

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

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COMMITTEE MEETING

Before Kristy M. Williams, CVR, CCR  
At the Augusta-Richmond County Municipal Building  
530 Greene Street, 2nd Floor, Augusta, GA 30901  
On Monday, November 22, 2021, Commencing at 5:12 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
Attorneys:	Ms. Zena McClain-Haymon City of Augusta Law Dept. Mr. Pete Fletcher Board of Education
Information Technology:	Alex Ferrand Evelyn Chanti

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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

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. I want to thank everyone for being here for  
13 the ad hoc redistricting committee meeting, November 22nd,  
14 here in the Municipal Building.

15 First off, I'd like to start with introducing the  
16 committee members. I'll start at my left this time. If  
17 y'all can each turn on your mic and introduce yourselves,  
18 please. Push the button on the right.

19 **MR. ATKINS:** Jimmy Atkins, District 8, Richmond  
20 County Board of Education.

21 **MR. MASON:** Alvin Mason, District 4, County  
22 Commission.

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

25 **MS. CAIN:** Venus Cain, Richmond County Board of

1 Education, District 9 at-large, and Vice Chair of the ad  
2 hoc committee.

3 **MR. FRANTOM:** Sean Frantom, District 7 Commissioner,  
4 Chairman of the ad hoc committee.

5 **MS. SCOTT:** Francine Scott, County Commissioner,  
6 super District 9.

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

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

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

12 **MR. FRANTOM:** All right. We're missing only two  
13 other members, I'm sorry, three members; Representative  
14 Prince, Representative Newton, and Representative Howard,  
15 unless they're here and I don't see them. Hopefully,  
16 they'll be joining us.

17 All Right. As we get started, first want to just  
18 give a little bit of a sermon, I guess, and then we'll  
19 turn it to Ms. Lynn for a little bit of feedback, guidance  
20 and understanding as we move forward.

21 Thank you, first off, just want to thank the IT  
22 department and the Board of Elections office for what  
23 they've done. Basically, what they did when these maps  
24 came out, the three plans that you did see, they listened,  
25 it was the feedback of the community, as well as, the

1           guiding principles that we -- that we set here on this  
2           diocese. All the plans did meet all the guiding  
3           principles that were -- that were put together. I think  
4           as a committee we've got to determine, you know, we  
5           started -- we started with the neighborhoods aspect as  
6           more of the focal point, but once we saw the neighborhoods  
7           when we put them all back together, we saw the districts  
8           change in a lot of different areas, as well as, we saw one  
9           Commissioner had mentioned, he had seven new  
10          neighborhoods, and I think that's something I don't think  
11          we can have in this community.

12                 Also, we know that Richmond County has 8 districts,  
13                 which limit our options, as well as, we talked about  
14                 protecting the core of the districts as a guiding  
15                 principle.

16                 We'll turn it over to Ms. Bailey, and should we, kind  
17                 of, talk about, a little bit more on those aspects and,  
18                 kind of, where we are, and then I kind of want to ask for  
19                 a consensus on something after that. Thank you.

20                 **MS. BAILEY:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. Good afternoon,  
21                 everyone. Just as a brief recap, I'd like to bring  
22                 everybody up to speed about where we are right now. Some  
23                 of this will be repetitive from what the Chair said, so I  
24                 will just state that in advance. But we do know that this  
25                 committee really started its work in earnest on September

1 the 15th, and that's when we received what's called a  
2 minimal change district map from the State. From there,  
3 we took that plan and the concept of redistricting out  
4 into the community and held four public hearings on  
5 October 18th through the 27th of 2021. So at those  
6 meetings, we received public comment, heard from the  
7 public, we also had a good number of comments through our  
8 citizens portal through our website.

9 On November 17th, three plans were introduced to the  
10 committee based on community input and guidance from the  
11 committee. Those plans were looked at at that time, the  
12 emphasis on all of those plans was to try, as the Chair  
13 said, to try and put neighborhoods back together. Some of  
14 those neighborhoods were split during the 2012  
15 redistricting and some were, some were split during the  
16 most recent -- in the draft plan, and so the idea was to  
17 try and put some of those neighborhoods back together  
18 where we could.

19 On November 10th, the committee passed or amended its  
20 guiding principles, so that the maximum deviation that  
21 would be considered by this group would be plus or minus  
22 2.5% on any one district.

23 You'll recall that deviation is defined as the  
24 difference between the actual size of the district as  
25 compared to the ideal district size. You'll also recall

1 that the ideal district size is derived from taking the  
2 total number of citizens that reported during the census,  
3 dividing that number by eight, since that's the number of  
4 districts that we have, and that number is the ideal  
5 district size.

6 According to the 2020 census data, current Districts  
7 3 and 5 are overpopulated, and Districts 1, 2, 4, 6, 7,  
8 and 8 are underpopulated. Districts 1 and 2 in  
9 particular, are fairly well, heavily underpopulated with  
10 District 1 being minus 5%, District 2 being minus 7.5%, so  
11 those will need to be looked at and addressed. And then  
12 moving on down to District 3. We know District 3 is  
13 21.26% overpopulated, District 4 is minus 4.36%, District  
14 5 is plus 1.6%, District 6 is minus 1.58, District 7 is  
15 minus 1.59, and District 8 is minus 2.71.

16 So the whole goal of this project, is to bring the  
17 districts closer together in size. So naturally, in order  
18 to do that, there will be some give and take from all  
19 portions of the county.

20 As a reminder, at its last meeting, the committee  
21 agreed to meet again today. The next meeting following is  
22 November the 29th. Next week, had scheduled December the  
23 1st. Would ask that committee members remove that date  
24 from consideration. Our friend through the Board of  
25 Education will be in training that week and not available

1 to be with us on that December the 1st date. So we'll see  
2 where the dates go from there. Please also reserve  
3 December the 8th and December the 15th, in the event that  
4 we need them.

5 The committee has set a goal of finishing this  
6 project as December the 15th.

7 **MR. FRANTOM:** All right.

8 **MS. BAILEY:** Thank you, Mr. Chair.

9 **MR. FRANTOM:** All right. Thank you, Ms. Bailey for  
10 that. All right. At our last meeting, we talked about  
11 how it's important that we move forward off one map. We  
12 have four, a minimal change and then three plans.  
13 Understanding that some of the feedback that we got from  
14 the plans one, two, and three was -- I don't think -- most  
15 of the committee that was here in attendance didn't, you  
16 know, kind of feel good about them on many different  
17 aspects because of people with additional neighborhoods in  
18 one district, one Commissioner we had lots of people  
19 moving from different districts across, but I also want to  
20 say before I, kind of, think where -- I'm going to throw  
21 it out there and we'll have the discussion with the  
22 committee, but understand this is about who represents  
23 you. This isn't -- not about devaluing home cost.  
24 There's -- there's million dollar homes in District 1,  
25 there's million dollar homes in District 3, there's



1 million dollar homes in District 8, I mean, District 7,  
2 you know, so for people to act like a district change is  
3 going to devalue their home, that's entirely not true.  
4 Many people, property values have gone up in Richmond  
5 County over the last four years, and things are going  
6 well, so understand that this is not about devaluing your  
7 home costs by moving you to a district -- different  
8 district.

9 With that said, we understand that not everybody's  
10 going to be happy. We understand that there's got to be  
11 changes based on the increased population of District 3  
12 and the decreased population of District 1 and 2. And  
13 with that, I as the Chair feel, and well, I'm going to  
14 open this up to the floor in just a second, that going  
15 back to the minimum change map is probably our best  
16 avenue. And the reason I say that is because number 1, it  
17 is the most balanced map that we got. It came from the  
18 State. I know -- I understand there's  
19 probably heartburn hearing that, but in the same respect,  
20 like, it gave us a starting point that I feel like was  
21 probably the best for this committee to get -- to get  
22 going. Understanding that we can still change the areas  
23 of District 3 on the eastside for those that, you know,  
24 are really concerned about that area.

