

**UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
MIDDLE DISTRICT OF FLORIDA
JACKSONVILLE DIVISION**

JACKSONVILLE BRANCH OF THE
NAACP; NORTHSIDE COALITION
OF JACKSONVILLE, INC.; ACLU OF
FLORIDA NORTHEAST CHAPTER;
FLORIDA RISING TOGETHER, INC.;
MARCELLA WASHINGTON;
INGRID MONTGOMERY; AYESHA
FRANKLIN; TIFFANIE ROBERTS;
ROSEMARY McCOY; SHELIA
SINGLETON; EUNICE BARNUM;
JANINE WILLIAMS; HAKA
CARSWELL; and DENNIS BARNUM

Plaintiffs,

Case No.: 3:22-cv-493-MMH-LLL

v.

CITY OF JACKSONVILLE and
MIKE HOGAN, in his official capacity
as Duval County Supervisor of Elections,

Defendants.

_____ /

**NOTICE OF FILING DOCUMENTARY MATERIALS FROM
REMEDIAL INTERIM PLAN PROCESS**

Defendants, City of Jacksonville, and Mike Hogan in his official capacity as Duval County Supervisor of Elections, in compliance with the Court's Order of October 12, 2022 (Doc. 53), hereby file Exhibits 1-11, comprising "all files, data, correspondence, transcripts, and analyses relating to the [interim remedial plan] enactment process, not otherwise

exempt from disclosure pursuant to Florida's Public Records Law, Florida Statutes § 119, et seq.” Doc. 53 at 138.¹ Defendants will also hand deliver to the Court two courtesy copies of the electronically filed documents, as well as a poster size copy of the Interim Remedial Plan.

Defendants further request oral argument before the Court on this matter. Defendants respectfully reserve the right to request an evidentiary hearing after reviewing Plaintiffs' further submissions and arguments to the Court.

<i>Exhibit</i>	<i>Description</i>	<i>Pages</i>
<i>Special Council Meeting, 10/14/2022</i>		
Ex. 1	Notice	Ex. 1, pp. 1-2
	Agenda	Ex. 1, p. 3
	Minutes	Ex. 1, pp. 4-5
	Attachments	
	CM Randy DeFoor Excusal	Ex. 1, p. 6
	CM LeAnna Cumber Excusal	Ex. 1, p. 7
	CM Sam Newby Excusal	Ex. 1, p. 8
	CM Pittman Late Arrival Excusal	Ex. 1, p. 9
<i>Council President Memorandum Regarding Special Committee on Redistricting, 10/18/2022</i>		
Ex. 2	Memorandum	Ex. 2, pp. 1-2

¹ Exhibits 1-10 should also be available on the Jacksonville City Council's website at <https://www.coj.net/city-council/standing-committees/redistricting-special-committee>.

<i>Special Committee on Redistricting, 10/20/22</i>		
Ex. 3	Notice (for 10/20, 11/1, 11/2, and 11/3 Special Committee on Redistricting meetings)	Ex. 3, pp. 1-2
	Agenda	Ex. 3, p. 3
	Minutes	Ex. 3, pp. 4-7
	Video ²	See Thumb Drive
	Attachments	
	Speaker Cards	Ex. 3, pp. 8-11
	Sign-in Sheet	Ex. 3, p. 12
	Meeting Transcript	Ex. 3, pp. 13-55
<i>Council Meeting, 10/25/2022</i>		
Ex. 4	Public Comments (Video)	See Thumb Drive
	Public Comments Transcript	Ex. 4, pp. 1-54
	Plaintiffs' Unity Map	Ex. 4, p. 55
	Ordinance 2022-800-E	Ex. 4, pp. 56-90
	2022-800 Legislative Fact Sheet	Ex. 4, pp. 91-95
	2022-800 Bill Summary	Ex. 4, p. 96
<i>Special Committee on Redistricting, 11/1/22</i>		
Ex. 5	Notice	Ex. 5, pp. 1-2
	Agenda	Ex. 5, pp. 3-4
	Minutes	Ex. 5, pp. 5-8
	Video	See Thumb Drive
	Attachments	
	Ord. 2022-0800-E	See Ex. 10
	OGC Redistricting Legal Memorandum	Ex. 5, pp. 9-11

² Defendants will hand deliver to the Court a thumb drive containing video recordings of all of the Special Committee on Redistricting meetings as well as that of the Council.

	Maps ³	
	Lime Map	Ex. 5, p. 12
	Maroon Map	Ex. 5, p. 13
	Orange Map ⁴	Ex. 5, p. 14
	Plaintiffs' Map	Ex. 5, p. 15
	Redistricting emails 1-12	Ex. 5, pp. 16-27
	Speaker Cards	Ex. 5, pp. 28-43
	Sign-in Sheet	Ex. 5, p. 44
	Meeting Transcript	Ex. 5, pp. 45-123
<i>Special Committee on Redistricting, 11/2/22</i>		
Ex. 6	Notice	Ex. 6, pp. 1-2
	Agenda	Ex. 6, pp. 3-4
	Minutes	Ex. 6, pp. 5-16
	Video	See Thumb Drive
	Attachments	
	Ord. 2022-0800-E	See Ex. 10

³All maps considered by the Special Redistricting Committee and Council are provided electronically in a PDF format, and allow the reader to zoom in on the image for closer examination. Shapefiles containing the relevant data supporting all the maps listed herein are also stored on the thumb drive hand delivered to the Court. Please note, GIS Mapping Software is needed to fully access the shapefile data. *See e.g.*, [https://www.caliper.com/maptitude/gis_software/default.htm#:~:text=A%20Geographic%20Information%20System%20\(GIS,information%20for%20analysis%20and%20presentation](https://www.caliper.com/maptitude/gis_software/default.htm#:~:text=A%20Geographic%20Information%20System%20(GIS,information%20for%20analysis%20and%20presentation) (discussing one available GIS system—Maptitude—and how to use it).

⁴ Due to technical challenges associated with data exchanges between the City's GIS mapping software, and that of the mapping expert, Dr. Doug Johnson, some data on the Orange Map was mislabeled. The population numbers provided on the Orange Map for District 10 should have been designated as data for District 7; the population numbers provided for District 7 should have been designated as data for District 8; and the population numbers provided for District 8 should have been designated as data for District 10. Likewise, any references in the meeting minutes and meeting transcript by Dr. Johnson to Districts 10, 7, and 8, should actually be references to Districts 7, 8, and 10, respectively.

	Maps	
	Lime Map	Ex. 6, p.17
	Maroon Map	Ex. 6, p. 18
	CM Pittman Late Arrival Excusal	Ex. 6, p. 19
	CM Newby Late Arrival Excusal	Ex. 6, p. 20
	Duval County by Neighborhood (submitted by CM DeFoor)	Ex. 6, p. 21
	Maroon-Lime Map Graph (party demographic comparison)	Ex. 6, pp. 21-22
	Redistricting emails 13-49	Ex. 6, pp. 23-52
	Speaker Cards	Ex. 6, pp. 53-74
	Sign-in Sheet	Ex. 6, pp. 75-76
	Meeting Transcript	Ex. 6, pp. 77-153
<i>Special Committee on Redistricting, 11/3/22</i>		
Ex. 7	Notice	Ex. 7, pp. 1-2
	Agenda	Ex. 7, pp. 3-4
	Minutes	Ex. 7, pp. 5-20
	Video	See Thumb Drive
	Attachments	
	Ord. 2022-0800-E: Special Committee on Redistricting Amendment & Revised Exhibits	Ex. 7, pp. 21-109
	Maps	
	Maroon IIA	Ex. 7, p. 103
	Maroon IIB	Ex. 7, p. 104
	Maroon IIC	Ex. 7, p. 105
	CM Brenda Priestly Jackson Communication, 11/3/22	Ex. 7, pp. 106-107

	Duval County by Residential N'Hood and Legend	Ex. 7, pp. 108-109
	Redistricting emails 50-122	Ex. 7, pp. 110-195
	Speaker Cards	Ex. 7, pp. 196-241
	Sign-in Sheet	Ex. 7, pp. 242-244
	Meeting Transcript	Ex. 7, pp. 245-366
<i>Special Committee on Redistricting – Map Chat Town Hall, 11/3/22</i>		
Ex. 8	Notice	Ex. 8, pp. 1-2
	Agenda	Ex. 8, p. 3
	Minutes	Ex. 8, pp. 4-7
	Video	See Thumb Drive
	Speaker Cards	Ex. 8, pp. 8-39
	Sign-in Sheet	Ex. 8, pp. 40-42
	Meeting Transcript	Ex. 8, pp. 43-106
<i>Special Council Meeting, 11/4/2022</i>		
Ex. 9	Notice	Ex. 9, pp. 1-2
	Agenda	Ex. 9, pp. 3-5
	Minutes	Ex. 9, pp. 6-17
	Video	See Thumb Drive
	Attachments	
	CP Freeman Memorandum on Redistricting	Ex. 9, p. 18
	OGC Memorandum re Analysis of Participation via Communications Media Technology	Ex. 9, pp. 19-20
	CM Newby Excusal	Ex. 9, p. 21
	CM Matt Carlucci Excusal	Ex. 9, p. 22

	CM Michael Boylan Excusal	Ex. 9, pp. 23-24
	CM Diamond Excusal	Ex. 9, p. 25
	Redistricting emails 123-249	Ex. 9, pp. 26-151
	Special Committee on Redistricting Amendment & Revised Exhibits	Ex. 9, pp. 152-232
	Maps	
	Maroon IIIA	Ex. 9, p. 233
	Maroon IIIB	Ex. 9, p. 234
	Maroon IIIC	Ex. 9, p. 235
	Maroon IIID	Ex. 9, p. 236
	Maroon IIIE	Ex. 9, p. 237
	Maroon IIIF	Ex. 9, p. 238
	Maroon IIIA Fix	Ex. 9, p. 239
	Maroon IIIE Fix	Ex. 9, p. 240
	Maroon IIIF Fix	Ex. 9, p. 241
	Maroon III Series Changes Matrix	Ex. 9, p. 242
	2022-800 Floor Amendment Table	Ex. 9, p. 243
	20221104 Amendments and Substitutions	Ex. 9, p. 244
	Speaker Cards	Ex. 9, pp. 245-270
	Sign-in Sheet	Ex. 9, pp. 271-272
	Meeting Transcript	Ex. 9, pp. 273-497
<i>Ord. 2022-0800-E</i>		
Ex. 10	Ordinance 2022-8088-E	Ex. 10, pp. 1-101
<i>Legislative File for Ord. 2022-0800-E</i>		
Ex. 11	Legislative File	Ex. 11, pp. 1-870

Respectfully submitted,

**OFFICE OF GENERAL COUNSEL
CITY OF JACKSONVILLE**

/s/ Mary Margaret Giannini

Mary Margaret Giannini

Assistant General Counsel

Florida Bar No. 1005572

MGiannini@coj.net; SStevison@coj.net

Helen Peacock Roberson

Assistant General Counsel

Florida Bar No.: 0016196

HRoberson@coj.net; CStephenson@coj.net

117 West Duval Street, Suite 480

Jacksonville, FL 32202

Phone: (904) 255-5100

Facsimile: (904) 255-5120

*Attorneys for Defendants, City of
Jacksonville and Mike Hogan, in his
official capacity as Duval County
Supervisor of Elections*

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I HEREBY CERTIFY that on this 10th day of November, 2022, a copy of this document was filed electronically through the CM/ECF system and furnished by email to all counsel of record.

/s/ Mary Margaret Giannini

Counsel for Defendant



**OFFICE OF THE CITY
COUNCIL**

TERRANCE EDWARD FREEMAN
COUNCIL PRESIDENT
COUNCIL MEMBER
AT-LARGE GROUP 1
OFFICE (904) 255-5215
FAX (904) 255-5250

SUITE 425, CITY HALL
117 WEST DUVAL STREET

JACKSONVILLE, FLORIDA 32202
E-MAIL: TFREEMAN@COJ.NET

MEETING NOTICE

MEMORANDUM

TO: City Council Members and Staff

FR: Council President Terrance Freeman
Jacksonville City Council

RE: Special Council Meeting re Redistricting Federal Court Order

Notice is hereby given that a Special Meeting of the Council will be held on **Friday, October 14, 2022, in the Council Chamber, 1st Floor, City Hall, St. James Building, located at 117 West Duval Street, Jacksonville, Florida at 1:00 p.m.** The purpose of this meeting is to address the Redistricting Federal Court Order.

Please mark your calendars accordingly. All interested parties are invited to attend.

Please contact the Merriane Lahmeur, Chief of Legislative Services, at (904) 255-5122, or Margaret M. Sidman, Director/Council Secretary, at (904) 255-5133, for additional information or correspondence.

ADA Accommodation Notice:

Pursuant to the American with Disabilities Act, accommodations for persons with disabilities are available upon request. Please allow 1-2 business days' notification to process; last-minute requests will be accepted but may not be possible to fulfill. Please contact Disabled Services Division at: V (904) 255-5466, TTY (904) 255-5476, or email your request to KaraT@coj.net.

Noticed on: October 13, 2022, at 11:30 a.m., pursuant to 15.103(c), *Ordinance Code*.

TF/mgl

cc: Council Members and Staff
Margaret "Peggy" Sidman, Director/Council Secretary
Merriane Lahmeur, Chief, Legislative Services Division
Yvonne Mitchell, Chief, Administrative Services Division

Jeff Clements, Chief, Research Division
CITYC@COJ.NET
Mayor's Office
Electronic Notice Kiosk – 1st Floor City Hall
Public Notice System – City Council Web Page
Media Box
File Copy

City of Jacksonville
Friday, October 14, 2022
1:00 PM
City Council



117 W. Duval Street
Jacksonville, FL 32202
Council Chamber, 1st Floor, City Hall

Honorable Terrance Freeman
President, 2022-2023
At-Large Group 1
(904) 255-5215

Honorable Ron Salem, Pharm. D.
Vice President, 2022-2023
At-Large Group 2
(904) 255-5216

Margaret M. Sidman
Council Director/Secretary
(904) 255-5200

Merriane G. Lahmeur
Chief of Legislative Services
(904) 255-5122

Sergeant-At-Arms
Officer Chris Hancock
Officer Willie Jones
Officer Mike Rourke

Excusals
CM DeFoor
CM Cumber
CM Newby

AGENDA

Special Council Meeting re Redistricting Federal Court Order

INVOCATION - Council Member Morgan

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE - Council Member Morgan

ROLL CALL

I. SHADE MEETING ANNOUNCEMENT - Office of General Counsel

ROLL CALL

ADJOURN



**OFFICE OF THE CITY COUNCIL
RESEARCH DIVISION**

117 WEST DUVAL STREET, SUITE 425
4TH FLOOR, CITY HALL
JACKSONVILLE, FLORIDA 32202
904-255-5137

**CITY COUNCIL SPECIAL MEETING REGARDING
REDISTRICTING FEDERAL COURT ORDER**

Meeting Minutes

**October 14, 2022
1:00 p.m.**

Location: City Council Chamber, 1st floor, City Hall

In attendance: Council Members Terrance Freeman (President), Danny Becton, Aaron Bowman, Michael Boylan, Kevin Carrico, Matt Carlucci, Tyrone Clark-Murray, Rory Diamond, Al Ferraro, Reggie Gaffney, Nick Howland, Joyce Morgan, Brenda Priestly Jackson, Ron Salem, Randy White

Excused: Council Members Randy DeFoor, Sam Newby, LeAnna Cumber, Ju'Coby Pittman

Also: Jason Teal, Paige Johnston and Mary Staffopoulos – Office of General Counsel; Kim Taylor and Phillip Peterson – Council Auditor's Office; Margaret M. Sidman – Council Secretary/Director; Merriane Lahmeur and Barbara Hudson – Legislative Services Division; Brian Hughes and Rachel Zimmer – Mayor's Office

Meeting Convened: 1:00 p.m.

President Freeman convened the meeting and Council Member Morgan offered the invocation and led the Pledge of Allegiance. A roll call of the members present was taken, with 15 present and 4 excused.

General Counsel Jason Teal requested that the City Council convene a closed "shade" meeting immediately following the conclusion of this special City Council meeting to discuss the ruling issued this week by U.S. District Judge Marcia Morales Howard invalidating the City Council's redistricting plan. Mr. Teal explained the mechanics of the "shade" meeting at which only council members, City attorneys and certain specifically named individuals may be present to receive attorney/client information in the meeting pursuant to Sec. 286.011, *Florida Statutes*. A verbatim transcript will be taken by a court reporter and the transcript will be made public at the conclusion of all litigation. The "shade" meeting will convene immediately following the conclusion of this special council meeting and will take place in City Council Conference Room A in the City Council offices, Suite 425, City Hall. Following the "shade" meeting the Council will reopen a public session to officially adjourn the "shade" meeting.

Special council meeting adjourned: 1:06 p.m.

Minutes: Jeff Clements, Council Research Division
jeffc@coj.net 904-255-5137
10.14.22 Posted 5:00 p.m.



**OFFICE OF THE CITY
COUNCIL**

RANDY DEFOOR
COUNCIL MEMBER, DISTRICT 14
PHONE (904) 255-5214
FAX (904) 255-5230
EMAIL: RDEFOOR@COJ.NET

117 WEST DUVAL STREET, SUITE
425
4TH FLOOR, CITY HALL
JACKSONVILLE, FLORIDA 32202

MEMO

MEMORANDUM

TO: The Honorable Terrance Freeman
Council President

FR: The Honorable Randy DeFoor, Council Member District 14

RE: 20221011 - 20221017 CM Randy DeFoor Excusal from All City Business

I respectfully request to be excused from all City Council related business and committee meetings scheduled between October 11, 2022, and October 17, 2022, due to travel. Thank you for your consideration of this request

For additional information or correspondence, please contact Brooks Dame, Executive Council Assistant, at (904) 255-5160.

RD/bd

cc: Council Members and Staff

Margaret "Peggy" Sidman, Director/Council Secretary

Merriane Lahmeur, Chief, Legislative Services

Yvonne Mitchell, Chief, Administrative Services Division

Jeff Clements, Chief, Research Division

CITYC@COJ.NET

Electronic Notice Kiosk – 1st Floor City Hall

Public Notice System – City Council Web Page

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OFFICE OF THE CITY COUNCIL

LEANNA M.G. CUMBER
Council Member
District 5
EMAIL: LCUMBER@COJ.NET

117 West Duval Street
City Hall, Suite 425
Jacksonville, Florida 32202
OFFICE: (904) 255-5205

NOTICE

MEMORANDUM

TO: The Honorable Terrence Freeman, Member At Large, Group 1
City Council President

FROM: The Honorable Leanna M.G. Cumber, District 5

SUBJECT: 20221014 CM Cumber's Request for an Excusal from All City Business

I respectfully request an Excusal from All City Business on Friday, October 14, 2022 as I have a business commitment.

Thank you for your consideration.

Please contact Debra Pataky, ECA-District 5, at (904) 255-5184 for additional information or correspondence.

LC/drp

NOTICED ON: October 13, 2022, at 2:30pm, pursuant to 15.103 (c), Ordinance Code

cc: Council Members and Staff
Margaret "Peggy" Sidman, Director/Council Secretary
Merriane Lahmeur, Chief, Legislative Services Division
Yvonne Mitchell, Chief, Administrative Services Division
Jeff Clements, Chief, Research Division
CITYC@COJ.NET
Electronic Notice Kiosk – 1st Floor City Hall
Public Notice System – City Council Web Page
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SAM C. NEWBY
Council Member
At-Large, Group 5
E-Mail: snewby@coj.net

OFFICE OF THE CITY COUNCIL

117 West Duval Street
City Hall, Suite 425
Jacksonville, Florida 32202
Office (904) 255-5219
Fax (904) 255-5230

NOTICE

MEMORANDUM

TO: The Honorable Terrance Freeman
Council President

FROM: The Honorable Sam Newby
Council Member, At Large Group 5

SUBJECT: Excused Absence Request – All City Council Business

I respectfully request to be excused from all City Council related business scheduled for October 14, 2022, as I will be attending to a personal matter. I will return on Monday, October 17, 2022.

Thank you for your consideration of this request.

Please contact Pam Wilcox, ECA, At Large Group 5, at (904) 255-5163 for additional information or correspondence.

SN/pmw

NOTICED ON: October 13, 2022, at 3:00 p.m., pursuant to 15.103(c), *Ordinance Code*.

cc:

Council Members and Staff

Margaret “Peggy” Sidman, Director/Council Secretary

Merriane Lahmeur, Chief, Legislative Services Division

Yvonne Mitchell, Chief, Administrative Services Division

Jeff Clements, Chief, Research Division

CITYC@COJ.NET

Electronic Notice Kiosk – 1st Floor City Hall

Public Notice System – City Council Web Page



**OFFICE OF THE CITY
COUNCIL**

JU'COBY PITTMAN
COUNCIL MEMBER DISTRICT 8
OFFICE (904) 255-5208
FAX (904) 255-5230

SUITE 425, CITY HALL
117 WEST DUVAL STREET
JACKSONVILLE, FLORIDA 32202
E-MAIL:JPITTMAN@COJ.NET

October 14, 2022
1:20pm

MEMORANDUM

To: The Honorable Terrance Freeman, AL Council District 1
Council President

From: The Honorable Ju'Coby Pittman
Council District 8

Re: 20221014 Late Arrival CM Pittman to the Council Shade Meeting

I respectfully request a late arrival to the Council Shade meeting on Friday, Oct. 14, 2022 at 1:00 pm due to a prior scheduled meeting.

