

# City of Las Vegas

S.V.

RECOMMENDING COMMITTEE MEETING  
CITY HALL, 400 EAST STEWART  
COUNCIL CHAMBERS  
CITY OF LAS VEGAS INTERNET ADDRESS: <http://www.ci.las-vegas.nv.us>  
MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 27, 1999  
11:30 A.M.

(TO BE FOLLOWED BY THE REAL ESTATE COMMITTEE MEETING)

## CORRECTED AGENDA

### CALL TO ORDER:

### ANNOUNCEMENT RE: COMPLIANCE WITH OPEN MEETING LAW

THE RECOMMENDING COMMITTEE WILL RECEIVE PUBLIC INPUT ON EACH ITEM OF LEGISLATION BEING CONSIDERED. THE RECOMMENDING COMMITTEE MAY, THEREAFTER, CONTINUE THE HEARING TO A FUTURE DATE OR FORMULATE A RECOMMENDATION TO THE CITY COUNCIL FOR PASSAGE, REJECTION OR AMENDMENT OF THE PROPOSED BILL.

### THE FOLLOWING BILLS MAY BE ELIGIBLE FOR ADOPTION AT THE 10/6/99 CITY COUNCIL MEETING.

1. **Bill No. 99-56** – Creates two additional wards, designated as Wards 5 and 6, and describes the boundaries of each of the City's six wards by reference to the election precincts contained therein. Sponsored by: Mayor Oscar B. Goodman  
Committee: Full Council
2. **Bill No. 99-55** - Bond ordinance authorizing the City to issue \$10,000,000 in General Obligation Limited Tax Parking Bonds  
Committee: Councilmen Brown and M. McDonald

### CITIZENS PARTICIPATION:

ITEMS RAISED UNDER THIS PORTION OF THE AGENDA CANNOT BE DELIBERATED OR ACTED UPON UNTIL THE NOTICE PROVISIONS OF THE OPEN MEETING LAW HAVE BEEN MET. IF YOU WISH TO SPEAK ON A MATTER NOT LISTED ON THE AGENDA, PLEASE CLEARLY STATE YOUR NAME AND ADDRESS. IN CONSIDERATION OF OTHERS, AVOID REPETITION, AND LIMIT YOUR COMMENTS TO NO MORE THAN THREE (3) MINUTES. TO ENSURE ALL PERSONS EQUAL OPPORTUNITY TO SPEAK, EACH SUBJECT MATTER WILL BE LIMITED TO TEN (10) MINUTES.

ALL INTERESTED PERSONS ARE INVITED TO ATTEND: A tape recording of all the proceedings will be kept on file in the Office of the City Clerk until final disposition is made. Copies of the above Bills may be obtained through the Office of the City Clerk, Monday through Friday, 8:00. to 5.00 P.M.

Facilities are provided throughout City Hall for the convenience of disabled persons. Reasonable efforts will be made to assist and accommodate physically handicapped persons. If you need an accommodation to attend and participate in this meeting, please call the City Clerk's office at 229-6311 and advise of your need at least 48 hours in advance of the meeting.

### THIS MEETING HAS BEEN PROPERLY NOTICED AND POSTED AT THE FOLLOWING LOCATIONS:

Downtown Transportation Center, City Clerk's Board  
Senior Citizens Center, 450 E. Bonanza  
Clark County Government Center, 500 S. Grand Central Parkway  
Court Clerk's Office Bulletin Board, City Hall Plaza  
City Hall Plaza, Special Outside Posting Bulletin Board

31 ✓  
SM ✓

**AFFIDAVIT OF MAILING**

**(Mailing required under the provisions of NRS Chapter 241)**

STATE OF NEVADA        )  
  ) ss  
COUNTY OF CLARK     )

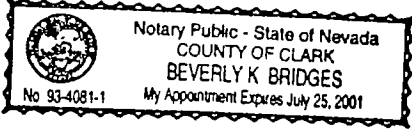
**Eva Cotton**, an employee of the City of Las Vegas, Nevada being first duly sworn, depose and say that on the **22<sup>nd</sup>** day of **September, 1999**, a copy of NOTICE, the attached of which is a true and correct copy of the Public Hearing - **Corrected Recommending Committee Meeting**, to be held on the **27<sup>th</sup>** day of **September, 1999**, was deposited in the United States Mail, Postage prepaid, First Class Mail, to each person and/or organization whose name appears on the list maintained in the Office of the City Clerk.