25 But I'd love to hear the feedback of the committee

1 based on, kind of, that moving forward, because we do need  
2 to pick a map and focus on one, and then let's start  
3 moving things around based off that map. So I'd like to  
4 open up the floor to, kind of -- someone's comments on  
5 that. Ms. Minchew.

6 **MS. MINCHEW:** Yes. Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I guess  
7 my question is so we are deciding that we are moving away  
8 from trying to put neighborhoods together who had  
9 requested such in public hearings, those neighborhoods,  
10 you know, from the 2012 census, as well as, the ones that  
11 were showing to be divided with the original draft. So is  
12 that what we're saying? We're moving away from that basic  
13 concept.

14 **MR. FRANTOM:** I don't think we're -- and I'll let  
15 anybody chime in. I don't think we're moving away from  
16 it. I think we're realizing that we can't put them all  
17 back together without seeing drastic changes that people  
18 moving from district to district. I don't think we -- we  
19 hear you. There's been a lot of outcry about that, so I  
20 think, is it more important that they're back together as  
21 a neighborhood or they're in the district that they've  
22 been represented the last 10 years, and I think that it's  
23 been on the far cry of wanting to stay in the same  
24 district as opposed to staying in the same neighborhood?

25 **MS. MINCHEW:** Okay, so this, what public input has

1           come since we put the three maps out is to stay --

2           **MR. FRANTOM:** That's what -- that's what I heard. I  
3           mean, again --

4           **MS. MINCHEW:** -- stay the present districts even  
5           though they may be divided.

6           **MR. FRANTOM:** Yeah, but I mean we're going to try to  
7           put together neighborhoods. I mean, I understand this  
8           committee still hasn't moved anything. The IT department  
9           and Board of Education took the feedback of the community,  
10          we asked questions, and we got an understanding last  
11          meeting, but this committee has not really made a change  
12          yet on a map, so and I'm trying to see who's -- you've got  
13          to raise your hand because I don't know who's -- who's in  
14          each seat here if anybody wants to say anything? Mr.  
15          Hannah.

16          **MR. HANNAH:** Yeah, I just want to say I concur with  
17          what you're saying about the original draft map. It seems  
18          like of all the maps that -- the three maps that came  
19          before us, the original map was probably the best  
20          representation of what we should be doing based on the  
21          law, and you know, what we as a committee originally  
22          agreed upon. So at this particular stage, I do concur  
23          with your statement.

24          **MR. MASON:** Put that in the form of a motion and lets  
25          move.

1           **MR. FRANTOM:** Commissioner Mason.

2           **MR. MASON:** Is that -- did you put that in the form  
3 of a motion somebody, please, so we can --

4           **MR. HANNAH:** Yeah, I'll put that in the form of a  
5 motion to go with the original draft map as submitted.

6           **MR. MASON:** I'll second that.

7           **MR. FRANTOM:** Any further -- anyone with any other  
8 discussion? All right. All in favor of voting on --  
9 raise your right hand in the affirmative. That is  
10 unanimous to move forward with the minimal change draft.  
11 If you could change our screen to the minimal change  
12 draft, as well as, the screen on the -- for the general  
13 public.

14           And Ms. Bailey, as we, as we do that and I appreciate  
15 the committee, I still think that we -- because of  
16 District 3 being District 3, you know, and we know that's  
17 where we have to -- at one point we talked about 310,  
18 Butler Creek. Can we, kind of, zoom into that area and  
19 let's, kind of, dive into 3, District 3 on the west end  
20 and see --

21           **MS. BAILEY:** Sure. I would like to suggest before we  
22 -- well, zoom in a little bit more, Alex, please where we  
23 can see Butler Creek. Okay, can you point out Butler  
24 Creek?

25           **MS. CHANTI:** I'm sorry, I can't hear.

1           **MS. BAILEY:** Can you point out Butler Creek?

2           **MR. FRANTOM:** Can you explain again, Lynn, what we  
3 can change as a committee? The track, basically, and  
4 explaining how we -- how that works for those that didn't  
5 know?

6           **MS. BAILEY:** Yes, absolutely. Absolutely. So we  
7 have two different units here. We have census tract and  
8 census blocks. Census tracts are large, large parcels or  
9 tracts of -- of many -- made of many different census  
10 blocks. So a census block is contained within the census  
11 tract. Many census blocks are contained within the census  
12 tract and the census block is the smallest unit that we  
13 can move. We can also move voting districts, entire  
14 precincts as we've seen on a couple of versions of plans  
15 that were floating around, but the voting districts VTDs,  
16 as they call them, they call them precincts. They all  
17 contain unbroken census blocks.

18           **MR. FRANTOM:** Okay.

19           **MS. BAILEY:** All right. So Butler Creek. Can we --  
20 here -- this is Butler Creek.

21           **MR. FRANTOM:** Can you bring up the stats --

22           **MS. BAILEY:** We can. We can. We know to move this,  
23 that portion from Butler Creek south, in Precinct 310,  
24 will be approximately 2,543 voters, 2,543 -- or not  
25 voters, excuse me, citizens not voters. Now, we also have

1 another area, if you'll pan up, Alex, so we can see the  
2 tail over here, you know, this whole area here from the --  
3 from this, I guess, that's maybe the Fort Gordon going  
4 down East Robinson Avenue all the way all the way down  
5 here. That is also 1,873 voters, so it's possible that we  
6 can start with the tail-area first, and let's see how it  
7 looks. That's 1,800. Now, we know we need for District  
8 3, we know we need to relocate --

9 **MR. FRANTOM:** 5,490.

10 **MS. BAILEY:** Yes, 5400/5500 people need to be re-  
11 dispersed, redistributed.

12 **MR. FRANTOM:** We also know that the black population  
13 cannot change off of 46%.

14 **MS. BAILEY:** Ideally, you know, we want to keep that  
15 the same.

16 **MR. FRANTOM:** Okay.

17 **MS. BAILEY:** Yeah.

18 **MR. FRANTOM:** I think people need to understand that  
19 when we go through this. So, I guess, my first question  
20 is based on this, if we were to, like, chop a portion on  
21 the -- on the -- on this end, do we go back to the other  
22 end and look at it as a come back?

23 **MS. BAILEY:** I think that would be a good idea. I  
24 think we start working on both ends of District 3.

25 **MS. CAIN:** That's what I was going to say.

1           **MS. BAILEY:** Yes, and start --

2           **MS. CAIN:** That was going to be my suggestion.

3           **MS. BAILEY:** -- because we know that some of those  
4 per family chopped up in here.

5           **MR. FRANTOM:** Yeah. Yeah.

6           **MS. BAILEY:** So to the extend that we can do  
7 something to correct things on that end of the district, I  
8 think would be appropriate to do.

9           **MR. FRANTOM:** Okay, and what is the stats on that  
10 1,800 that you just mentioned? Do you have that?

11           **MS. BAILEY:** I do. Of that 1,873 it's 570 white,  
12 1,169 black. Those would be the non-Hispanic categories  
13 on your worksheet.

14           **MS. CAIN:** What was the other number? I got the  
15 black. What was the other --

16           **MS. BAILEY:** 570, and the total is 1,873. 1,873  
17 total number of voters in that tail area.

18           **MR. MASON:** Just so I'm clear. What -- what is the  
19 number for 309?

20           **MS. BAILEY:** As a whole?

21           **MR. MASON:** No, I heard the whole, the specific  
22 numbers in terms of the demographics black, white, non-  
23 Hispanic and so forth.

24           **MS. BAILEY:** 309, you should have a document that  
25 looks like this.

1           **MR. MASON:** Right.

2           **MS. BAILEY:** And its got the whole precincts on it,  
3 so I'm just going to read directly from that document.

4           **MR. MASON:** Right.

5           **MS. BAILEY:** Thank you. Okay, 309, total population  
6 is 4,472. Of that 688 are non-Hispanic white, 3,043 are  
7 non-Hispanic black --

8           **MR. MASON:** Right.

