNETT:** Thank you.

23 **MR. FRANTOM:** And if -- and I'll be happy to answer
24 all your questions when it's over, ma'am. I can give you
25 the full explanation. Cord Kilpatrick.

1 **MR. KILPATRICK:** I yield my time especially after
2 that. That was good.

3 **MR. FRANTOM:** Absolutely. Mr. Sean Mooney.

4 **MR. MOONEY:** Sean Mooney, 3307 Andover Lane. As a
5 former Summerville resident, I actually have a vested
6 interest in my friends who still live in that community
7 and many of my previous supporters. I spoke with my
8 Commissioner, and I agree with her that there is a lot of
9 -- a lot of change in District 3, and I would encourage
10 this commission or committee, excuse me, first and
11 foremost, thank you. You know, this is a -- public
12 service is a thankless job, so I appreciate what you're
13 doing. I would encourage you guys to look specifically at
14 the individual precincts that are represented in District
15 3. District 3 did see phenomenal growth. I would ask you
16 to look to see where that growth was most predominant.
17 It's a little unclear on the website that we have right
18 now because it doesn't drill down that deep, but a lot of
19 that, I would venture to guess, comes from the West End of
20 the district. Summerville is an established neighborhood.
21 It's a historic neighborhood. The community there works
22 very closely with Forest Hills and other established
23 communities. Oftentimes, they work together and continue
24 to pick up where the city is not able to pick up, often
25 paying for additional security services, and they're very

1 close together. So I'd also say that it would be
2 important to keep those communities together as long as
3 possible. Again, thankless job. We know it's a difficult
4 task ahead. Appreciate all your efforts, and I would just
5 ask that you consider those remarks. Thank you.

6 **MR. FRANTOM:** Thank you. Mr. David Moretz.

7 **MR. MORETZ:** David Moretz. I live at 2345 McDowell
8 Street, Augusta, 30904. (Unintelligible). I want to say
9 thank you to all of y'all for being here. I know it's a
10 tough crowd, but we all have our hearts in the right
11 place. My first comment is, Summerville and District 3
12 has great representation now. Regrettably, you all have a
13 real tough job, because we've done such a good job in
14 District 3, our growth is 21.26% population. Something's
15 got to give here. I don't want to be in your shoes, I
16 don't want to wear your hat, but consideration has to be
17 given, as it was, say, 10 years ago, hopefully not to
18 divide 3 up too much. I don't think we can win anywhere,
19 anywhere with this number. You know, when we see what was
20 done 10 years ago, they all skirted around 25,037 --
21 25,300, but with a growth of 21.26%, that's going to be
22 tough. So if you can ignore the dictates of the
23 government, you could leave us alone and not worry about
24 this problem anymore, but I know that's not possible. But
25 I want to thank you for being here. The lines, I think

1 the last gentleman pointed it out -- a good point, the
2 West End of the county grew the most because I think Fort
3 Gordon and other aspects, so they're the newest and they
4 probably have less connection with Summerville and Forest
5 Hills neighborhood. Again, thank you for your time. I
6 appreciate all your inputs. Later on, I can't wait to see
7 what you come up with. Thank you.

8 **MR. FRANTOM:** Thank you, Mr. Moretz. Former Mayor,
9 Mr. Bob Young.

10 **MR. YOUNG:** Thank you, Mr. Chariman. I'm Bob Young.
11 And my wife, Gwen and I live about three blocks from here
12 at 2103 Summer Hill Lane. And I just want to thank all of
13 you for the service that you're providing us. It's not
14 thankful service by a long shot and you got to get it
15 right. If you don't get it right, a federal judge is
16 going to draw the lines, and you saw what happened 10
17 years ago when the federal judge drew the lines and 11
18 neighborhoods were separated.

19 You have a chance this year to put these
20 neighborhoods back together again. You have a chance to
21 protect neighborhoods like Summerville from being further
22 divided. And as a resident of Summerville, I would like
23 to reiterate what's been said, that we are in an area
24 governed by a city ordinance for historic preservation.
25 It is a defined area of this city and it shouldn't be

1 split up, it shouldn't be split up any more than it is,
2 but it shouldn't be split up at all.