*Eva Cotton*  
**SIGNATURE**

**City Clerk**  
**DEPARTMENT**

Subscribed and sworn to before me  
this 22<sup>nd</sup> day of September, 1999.

*Beverly K. Bridges*  
NOTARY PUBLIC in and for  
said County and State

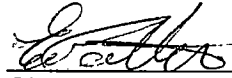


**AFFIDAVIT OF MAILING**

**(Mailing required under the provisions of NRS Chapter 241)**

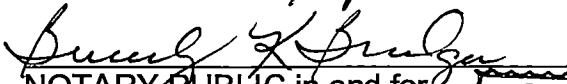
STATE OF NEVADA        )  
  ) ss  
COUNTY OF CLARK     )

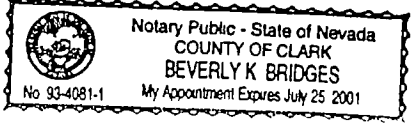
**Eva Cotton**, an employee of the City of Las Vegas, Nevada being first duly sworn, depose and say that on the **21<sup>st</sup>** day of **September, 1999**, a copy of NOTICE, the attached of which is a true and correct copy of the Public Hearing - **Recommending Committee Meeting**, to be held on the **27<sup>th</sup>** day of **September, 1999**, was deposited in the United States Mail, Postage prepaid, First Class Mail, to each person and/or organization whose name appears on the list maintained in the Office of the City Clerk.

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
**SIGNATURE**

**City Clerk**  
\_\_\_\_\_  
**DEPARTMENT**

Subscribed and sworn to before me  
this 21<sup>st</sup> day of September, 1999.

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
NOTARY PUBLIC in and for  
said County and State



AFFIDAVIT OF POSTING

(Posting required under the provisions of NRS Chapter 241)

STATE OF NEVADA )  
 ) ss  
COUNTY OF CLARK )

**Eva Cotton**, an employee of the City of Las Vegas, Nevada being first duly sworn, depose and says that on the **22<sup>nd</sup> day of September, 1999**, at the hour of **8:00 A.M.**, there were posted copies of a NOTICE, the attached of which is a true and correct of **A Recommending Committee Meeting** to be held on the **27<sup>th</sup> day of September, 1999, at 11:30 A.M. in City Hall, Council Chambers, 400 E. Stewart Avenue, Las Vegas, Nevada**; to be posted on Public Bulletin Boards at the following locations:

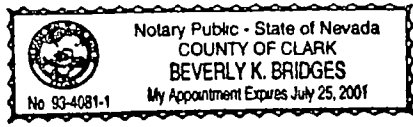
1. *gfe* On the City Clerk's Bulletin Board at the Downtown Transportation Center;
2. *gfe* Senior Citizens Center, 450 E. Bonanza Road;
3. *gfe* On the Special Bulletin Board at the Plaza Level of City Hall, 400 E. Stewart Avenue (near the entrance to the Court Clerk's Office);
4. *gfe* On the Special Bulletin Board at the Plaza Level of City Hall, 400 E. Stewart Avenue (in the walkway area between Metro and Municipal Court).
5. *gfe* Clark County Government Center, 500 S. Grand Central Parkway (sent by fax to the County Manager's Office for posting).

*[Handwritten Signature]*  
\_\_\_\_\_  
**SIGNATURE**

City Clerk  
\_\_\_\_\_  
**DEPARTMENT**

Subscribed and sworn to before me this 22<sup>nd</sup> day of September 1999.