9           **MS. BAILEY:** -- in the entire Precinct 309.

10          **MR. MASON:** Right.

11          **MS. BAILEY:** Yes.

12          **MR. MASON:** Okay, so right now we're talking about 5-  
13 to 6,000 blacks being moved, potentially.

14          **MS. BAILEY:** Actually, in this plan, 309 doesn't move  
15 --

16          **MR. MASON:** No, no, no, I understand, but we -- you  
17 started, I'm sorry, I said move, but you started out with  
18 309 and 310, and we said we're going to start at 310  
19 first, so those are the two that you mentioned first. So  
20 I want to make sure that we're clear, because I'm seeing  
21 --

22          **MR. FRANTOM:** Yeah, 310 only.

23          **MR. MASON:** Yeah, I'm seeing some faces.

24          **MS. BAILEY:** 310 only is what we're talking about  
25 here.



1           **MR. FRANTOM:** Yeah, 310.

2           **MS. BAILEY:** Not 309. And just that portion right  
3 now -- just the portion of 310 that the little tail that  
4 runs down the edge of -- butts District 8 along the edge  
5 of Fort Gordon.

6           **MR. MASON:** Clarity is important.

7           **MS. BAILEY:** Yes, thank you.

8           **MR. FRANTOM:** Okay, so if there was a --

9           **MS. BAILEY:** So I would say then, the appropriate  
10 thing to do if this is something that we're interested in  
11 doing is let's go ahead and make those changes. Bring  
12 that part of District 3, the tail-area of 310, bring that  
13 part of Precinct 310 into District 8.

14           **MR. FRANTOM:** Go ahead, Mr. Atkins.

15           **MR. ATKINS:** Being the representative for District 8,  
16 I don't like that, and I'll tell you why.

17           **MS. BAILEY:** Okay.

18           **MR. ATKINS:** Because everything, pretty much, in the  
19 green right there that we're seeing is Fort Gordon. We've  
20 already established, you've only got in this last election  
21 last year, presidential election, you had maybe 100 voters  
22 out of there, and you're completely dividing District 8,  
23 is what you're doing, because you've got everything on the  
24 other side of Fort Gordon, Hephzibah, Blythe, McBean,  
25 Goshen, and then you've got to go around, I mean, if -- if

1           you're a person representing that area, and to get to your  
2           constituents, you can't go through Fort Gordon, you've got  
3           to go around Fort Gordon -- I mean, Fort Gordon is a major  
4           divider, to my opinion, so to merge that in, I mean, I  
5           realize that that's what it butts up against on there,  
6           but, I mean, it's just my opinion, it doesn't make a lot  
7           of sense. And then that's going to -- and how many -- how  
8           many individuals was that, again, Lynn?

9           **MR. FRANTOM:** 1,873.

10          **MR. ATKINS:** So right now, District 8 is right at the  
11          number --

12          **MS. BAILEY:** 1,873 is the --

13          **MR. MASON:** So then you've got to go back into  
14          District 8 and take 1,873 out.

15          **MS. BAILEY:** Lets see, District 8. District 8 on  
16          this plan is at .06 plus, so I don't, you know, obviously  
17          it couldn't absorb all of that without taking some out.  
18          Yeah, that is true. Okay, Alex, can you pan down just a  
19          little bit? All right. And we know that you were talking  
20          about the Butler Creek area, which is here, so anything we  
21          do over on the 310 side if we took -- if, as an example,  
22          if we took this area and adjoined it to District 4, as an  
23          example, it's going to leave this area of District 3  
24          unattached to District 3. So it would have to go, either  
25          this part has to go or we can't get to this part, if we're

1 going to move from that area.

2 **MR. FRANTOM:** Right. So it's basically 8 or not  
3 moving.

4 **MS. BAILEY:** Yeah, I mean, I don't know how else to  
5 get to it --

6 **MR. ATKINS:** Well, unless you go far enough up in the  
7 -- my eyes aren't as good, but right there where it says  
8 population 14 down a little bit and to your left, Lynn.  
9 Almost eye level.

10 **MS. BAILEY:** Here. Uh-huh.

11 **MR. ATKINS:** Yeah. To get to District 4, and then it  
12 connects to 4, and then goes all the way down.

13 **MS. BAILEY:** Okay. I see what you're talking about.  
14 Now, District 4 in this plan -- District 4 is .05%  
15 positive in the minimal draft plan which is what we're  
16 looking at.

17 **MR. FRANTOM:** Everybody should have that page in  
18 their packet. Just to let you know.

19 **MS. BAILEY:** Yes, those stats are in your packet. So  
20 do we want to move on from that or --

21 **MR. FRANTOM:** Yeah, I guess so.

22 **MS. BAILEY:** Okay.

23 **MR. FRANTOM:** Commissioner Hasan, you haven't said  
24 nothing.

25 **MR. HASAN:** Yeah, no, I'm in the cue.

1                   **MR. FRANTOM:** Oh, sorry, I can't --

2                   **MR. HASAN:** No, ma'am. I think if we get into  
3 stacking or what have you, I mean, and where we're going  
4 Commissioner Thomas just said, as much as I would like to  
5 proceed with this, it looks like for the betterment and  
6 the sake of time -- almost -- I got a change that I would  
7 love to see in District 6. We're likely at a point we  
8 just accept this map as it is and don't do anything except  
9 the recommendations from the draft map and  
10 (unintelligible) opposition. That's what this committee  
11 needs to do, because if you say that they connect to your  
12 district, you realize that we have to avoid stacking,  
13 packing, whatever you call it and if you object to it for  
14 those reasons and by law we can't do that, which means not  
15 to do it. And I'll be honest with you, I do understand  
16 the starting in 3, but this map here gives us an  
17 opportunity to start practically anywhere, and not just  
18 back in 3 because this map pretty much just laid out a  
19 whole program for us. We don't have to start in 3, we  
20 just start inside of districts where you can put  
21 neighborhoods back together, for instance, like, I'm just  
22 going use Commissioner Mason's district, for instance,  
23 something like if it was not together, we could find a way  
24 to put that together.

25                   So starting back at 3 again, because puts us all at a

1           disadvantage. And the most likely places that based on  
2           the census, and based on the rules of engagement, but give  
3           us an opportunity to do just what the map has done. We  
4           don't want to honor that, and for me, from what I'm  
5           hearing, this going to make it difficult for me to support  
6           anything other than the current map, this current draft  
7           that we have before us.

8           **MR. FRANTOM:** Okay. So are you giving us a  
9           suggestion to start somewhere else, sir?

10          **MR. HASAN:** No, not really. I think they're going to  
11          be hard. It's going to be a challenge, but, you know, I'd  
12          like to throw something out there.

13          **MR. FRANTOM:** Sure.

14          **MR. HASAN:** Just see what it looks like, Lynn, excuse  
15          me, Ms. Bailey, I'm sorry. Take a look at District 6 for  
16          a moment, in District 6, and go to 506. 506 was a part of  
17          District 6, that's about three streets to look at. Can  
18          you bring that into 6 and give us an idea of what 6 will  
19          look like if you bring that in?

20          **MS. BAILEY:** Let's see.

21          **MS. CAIN:** What is that?

22          **MR. FRANTOM:** So you're saying south of Windsor  
23          Spring to Rosier Road and around, like that whole box?

24          **MR. HASAN:** Yeah, 506. Just the whole 506, because  
25          it's about -- about three streets really. That's what it

1 was a part of 6, we separated it or separating it. I'm  
2 just trying to see what it looks like. Nothing etched in  
3 stone. I'm just -- for my own --

4 **MS. BAILEY:** Okay, so we were just talking about  
5 Precinct 506, so Precinct 506 has 730 -- 730 citizens  
6 there, total population.

7 **MR. HASAN:** Okay.

8 **MS. BAILEY:** The non-Hispanic white is 171, and non-  
9 Hispanic black is 487.

10 **MR. HASAN:** Okay.

