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5 REDISTRICTING SUBCOMMITTEE  
6 OF THE PRIVILEGES AND ELECTIONS COMMITTEE  
7 OF THE VIRGINIA HOUSE OF DELEGATES  
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13 DATE: September 22, 2010  
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15 LOCATION: TCC Roper Performing Arts Center  
16 340 Granby Street  
17 Norfolk, Virginia  
18

19 PRESENT: Delegate Chris Jones, Acting Chairman  
20 Delegate David Albo  
21 Delegate Jackson Miller  
22 Delegate Johnny Joannou  
23 Delegate Algie Howell  
24 Delegate Rosalyn Dance  
25

REPORTED BY: Cathy D. Aiello, RPR

1 DELEGATE JONES: We'll call the second  
2 meeting of the House P&E Redistricting to order.

3 I have a couple opening remarks to make,  
4 and then President DiCroce would like to welcome us, and  
5 the mayor has joined us.

6 Paul, good evening. Thank you for having  
7 us in your city, and you'll go second.

8 And then we have Congressman Forbes' wife,  
9 Shirley, and she would like to go, and then we'll go  
10 down the sign-up list, if that's okay with everyone in  
11 the audience.

12 Ladies and gentlemen, colleagues, I'm  
13 pleased to welcome you to the second hearing of the  
14 House of Delegates Redistricting Subcommittee. This is  
15 the second of six opportunities the subcommittee will  
16 have this year to gather input from experts, advocacy  
17 groups, and most importantly, the people of Virginia.

18 On the every-ten-years process of drawing  
19 new boundary lines for state legislative and  
20 congressional districts, the General Assembly and the  
21 governor, as officials who submit to the voters at  
22 elections and, therefore, directly accountable to the  
23 public, are responsible for drawing legislative  
24 boundaries.

25 That mandate is clearly spelled out in the

1 Virginia Constitution. This is a time-tested and  
2 inclusive process. It ensures that every Virginian has  
3 a voice in redistricting since every Virginian is  
4 represented in the General Assembly by a delegate or  
5 state senator.

6 After every decennial census by the  
7 federal government, the Virginia General Assembly and  
8 the governor, like every other state, must draw lines  
9 for the U.S. House, Senate, and House of Delegates  
10 districts.

11 Likewise, many localities also must draw  
12 lines for the county board, city council, and school  
13 districts.

14 That way, everyone already knows from our  
15 civic classes -- everyone pretty much knows that  
16 already.

17 So why are we here and where are we in the  
18 current redistricting process?

19 The key task of the 2010 Census, the April  
20 1 enumeration is now complete. However, the U.S. Census  
21 Bureau continues its work toward releasing statewide  
22 total population counts for Virginia and the other 49  
23 states by December 31st, 2010.

24 Then the data used for actually drawing  
25 the lines, the so-called Public Law 94-171 data, comes

1 later, most likely in February or March of next year.

2 Speaker Howell and Chairman Cole, who  
3 regrets not being able to be here tonight, decided to  
4 schedule and convene these public hearings to encourage  
5 greater civic awareness and facilitate more active  
6 participation by the public in Virginia's latest  
7 redistricting process.

8 At these public hearings, the subcommittee  
9 wants to gather input from the public on what principles  
10 the General Assembly and the governor should consider in  
11 using the detailed data, once it becomes available next  
12 year, to redraw district lines and to eventually turn  
13 those plans into pieces of legislation.

14 Of course, redistricting is an endeavor  
15 presenting many challenges. It also can be a  
16 contentious process. In fact, litigation over districts  
17 drawn in 2001, after the last federal census, continued  
18 through most of the last decade in some states, but in  
19 Virginia, I'm pleased to say not a single court case  
20 challenging the current House of Delegates, the state  
21 Senate, or congressional map successfully passed legal  
22 muster in a court challenge.

23 Nevertheless, the decision produced by all  
24 that litigation, whether in Virginia or across the  
25 nation, as well as the complicated body of law and the

1 many players involved in redistricting, make it vital  
2 that my colleagues and I learn what is most important to  
3 you, Virginians, before the lines are redrawn and  
4 legislation is ultimately passed.

5 The General Assembly, the governor, the  
6 attorney general, the U.S. Department of Justice, and  
7 perhaps the state and federal judges all have an  
8 opportunity to impact this process, but again, before we  
9 get involved in the work of line-drawing or seeking  
10 legal options -- opinions, I should say, or whatever  
11 else, Chairman Cole and I, along with our House  
12 colleagues, want to hear from you about your priorities,  
13 your suggestions for redistricting.

14 As we get underway, I believe it's  
15 incumbent upon me to articulate -- and I hope my House  
16 colleagues will agree with Chairman Cole's and my  
17 touchstones on this public policy issue.

18 There are three points I'd like to  
19 emphasize. First, that the redistricting process must  
20 be fair. It must include opportunity for input from all  
21 and serious deliberation about a fair outcome.

22 The redistricting process must create  
23 districts as nearly equal in population as practicable,  
24 giving the effect of the Constitution's  
25 one-person/one-vote principle.

1           Finally, the district maps must comply  
2 with the law, that the Federal U.S. Constitution, the  
3 Virginia Constitution, the Federal Voting Rights Act,  
4 and the Court decisions applying them.

5           Within those critical constraints, I look  
6 forward to hearing from everyone giving testimony here  
7 tonight and at subsequent hearings.

8           Beyond those constraints, no decisions  
9 have been made. We are here to hear from you about what  
10 you believe is most important in redistricting.

11           We have not prejudged the outcome. We  
12 have not made any decisions. We have no answers to  
13 questions about what districts may or may not look like  
14 when the plans will be drafted. Again, we want to hear  
15 from you about what we, as your elected representatives,  
16 should consider.

17           Now, there are several logistical but  
18 important requests to ensure as smooth and efficient  
19 process for the public input tonight as possible.

20           We have staff from the General Assembly's  
21 Division of Legislative Services, who will be introduced  
22 in a few minutes, and they prepared a two-page handout,  
23 hopefully most of you have received. It's the front and  
24 back. If not, if you'll raise your hand, maybe we can  
25 hand it out to you during this public hearing.

1           The handout is available here tonight and  
2 includes the web site where additional information can  
3 be found, both now and as the process unfolds.

4           In order to respect the time of everyone  
5 who has come here tonight to provide input, we rely on  
6 that handout to answer many of your questions. We're  
7 not here tonight to engage in debate or answer  
8 questions, but here to listen to what each of you has to  
9 say. We want to maximize the active participation by  
10 all of the citizens who are here, and our only objective  
11 tonight is to listen and hear from you.

12           Now, I would ask that each of you who wish  
13 to speak would try to keep your remarks brief, four  
14 minutes tops, if you don't mind, as a courtesy to  
15 others, and please do not try to repeat what others  
16 might have said before you so we may accommodate as many  
17 speakers as possible.

18           Like all of our other legislative  
19 hearings, the keeper of the clock will be our staff.

20           I also invite everyone to submit any  
21 written comments that you have to the subcommittee by  
22 giving a hard copy to our clerk here tonight. Your  
23 statements may be e-mailed, faxed, or sent by regular  
24 mail to Scott Maddrea - Scott, raise your hand over  
25 there - who is our Deputy Clerk for Committee Operations

1 in the Virginia House of Delegates. His contact  
2 information is available at the table near the entrance,  
3 along with a complete list of all the public hearings  
4 that this subcommittee is holding this fall, along with  
5 the two-page handout.