3 So my plea would be as you look at the map where
4 you're going to put people, you look at Summerville as a
5 unique entity in this city that has defined boundaries
6 under city law and that you use that as a guiding
7 principle to keep Summerville neighborhood together.
8 Regardless of what district you put it in, keep
9 Summerville together. Thank you very much.

10 **MR. FRANTOM:** Ms. Laura Irwin.

11 **MS. IRWIN:** I'll cede my time. I don't think I could
12 have said it more eloquently than that.

13 **MR. FRANTOM:** Okay. Jocelyn Bayliss.

14 **MS. BAYLISS:** I'll yield my time.

15 **MR. FRANTOM:** Okay. Russell Gambrill.

16 **MR. GAMBRILL:** I'm Russ Gambrill. I live at 1408
17 Glenn Avenue. Former Mayor Bob Young stole most of my
18 points, but I'm going to try to speak anyway.

19 One of my concerns was on the slide presentation it
20 said that the draft map was drafted according to the
21 guiding principles that y'all have established. Well, one
22 of those guiding principles is preserving communities of
23 interest, and as Bob Young so eloquently said, Summerville
24 is a legally defined community. One of y'all's guiding
25 principles, 6-A, is boundaries of neighborhoods could be

1 considered. Summerville has the only legally defined
2 boundaries in the city.

3 The other thing that should be considered is
4 compactness. Is there a more compact map you ever seen
5 than this. Look at it. It's almost a perfect square.

6 And then finally, we should preserve communities of
7 interest based on economic social school district
8 community or housing commonalities. As someone else
9 pointed out, we have got our own zoning and building
10 regulations in Summerville. We are unique in the city.
11 We should be together. We should also be together with
12 Lake Forest, but that's a different thing.

13 So please consider that when y'all make y'all's
14 decisions, and thank you for what you do.

15 **MR. FRANTOM:** Thank you. Rod Bayliss.

16 **MR. BAYLISS:** Hello. Rod Bayliss. My address is
17 2223 Kings Way. First off, I want to thank each and
18 everyone of you. You have a choice and you chose to be
19 here tonight, so thank you and thank everyone else here.

20 Secondly, I moved to Augusta, Richmond County, four
21 years ago into 3, and what drew me there is Summerville,
22 the historic nature of Summerville, the people in
23 Summerville. It's a beautiful place. It was annexed into
24 Augusta in 1912 and it was pretty much an entity within
25 the single district until about 10 years ago. I agree

1 with everything that's been said before, and I would ask
2 that you try to bring it back together. I think that
3 would be a great achievement, a great sign of leadership,
4 that you lead us back to where we need to be.

5 So I really do appreciate your time and efforts, and
6 I can't say anything more about historic preservation of
7 the community. I love it. I enjoy being here. I'm part
8 of the growth. I want to keep it growing. Don't break it
9 up.

10 **MR. FRANTOM:** Thank you, sir. Ms. Jana Hill or Frank
11 Clark. Either one of you -- you're good? Okay. Tom
12 Swift.

13 **MR. SWIFT:** Thank you all for having us here. I love
14 seeing democracy at work. This is democracy. And I'm
15 glad we get a chance to put in our input. I moved here in
16 1973, so I've -- I have lived here longer than most of you
17 have been alive. Everything I wanted to say has already
18 been said. I love those fiery women -- those fiery women
19 got me fired up. I hope you'll listen to what they said.
20 I know you will. I love Forest Hills. Of course we don't
21 have a part. We're the only neighborhood that doesn't
22 have a part, but we're celebrating our 100th anniversary
23 and we do have defined boundaries, in addition to
24 Summerville we do have defined boundaries.

25 Thank you all for being here and taking our comments.

1 I hope you do the right thing and keep these neighborhoods
2 together. Thank you.

3 **MR. FRANTOM:** Mr. Swift, could you state your address
4 for the record?

5 **MR. SWIFT:** I didn't put my -- I live at 3040 -- no,
6 that was my old address. I live at 3009 Bransford Road,
7 Augusta, 30909. Sorry.

8 **MR. FRANTOM:** Thank you, sir. All right. Before we,
9 kind of, close out the last person -- 706-826-1304, if
10 anyone is watching online, the live stream that would like
11 to ask a question, 706-826-1304. Our last presenter is
12 Mr. George Bush.