11 **MS. BAILEY:** And that's in Precinct 506.

12 **MR. HASAN:** Okay.

13 **MS. BAILEY:** So 730 people.

14 **MR. HASAN:** And I want to give you something to take  
15 out that if we can just hold on to that if you don't mind,  
16 and just go to Barefield and take Barefield out and see  
17 what -- see what that is.

18 **MS. BAILEY:** Okay, so put 506 into 6, and then take  
19 and take Barefield out of 6 and put into 8?

20 **MR. HASAN:** Yes.

21 **MS. BAILEY:** Okay.

22 **MR. FRANTOM:** So we --

23 **MR. HASAN:** I'm just trying to see this on the fly.

24 **MR. FRANTOM:** I mean, honestly though we're here to  
25 work, and, I mean, we got to keep going at this. I mean,

1 it's going to take time. Every meeting, everybody needs  
2 to, you know, have their opportunity to speak and whatever  
3 they want to look at, see what we can make it to get it as  
4 close as possible to help. So Barefield to 8, is that  
5 right?

6 **MR. HASAN:** Yeah, this neighborhood going into 6.

7 **MR. FRANTOM:** Yeah, but Barefield to 8?

8 **MR. HASAN:** Yeah. Yeah.

9 **MR. FRANTOM:** Yeah.

10 **MR. ATKINS:** When you say, Barefield, are we looking  
11 at just the neighborhood?

12 **MR. HASAN:** Well, whatever drawing -- I have no idea  
13 what your drawing lines are at because the whole precinct  
14 has -- in front of it, and that's what it identified is  
15 Barefield. Whatever if brought in there. I'm just asking  
16 what that looks like. I have no idea what that looks  
17 like, number wise.

18 **MR. FRANTOM:** It's that piece right there.

19 **MR. ATKINS:** Yeah.

20 **MS. BAILEY:** Can you zoom out a little bit, Alex? I  
21 think it might be -- is this it? This is it here? This  
22 is the block that contains Barefield.

23 **MR. HASAN:** Yes, ma'am. Whatever-- whatever --

24 **MS. BAILEY:** Okay, so we want to take that out of 6  
25 and put it into 8.

1           **MR. FRANTOM:** Well, it's in 8.

2           **MR. HASAN:** It was in 8 previously.

3           **MS. BAILEY:** We're putting it back in 8. This plan,  
4 you'll recall, this plan, the draft plan, took Barefield  
5 out of 8 and drew it into 6. So we're going to take this  
6 and change it back green, so it will be in the 8th.

7           **MR. FRANTOM:** So why is it green on our screen?

8           **MR. ATKINS:** But now, on this map here, Lynn --

9           **MS. BAILEY:** Y'all are -- that what you're looking at  
10 on your screen is not what's on that screen.

11          **MR. MASON:** Okay.

12          **MS. MINCHEW:** Right.

13          **MR. FRANTOM:** But on our screen it's in 8, on the  
14 minimal draft.

15          **MS. MINCHEW:** Yeah.

16          **MR. HASAN:** Another thing, Ms. Lynn, those numbers  
17 from 6 to 8 doesn't work anyway. I had no idea what the  
18 numbers were. I was just trying to find out what the  
19 numbers are. It doesn't work.

20          **MR. FRANTOM:** Well, do you know what the variation --

21          **MR. HASAN:** So from 6 to 8 it doesn't work. There's  
22 700 something -- I was trying to swap it out, just swap it  
23 out.

24          **MR. FRANTOM:** Yeah, because you're already at .12.

25          **MR. HASAN:** Yeah, it doesn't work.



1           **MS. BAILEY:** Okay, so, Alex, let's go up to -- hang  
2 on, we're going to get right back to where your screens  
3 are matching, but for now, let's take this area that we've  
4 identified here and move it back into District 6, excuse  
5 me, into 8, into 8. Okay, and now, if we can look at all  
6 our deviations. Okay, so --

7           **MS. CAIN:** You moved it into 8.

8           **MR. FRANTOM:** Made too big of a -- it couldn't work,  
9 it wouldn't work unless we --

10          **MS. BAILEY:** That -- that -- we'd have to add some  
11 more back to 5, because we just took all those people out  
12 of 5, so right now 5 is sitting as 2.61 plus, excuse me,  
13 minus deviation, so we'd have to find a few more people to  
14 put in 5 to rebalance that.

15          **MR. ATKINS:** But now that gets 6 and 8 both -- 2.57.

16          **MS. MINCHEW:** Uh-huh.

17          **MR. FRANTOM:** Too many.

18          **MS. BAILEY:** So we'd have to pull some somewhere out  
19 of 8, because we just took all those people out of 8,  
20 excuse me, out of 6 and put them into 8.

21          **MR. ATKINS:** Lynn, --

22          **MS. BAILEY:** Every time we touch it.

23          **MR. ATKINS:** Well, I have an idea on 8 there to get  
24 it back down a little bit.

25          **MS. BAILEY:** Okay.

1           **MR. ATKINS:** If you look over where it borders  
2           District 1 coming down Mike Padgett Highway, what about  
3           the strip that would run basically from the intersection  
4           of Old Waynesboro Road and Mike Padgett down to the  
5           entrance to Goshen?

6           **MS. BAILEY:** Okay.

7           **MR. HASAN:** That's 8 on one side and 6 on the other.

8           **MR. ATKINS:** It's 8 on one side, 1 on the other.

9           **MS. BAILEY:** And when we do that it will of course  
10          make changes to 1, that we might have to --

11          **MR. ATKINS:** Yeah, but, but 1 has got a little bit of  
12          wiggle room it looks like.

13          **MS. BAILEY:** 1 does have a little wiggle room. And I  
14          do want to go back, remind me, let's go back, I want to go  
15          back at that Fort Gordon area, that tail down there. This  
16          version actually has that drawn into District 8, so we're  
17          going to want to go back and look at that.

18          **MR. HASAN:** Ms. Bailey, how --

19          **MR. ATKINS:** The whole portion?

20          **MS. BAILEY:** The tail.

21          **MS. MINCHEW:** Yeah, that's right, it did.

22          **MS. BAILEY:** That tail that comes down the side.

23          **MR. HASAN:** When we say, go into Goshen, are we  
24          talking about, are we talking about where Cross Creek  
25          school and everything is at?

1           **MR. ATKINS:** No, the other, on the other side of  
2 Goshen; the Highway 56 entrance to Goshen Plantation.

3           **MR. HASAN:** Because Cross Creek is in 6 and Cross  
4 Creek is 8.

5           **MR. ATKINS:** Is 8, that's correct.

6           **MR. HASAN:** That's Old Waynesboro Road, 6 and 8.

7           **MS. BAILEY:** What precinct is the leg? Is that what  
8 you were talking about, that area?

9           **MR. HASAN:** 115.

10          **MS. BAILEY:** This area that's 115? That's this pink  
11 -- Ms. Minchew first dubbed it as the leg.

12          **MS. MINCHEW:** The leg, yeah.

13          **MR. ATKINS:** Where is Mike Padgett? Is that the --

14          **MS. BAILEY:** So it's this pink line here.

15          **MR. ATKINS:** Right.

16          **MS. BAILEY:** Yes, this is Mike Padgett.

17          **MR. ATKINS:** Right. So I'm talking about, and I  
18 don't know how it's divided up, but, I mean, I know, like,  
19 it's Country Place subdivision --

20          **MS. BAILEY:** All right. So this is Goshen Industrial  
21 Boulevard here.

22          **MR. ATKINS:** Yes.

23          **MS. BAILEY:** And then Allen Station Road is here --

24          **MR. ATKINS:** So if you could take everything north of  
25 Goshen Industrial Boulevard to Tobacco Road basically --

1           **MS. BAILEY:** I would say, can we just take the whole  
2 precinct, because that area from Allen Station Road down,  
3 it only contains 5 or 6 people?

4           **MR. ATKINS:** That's exactly right.