6 Finally, please be sure to identify  
7 yourself before your remarks and on any materials that  
8 you may submit, and I want to personally thank each of  
9 you for coming out tonight. This turnout is probably  
10 about double what we had in Roanoke, and I hope that the  
11 next one we have will be double what this is. It's  
12 vitally important to get input from our citizenry, and I  
13 appreciate you taking time from your busy schedules to  
14 be here this evening to help inform us as to what you  
15 would like for us to consider as this process moves  
16 forward.

17 I would encourage you to stay involved  
18 till the end. As I mentioned earlier, the numbers will  
19 not be to us until probably February or March of next  
20 year, and once we have those numbers, they will be input  
21 into the system, and then we'll know where the  
22 population has shifted and what we're dealing with, and  
23 stay with us until the maps are drawn.

24 Now, let's get started. We've got 26  
25 signed up. That's great.

1                   President DiCroce.

2                   PRESIDENT DICROCE: Good afternoon. Just  
3 a very quick hello and a welcome to Tidewater Community  
4 College, in particular our Norfolk campus and our  
5 regional Roper Performing Arts Center.

6                   As an aside, for those of you who are  
7 visiting, this center is a marvelous example of the  
8 power of partnership, embracing both the city of Norfolk  
9 and the Norfolk Redevelopment & Housing Authority, the  
10 Commonwealth of Virginia, and our private Tidewater  
11 Community College Educational Foundation to produce what  
12 I think is the most spectacular blending of the wonder  
13 of the future with the traditions of the past this side  
14 of paradise.

15                   So thank you so much for being here. Our  
16 place is your place, and most especially, thank you for  
17 all that you do for not only Tidewater Community College  
18 but all of Virginia higher education. You know and I  
19 know we're a critical component of moving this  
20 Commonwealth forward in some very difficult times. We  
21 appreciate the fact that you know that, and on behalf of  
22 all my colleagues across the Commonwealth, I want you to  
23 know that we're there with you hand in hand to get the  
24 job done the rest of the way.

25                   So again, I think at this stage, probably

1 the best thing I can do is get out of your way now and  
2 let you get on with your business. So again, welcome.

3 DELEGATE JONES: Thank you. Mr. Mayor,  
4 good evening.

5 MAYOR FRAIM: Delegate Jones, good  
6 evening. Members of the subcommittee on the House  
7 redistricting, members of the House Redistricting  
8 Subcommittee, and I'm looking at two former mayors here,  
9 as well. So maybe I'll speak to some long --

10 DELEGATE JONES: You're telling my age  
11 now.

12 MAYOR FRAIM: I remember. For the record,  
13 my name is Paul Fraim, and I'm mayor of the city of  
14 Norfolk. On behalf of the City Council and the citizens  
15 of the city, I welcome you to Norfolk, especially for  
16 the purpose of hosting this very important public  
17 hearing on the important topic of redistricting.

18 I'm also happy to be joined this evening  
19 by other elected officials here who are members of our  
20 House delegation. They include Delegate Alexander,  
21 Delegate Paula Miller, and Delegate James, and I also  
22 see a friend from Virginia Beach. Delegate Jones is  
23 here as well. So I want to welcome them. I want to  
24 thank everybody for being here.

25 I appreciate the committee allowing me a

1 few moments to share a few thoughts on a topic which is  
2 important to the city of Norfolk and goes to the heart  
3 of our democratic system of government. Every ten  
4 years, upon the completion of the U.S. Census, the  
5 Virginia General Assembly is charged with the task of  
6 redrawing the boundary lines for the legislative and  
7 congressional districts in Virginia.

8 And another member of the House of  
9 Delegates who represents the city of Norfolk has joined  
10 us as well. Johnny, good to see you.

11 Redistricting laws are complex and  
12 intricate based on the United States Constitution, the  
13 Federal Voting Rights Act, the U.S. Supreme Court  
14 precedent, the Virginia Constitution, and the Virginia  
15 Judicial precedent. All play key roles in the  
16 redistricting process, with an overarching goal of  
17 maintaining ideal districts, promoting equality and  
18 fairness, and determining the political boundaries of  
19 our legislative districts. There's a lot of  
20 give-and-take, there's a lot of room for judgment in all  
21 of this.

22 In Virginia, we have taken great pride  
23 preserving our representative democracy, with voters  
24 choosing freely their elected officials, but as times  
25 have changed, so must our process for fairly and

1 equitably drawing our legislative boundaries, and they  
2 must be changed in order to protect our ideal of a true  
3 representative democracy.

4 In this city, the city of Norfolk, the  
5 second largest populated city in the Commonwealth, we  
6 have eight General Assembly members in our delegation,  
7 two senators and six delegates. Norfolk is fortunate to  
8 enjoy a great partnership with our General Assembly  
9 delegation, but we are, in fact, a poster child for how  
10 the drawing of House districts could be improved and why  
11 we are glad you are here.

12 As mayor, I feel compelled to bring to  
13 your attention that when representation of Norfolk is  
14 comprised, in part, of small pieces of multiple  
15 legislative districts, those representatives may in some  
16 cases feel less compelled to represent the unified  
17 concerns of the city.

18 Of the six members of our House of  
19 Delegates, only Delegate Alexander and Delegate Paula  
20 Miller's districts are self-contained within the city of  
21 Norfolk's political boundary. The remaining balance of  
22 our delegation has to be shared with our neighbors.

23 To further illustrate my point, please  
24 allow me a few moments just to reach to the composition  
25 of just three of the House districts. The 79th District

1 is part Chesapeake, part Norfolk, largely Portsmouth,  
2 and part Suffolk. The 80th District is part of  
3 Chesapeake, a small part of Norfolk, and part of  
4 Portsmouth. The 100th District is all Accomack County,  
5 all Northampton County, part of Hampton, part of  
6 Norfolk, and only representing just a couple of  
7 precincts in Norfolk. The remaining balance of the  
8 districts, of the delegate's district is on the Eastern  
9 Shore. I've got to say, I think we can do it better.

10 Many times localities share similar  
11 interests, whether it be education, economic  
12 development, or public transportation, but there are  
13 occasions when a locality has individual needs.  
14 Occasionally, given the limitation and natural  
15 constraints of shared representation, a locality's  
16 efforts in advancing their interests are sometimes  
17 compromised at the state level.

18 There are times when an old seaport,  
19 urban, core city like ours has very different interests  
20 and priorities from that of a suburban or rural  
21 locality. For this reason, it is incumbent upon the  
22 General Assembly to take whatever steps it can to insist  
23 upon preserving the ideal of a representative democracy  
24 that, of course, includes and provides for fair and  
25 equitable representation for the people.

1                   Moving forward, I respectfully request  
2                   that the General Assembly consider the following  
3                   principles: First, as Delegate Jones mentioned, an  
4                   accurate and complete count in Census 2010. An accurate  
5                   and complete count in Census 2010 is an essential  
6                   building block for all redistricting efforts.