*[Handwritten Signature: Beverly K. Bridges]*  
\_\_\_\_\_  
NOTARY PUBLIC in and for said County and State



RECOMMENDING COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES  
CITY HALL, 400 EAST STEWART AVENUE  
COUNCIL CHAMBERS  
MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 27, 1999  
11:30 A.M.

**ATTENDANCE:** Mayor Oscar Goodman  
Councilman Michael J. McDonald  
Councilman Gary Reese  
Councilman Larry Brown  
Councilwoman Lynette Boggs McDonald

**ALSO PRESENT:** Virginia Valentine, City Manager  
Steve Houchens, Deputy City Manager  
Doug Selby, Deputy City Manager  
Val Steed, Chief Deputy City Attorney of Governmental Affairs

**CALL TO ORDER:** Mayor Goodman called the meeting to order at 11:47 a.m.

**ANNOUNCEMENT MADE:** Meeting noticed and posted at the following locations:

Downtown Transportation Center, City Clerk's Board  
Senior Citizens Center, 450 E. Bonanza  
Clark County Government Center, 500 S. Grand Central Parkway  
Court Clerk's Office Bulletin Board, City Hall Plaza  
City Hall Plaza, Special Outside Posting Bulletin Board

1. **Bill No. 99-56 - CREATES TWO ADDITIONAL WARDS, DESIGNATED AS WARDS 5 AND 6, AND DESCRIBES THE BOUNDARIES OF EACH OF THE CITY'S SIX WARDS BY REFERENCE TO THE ELECTION PRECINCTS CONTAINED THEREIN. Sponsored by: Mayor Oscar B. Goodman**

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Committee: Full Council

**APPEARANCES:**

Tom McGowan, 720 South Casino Center Boulevard  
Liz Carrasco, staff person with Progressive Leadership Alliance of Nevada  
Judge Fred Kessler  
Charles McCarty Coveney, Amigos for Democracy  
Gary Peck, ACLU of Nevada, 325 South Third Street  
Jose Solorio, resident of Ward 5

NOTE: Mayor Goodman directed that the Ward 5 and 6 Council appointments be scheduled for the 10/6/99 City Council meeting. However, subsequent to the Recommending Committee meeting it was clarified that Bill No. 99-56 would not become effective until 10/9/99, if adopted at the 10/6/99 Council meeting. Therefore, the appointments will be scheduled for the 10/20/99 City Council meeting.

**Recommending Committee Meeting**

**Monday, September 27, 1999**

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NOTE: Councilman Brown directed City Manager Valentine to draft within the next 30 days an information letter to all affected City residents explaining the process that took place, the Ward change, and who their new Council representative would be.

NOTE: A Verbatim Transcript is made a part of the Final Minutes.

**Councilman McDonald recommended Bill No. 99-56 be forwarded to the Full Council with a "Do Pass" recommendation, as a Second Amendment. The motion carried unanimously.**

(11:49 - 12:43)

**1-84**

**2. Bill No. 99-55- BOND ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE CITY TO ISSUE \$10,000,000 IN GENERAL OBLIGATION LIMITED TAX PARKING BONDS**

**Committee: Councilmen Brown and M. McDonald**

Deputy City Manager Houchens explained that the bonds are affiliated with funding for the construction of the Stewart Street parking garage and other parking projects that may arise in the downtown area. The matter is in order.

No one appeared in opposition.

There was no further discussion.

**Councilman Brown recommended Bill No. 99-55 be forwarded to the Full Council with a "Do Pass" recommendation. Councilman McDonald concurred.**

(12:43 - 12:44)

**1-1972**

CITIZENS PARTICIPATION:

Tom McGowan, 720 South Casino Center Boulevard, advised that any study or report is only valid and reliable for a specific time frame and area. He recommended that Mayor Goodman and Councilman Reese be alert during their interview in New York to ensure effective bargaining and warned them that they would be auditioning before the group they are meeting with. He commented that they were given the opportunity to read his report and be well prepared for the trip. He asked who would be paying for the trip to New York as well as the one to San Francisco. Mayor Goodman informed Mr. McGowan that his report regarding the sports arena was disseminated. Mr. McGowan interjected that his report also covered other issues, such as the trip to New York.