5           **MS. BAILEY:** And it would be best if we're going to  
6 move that much of it to grab it all, and also the new  
7 senate district boundaries come right around the bottom.  
8 It comes right in through here and it takes that whole  
9 precinct, so that would keep us from having to split that  
10 precinct.

11           **MR. ATKINS:** So what's that look like number wise if  
12 we take that precinct out?

13           **MS. BAILEY:** We take 115, and we're going to put 115  
14 into 8, is that what you're saying?

15           **MR. ATKINS:** No, we were taking out of 8 going into  
16 115 or going into District 1.

17           **MS. BAILEY:** Okay. Tell me again where you're  
18 talking about then, from here --

19           **MS. CAIN:** The whole leg.

20           **MR. ATKINS:** No, no, no, not that far.

21           **MS. BAILEY:** Okay.

22           **MR. ATKINS:** Just right there right around where  
23 Country Place is. Right where the cursor is.

24           **MS. BAILEY:** All right. Let's put down our census  
25 blocks and see what are options are there.

1           **MR. ATKINS:** Because you don't have many houses except  
2 for, I mean, the area I'm referring to, you don't have a  
3 lot of houses except for the Country Place subdivision.  
4 And I'm saying there's probably 80 to 100 homes maybe in  
5 there.

6           **MS. BAILEY:** That move brings District 1 to plus  
7 1.24, and it brings District 8 to plus 1.32, by moving  
8 those two census blocks into 1. That's within the  
9 acceptable deviation range that this group has set.

10          **MS. MINCHEW:** Lynn, so we're saying Country Place,  
11 what is outlined in the blue would go into --

12          **MS. BAILEY:** It would be everything -- this is --  
13 these blue lines on this software are going to represent  
14 the boundaries of the census blocks, and so that would  
15 represent it's three --

16          **MS. MINCHEW:** It's going into District 1, though, is  
17 that what we're --

18          **MS. BAILEY:** 323, 323 total, there we go. 323 total  
19 people in these two census blocks.

20          **MS. MINCHEW:** Okay. And they're to be we're talking  
21 about moving them into District 1?

22          **MS. BAILEY:** Correct.

23          **MS. MINCHEW:** Okay. And will the lower part of that  
24 leg stay in District 1 also?

25          **MS. BAILEY:** It looks like the whole thing in this

1 version, in the minimal draft plan, that whole thing stays  
2 in District 1, and as I said a moment ago too, in looking  
3 at the senate lines in years --

4 **MR. ATKINS:** It's mostly industrial.

5 **MS. BAILEY:** -- past, it takes that entire 115 and  
6 that is the southern boundary between senate districts 22  
7 and 23, so it's good that it stayed together.

8 **MR. ATKINS:** So Lynn, from here, it looks like that's  
9 a dark purple outline.

10 **MS. BAILEY:** Here?

11 **MR. ATKINS:** No, over here. It's blue, so everything  
12 inside of that would go purple, and then up at the forks  
13 up here --

14 **MS. BAILEY:** Should be rope that one in too?

15 **MR. ATKINS:** No. Not necessarily, not, I mean, not  
16 if our numbers are where they need to be right now.

17 **MS. BAILEY:** Well, the numbers are, I mean, they're  
18 not ideal, they're over 1%. They're okay, but they're  
19 certainly within the guidelines that this group has set at  
20 plus or minus 2.5%.

21 **MR. ATKINS:** And that's an area that --

22 **MR. MASON:** Not only that, the rest of us are going  
23 to be making some changes which is probably going to  
24 change his numbers. Trust me on that.

25 **MR. ATKINS:** Right. Well, we've got to start

1           somewhere.

2           **MR. MASON:** Right. Right. That's right.

3           **MR. ATKINS:** We get two of the 8 knocked out right  
4 here, and then go just chip away at it.

5           **MS. BAILEY:** So save this, group?

6           **MR. MASON:** We'll see what it looks like.

7           **MR. HASAN:** Mr. Chairman, I started and I'll have to  
8 finish it, but for me based on what I saw, and the ripple  
9 effect that we're about to experience for me, you can take  
10 mine off the table. I mean, Commissioner -- can do more  
11 with it.

12           **MR. MASON:** Well, that's what's going to start  
13 happening.

14           **MR. HASAN:** I suggest we stick with the original map,  
15 because number one, we don't really understand the  
16 deviation value. Another thing, I think even the map that  
17 we currently have, the draft, we don't have that 18+  
18 population, even with that, I think the draft is a great  
19 starting point. But is there anyway you can get the 18  
20 point population and age because we don't have that.

21           **MS. BAILEY:** Right. Yes, and you and I talked about  
22 that earlier this evening. I do not have that report for  
23 you. I've requested it from the State. It has not  
24 arrived yet.

25           **MR. HASAN:** Okay.

1           **MS. BAILEY:** Yeah.

2           **MR. HASAN:** It would help if we know the broader  
3 picture because we don't know age population and stuff  
4 like that, voting population, because I have to remind  
5 myself that we are elected officials, and that concerns us  
6 as well.

7           **MS. BAILEY:** Okay.

8           **MR. FRANTOM:** That's exactly why we need to keep, you  
9 know, planning and planning, and keep working.

10          **MS. BAILEY:** And just to be clear, Commissioner  
11 Hasan, when you said take yours off the table, you're  
12 talking about 506?

13          **MR. HASAN:** Well, yeah, I mean --

14          **MS. BAILEY:** Not changing 506?

15          **MR. HASAN:** Well, I was saying that because number  
16 one, I don't want us to get into that we need to say this  
17 is where we going to go. We don't know what that's going  
18 to look like. Because with that 18+ population  
19 (unintelligible) then we've got an idea of knowing what  
20 that looks like that would do us good, we'll be right back  
21 in the next place, in the very next meeting, when we get  
22 that information in between and we'll be able to decide  
23 then, well, this won't work either and we will be back to  
24 this again. You know, so for me, I think what we have --

25          **MS. BAILEY:** So we'll put 506 back into 6.



1           **MR. HASAN:** Yeah, it should go back in 5.

2           **MS. BAILEY:** In 5?

3           **MR. HASAN:** Yes.

4           **MS. BAILEY:** Pardon me. And the other change as far  
5 as Barefield goes?

6           **MR. HASAN:** Have to leave it where it is.

7           **MS. BAILEY:** Leave it in 6 for now? Is that what  
8 we're doing?

9           **MS. CAIN:** So does that put 5, that's going to still  
10 make 5 short, right?

11           **MS. BAILEY:** Well, if we undo what we've just done  
12 it's going to make it back even.

13           **MS. CAIN:** So we don't have to worry about 5?

14           **MR. MASON:** Well, you wouldn't have to worry about  
15 any of them because --

16           **MS. CAIN:** So if you put 506 back into 5. So right  
17 now, so I'm clear in my mind, if we do just what  
18 Mr. Atkins asked, District 1 is fine?

19           **MS. BAILEY:** If we undo what Mr. Hasan said, then  
20 everything is back where we started, everything's even,  
21 and this is not necessary to even things out, because we  
22 have not had that motion in the changes in the districts,  
23 the changes in District 6 --

24           **MS. CAIN:** Okay.

25           **MS. BAILEY:** -- back into 8, which caused 8 to need

1 to offload.

2 **MS. CAIN:** But for my understanding, if we do what  
3 Mr. Atkins is asking to make that move, are we still good?

4 **MS. BAILEY:** Well, I think what I'm saying is if we  
5 undo Mr. Hasan's change, moving Precinct 506 into District  
6 6, and we take that back and put it in District 5, and  
7 then if we take back the change that was made where we  
8 moved Barefield from District 6 into District 8, then this  
9 change is not necessary to balance District 8 any longer,  
10 because District 8 will no longer be out of whack, if we  
11 make that change back from Barefield.

12 **MS. CAIN:** Okay, okay.

13 **MS. BAILEY:** So it's as if nothing happened  
14 whatsoever.