7                   Second, the process used for redistricting  
8                   must be transparent to the public.

9                   And, third, the redistricting process at  
10                  all levels of government must provide data, tools, and  
11                  opportunities for the public to have direct input into  
12                  the specific redistricting plans being considered.

13                  Fourth, to remain true to the values of a  
14                  representative democracy, the redistricting plan should  
15                  be drawn in a manner in which elected representation is  
16                  determined on the basis of shared common interests of  
17                  the localities and their citizens.

18                  Thank you very much. I appreciate it.

19                  DELEGATE JONES: Thank you, Mr. Mayor.

20                  Next, Shirley Forbes. Would you like to  
21                  go or would you like to pass? We know that Randy is in  
22                  Washington working hard.

23                  MS. FORBES: He is working hard, and I did  
24                  not have any prepared comments tonight, but I would like  
25                  to welcome all of you here to thank you for what you're

1 doing.

2 with my husband having been in public  
3 service over 20 years, I know about this redistricting  
4 process, and it's a very difficult one. You have a job  
5 ahead of you, but I do have confidence that you will do  
6 what is in the best interests of all Virginians.

7 And I just want to commend everyone that  
8 is here this evening, as well, for taking that interest  
9 and I, like you, hope that with each hearing that you  
10 have, you will have more and more participation.

11 So thank you.

12 DELEGATE JONES: Thank you, Shirley.

13 Okay. Before we get to the list, I would  
14 like for my colleagues to introduce themselves, starting  
15 to my right. If you'll introduce yourself and where you  
16 represent.

17 DELEGATE ALBO: Dave Albo. I represent a  
18 portion of Fairfax County. Basically, if you were to  
19 look at the Beltway and 95, where they intersect, that's  
20 where I am. Right where people start cussing on their  
21 way to work.

22 DELEGATE MILLER: I'm Delegate Jackson  
23 Miller. I represent the entire city of Manassas and  
24 four precincts of Prince William County.

25 DELEGATE JOANNOU: My name is Johnny

1 Joannou. I represent a portion of the city of  
2 Portsmouth, a portion of the city of Norfolk, a portion  
3 of the city of Chesapeake, a portion of the city of  
4 Suffolk, which is the 79th District, and I'm glad to see  
5 all of you here.

6 DELEGATE HOWELL: My name is Algie Howell.  
7 I represent the 90th District, which covers part of  
8 Norfolk, part of Chesapeake, and part of Virginia Beach.

9 DELEGATE DANCE: Hello. My name is  
10 Rosalyn Dance, and I represent the 63rd District, which  
11 is comprised of Dinwiddie County, the city of  
12 Petersburg, and parts of Chesterfield County.

13 DELEGATE JONES: My name is Chris Jones,  
14 and I represent the 76th District, which is Suffolk  
15 and -- parts of Suffolk and parts of the city of  
16 Chesapeake.

17 We also have in the audience, the mayor  
18 did allude to it, we have Delegate Stolle, we have James  
19 Miller and Alexander, I believe, and Delegate Alexander  
20 actually teaches a class, and he said he was going to  
21 bring his students down here to observe the process. So  
22 welcome and glad that y'all are here.

23 Okay. The first speaker, and I probably  
24 will not do justice to this last name but I'll do the  
25 best I can, Mark Yatrofsky. Is that close?

1 MR. GEDULDIG-YATROFSKY: Good evening,  
2 acting chairman Jones, honorable delegates, fellow  
3 citizens. I'm Mark Geduldig-Yatrofsky.

4 Ten years ago, when I stood before the  
5 previous incarnation of this committee, there were some  
6 of the same faces and several different faces.

7 I want to emphasize an approach that I'm  
8 calling The Four C's: Congruence of interests, which  
9 Mayor Fraim spoke of; compactness, in that districts  
10 should not sprawl across the state; contiguousness, we  
11 shouldn't have a couple of orbs here and there, and this  
12 would be particularly so in congressional districts.  
13 Probably more so than in House and Senate districts.  
14 And the fourth C is competitiveness.

15 It hurts me as a student of government,  
16 both formally educated and as an observer of government  
17 over a lifetime of involvement, to have a House of  
18 Delegates or a Senate and House of Delegates election  
19 and see countless races with an unchallenged incumbent.  
20 That does not serve the best interests of democracy.  
21 That is reminiscent of the old Soviet system in which  
22 there was one candidate, and that was the candidate of  
23 the communist party, and I'm not accusing either party  
24 of being a communist party. It's just that style of  
25 government does not serve democracy.

1           So it's important that there be ballots in  
2 a district, that it not be set up such that one party's  
3 members or another party's dominate, but so that there  
4 is a fair chance for somebody who has ideas that appeal  
5 to that constituency to make a case without regard to  
6 party affiliation.

7           This is even more important to me as an  
8 independent. I have been known to vote for Democrats  
9 and Republicans and none of the above when neither of  
10 them met my needs, and I think that is about as American  
11 and democratic as it gets.

12           I believe that there are things to be said  
13 for people of both parties and no parties, and it's the  
14 ideas that matter.

15           So I would -- to see that happen, I would  
16 like to see an independent commission appointed to do  
17 the redistricting and make the recommendation to the  
18 General Assembly. I believe there needs to be a balance  
19 of partisans and unaffiliated citizens in comprising  
20 that committee.

21           Thank you for being here. I thank you for  
22 the opportunity to present my views.

23           DELEGATE JONES: Thank you, as well.

24           Next, we have Henry Ryto. And as he's  
25 working his way up, if I don't do justice to your last

1 name, please correct me when you get to the mic, and  
2 that will help me in the future.

3 MR. RYTO: Maybe we got the  
4 tough-to-pronounce ones out of the way. My name is  
5 Henry Ryto, and I'm a resident of Virginia Beach.

6 In the 2001 city of Virginia Beach  
7 redistricting process, I drew two of the seven plans for  
8 redrawing our council residency districts. Therefore, I  
9 do have some experience redrawing lines myself.

10 I've just got -- since I was coming  
11 tonight, I've just got two major points to bring up.

12 First is, being from Virginia Beach, if  
13 you look closely at the 21st House district, if you can  
14 make any sense out of it, please let me know what it is.  
15 It's oddly shaped, but the 21st is the only House  
16 district in the Commonwealth of Virginia that falls in  
17 the three different Senate districts.

18 Second, as prominent Mayor Fraim alluded  
19 to earlier, here in South Hampton Roads, a number of  
20 legislative districts fall under three or more cities.  
21 I can understand why you would have to cross the city  
22 line. In some places, you have ventures on both sides  
23 of the city lines, that makes sense, but simply the  
24 number we have of the corresponding three or more cities  
25 ought to raise a red flag, especially if you look at

1 some of them on the map, you wonder why.

2 So I'd just like to leave you with -- I'll  
3 leave you with the crayon test, as I refer to it. If  
4 you give a child a crayon and a piece of paper, would  
5 they draw a shape that looked like that? If they don't,  
6 simply ask yourself why are you drawing a district that  
7 looks like that.

8 DELEGATE JONES: Thank you very much.

9 Next, we have Pam Brown. After that is  
10 O.L. Brockman.

11 Good evening.

12 MS. BROWN: Good evening. Welcome to the  
13 mermaid city. I've been very happy here. I married a  
14 Norfolk native about 17 years ago and I've loved it ever  
15 since.