Please contact Mercedes Parker, Executive Council Assistant at (904) 255-5208 for additional information or correspondence.

Pursuant to the American with Disabilities Act, accommodations for persons with disabilities are available upon request. Please allow 1-2 business days notification to process; last-minute requests will be accepted but may not be possible to fulfill. Please contact Disabled Services Division at: V 904-255-5466, TTY-904-255-5476, or email your request to KaraT@coj.net.

JP/mp

cc: Council Members and Staff
Margaret "Peggy" Sidman, Director/Council Secretary
Merriane Lahmeur, Chief, Legislative Services Division
Jeff Clements, Chief, Research Division
Yvonne Mitchell, Chief, Administrative Services Division
CITYC@COJ.NET
Electronic Notice Kiosk – 1st Floor City Hall
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October 18, 2022

MEMORANDUM

TO: Honorable City Council Members

FROM: The Honorable Terrance Freeman, Council President

SUBJECT: Special Committee on Redistricting

In accordance with the Middle District of Florida's Federal Court Order, Jacksonville Branch of the NAACP, et. al, v. City of Jacksonville, et. al., Case No. 3:22-cv-493-MMH-LLL (October 12, 2022) as President of the Jacksonville City Council, I hereby create the 2022 Special Committee on Redistricting.

Background:

Pursuant to Council Rule 2,103, the 2022 Special Committee on Redistricting (the "Committee") is being appointed.

Charter Sections 5.02 and 13.03 impose upon the Council the duty and responsibility of redistricting the Council districts and the School Board districts. The Council is obligated to ensure that all districts are as nearly equal in population and are arranged in a logical and compact geographical pattern as possible to achieve compliance with federal and state laws. The geographical arrangement and territorial boundaries must take into consideration other factors, particularly compactness and contiguity, so that residents of the City and their varied economic, social and ethnic interests and objectives are adequately represented in the configuration of Council and the School Board districts. Redistricting legislation with a place holder map will be introduced at the October 25, 2022 City Council meeting. This legislation will have the bill number of 2022-800.

Charge:

a) Obtain Legally Permissible Considerations for Redistricting in Accordance with State, Federal and Case Law

The Committee will receive guidance about what is required by local, state, and federal law, as well as the Court's October 12, 2022, Order, to draw constitutional and legally defensible districts. Based on that advice the Committee will identify criteria to guide the process of drawing new district maps.

b) Preparation of Plan to be Submitted to Council

The Committee shall prepare a map consistent with the legal guidance. The final map will be considered by Council at a Special Council Meeting scheduled for Friday November 4, 2022.

I look forward to receiving the Committee's work product as they complete their duties.

Members:

Council President Terrance Freeman, Chair
Council Member Aaron Bowman, Co-Vice Chair
Council Member Rory Diamond, Co-Vice Chair
Council Member Nick Howland
Council Member Sam Newby
Council Member Ju'Coby Pittman
Council Member Randy White

Deadline:

The Committee shall meet over the next few weeks and is tasked to submit its map to the full Council at the Council Meeting scheduled for Friday November 4, 2022.

Thank you to each of the Council Members and the staff who make the commitment to serve on this important committee.

cc: Council Members and Staff
Margaret "Peggy" Sidman, Director/Council Secretary
Merriane Lahmeur, Chief, Legislative Services Division
Yvonne Mitchell, Chief, Administrative Services Division
Jeff Clements, Chief, Research Division
CITYC@COJ.NET
Mayor's Office
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**OFFICE OF THE CITY
COUNCIL**

TERRANCE EDWARD FREEMAN
COUNCIL PRESIDENT
COUNCIL MEMBER
AT-LARGE GROUP 1
OFFICE (904) 255-5215
FAX (904) 255-5250

SUITE 425, CITY HALL
117 WEST DUVAL STREET

JACKSONVILLE, FLORIDA 32202
E-MAIL: TFREEMAN@COJ.NET

NOTICE

TO: Redistricting Special Committee Members
Honorable Council Member Aaron Bowman, Co-Vice Chair
Honorable Council Member Rory Diamond, Co-Vice Chair
Honorable Council Member Nick Howland
Honorable Council Member Sam Newby
Honorable Council Member Ju'Coby Pittman
Honorable Council Member Randy White

FROM: Honorable Council President Terrance Freeman, Chair

RE: Notice Special Committee on Redistricting Meetings

Notice is hereby given that the **Special Committee on Redistricting** will meet on **the dates and times noted below in the Council Chamber**, located on the 1st floor, City Hall - St. James Building, 117 W. Duval Street, Jacksonville, FL 32202. The purpose of these meetings will be to address redistricting as noted in the Charge Memo dated October 18, 2022.

Date:	Time:
Thursday, October 20, 2022	11:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.
Tuesday, November 1, 2022	12:00 p.m. – 1:30 p.m.
Wednesday, November 2, 2022	12:00 p.m. – 1:30 p.m.
Thursday, November 3, 2022	12:00 p.m. – 1:30 p.m.

All interested parties are invited to attend. For general meeting information or questions please contact the Legislative Services Division at (904) 255-5122.

ADA Accommodation Notice:

Pursuant to the American with Disabilities Act, accommodations for persons with disabilities are available upon request. Please allow 1-2 business days' notification to process; last-minute requests will be accepted but may not be possible to fulfill. Please contact Disabled Services Division at: V (904) 255-5466, TTY (904) 255-5476, or email your request to KaraT@coj.net.

Noticed on: October 18, 2022, at 4:55 p.m. pursuant to 15.103 (c), *Ordinance Code*.

TF/mgl

cc: Council Members and Staff
Margaret “Peggy” Sidman, Director/Council Secretary
Merriane Lahmeur, Chief, Legislative Services Division
Yvonne Mitchell, Chief, Administrative Services Division
Jeff Clements, Chief, Research Division
CITYC@COJ.NET
Electronic Notice Kiosk – 1st Floor City Hall
Public Notice System – City Council Web Page
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File Copy

City of Jacksonville
Thursday, October 20, 2022
11:00 AM
Special Committee on Redistricting



117 W. Duval Street
Jacksonville, FL 32202
Council Chamber
1st Floor, City Hall

Terrance Freeman, Chair
Aaron Bowman, Co-Vice Chair
Rory Diamond, Co-Vice Chair
Nick Howland
Sam Newby
Ju'Coby Pittman
Randy White

Agenda

Meeting Convened:

Meeting Adjourned:

- I. Opening Remarks & Committee Charge - Council President Freeman**
- II. Legal Criteria/Considerations - Office of General Counsel**
- III. Discussion of Map Drawing Process - Office of General Counsel**
- IV. Timeline Overview - Office of General Counsel**
 - a. Public Comment at 10/25/22 Council Meeting.**
 - b. Special Committee on Redistricting Scheduled Meetings:**
 - Tuesday, November 1, 2022 - 12:00 p.m. - 1:30 p.m.**
 - Wednesday, November 2, 2022 - 12:00 p.m. - 1:30 p.m.**
 - Thursday, November 3, 2022 - 12:00 p.m. - 1:30 p.m.**
 - c. Special Council Meeting & public hearing - Friday, November 4, 2022, at 9:00 a.m.**
- V. Alternative Methods of Communication**
- VI. Closing Remarks - Council President Freeman**

The next Special Committee on Redistricting meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, November 1, 2022, at 12:00 p.m.



**OFFICE OF THE CITY COUNCIL
RESEARCH DIVISION**

117 WEST DUVAL STREET, SUITE 425
4TH FLOOR, CITY HALL
JACKSONVILLE, FLORIDA 32202
904-255-5137

SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON REDISTRICTING

Meeting minutes

**October 20, 2022
11:00 a.m.**

Location: City Council Chamber

In attendance: Council Members Terrance Freeman (Chair), Aaron Bowman, Rory Diamond, Nick Howland, Sam Newby, Ju'Coby Pittman, Randy White

Also: Council Members Reggie Gaffney, Matt Carlucci, Ron Salem, Michael Boylan; Mary Margaret Giannini, Helen Roberson, Paige Johnston – Office of General Counsel; Merriane Lahmeur, Sharonda Davis - Legislative Services Division; Jeff Clements – Council Research Division; Steve Cassada – Public Information Division; Kim Taylor – Council Auditor's Office; Bill Killingsworth – Planning and Development Department

Meeting Convened: 11:03 a.m.

President Freeman convened the meeting and the attendees introduced themselves for the record. Mr. Freeman described the committee charge and committed to developing a new redistricting plan by November 3rd for consideration by the City Council on November 4th. He said that openness and transparency in the process are paramount. There will be an email box for public input, and public comment will be accepted at every meeting. On November 3rd there will be a "map chat" event at City Hall for public review and discussion of the proposed redistricting plan.

Mary Margaret Giannini of the Office of General Counsel described the federal court order mandating the creation of new districts and the role that race may play in that process. The OGC has obtained an outside demographics expert in redistricting and voting rights (Douglas Johnson, President of National Demographics Corporation in Glendale, California) who has worked with many states, municipalities, school boards, and other districting entities. He will help the Planning and Development Department develop map proposals and will be in Jacksonville for future meetings to answer questions from the special committee. Ms. Giannini said that legal considerations for the special committee include: 1) complying with the requirements of the City Charter and Ordinance Code, and state and federal law

regarding nearly equal population, contiguous and compact districts, and adequately representing the varied interests of the community. The redistricting process may not simply start from the 2011 districts.

On October 25th placeholder legislation to adopt a new redistricting plan will be introduced into the City Council so that it can be properly passed by the court's November 8th deadline. It won't contain any maps but will be the vehicle to get the legislative process started, with a specific map being added later in the process. Public comment on redistricting will be allowed at all meetings. The special committee will then meet on November 1, 2 and 3. Draft maps will be submitted by staff at the November 1st meeting for committee consideration on the 2nd and 3rd and a recommendation to full Council for action at a special council meeting on November 4th. The public comment email box is available at 2022redistricting@coj.net. Those emails will be compiled by Office of General Counsel staff and provided to the subcommittee and the full City Council for their information before voting. The full council will receive and vote on the subcommittee report on November 4th at a Special Council meeting and the General Counsel's office will transmit the resulting adopted plan to the federal court by the November 8th deadline.

Council Member Bowman asked about how the creation of new districts and the City's appeal of the federal court ruling interact. Ms. Giannini said the appeals process, which is being handled for the City by outside legal counsel, will very likely extend beyond the November 8th deadline so the Council needs to comply with the judge's order by creating new districts. A request to stay the judge's order has been filed with the federal district court and, if not granted, would be appealed to the 11th Circuit Court. Mr. Bowman said that the multiple moving pieces could be very problematic if the stay request and a subsequent appeal are not settled by December when the Supervisor of Elections has to start preparing for the spring elections coming up in March and May, 2023.

Council Member Diamond asked Ms. Giannini to confirm his brief summary of the current state of affairs. Currently only one map exists, the one passed by Council in the spring, which has been ruled unconstitutional by a federal district court judge who ordered the City Council to craft and submit a new redistricting plan. A stay of that order has been requested by the City and if that stay is granted then it's possible the Council could use the existing map for the 2023 elections. If Council wins its appeal of the judge's initial ruling that the plan is unconstitutional, then a full-blown trial over the plan's constitutionality could occur. The City and the plaintiffs who filed suit against the plan could agree to a new map and ask the court to approve it. The Council could approve a new map and ask the federal judge to approve its constitutionality. Any map that is approved will very likely look different from what we have now. Ms. Giannini agreed with that summation of the various possibilities for how the proceedings could play out.

Council Member White asked if the expert consultant would be getting his information to craft a new plan from the Planning and Development Department. Ms. Giannini said he would, along with voter registration and election information from the Supervisor of Elections.

Council Member Gaffney asked if the consultant would be meeting individually with council members to talk to them about their districts. Ms. Giannini said Mr. Johnson will be in Jacksonville beginning October 31st and the Council President will decide what interaction between the consultant and individual council members is appropriate. Mr. Gaffney said that council members can provide valuable background information and context on the districts.

Council Member Pittman asked for information on Mr. Johnson's qualifications and previous experience with redistricting plans and court challenges, including the results of the legal proceedings in which he has been involved. Ms. Giannini said she will provide the committee members with his background information.

Council Member Salem asked about the placeholder legislation to be introduced next week and whether it will need to be acted on as an emergency. Paige Johnston of the Office of General Counsel said the ordinance will contain boilerplate adoption language, to be amended later. It will be introduced on October 25th, advertised for a public hearing at the November 4th special council meeting, and will be acted on as a one-cycle emergency. The public may address the redistricting effort during the Public Comment period at the October 25th meeting on which the bill will be introduced.

Council Member Boylan asked about impact on School Board districts and the School Board's role in crafting any new districts. Ms. Giannini deferred to Council President Freeman as to how they may have input. Mr. Freeman said he's been in contact with the School Board in an advisory capacity to let them know what's happening with regard to the court order. School Board members are welcome to attend the special committee meetings and have input into the process.

Council Member Carlucci said he doesn't support appealing the federal court ruling. There are 9 safely partisan districts now and 5 competitive districts. He understands the complexity of the redistricting process having once chaired the Redistricting Committee in a previous term and believes that the current districts were drawn for partisan purposes. He hopes that future districts will be drawn on a more competitive basis to better reflect the full diversity of the community. He recommends more compactness, better reflection of diverse communities, and less partisanship. The community is trending in that direction and the district-making process should follow the community's example.

Council Member Bowman said the redistricting maps belong to the City Council and not the attorneys, so who council members talk to during the process is up to the Council President, not the attorneys. Ms. Giannini said that her earlier comment was not meant to imply that council members could not talk to the consultant.

Council Member Diamond said the Council is bound to follow the law and produce new districts in a very short time frame and he is very confident that a good map will be created and presented to the court in a timely manner.

President Freeman reiterated that the public will have multiple opportunities to comment and provide input to the deliberations either in person or via email throughout the process.

Public Comment

Carnell Oliver said the City Council doesn't control the process because the seats belong to the public. The public should be in charge. Council members shouldn't be trying to manipulate and control the system for partisan purposes.

Mike Ludwick of the Northside Coalition said the most important tool in democracy is the citizens' right to vote which gives them the power to choose their representatives and make government work for them. Please listen to the voice of the people and stop trying to control the system.

Mr. Freeman thanked the members of the special committee for being willing to take on this challenge. He noted that the Council currently has a record 7 Black members and has elected Black presidents in back-to-back terms.

Meeting adjourned: 11:49 a.m.

Minutes: Jeff Clements, Research Division
jeffc@coj.net 904-255-5137

10.20.22 Posted 5:00 p.m.

PUBLIC COMMENT - REQUEST TO SPEAK / REGISTER

PLEASE PRINT

*Name & Address are required

NAME: Carnell Oliver DATE: 10-20-22

ADDRESS: 111 E Adam St PHONE: _____

CITY: Jax COUNTY: Duval STATE: FL ZIP: _____

REPRESENTING: _____

SIGNATURE: C. Oliver ☐ I DO NOT WISH TO SPEAK

COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC SUBJECT: _____

SPEAKING TIME IS LIMITED TO THREE (3) MINUTES PER SPEAKER.

NO SPEAKER MAY GIVE OR TRANSFER THEIR TIME TO ANOTHER PERSON.

(PLEASE READ THE REVERSE SIDE FOR INSTRUCTIONS ON SPEAKING BEFORE THE CITY COUNCIL.)

RULE 4.301(b) - COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC. Comments from the public given during the public comment time of the meeting, except scheduled public hearing comments, shall be limited to no more than three minutes per person and no person shall be allowed to give or transfer his/her time to speak to another person.

RULE 3.605 - ADDRESSING THE COUNCIL. Prior to addressing the Council, the person desiring to speak should fill out a speaker's request card, provided by the Legislative Services Division, and return the speaker's request card to the Legislative Services staff before speaking. The speaker's request card should contain the name, residential address and zip code of the speaker, the date of the meeting at which they are speaking and the name of the person or entity the speaker may be representing and the subject matter or bill number(s) the speaker desires to address. A registered lobbyist providing information on behalf of a registered client may provide a business address in lieu of a residential address on the speaker's card. At public hearings required by law or fixed by the Council, the presiding officer shall extend the floor to a reasonable number of proponents and opponents of the subject matter of the public hearing, and those filing written requests or speakers cards shall be heard prior to other persons who appear at the hearing. Each person addressing the Council shall proceed to the place assigned for speaking, and limit his/her comments to three (3) minutes for public hearing and three (3) minutes for public comments, unless a lesser time is fixed for all speakers by the presiding officer, or further time is granted by the Council. All remarks shall be addressed to the Council as a body and not to any member thereof. No person other than a Council Member or the person having the floor shall be permitted to enter into any discussion, either directly or through a member of the Council, without the permission of the presiding officer. All questions to the Council shall be directed through the presiding officer.

RULE 4.806- PRIVILEGE OF FLOOR.

(a) General Exclusion: No person, except Council Members and working employees of the Council, shall be admitted within the rail unless permitted by the presiding officer.

(b) Addressing Council: By permission of the presiding officer, the privilege of the floor shall be extended to a citizen or citizens to address the Council on any matter pending before it or which needs the attention of the Council.

RULE 4.505 - DISRUPTION OF MEETING. Any person who disrupts a Council meeting may be forthwith barred, removed, or otherwise ejected, in the discretion of the presiding officer, from further attendance at that meeting. If necessary due to the nature of the disruption, the audience may be cleared from the Council Chambers or meeting location in the discretion of the presiding officer. Furthermore, the presiding officer shall expect audience members and speakers to conduct themselves with civility and shall expect audience members to refrain from threatening behavior or language. The presiding officer may call upon the Sergeant-At-Arms to enforce directions given by the presiding officer to address violations of this Rule.


The remaining text of Council Rule 4.505 (Disruption of Meeting) can be found at the following website:

<https://www.coj.net/city-council/rules-of-the-council>

PUBLIC COMMENT - REQUEST TO SPEAK / REGISTER

PLEASE PRINT

*Name & Address are required

NAME: Mike Ludwick DATE: 10/20/22
ADDRESS: 13490 Green Bay Plwy Apt 212 PHONE: 904-674-6906
CITY: Jax COUNTY: Duval STATE: FL ZIP: 32258
REPRESENTING: Northside Coalition of Jacksonville
SIGNATURE:  ☐ I DO NOT WISH TO SPEAK

COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC SUBJECT: _____

**SPEAKING TIME IS LIMITED TO THREE (3) MINUTES PER SPEAKER.
NO SPEAKER MAY GIVE OR TRANSFER THEIR TIME TO ANOTHER PERSON.**

(PLEASE READ THE REVERSE SIDE FOR INSTRUCTIONS ON SPEAKING BEFORE THE CITY COUNCIL.)

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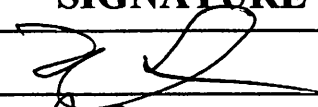

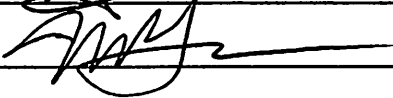
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Jacksonville City Council
Special Committee on Redistricting
 Council Chamber – 117 W. Duval Street
 1st Floor City Hall – St. James Building

RECORD OF ATTENDANCE

Thursday, October 20, 2022
 11:00 AM

NAME & TITLE	EMAIL	REPRESENTING	SIGNATURE
ANDREW PANTAZI	ANDREW.PANTAZI@528TRIBE.CG	Tribe CG	
Hanna Hottel	hhottel@jennett.com	Times-Union	
Mike Lyndyck	mikeludwick13@gmail.com	NORNAde Coalition	
CARNE OLIVER			

1
2
3
4 REDISTRICTING SPECIAL COMMITTEE MEETING
5

6
7 TRANSCRIPT OF PROCEEDINGS
8

9 DATE TAKEN: October 20, 2022

10 TIME: 11:01 a.m. - 11:50 a.m.

11 PLACE: City Hall/Council Chambers
12 117 West Duval Street
13 Jacksonville, Florida 32202

14 This cause came on to be heard at the time and place
15 aforesaid, when and where the following proceedings were
16 reported by:

17 Samantha Omine, RPR, FPR, Notary Public
18 Hedquist & Associates Reporters, Inc.
19 345 East Forsyth Street
20 Jacksonville, Florida 32202
21 (904) 354-4111
22
23
24
25

Hedquist & Associates Reporters, Inc.

APPEARANCES

Council President Terrance Freeman

Council Vice President Ronald Salem

Council Member Aaron Bowman

Council Member Rory Diamond

Council Member Nick Howland

Council Member Sam Newby

Council Member Ju'Coby Pittman

Council Member Randy White

Council Member Matt Carlucci

Council Member Reggie Gaffney

Council Member Michael Boylan

Jeff Clements, Chief of Research

Paige Johnson, Esquire, Office of General Counsel

Kim Taylor, Council Auditor

Mary Margaret Giannini, Office of General Counsel

P R O C E E D I N G S

October 20, 2022

11:01 a.m.

