

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 Wheelless Road Elementary School

2530 Wheelless Road, Augusta, GA 30906

On Wednesday, October 27, 2021, Commencing at 6:00 p.m.

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**APPEARANCES**

Board of Elections:	Ms. Lynn Bailey
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

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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.]

10 - - - - -

11 **MR. FRANTOM:** All right. We're going to go ahead and  
12 get started. Want to welcome everyone out to Wheelless  
13 Road Elementary, beautiful middle school here in Richmond  
14 County. This is our fourth and last redistricting  
15 meeting.

16 First, I want to take time to thank the School Board  
17 for all that y'all have done and all four of our schools  
18 that we've come to, y'all have set it up beautifully. The  
19 IT worlds of the city and the Board of Education working  
20 together has just been awesome. Can't thank y'all enough  
21 for that. I want to thank Dr. Bradshaw, I think he's  
22 here. I can't see very well. There you are. We've got  
23 attorney Pete Fletcher, as well. Thank you for being  
24 here. Is our attorney Christina here? I do not see her  
25 yet. They've been on the ride with us in the four schools

1 that we've been to each time so again, want to thank you  
2 all for being here.

3 For those that are watching on the live stream, if  
4 you want to call in tonight to give a two-minute comment  
5 period, the phone number is 706-826-1304. Again, it's  
6 706-826-1304. Anyone in attendance, if you would like to  
7 speak, please sign up at the sheets on the -- at the back  
8 of the room as we get started with those comment portion  
9 after the presentation piece by Ms. Lynn Bailey.

10 Again, we're here because every year by the US  
11 Constitution, we're required to do a census. The census  
12 is based on the numbers of people that filled it out. We  
13 can't change the numbers. The numbers are what the  
14 numbers are. So if people didn't fill out the census,  
15 unfortunately, there's nothing we can do.

16 We obviously know that we've had population changes  
17 in Richmond County, mainly in District 3, and we'll talk  
18 about that growth as well. As well as that, with those --  
19 with those changes, we know that because of the Voting  
20 Rights Act of 1965, that we have to have those voting  
21 sizes as equal to size as possible.

22 This committee has met, this will be our sixth time  
23 together, I think, or our seventh time together, fourth in  
24 the public, where we set guiding principles that you will  
25 hear in the presentation. Also, I do say that, please

1 make sure you pick up the packet in the back of room.

2 It's got a lot of great information that you would want.

3 This committee is also -- has made it a priority that  
4 this -- as we go into the four redistricting public  
5 meetings, that we have not discussed any changes, nor have  
6 we had anything that has been talked about. Understand  
7 that the draft that you saw, it's online, was a draft done  
8 by the redistricting office in Atlanta, as many of the --  
9 most of the counties in the State of Georgia were done  
10 with no input from anyone on this committee nor in this  
11 community, nor input, understanding of the community and  
12 the makeup of the community as well.

13 I'm joined tonight by 11 representatives from either  
14 the School Board, the local delegation, or the Commission  
15 districts. We're going to start by introducing ourselves.  
16 We'll start -- we'll start from my right with Commissioner  
17 -- .

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

20 **MR. FRANTOM:** Can we grab the mic just for the  
21 record, so everybody can hear?

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

24 **MS. SCOTT:** Commissioner Francine Scott, Super  
25 District 9, County Commissioner.

1           **MS. MINCHEW:** Good evening. Helen Minchew, District  
2 10 at-large, Richmond County Board of Education.

3           **MR. ATKINS:** Jimmy Atkins, District 8, Richmond  
4 County Board of Education.

5           **MR. FRANTOM:** Commissioner Sean Frantom, District 7,  
6 Chair of the ad hoc committee.

7           **MS. CAIN:** Venus Cain, Richmond County Board of  
8 Education, District 9, Co-chair. And Mr. Chairman, can I  
9 have the honor?

10          **MR. FRANTOM:** Absolutely.

11          **MS. CAIN:** This is our last meeting, and I want to  
12 take time today -- our very special person that's dear to  
13 us, Charlotte, Board Secretary, and the IT department for  
14 everything that they have done with putting these together  
15 and making sure that community that could not be here has  
16 an opportunity to see it online and be able to call in.  
17 So I want to send a special thanks to Ms. Charlotte and  
18 she's the hardest working woman in Augusta. And I want to  
19 thank Dr. Bradshaw for allowing us to use the school  
20 system. And I also wanted to take the opportunity to  
21 acknowledge Charlie Walker, our Board Vice President, and  
22 Walter Eubanks -- also want to thank you all for  
23 supporting us.