16 Anyway, for full disclosure, I'm chair of  
17 the Republican Party of Norfolk. I live in ward 5  
18 section of the city, also called Ocean View. I live in  
19 the 87th House, and we are one of the lucky ones. We  
20 have that continuous compactness of a House district,  
21 which I think it serves the interest of everyone in the  
22 Ocean View area because the issues for Ocean View tend  
23 to be somewhat unique. The continuity of the House of  
24 Delegates representation, whatever party represents the  
25 87th House, hopefully it will be mine next time, but it

1 would not serve the city of Norfolk or the folks in the  
2 Ocean View area and the vibrant community that we have  
3 very well if you chop it up to where it's in three or  
4 four different people's districts.

5 Right now, we're really making a lot of  
6 progress with the metamorphosis of Ocean View and all of  
7 the ward 5 area and into Willoughby and ward 1, and I  
8 don't think it would serve us real well to try and chop  
9 up this district.

10 So that's my request to the committee, to  
11 try to make the 87th House as close as possible as to  
12 what it is. I know that we've lost like 20,900  
13 residents. It might be a little bit smaller. Try to  
14 keep it somewhat the way it is. Cut where you have to,  
15 but try to keep it as much as possible the way it is.

16 Thank you so much.

17 DELEGATE JONES: Thank you very much.

18 O.L. Brockman. Pass.

19 Okay. Richard Fisher, and then we have  
20 Carole Garrison next.

21 MR. FISHER: I think you're going to be  
22 able to hear me from right here, so I won't go up to the  
23 microphone. If you can't, raise your hand and I will  
24 get up there, but I can speak pretty loudly if I have  
25 to.

1                   Again, my name is Richard Fisher. I have  
2 three comments.

3                   My first one, and I mean this sincerely, I  
4 want to thank you very much for coming here and  
5 listening to us, having it open to the public. I think  
6 it's very important that the people that have influence  
7 and power, they'll get their message to you, we know  
8 that. So I thank you for letting just a regular Joe  
9 come up here and talk to you.

10                  The second thing is, your service, I  
11 appreciate that. I wouldn't want to do your job. I  
12 wouldn't have the patience to do it. So thank you for  
13 doing it.

14                  Leading to my third comment, I hope that  
15 you will do your job to the best of your ability for the  
16 state of Virginia, not for your party, not for you as a  
17 person, but you know that the voters and the people of  
18 our country are getting very tired of all the partisan  
19 politics.

20                  The first speaker mentioned a committee to  
21 take care of it, maybe like BRAC to do the divisions.  
22 That's an idea.

23                  I would like to see you guys do it.  
24 That's what we elect you to do. This is part of your  
25 job, but please do it in a way that it was intended over

1 200 years ago, where it's done by areas and not by who  
2 we want back in the seat in the Senate or who we want  
3 back in the House seat, but by an area. So I know it's  
4 a very difficult job, but I hope that you will keep that  
5 in mind when you're doing your job, that you're doing it  
6 for the state and not for a party or not for an  
7 individual.

8 Thank you very much.

9 DELEGATE JONES: Yes, sir. Thank you.

10 Carole Garrison. Pete Burkheimer follows  
11 Ms. Garrison.

12 Good evening.

13 MS. GARRISON: Hello. I'm Carole  
14 Garrison, and I'm the president of the Virginia  
15 Peninsula MAL Unit of the League of Women Voters, and  
16 we're the unit in Hampton, Newport News, and Poquoson,  
17 and I'm here today to ask the committee to have a  
18 bipartisan committee of nonelected officials.

19 It's important that the districts not be  
20 drawn to lean to a party or to a particular person. The  
21 League of Women Voters is a group that tries very hard  
22 to get people involved in the voting process, and I have  
23 seen the percentage of voters who actually vote go lower  
24 and lower as the years seem to go by. Making a district  
25 seem partisan only amplifies this effect. People feel

1 what's the point of going out and voting if the same  
2 person or the same party is going to continually get in.

3 I hope you keep the voters' best interests  
4 in mind as you complete this process. Thank you.

5 DELEGATE JONES: Thank you very much.  
6 welcome. Good evening.

7 MR. BURKHIMER: Thank you very much. Good  
8 evening, honorable delegates, including my own acting  
9 chairman Jones, a member of the fighting 76, for now  
10 anyway. Also staff members, ladies and gentlemen, it's  
11 good to be before you.

12 I am Pete Burkhimer. I chair the  
13 Chesapeake City Committee of the Republican Party of  
14 Virginia. My remarks are on behalf of the City  
15 Committee, and I'd like to believe all members of our  
16 party in Chesapeake.

17 We have a contingent of five fellow  
18 members of my unit here tonight, and I think there's  
19 some other folks from Chesapeake as well. My opposite  
20 member of the Democrat party is here tonight, and it's  
21 good to see him out.

22 Our city of Chesapeake has nearly 230,000  
23 citizens, making us the third or maybe second largest in  
24 Virginia. We're an important and cooperative member of  
25 the Hampton Roads region, but also a proud, independent

1 city with our own unique character and heritage.

2 We also have some unique challenges, some  
3 things that trouble us and make us scratch our heads  
4 that are particular to the city of Chesapeake.

5 Therefore, we believe strongly that Chesapeake districts  
6 for the U.S. Congress, the Virginia Senate, and the  
7 Virginia House of Delegates must leave Chesapeake whole  
8 to the maximum extent possible.

9 This is much like Mayor Fraim's point, his  
10 song, perhaps in a different key. We know that the  
11 mathematics of the process may require some sharing of  
12 representation, but this should be minimized. Certainly  
13 the 4th Congressional District must contain all of  
14 Chesapeake.

15 Allow me, in support of all of your  
16 remarks, just to cite a couple of examples of ways in  
17 which Chesapeake is unique and requires representation  
18 which fully understands Chesapeake and is deeply  
19 committed to its interests.

20 From a transportation point of view,  
21 Chesapeake is the roundhouse of the Hampton Roads  
22 region, if you'll allow a railroad metaphor. Travelers  
23 to and from all cities in Southside Hampton Roads, along  
24 with a tremendous amount of interstate traffic, move  
25 through the roadways of Chesapeake. There are four

1 different interstate route numbers in the city of  
2 Chesapeake. Gentlemen, lady, there are whole states of  
3 the union that don't have four interstates within them.

4 We bear in Chesapeake a huge  
5 transportation burden, disproportionate to our  
6 population. Yet we have had to spend a much higher  
7 percentage of local money on transportation to meet this  
8 burden, with the funding shortfalls and problems that we  
9 all know plague us statewide.

10 Really unique is the way water  
11 transportation interacts with highway transportation in  
12 Chesapeake. We have over 75 lineal miles of frontage  
13 along the Intracoastal waterway's two routes in our  
14 city. 75 miles, I measured that myself.

15 We have four, count them four - and it  
16 used to be five until 2008 - expensive, troublesome  
17 drawbridges that the city of Chesapeake has the keys to.  
18 We own and operate and maintain these things, and they  
19 cost ten times what a regular fixed bridge costs to  
20 operate and maintain.