- - -

COUNCIL PRESIDENT FREEMAN: All right. Good morning and welcome to the special committee on redistricting on Thursday, October 20th. The time is 11:00 a.m. And we will begin this with just introductions starting to my left.

MR. CLEMENTS: Jeff Clements, council research.

MS. JOHNSON: Paige Johnson, Office of General Counsel.

MS. TAYLOR: Kim Taylor, council auditor.

COUNCIL MEMBER HOWLAND: Nick Howland, City Council, at-large Group 3.

COUNCIL MEMBER NEWBY: Good morning. Sam Newby, Jacksonville City Council, Group 5 at-large.

COUNCIL MEMBER BOWMAN: Hello. Aaron Bowman, City Council, District 3.

COUNCIL PRESIDENT FREEMAN: Good morning. Terrance Freeman, at-large Group 1.

COUNCIL MEMBER DIAMOND: Good morning. Rory Diamond, District 13.

COUNCIL MEMBER PITTMAN: Good morning. Ju'Coby Pittman, District 8.

COUNCIL MEMBER WHITE: Randy White, District

Hedquist & Associates Reporters, Inc.

1 12.

2 COUNCIL MEMBER GAFFNEY: Good morning. Reggie
3 Gaffney, District 7, visiting.

4 COUNCIL PRESIDENT FREEMAN: Thank you-all for
5 coming. And I wanted to open -- got a little
6 feedback. I wanted to open up with a few remarks
7 just for those in the audience and those watching so
8 that you'll get an understanding of just the
9 direction we're going to go in.

10 The charge of this committee is to complete new
11 maps, and we will do so. This committee will meet
12 the Court's established timeline and pass a new map
13 on November 3rd and then go to the council on
14 November 4th for a full vote.

15 My first duty in this process as council
16 president was to structure and name a committee that
17 can meet the short deadline provided by the district
18 court, and I chose to lead this committee in getting
19 the map drawn in this period. This committee is
20 prepared to accomplish the task. It is diverse,
21 bipartisan, and experienced. It has three council
22 presidents, a former chair of the redistricting
23 committee, an attorney, district council members
24 representing, and at-large council members
25 representing, and a variety of perspectives to get

1 this job done. That I am confident of.

2 We will meet today, set the charge as
3 established by the judge's timeline, and look
4 forward to seeing a new draft map at our next
5 meeting for potential edit and review.

6 I'm also committed to this process being as
7 transparent and as open as possible. We will have a
8 dedicated e-mail address and a website so that the
9 public can submit their comments and ideas
10 throughout this process. While there is no legal
11 requirement to do so, every committee meeting will
12 have a designated time for public comment.

13 After this committee has completed its work, we
14 will host a map chat town hall in City Hall the
15 evening of November 3rd, and that will be before our
16 special council meeting's final vote on November 4.
17 So including the council meeting on November 4th,
18 this will give the community six times to speak
19 publicly in addition to the technology methods that
20 were provided by the City.

21 And now I will ask for our legal team to come
22 forward and give us material for consideration.

23 MS. GIANNINI: Thank you. Thank you, Council
24 President.

25 I am Mary Margaret Giannini from the Office of

1 General Counsel for the City of Jacksonville. Thank
2 you for giving us the opportunity to meet with the
3 special redistricting committee today.

4 The reason we're here, as the council president
5 has shared with you-all, is to respond to the
6 federal court order of October 12th, 2022, that is
7 commanded in part that the City council enact and
8 file with the court an interim remedial plan for use
9 in all City council and school board elections to be
10 held final judgment in the legal matter NAACP, et
11 al. vs. City of Jacksonville.

12 The Court further ordered that any interim
13 remedial plan the City enacts must not use race as a
14 predominate factor in design of any district unless
15 that use of race is narrowly tailored to comply with
16 the constitutional and permissible compelling
17 government interest.

18 We're also here because, as Council President
19 Freeman has indicated, he has created you-all as a
20 special redistricting committee and is giving you a
21 charge as he has already articulated this morning
22 and also detailed in his October 18th, 2022, memo
23 that this committee deliberate and then select a map
24 to present to the full council for then filing with
25 the federal district court.

1 So as you proceed in your work what are the
2 legal considerations that you need to put into how
3 you look at these new lines? The Court's primary
4 concern, as articulated in its October 12th order,
5 was that the maps that were passed in March of 2022
6 violated the 14th Amendment of the United States
7 Constitution by using race as the predominate
8 purpose for the lines contained therein without a
9 showing that a compelling government purpose
10 supported that use of race and that race was used in
11 a narrowly tailored manner.

12 So how, as you now proceed in this work that
13 you have been charged to do, do you address the
14 Court's concerns? The first thing I want to share
15 with you is that the Office of General Counsel has
16 retained as a litigation expert an individual who is
17 an expert in demographics and redistricting who will
18 assist you-all in crafting the interim remedial
19 plans to be submitted to the court. His name is
20 Douglas Johnson. He is the president of National
21 Demographics Corporation, which is based out of
22 Glendale, California.

23 Doug's role will be by using all relevant and
24 legally appropriate sets of data to work with the
25 staff of the City Planning and Development

1 Department to craft a variety of maps for your
2 review and consideration. He will also be
3 physically present here in Jacksonville for your
4 deliberations for your special committee meetings so
5 that he can respond to your questions and
6 incorporate your feedback into the map drafting
7 process.

8 So what are the legal requirements that you
9 need to consider as you're drafting these new maps?
10 In some regards there is a great deal of similarity
11 to what you did in the previous process. You need
12 to do your best to comply with the charters,
13 guidance in Section 5.02, as well as that detailed
14 in Section 18.101 of the ordinance code, as well as
15 complying with state and federal law.

16 At its most fundamental pieces that requires
17 that you ensure that every district contains nearly
18 equal population, that those districts are arranged
19 in a logical and compact, geographic pattern,
20 that -- and it's a little redundant at this point,
21 but it's important to say again -- that the lines
22 comply with all federal and state constitutions, as
23 well as laws, and that you all seek to ensure that
24 the residents of Jacksonville in their varied
25 economic, social, and ethnic interests and

1 objectives are adequately represented in the
2 council.

3 What you can't do in this process is start with
4 the premise that the 2011 lines are okay and merely
5 tinker around the edges. Rather, you need to be
6 engaged in a wholesale review of the city districts
7 and particularly those that were challenged in the
8 underlying litigation and deemed constitutionally
9 infirm by the Court.

10 So Council President Freeman has laid out the
11 timeline, and I want to flesh out just a few things
12 that he has shared with you-all. First, next
13 Tuesday, October 25th, at the full council meeting a
14 placeholder legislation will be submitted so that
15 when you get to the November 4th special council
16 meeting the -- the timing requirements of
17 legislation are satisfied. So placeholder
18 legislation will be introduced next Tuesday.

19 I want to be very clear that that placeholder
20 legislation is not going to contain any maps in it.
21 So it is going to have gaps, but it is -- it is
22 there so that you can proceed in due course to get
23 eventually to the Court's November 8th deadline.
24 Also at that public -- at that special -- excuse
25 me -- at that City council meeting there will be an

1 opportunity for the public to be heard about the
2 process thus far and the process moving forward.

3 You-all will then engage in your work meeting,
4 as Council President Freeman has already indicated,
5 on November 1st, 2nd, and 3rd. On November 1st
6 Douglas Johnson will be here. He will present to
7 you a variety of maps for your consideration and
8 will provide explanation as to configuration of
9 those maps and the different goals those maps are
10 seeking to -- to achieve.

11 You will continue your deliberations on the 2nd
12 and the 3rd where again, with assistance from the
13 expert, you will review, evaluate, and deliberate
14 regarding those draft maps with the ultimate goal of
15 submitting a map to the full council for review on
16 November 4th, 2022.

17 Throughout this process, including the
18 October 25th meeting, the public will have an
19 opportunity as appropriate and time permitted --
20 permitting to provide feedback. As Council
21 Freeman -- Council President Freeman has also
22 indicated, an e-mail account has been created to
23 provide Jacksonville citizens an alternative method
24 to provide feedback as to their concerns regarding
25 the March 2022 map as well as their hopes/desires

1 regarding this ongoing process. That e-mail account
2 address is as follows: 2022redistricting@coj.net.
3 So the number 2022 followed by the word
4 redistricting@coj.net. If that address is not yet
5 operative, it should be operative by the end of the
6 day, but I'm pretty sure it is already operative.

7 The e-mails received from the citizenry will be
8 compiled by staff from the Office of General
9 Counsel, and at the October 25th meeting and at the
10 beginning of each meeting of the special
11 subcommittee that feedback will be provided to the
12 subcommittee in a compiled manner so that as you
13 engage in your deliberations you are informed as to
14 the public's interest, especially those who are not
15 able to make those meetings that -- the public
16 meetings.

17 And, again, at the City council's meetings --
18 special meeting scheduled for November 4th, any
19 final comments that have been received to that
20 e-mail address will also be shared to -- to you-all
21 and to the council as a whole.

22 Likewise, as Council President Freeman has
23 indicated, there will be a map chat town hall
24 scheduled for the evening of Thursday, November 4th,
25 again providing the public an opportunity to provide

1 you and the rest of your colleagues on the council
2 feedback as to their desires for representation and
3 the allegation of lines in the new district map.

4 COUNCIL PRESIDENT FREEMAN: And that's
5 November 3rd, Thursday, November 3rd.

6 MS. GIANNINI: Thursday, November 3rd, yes.

7 So on November 4th the full council will be
8 presented with your work. And then based on the
9 council's result, staff in the Office of General
10 Counsel, as well as other staff members throughout
11 the City, will take the appropriate action to ensure
12 that -- that a passed map is submitted to the court
13 by the November 8th deadline.

14 So I briefly outlined for you why we're here,
15 what the Court's legal concerns were, what legal
16 considerations you need to take into account as you
17 engage in this process, the timeline associated with
18 it, and the role of the public input. I'm now
19 absolutely open to questions from -- through the
20 council president.

21 COUNCIL PRESIDENT FREEMAN: And thank you for
22 that. And so we will open this up for any questions
23 from those.

24 Let the record reflect Council Member Carlucci
25 has joined, as well as Council Vice President Salem

1 has joined us as well.

2 And for those attending, we will open and allow
3 for public comment at the completion of this as
4 well.

5 So I have a queue up. We'll start with
6 Councilman Bowman. You're recognized.

7 COUNCIL MEMBER BOWMAN: Thank you,
8 Mr. President. Thank you for putting this together
9 in such a timely manner.

10 I do have a process question for counsel.
11 Obviously it's no secret that we have given you
12 guidance to appeal this Court decision. And so what
13 I'm trying to understand is process-wise is that --
14 and we also agree that it's prudent to create new
15 maps just in case that appeal doesn't work.

16 So help me understand the process of us doing
17 these new maps, then voting on them, but not giving
18 up the work that we did previously should that
19 appeal come back in our -- out favor.

20 MS. GIANNINI: Through the chair to Councilman
21 Bowman, thank you for that question.

22 There is nothing inconsistent about preserving
23 our appellate rights and proceeding on appeal while
24 also making every effort to comply with the Court's
25 order. And so the appeals process is such that

1 we -- we are -- there's a good chance that the
2 timing associated with appeals process may extend
3 beyond the Court's November 8th deadline, which
4 means that we need to do our best -- not just do our
5 best, comply with the Court's deadline while we
6 continue to preserve our rights and advocate our
7 rights on appeal.

8 That -- the appellate process which is being
9 handled by outside counsel, and that is
10 predominately Mohammad Jazil, J-a-z-i-l, who is an
11 attorney at Holtzman Vogel in their Tallahassee
12 office, they are proceeding with all due speed. The
13 notices of appeal have been filed in both the
14 district court and in the appellate court. A motion
15 to stay the district court's order has been filed,
16 which in essence asks the district court, Please
17 hold off. Please don't make us meet the
18 November 8th deadline.

19 And the district court yesterday commanded that
20 the plaintiffs respond to the City's request for a
21 stay by October 25th. And so she very well --
22 the -- the federal court may very well have a
23 response to that stay request by the 28th.

24 If that stay request is rejected, then the
25 appeals counsel will -- will appeal directly to the

1 11th Circuit.

2 Because of timing, we can't project how
3 everything is going to roll out. So having these
4 dual tracks is important. If a stay is not granted,
5 then we will need to continue to work on this
6 process. If the district court or the 11th Circuit
7 grants a stay, then it would be appropriate but for
8 us to reconvene and discuss the next appropriate
9 legal action.

10 COUNCIL MEMBER BOWMAN: Okay. Thank you. And
11 I think I've followed you in your legal explanation.
12 And then I don't want to discuss hypotheticals,
13 but -- and my fear is is that we get to a point that
14 our supervisor of elections has given us a hard
15 date. We've got candidates that have filed, keep
16 trying to get signatures, et cetera, that there's a
17 potential that we get put in position that -- that
18 our appeal we do not have a decision on yet, we've
19 got a court order, and we've got a deadline coming
20 up.

21 And we don't need to discuss how that plays out
22 now, but I can tell you that it's heavy in my mind
23 right now that we've got a potential explosion
24 heading our way in December and everything we're
25 doing -- and you kind of addressed my question, is

1 that -- kind of understanding the status of the
2 appeal. The quicker we get that in I think is best
3 for all of us. So it sounds like they're maybe --
4 they're burning the midnight oil to accommodate
5 that.

6 Thank you.

7 COUNCIL PRESIDENT FREEMAN: Councilman
8 Carlucci, you're recognized.

9 COUNCIL MEMBER CARLUCCI: I'm looking at the
10 agenda real quick, Mr. Chairman.

11 Just a quick question. There's a general
12 comment I'd like to make at some point. What would
13 be my best time to make that comment? Is there a
14 time towards the end of the meeting where I might be
15 better prepared to make that comment? Since I'm not
16 on the committee I just want to know when I can --
17 when I could give my take.

18 Unfortunately the other meetings that you have
19 put together -- and I know exactly why you had to
20 put them together like that because we're on a short
21 time frame, but I'm out of town every one of those
22 meetings. So I won't be able to come. So I just
23 wanted to have the time to share. Is there time
24 towards the end of the meeting that I have a
25 chance --

1 COUNCIL PRESIDENT FREEMAN: I'm sorry. So,
2 Mr. Carlucci -- Councilman Carlucci, you're asking
3 that throughout this process at what point we
4 will -- council members who are not a part of the
5 redistricting committee add value to the
6 conversation?

7 COUNCIL MEMBER CARLUCCI: Well, today, please,
8 because this will be my only opportunity.

9 COUNCIL PRESIDENT FREEMAN: And so you will not
10 be here on the 4th at that meeting?

11 COUNCIL MEMBER CARLUCCI: I sure hope I can,
12 but I don't think so. I mean, I'm -- we -- we're
13 going to be out of town from the 1st through the
14 7th.

15 COUNCIL PRESIDENT FREEMAN: Got it. My goal is
16 to try to not get ahead of the process with our map
17 drawer first rendering it and us seeing what was
18 produced and then us going from that point.

19 COUNCIL MEMBER CARLUCCI: I would like to talk
20 about it prior to the map drawing.

21 COUNCIL PRESIDENT FREEMAN: Right.

22 COUNCIL MEMBER CARLUCCI: Anyway, I just was
23 wondering if I have a chance to talk in -- in
24 general today before the meeting was out.

25 COUNCIL PRESIDENT FREEMAN: Let me get with you

1 on that. Let me reflect on that just --

2 COUNCIL MEMBER CARLUCCI: Okay.

3 COUNCIL PRESIDENT FREEMAN: -- a little bit. I
4 don't necessarily know if that's an issue or not,
5 but I definitely want to make sure everything we do
6 is following the process and the planning. We put a
7 lot of hours into ensuring that we are going to meet
8 this tight deadline that the judge has ordered of us
9 and especially in our process that is open and
10 transparent to those who are watching and
11 participating.

12 So I do want to avoid any situation where we're
13 getting into some rabbit trails and we're opening up
14 some other --

15 COUNCIL MEMBER CARLUCCI: Well, I don't intend
16 to take us on a rabbit trail, sir. I just have some
17 thoughts that I'd like to share.

18 COUNCIL PRESIDENT FREEMAN: Yes, sir. Yes,
19 sir. And usually thoughts will bring comments. And
20 moving forward I would like to make sure that we
21 have the map in place that -- when we bring those
22 thoughts forward and then will be heard and listened
23 to.

24 But I'm not saying -- I'm not denying that, but
25 I definitely want to go to some of these other

1 speakers as well, and then I'm going to circle back
2 to you.

3 COUNCIL MEMBER CARLUCCI: Well, if there's time
4 for me, I would appreciate it.

5 COUNCIL PRESIDENT FREEMAN: Yes, sir.
6 Councilman Diamond.

7 COUNCIL MEMBER DIAMOND: Thank you, Council
8 President. Through the president, Ms. Giannini.

9 I like to think I'm a smart lawyer, but this is
10 some complicated stuff. And there's a lot of people
11 in Jacksonville who are probably looking at this and
12 are confused and don't really understand what's
13 happening. So let me -- let me walk this through
14 and tell me if I'm off. I tend to use language that
15 I can understand. I hope my neighbors can
16 understand.

17 So right now only one map actually exists, and
18 that's the one this council passed; right? There is
19 no other map out there right now; right?

20 MS. GIANNINI: Through the chair to Councilman
21 Diamond.

22 COUNCIL MEMBER DIAMOND: I don't want to
23 overcomplicate this.

24 MS. GIANNINI: It's almost an existential
25 question. I am sure other maps are floating out

1 there, but in terms of where you are legally
2 starting, the Court has said the map that the
3 council passed in March of 2022 is unconstitutional.
4 You must now draw a new map. And thus far this
5 deliberative body has yet to draw anything new.

6 COUNCIL MEMBER DIAMOND: Right. Okay.
7 Perfect.

8 So there's this map. Judge Howard said no on
9 that map, not constitutional, and we appealed, and
10 that's going to the 11th Circuit in Atlanta. And a
11 couple things could happen up there. That court
12 could say, We are going to issue a stay. And that
13 stay could be long enough that the map that we
14 passed a couple of months ago is the one we use for
15 this next election. That's possible.

16 MS. GIANNINI: That is a possible scenario,
17 yes.

18 COUNCIL MEMBER DIAMOND: And then it's also
19 possible that they agree with us, the 11th Circuit,
20 and that they're going to disagree with Judge
21 Howard's order, and it will come back to Judge
22 Howard, at which point we'd be back there; correct?

23 MS. GIANNINI: If the 11th Circuit were to
24 agree with the City's appeal as to the Court's
25 injunctive order, then we would be back and then

1 would be litigating this matter at a trial, at the
2 trial level.

3 COUNCIL MEMBER DIAMOND: Right. So we would be
4 having trial essentially and going into a longer
5 process where we're trying to decide if that
6 original map is constitutional in a full-blown trial
7 with evidence and witnesses and all that stuff?

8 MS. GIANNINI: That's correct.

9 COUNCIL MEMBER DIAMOND: I don't think a lot of
10 people know that that's what would happen if we win,
11 out in the public. I know the council knows it.

12 Okay. So those are those two paths.

13 Another path is that at some point here the
14 plaintiffs who brought this lawsuit and the City to
15 come to an agreement on a map, take that map to
16 Judge Howard, and say, Does this pass constitutional
17 muster? And if she agrees, then that would be our
18 map; correct?

19 MS. GIANNINI: That could be a potential
20 scenario as well.

21 COUNCIL MEMBER DIAMOND: That's another path.

22 And another path is that we could agree with
23 the plaintiffs and then go to Judge Howard. She
24 says no to that one too; correct? And we'd have to
25 write another map after that.

1 MS. GIANNINI: You are -- you are highlighting
2 the many contingencies that exist and complexities
3 that exist in this process.

4 COUNCIL MEMBER DIAMOND: Okay. And then the
5 final -- and I'll be honest, what I think the most
6 likely result is that this committee is going to
7 come up with a new map and eventually the City
8 council as a whole is going to like that new map,
9 and then we're going to pass it. The mayor will
10 sign it. And then it will go to Judge Howard for
11 her to decide whether or not that map is
12 constitutional; correct?

13 MS. GIANNINI: That is another most present
14 scenario that we're here to talk about today, yes.

15 COUNCIL MEMBER DIAMOND: Okay. And given what
16 you said about that map, which I've already said,
17 without prejudicing our legal position at all, is
18 the most likely scenario, that new map is going to
19 be different than what we have seen here in
20 Jacksonville since around 1991. It will look
21 different.

22 MS. GIANNINI: That is a likely possibility,
23 yes.

24 COUNCIL MEMBER DIAMOND: Okay. And I think
25 people need to realize that that map will be just --

1 I don't know what -- what -- when it goes into the
2 box of all the different people who have got to look
3 at it and the map and making sure it's
4 constitutional in keeping communities together and
5 doing all the right things for all the right
6 reasons, we don't know what that map is going to
7 look like, but it will be a little different.

8 MS. GIANNINI: You are -- are probably correct.

9 COUNCIL MEMBER DIAMOND: Okay. And I just go
10 through that exercise so that folks listening who
11 don't understand this process know there's so many
12 different paths we might go down. There's so many
13 different things that can happen, but eventually
14 there will be a map. There will be plenty of time
15 for this committee and the public to look at it and
16 to get due process; right? And then -- and then
17 there will be a vote.