24          **MR. MASON:** Good evening. I'm Alvin Mason,  
25 Commissioner of District 4; South Augusta, Hephzibah.

1                   **MR. PRINCE:** Brian Prince, House District 127 seat.

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

4                   **MR. FRANTOM:** All right. Also on our committee not  
5 here yet is Representative Mark Newton, Representative  
6 Wayne Howard, and Senator Harold Jones. That makes up the  
7 12-person ad hoc committee who will get the work started.  
8 The next meeting will be on November 10th at the School  
9 Board at 6:00 p.m.

10                   All right. We're going to move forward to our  
11 presentation portion of the event. We're going to be  
12 joined by Ms. Lynn Bailey, who will be leaving us at the  
13 end of the year. I just want to say, you know, the last  
14 time in public, thank you, Lynn for the service you've  
15 done to this community and this state for 40 plus years.  
16 We are going to be in great hands with Mr. Travis Doss as  
17 he takes over. Travis has been with us for 25 years as  
18 the assistant, so we're in good hands in Richmond County  
19 and I want to state that for the record. Lynn, we'll turn  
20 it over to you, and just thank you for all your years of  
21 service for Augusta, Richmond County.

22                   **MS. BAILEY:** Thank you. All right. Hello. Good  
23 evening. Well, thank you all, for coming out tonight.  
24 This is important stuff that we have talked about these  
25 last few months, and the decisions that are made by your

1           elected officials up front, are decisions that Richmond  
2           County will have in use for the next 10 years, so this is  
3           important, important stuff.

4           Before we get into the portion of the program, where  
5           the public will have an opportunity to talk to your  
6           committee members, we'll talk a little bit about  
7           redistricting, why we're here doing this in the first  
8           place, what our census numbers look like, will be applied  
9           to the current district lines in this proposed draft the  
10          district can have, and so we'll just, kind of, go through  
11          the guidelines here.

12          So as Chairman Frantom explained, the US Census  
13          drives this entire process every 10 years. You know the  
14          Constitution requires the census, and that census data is  
15          used for a number of things, one of which is ensuring that  
16          if you are a jurisdiction that has elected districts, that  
17          your elected districts are of the same or similar size.  
18          And so that's the exercise we're going to do right now --  
19          it is applying the new census data to our districts to see  
20          where we need to make changes, to see where districts are  
21          overpopulated or underpopulated, and make shifts  
22          accordingly so that at the end of the process, everything  
23          is approximately the same size. They're -- a part of this  
24          process you've heard, the term reapportionment most  
25          likely. Reapportionment is the district -- we'll see the



1 -- there.

2 Reapportionment is the process of taking the census  
3 numbers that come in from our entire country, applying  
4 that to the 435 congressional seats, and determining how  
5 the congressional seats -- they're going to be in each  
6 state around the country, and it's all driven again by  
7 population.

8 So redistricting, is also a part of it too. We just  
9 talked about it a moment ago, making sure that the  
10 districts that are drawn, are drawn of -- at approximately  
11 the same size. It's interesting as we've gone through  
12 this process, there's been a misunderstanding by some that  
13 perhaps this redistricting that we've talked about the  
14 last couple of months is optional, that we don't have to  
15 do it, but that is not true. We must do it, we must  
16 ensure that our districts are of the same or similar size,  
17 and we must do that every 10 years.

18 So this process that we're going through is not  
19 something that the city or your elected officials just  
20 decided to do on a whim. It's done because it's required  
21 by State and Federal law, and so if your aware -- some of  
22 you might have kept up with the process in Columbia County  
23 as an example. Each county sets their own path and their  
24 own process for redrawing the districts. Here in Richmond  
25 County, at least for the last 30 years, we've chosen a

1 path that we hope provides a great deal of transparency  
2 into the process, part of which is having you all here and  
3 have the opportunity to be here and to tell your group of  
4 elected officials what you would like to see in your  
5 redistricting plan. And by the way, if it wasn't stated  
6 earlier, the members of the committee were appointed.  
7 There are four commissioners, four School Board members,  
8 and four members of the Legislative Delegation. And those  
9 four members, say from the Augusta Commission, they were  
10 appointed by the entire Augusta Commission to sit on this  
11 committee. Likewise, for the School Board, they were  
12 nominated by their peers on the School Board. And the  
13 same with the Legislative Delegation. They were  
14 nominated, by the whole, to sit on this committee and talk  
15 to you all, take input in and come up with a set of  
16 district lines.