21 To the best of my knowledge and belief,  
22 and I stand to be corrected, no other city, county, or  
23 town in the Commonwealth owns and operates even one  
24 drawbridge of its own. VDOT has some. We got four,  
25 used to have five. Might be back up to five again when

1 the Corps of Engineers gives us the keys to the new  
2 bridge in Deep Creek one day. Pray for that day.

3 But that's just one example of the things  
4 that make us unique. Every city is unique. Our  
5 neighbors, our good friends and neighbors don't share  
6 these exact challenges, and I just cited some examples  
7 for that.

8 We need representatives who can carry the  
9 Chesapeake flag and assure that we have the means and the  
10 tools to deal with these challenges.

11 On a different note, the current, and I'll  
12 call it Great Recession, deeply worries everybody in this  
13 room, or it should. Our concerned citizens in Chesapeake  
14 must know that its government is about solving problems  
15 and hastening our recovery. They will not have that  
16 confidence, and their fears and concerns will only  
17 increase if they were to see their General Assembly  
18 slicing and dicing and gerrymandering their beloved  
19 Chesapeake. Don't do that, please.

20 Thank you.

21 DELEGATE JONES: Thank you.

22 Next, we have Louis Guy. Good evening.

23 MR. GUY: Good evening. Mr. Chairman,  
24 members of the committee, my name is Louis Guy, and I'm  
25 a resident of the city of Norfolk.

1 I've been interested in the General  
2 Assembly for 60 years and learned and started out  
3 admiring and respecting what you-all do, and I still  
4 feel that way.

5 I think Mr. Churchill said that democracy  
6 was the worst form of government except for every other  
7 one, and I think sometimes we see some of the problems.  
8 To my way of thinking, redistricting is right at the  
9 core, right at the heart of what makes the system work.

10 The perception is that redistricting is  
11 self-serving. It's incumbent security, and that trumps  
12 everything else. I think particularly in the 21st  
13 century, the public has lost respect for many of our  
14 elected officials, and this is one example of this  
15 perception that redistricting is not about community of  
16 interest, it's not about what it is doing right for the  
17 public. It's about partisan issues, and I think that's  
18 one of the reasons that we have seen polarization and  
19 impasse, and that makes the public even more frustrated.

20 I want to recognize that your presence  
21 here tonight and the meeting here is countering that  
22 issue because it is allowing us to have a voice, and I  
23 think you've already heard from the speakers so far  
24 that, respectfully and civilly, we're saying that we  
25 think redistricting should be based on community of

1 interest and not based on using computer technology to  
2 look at precincts and voting strengths that then has led  
3 us into this situation where nobody's willing to run  
4 against an incumbent.

5 I think that in the past, we've seen  
6 examples where not only self-protection, but also  
7 partisan revenge has been utilized in the redistricting  
8 process, and some might suggest that the way the city of  
9 Norfolk has been carved up at the present time has  
10 something to do with that revenge. We deserve better.

11 You are at the heart of what affects the  
12 system. I learned in my career that human nature is as  
13 predictable as engineering subjects in that when you  
14 look at the people, how they're behaving, frequently  
15 it's because the rewards are in one direction and the  
16 penalties are in the other direction, and the people are  
17 behaving the way human nature tells them to.

18 This is the system in our government that  
19 allocates how we elect our officials and how we elect  
20 officials that will work together in the common  
21 interests of the public.

22 We ask you, we plead with you to do the  
23 best thing, do the right thing for us in redistricting  
24 for the next ten years.

25 Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

1 DELEGATE JONES: Yes, sir.

2 Next, we have Eileen Huey. Good evening.

3 MS. HUEY: Good evening. Thank you very  
4 much, Chairman and members of the committee, for coming  
5 out here. We're really thrilled that you came. No  
6 kidding. Everybody's saying that. They mean it.

7 This openness of the process is what I  
8 want to speak to; and secondly, I want to remind  
9 everyone, and I'm sure we all know, Governor McDonnell  
10 and Creigh Deeds both made a commitment, a solid  
11 commitment, this is a huge issue, that when they were  
12 elected, whichever one was elected, and obviously it's  
13 Governor McDonnell, that it would be a bipartisan and  
14 fair and open, o-p-e-n, most of all, transparent, open  
15 process. We're all aware that that has not always been  
16 the case in the past.

17 So that's what we're here tonight to ask  
18 you to do. We know it's a difficult job. We know  
19 Loudoun County has just blown up on you, and we know the  
20 northern part of the state - welcome to our part of the  
21 state - is going to have cause for definite  
22 redistricting lines. There's no question about that.

23 But this community of interest issue,  
24 that's really big here. I don't know if it's really big  
25 in Northern Virginia. It's really big in our part of

1 the state, and we really expect that to be honored.

2 For example, I'm going to give you an  
3 example of something I don't think should have happened.  
4 Maybe I don't know all the facts, but in the 4th  
5 District, traditionally - this is the congressional  
6 district I want to speak to - it has been traditionally  
7 Portsmouth, the whole city together had been with  
8 Chesapeake, with Suffolk, with everybody going west.  
9 That was a traditional community interest. We got a lot  
10 of interest with Portsmouth. It was taken out of the  
11 4th District and put into the 3rd District, which it  
12 does border on the other side, admittedly, and to do  
13 that, they had to split Chesterfield in half.  
14 Chesterfield is one community, which has zero to do with  
15 Portsmouth.

16 So that's an example. I don't bring that  
17 up just specifically, but that's an example of what --  
18 don't do that. If you have to take all of Petersburg  
19 and all of this and put it in a -- do it together  
20 because just like my colleague Mr. Burkheimer is saying,  
21 Chesapeake wants to be together, but so does everybody  
22 else. Norfolk wants to be. So does everybody else.

23 So please, get that at the top of a  
24 priority because then you're going to see -- do you know  
25 what you're going to see? You're going to see citizens

1 out voting again, and that one-man/one-vote, we're all  
2 Americans. Before we're Democrats, before we're  
3 Republicans, we're all Americans, and if we don't care  
4 about that, we might as well check it in. So  
5 one-man/one-vote, you keep it close. Zero points in the  
6 4th District and two points above or two points at the  
7 most, keep it close, because otherwise, my vote and your  
8 vote aren't the same.

9 Thank you so much for coming.

10 DELEGATE JONES: Yes, ma'am. Thank you.

11 Next, we have Thom Ayres. Good evening.

12 MR. AYRES: Good evening. My name is Thom  
13 Ayres. I'm the Director of Operations for the Hampton  
14 Roads Tea Party, and first and foremost, I want to thank  
15 everybody for coming. Thank you for transparency in  
16 this process. That is really high on our agenda.

17 Hampton Roads Tea Party, we're a part of  
18 the Virginia Tea Party Federation, and all of the  
19 Virginia Tea Parties, all the associations, all of the  
20 patriot groups across the state, we are keenly  
21 interested and we'll be watching closely -- we're keenly  
22 interested in this process and we'll be watching this  
23 closely over the coming year.

24 That said, a lot the issues that have been  
25 brought up, you know, common interests, these kind of

1 things -- I'm just going to boil it down to a couple of  
2 points. I'm not good with lots of real big talking  
3 here. Don't split cities and towns. Real simple.  
4 You've heard it. You've heard it echoed over and over  
5 again. I'm not going to beat that one.