18 MS. GIANNINI: That is the articulated plan,
19 yes.

20 COUNCIL MEMBER DIAMOND: Perfect. Thank you.

21 COUNCIL PRESIDENT FREEMAN: Thank you,
22 Councilman Diamond.

23 Let the record reflect that Council Member
24 Boylan has joined us as well.

25 I have three in the queue.

1 Councilman White, you're recognized.

2 COUNCIL MEMBER WHITE: Yes, sir. Through the
3 chair, I know you've got Mr. Johnson coming down
4 next week. Will he get his information through
5 Mr. Killingsworth who we had before, providing the
6 information to him? Is that who we were still using
7 to do the same thing?

8 MS. GIANNINI: So through the chair to
9 Councilman White, yes, working both with
10 Mr. Killingsworth in planning and development as
11 well as with data that the supervisor of elections
12 may have. That data is being provided to Doug
13 Johnson so he can work on the maps.

14 COUNCIL MEMBER WHITE: Thank you. Thank you.

15 COUNCIL PRESIDENT FREEMAN: Thank you.

16 Next for the first time, Councilman Gaffney.

17 COUNCIL MEMBER GAFFNEY: Yeah. Yes, through
18 the chair, I guess my question would also -- will he
19 reach out to the councilmen for input, each council
20 person, as -- to discuss potential what changes to
21 be made, meet with each council for input? Is that
22 part of the equation or not?

23 MS. GIANNINI: Through the chair to Councilman
24 Gaffney, let me just ask for clarification because I
25 didn't hear all of your question. Are you asking if

1 the expert will be meeting individually with council
2 members?

3 COUNCIL MEMBER GAFFNEY: Yes.

4 MS. GIANNINI: We certainly can discuss with
5 the expert his ability to do that. He will not be
6 in Jacksonville October 25th through 29th. He will
7 be arriving in Jacksonville probably October --
8 October 31st. But -- but we can certainly discuss
9 with him the possibility of providing feedback as
10 deemed appropriate by the chair of this committee,
11 Council President Freeman.

12 COUNCIL MEMBER GAFFNEY: And I'll close with
13 this. I believe because each -- each council person
14 may have some institution knowledge that
15 can leverage their opinion to him making these
16 decisions that I think is very important, that he
17 reach out to each district person as well as at
18 large. Those who choose to want to meet with him,
19 can. Those who choose not to, don't have to. But I
20 think that's very important through this process.

21 MS. GIANNINI: Thank you for that feedback. We
22 will definitely take it into consideration.

23 COUNCIL PRESIDENT FREEMAN: Thank you.

24 Council Member Pittman, you're recognized.

25 COUNCIL MEMBER PITTMAN: Through the chair, one

1 of my questions is just a follow-up to Councilman
2 White in terms of Mr. Johnson's experience. I know
3 this is the first time in Jacksonville that we are
4 going through this. I'd like to know a little bit
5 more about Mr. Johnson and, one, if there are other
6 cities that he's done this -- this process with and
7 what was the outcome.

8 MS. GIANNINI: Through the chair to Councilman
9 Pittman, I certainly can provide you, after this
10 meeting, with his résumé and information about his
11 website.

12 In short order, Mr. Johnson's firm has been
13 involved in re- -- districting and redistricting,
14 addressing voting rights act and demographic
15 analysis, community network analysis, and has been
16 serving local governments, school districts, special
17 districts, for example, like the Carpinteria
18 Sanitary District, Citrus Heights Water District,
19 community college districts, counties, and any
20 number of other municipal entities, but I certainly,
21 separate from this meeting, can provide you with
22 more detail about Mr. Johnson and his team's
23 qualifications.

24 COUNCIL MEMBER PITTMAN: And I would say since
25 this is the first time that we're going through that

1 process that all of us will probably need that
2 information as well.

3 Thank you.

4 COUNCIL PRESIDENT FREEMAN: Thank you.

5 Finally for the first time, Council Vice
6 President Salem, you're recognized.

7 COUNCIL VICE PRESIDENT SALEM: Thank you,
8 Mr. President.

9 Through the president, I'm interested in the
10 legislation that you talked about that is going to
11 be introduced Tuesday night. Is that on an
12 emergency basis, one-cycle emergency?

13 MS. GIANNINI: So through the chair to Vice
14 President Salem, I would defer this question to
15 Paige Johnson of Office of General Counsel.

16 COUNCIL VICE PRESIDENT SALEM: And while she's
17 answering that, is -- the status of this legislation
18 will require a public hearing, I think I heard; is
19 that correct?

20 COUNCIL PRESIDENT FREEMAN: So I believe the
21 question to Ms. Mary Margaret was the process of
22 this bill and legislation, and you are deferring to
23 the Office of General Counsel on the City Council
24 side, which is Ms. Johnson.

25 And so, Ms. Johnson, you are recognized to

1 answer Council Vice President's question regarding
2 how this plays out through counsel.

3 MS. JOHNSON: Thank you, Council President.

4 Through the council president to Council Member
5 Salem, yes, as Mary Margaret had indicated, there
6 will be a bill, a placeholder bill. It will set
7 forth adoption of the map. As Mary Margaret stated,
8 the map will not be attached. However, the bill
9 will be introduced as any other bill is introduced
10 on -- on October 25th.

11 We have already prepared the title that has
12 gone to the Daily Record for advertising so that it
13 will be properly advertised for public hearing and
14 the special council committee on November 4th. So
15 there will be a regular public hearing on
16 November 4th. Emergency action is requested. It's
17 written as a one-cycle emergency.

18 Obviously the council has to act before --
19 following the October 25th meeting the next council
20 meeting is not until November 9th. The court order
21 directs the council to take action by November 8th.
22 Therefore, we had to create this special council
23 meeting on November 4th, but it will be properly
24 noticed in the paper. There is a public hearing
25 scheduled for the opportunity for the public and as

1 Mary Margaret indicated on introduction. At the
2 October 25th meeting anyone who is interested in
3 making comments during the public comment period of
4 the meeting can also make public comments. So there
5 will be public presentation.

6 COUNCIL VICE PRESIDENT SALEM: Okay. I'm now
7 confused. Let me -- you mentioned there'd be a
8 public hearing on the bill at the November 4th
9 meeting. Tuesday night, October 25th, when it is
10 introduced, public comment -- anyone can talk. Is
11 there a public hearing on that bill Tuesday night,
12 October 25th? Yes or no.

13 MS. JOHNSON: No.

14 COUNCIL VICE PRESIDENT SALEM: Okay. Thank
15 you.

16 COUNCIL PRESIDENT FREEMAN: Councilman Boylan,
17 you're recognized.

18 COUNCIL MEMBER BOYLAN: Thank you, Mr. --
19 Mr. President. And I apologize if this comment -- I
20 had an earlier meeting. I couldn't be here at
21 11:00 o'clock. The impact of the School Board
22 situation, obviously it's a coattail situation. You
23 have to respect the School Board's side of this
24 process. What role do they play in this
25 decision-making process as they were part of the

1 redistricting committee's work in the past? Do they
2 play a part in this process as well?

3 MS. GIANNINI: Through the chair to Councilman
4 Boylan -- Boylan, I will defer to the -- the chair
5 of the special redistricting committee Council
6 President Freeman in terms of how he is
7 incorporating and including the comments, concerns,
8 and interests of school board members. Because you
9 are correct, the challenged districts also include
10 school board districts.

11 COUNCIL MEMBER BOYLAN: So I guess I defer that
12 question to you, Mr. President. Do you have some
13 consideration as to how we're going to engage the
14 School Board in this process?

15 COUNCIL PRESIDENT FREEMAN: Yes, I do. And
16 currently reaching out to the chair more so in an
17 advisory role just to keep them abreast of the
18 process as it's moving forward. But given such
19 tight time lines that we're dealing with, the first
20 priority was to set a motion in process that was
21 transparent. I gave the community a schedule and a
22 time. And I knew that that would be one more layer
23 to the process had I tried to get another governing
24 body involved, engaged into it.

25 So I'm waiting to hear back from them, but

1 they're more than welcome to attend these meetings
2 as well.

3 COUNCIL MEMBER BOYLAN: Thank you.

4 COUNCIL PRESIDENT FREEMAN: Thank you.

5 And now for a second time, we start off,
6 Councilman Carlucci. And we'll kind of count this
7 as a quasi first and second for you. You are
8 recognized.

9 COUNCIL MEMBER CARLUCCI: Thank you,
10 Mr. Chair -- Mr. President, slash, Chair. I
11 appreciate the opportunity.

12 For the record I just wanted to say this, that
13 I don't really support the appeal. It's no offense
14 to anyone. That's just my opinion; okay?

15 And we talked about institutional knowledge. I
16 have quite a bit on this issue, and I have read
17 quite a bit on this issue over the years,
18 particularly in the last two, three years. As I see
19 it now, we have nine safe partisan districts and
20 five have some balance in terms of partisanship.

21 I'd like to read into the record what I said on
22 my declaration, if you don't mind, just for the
23 committee's sake and then a few more comments, and
24 then I'll be done.

25 I voted in favor of the redistricting bill that

1 we had. Having previously chaired the redistricting
2 district -- a redistricting committee, I understood
3 the complexities of the process. I understand that.
4 Over time, though, however, I have come to believe
5 lines drawn in that manner were driven by the
6 partisanship. I would have preferred district lines
7 to more accurately reflect the population of
8 Jacksonville as a whole. To me this is even more
9 true in light of recent political division as it
10 pertains to various issues. This is my opinion.

11 Going forward I believe future council should
12 aspire to draw district lines more politically
13 diverse, less partisan, which would enhance the
14 total representation of consolidated city of
15 Jacksonville and hold all of us council members to
16 greater accountability to the community as a whole.

17 In the meantime it is my hope that we begin to
18 change our culture of representation to reflect more
19 nonpartisan approach and blaze a trail of more
20 professional unity. That's just what I think. It's
21 what I believe and what I want to contribute as
22 1/19th of a member of this council.

23 I say -- I finish up with this: Regardless of
24 the courts, regardless of the appeals, regardless of
25 what a judge might think or might not think,

1 different judges, different opinions. Different
2 judges are appointed by different presidents or
3 whoever the appointing authority is. And sometimes
4 they reflect different -- so forgetting all that,
5 just to me doing the right thing, regardless of
6 court ruling, I believe in my opinion we should
7 strive to make these districts more compact, taking
8 care of communities within those districts, but I
9 believe we absolutely must reflect a better
10 diversity of party thus opening up more
11 opportunities for people of all color, races,
12 ethnicities to have a shot at winning the race. And
13 then more people that are in the safer districts
14 might have a more diverse district, which might help
15 their view on particular issues of the day. That's
16 what is so important to me.

17 I believe that is the future, and I think
18 that's the way that redistricting is starting to
19 trend. And I think if we don't do that, we're
20 letting -- forgetting the courts, forgetting the
21 appeals, I think we're letting our community down.

22 So as the maps begin to be drawn, again, I
23 really would suggest that we more highly look at
24 these districts that are safe and diversify them
25 out. That will have an impact on other districts,

1 but I believe it can have a more positive impact on
2 other districts. And if we don't do that, I think
3 we might be making a mistake.

4 And so I'm not trying to be -- I'm not trying
5 to -- I'm just trying to express my -- my view based
6 on my experience. And I hope this committee will
7 take that into consideration as y'all move forward.
8 I commend you for putting the committee together so
9 quickly and only wish I could be here for more of
10 the meetings. But I felt I would be remiss if I
11 didn't come here this morning to the one meeting I
12 can make -- I could watch them, I suppose, from out
13 of town, but I can't participate, unless I'm allowed
14 to by Zoom.

15 But I believe I'm giving you the hard truth and
16 the truths that will stand the test of time. And I
17 encourage this committee, along with those who are
18 drawing the lines, to follow my suggestions and my
19 beliefs because I believe they will stand the test
20 of time. And anything done differently from that I
21 believe we will be letting not the courts down. I
22 believe we will be letting our people down. Thank
23 you.

24 COUNCIL PRESIDENT FREEMAN: Thank you so much.

25 And I do want to make sure I leave some time

1 for those who came today to speak. But I definitely
2 wanted to hear from our attorney, if there are any
3 comments on -- in regard to what was -- some of the
4 comments that were just recently made just to make
5 sure we --

6 MS. GIANNINI: Council President, I have
7 nothing to add to what has been already provided in
8 the discussion.

9 COUNCIL PRESIDENT FREEMAN: Okay. All right.
10 I just didn't know if there was anything that needed
11 to be clarified based off the case and any comments
12 that we might have made.

13 All right. We have for a second time
14 Councilman Bowman.

15 COUNCIL MEMBER BOWMAN: Thank you,
16 Mr. President. I'll try to bring us back to the
17 agenda.

18 The -- Ms. Giannini made a comment a few
19 minutes ago to Mr. Gaffney that concerned me. I
20 just want clarification. I mean, this -- she said,
21 We'll -- we'll take that in consideration. And just
22 want to understand, Mr. Chair, President, that --
23 that the public knows the maps are ours. The maps
24 belong to City Council. They do not belong to the
25 attorneys.

1 And I know our next process is talking about
2 how we're going to draw these maps, but these maps
3 are not being drawn up by General Counsel. And
4 so -- so I would say, and it'll be up to you,
5 Mr. Chair, to Mr. Gaffney's question is that's
6 something we've got to talk about. It's -- but it's
7 not going to be talked in the attorney's office.
8 It's going to be talked here. Thank you.

9 COUNCIL PRESIDENT FREEMAN: Thank you.

10 Councilman Diamond, you're recognized.

11 COUNCIL MEMBER DIAMOND: I just wanted a last
12 comment from me because I know this is a short
13 meeting. We've got public comment. But, you know,
14 the time for a flowery rhetoric and all that is
15 gone. We had an entire year of a process that -- to
16 make statements like we just heard.

17 The time now is to follow a court order and to
18 follow the law. That's what we have to do in a
19 month. It's the tightest schedule I have ever seen
20 in my entire life for redistricting. We can do it
21 because we're smart and because we work hard, and I
22 know this committee. But we're going to follow the
23 law. And when we are done, I'm so confident we are
24 going to come up with a map that will pass
25 constitutional muster and one that represents the

1 City, and I'm unbelievably passionate that we get
2 that done.

3 COUNCIL PRESIDENT FREEMAN: Thank you,
4 Mr. Diamond.

5 And my sentiments as well and was the reasoning
6 for creating the timeline I did and the process that
7 we put forward.

8 I appreciate all my colleagues' comments.
9 Definitely well-spoken and well-taken. And please
10 trust that when we look at the process on
11 November 1st, 2nd, and 3rd the map will be presented
12 to us, and that's when we get to do our body of work
13 and contributions to it.

14 But more importantly to the people and the
15 citizens of Jacksonville, I just want to reiterate
16 the -- the number of times that we will provide
17 opportunities for public comments and for your
18 voices to be heard and for those that are unable to
19 make it in person, the measures that we have gone
20 through and too with the e-mail address, which she
21 said was 2022redistricting@coj.net, where all of
22 your comments and e-mails and concerns will be
23 placed into the hands of us committee members so
24 that we can go through it thoroughly and consider it
25 as well.

1 And so with that being said, Mr. Carlucci, I do
2 want to leave 15 minutes for public comment and
3 we'll get through it. There are only two cards. I
4 will circle back --

5 MS. GIANNINI: Council President, if -- if you
6 will, I want to have an opportunity to respond to
7 Council Bowman's statement to clarify.

8 So through the chair to Councilman Bowman, I --
9 I hope I did not suggest that the maps did not
10 belong to the council. They absolutely do belong to
11 the council. I want to be sure that as your
12 committee engages in your deliberative process we're
13 able to talk about what you want to do and how you
14 want to do it. And I was -- I'm very concerned -- I
15 don't want to make promises here in this room that
16 then you as a deliberative body have the final
17 decision to make. So to the extent it was
18 interpreted that the Office of General Counsel would
19 be making decisions without your process, that was
20 not my intent, and of course we will work very
21 closely with you and your colleagues to get maps to
22 your liking.

23 COUNCIL PRESIDENT FREEMAN: Thank you.

24 At this time we have two public comment cards,
25 and I would like to go ahead and take those up.

1 The first is Carnell Oliver.

2 And please hold the clock until he finishes
3 giving his name and address. So I don't want you to
4 have to rush through.

5 MR. OLIVER: Yes, my name is Carnell. Address
6 is on file.

7 I want to start off with the comments by former
8 chairman of the redistricting committee Aaron
9 Bowman. You're wrong. You have no control over the
10 redistricting process. These seats belong to the
11 people. You were given the opportunity to address
12 this critical issue. It went to the federal courts,
13 and -- and this injunction came into place. You
14 lost your seat. On the line I can see the
15 manipulation of certain council member that want to
16 give their input. You need to get out the way
17 because you're going to create more flaws than
18 anything else.

19 The integrity of elections, people right to
20 participate in the census process, and them to go
21 out and cast their ballot for the kind of
22 representation they want and they deserve is their
23 responsibility, not yours. This is not a political
24 stunt that you need to be taking upon yourselves.
25 The seats always and will belong to the people. I

1 want y'all completely excused from this political
2 process and allow the people who have the
3 intelligence and this corporation that's coming in
4 to work and hash this thing out. Because I know
5 what's going to end up happening. The fox is going
6 to be guarding the hen house again, and then we're
7 going to end up probably going back to court.

8 And I understand that there's an appeals
9 process right now, but it's not going to move as
10 fast as you may want it because the 11th Circuit
11 Court of Appeal is slammed right now, not unless you
12 have enough capital to put up and have this case
13 heard fast enough. But there's not enough federal
14 courts of appeal judges.

15 But right now what I'm saying in full honesty
16 is that y'all need to excuse yourself. Your input,
17 your thoughts, and everything that just transpired
18 over there in our federal courts, you -- you
19 shown -- you shown your true colors. You want to
20 manipulate the system. You want to control
21 everything by political affiliation. And this
22 should not be that way.

23 Fair representation is something that we all
24 are given in this country. And that's the problem.
25 This good-ole boy system has gone completely out of

1 hand, and you're trying to keep a strong, tight fist
2 around it because we see the layers of that control
3 is breaking.

4 Give my time.

5 COUNCIL PRESIDENT FREEMAN: Thank you.

6 Next is Mr. Mike Ludwick.

7 MR. LUDWICK: Hello, everyone. My name is Mike
8 Ludwick. Address is on file. And I'm a proud
9 member of Northside Coalition of Jacksonville.
10 Mr. Ben Fraizer, our esteemed founder and president,
11 is in the hospital and asked me to deliver this
12 message.

13 To you, as you'll know, the Northside Coalition
14 of Jacksonville is a civil rights organization
15 fighting for social justice. The most important
16 tool we have to achieve that goal is participation
17 in the electoral process, the ballot. The vote is
18 the crown jewel of this democracy. With our
19 judicious exercise and precious right to vote we can
20 reframe narratives, define issues, and choose
21 political leaders who represent our best interest.
22 We will continue to fight back against a political
23 effort which is sought to limit the influence,
24 clout, and power of black voters in Jacksonville.
25 Please listen to the voice of the people. Thank

1 you.

2 COUNCIL PRESIDENT FREEMAN: Thank you so much.

3 I don't see any other cards here, and we
4 definitely welcome those who are watching as we move
5 forward in our meetings in the future to please come
6 out and express yourselves and share your concerns.

7 That will bring us to the closing remarks, and
8 I don't have many to say other than thank you to the
9 redistricting committee for accepting this daunting
10 task. We are up for the challenge. I want to thank
11 the guest council members who have come.

12 And, again, I love Jacksonville, and I love our
13 city. It's a city that right now has seven African
14 Americans sitting on this council and representing
15 this city as a reflection of it. That speaks to it.
16 It is a city that has recently had two back-to-back
17 presidents that were African American. That speaks
18 to the progress that this city is making, and I
19 believe that we're going to continue to do it. We
20 will follow this process as ordered and instructed,
21 and we will have a map by the time that it is
22 requested of this body.

23 After saying that, thank you-all. This meeting
24 is adjourned.

25 (These proceedings concluded at 11:50 a.m.)

C E R T I F I C A T E

STATE OF FLORIDA)

COUNTY OF DUVAL)

I, Samantha Omine, RPR, FPR, certify that I was authorized to and did stenographically report the foregoing proceedings; and that the foregoing transcript, pages 1 through 42, is a true and complete record of my stenographic notes.

DATED on this 25th of October, 2022,
Jacksonville, Duval County, Florida.



Samantha Omine, RPR, FPR

Hedquist & Associates Reporters, Inc.

CITY OF JACKSONVILLE

CITY COUNCIL

MEETING

Excerpt of videotaped proceedings held on
Tuesday, October 25, 2022, commencing at 5:00 p.m.,
City Hall, Council Chambers, 117 West Duval Street,
Jacksonville, Florida.