17 So again, this committee's job is to evaluate the  
18 current districts and determine where they are overages  
19 and underpopulated areas and make those changes. Their  
20 job is to develop a redistricting plan that ensures equal  
21 representation for all citizens, and then to submit that  
22 plan to the governing authorities for final approval.

23 So again, just to reiterate, the process starts here  
24 with this committee to develop a plan, they will then  
25 submit that plan to the Commissioner of the School Board

1           who will vote it up or down, and then from there, it goes  
2           to the General Assembly for primal passage and enactment  
3           into general law. So that's a whole five-step process  
4           that has to take place.

5           The redistricting committee's role is not to make  
6           decisions regarding taxation or public safety. It's not  
7           to alter the school zones in anyway or where your children  
8           go to school. It's not to determine property assessments  
9           or values. And it's not to make policy for economic  
10          development. That's not what this group is doing. All  
11          they're doing is looking at the elective districts and  
12          making sure at the end of the day, the districts are  
13          balanced and equal with the proper amount of population in  
14          them. That's their job.

15          Okay. Just as a -- continuing with the background.  
16          For both the School Board and the Augusta Commission,  
17          there are eight single-member districts. I don't know if  
18          you've had an opportunity to look at the maps when you  
19          came in tonight, but the maps are around the room with  
20          this draft district map. But when you look at those maps  
21          you'll see eight different districts. So School Board has  
22          eight, Commission has eight, and in addition to that,  
23          there are two super districts. Each one of the super  
24          districts is made up of four of those single-member  
25          districts.

1           So what does that mean to you as citizens? What that  
2 means to you is that every single person, every single  
3 citizen, who lives in Augusta, Richmond County, has two  
4 representatives on the Augusta Commission, and two  
5 representatives on the Board of Education; you've got your  
6 single-member representative, and then you have your  
7 super-member person.

8           These numbers that you see here, show you the  
9 differences between the population in 2010, and the  
10 population in 2020. And the first column, we'll move from  
11 left to right -- the first column shows you that after the  
12 2010 census, our total population was 200,549 citizens.  
13 After the 2020 census, we grew some, a little over 3%, to  
14 206,607 citizens. The next column that you see, the ideal  
15 district size, that's the number that we strive for in  
16 terms of how many citizens should be in each one of the  
17 districts. In 2010, that number was 25,069, and in 2020,  
18 that number is 25,826. What we saw in Richmond County  
19 over the last 10 years was an overall growth of 3.12% for  
20 the entire area. And we're going to talk a minute -- in a  
21 minute about deviation, but before we go there, I do want  
22 to explain the ideal district size.

23           We said earlier, there are eight districts. So we  
24 take the 206,677, which is our total amount of citizens  
25 now. We divide that by eight, and that makes a perfect

1 ideal district size containing 25,826 citizens. So that's  
2 why we came up with that number.

3 This chart shows a couple of things. It shows you  
4 the census data in 2010, and it shows you the deviation --  
5 the difference from the ideal district size that we saw  
6 after the 2010 redistricting. So at the -- again the  
7 second column shows you by district, how many people were  
8 in each district after the 2010 census was taken. And the  
9 third column shows you after redistricting, what the  
10 population looked like in each one of those districts.  
11 The fourth column shows you the numbers for those same  
12 districts but with the 2020 data applied to it. And the  
13 fifth column shows you the difference the overages and  
14 underpopulated areas based on the ideal district size. So  
15 District 1 is -5.06% percentage of the perfect size of  
16 25,826. District 1 is 5.06 below that perfect number. So  
17 obviously District 1 needs some more population moved into  
18 it to bring it up to a more even number. Moving on down  
19 the chart, District 2, you can also see, is underpopulated  
20 according to the current maps. District 3 is well  
21 overpopulated and so on, on down the line. But what that  
22 does is demonstrates for you why we're even here tonight  
23 having this discussion. The only way that we're going to  
24 get those districts up to same or similar size is to make  
25 changes where they're needed.