15 **MS. MINCHEW:** So we're back to the original draft?

16 **MS. BAILEY:** Back to the original plan.

17 **MR. FRANTOM:** Commissioner Mason.

18 **MR. MASON:** Thank you. And I appreciate you bringing  
19 forward the -- back the draft map. The State has done the  
20 work. It's been done. The numbers are even. None of us  
21 are happy, and that's probably about the way it's going to  
22 be. What the numbers are -- the numbers are even. We all  
23 could sit here, and we'll start plugging, as soon as one  
24 move is going to be something else, and we might move like  
25 that. The work that was done was done in a non-biased

1 fashion, looking at numbers, and it made a map for us, so  
2 to try to dissect that all over again, is the issues that  
3 we're having here right now. And so short of tidying up  
4 this or that, we have a map here. It still has to go up,  
5 it still has to be approved by bodies here locally, the  
6 state's, who knows maybe a court case, I mean, we've got a  
7 long way to go here. But this is a point that has been  
8 done.

9 Now, we've heard -- a lot from the community, and  
10 some of it was already taken into consideration, to be  
11 honest with you, with the draft map, and then there was  
12 some that was -- that was not. But what I will let you  
13 know is, which is what I said on the last meeting, just  
14 for an example, in District 4 when we started looking at  
15 different maps, I changed and I had seven new  
16 subdivisions. So when we're having people talk about, I  
17 don't want to move from this place or that place, how  
18 about getting seven whole new subdivisions in your  
19 district versus losing a piece of one subdivision or  
20 another. That's huge. And so understand that we all got  
21 some growing pains that we're dealing with, and will deal  
22 with, but here's the deal, nobody's physical location is  
23 moving anywhere. Where you're living at today, whatever  
24 the map is, turns out to be, you'll still be living there  
25 tomorrow. Your representative may change, but you still

1 have the same neighbors, you're still living in the same  
2 spot, your house is still valued at the same value, you'll  
3 just be represented by somebody different. It happened to  
4 us in 2010/'11, when we did this, Lynn, and I lost people,  
5 people gained people, and so forth. That's how it went.  
6 So we don't really need to, in my opinion, get too strung  
7 out. Sure, we certainly hearing from our -- everybody's  
8 hearing from their constituents, but I'm here to tell you  
9 today, that there's not one set of constituents anymore  
10 important than another. It doesn't matter whether it's on  
11 the south end, whether it's on the west end, east Augusta,  
12 or anywhere else, there are no protected classes. And so  
13 there's tough -- it's time for us to move and do what we  
14 can, but the State has already unbiased -- we didn't do  
15 it, the State did it. So it would tell me, if the State  
16 is doing it, it will certainly pass the common sense test,  
17 and, perhaps, it would pass the test of all of those  
18 things that we have to deal with in terms of race, and,  
19 and, and that sort of thing, ideal size, all of that is  
20 there. And so I would just ask this ad hoc committee,  
21 because that's what we are, we're just a committee, we're  
22 not the approving authority, if you will, it's got so many  
23 levels more to go than that, and for those who are  
24 uncomfortable with the plan that we choose, they have a  
25 right to be uncomfortable. But the fact of the matter is,

1 all over this county is going to be uncomfortable. This  
2 isn't an ideal plan for us individually, because we all  
3 have our own personal attachments to our districts, and to  
4 the people that have placed us here, there's no doubt  
5 about that. So I'm very, I'm very aware of that. But in  
6 this draft map, we're all going to lose something, and  
7 that's what we're really looking at, but we're also going  
8 to gain something. And it may be something that's going  
9 to be good for this community. It just -- it just very  
10 well maybe if we give it an opportunity, maybe good for  
11 this community.

12 So I'm hoping that we can move forward with this map  
13 here, and I'm going to make a motion here. I'm going to  
14 make a motion that we move forward with this map, this  
15 draft map, as the map that will be adopted by this ad hoc  
16 committee.

17 **MR. HASAN:** Second.

18 **MR. FRANTOM:** Got a motion and a second. Still some  
19 more discussion to be had.

20 **MR. HASAN:** Yeah, I was going to shadow what  
21 Commissioner Mason was saying. The fact of the matter is,  
22 we can dance all day on this floor, and, you know, get two  
23 steps right. There's going to be winners and losers, but  
24 I think if we look at the broader perspective of what's  
25 best for Richmond County, the original plan, draft plan is

1 the closest that we're going to get that we can move  
2 forward with. We've already seen, for the last half hour  
3 or so, just making one or two movements has made  
4 significant shifts, you know, I mean all over the dance  
5 floor, and the next thing, we just been having a mess  
6 everywhere, so I support you on that Commissioner Mason.

7 **MR. MASON:** Thank you.

8 **MR. FRANTOM:** Mr. Atkins.

9 **MR. ATKINS:** Well, I respectfully disagree, and if  
10 that's what we were going to do, we've wasted a lot of  
11 people's time. I mean, we should have just come in here  
12 the first meeting and adopted it, and if that had been the  
13 case, if I had known that was what was going to happen  
14 when I was asked to serve on this committee, I would have  
15 declined. Okay. Because we have the ability to listen to  
16 the citizens that elect us of Richmond County to help draw  
17 these maps. We have the ability to keep, I mean, the  
18 biggest group that we've heard from was Summerville,  
19 Forest Hills, and we're not even thinking about putting  
20 them back together.

21 And if we're going to address the elephant in the  
22 room, and I'm not -- this is not going to be very  
23 favorable what I'm about to say, but when consolidation  
24 happened in this town in the middle, mid 90s, it was drawn  
25 to where you had equal representation. After the 2010

1 census, the equal representation was -- was no longer  
2 there, but it was a representation of the county. We had  
3 a district, District 6, that stayed on the bubble for a  
4 while, and then the -- the demographics of it changed.  
5 That happened over time. What we're about to do is we're  
6 about to take, and I'll just say it, a predominantly white  
7 district, District 3, and it will not be a predominantly  
8 white district.

9 **MR. MASON:** It's not now.

10 **MR. ATKINS:** And your two commissioners, or your  
11 commissioner and your School Board member they may or may  
12 not be reelected there. Okay. So, I mean, I'm just  
13 saying what I feel, I'm saying what the, my constituents  
14 that have contacted me in reference to this. Now, I've  
15 gotten, you know, threatening emails from folks in 309 and  
16 310, about wanting to stay in the 3rd District. I get  
17 that. But at the same time, I've gotten, you know, we  
18 have heard overwhelmingly, from the group from Summerville  
19 and Forest Hills, and we're not addressing that at all.  
20 And as I stated two weeks ago, I wish we had never put  
21 this, this map here out to the public, before we had a  
22 chance to get some input. That's all I've got to say.

23 **MR. FRANTOM:** Thank you. Ms. Minchew, and Ms. Cain.

24 **MS. MINCHEW:** Okay. My concern -- my concern goes  
25 back to the fact that we had four public meetings to ask

1 our constituents from any, any district to come and give  
2 us -- share with us what their concerns were. Okay. We  
3 got that. We got a lot from District 3, of course,  
4 because it's the one that is going to lose the population.