PRESENT:

RON SALEM, Vice President, City Council.
RORY DIAMOND, Floor Leader.
DANNY BECTON, City Council Member.
MICHAEL BOYLAN, City Council Member.
MATT CARLUCCI, City Council Member.
KEVIN CARRICO, City Council Member.
RANDY DeFOOR, City Council Member.
AL FERRARO, City Council Member.
REGGIE GAFFNEY, City Council Member.
JOYCE MORGAN, City Council Member.
SAM NEWBY, City Council Member.
JU'COBY PITTMAN, City Council Member.
BRENDA PRIESTLY JACKSON, City Council Member.
NICK HOWLAND, City Council Member.
TYRONA CLARK-MURRAY, City Council Member.
RANDY WHITE, City Council Member.

- - -

1 ALSO PRESENT:

2 MARGARET M. SIDMAN, Council Director/Secretary.
3 MARY STAFFOPOULOS, Office of General Counsel.
4 PAIGE JOHNSTON, Office of General Counsel.
5 MERRIANE G. LAHMEUR, Chief of Legislative Services.

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1 P R O C E E D I N G S
October 25, 2022 5:00 p.m.
2 - - -
3 VICE PRESIDENT SALEM: Welcome to the
4 October 25th City Council meeting.
5 * * * * *
6 VICE PRESIDENT SALEM: If you've not put
7 your phone on vibrate, please do that at this
8 time.
9 Let's have roll call.
10 (Council ballot opened.)
11 COUNCIL MEMBER BECTON: (Present.)
12 COUNCIL MEMBER BOYLAN: (Present.)
13 COUNCIL MEMBER CARLUCCI: (Present.)
14 COUNCIL MEMBER DeFOOR: (Present.)
15 COUNCIL MEMBER DIAMOND: (Present.)
16 COUNCIL MEMBER GAFFNEY: (Present.)
17 COUNCIL MEMBER MORGAN: (Present.)
18 COUNCIL MEMBER NEWBY: (Present.)
19 COUNCIL MEMBER PITTMAN: (Present.)
20 C/M PRIESTLY JACKSON: (Present.)
21 COUNCIL MEMBER SALEM: (Present.)
22 COUNCIL MEMBER WHITE: (Present.)
23 COUNCIL MEMBER CARRICO: (Present.)
24 COUNCIL MEMBER HOWLAND: (Present.)
25 COUNCIL MEMBER CLARK-MURRAY: (Present.)

1 (Council ballot closed.)

2 LEGISLATIVE AIDE: Fifteen present.

3 (Council Member Ferraro enters the
4 proceedings at 7:00 p.m.)

5 * * * * *

6 COUNCIL MEMBER BOYLAN: Moving on now to
7 Page 12, public comment. The public comment
8 portion of the regular City Council meeting
9 shall occur immediately after the economic
10 development investment -- incentive
11 legislation, which there are none tonight.

12 So moving ahead. Comments from the public
13 given during the public comment portion of the
14 meeting, except public hearing comments, shall
15 be limited to up to three minutes and no
16 persons shall be allowed to give or transfer
17 his or her time to speak to another person.

18 The Council shall reserve up to
19 one-and-a-half hours of time for the public
20 comment period. The deadline for filing and
21 submitting a speaker's card for that public
22 comment is 60 minutes from this point in time,
23 which is now 5:35.

24 While there are multiple speakers, time
25 allocated shall be divided. We only have 20

1 speakers at this point, so we should be moving
2 forward with a full three minutes.

3 Each person addressing the Council shall
4 proceed to the place assigned for speaking,
5 give his or her name, county of residence, in
6 an audible tone of your voice for the record.

7 And that's all.

8 VICE PRESIDENT SALEM: But before we get
9 started, Rules Chair, are there people that you
10 want to recognize?

11 * * * * *

12 VICE PRESIDENT SALEM: Okay.

13 COUNCIL MEMBER DIAMOND: All right.
14 Mr. Vice President, now we jump right into
15 public comment. And as Councilman Boylan --
16 who is a very good stand-in floor leader;
17 appreciate it, sir -- said, I will read the
18 first three names. Because we've got only 20
19 cards, we've got time for three minutes apiece.

20 So the first three are -- and when I read
21 your names, please come on down to the front
22 here. It will save time.

23 Robin Lumb, Francina Early, and Jerry Myer
24 Jackson, Jr.

25 (Audience member approaches the podium.)

1 COUNCIL MEMBER DIAMOND: Former
2 councilman.

3 AUDIENCE MEMBER: My first time back in
4 seven years. Eleven years ago --

5 COUNCIL MEMBER DIAMOND: Sir, I hate to
6 interrupt you, but name and address for the
7 record, which I know you know the rule.

8 AUDIENCE MEMBER: Oh, I'm sorry. I forgot
9 all about that part.

10 Robin Lumb, 2164 Gilmore Street,
11 Jacksonville, Florida, Duval County. And my
12 name and address is on file everywhere.

13 Eleven years ago, I was sitting where
14 y'all are sitting today. Actually, I was
15 sitting right over there where our latest --
16 newest council member is sitting,
17 Ms. Clark-Murray, and we had just passed the
18 maps, the redistricting maps that y'all
19 inherited.

20 And I have followed -- I only left the
21 Curry administration a few months ago, and so I
22 wasn't -- obviously, my ability to participate
23 in a lot of public discussion was significantly
24 limited, but I had been following the debate
25 and the lawsuit for a period of time. And I've

1 got to tell you, it confounded me. So I want
2 to -- I want to make sure you guys understand
3 some things.

4 The maps that you inherited from us were
5 not gerrymandered on the basis of race; they
6 were gerrymandered on the basis of race and
7 party affiliation. I know that. When we
8 were -- inherited the maps that had gotten to
9 us from the -- I think it was the 2000 census,
10 the ones that were in place when I came on City
11 Council, we made a -- significant progress in
12 drawing more compact maps, eliminating river
13 crossings, and things like that.

14 But when it came to District 7, 8, 9, and
15 10, and by consequence 14, those got
16 gerrymandered. And I know that because I was
17 talking to people in the Planning Department
18 and the General Counsel's Office. And the
19 guidance that came down from Eric Holder's
20 office, who was then the Attorney General for
21 the Obama administration, was that any dilution
22 of black voting strength, minority voting
23 strength would not be looked upon favorably.

24 Now, as it turns out, the only two people
25 to vote against those maps that were passed

1 back then were me and Council Member Matt
2 Schellenberg from District 3 -- District 6.
3 And we did that because we sincerely believed
4 that there could have been an exercise that
5 would have drawn more compact minority access
6 seats.

7 I want to be clear. This is -- of all the
8 urban counties in Florida, we have the largest
9 percentage black population, 30 percent black
10 population. We -- in a consolidated county, we
11 absolutely have to preserve minority access
12 districts. The question is, how do you go
13 about it? Well, the way they went about it
14 back when I was on City Council was they
15 gerrymandered it. We all know it. It's clear.
16 It's obvious.

17 So I think you've been given a difficult
18 assignment. You've decided to appeal the --
19 the ruling from the court. And, basically,
20 you've been asked to create minority access
21 districts without considering the racial
22 makeup, which is like having to square a
23 circle.

24 (Timer notification.)

25 MR. LUMB: But I think it's the way to go.

1 I think it's the smart thing to do going
2 forward. And it may not be easy --

3 COUNCIL MEMBER DIAMOND: That's time, sir.

4 MR. LUMB: -- but I think that's what the
5 people of Duval County would expect.

6 COUNCIL MEMBER DIAMOND: Thank you, sir.

7 Next speaker is Francina Early, followed
8 by Jerry Myer Jackson, Jr., followed by Carnell
9 Oliver.

10 * * * * *

11 COUNCIL MEMBER DIAMOND: Thank you, ma'am.

12 Next speaker is Jerry Myer Jackson, Jr.,
13 followed by Carnell Oliver, followed by Mike
14 Ludwick.

15 (Audience member approaches the podium.)

16 AUDIENCE MEMBER: I am Jerry Myer Jackson,
17 Jr.

18 I lived in Atlanta, Georgia for 73 years.
19 I moved down here last May. I've been a social
20 activist for quite a while.

21 Today, handed out socks and T-shirts with
22 a \$5 bill on them. The homeless and those less
23 fortunate are not hard to find. They're right
24 out here on the front steps. They're right out
25 here across the street.

1 Let's talk about national politics. Six
2 years ago, Donald Trump. Well, who supports
3 him? The holier-than-thou evangelical, the
4 conservative Christians. And let me tell you,
5 nothing in the teachings of Jesus Christ was
6 conservative. He is literally the picture of
7 liberalism. So these people that call
8 themselves conservative Christians -- I don't
9 care who you are; it's a phony religion.
10 There's no such thing. It's an oxymoron,
11 conservative Christian.

12 So we end up with something like Donald
13 Trump as president. Well, he's gone now, but
14 let me tell you, my fellow citizens, get out
15 and vote. Get out and vote. This is for the
16 soul of our nation.

17 When have you ever heard a conservative
18 Republican judge refer to Donald Trump and his
19 mega MAGA supporters as a clear and present
20 danger to this nation? When have you ever
21 heard that about any president? When have you
22 ever seen such trash about anybody?

23 And let's talk about Marco Rubio. I went
24 and saw him, had him fax some of my VA papers.
25 I told him -- I said to his staff right over

1 here across the street, I said, I'm a disabled
2 Marine Corps veteran. I'm in crisis mode. I
3 have a lot of issues and I need your help.
4 Well, they faxed something for me one time.
5 Went back over there, made an appointment and
6 everything to see Matthew over at Rubio's
7 office, and he told me he wasn't going to fax
8 it, they need more to copy for the senator.

9 I called the Washington office of the
10 senator. They suggested I go to another office
11 in another city. That's why I'm wearing this
12 shirt. We need Val Demings in there.

13 And my fellow veterans, let me tell you,
14 Marco Rubio is not the friend that you thought
15 he was.

16 And let me tell you about Jacksonville. I
17 hadn't been down here very long, and I kept
18 riding around, seeing these piles of tires
19 everywhere, seeing my neighbors next door
20 having birthdays for them when they were a year
21 or two years old on the side of the road. That
22 told me right there that this city of
23 Jacksonville, this Council cannot handle the
24 minor issues.

25 And let me tell you, when it comes to

1 redistricting, I could look at that map a mile
2 away and see that it was gerrymandered and
3 racist. Let me tell you, a district is not
4 supposed to look like the floodplain of the
5 St. Johns River. You understand that?

6 Corruption, racism, and this new bill --
7 (Timer notification.)

8 MR. JACKSON: -- for little cottages
9 behind homes, who's going to pay for all the
10 new --

11 COUNCIL MEMBER DIAMOND: That's time, sir.

12 MR. JACKSON: -- uh --

13 COUNCIL MEMBER DIAMOND: That's time, sir.

14 MR. JACKSON: -- people that are going to
15 be needing to check that, the poor -- other
16 poor --

17 COUNCIL MEMBER DIAMOND: Next speaker is
18 Carnell Oliver, followed by Mike Ludwick,
19 followed by --

20 (Audience member approaches the podium.)

21 AUDIENCE MEMBER: Yes. My name is Carnell
22 Oliver. Address is --

23 COUNCIL MEMBER DIAMOND: Excuse me,
24 Mr. Oliver.

25 AUDIENCE MEMBER: -- on file.

1 COUNCIL MEMBER DIAMOND: Mr. Oliver, I'm
2 reading the other names --

3 MR. OLIVER: Then restart my time.

4 COUNCIL MEMBER DIAMOND: Just wait a
5 moment, Mr. Oliver.

6 The next three speakers are Carnell
7 Oliver, Mike Ludwick, and LaShonda L.J.
8 Holloway.

9 Please start his time.

10 MR. OLIVER: All right. My name is
11 Carnell Oliver.

12 We've -- have a lot of systematic failures
13 that's in our system, but one of the key things
14 to me is lying and corrupt politicians across
15 the board. I don't care [sic] your party
16 affiliation. My thing about it is that I've
17 learned so much and I understand so much that
18 when I -- that I don't have really no -- no
19 respect for this body of government because you
20 lack character or substance.

21 When I look at elections, it's just not
22 talking about American history. It's the
23 economic control that's associated with
24 elections. When you allow Republicans to take
25 power, they struck -- they cut so many dollars

1 from key services that the problems escalate.
2 That's on the state, that's on the local,
3 that's on the federal level.

4 Look at -- look at the situation we're in
5 on the state level. We have a housing crisis.
6 This is an economic situation. Homeowners
7 insurance is an economic situation.

8 We've had a governor that's given billions
9 and billions of dollars in tax breaks to
10 corporations. And you know what he's done?
11 Excuse my language, but he's given the people
12 of this state his ass to kiss, because, simple
13 fact, he doesn't embody the values of
14 hard-working Floridians. He doesn't care about
15 the poor.

16 As long as you could build servitude to
17 the corporation, they will whip you down as
18 slaves. That's what they look at everyday
19 Floridians as.

20 Look at our mayor. Look out on the
21 federal level. Everything that Democrats are
22 doing on the federal level is about rebuilding
23 everything from the bottom up. This is why
24 elections are important.

25 As much as I like to talk about history,

1 it's the dollars and cents when it comes down
2 to elections. It's those key dollars that come
3 down to build our roads, create more affordable
4 housing. You know who supports that the most?
5 Democrats. Republicans' policy, philosophy has
6 always be -- been to put more pressure on the
7 working-class people. That way they don't
8 participate in our democracy. That's why you
9 always have more Republicans outvoting
10 Democrats, because we don't know -- know how to
11 see the truth.

12 It's the people, in my mind, versus
13 corporations, and those puppets of
14 corporations. And local in this community --
15 this is on both sides.

16 A couple of City Council members were
17 appointed by a Republican governor. Do you
18 think I have a lot of respect for them? No.
19 And one just won this upcoming special election
20 for former Council Member Garrett Dennis' seat.
21 She's not that strong. And I don't trust --

22 COUNCIL MEMBER DIAMOND: Mr. Oliver --

23 MR. OLIVER: -- none of you.

24 I didn't give no names.

25 COUNCIL MEMBER DIAMOND: -- please put

1 your address on the record too. You missed it.

2 State your address, too, for the record.

3 MR. OLIVER: Carnell Oliver. Address on
4 file.

5 COUNCIL MEMBER DIAMOND: Thank you.

6 All right. Mr. Ludwick, followed by
7 LaShonda L.J. Holloway, followed by Hunter
8 Miller.

9 (Audience member approaches the podium.)

10 AUDIENCE MEMBER: Good evening, everyone.

11 My name is Mike Ludwick. Address is on
12 file. Proud member of the Northside Coalition
13 of Jacksonville.

14 We've had some heat already tonight, so
15 I'll -- let's see if we can inject a little
16 humor into this situation.

17 So there once was a story about *Goldilocks*
18 *and the Three Bears*. In this story, Goldilocks
19 is the Northside Coalition and all the
20 plaintiffs in the redistricting lawsuit.

21 Now, Goldilocks -- Goldilocks walks into
22 City Council's home one day and finds a bowl of
23 redistricting porridge on the table. That was
24 Papa Bear's porridge. Now, Goldilocks tasted a
25 bit of that and it was too, too, too hot. Too

1 many black voters packed into too few
2 districts.

3 So Goldilocks looked around and was afraid
4 she might find Mama Bear's porridge. Now, that
5 redistrict porridge would be too, too, too
6 cold, right? That might have black voters
7 spread out over too many districts.

8 But don't worry. Tonight we have for you
9 a redistrict porridge that Baby Bear will like
10 because it is just right. And Dr. Marcella
11 Washington will be presenting that to you in a
12 moment. This map is just right.

13 Packing too many black voters into too few
14 districts is unconstitutional. You've already
15 been told that. Spreading black voters into
16 too many districts, overly diluting black
17 voting power, is also unconstitutional.

18 So take a look at this map; review it,
19 adopt it, save the taxpayers a ton of money on
20 consultants and attorneys, and all the -- the
21 roadblocks you all are trying to put up in
22 front of this. That could be over a million
23 dollars. That's going to -- that's on your
24 agenda, right? A million bucks for this
25 process you're going to be throwing away.

1 Please listen to the voice of the people
2 and Goldilocks.

3 Thank you.

4 COUNCIL MEMBER DIAMOND: Next is LaShonda
5 L.J. Holloway, followed by Hunter Miller,
6 followed by Marcella Washington.

7 Ms. Holloway, are you here?

8 AUDIENCE MEMBERS: (No response.)

9 COUNCIL MEMBER DIAMOND: All right. We'll
10 go to Mr. Miller.

11 * * * * *

12 COUNCIL MEMBER DIAMOND: Thank you, sir.

13 Next speaker is Marcella Washington,
14 followed by Duchee Stevens, followed by Nicole
15 Crosby.

16 (Audience member approaches the podium.)

17 AUDIENCE MEMBER: Good evening.

18 My name is Marcella Washington, 11361
19 Skimmer Court in Jacksonville, Duval County,
20 and -- and live in District 2.

21 I am one of the plaintiffs in the
22 redistricting lawsuit, and I'm here tonight
23 speaking on behalf of the plaintiffs in the
24 case.

25 As you know, the federal district court

1 found the Council map was an unconstitutional,
2 racial gerrymander that segregated voters on
3 the basis of race, packing black voters into
4 Districts 7, 8, 9, and 10, and stripping us
5 from surrounding districts, thereby minimizing
6 our influence in city politics.

7 The court gave the Council an opportunity
8 to undo the violation and to remedy these
9 wrongs. So as the Council embarks on its
10 map-making process, we submit for your
11 consideration a new map that cures the problem
12 the court identified.

13 This map can be viewed online and data
14 files are downloaded at ACLUFL.org, slash --
15 backslash, Jaxmap. We also have printed copies
16 here for you today.

17 The plaintiffs' Unity Map redraws the
18 districts struck down by the court, remedying
19 the constitutional violations. Districts are
20 logically compact, lines represent
21 neighborhoods, follow major geographical
22 boundaries, and preserve genuine community of
23 interest. And, of course, this map undos [sic]
24 the racial gerrymandering that has violated our
25 right to equal protection of the laws, and

1 which also -- while it also complies with the
2 Voting Rights Act and protecting
3 representation.

4 Finally, the Unity Map we submit to you
5 presents a new vision for the city of
6 Jacksonville, one that moves us forward rather
7 than backwards, one that advances
8 representation rather than constrains it, one
9 that brings us together rather than divides us.

10 We urge you to consider this map as you
11 continue your legislative process, and we look
12 forward to following your deliberations in the
13 coming days.

14 Thank you.

15 * * * * *

16 COUNCIL MEMBER DIAMOND: Next is Ayesha
17 Franklin, followed by Levoyus Partlow, followed
18 by Essey Howard.

19 (Audience member approaches the podium.)

20 AUDIENCE MEMBER: Good evening.

21 I am Ayesha Franklin Covington. I am a --
22 my address is on file.

23 I'm a plaintiff on the lawsuit. I'm suing
24 because my representation in District 8 lacks
25 any division, lacks any necessities. We don't

1 have grocery stores.

2 I want you to do me a favor. I want you
3 to unpack the black vote. I didn't come down
4 here, buy property in 2006, in Brooklyn, to be
5 moved from District 9 to District 7.

6 And when we got to court, the lawyer said
7 we didn't complain. Consider this a complaint.

8 When voters get up and come down here -- I
9 know y'all busy. Y'all got your own agenda.
10 But listen to the voters. We're speaking to
11 you.

12 And I also noticed that the committee is
13 not bipartisan. It's mostly white males and
14 one person appointed by the Republican
15 administration, who now is a Dem.

16 But I want to say to you, the meeting, the
17 times of the meeting are inconvenient for the
18 public. 12:00 to 1:00 -- 12:30 to 1:00.
19 12:00, that's lunch. Anybody who runs a
20 business, like you all do, don't have time for
21 your foolishness.

22 The other thing I want to say to you is,
23 why are you wasting the court's time with an
24 appeal and why are you wasting the taxpayers'
25 money? Because if it was your money and you

1 had lost what -- so many clear directives of
2 where you had violated us -- hey, that us is
3 me.

4 I was coming to this council, I was
5 begging for help, I was paying taxes, and my
6 vote did not matter because we were put
7 together deliberately.

8 I can't get a grocery store in District 8,
9 but I see they got a garden on Moncrief. Why
10 can't I get a grocery store? That's very
11 important to me.

12 We have a cancer cluster going on in
13 Jacksonville. Everybody we know is dying with
14 cancer because we can't get good food -- good,
15 clean food that's not grown in contaminated
16 soil, a soil that's cleaned up to the EPA
17 standard, which is nothing.

18 I didn't speak previously because some
19 things need to be vetted in court. I wanted my
20 day in court. I wanted to be heard. And I
21 came tonight to say, let's finish this process.

22 None of us knows who's going to win those
23 seats. You can't protect yourself. Why don't
24 you open up, be transparent, listen to the
25 people that are voting for you, and stop having

1 your own agenda, and stop giving away corporate
2 welfare.

3 The DIA need to stop, too, giving away
4 downtown to developers. We can't afford to buy
5 that -- to rent, own, or purchase what they're
6 building. It's out of our scope. We don't
7 make that much money in this city, even working
8 two jobs.

9 (Timer notification.)

10 COUNCIL MEMBER DIAMOND: Thank you, ma'am.

11 MS. FRANKLIN COVINGTON: You have a great
12 evening.

13 COUNCIL MEMBER DIAMOND: Next is Levoyus
14 Partlow, followed by Essey Howard, followed by
15 Michael [sic] Lomax, I think.