1           So how do we even get started on local redistricting?  
2           We know that the local, excuse me, that the State will be  
3           convening in a special session beginning November 3rd. I  
4           believe during that session of the General Assembly, that  
5           the congressional lines will be drawn, and the State  
6           Senate and State House lines. At the same time, local  
7           jurisdictions around the state are doing just what we're  
8           doing now, they're working on their maps to get their  
9           district lines drawn and of the appropriate size.

10           And just as a bit of background, in 2000, that was  
11           the first time that Richmond County chose to use the  
12           format that we're using now by having this panel of  
13           elected officials to draw the lines to recommend them to  
14           their governing authorities, so that started in 2000. So  
15           this would be the third decade that we've used this  
16           process to draw the district lines.

17           The ad hoc redistricting committee, as we said  
18           earlier, contains 12 members. Together, the committee  
19           developed guiding principles. They also will review any  
20           draft plans, they'll solicit comments from the public, and  
21           develop a districting plan that redistributes the  
22           population to meet the legal requirements. The final plan  
23           that's ultimately adopted will be done so over a period of  
24           time. Again, it has to go to the local governing  
25           authorities for them to vote on it. It will also have to

1 go to the General Assembly to be enacted into law. It's a  
2 process that will take a couple of months to work itself  
3 out.

4 The committee members names are here. I think  
5 everyone's introducing themselves tonight so we won't go  
6 over that again, but again, there is to reiterate your  
7 four Commissioners, four School Board members, and four  
8 members of the Legislative Delegation appointed by their  
9 respective governing authorities.

10 The guiding principles -- the guiding principles are  
11 very important. One of the first things this committee  
12 did was met to determine as they go through this process,  
13 what was important to them, what did they want to consider  
14 when they were drawing the lines. And this committee  
15 decided that they were interested in keeping communities  
16 of interest together. They were interested in not  
17 splitting precincts or subdivisions. They were interested  
18 in refraining from making those types of divisions, those  
19 types of divisions when it's possible. The principles  
20 that they developed, were then sent to Atlanta to the  
21 redistricting office and their office drew what their --  
22 what's described as a minimal-change plan that provided  
23 balanced districts and will serve as a jumping-off point  
24 for this group to begin this work.

25 I think most of this is what we just talked about.

1 We know that tonight is the last public hearing, so we  
2 thank you for coming out to the public hearing tonight.  
3 This will be right now, at least, the last scheduled event  
4 at which members of the public will be able to interact  
5 with the committee. The meetings moving forward of the  
6 committee, they are open to the public. The public is  
7 welcome to come watch and observe the committee do its  
8 work, but right now there are no further sessions set for  
9 public input.

10 The public hearings, as you know, starts at 6:00.  
11 There is a call in line if anyone out there is live  
12 streaming and wants to call in. The number is 706-826-  
13 1304. Public speakers will be given two minutes to talk  
14 to and address the committee and the comments as we go  
15 along both the ones submitted through our online portal  
16 and the ones that are done verbally are compiled and will  
17 be given to the committee members for them to have as they  
18 go about their work.

19 Lastly, I will -- for anyone who's interested, I  
20 encourage you to go to our website. All the handouts in  
21 the back of the room, the web address is listed there, and  
22 all the information that you can get from those websites  
23 is -- is listed on that piece of paper. So at that  
24 website, is a calendar of events -- the calendar of  
25 events, there's a citizen's portal where you can tell this



1 committee any information that you would like for it to  
2 know, any suggestions that you might have or desires or  
3 wishes that you might want to see enacted for your  
4 redistricting plan. The committee members contact  
5 information and names are there. There are frequently  
6 asked questions being developed now so you can check in  
7 there periodically if you have questions. The guiding  
8 principles are there. The guiding principles that were  
9 adopted by this committee are there for you to read.  
10 There's an interactive map there, which is actually quite  
11 cool. With the interactive map, you can zoom in on this  
12 map much like you can with Google Maps, you can zoom in,  
13 down to actually look into your very house and see how  
14 it's affected by this draft redistricting map or any other  
15 changes that occur. You can also lay down neighborhoods  
16 on top of it, set new districts on top of it, voting  
17 precincts on top of it, just to see lots of information,  
18 including also the census data. So it's right there  
19 available at your fingertips to use whenever you want.  
20 Videos from all the meetings that have been held are  
21 there, as well as, transcripts, and agendas, and any  
22 presentations that have happened since this committee  
23 started work back on July the 20th of this year.