13 **MR. BUSH:** Good evening. My name is George Bush.
14 I'm a resident of Richmond County. I reside at 1300 Buena
15 Vista Road, 30909. I'm a lifelong resident of Richmond
16 County. I thank you guys for having this hearing. I
17 appreciate what has been said. I do miss Commissioners
18 McKnight and Commissioner Clark not being on the committee
19 or being invited to the committee. That disturbs me as
20 resident and as a taxpayer.

21 I was invited to attend tonight from my friend, David
22 Dunnigan, and I'm here as a resident, a taxpayer, and an
23 attorney, at his request.

24 So what we believe to be true, is in a process as
25 important as this, that the public should have been

1 invited to participate before we got to this point. There
2 is no public input before the redistricting of the initial
3 process. I think we're on phase one of the process; is
4 that correct?

5 **MR. FRANTOM:** That is.

6 **MR. BUSH:** And I would like to go ahead and by show
7 of hands would everyone, indicate by raising your hand, if
8 you are opposed to the initial phase one draft, please
9 raise your hands. Okay, anyone who supports the phase one
10 draft, please raise your hand. Okay, the record shall
11 reflect that every person in attendance voted in or raised
12 their hand in opposition of the phase one redistricting
13 plan, and no one supported.

14 So in any event, we hope and pray that you will allow
15 us to participate in this process going forward. We would
16 like to work with you, and we certainly do not want to
17 work against anyone. We appreciate our civic officers and
18 what you do for the government, but in the final analysis,
19 we will want our voice to be heard. Thank you.

20 **MR. FRANTOM:** Thank you, sir. Again, as I stated at
21 the beginning, this was a draft done by someone in
22 Atlanta. Although, the -- I think every other
23 municipality did the same process. Is that correct,
24 Travis, just about, almost all 400 and -- just so
25 everybody understands that for clarity purposes?

1 **MR. DOSS:** Yes, the reapportionment office is the
2 office that does the congressional seats, and we also --
3 we contacted them as far -- as far as giving us a draft
4 map, and anything that is done here, has to go back to
5 them for compliance, more or less. And so that was, kind
6 of, where the jumping off point was.

7 **MR. FRANTOM:** I appreciate that. And then, the last
8 thing I think -- I think is important to say, is that if
9 you want to ask anybody any questions, once we're done,
10 we're here as long as you want to ask the questions. But
11 I think it's important to say this. These committees, and
12 how they were voted on and put on were put in place before
13 we know any numbers. We didn't know any numbers. We
14 didn't know anybody, any district, anything. It was done
15 before that, so I think that's an important thing for
16 everyone to know, understand.

17 Our last redistricting meeting, again, is on
18 Wednesday night, 6:00 at Wheelless Road. We appreciate the
19 engagement. Understand that every one of your comments
20 that you've sent to us online, we get the whole
21 spreadsheet, we get every comment. So everybody in this
22 committee is seen and heard, and we're hearing you, okay.
23 And it's important that you're a part of this process.
24 And we want to thank y'all for coming out because, again,
25 this is a draft. There is nothing done. There's nothing

1 done. And again, I'm going to reiterate one more time,
2 this committee has had zero discussions about this map,
3 zero, because it was important that we got public input.
4 Now other municipalities, even in this region, didn't even
5 have any public input, so I want to understand -- that,
6 like, we're doing it right, because we hear you, we want
7 to hear you. So I think it's important that you
8 understand that as well.

9 So again, thank y'all for coming out. If you have
10 any questions that you want to ask any of us, we're here
11 to answer those. And we are -- again, if you want to come
12 on the 10th and listen, and being -- and hear what we have
13 to say, why we're doing what we want to do, please feel
14 free, it's open. We want to -- we want you there. We
15 want you engaged in the process. So thank y'all for
16 coming out.

17 (Public hearing concluded at 6:52 p.m.)

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CERTIFICATE OF COURT REPORTER

I hereby certify that the foregoing transcript consisting of pages numbered 3 through 32 has been transcribed from a digital recording of the audio; and 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 8th day of November, 2021.

Kristy M. Williams

KRISTY WILLIAMS, CVR, CCR
CERTIFIED COURT REPORTER
GEORGIA CERTIFICATE #5120-9739-
4045-7472