6 And Norfolk and 3rd congressional  
7 districts are huge examples of what not to do.

8 Keep the process transparent. Throughout  
9 the entire process, please keep it transparent.

10 And then again, this is brought up again,  
11 but an independent committee. A lot of people were  
12 saying bipartisan. Don't forget the independence in the  
13 process. Don't forget the people who aren't affiliated  
14 with either party because these are the people who get  
15 left out in the process.

16 All right. So all that said, it comes  
17 down to please don't let partisan politics and  
18 incumbency taint the process. Do the right thing for  
19 the voters. Do the right thing for Virginia.

20 Thank you.

21 DELEGATE JONES: Thank you very much.

22 Next, Dyane McNair. They left. Okay.

23 Thank you.

24 Carl Anderson. Mr. Anderson. Next is  
25 Mary Leedum, I believe.

1 Good evening.

2 MR. ANDERSON: Good evening.

3 DELEGATE JONES: Thank you for coming  
4 across the river.

5 MR. ANDERSON: I'm Carl Anderson from  
6 Hampton. I'm a Tea Party patriot, and on August 2nd I  
7 was elected chairman of the Republican Party of Hampton,  
8 and Hampton, to my knowledge, is the only jurisdiction  
9 in the Commonwealth of Virginia that is split into three  
10 congressional districts, and it makes it real difficult  
11 to find out which voter goes where. All of our  
12 delegates, House districts and Senate districts, are  
13 split with other cities.

14 As these other people have been saying, we  
15 need contiguous and compactness and joint  
16 representation.

17 One other minor concern, a couple folks  
18 interested in running for office, they're really  
19 concerned about when they should declare because they're  
20 afraid once they declare, redistricting may put them  
21 right out of the district by the person most threatened  
22 by their candidacy. So the speed of getting this done  
23 would help a lot on those lines, as well.

24 DELEGATE JONES: Thank you. Next. And  
25 then Greg Moore follows Ms. Leedum. Thank you for

1 coming.

2 MS. LEEDUM: My name is Mary Leedum, and  
3 I'm the treasurer for York County Republican Committee,  
4 also Tea Party patriot.

5 I'm probably going to echo what these  
6 people are saying. As Mr. Anderson stated, we're  
7 working now in Hampton. We're divided in three pieces,  
8 York County is divided in two. If you look at the  
9 Peninsula, we're basically Hampton, Newport News,  
10 Yorktown, Poquoson, yet we share districts with  
11 Gloucester, the Eastern Shore, Richmond, Richmond and  
12 beyond Norfolk, Portsmouth. It does not make us  
13 contiguous, one of the rules that you said, one of the  
14 applications.

15 And finally, it really does not do justice  
16 to our communities of interest. That's really all I  
17 want to say. Thank you, and thank y'all for being here.  
18 Again, thank you for the process.

19 DELEGATE JONES: Yes, ma'am.

20 Mr. Moore. And Cliff Hayes would be next.

21 MR. MOORE: My name is Greg Moore. I'm a  
22 native and lifelong resident of Norfolk. I've never  
23 missed an election since I've been able to vote. Don't  
24 ever plan to miss one, even when I have no choice and  
25 have to write in my own name because I will not vote for

1 an unopposed candidate no matter the party.

2 I ask you again -- like so many others,  
3 I'll say that there's little, if anything, that's been  
4 said here tonight which I can have any significant  
5 disagreement.

6 The contiguity and compactness of  
7 districts is paramount in my mind, like it is so many  
8 others. Please deep six this specious concept of  
9 contiguity by water. To put the Eastern Shore and parts  
10 of Norfolk in the same district, or parts of Virginia  
11 Beach and Chesapeake, is patently ridiculous.

12 Please keep in mind that this is our  
13 chance to elect people to represent us in our community  
14 of interest. As many people have commented, that is  
15 important. I only ask you please keep that in mind, and  
16 within the framework of the constitutions of the United  
17 States and Virginia, please put the people first, not  
18 last, in making these decisions. Thank you.

19 DELEGATE JONES: Thank you very much for  
20 coming out.

21 Cliff, good evening.

22 MR. HAYES: Good evening, Mr. Chairman and  
23 members of this auspicious body.

24 My name is Cliff Hayes. I'm a member of  
25 Chesapeake City Council, as well as the chairman for the

1 Chesapeake Democratic Committee, and I just wanted to  
2 participate in this process tonight. We appreciate the  
3 fact that you have opened this process such that you  
4 allow the input of the citizens here in Hampton Roads.

5 We do have a few points to make and  
6 requests. One, that as this process unfolds --  
7 obviously, we're very fortunate and very appreciative  
8 that we have a chance tonight to come and speak, but we  
9 feel like it's very, very early in the process now, and  
10 much will unfold over the ensuing months. So what we  
11 would like to request is that there be another  
12 opportunity here in Hampton Roads to come before you and  
13 to speak.

14 We do understand that the Senate also will  
15 be holding hearings, but because there appears to be no  
16 joint effort between the House and the Senate, if the  
17 Senate -- I mean, the House schedule continues along the  
18 lines that it is, we just ask for another opportunity  
19 later in the process, perhaps in the spring, where we  
20 can come back before you and be a part of the official  
21 record.

22 Another point which many others have  
23 already made, which you're going to do, I'm sure,  
24 because you've already been a part of this process in  
25 the past, there are certain requirements that there's

1 equality in this process in terms of the numbers, in  
2 terms of what the ideal district ought to be in terms of  
3 numbers. So we're sure that you're going to do the best  
4 that you can to adhere to that.

5 That there be some form of contiguousness  
6 amongst the districts that are drawn. We know that  
7 you're going to do that.

8 That there also be compactness, but we  
9 also want to emphasize the importance of the character  
10 of the districts that are drawn in the localities. As  
11 has been stated before, there are certain  
12 characteristics for certain localities where in others  
13 that may not be the case.

14 Chesapeake happens to be one of those  
15 localities in which we have six representatives of the  
16 House of Delegates. Four different senators that  
17 represent the House. Obviously, you know three of you  
18 who are before us tonight represent part of Chesapeake,  
19 but it does pose a problem, we think, in many instances  
20 when it's time for us to push for issues that are  
21 germane to our environment only. So we ask that as you  
22 go through this process, that you keep that in mind.

23 We also ask that in whatever way you  
24 can -- I understand that the House has already set up  
25 its schedule. We received information that the Senate

1 now will set up a separate schedule, they'll have their  
2 hearings, but if there's any way, as this process  
3 unfolds, that there can be some coming together, we  
4 think it would best serve the people of the Commonwealth  
5 of Virginia. We think that in some instances, it  
6 appears to be somewhat a duplication of effort. A waste  
7 of resources is what many people that we hear from make  
8 a point about this process, that it's interpreted --  
9 it's a waste of resources to have this process when the  
10 House is doing this and then the Senate come back and do  
11 the same process. I don't know that that's something  
12 required in your process, but if there's some way to try  
13 to bring this together -- I heard earlier someone  
14 mention the process of having an independent commission.  
15 We may already be past that point, but one point we're  
16 not past is that we request the House and the Senate sit  
17 down together and figure out a way that we can try to  
18 have one process as we go forward.