24 The next scheduled committee meeting is on November  
25 10th. That committee will be -- that meeting, excuse me,

1 will be at the Board of Education administrative offices  
2 on Broad Street, it starts at 6:00. Again, the -- that  
3 particular meeting, it's not a public hearing format,  
4 though it is open to the public if you would like to come  
5 and observe and listen to the committee do its work. On  
6 that note, that's it.

7 **MR. FRANTOM:** All right. Thank you, Ms. Bailey for  
8 all that great information, we do appreciate it. If you  
9 have not signed up to speak this is your last opportunity  
10 at the back, put your name on the sheet and then we'll  
11 bring it forward. You're going to have two minutes to  
12 speak. Again, no questions. If you have any questions we  
13 will stay here and answer those questions after we  
14 conclude the redistricting meeting. It is a two minute  
15 comment time. When you do come forward, please state your  
16 name and address clearly into the microphone so we have it  
17 for public record.

18 All right. We're going to go ahead and get started.  
19 First off, we have Mr. Charles Rollins. Again, please  
20 state your name for the record.

21 **MR. ROLLINS:** My name is Charles Rollins. I live at  
22 2224 Kings Way, which is in District 3. It's specifically  
23 in Precinct 304. And I don't want to repeat a bunch of  
24 stuff that was just said. I understand what's going on.

25 What this appears to me to be is a math problem

1 that's got to be solved, and looking at the map, because  
2 of the way this map was drawn and these different  
3 (unintelligible), and District 3 has to lose people and it  
4 has to lose them to certain districts. That's the only  
5 way that this map can work. Short of redrawing the whole  
6 thing from scratch, this is almost basically -- we can  
7 make little tweaks, but this is basically going to have to  
8 happen. My objection, and this is part of the local  
9 control thing is that, as a resident -- resident of  
10 Summerville, for a long time, people in Summerville and  
11 Forest Hills and that whole area, have had one  
12 commissioner to report to, whoever that person has been at  
13 the given time, and it's not that I don't feel like if we  
14 had three different commissioners they wouldn't care, but  
15 it certainly dilutes our -- the neighborhoods' ability to  
16 persuade because instead of having one commissioner who  
17 has a significant chunk of their constituents, they can  
18 move that commissioner dividing them out amongst three  
19 different ones, which just really eliminates that group's  
20 ability to have self-control over its area.

21 My proposed solution, because I don't see a way  
22 around this redistricting, is to create a municipal  
23 village of Summerville, a new municipal entity inside --  
24 inside Richmond County. It would include basically Forest  
25 Hills and Summerville and few other areas right contiguous

1 to it. That would allow for this districting plan to  
2 still happen, just as it's written has to change, wouldn't  
3 affect any of that, but would allow for there to be more  
4 local control and will allow Summerville and the areas  
5 that are incorporated with it to negotiate with the city  
6 as a block as opposed to parting this out amongst three  
7 different commissioners and two different super  
8 commissioners.

9 And I believe my time is up, but that is my proposal.  
10 I'll end by saying that -- to state this, in 2008, amended  
11 Title 36 which controls this to make it much easier to do  
12 than it was in the past.

13 **MR. FRANTOM:** Thank you, sir. Reverend Melvin Ivey.

14 **MR. IVEY:** Good evening. Thank you guys so much. My  
15 name is Melvin Ivey, 1016 Fox Den Road, Hephzibah,  
16 Georgia, District 4.

17 I think Ms. Bailey, kind of, covered a lot of the  
18 things that I was going to bring to your attention. But a  
19 couple of things that I do want to reference, one is that,  
20 I ask you all not to be tempted to look at it from a  
21 political or incumbent position, that you stay focused on  
22 the guidelines with which you have given, and that you  
23 make sure that you treat everybody fairly. I think that's  
24 what I've heard throughout all of these people want to be  
25 treated fairly. I believe that you all are competent of

1           doing that.

2           The other thing is that once you, if you would,  
3           please be mindful of certain communities, especially  
4           downtown, that there are some communities that find  
5           themselves in a position where they don't have the number  
6           of people, so if you -- when you're looking at those  
7           numbers, that's what it's basically going to come down to  
8           is the numbers, because we're playing a numbers game just  
9           like the young man just said -- that we make sure that we  
10          try to keep communities together as much as possible.