16 (Audience member approaches the podium.)

17 AUDIENCE MEMBER: Good evening.

18 Levoyus Partlow, 1508 North Myrtle Avenue.

19 My house is still shaking. Last time I
20 came here, I looked around, and I said, well, I
21 live in District 9. Oh, okay. District 9.

22 Well, I contacted my District 9 people
23 to -- no response, you know, but my house is
24 still shaking. And I thought that was the way
25 that we would possibly go. You know, you go to

1 your councilman, councilwoman, or whatever,
2 till -- with your problem that you have within
3 your community.

4 Ah, I get nothing. But my house is still
5 shaking. And I hope that the streets
6 department, whoever, will take care of this
7 problem before some bus or truck or something
8 falls in the hole and somebody gets hurt.

9 Moving on. Redistricting. I remember
10 that a few years back, about '10 or '11,
11 whatever, same situation, same problem.

12 I live in a little sliver between Myrtle
13 Avenue -- well, the corner of Myrtle Avenue and
14 6th Street -- Myrtle and -- yeah -- well,
15 anyway, there's a little, bitty sliver there,
16 and it's -- oh, I'm in District 9 rather than
17 District 8. Take a peek at that, 6th and
18 Myrtle, where that borders.

19 What else do we have here?

20 I'm just disappointed that I can't get my
21 house to stop shaking. What do I have to do?
22 Who do I have to see? What is it that -- you
23 know, that goes on? The -- you know, is it the
24 shoddy workmanship of the contractors that
25 we've hired to -- in this city? I don't know.

1 Who hired them?

2 Oh, boy. I'm just pissed because my house
3 shakes. You ever sit on the toilet and have
4 the water bounce up on your butt? Nah.

5 COUNCIL MEMBER DIAMOND: Sir --

6 MR. PARTLOW: Oh, excuse me. On your --
7 excuse me, on your behind.

8 So -- but anyway, it's a very, very awful
9 feeling. So if your house shakes, let me know.
10 You know what I mean? Tell me how you remedy
11 that.

12 Oh, wait a minute. Call an engineer, have
13 him declare that all this is wrong. Spend,
14 what, 4- or \$5,000 to make sure that I'm
15 justified in what I say. You know, I'm kind of
16 poor, but anyway ...

17 Hey, vote. Republicans are going to take
18 away your Social Security check; I need mine.
19 Vote.

20 There's a lot of women out there. Well, I
21 got five ex-wives and two baby mamas, so, you
22 know, what can I -- who -- what can I say?

23 But anyway, have a nice evening and enjoy
24 yourselves.

25 COUNCIL MEMBER DIAMOND: Thank you, sir.

1 Next is --

2 VICE PRESIDENT SALEM: Sir, just a second.

3 Sir, Councilmember Carlucci would like to
4 meet with you. And if there's anybody from
5 Public Works that could meet him in the Bob
6 Johnson Green Room, please do that.

7 Thank you.

8 COUNCIL MEMBER DIAMOND: Essey Howard,
9 followed by Michelle Loman [sic], followed by
10 Ben Frazier.

11 (Audience member approaches the podium.)

12 AUDIENCE MEMBER: Good evening.

13 My name is Essey Howard. Everything is on
14 file.

15 Now, I'm not going to read from a piece of
16 paper because no matter how we put it, some of
17 y'all don't even hear us. One, two, three,
18 four, five -- five empty chairs up there. That
19 let me know you don't want to -- they don't
20 want to hear what we got to say.

21 I've been in this town all my life. And
22 everywhere we stay, they came and tore it down,
23 the whole neighborhood, Brooklyn, Camel Hill,
24 uptown, LaVilla. And you packed us in these
25 reservations called apartment complexes. You

1 packed us in them. We don't have no
2 representation.

3 All y'all Council people, your job is the
4 whole city, not just your district. Some of
5 y'all need to step out and do something because
6 I ride around this city and you can definitely
7 see the haves and the have-nots. Some get it
8 and some don't.

9 And now for this gerrymandering thing,
10 y'all know what y'all was doing. Y'all got to
11 wake up. Be true to thyself, that you're going
12 to help us. You know, we ain't asking for the
13 whole boat. We just want something. We want
14 y'all to tear down all these abandoned
15 buildings in our neighborhoods. That's what we
16 want y'all to do. And that goes for whoever is
17 in my district. That's what you need to do.

18 Some of y'all need to just get on a bus
19 and ride around Jacksonville and see some of
20 the deplorable places. Y'all got to do better.
21 Y'all got to do better.

22 I've been here 68 years, and I haven't
23 seen improvement in the Moncrief area. No, I
24 have not. I haven't seen improvement in the
25 Brooklyn area. In the Nixon Town -- oh,

1 they're trying to change that name to the
2 Rail Yard. I ain't get that memo, that they
3 was changing that name. Meanwhile, we didn't
4 get that memo.

5 But y'all got to do better. Look at all
6 them empty chairs. That's a shame. Don't make
7 no sense. That mean they don't want to hear
8 what we got to say. Don't pretend; be
9 yourself. Just help us because y'all in
10 control. Y'all disburse that money.

11 Thank you.

12 COUNCIL MEMBER DIAMOND: Thank you, sir.

13 Next is Michelle Loman [sic], followed by
14 Ben Frazier, followed by Eunice Barnum.

15 (Audience member approaches the podium.)

16 COUNCIL MEMBER DIAMOND: I butchered your
17 name a few times; I apologize.

18 AUDIENCE MEMBER: Michelle Lomax.

19 My address is on file. The Lord sent me
20 here tonight to address this body and to give a
21 short word. The Lord would say to each of you
22 that what he now do -- does, he will do for the
23 good of his people.

24 Thank you so much for your time. Have a
25 pleasant evening.

1 COUNCIL MEMBER DIAMOND: Thank you, ma'am.

2 Next is Ben Frazier, followed by Eunice
3 Barnum, followed by John Nooney.

4 (Audience member approaches the podium.)

5 AUDIENCE MEMBER: Good evening.

6 Ben Frazier. The address is on record.

7 I'm back.

8 I would be remiss if I did not pause for
9 just a moment to thank the thousands of people
10 who live in this city, regardless of creed or
11 color, who have paused to offer me
12 encouragement and inspiration in my struggle to
13 overcome cancer.

14 We must begin in this city to work
15 together. There's far too much division, far
16 too much animosity, far too much distrust.

17 During this redistricting process, many
18 people spoke out. We asked you to listen to
19 the voice of the people. You did not listen.
20 Now you must listen to the judge and create new
21 maps.

22 We're offering new maps tonight, maps that
23 can bring about togetherness in our community.
24 It is time for us to work together. We must
25 take this opportunity to help all the members

1 of our city to be heard and represented. There
2 must be more unity in our community.

3 Folks, it's time for us to bury some damn
4 hatchets. Okay? Time for us to offer and to
5 accept all the branches of peace. Is there
6 something wrong with that?

7 We want to work with you. We want to make
8 this one city, one that is too busy to hate.

9 I work and I stand up and I speak out
10 against social, racial, and economic injustice,
11 racial discrimination and hatred. But make no
12 mistake about it when I stand before you
13 tonight and say -- I say clearly, Jacksonville
14 needs more cooperation. Jacksonville needs
15 more collaboration, working together. We need
16 leadership.

17 We need to see on this council profiles in
18 courage. We don't need to see profiles in
19 partisan politics and race and white supremacy.

20 Collaboration, that's the word. Why?
21 Because none of us is as smart as all of us.
22 What Jacksonville needs now is love.

23 COUNCIL MEMBER DIAMOND: Thank you, sir.

24 Next is Eunice Barnum, followed by John
25 Nooney, and our last speaker is Blake Harper.

1 (Audience member approaches the podium.)

2 AUDIENCE MEMBER: Good evening.

3 Eunice Barnum, and my address is on file.

4 I was sitting there reading all through
5 your agenda, and every word having -- I mean,
6 all through it, I see "pursuit [sic] to
7 section" -- "pursuit to." If you write the law
8 and you know about pursuit to the law, then how
9 you get the Constitution wrong? And that's
10 what you raised your hand and swore to.

11 I am thoroughly confused here. You can't
12 know some of the law and pursue it and then
13 willfully, boldly, wantonly, deliberately
14 violate the Constitution. There's supposed to
15 be consequences for violating the Constitutions
16 [sic].

17 Now, if you can write all this and read
18 all of this, how you get we, the people? We is
19 a preK word, elementary. We, the people of the
20 state of Florida. Florida guarantee me equal,
21 civil, and political rights to a simple word,
22 a-l-l, that all of you seem -- you got me
23 confused, honestly.

24 If you can pursue all this, then you need
25 to know how to pursue following the

1 Constitution that you took an oath to. And we
2 need accountability. Time out for this
3 foolishness.

4 You sit here, you look back at us, you sit
5 here and you hide your face and your head, and
6 we got four that think -- what is it, 42
7 attorneys that supposed to be guiding you all?
8 And yet you sit here, you get the Constitution
9 wrong, then you come back and you're going to
10 draw another map.

11 I mean, why -- if you pursuing now, why
12 were you not pursuing then? I need an answer.
13 I need accountability, because this shows me
14 you know -- you know exactly what you're doing.
15 Somebody knows something is going on.

16 You're choosing when you want to do it and
17 choosing when you don't, and we need
18 accountability. I want accountability and I
19 want my money back.

20 * * * * *

21 COUNCIL MEMBER DIAMOND: Last speaker is
22 Blake Harper.

23 (Audience member approaches the podium.)

24 AUDIENCE MEMBER: Good evening, Acting
25 Council President. Good to see you up there.

1 Get some practice in for next year, I guess.

2 And the rest of the City Council Members,
3 men and women.

4 The title of my -- you can look on my
5 green card --

6 COUNCIL MEMBER DIAMOND: Name and address,
7 please, sir.

8 AUDIENCE MEMBER: I do it all the time.

9 Blake Harper. Information on file.

10 If you look at my card, the subject
11 tonight is protocol. I want to talk about
12 protocol for a minute.

13 Y'all have just passed some rulings about
14 how people speak up here. One of the things
15 that you -- correct me if I'm wrong -- and I
16 was corrected last week. You're not supposed
17 to come up with political shirts on, political
18 information, yet you let a man saying "Rubio
19 kills vets" stand here for three minutes. Now,
20 that's not -- that's against your rules. If
21 I'm wrong, correct me.

22 Something else. I hear this over again --
23 over again. We are here to hear -- we are here
24 to hear from you, this is your opportunity to
25 speak to us.

1 I wanted to call out and I want to thank
2 District 10, the councilwoman, for honoring
3 protocol. We have greatly different points of
4 view. In fact, many of you here on this City
5 Council have greatly different points of view,
6 yet you honored your roles to sit and let
7 people speak, except for one who decided in the
8 middle of public comment to stand up and attack
9 Tony Langhals.

10 I don't hear anybody standing up to stand
11 against people calling Caucasians white racists
12 and -- whatever the other thing is. And I
13 don't hear anybody standing up and protecting
14 the African-American Republican City Councilmen
15 who are called race-traitors, but Tony Langhals
16 stands up and he calls out facts about the
17 person who's filing a lawsuit against the City
18 and says he's attacking his character when
19 those are actual facts of life. And when you
20 lose your law license, that is a serious issue.

21 Now, let me point something out to you as
22 well. This particular individual has a
23 website. The website is called Take It Down,
24 LLC. And it shows -- it's a 501(c)(3)
25 organization. But guess what? They aren't

1 allowed to do business in Florida, but his
2 website's up. And it says -- it was -- it was
3 an administrative dissolution for annual
4 report, September -- September of last year.
5 This is the guy who is suing the City of
6 Jacksonville.

7 We speak facts, folks. We speak facts,
8 folks. And sometimes those facts are not good
9 facts, but they're facts and we need to
10 understand what this battle is about.

11 Thank you.

12 COUNCIL MEMBER DIAMOND: Thank you, sir.

13 That is the end of public comment.

14 * * * * *

15 COUNCIL MEMBER DIAMOND: And we have no
16 further business, Mr. Vice President.

17 VICE PRESIDENT SALEM: Now -- oh, we don't
18 have to act on it, on --

19 COUNCIL MEMBER DIAMOND: No. I do have an
20 announcement for it, though, if you --

21 VICE PRESIDENT SALEM: Okay.

22 Announcements, please.

23 COUNCIL MEMBER DIAMOND: Thank you,
24 Mr. Vice President.

25 I just want to make sure the public

1 understands that on item 2022-800, that's the
2 redistricting bill, there's a series of
3 meetings next week, so 11/1, 11/2, and 11/3,
4 and then a special Council meeting on 11/4 with
5 a public hearing. The special Council meeting
6 and public hearing have all been noticed in the
7 Daily Record, but please know that these
8 meetings are all coming up. And that's the --
9 the public's ability to interact with the
10 Council, who's looking at this, the Special
11 Committee that's looking at this, and to, you
12 know, get their due process in this -- in the
13 month that we're doing the redistricting.

14 (The foregoing proceedings were concluded
15 at 7:27 p.m.)

16 * * * * *

1 CERTIFICATE OF REPORTER

2
3 STATE OF FLORIDA)
4)
5 COUNTY OF DUVAL)
6

7 I, Diane M. Tropia, Florida Professional
8 Reporter, certify that I was authorized to and did
9 transcribe the foregoing proceedings and that the
10 transcript is a true and complete record of my
11 stenographic notes.
12
13
14

15 DATED this 1st day of November, 2022.
16
17

18 _____ *Diane M Tropia* _____

19 Diane M. Tropia
20 Florida Professional Reporter
21
22
23
24
25

CITY OF JACKSONVILLE
CITY COUNCIL
MEETING

Excerpt of videotaped proceedings held on
Tuesday, October 25, 2022, commencing at 5:00 p.m.,
City Hall, Council Chambers, 117 West Duval Street,
Jacksonville, Florida.

PRESENT:

RON SALEM, Vice President, City Council.
RORY DIAMOND, Floor Leader.
DANNY BECTON, City Council Member.
MICHAEL BOYLAN, City Council Member.
MATT CARLUCCI, City Council Member.
KEVIN CARRICO, City Council Member.
RANDY DeFOOR, City Council Member.
AL FERRARO, City Council Member.
REGGIE GAFFNEY, City Council Member.
JOYCE MORGAN, City Council Member.
SAM NEWBY, City Council Member.
JU'COBY PITTMAN, City Council Member.
BRENDA PRIESTLY JACKSON, City Council Member.
NICK HOWLAND, City Council Member.
TYRONA CLARK-MURRAY, City Council Member.
RANDY WHITE, City Council Member.

- - -

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(904) 821-0300

PROCEEDINGS
October 25, 2022 5:00 p.m.

- - -

VICE PRESIDENT SALEM: Welcome to the
October 25th City Council meeting.

* * * * *

VICE PRESIDENT SALEM: If you've not put
your phone on vibrate, please do that at this
time.

Let's have roll call.

(Council ballot opened.)

COUNCIL MEMBER BECTON: (Present.)

COUNCIL MEMBER BOYLAN: (Present.)

COUNCIL MEMBER CARLUCCI: (Present.)

COUNCIL MEMBER DeFOOR: (Present.)

COUNCIL MEMBER DIAMOND: (Present.)

COUNCIL MEMBER GAFFNEY: (Present.)

COUNCIL MEMBER MORGAN: (Present.)

COUNCIL MEMBER NEWBY: (Present.)

COUNCIL MEMBER PITTMAN: (Present.)

C/M PRIESTLY JACKSON: (Present.)

COUNCIL MEMBER SALEM: (Present.)

COUNCIL MEMBER WHITE: (Present.)

COUNCIL MEMBER CARRICO: (Present.)

COUNCIL MEMBER HOWLAND: (Present.)

COUNCIL MEMBER CLARK-MURRAY: (Present.)

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1 ALSO PRESENT:

2 MARGARET M. SIDMAN, Council Director/Secretary.
3 MARY STAFFOPOULOS, Office of General Counsel.
4 PAIGE JOHNSTON, Office of General Counsel.
5 MERRIANE G. LAHMEUR, Chief of Legislative Services.

- - -

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(Council ballot closed.)

LEGISLATIVE AIDE: Fifteen present.

(Council Member Ferraro enters the
proceedings at 7:00 p.m.)

* * * * *

COUNCIL MEMBER BOYLAN: Moving on now to
Page 12, public comment. The public comment
portion of the regular City Council meeting
shall occur immediately after the economic
development investment -- incentive
legislation, which there are none tonight.

So moving ahead. Comments from the public
given during the public comment portion of the
meeting, except public hearing comments, shall
be limited to up to three minutes and no
persons shall be allowed to give or transfer
his or her time to speak to another person.
The Council shall reserve up to
one-and-a-half hours of time for the public
comment period. The deadline for filing and
submitting a speaker's card for that public
comment is 60 minutes from this point in time,
which is now 5:35.

While there are multiple speakers, time
allocated shall be divided. We only have 20

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<p>5</p> <p>1 speakers at this point, so we should be moving</p> <p>2 forward with a full three minutes.</p> <p>3 Each person addressing the Council shall</p> <p>4 proceed to the place assigned for speaking,</p> <p>5 give his or her name, county of residence, in</p> <p>6 an audible tone of your voice for the record.</p> <p>7 And that's all.</p> <p>8 VICE PRESIDENT SALEM: But before we get</p> <p>9 started, Rules Chair, are there people that you</p> <p>10 want to recognize?</p> <p>11 * * * * *</p> <p>12 VICE PRESIDENT SALEM: Okay.</p> <p>13 COUNCIL MEMBER DIAMOND: All right.</p> <p>14 Mr. Vice President, now we jump right into</p> <p>15 public comment. And as Councilman Boylan --</p> <p>16 who is a very good stand-in floor leader;</p> <p>17 appreciate it, sir -- said, I will read the</p> <p>18 first three names. Because we've got only 20</p> <p>19 cards, we've got time for three minutes apiece.</p> <p>20 So the first three are -- and when I read</p> <p>21 your names, please come on down to the front</p> <p>22 here. It will save time.</p> <p>23 Robin Lumb, Francina Early, and Jerry Myer</p> <p>24 Jackson, Jr.</p> <p>25 (Audience member approaches the podium.)</p> <p>Diane M. Tropia, Inc., Post Office Box 2375, Jacksonville, FL 32203</p> <p>(904) 821-0300</p>	<p>7</p> <p>1 got to tell you, it confounded me. So I want</p> <p>2 to -- I want to make sure you guys understand</p> <p>3 some things.</p> <p>4 The maps that you inherited from us were</p> <p>5 not gerrymandered on the basis of race; they</p> <p>6 were gerrymandered on the basis of race and</p> <p>7 party affiliation. I know that. When we</p> <p>8 were -- inherited the maps that had gotten to</p> <p>9 us from the -- I think it was the 2000 census,</p> <p>10 the ones that were in place when I came on City</p> <p>11 Council, we made a -- significant progress in</p> <p>12 drawing more compact maps, eliminating river</p> <p>13 crossings, and things like that.</p> <p>14 But when it came to District 7, 8, 9, and</p> <p>15 10, and by consequence 14, those got</p> <p>16 gerrymandered. And I know that because I was</p> <p>17 talking to people in the Planning Department</p> <p>18 and the General Counsel's Office. And the</p> <p>19 guidance that came down from Eric Holder's</p> <p>20 office, who was then the Attorney General for</p> <p>21 the Obama administration, was that any dilution</p> <p>22 of black voting strength, minority voting</p> <p>23 strength would not be looked upon favorably.</p> <p>24 Now, as it turns out, the only two people</p> <p>25 to vote against those maps that were passed</p> <p>Diane M. Tropia, Inc., Post Office Box 2375, Jacksonville, FL 32203</p> <p>(904) 821-0300</p>
<p>6</p> <p>1 COUNCIL MEMBER DIAMOND: Former</p> <p>2 councilman.</p> <p>3 AUDIENCE MEMBER: My first time back in</p> <p>4 seven years. Eleven years ago --</p> <p>5 COUNCIL MEMBER DIAMOND: Sir, I hate to</p> <p>6 interrupt you, but name and address for the</p> <p>7 record, which I know you know the rule.</p> <p>8 AUDIENCE MEMBER: Oh, I'm sorry. I forgot</p> <p>9 all about that part.</p> <p>10 Robin Lumb, 2164 Gilmore Street,</p> <p>11 Jacksonville, Florida, Duval County. And my</p> <p>12 name and address is on file everywhere.</p> <p>13 Eleven years ago, I was sitting where</p> <p>14 y'all are sitting today. Actually, I was</p> <p>15 sitting right over there where our latest --</p> <p>16 newest council member is sitting,</p> <p>17 Ms. Clark-Murray, and we had just passed the</p> <p>18 maps, the redistricting maps that y'all</p> <p>19 inherited.</p> <p>20 And I have followed -- I only left the</p> <p>21 Curry administration a few months ago, and so I</p> <p>22 wasn't -- obviously, my ability to participate</p> <p>23 in a lot of public discussion was significantly</p> <p>24 limited, but I had been following the debate</p> <p>25 and the lawsuit for a period of time. And I've</p> <p>Diane M. Tropia, Inc., Post Office Box 2375, Jacksonville, FL 32203</p> <p>(904) 821-0300</p>	<p>8</p> <p>1 back then were me and Council Member Matt</p> <p>2 Schellenberg from District 3 -- District 6.</p> <p>3 And we did that because we sincerely believed</p> <p>4 that there could have been an exercise that</p> <p>5 would have drawn more compact minority access</p> <p>6 seats.</p> <p>7 I want to be clear. This is -- of all the</p> <p>8 urban counties in Florida, we have the largest</p> <p>9 percentage black population, 30 percent black</p> <p>10 population. We -- in a consolidated county, we</p> <p>11 absolutely have to preserve minority access</p> <p>12 districts. The question is, how do you go</p> <p>13 about it? Well, the way they went about it</p> <p>14 back when I was on City Council was they</p> <p>15 gerrymandered it. We all know it. It's clear.</p> <p>16 It's obvious.</p> <p>17 So I think you've been given a difficult</p> <p>18 assignment. You've decided to appeal the --</p> <p>19 the ruling from the court. And, basically,</p> <p>20 you've been asked to create minority access</p> <p>21 districts without considering the racial</p> <p>22 makeup, which is like having to square a</p> <p>23 circle.</p> <p>24 (Timer notification.)</p> <p>25 MR. LUMB: But I think it's the way to go.</p> <p>Diane M. Tropia, Inc., Post Office Box 2375, Jacksonville, FL 32203</p> <p>(904) 821-0300</p> <p>Ex. 4, pp. 039</p>