5 And, again, I agree, if we are just going to now go  
6 back to the original draft that the State, which was nice  
7 that the State did this for us, it gave us a starting  
8 point, but after going through and hearing people's  
9 concerns and that, sort of makes a mockery of our public  
10 hearings. It's like, well, we're going to go through this  
11 process, and everybody come out and take their time, and  
12 come to our meetings, and be speakers, and then they've  
13 given input on the portal. Lots of comments, lots and  
14 lots of comments. So what's the point of all that? Well,  
15 you know, it's like, well, we're just going to take the  
16 easy point out, and we've got, we've got neighborhoods,  
17 that have been in a certain district, maybe 100 years. I  
18 mean, they've been a neighborhood together. They've been  
19 in this particular district for a very long time, and to  
20 say, we're just not going to give them any consideration,  
21 I really have a big problem with that. And, you know, I  
22 think we can make a few changes to try and accommodate  
23 that particular area, and, and I know, you know, 310 is  
24 the biggest growth. I mean, you talking about 25, I  
25 believe it was, yeah, 2,500 people in the area just south



1 of Butler Creek. That's a lot of growth showing just in  
2 that one area. So you've got the two, two extremes of  
3 District 3, that's what's under consideration. You've got  
4 the southern western part where are this growth is and I  
5 don't like it going down the side like that. I mean,  
6 that's just a thin, again, a thin section going down. And  
7 then you got the whole other eastern part of District 3.  
8 And somewhere along in there, we -- we've got to work to  
9 try and get this population down, but it is in District 3,  
10 but just to totally ignore all these concerns of people  
11 who, and I don't mean to slight new residents. I -- I am  
12 so glad you have chosen to come and reside in the 3rd  
13 District in Richmond County. I am so glad. And these  
14 homes and these neighborhoods are very nice, very well  
15 kept, very maintained, a good homeowners association, yes.  
16 But that's also the case in 303, 307, you know, they 302,  
17 they have, again, been there a long time. So somewhere  
18 along the way, it has to be a give and take between the  
19 ones who -- the older neighborhoods in District 3, and the  
20 newer residents, the newer communities, there has to be  
21 some give and take between the two of them. That's my  
22 opinion. Thank you.

23 **MR. FRANTOM:** Thank you. Ms. Cain.

24 **MS. CAIN:** I was on this committee last time. The  
25 difference between this time and last time we had a

1 consultant that worked directly with us, which made our  
2 job a lot easier, made our job a lot easier. The problem  
3 I have is, again, all the growth, and I'm probably going  
4 to make you District 3 folks unhappy and uncomfortable,  
5 and I'm -- from the bottom of my heart, I'm sorry. We  
6 don't want -- nobody in District 3 wants to move, but 10  
7 years ago, you chopped, you cut, you bled District 4 and  
8 5, and we have lived with it for over 10 years. Now, I  
9 can be up here screaming and hollering, my little  
10 subdivision is split, and it depends on -- what side of  
11 the road I'm working on depends on what commissioner. I  
12 just deal with one Commissioner, to make it happen.  
13 That's what we were doing in our neighborhood for the  
14 longest. But for me, I think for me, what I resent is  
15 when we get to -- because it's over here in this area,  
16 these people are better than those in the 4th District,  
17 and if you move the 4th District over here and 5th  
18 District over here, it's going to make your property  
19 values go down, and you just dismissed those of us that  
20 work just as hard as you do. So whatever happens to me,  
21 on this side of District 3 needs to happen on this side of  
22 District 3, because everybody in this community has been  
23 chopped, diced and chopped up and for one community, and  
24 we heard you, but we can't do what we can't do. Anybody  
25 sitting in this room, I can't change the color you are.

1 If you black, you going to be black. If you white, you  
2 going to be white. I can't change that. Just like we  
3 can't change the numbers. So if we do what everybody  
4 wants us to do, we get into doing what is illegal, we're  
5 packing, we're stacking. And I think our community is a  
6 little better than that. I think we're better than that.  
7 It's okay. Just because I live in a black community don't  
8 mean a white can't represent me or if a white -- if you  
9 live in a white community black. If they are for you and  
10 supporting you and your endeavors, it shouldn't matter if  
11 it's a little purple man with a hole in his head, as long  
12 as that individual is doing the job that needs to be done  
13 to represent your district. So for me, yes. I hear what  
14 everybody's saying, but I'm not packing, I'm not stacking  
15 for us to go out here, and then for somebody, because no  
16 matter what we do, somebody's going to sue. Because we  
17 love to sue, and then you not going to like what the State  
18 -- what the judge do. We didn't like it then, we're not  
19 gong to like it now, because guess what. The numbers says  
20 what it is.

21 Now, we've heard, well, not everybody was counted.  
22 Well, if everybody wasn't counted, everybody needs to be  
23 blamed sitting in this room because everybody probably got  
24 some family members that wasn't counted. So as a  
25 community, we didn't do what we needed to do to square

1 everything up equally and we got what we got. The numbers  
2 dictate which way we have to move. I don't like it that  
3 my subdivision is not going to be put back together. But  
4 guess what, I'm going to make the best of it, the best I  
5 can, and work with the elected officials that represent  
6 us, just like I've embraced Mason, in my -- as my 4th  
7 District Commissioner of my neighborhood. If it's him or  
8 whoever we're going to work with him to make our community  
9 better and that's what about -- whoever represent you, you  
10 work with them to make your community better. It's not  
11 about any one individual. So that's just how I feel about  
12 it.

13 **MR. FRANTOM:** Thank you. Mr. Mason. And then I've  
14 got some comments.

15 **MR. MASON:** Thank you. I just want to say that I can  
16 respect and I certainly do respect everyone's comments and  
17 their opinions and how they feel. And if you were  
18 strongly representing those that you represent that have  
19 come to you, then you wouldn't be doing what you need to  
20 do as a representative. So I can, I can certainly respect  
21 that. But what I also want to make sure that we're very  
22 clear about is the fact that the numbers that we're  
23 talking and why we're here is because of the census. And  
24 the census, as we talked about District 3, since it seems  
25 to be the focus, it has the most people, the census

1 numbers says that 3 is now predominantly black. That's  
2 not what I say. It's not what any one commissioner says  
3 up here. It's what the census says. And so if your  
4 representative turned out to be African American, so be  
5 it. If it turned out to be something different, so be it.  
6 That's America. It's why I defended this nation for 20  
7 plus years was to have the rights to elect, vote, and do  
8 those types of things. So I think we're focusing -- when  
9 we say that we didn't address what people have said when  
10 they come out, I think we have because when you listen,  
11 and give an opportunity, and then you as an elected  
12 official have a responsibility to be as fair as you can  
13 possibly be -- so to say that we haven't done anything,  
14 actually we have, because we've heard from people that  
15 said they don't want to move out of District 3. We've  
16 heard some people from either side say they don't want to  
17 move out of District 3 or they do, but I've also heard  
18 from the commissioner from the district. She wants to  
19 keep 309 and 310. That's what was said to me. And so  
20 when you say, the representatives, we've got to take them  
21 into consideration as well, but then when you know, you  
22 keep 309 and 310, you know you've got to lose something.  
23 It just doesn't stay there.

24 So if we -- if we going to talk, let's get real  
25 serious about this then, and as we go through this portion

1 here, I've got to just keep making mention of this,  
2 there's no physical move. There's no physical move. So  
3 if there's not a physical move, what exactly is the  
4 problem? If there's not a physical move, what exactly is  
5 the problem? And so we out in the south Augusta area, 4,  
6 5, and 6, have dealt with tremendous change, tremendous  
7 change. And we've dealt with that for over 10 years. So  
8 if we're going to be fair, let's be fair across the board.  
9 It's somebody else's turn now. It's all it is. It's  
10 somebody else's turn. When the growth comes the next 10  
11 years, it will be somebody else's turn then, but we don't  
12 keep chopping and dicing those same ones who sacrificed on  
13 the last go round. Everybody gets a fair shot at this.

14 I'm going to say it again. There are no protected  
15 classes. There's just not. And if we're still in that  
16 mindset, in my opinion, we are way behind the power curve.  
17 This is 2021. No protected classes. So we've got a  
18 situation here to where we clearly saw when we tried to  
19 move pieces, everything else changed. There's no way to  
20 move and everybody's going to be happy. There's just not.  
21 The work has been done. This is what we have.

22 Yes, we did listen to the community, and after  
23 listening, you just saw very clearly you tried to make a  
24 move or two, and we're right back. We agreed that we  
25 didn't agree with the other three maps, and we can't

1 change the numbers that the census stated. We can't pack.  
2 We can't stack. We can't crack. We can't do any of that.