11          I was looking at some data a little earlier, and it  
12          talks about the different characteristics that makes up  
13          those communities, so in your decision-making process, I  
14          would ask that you will look at, try not to divide  
15          families, try not to divide communities. I know you're  
16          going to have to. The gentleman just said that -- I see  
17          District 3 has an abundance of people, about 5,000  
18          additional people. So I just ask that you all please  
19          ma'am's and please sirs be mindful of the people of  
20          Augusta, Richmond County. Make sure that we have a fair  
21          and open process. Thank you very much.

22                 **MR. FRANTOM:** Thank you, sir. Mr. Robert Ingram --  
23                 Ingham. Again, please state your name and address for the  
24                 record, sir.

25                 **MR. INGHAM:** Robert Ingham, 4053 Burning Tree Lane,

1 Goshen Manor, Augusta, South Augusta. I'm looking forward  
2 to seeing each of -- all of you normally -- each River's  
3 especially need people that represent the commission seats  
4 and education that my younger brother, when he was going  
5 to -- when it was elementary school, where it was an older  
6 school, he used my name as I was seven years older than  
7 him -- my mother brought (unintelligible) the whole  
8 building down, so just to address that particular  
9 situation at the time.

10 I was in four different census, not necessarily a  
11 supervisory capacity, but getting members and staff aboard  
12 that went to Augusta Tech. You mentioned that the young  
13 people -- step between the -- the system of going to  
14 college to move forward in education, and looking forward  
15 to campaigning myself in the near future, and thank you  
16 for my time and everything. Have a great day.

17 **MR. FRANTOM:** Thank you, sir. Reverend Marion  
18 Williams.

19 **MR. WILLIAMS:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'm used to  
20 the two minutes. I understand that perfectly. I came  
21 just to bring a couple of comments about the census and  
22 what happened with the census, looked at all the charts  
23 offered. You already shared about the 10 years only  
24 growing 3%, then only growing 3% in certain areas. We're  
25 never going to be able to do what we need to do if only

1 one area is growing. I think it's an excellent --  
2 actually doing a good job as far as what you do with the  
3 census, but the census don't just necessarily talk about  
4 the redistricting. When we -- when -- most people don't  
5 know that there's federal dollars that is allocated  
6 because of the census. There's programs allocated because  
7 of the census. We do not do a great job -- or maybe a  
8 good but not a great job of trying to register the census  
9 though they were hard to count.

10 The count grows much more than we've been shown. We  
11 have lost the status of the second largest city by  
12 probably some 300 counties. So there's definitely a lot  
13 to be done and a lot of work in all of this and it needs  
14 to be done, it has to be done because the State law  
15 mandated you do it. I just think you got to be mindful of  
16 what we looking at and how we -- what we -- how we  
17 transitioning voters.

18 I heard someone say, we want to keep community  
19 together. Well, that's fine. Everybody would love that.  
20 I don't think anybody would expect the household with one  
21 person in the household could vote one way or another, so  
22 the families should stay together. But you going to have  
23 to move some people because of the guidelines, and we got  
24 to do it. But I just want to come in and say that there's  
25 more than just the count. It's all these federal dollars

1 that most people don't know about that does come downtown,  
2 that does impact areas that we hardly hear about. I  
3 appreciate the time, and I'm done with my two minutes.  
4 Thank you.

5 **MR. FRANTOM:** Can you state your address?

6 **MR. WILLIAMS:** Yeah, I missed that. 1941 Kratha  
7 Drive, District 2, Augusta, Georgia. Thank you.

8 **MR. FRANTOM:** Thank you, sir. All right. Mr. James  
9 Williams.

10 **MR. WILLIAMS:** Before my time starts, good evening.  
11 I'm going to ask you grant the request that I questioned.  
12 Mr. Chair and Madame Chair, good evening. I don't know  
13 how many people you have to speak after me, but I want to  
14 ask you if you would reapportion that time that go to my  
15 peers, give me that time please.

16 **MR. FRANTOM:** Please state your address for the  
17 record, sir.

18 **MR. WILLIAMS:** My address is 3408 Pine Hill Road,  
19 Hephzibah, Georgia, District 5. And I do understand the  
20 process by which you have to go to making these  
21 determinations with redistricting, and I applaud all of  
22 you for the work you're doing. And I don't know if I want  
23 to be you or not because I know what you're going to get  
24 in terms of repercussion and with people not being  
25 satisfied. But nevertheless, you still have a job to do.