<p style="text-align: right;">9</p> <p>1 I think it's the smart thing to do going</p> <p>2 forward. And it may not be easy --</p> <p>3 COUNCIL MEMBER DIAMOND: That's time, sir.</p> <p>4 MR. LUMB: -- but I think that's what the</p> <p>5 people of Duval County would expect.</p> <p>6 COUNCIL MEMBER DIAMOND: Thank you, sir.</p> <p>7 Next speaker is Francina Early, followed</p> <p>8 by Jerry Myer Jackson, Jr., followed by Carnell</p> <p>9 Oliver.</p> <p>10 * * * * *</p> <p>11 COUNCIL MEMBER DIAMOND: Thank you, ma'am.</p> <p>12 Next speaker is Jerry Myer Jackson, Jr.,</p> <p>13 followed by Carnell Oliver, followed by Mike</p> <p>14 Ludwick.</p> <p>15 (Audience member approaches the podium.)</p> <p>16 AUDIENCE MEMBER: I am Jerry Myer Jackson,</p> <p>17 Jr.</p> <p>18 I lived in Atlanta, Georgia for 73 years.</p> <p>19 I moved down here last May. I've been a social</p> <p>20 activist for quite a while.</p> <p>21 Today, handed out socks and T-shirts with</p> <p>22 a \$5 bill on them. The homeless and those less</p> <p>23 fortunate are not hard to find. They're right</p> <p>24 out here on the front steps. They're right out</p> <p>25 here across the street.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Diane M. Tropa, Inc., Post Office Box 2375, Jacksonville, FL 32203 (904) 821-0300</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">11</p> <p>1 here across the street, I said, I'm a disabled</p> <p>2 Marine Corps veteran. I'm in crisis mode. I</p> <p>3 have a lot of issues and I need your help.</p> <p>4 Well, they faxed something for me one time.</p> <p>5 Went back over there, made an appointment and</p> <p>6 everything to see Matthew over at Rubio's</p> <p>7 office, and he told me he wasn't going to fax</p> <p>8 it, they need more to copy for the senator.</p> <p>9 I called the Washington office of the</p> <p>10 senator. They suggested I go to another office</p> <p>11 in another city. That's why I'm wearing this</p> <p>12 shirt. We need Val Demings in there.</p> <p>13 And my fellow veterans, let me tell you,</p> <p>14 Marco Rubio is not the friend that you thought</p> <p>15 he was.</p> <p>16 And let me tell you about Jacksonville. I</p> <p>17 hadn't been down here very long, and I kept</p> <p>18 riding around, seeing these piles of tires</p> <p>19 everywhere, seeing my neighbors next door</p> <p>20 having birthdays for them when they were a year</p> <p>21 or two years old on the side of the road. That</p> <p>22 told me right there that this city of</p> <p>23 Jacksonville, this Council cannot handle the</p> <p>24 minor issues.</p> <p>25 And let me tell you, when it comes to</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Diane M. Tropa, Inc., Post Office Box 2375, Jacksonville, FL 32203 (904) 821-0300</p>
<p style="text-align: right;">10</p> <p>1 Let's talk about national politics. Six</p> <p>2 years ago, Donald Trump. Well, who supports</p> <p>3 him? The holier-than-thou evangelical, the</p> <p>4 conservative Christians. And let me tell you,</p> <p>5 nothing in the teachings of Jesus Christ was</p> <p>6 conservative. He is literally the picture of</p> <p>7 liberalism. So these people that call</p> <p>8 themselves conservative Christians -- I don't</p> <p>9 care who you are; it's a phony religion.</p> <p>10 There's no such thing. It's an oxymoron,</p> <p>11 conservative Christian.</p> <p>12 So we end up with something like Donald</p> <p>13 Trump as president. Well, he's gone now, but</p> <p>14 let me tell you, my fellow citizens, get out</p> <p>15 and vote. Get out and vote. This is for the</p> <p>16 soul of our nation.</p> <p>17 When have you ever heard a conservative</p> <p>18 Republican judge refer to Donald Trump and his</p> <p>19 mega MAGA supporters as a clear and present</p> <p>20 danger to this nation? When have you ever</p> <p>21 heard that about any president? When have you</p> <p>22 ever seen such trash about anybody?</p> <p>23 And let's talk about Marco Rubio. I went</p> <p>24 and saw him, had him fax some of my VA papers.</p> <p>25 I told him -- I said to his staff right over</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Diane M. Tropa, Inc., Post Office Box 2375, Jacksonville, FL 32203 (904) 821-0300</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">12</p> <p>1 redistricting, I could look at that map a mile</p> <p>2 away and see that it was gerrymandered and</p> <p>3 racist. Let me tell you, a district is not</p> <p>4 supposed to look like the floodplain of the</p> <p>5 St. Johns River. You understand that?</p> <p>6 Corruption, racism, and this new bill --</p> <p>7 (Timer notification.)</p> <p>8 MR. JACKSON: -- for little cottages</p> <p>9 behind homes, who's going to pay for all the</p> <p>10 new --</p> <p>11 COUNCIL MEMBER DIAMOND: That's time, sir.</p> <p>12 MR. JACKSON: -- uh --</p> <p>13 COUNCIL MEMBER DIAMOND: That's time, sir.</p> <p>14 MR. JACKSON: -- people that are going to</p> <p>15 be needing to check that, the poor -- other</p> <p>16 poor --</p> <p>17 COUNCIL MEMBER DIAMOND: Next speaker is</p> <p>18 Carnell Oliver, followed by Mike Ludwick,</p> <p>19 followed by --</p> <p>20 (Audience member approaches the podium.)</p> <p>21 AUDIENCE MEMBER: Yes. My name is Carnell</p> <p>22 Oliver. Address is --</p> <p>23 COUNCIL MEMBER DIAMOND: Excuse me,</p> <p>24 Mr. Oliver.</p> <p>25 AUDIENCE MEMBER: -- on file.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Diane M. Tropa, Inc., Post Office Box 2375, Jacksonville, FL 32203 (904) 821-0300</p>

<p>13</p> <p>1 COUNCIL MEMBER DIAMOND: Mr. Oliver, I'm</p> <p>2 reading the other names --</p> <p>3 MR. OLIVER: Then restart my time.</p> <p>4 COUNCIL MEMBER DIAMOND: Just wait a</p> <p>5 moment, Mr. Oliver.</p> <p>6 The next three speakers are Carnell</p> <p>7 Oliver, Mike Ludwick, and LaShonda L.J.</p> <p>8 Holloway.</p> <p>9 Please start his time.</p> <p>10 MR. OLIVER: All right. My name is</p> <p>11 Carnell Oliver.</p> <p>12 We've -- have a lot of systematic failures</p> <p>13 that's in our system, but one of the key things</p> <p>14 to me is lying and corrupt politicians across</p> <p>15 the board. I don't care [sic] your party</p> <p>16 affiliation. My thing about it is that I've</p> <p>17 learned so much and I understand so much that</p> <p>18 when I -- that I don't have really no -- no</p> <p>19 respect for this body of government because you</p> <p>20 lack character or substance.</p> <p>21 When I look at elections, it's just not</p> <p>22 talking about American history. It's the</p> <p>23 economic control that's associated with</p> <p>24 elections. When you allow Republicans to take</p> <p>25 power, they struck -- they cut so many dollars</p> <p>Diane M. Tropa, Inc., Post Office Box 2375, Jacksonville, FL 32203 (904) 821-0300</p>	<p>15</p> <p>1 it's the dollars and cents when it comes down</p> <p>2 to elections. It's those key dollars that come</p> <p>3 down to build our roads, create more affordable</p> <p>4 housing. You know who supports that the most?</p> <p>5 Democrats. Republicans' policy, philosophy has</p> <p>6 always be -- been to put more pressure on the</p> <p>7 working-class people. That way they don't</p> <p>8 participate in our democracy. That's why you</p> <p>9 always have more Republicans outvoting</p> <p>10 Democrats, because we don't know -- know how to</p> <p>11 see the truth.</p> <p>12 It's the people, in my mind, versus</p> <p>13 corporations, and those puppets of</p> <p>14 corporations. And local in this community --</p> <p>15 this is on both sides.</p> <p>16 A couple of City Council members were</p> <p>17 appointed by a Republican governor. Do you</p> <p>18 think I have a lot of respect for them? No.</p> <p>19 And one just won this upcoming special election</p> <p>20 for former Council Member Garrett Dennis' seat.</p> <p>21 She's not that strong. And I don't trust --</p> <p>22 COUNCIL MEMBER DIAMOND: Mr. Oliver --</p> <p>23 MR. OLIVER: -- none of you.</p> <p>24 I didn't give no names.</p> <p>25 COUNCIL MEMBER DIAMOND: -- please put</p> <p>Diane M. Tropa, Inc., Post Office Box 2375, Jacksonville, FL 32203 (904) 821-0300</p>
<p>14</p> <p>1 from key services that the problems escalate.</p> <p>2 That's on the state, that's on the local,</p> <p>3 that's on the federal level.</p> <p>4 Look at -- look at the situation we're in</p> <p>5 on the state level. We have a housing crisis.</p> <p>6 This is an economic situation. Homeowners</p> <p>7 insurance is an economic situation.</p> <p>8 We've had a governor that's given billions</p> <p>9 and billions of dollars in tax breaks to</p> <p>10 corporations. And you know what he's done?</p> <p>11 Excuse my language, but he's given the people</p> <p>12 of this state his ass to kiss, because, simple</p> <p>13 fact, he doesn't embody the values of</p> <p>14 hard-working Floridians. He doesn't care about</p> <p>15 the poor.</p> <p>16 As long as you could build servitude to</p> <p>17 the corporation, they will whip you down as</p> <p>18 slaves. That's what they look at everyday</p> <p>19 Floridians as.</p> <p>20 Look at our mayor. Look out on the</p> <p>21 federal level. Everything that Democrats are</p> <p>22 doing on the federal level is about rebuilding</p> <p>23 everything from the bottom up. This is why</p> <p>24 elections are important.</p> <p>25 As much as I like to talk about history,</p> <p>Diane M. Tropa, Inc., Post Office Box 2375, Jacksonville, FL 32203 (904) 821-0300</p>	<p>16</p> <p>1 your address on the record too. You missed it.</p> <p>2 State your address, too, for the record.</p> <p>3 MR. OLIVER: Carnell Oliver. Address on</p> <p>4 file.</p> <p>5 COUNCIL MEMBER DIAMOND: Thank you.</p> <p>6 All right. Mr. Ludwick, followed by</p> <p>7 LaShonda L.J. Holloway, followed by Hunter</p> <p>8 Miller.</p> <p>9 (Audience member approaches the podium.)</p> <p>10 AUDIENCE MEMBER: Good evening, everyone.</p> <p>11 My name is Mike Ludwick. Address is on</p> <p>12 file. Proud member of the Northside Coalition</p> <p>13 of Jacksonville.</p> <p>14 We've had some heat already tonight, so</p> <p>15 I'll -- let's see if we can inject a little</p> <p>16 humor into this situation.</p> <p>17 So there once was a story about <i>Goldilocks</i></p> <p>18 <i>and the Three Bears</i>. In this story, Goldilocks</p> <p>19 is the Northside Coalition and all the</p> <p>20 plaintiffs in the redistricting lawsuit.</p> <p>21 Now, Goldilocks -- Goldilocks walks into</p> <p>22 City Council's home one day and finds a bowl of</p> <p>23 redistricting porridge on the table. That was</p> <p>24 Papa Bear's porridge. Now, Goldilocks tasted a</p> <p>25 bit of that and it was too, too, too hot. Too</p> <p>Diane M. Tropa, Inc., Post Office Box 2375, Jacksonville, FL 32203 (904) 821-0300</p>

<p>17</p> <p>1 many black voters packed into too few 2 districts. 3 So Goldilocks looked around and was afraid 4 she might find Mama Bear's porridge. Now, that 5 redistrict porridge would be too, too, too 6 cold, right? That might have black voters 7 spread out over too many districts. 8 But don't worry. Tonight we have for you 9 a redistrict porridge that Baby Bear will like 10 because it is just right. And Dr. Marcella 11 Washington will be presenting that to you in a 12 moment. This map is just right. 13 Packing too many black voters into too few 14 districts is unconstitutional. You've already 15 been told that. Spreading black voters into 16 too many districts, overly diluting black 17 voting power, is also unconstitutional. 18 So take a look at this map; review it, 19 adopt it, save the taxpayers a ton of money on 20 consultants and attorneys, and all the -- the 21 roadblocks you all are trying to put up in 22 front of this. That could be over a million 23 dollars. That's going to -- that's on your 24 agenda, right? A million bucks for this 25 process you're going to be throwing away.</p> <p>Diane M. Tropa, Inc., Post Office Box 2375, Jacksonville, FL 32203 (904) 821-0300</p>	<p>19</p> <p>1 found the Council map was an unconstitutional, 2 racial gerrymander that segregated voters on 3 the basis of race, packing black voters into 4 Districts 7, 8, 9, and 10, and stripping us 5 from surrounding districts, thereby minimizing 6 our influence in city politics. 7 The court gave the Council an opportunity 8 to undo the violation and to remedy these 9 wrongs. So as the Council embarks on its 10 map-making process, we submit for your 11 consideration a new map that cures the problem 12 the court identified. 13 This map can be viewed online and data 14 files are downloaded at ACLUFL.org, slash -- 15 backslash, Jaxmap. We also have printed copies 16 here for you today. 17 The plaintiffs' Unity Map redraws the 18 districts struck down by the court, remedying 19 the constitutional violations. Districts are 20 logically compact, lines represent 21 neighborhoods, follow major geographical 22 boundaries, and preserve genuine community of 23 interest. And, of course, this map undos [sic] 24 the racial gerrymandering that has violated our 25 right to equal protection of the laws, and</p> <p>Diane M. Tropa, Inc., Post Office Box 2375, Jacksonville, FL 32203 (904) 821-0300</p>
<p>18</p> <p>1 Please listen to the voice of the people 2 and Goldilocks. 3 Thank you. 4 COUNCIL MEMBER DIAMOND: Next is LaShonda 5 L.J. Holloway, followed by Hunter Miller, 6 followed by Marcella Washington. 7 Ms. Holloway, are you here? 8 AUDIENCE MEMBERS: (No response.) 9 COUNCIL MEMBER DIAMOND: All right. We'll 10 go to Mr. Miller. 11 * * * * * 12 COUNCIL MEMBER DIAMOND: Thank you, sir. 13 Next speaker is Marcella Washington, 14 followed by Duchee Stevens, followed by Nicole 15 Crosby. 16 (Audience member approaches the podium.) 17 AUDIENCE MEMBER: Good evening. 18 My name is Marcella Washington, 11361 19 Skimmer Court in Jacksonville, Duval County, 20 and -- and live in District 2. 21 I am one of the plaintiffs in the 22 redistricting lawsuit, and I'm here tonight 23 speaking on behalf of the plaintiffs in the 24 case. 25 As you know, the federal district court</p> <p>Diane M. Tropa, Inc., Post Office Box 2375, Jacksonville, FL 32203 (904) 821-0300</p>	<p>20</p> <p>1 which also -- while it also complies with the 2 Voting Rights Act and protecting 3 representation. 4 Finally, the Unity Map we submit to you 5 presents a new vision for the city of 6 Jacksonville, one that moves us forward rather 7 than backwards, one that advances 8 representation rather than constrains it, one 9 that brings us together rather than divides us. 10 We urge you to consider this map as you 11 continue your legislative process, and we look 12 forward to following your deliberations in the 13 coming days. 14 Thank you. 15 * * * * * 16 COUNCIL MEMBER DIAMOND: Next is Ayesha 17 Franklin, followed by Levoyus Partlow, followed 18 by Essey Howard. 19 (Audience member approaches the podium.) 20 AUDIENCE MEMBER: Good evening. 21 I am Ayesha Franklin Covington. I am a -- 22 my address is on file. 23 I'm a plaintiff on the lawsuit. I'm suing 24 because my representation in District 8 lacks 25 any division, lacks any necessities. We don't</p> <p>Diane M. Tropa, Inc., Post Office Box 2375, Jacksonville, FL 32203 (904) 821-0300</p>

<p style="text-align: right;">21</p> <p>1 have grocery stores.</p> <p>2 I want you to do me a favor. I want you</p> <p>3 to unpack the black vote. I didn't come down</p> <p>4 here, buy property in 2006, in Brooklyn, to be</p> <p>5 moved from District 9 to District 7.</p> <p>6 And when we got to court, the lawyer said</p> <p>7 we didn't complain. Consider this a complaint.</p> <p>8 When voters get up and come down here -- I</p> <p>9 know y'all busy. Y'all got your own agenda.</p> <p>10 But listen to the voters. We're speaking to</p> <p>11 you.</p> <p>12 And I also noticed that the committee is</p> <p>13 not bipartisan. It's mostly white males and</p> <p>14 one person appointed by the Republican</p> <p>15 administration, who now is a Dem.</p> <p>16 But I want to say to you, the meeting, the</p> <p>17 times of the meeting are inconvenient for the</p> <p>18 public. 12:00 to 1:00 -- 12:30 to 1:00.</p> <p>19 12:00, that's lunch. Anybody who runs a</p> <p>20 business, like you all do, don't have time for</p> <p>21 your foolishness.</p> <p>22 The other thing I want to say to you is,</p> <p>23 why are you wasting the court's time with an</p> <p>24 appeal and why are you wasting the taxpayers'</p> <p>25 money? Because if it was your money and you</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Diane M. Tropa, Inc., Post Office Box 2375, Jacksonville, FL 32203 (904) 821-0300</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">23</p> <p>1 your own agenda, and stop giving away corporate</p> <p>2 welfare.</p> <p>3 The DIA need to stop, too, giving away</p> <p>4 downtown to developers. We can't afford to buy</p> <p>5 that -- to rent, own, or purchase what they're</p> <p>6 building. It's out of our scope. We don't</p> <p>7 make that much money in this city, even working</p> <p>8 two jobs.</p> <p>9 (Timer notification.)</p> <p>10 COUNCIL MEMBER DIAMOND: Thank you, ma'am.</p> <p>11 MS. FRANKLIN COVINGTON: You have a great</p> <p>12 evening.</p> <p>13 COUNCIL MEMBER DIAMOND: Next is Levoyus</p> <p>14 Partlow, followed by Essey Howard, followed by</p> <p>15 Michael [sic] Lomax, I think.</p> <p>16 (Audience member approaches the podium.)</p> <p>17 AUDIENCE MEMBER: Good evening.</p> <p>18 Levoyus Partlow, 1508 North Myrtle Avenue.</p> <p>19 My house is still shaking. Last time I</p> <p>20 came here, I looked around, and I said, well, I</p> <p>21 live in District 9. Oh, okay. District 9.</p> <p>22 Well, I contacted my District 9 people</p> <p>23 to -- no response, you know, but my house is</p> <p>24 still shaking. And I thought that was the way</p> <p>25 that we would possibly go. You know, you go to</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Diane M. Tropa, Inc., Post Office Box 2375, Jacksonville, FL 32203 (904) 821-0300</p>
<p style="text-align: right;">22</p> <p>1 had lost what -- so many clear directives of</p> <p>2 where you had violated us -- hey, that us is</p> <p>3 me.</p> <p>4 I was coming to this council, I was</p> <p>5 begging for help, I was paying taxes, and my</p> <p>6 vote did not matter because we were put</p> <p>7 together deliberately.</p> <p>8 I can't get a grocery store in District 8,</p> <p>9 but I see they got a garden on Moncrief. Why</p> <p>10 can't I get a grocery store? That's very</p> <p>11 important to me.</p> <p>12 We have a cancer cluster going on in</p> <p>13 Jacksonville. Everybody we know is dying with</p> <p>14 cancer because we can't get good food -- good,</p> <p>15 clean food that's not grown in contaminated</p> <p>16 soil, a soil that's cleaned up to the EPA</p> <p>17 standard, which is nothing.</p> <p>18 I didn't speak previously because some</p> <p>19 things need to be vetted in court. I wanted my</p> <p>20 day in court. I wanted to be heard. And I</p> <p>21 came tonight to say, let's finish this process.</p> <p>22 None of us knows who's going to win those</p> <p>23 seats. You can't protect yourself. Why don't</p> <p>24 you open up, be transparent, listen to the</p> <p>25 people that are voting for you, and stop having</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Diane M. Tropa, Inc., Post Office Box 2375, Jacksonville, FL 32203 (904) 821-0300</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">24</p> <p>1 your councilman, councilwoman, or whatever,</p> <p>2 till -- with your problem that you have within</p> <p>3 your community.</p> <p>4 Ah, I get nothing. But my house is still</p> <p>5 shaking. And I hope that the streets</p> <p>6 department, whoever, will take care of this</p> <p>7 problem before some bus or truck or something</p> <p>8 falls in the hole and somebody gets hurt.</p> <p>9 Moving on. Redistricting. I remember</p> <p>10 that a few years back, about '10 or '11,</p> <p>11 whatever, same situation, same problem.</p> <p>12 I live in a little sliver between Myrtle</p> <p>13 Avenue -- well, the corner of Myrtle Avenue and</p> <p>14 6th Street -- Myrtle and -- yeah -- well,</p> <p>15 anyway, there's a little, bitty sliver there,</p> <p>16 and it's -- oh, I'm in District 9 rather than</p> <p>17 District 8. Take a peek at that, 6th and</p> <p>18 Myrtle, where that borders.</p> <p>19 What else do we have here?</p> <p>20 I'm just disappointed that I can't get my</p> <p>21 house to stop shaking. What do I have to do?</p> <p>22 Who do I have to see? What is it that -- you</p> <p>23 know, that goes on? The -- you know, is it the</p> <p>24 shoddy workmanship of the contractors that</p> <p>25 we've hired to -- in this city? I don't know.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Diane M. Tropa, Inc., Post Office Box 2375, Jacksonville, FL 32203 (904) 821-0300</p>