3 And so I want to end this with this. Like I said, I  
4 absolutely respect and for you not to go to bat for your  
5 people would be, would be wrong, but at the same time,  
6 understand that we have suffered for a long time as well.  
7 And we're no different than anybody else. We're no  
8 greater than, or we're no less than. We're all supposed  
9 to be equal. So let's share this wealth, and I've made a  
10 motion already. I don't know if it's going anywhere, but  
11 I did make a motion.

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

13 **MR. FRANTOM:** We'll get there.

14 **MR. MASON:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

15 **MR. FRANTOM:** Thank you. I mean, obviously, I'm  
16 disappointed only because I feel like we should, we should  
17 keep working. I supported the map because I felt it was  
18 the best starting point, based on everything I said,  
19 heard, said, but I do think that we have the opportunity  
20 to do some, some, some better things to continue to work  
21 on it. Ms. Lynn, I have one quick question, because I  
22 just want clarity on this? In District 2, this map, based  
23 on the census, it was 69% black, and now it's 65%, and I  
24 thought we can't do that. I thought we can't dilute the  
25 minority vote like that in a district by four percentage

1 points. The draft the we're -- looks like we're going to  
2 be --

3 **MS. BAILEY:** So just to reiterate, you're saying that  
4 in the current structure with the new District lines --

5 **MR. FRANTOM:** Yeah.

6 **MS. BAILEY:** -- District 2 --

7 **MR. FRANTOM:** District two.

8 **MS. BAILEY:** -- is 69.82%.

9 **MR. FRANTOM:** And then the one that we're talking  
10 about, it's at 65.12.

11 **MS. BAILEY:** Right.

12 **MR. FRANTOM:** So how can that work? And the reason  
13 -- and again, I'm going to bring that up because we talked  
14 about District 3, when there's a three percentage  
15 difference between on that end where we could have worked  
16 District 2 to a higher percentage and made 3 back where it  
17 would be, you know, basically the same, and I'm just  
18 trying to understand that. Because I don't think -- I  
19 think that's against the -- you can't dilute the minority  
20 vote like that.

21 **MS. MCCLAIN-HAYMON:** Mr. Chairman, actually, you're  
22 not actually diluting the vote, because there are a number  
23 of factors that are taken into consideration. With the  
24 draft map that you have here, the Courts look at a number  
25 of factors. They look at the shape of a district, they



1 look at whether or not you're sticking to your guiding  
2 principles. So all of those factors are taken into  
3 consideration when a court is evaluating matters of vote  
4 dilution, packing, or stacking.

5 So basically, what I'm saying is, this map right  
6 here, there's not an issue legally, that I see here.

7 **MR. FRANTOM:** Even though the numbers are based on  
8 census to the map -- there's that drastic between two  
9 districts of changes in percentages of demographics?

10 **MS. MCCLAIN-HAYMON:** And you're talking about the map  
11 that we received from the State reapportionment office,  
12 correct?

13 **MR. FRANTOM:** Yeah.

14 **MS. MCCLAIN-HAYMON:** And so they checked all of the  
15 categories as well, and so they would not have presented a  
16 map to you that would be questionable legally because they  
17 have a metric that they stick to, and as far as the  
18 technicality of a map, whether or not it's technical if it  
19 meets all the technical guidelines that they set up.

20 **MR. FRANTOM:** Okay. Again, I just, I just feel like  
21 we should be working because we can still make small  
22 changes that make big impacts to help people instead of  
23 just, I feel like we're just giving up because we don't  
24 want to work, and I get it, but at the same respect, like,  
25 we're elected to do this, we're elected to hear the people

1 and I just hate that we're just going to vote today and  
2 move on. So. All right. Any other discussion? Anybody  
3 else have any comments before we vote?

4 **MR. HASAN:** Mr. Chairman, just remind Ms. Bailey to  
5 make sure we get the 18 and above information.

6 **MR. FRANTOM:** You want that even if, if it passes?

7 **MR. HASAN:** Yeah. Still want it.

8 **MR. FRANTOM:** Okay. But your motion is to approve  
9 the --

10 **MR. HASAN:** Commissioner Mason made a motion.

11 **MR. FRANTOM:** Your motion is to approve the minimal  
12 change map and just, like, this committee is done. Is  
13 that what your motion is?

14 **MR. MASON:** My motion is to approve this map as the  
15 map to move forward with.

16 **MR. FRANTOM:** Okay. All right.

17 **MR. ATKINS:** Commissioner Frantom.

18 **MR. FRANTOM:** Yes.

19 **MR. ATKINS:** I would respectfully request a roll call  
20 vote, please.

21 **MS. CAIN:** Helen has a question.

22 **MR. FRANTOM:** Okay. Ms. Minchew.

23 **MS. MINCHEW:** Mr. Mason, you're saying your vote is  
24 to go with the original draft and move forward with it, so  
25 what do you mean by moving forward with it? I'm just

1 asking for clarification. That's all.

2 **MR. MASON:** Okay, so that we're clear. I'm on the  
3 record, I want to make sure that she can hear me. My  
4 motion is to adopt the minimal change draft map as the map  
5 to move forward with -- when I say forward, the map that I  
6 choose for us to use as the map for the ad hoc committee.

7 **MS. MINCHEW:** To be sent on to the State?

8 **MR. MASON:** Well, it's got to go to each -- it's not  
9 going to go directly to the State.

10 **MS. MINCHEW:** Well, but I mean, the process starts --

11 **MR. MASON:** Right, the process gets started.

12 **MS. MINCHEW:** Thank you.

13 **MS. CAIN:** So that's saying no more changes?

14 **MR. MASON:** Yeah.

15 **MS. MINCHEW:** There are no changes.

16 **MR. FRANTOM:** All right. So we're going to have a  
17 roll call vote, based on the minimal change map. I will  
18 turn it over to Ms. Bailey. You're going to read each  
19 person's name and handle it.

20 **MS. BAILEY:** Okay. I'll start with Mr. Atkins.

21 **MR. ATKINS:** No.

22 **MS. BAILEY:** Commissioner Mason.

23 **MR. MASON:** Yes.

24 **MS. BAILEY:** Ms. Minchew.

25 **MS. MINCHEW:** No.

1                   **MS. BAILEY:** Ms. Cain.

2                   **MS. CAIN:** Yeah.

3                   **MS. BAILEY:** Mr. Frantom.

4                   **MR. FRANTOM:** No, ma'am.

5                   **MS. BAILEY:** Ms. Scott.

6                   **MS. SCOTT:** Yes.

7                   **MS. BAILEY:** Mr. Hannah.

8                   **MR. HANNAH:** Yes.

9                   **MS. BAILEY:** Mr. Hasan.

10                  **MR. HASAN:** Yes, ma'am.

11                  **MS. BAILEY:** Mr. Jones.

12                  **MR. JONES:** Yes.

13                         **MR. FRANTOM:** Okay, that does pass on a 6-3 vote.  
14                         All right. Thank you to the IT department for all  
15                         your work and all the maps that y'all provided, all  
16                         the IT support that y'all provided. I want to thank  
17                         all this, the committee as well. And we'll now pass  
18                         these on to each of your respective bodies.

19                         **MS. MINCHEW:** Can I just make just a comment. When  
20                         we do -- when this comes again in the next 10 years from  
21                         now, I think maybe it'd be best if we just had the State  
22                         do the map and move on from there because this process  
23                         that we have gone through has been since, I think the end  
24                         of August, numerous meetings, much work on behalf of our  
25                         county IT staff, who did a wonderful job, so time

1 consuming, so time consuming. And in trying to get public  
2 input and that, I think, you know, I would say 10 years  
3 from now just avoid all of that and take what the State  
4 hands down to us and leave it at that. Thank you.

5 **MR. FRANTOM:** That concludes the meeting. Thank you.

6 (Meeting concluded at 6:35 p.m.)

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I hereby certify that the foregoing transcript consisting of pages numbered 3 through 53 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 28th day of December, 2021.

Kristy M. Williams

KRISTY WILLIAMS, CVR, CCR  
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