1 I watched this over the past 10 years, 20 years, 30  
2 years, in terms of our city and how it's grown and how  
3 it's moving. District 5 which I live in is one of the  
4 districts that is going to be affected by this  
5 redistricting. And that redistricting because of the  
6 growth that has come through District 5, over the past 10  
7 years is there because one; there's been new domiciles  
8 built in District 5 as newer communities. District 5  
9 house a lot of older -- old communities. It's like a lot  
10 of old (unintelligible) in terms of apartment complexes  
11 and anything like that, but so people who would get moved  
12 out of the city, so to speak, from certain areas, a lot in  
13 public housing for instance where we've lost several  
14 communities in public housing, that have forced these  
15 people, these residents, to relocate to mainly to District  
16 5. And why District 5?

17 I live in District 5, that one; that all was the kind  
18 of housing that these -- these residents could afford.  
19 What I mean by that, is that District 5 is an older  
20 community with a lot of rental properties where people who  
21 has moved from those areas of renting has moved into. I  
22 also live in an area that's going to be affected by this  
23 redistricting and I ask that you pay close attention to  
24 that. And it's probably one of the most -- one of the  
25 most overpopulated, I understand, that's going to be

1 affected by this. I live in the Green Forest subdivision  
2 there. Green Forest is contiguous to Butler Manor which  
3 is just across the street, which are like communities.

4 So when the question is asked, how do you keep like  
5 communities together, you keep like communities together  
6 by not breaking them up. So I asked the people, the  
7 residents of District 5 and the Green Forest subdivision  
8 here in Augusta and subdivision that you strongly look at  
9 how you separate communities of likeness, communities of  
10 like minds, communities that have several things in  
11 common. Thank you.

12 **MR. FRANTOM:** Thank you, sir. Next up is Ms. Monique  
13 Braswell.

14 **MS. BRASWELL:** All of the distinguished panel, my  
15 name is --

16 **MR. FRANTOM:** Can you state your address for the  
17 record please, ma'am?

18 **MS. BRASWELL:** -- and to my favorite speaker  
19 attending over there.

20 **MR. FRANTOM:** Okay.

21 **MS. BRASWELL:** Monique Braswell, 5117 Devon Lane. I  
22 live in District 3. How did I get to District 3? Because  
23 you shut down everything in District 2. Okay. I've been  
24 a part of this redistricting stuff for 20 years so that is  
25 while I've lived in Augusta. You guys are doing what you

1 can do. You're not going to please everybody. But what  
2 I'm here to say is, I ask the district committee why  
3 District 3 has such a large growing number, is because we  
4 had nowhere to go from District 2. We had nowhere to go  
5 from District 4. We had nowhere to go from District 1.  
6 You basically made us get out there and do what we needed  
7 to do to be able to do it hatefully and sell the others  
8 and buy a \$300,000 dollar house after leaving on a public  
9 housing voucher, you get what I'm saying?

10 So while we'd love to see District 3 stay along with  
11 District 3, could you understand that we may have to make  
12 some changes out there. Some of us don't want to make  
13 changes out there. But some of us need to take a look  
14 around and see what's really in District 3.

15 When I moved into District 3, population out there  
16 was probably 20% African American. District 3, right now,  
17 is about 96 in my mind, where I live at in Elderberry.  
18 Were you were building nothing but bigger and bigger  
19 subdivisions out there and those subdivisions are about  
20 90% African Americans. So what are y'all going to do,  
21 eventually move us out of District 3 and rise into  
22 District 10? So at the end of the day, y'all do what  
23 y'all got to do, but we live out there. We know what we  
24 got out there. I really love to stay out there.

25 Real, real quick. There are no ghettos in Augusta

1 and I want to make that very clear. There are no ghettos  
2 in Augusta. We've gotten rid of the ghettos a long, long  
3 time ago. Augusta's moving back up where they're growing.  
4 Have a great day, guys.

5 **MR. FRANTOM:** Thank you. Mr. Edward Jefferson.

6 **MR. JEFFERSON:** My name is Edward Jefferson. I live  
7 at 3206 Darwood Drive, District 4 and District 6, because  
8 that's the Pepperidge subdivision. And my comment to the  
9 Board is this. Last time y'all, not y'all, but last time  
10 you did this, we had a judge that decided the district for  
11 us. My comment to you is, if you have to get behind  
12 closed door, when you come out, come out as a consensus  
13 for whatever you do. We don't need one person to tell us  
14 which district we need to be in. We have all of you. So  
15 please be mindful of that. And if you can, keep the  
16 subdivisions whole. If you can't, then we have to adapt.  
17 And we adapt just like Pepperidge did, we give our  
18 Commissioner 4 a hard time, we give our Commissioner 6 a  
19 hard time.