19           Again, we appreciate this opportunity to  
20 come before you. Thank you so much.

21           DELEGATE JONES: Thank you.

22           Lawrence Glanzer.

23           MR. GLANZER: Good evening, and thank you  
24 for this opportunity to address you. As has been said  
25 repeatedly, we do appreciate your interest and

1 participation in the process.

2           There is little that is more important to  
3 me -- and I live in Chesapeake, by the way. There's  
4 little that is more important to me than the right to  
5 vote, and it is the bedrock of American democracy.

6           The last number of elections, I have  
7 worked as a part of the Democratic party's Voter  
8 Protection program in various precincts in Chesapeake,  
9 but it's always been my concern not to protect the  
10 Democratic voter but to protect every voter, and I've  
11 never asked anyone what party they were with or how they  
12 plan to vote.

13           Voting is important, and I think it was  
14 very encouraging in the last election, congressional  
15 election in 2008, the presidential election, to see the  
16 level of participation.

17           I think that the current situation with  
18 the districting in Virginia is causing disaffection  
19 among voters, and if you look at the congressional  
20 districts, it's not hard to see why, and many comments  
21 that have been made tonight addressed that point.

22           It seems to me that if redistricting is  
23 left to politicians, such as yourselves, that there is  
24 an irresistible impulse to protect and preserve  
25 incumbencies, and the impulse toward partisanship is

1 also ultimately irresistible. You are politicians.  
2 It's part of how you got to be where you are, and I  
3 honestly believe that the only way out of that is to go  
4 to a commission that is separate and apart from the  
5 General Assembly. And it's very difficult, I know, to  
6 cede the prerogative of redistricting to another body,  
7 but I think it's important that it be done. The  
8 governor, when he campaigned for office, supported that.  
9 I haven't heard much about it since the election, but I  
10 really urge you to consider that it is impossible for a  
11 partisan body, a body that's elected on partisan lines,  
12 to come up with a redistricting plan that is actually  
13 not bowing to partisanship in some way, shape, manner,  
14 or form; and I don't want to rehash everything that's  
15 been said earlier, but again, I do thank you for the  
16 opportunity to speak and have a good evening.

17 DELEGATE JONES: Thank you.

18 Next, we have Lynn Gordon. Good evening.

19 MS. GORDON: Delegates, Mayor Fraim,  
20 fellow citizens, my name is Lynn Gordon, and I live in  
21 Virginia Beach. I am here on behalf of the League of  
22 Women Voters of Virginia to advocate for a bipartisan  
23 approach to redistricting and reapportionment.

24 First, thank you for holding these public  
25 hearings and for your efforts to engage the public in

1 this process.

2 The League of Women Voters of Virginia  
3 supports the creation of a bipartisan redistricting and  
4 reapportionment commission composed of individuals who  
5 are not elected officials and who represent the  
6 geographical distribution and demographic diversity of  
7 the state.

8 Ideally, this bipartisan commission should  
9 consist of an uneven number of members. Such a  
10 bipartisan commission would be charged with creating a  
11 redistricting plan for submission to the legislature as  
12 specified by the Virginia Constitution.

13 The charge of the bipartisan commission  
14 would also include consideration of natural geographic  
15 boundaries, jurisdictional boundaries, and  
16 competitiveness, in addition to the requirements of  
17 equal population, contiguous and compact districts, and  
18 the requirements of the Voting Rights Act.

19 Without a bipartisan redistricting and  
20 reapportionment commission, the League of Women Voters  
21 of Virginia is concerned that Virginia will retain the  
22 current system in which elected officials, in effect,  
23 choose their voters instead of the voters choosing their  
24 elected officials.

25 A bipartisan redistricting and

1 reapportionment commission can stop the cycle of  
2 gerrymandered protection of seats that has been  
3 occurring in this state.

4 I have only lived in Virginia since early  
5 2003, but during that time, I've had the opportunity to  
6 speak with and hear from elected officials on both sides  
7 of the aisle. From what I have learned, it seems that  
8 whoever is in power at the beginning of each decade has  
9 wanted to essentially stick it to the other party simply  
10 because the other party stuck it to them previously.

11 As we were taught growing up, two wrongs  
12 do not make a right. It is time to put an end to this  
13 practice.

14 Some may claim - and you've heard it here  
15 tonight - that it is too late now to make a difference.  
16 It's never too late. The governor came out in support  
17 of such a commission during his campaign last year. In  
18 the 2010 legislative session, the state Senate passed a  
19 bill to establish a bipartisan redistricting commission.  
20 That bill was blocked from consideration in the House of  
21 Delegates by the Privileges and Elections Committee.

22 The League of Women Voters of Virginia  
23 believe that if members of this committee were to change  
24 their tune and express support for a bipartisan  
25 redistricting and reapportionment commission, the

1 governor would act to see that it is established.

2           Bipartisan redistricting and  
3 reapportionment will protect voters from unfair partisan  
4 gerrymandering and help ensure that every Virginian's  
5 voice is equal in Richmond.

6           As we have already heard tonight, members  
7 of the league are not the only voters who are sick and  
8 tired of partisan wrangling and whining from both sides  
9 of the aisle. It appears that every issue comes down to  
10 the best interests of the party and not the best  
11 interests of the citizens.

12           Please, a bipartisan redistricting and  
13 reapportionment commission may not stop all of that, but  
14 it would certainly be a step in the right direction.

15           DELEGATE JONES: Thank you very much.

16           Next, we have Richard Phillips. Is  
17 Mr. Phillips in the audience?

18           MR. PHILLIPS: That's me, but I didn't  
19 send my name in. I was just signing in.

20           DELEGATE JONES: You're here and accounted  
21 for. You're on the record. You were doing your duty  
22 tonight.

23           Alexander Palmer. Good evening.

24           MR. PALMER: Good evening. My name is  
25 Alexander Palmer. I'm the second vice chair of the

1 Norfolk City Democratic Committee. I'm here also on  
2 behalf of the city of Norfolk.

3 I'd just like to echo the sentiments of  
4 those that have spoke before me in saying that we'd like  
5 to keep the integrity of each of the cities intact when  
6 redistricting. It's difficult for the city of  
7 Norfolk -- we're divided by both the 2nd and the 3rd.  
8 The representative from the 2nd usually has to placate  
9 Virginia Beach more because they have more constituents  
10 in Virginia Beach than in Norfolk; and with the 3rd  
11 Congressional, it's the same only that the 3rd  
12 Congressional stretches all the way to Richmond.

13 So it's a bit difficult for the interests  
14 of the citizens of Norfolk to be heard in Washington, as  
15 well as in Richmond, as well, because we have eight  
16 different delegates representing us, and that can stymie  
17 the efforts of the citizens of Norfolk to get what it is  
18 that they want from their government materialized.

19 So I urge you to please consider keeping,  
20 you know, the cities intact and the integrity intact  
21 when redistricting, and I'd also recommend a, you know,  
22 nonpartisan committee, independent committee. I think  
23 that's been said many times here tonight, and I think  
24 that would be a very effective way to do it, and, you  
25 know, it would be fair to all parties and people who are

1 nonpartisan, you know, as we redistrict.

2 Thank you.

3 DELEGATE JONES: You're welcome.

4 That's the last person that signed up to  
5 speak, but if anyone wishes to speak who has not spoken,  
6 certainly this is an opportunity for you to come forward  
7 and state your case.