<p>25</p> <p>1 Who hired them?</p> <p>2 Oh, boy. I'm just pissed because my house</p> <p>3 shakes. You ever sit on the toilet and have</p> <p>4 the water bounce up on your butt? Nah.</p> <p>5 COUNCIL MEMBER DIAMOND: Sir --</p> <p>6 MR. PARTLOW: Oh, excuse me. On your --</p> <p>7 excuse me, on your behind.</p> <p>8 So -- but anyway, it's a very, very awful</p> <p>9 feeling. So if your house shakes, let me know.</p> <p>10 You know what I mean? Tell me how you remedy</p> <p>11 that.</p> <p>12 Oh, wait a minute. Call an engineer, have</p> <p>13 him declare that all this is wrong. Spend,</p> <p>14 what, 4- or \$5,000 to make sure that I'm</p> <p>15 justified in what I say. You know, I'm kind of</p> <p>16 poor, but anyway ...</p> <p>17 Hey, vote. Republicans are going to take</p> <p>18 away your Social Security check; I need mine.</p> <p>19 Vote.</p> <p>20 There's a lot of women out there. Well, I</p> <p>21 got five ex-wives and two baby mamas, so, you</p> <p>22 know, what can I -- who -- what can I say?</p> <p>23 But anyway, have a nice evening and enjoy</p> <p>24 yourselves.</p> <p>25 COUNCIL MEMBER DIAMOND: Thank you, sir.</p> <p>Diane M. Tropa, Inc., Post Office Box 2375, Jacksonville, FL 32203</p> <p>(904) 821-0300</p>	<p>27</p> <p>1 packed us in them. We don't have no</p> <p>2 representation.</p> <p>3 All y'all Council people, your job is the</p> <p>4 whole city, not just your district. Some of</p> <p>5 y'all need to step out and do something because</p> <p>6 I ride around this city and you can definitely</p> <p>7 see the haves and the have-nots. Some get it</p> <p>8 and some don't.</p> <p>9 And now for this gerrymandering thing,</p> <p>10 y'all know what y'all was doing. Y'all got to</p> <p>11 wake up. Be true to thyself, that you're going</p> <p>12 to help us. You know, we ain't asking for the</p> <p>13 whole boat. We just want something. We want</p> <p>14 y'all to tear down all these abandoned</p> <p>15 buildings in our neighborhoods. That's what we</p> <p>16 want y'all to do. And that goes for whoever is</p> <p>17 in my district. That's what you need to do.</p> <p>18 Some of y'all need to just get on a bus</p> <p>19 and ride around Jacksonville and see some of</p> <p>20 the deplorable places. Y'all got to do better.</p> <p>21 Y'all got to do better.</p> <p>22 I've been here 68 years, and I haven't</p> <p>23 seen improvement in the Moncrief area. No, I</p> <p>24 have not. I haven't seen improvement in the</p> <p>25 Brooklyn area. In the Mixon Town -- oh,</p> <p>Diane M. Tropa, Inc., Post Office Box 2375, Jacksonville, FL 32203</p> <p>(904) 821-0300</p>
<p>26</p> <p>1 Next is --</p> <p>2 VICE PRESIDENT SALEM: Sir, just a second.</p> <p>3 Sir, Councilmember Carlucci would like to</p> <p>4 meet with you. And if there's anybody from</p> <p>5 Public Works that could meet him in the Bob</p> <p>6 Johnson Green Room, please do that.</p> <p>7 Thank you.</p> <p>8 COUNCIL MEMBER DIAMOND: Essey Howard,</p> <p>9 followed by Michelle Loman [sic], followed by</p> <p>10 Ben Frazier.</p> <p>11 (Audience member approaches the podium.)</p> <p>12 AUDIENCE MEMBER: Good evening.</p> <p>13 My name is Essey Howard. Everything is on</p> <p>14 file.</p> <p>15 Now, I'm not going to read from a piece of</p> <p>16 paper because no matter how we put it, some of</p> <p>17 y'all don't even hear us. One, two, three,</p> <p>18 four, five -- five empty chairs up there. That</p> <p>19 let me know you don't want to -- they don't</p> <p>20 want to hear what we got to say.</p> <p>21 I've been in this town all my life. And</p> <p>22 everywhere we stay, they came and tore it down,</p> <p>23 the whole neighborhood, Brooklyn, Camel Hill,</p> <p>24 uptown, LaVilla. And you packed us in these</p> <p>25 reservations called apartment complexes. You</p> <p>Diane M. Tropa, Inc., Post Office Box 2375, Jacksonville, FL 32203</p> <p>(904) 821-0300</p>	<p>28</p> <p>1 they're trying to change that name to the</p> <p>2 Rail Yard. I ain't get that memo, that they</p> <p>3 was changing that name. Meanwhile, we didn't</p> <p>4 get that memo.</p> <p>5 But y'all got to do better. Look at all</p> <p>6 them empty chairs. That's a shame. Don't make</p> <p>7 no sense. That mean they don't want to hear</p> <p>8 what we got to say. Don't pretend; be</p> <p>9 yourself. Just help us because y'all in</p> <p>10 control. Y'all disburse that money.</p> <p>11 Thank you.</p> <p>12 COUNCIL MEMBER DIAMOND: Thank you, sir.</p> <p>13 Next is Michelle Loman [sic], followed by</p> <p>14 Ben Frazier, followed by Eunice Barnum.</p> <p>15 (Audience member approaches the podium.)</p> <p>16 COUNCIL MEMBER DIAMOND: I butchered your</p> <p>17 name a few times; I apologize.</p> <p>18 AUDIENCE MEMBER: Michelle Lomax.</p> <p>19 My address is on file. The Lord sent me</p> <p>20 here tonight to address this body and to give a</p> <p>21 short word. The Lord would say to each of you</p> <p>22 that what he now do -- does, he will do for the</p> <p>23 good of his people.</p> <p>24 Thank you so much for your time. Have a</p> <p>25 pleasant evening.</p> <p>Diane M. Tropa, Inc., Post Office Box 2375, Jacksonville, FL 32203</p> <p>(904) 821-0300</p>

<div>29</div> <div> <div>1</div> <div>COUNCIL MEMBER DIAMOND: Thank you, ma'am.</div> <div>2</div> <div>Next is Ben Frazier, followed by Eunice</div> <div>3</div> <div>Barnum, followed by John Nooney.</div> <div>4</div> <div>(Audience member approaches the podium.)</div> <div>5</div> <div>AUDIENCE MEMBER: Good evening.</div> <div>6</div> <div>Ben Frazier. The address is on record.</div> <div>7</div> <div>I'm back.</div> <div>8</div> <div>I would be remiss if I did not pause for</div> <div>9</div> <div>just a moment to thank the thousands of people</div> <div>10</div> <div>who live in this city, regardless of creed or</div> <div>11</div> <div>color, who have paused to offer me</div> <div>12</div> <div>encouragement and inspiration in my struggle to</div> <div>13</div> <div>overcome cancer.</div> <div>14</div> <div>We must begin in this city to work</div> <div>15</div> <div>together. There's far too much division, far</div> <div>16</div> <div>too much animosity, far too much distrust.</div> <div>17</div> <div>During this redistricting process, many</div> <div>18</div> <div>people spoke out. We asked you to listen to</div> <div>19</div> <div>the voice of the people. You did not listen.</div> <div>20</div> <div>Now you must listen to the judge and create new</div> <div>21</div> <div>maps.</div> <div>22</div> <div>We're offering new maps tonight, maps that</div> <div>23</div> <div>can bring about togetherness in our community.</div> <div>24</div> <div>It is time for us to work together. We must</div> <div>25</div> <div>take this opportunity to help all the members</div> <div>Diane M. Tropa, Inc., Post Office Box 2375, Jacksonville, FL 32203</div> <div>(904) 821-0300</div> </div>	<div>31</div> <div> <div>1</div> <div>(Audience member approaches the podium.)</div> <div>2</div> <div>AUDIENCE MEMBER: Good evening.</div> <div>3</div> <div>Eunice Barnum, and my address is on file.</div> <div>4</div> <div>I was sitting there reading all through</div> <div>5</div> <div>your agenda, and every word having -- I mean,</div> <div>6</div> <div>all through it, I see "pursuit [sic] to</div> <div>7</div> <div>section" -- "pursuit to." If you write the law</div> <div>8</div> <div>and you know about pursuit to the law, then how</div> <div>9</div> <div>you get the Constitution wrong? And that's</div> <div>10</div> <div>what you raised your hand and swore to.</div> <div>11</div> <div>I am thoroughly confused here. You can't</div> <div>12</div> <div>know some of the law and pursue it and then</div> <div>13</div> <div>willfully, boldly, wantonly, deliberately</div> <div>14</div> <div>violate the Constitution. There's supposed to</div> <div>15</div> <div>be consequences for violating the Constitutions</div> <div>16</div> <div>[sic].</div> <div>17</div> <div>Now, if you can write all this and read</div> <div>18</div> <div>all of this, how you get we, the people? We is</div> <div>19</div> <div>a preK word, elementary. We, the people of the</div> <div>20</div> <div>state of Florida. Florida guarantee me equal,</div> <div>21</div> <div>civil, and political rights to a simple word,</div> <div>22</div> <div>a-I-I, that all of you seem -- you got me</div> <div>23</div> <div>confused, honestly.</div> <div>24</div> <div>If you can pursue all this, then you need</div> <div>25</div> <div>to know how to pursue following the</div> <div>Diane M. Tropa, Inc., Post Office Box 2375, Jacksonville, FL 32203</div> <div>(904) 821-0300</div> </div>
<div>30</div> <div> <div>1</div> <div>of our city to be heard and represented. There</div> <div>2</div> <div>must be more unity in our community.</div> <div>3</div> <div>Folks, it's time for us to bury some damn</div> <div>4</div> <div>hatchets. Okay? Time for us to offer and to</div> <div>5</div> <div>accept all the branches of peace. Is there</div> <div>6</div> <div>something wrong with that?</div> <div>7</div> <div>We want to work with you. We want to make</div> <div>8</div> <div>this one city, one that is too busy to hate.</div> <div>9</div> <div>I work and I stand up and I speak out</div> <div>10</div> <div>against social, racial, and economic injustice,</div> <div>11</div> <div>racial discrimination and hatred. But make no</div> <div>12</div> <div>mistake about it when I stand before you</div> <div>13</div> <div>tonight and say -- I say clearly, Jacksonville</div> <div>14</div> <div>needs more cooperation. Jacksonville needs</div> <div>15</div> <div>more collaboration, working together. We need</div> <div>16</div> <div>leadership.</div> <div>17</div> <div>We need to see on this council profiles in</div> <div>18</div> <div>courage. We don't need to see profiles in</div> <div>19</div> <div>partisan politics and race and white supremacy.</div> <div>20</div> <div>Collaboration, that's the word. Why?</div> <div>21</div> <div>Because none of us is as smart as all of us.</div> <div>22</div> <div>What Jacksonville needs now is love.</div> <div>23</div> <div>COUNCIL MEMBER DIAMOND: Thank you, sir.</div> <div>24</div> <div>Next is Eunice Barnum, followed by John</div> <div>25</div> <div>Nooney, and our last speaker is Blake Harper.</div> <div>Diane M. Tropa, Inc., Post Office Box 2375, Jacksonville, FL 32203</div> <div>(904) 821-0300</div> </div>	<div>32</div> <div> <div>1</div> <div>Constitution that you took an oath to. And we</div> <div>2</div> <div>need accountability. Time out for this</div> <div>3</div> <div>foolishness.</div> <div>4</div> <div>You sit here, you look back at us, you sit</div> <div>5</div> <div>here and you hide your face and your head, and</div> <div>6</div> <div>we got four that think -- what is it, 42</div> <div>7</div> <div>attorneys that supposed to be guiding you all?</div> <div>8</div> <div>And yet you sit here, you get the Constitution</div> <div>9</div> <div>wrong, then you come back and you're going to</div> <div>10</div> <div>draw another map.</div> <div>11</div> <div>I mean, why -- if you pursuing now, why</div> <div>12</div> <div>were you not pursuing then? I need an answer.</div> <div>13</div> <div>I need accountability, because this shows me</div> <div>14</div> <div>you know -- you know exactly what you're doing.</div> <div>15</div> <div>Somebody knows something is going on.</div> <div>16</div> <div>You're choosing when you want to do it and</div> <div>17</div> <div>choosing when you don't, and we need</div> <div>18</div> <div>accountability. I want accountability and I</div> <div>19</div> <div>want my money back.</div> <div>20</div> <div>* * * * *</div> <div>21</div> <div>COUNCIL MEMBER DIAMOND: Last speaker is</div> <div>22</div> <div>Blake Harper.</div> <div>23</div> <div>(Audience member approaches the podium.)</div> <div>24</div> <div>AUDIENCE MEMBER: Good evening, Acting</div> <div>25</div> <div>Council President. Good to see you up there.</div> <div>Diane M. Tropa, Inc., Post Office Box 2375, Jacksonville, FL 32203</div> <div>(904) 821-0300</div> </div>

<div>33</div> <div> <div>1</div> <div>2</div> <div>3</div> <div>4</div> <div>5</div> <div>6</div> <div>7</div> <div>8</div> <div>9</div> <div>10</div> <div>11</div> <div>12</div> <div>13</div> <div>14</div> <div>15</div> <div>16</div> <div>17</div> <div>18</div> <div>19</div> <div>20</div> <div>21</div> <div>22</div> <div>23</div> <div>24</div> <div>25</div> </div> <div> <p>Get some practice in for next year, I guess.</p> <p>And the rest of the City Council Members, men and women.</p> <p>The title of my -- you can look on my green card --</p> <p>COUNCIL MEMBER DIAMOND: Name and address, please, sir.</p> <p>AUDIENCE MEMBER: I do it all the time. Blake Harper. Information on file.</p> <p>If you look at my card, the subject tonight is protocol. I want to talk about protocol for a minute.</p> <p>Y'all have just passed some rulings about how people speak up here. One of the things that you -- correct me if I'm wrong -- and I was corrected last week. You're not supposed to come up with political shirts on, political information, yet you let a man saying "Rubio kills vets" stand here for three minutes. Now, that's not -- that's against your rules. If I'm wrong, correct me.</p> <p>Something else. I hear this over again -- over again. We are here to hear -- we are here to hear from you, this is your opportunity to speak to us.</p> <p>Diane M. Tropa, Inc., Post Office Box 2375, Jacksonville, FL 32203 (904) 821-0300</p> </div>	<div>35</div> <div> <div>1</div> <div>2</div> <div>3</div> <div>4</div> <div>5</div> <div>6</div> <div>7</div> <div>8</div> <div>9</div> <div>10</div> <div>11</div> <div>12</div> <div>13</div> <div>14</div> <div>15</div> <div>16</div> <div>17</div> <div>18</div> <div>19</div> <div>20</div> <div>21</div> <div>22</div> <div>23</div> <div>24</div> <div>25</div> </div> <div> <p>allowed to do business in Florida, but his website's up. And it says -- it was -- it was an administrative dissolution for annual report, September -- September of last year. This is the guy who is suing the City of Jacksonville.</p> <p>We speak facts, folks. We speak facts, folks. And sometimes those facts are not good facts, but they're facts and we need to understand what this battle is about.</p> <p>Thank you.</p> <p>COUNCIL MEMBER DIAMOND: Thank you, sir. That is the end of public comment.</p> <p>* * * * *</p> <p>COUNCIL MEMBER DIAMOND: And we have no further business, Mr. Vice President.</p> <p>VICE PRESIDENT SALEM: Now -- oh, we don't have to act on it, on --</p> <p>COUNCIL MEMBER DIAMOND: No. I do have an announcement for it, though, if you --</p> <p>VICE PRESIDENT SALEM: Okay. Announcements, please.</p> <p>COUNCIL MEMBER DIAMOND: Thank you, Mr. Vice President.</p> <p>I just want to make sure the public</p> <p>Diane M. Tropa, Inc., Post Office Box 2375, Jacksonville, FL 32203 (904) 821-0300</p> </div>
<div>34</div> <div> <div>1</div> <div>2</div> <div>3</div> <div>4</div> <div>5</div> <div>6</div> <div>7</div> <div>8</div> <div>9</div> <div>10</div> <div>11</div> <div>12</div> <div>13</div> <div>14</div> <div>15</div> <div>16</div> <div>17</div> <div>18</div> <div>19</div> <div>20</div> <div>21</div> <div>22</div> <div>23</div> <div>24</div> <div>25</div> </div> <div> <p>I wanted to call out and I want to thank District 10, the councilwoman, for honoring protocol. We have greatly different points of view. In fact, many of you here on this City Council have greatly different points of view, yet you honored your roles to sit and let people speak, except for one who decided in the middle of public comment to stand up and attack Tony Langhals.</p> <p>I don't hear anybody standing up to stand against people calling Caucasians white racists and -- whatever the other thing is. And I don't hear anybody standing up and protecting the African-American Republican City Councilmen who are called race-traitors, but Tony Langhals stands up and he calls out facts about the person who's filing a lawsuit against the City and says he's attacking his character when those are actual facts of life. And when you lose your law license, that is a serious issue.</p> <p>Now, let me point something out to you as well. This particular individual has a website. The website is called Take It Down, LLC. And it shows -- it's a 501(c)(3) organization. But guess what? They aren't</p> <p>Diane M. Tropa, Inc., Post Office Box 2375, Jacksonville, FL 32203 (904) 821-0300</p> </div>	<div>36</div> <div> <div>1</div> <div>2</div> <div>3</div> <div>4</div> <div>5</div> <div>6</div> <div>7</div> <div>8</div> <div>9</div> <div>10</div> <div>11</div> <div>12</div> <div>13</div> <div>14</div> <div>15</div> <div>16</div> <div>17</div> <div>18</div> <div>19</div> <div>20</div> <div>21</div> <div>22</div> <div>23</div> <div>24</div> <div>25</div> </div> <div> <p>understands that on item 2022-800, that's the redistricting bill, there's a series of meetings next week, so 11/1, 11/2, and 11/3, and then a special Council meeting on 11/4 with a public hearing. The special Council meeting and public hearing have all been noticed in the Daily Record, but please know that these meetings are all coming up. And that's the -- the public's ability to interact with the Council, who's looking at this, the Special Committee that's looking at this, and to, you know, get their due process in this -- in the month that we're doing the redistricting.</p> <p>(The foregoing proceedings were concluded at 7:27 p.m.)</p> <p>* * * * *</p> <p>Diane M. Tropa, Inc., Post Office Box 2375, Jacksonville, FL 32203 (904) 821-0300</p> </div>

CERTIFICATE OF REPORTER

STATE OF FLORIDA)

COUNTY OF DUVAL)

I, Diane M. Tropia, Florida Professional
Reporter, certify that I was authorized to and did
transcribe the foregoing proceedings and that the
transcript is a true and complete record of my
stenographic notes.

DATED this 1st day of November, 2022.

Diane M Tropia

Diane M. Tropia
Florida Professional Reporter

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