20 But my point is this, when you come out come out as a  
21 whole body, and when you say, yes for this map, then it's  
22 yes for this map. Don't come back five minutes later and  
23 change. We all have to make hard decisions, and when you  
24 make those hard decisions, stand by your work. Thank you.

25 **MR. FRANTOM:** Thank you.

1                   **MS. SCOTT:** Well said, sir. Well said.

2                   **MR. FRANTOM:** All right. Next up is Ms. Shaleita  
3 Neal.

4                   **MS. NEAL:** Hi.

5                   **MR. FRANTOM:** Please state your address, name and  
6 address for the record.

7                   **MS. NEAL:** Yes. Shaleita Neal. I live, okay, sorry.  
8 I'm a little bit nervous.

9                   **MR. FRANTOM:** That's fine. It's okay.

10                  **MS. NEAL:** I'm also a stroke survivor so if --

11                  **MR. FRANTOM:** You're good.

12                  **MS. NEAL:** Okay. And it's like my first time and I  
13 already wrote this down so -- so I'm just going to read it  
14 and if it's longer --

15                  **MR. FRANTOM:** Can you just state your address?

16                  **MS. NEAL:** Yes, sir. My names's Shaleita Neal. I  
17 live in historic Sand Hills, 2907 Wheeler Road, District  
18 7. I am a disabled, stroke survivor, and historian and am  
19 a former social studies teacher in Metro Atlanta for nine  
20 years.

21                  My suggestion, because I have been reading the  
22 Charter, the Constitution, and charter -- consolidation  
23 charter -- my suggestion is start with the like  
24 neighborhoods.

25                  Sand Hills has been split for 26 years since the

1 consolidation. Wheeler Road has two Commissioners,  
2 District 1 and District 7. My neighbors across the street  
3 from me, and the rest of the Sand Hills is zoned in  
4 District 1. According to the Richmond -- the Richmond tax  
5 assessor, the 1900 block or the odd numbers, our property  
6 taxes go to District 1, but I live in District 7.

7 In this meeting today, District 1 is underpopulated  
8 and District 7 is not. Time to bring Sand Hills community  
9 back together. It's been 26 years. I just feel that my  
10 -- me and the rest of Sand Hills we should have the same  
11 Commissioner.

12 **MR. FRANTOM:** Thank you so much. All right. Again,  
13 we want to thank everyone for coming out. As we close  
14 again, we just want to say thank you to the IT department  
15 of the School Board, all that y'all have done at all four  
16 schools, they're incredible.

17 I will say that in 2010, we have 11 split  
18 neighborhoods, and we know that we're going to have other  
19 split neighborhoods. We're going to have a very difficult  
20 job of putting neighborhoods back where we can, but we  
21 understand, we're not going to be able to put them all  
22 back together and we all know that as a committee.

23 Again, as Lynn stated, you can continue to give  
24 feedback on the website. We do see all that feedback from  
25 the draft that we are -- we have right now. And then our

1 next meeting will be on November 10th, 6 p.m. at the  
2 School Board. Again, there won't be any form of public  
3 input, but you will be able to hear all the discussions  
4 that we have. We'll get the feedback from the community  
5 in that meeting and really talk about that a little bit,  
6 and then we'll get to work as a committee.

7 As a committee we're -- we have, kind of, set our  
8 goal of being done by December 15th. You will see that we  
9 will meet on Wednesdays through November and December to  
10 get that accomplished at the same time. We've already  
11 agreed every Wednesday at 6:00. We'll determine what  
12 locations we have them at, but we have to determined that  
13 as we go through this process.

14 Again, we want to thank everyone for being here. I  
15 want to thank the committee for showing up all these last  
16 two weeks, four different times. It's been great and we  
17 look forward to getting to work -- work in a few weeks.  
18 Thank y'all so much.

19 {Public hearing concludes 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 31 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 17th day of November, 2021.

Kristy M. Williams  
KRISTY WILLIAMS, CVR, CCR  
CERTIFIED COURT REPORTER  
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