8 Good evening.

9 MS. PAIGE: Hi. Delegates, ladies, glad  
10 to be here. My name is Vivian Paige. I live here in  
11 Norfolk, and I just wanted to say thanks a lot for  
12 you-all listening to us, and I hope you really did hear  
13 what we had to say.

14 Redistricting is something that I consider  
15 to be a part of my responsibility as a voter in this  
16 area and this state, to try to convince you guys that we  
17 need to be able to select you and not you select us.

18 More than anything else, I don't really  
19 care whether the Republicans are in charge or the  
20 Democrats are in charge. Right and wrong has nothing to  
21 do with it. At the end of the day, it's about us. It's  
22 about us as voters, and so I hope that you-all will take  
23 the time to draw the lines based on the rules that you  
24 already know exist. I don't have to repeat them all,  
25 that the rules that exist, and give those of us who vote

1 the opportunity to select you.

2 Thanks a lot.

3 DELEGATE JONES: Yes, sir. Please come  
4 forward.

5 MR. JAMES: Good afternoon. My name is  
6 Richard James, and I live in Norfolk, Virginia. I was  
7 here taking notes, and I didn't get an opportunity to  
8 sign up, but I'm kind of glad that I didn't sign up  
9 before I had an opportunity to hear some of the people  
10 speak here.

11 I took notes on one of the things you  
12 said, Mr. Chairman, when you opened up this  
13 conversation. You noted that the court -- none of the  
14 challenges in the past redistricting was successfully  
15 challenged in court, but I'm here to say, based on the  
16 statements I'm hearing from the public today, the courts  
17 didn't ask the citizens how they felt about the  
18 redistricting lines here, and I think if the citizens  
19 would have made a difference or was involved in that  
20 process, they would have said that the lines were not  
21 drawn fairly.

22 I heard words like "transparent,"  
23 "transparency," "values," it's called the "incumbent  
24 security redistricting." I hear the words "partisan  
25 revenge," "no joint efforts" between the House and the

1 Senate. That means that the current representatives,  
2 the House of Representatives and -- I mean, the  
3 delegates and senators can't get together to do this  
4 thing at one time. We've got to split it up, and it's  
5 going to cost more money, it's going to be redundant.  
6 Can't our representatives get together to do something  
7 that is positive for the citizens and not wasting money  
8 and wasting citizens' time?

9 And the last thing I want to say is that I  
10 hope that you guys listened to what we were saying, and  
11 I know that if there are any challenges, that the Court,  
12 once again, may not say it's anything wrong because it  
13 is involving politics, and I know the Court sometimes  
14 want to stay out of politics, but just keep that in  
15 mind, that although the courts may say that everything  
16 you've done the last time you did it, which we said was  
17 not fair, do like the man said, use the crayon test. If  
18 it looks like something that a child drew with a crayon,  
19 then maybe it's wrong.

20 Thank you again.

21 DELEGATE JONES: Thank you, Mr. James.  
22 Anyone else wishing to speak?

23 Please come forward.

24 MR. GAYER: Good evening. Thank you,  
25 Chairman, members of the committee, and all of the

1 citizens that came out tonight to be a part of this  
2 process.

3 My name is Robin Gayer. I'm a citizen of  
4 Norfolk. I'm also a board member of the Future of  
5 Hampton Roads, a nonpartisan community think tank  
6 dealing in regional issues.

7 Our board voted unanimously in support of  
8 redistricting reform. I will leave a copy of our  
9 resolution with the committee.

10 I wish to quickly read the final paragraph  
11 of that: The board of directors of the Future of  
12 Hampton Roads, Incorporated, reaffirms its strong  
13 support for bipartisan redistricting of Virginia.

14 Further, that the board urges that a  
15 bipartisan commission be appointed to draw the new lines  
16 and that outside redistricting experts be consulted as  
17 appropriate.

18 Further, that the entire process be  
19 conducted in an open and transparent manner designed to  
20 receive the maximum amount of input from the public.

21 Further, that steps are taken to ensure  
22 that members of the public have opportunities from  
23 meaningful participation.

24 And further, that objective and equitable  
25 criteria be used to guide the commission in its work and

1 that the desired outcome be a system which primarily  
2 benefits citizens of the Commonwealth.

3 I'd like to leave you with a copy.

4 DELEGATE JONES: Thank you very much.

5 Anyone else wishing to speak? Yes, ma'am.  
6 Please come forward.

7 A SPEAKER: I'd like to thank you guys for  
8 giving us the opportunity to speak. My name is  
9 (inaudible). I'm a student here at TCC, as well as a  
10 resident in Portsmouth.

11 I just wanted to say, listening to what  
12 everybody had to say, it's easy to sit here and smile  
13 and say thank you for your comments and recommendations;  
14 however, if you don't take what the public says and do  
15 something with it, based off of what everyone has said  
16 here, then it means nothing.

17 Another thing that I wanted to say was  
18 that it might be a good idea to have an outlet for these  
19 recommendations other than something in as small as a  
20 setting as this. Maybe a web site or something for  
21 continuing these conversations throughout this entire  
22 process and making it more known when these things will  
23 be so more people might show up, and then it would be a  
24 larger representation of the communities as a whole.

25 That's all. Thank you.

1 DELEGATE JONES: Thank you very much.  
2 Anyone else? Anyone else wishing to  
3 speak?

4 A SPEAKER: I don't want to speak. I just  
5 want to ask a question. Her idea -- and I don't know if  
6 this is even possible. I know you have a web site, but  
7 would it be possible for after each meeting, like you  
8 have one in Roanoke, you have one here, for you to post  
9 on there a report, your own findings or what came out of  
10 it, or can you just put that in the back of your mind to  
11 think about?

12 DELEGATE JONES: We'll certainly consider  
13 that, and I thank you for your comments.

14 With that, we'd like to thank each of you  
15 for coming out this evening. Very impressed with the  
16 turnout, and we do appreciate your taking time from your  
17 busy schedules.

18 I would ask you just to refer to the  
19 redistricting facts so that will be of help to you. We  
20 do have a wonderful web site, which will be updated and  
21 things will be posted on it as we go along. It even  
22 tracks the number of visitors to that web site. And I  
23 would just make one comment. There was -- I think  
24 Councilman Hayes had a request. It goes without saying,  
25 we will have public hearings in the spring, and we had

1 that last time. We do that every time we have a  
2 process, once the numbers are in. So this is a  
3 fact-gathering and to listen what the people would like  
4 for us to consider as we approach next spring.

5 Again, thank you for coming out, and may  
6 God continue to bless this country and the men and women  
7 that serve in our armed services that protect us, give  
8 us these freedoms. Thank you.

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## C E R T I F I C A T E

COMMONWEALTH OF VIRGINIA

CITY OF NORFOLK, to wit:

I, Cathy D. Aiello, RPR, do hereby  
certify that the foregoing pages are a true and correct  
transcript of my Stenotype notes of the proceedings had  
at the time and place in the caption mentioned.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto  
set my hand and affixed my notarial seal on this 27th  
day of September, 2010.

---

Cathy D. Aiello, Notary Public

Notary Registration No. 213259

My term of office expires March 31, 2011