(12:44 - 12 47)

**1-2140**

ADJOURNMENT:

The meeting adjourned at 12.47 p.m.

/gpb

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**VERBATIM TRANSCRIPT - ITEM 1: BILL NO. 99-56 - CREATES TWO ADDITIONAL WARDS, DESIGNATED AS WARDS 5 AND 6, AND DESCRIBES THE BOUNDARIES OF EACH OF THE CITY'S SIX WARDS BY REFERENCE TO THE ELECTION PRECINCTS CONTAINED THEREIN**

MAYOR GOODMAN

The purpose of this Bill is to implement the voters' approval in the last General City Election of the creation of two additional wards. The Bill describes each of the resulting six wards by election precinct and reflects the boundary and distribution indicated on the attached map.

Judge Kessler is present with us today together with the -- Council. He will be here to answer any and all questions that any members of the citizenry wish to propose to him. And I now open it up for public participation. Three – minute rule. Correct.

TOM McGOWAN

Good morning, Your Honor, esteemed members of the Council, key staff and immediate attending public. I assume this has to do with the Ward redistricting?

COUNCILMAN REESE

Excuse me, just a moment, Tom. Mayor, could we have a map out there so they could kind of, the public could see what we're talking about, and so on and so forth? Do we have a map on the overhead?

MAYOR GOODMAN

Welcome back.

COUNCILMAN REESE

I didn't hardly recognized Tom there with that new shirt.

TOM McGOWAN

It's my other shirt. I disrupted my ordinary ensemble. I hardly recognized you without a haircut. But I'll work on it. How much of my three minutes is left?

MAYOR GOODMAN

(inaudible)

TOM McGOWAN

Oh, do I start A? Okay, red to green. Thank you very, very much.

My name is Tom McGowan, as some of you may recall, 720 South Casino Center Boulevard, Las Vegas. I'm here late because the CAT System changed their schedule. Didn't bother to tell anybody, and they may not ever.

But the key term, the key determinate in this process is integrity. Nothing else. Integrity, not ward boundaries, demarcation, not attribution as far as racial or ethnic, cross heritage or occupation are the current (inaudible)

I recommend that this City Council and this Committee recommend to the City Council, I should say, that you unanimously approve and recommend the Council's

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unanimous approval and adoption of the additional Wards 5 and 6, as well as the independent study and report recommended and submitted demarcation of the boundaries of all six wards, with the sole reminder that (inaudible) and responsible and it's your (inaudible) representation to the resident public, ward specific and City-wide, is expressly contingent upon the personal, professional, and official integrity of not only the impending as duly appointed representatives of Ward 5 and 6, but also of the Mayor and the extent of the elected and appointed Council members of Wards 1, 2, 3, and 4, respectively and inclusively.

For your edification, I also recommend unanimity in your vote. Several reasons why: one of which you're at a dangerous juncture right now, potentially adverse impactive upon official and political considerations not just for one person but for all. And we'll get to that in the next – item of comment. But it has to do with not throwing the baby out with the bath water when there are other more viable alternatives. In any case, it's always preferable to deal with a known problem sensibly then to take on a whole new set of unknowns. You may not understand completely what I'm driving at, but you will eventually. Thank you very much.

MAYOR GOODMAN

Thank you very much for your comments.

I'd like to advise those who are here that since this is a Recommending Committee meeting, we don't have the same set up as though we would have it during our regular Council meeting as far as the overhead, so that's the reason that it's not on the overhead. We do have the map, though, with the proposed redistricting down there for the citizens to take a look at if they so desire.

COUNCILMAN McDONALD

That's nice, 'cause when they wouldn't let me in the map room, I was thought I was getting locked out or something. Councilman Reese.

COUNCILMAN REESE

(inaudible)

MAYOR GOODMAN

Yes, Ma'am.

LIZ CARRASCO

Good morning.

MAYOR GOODMAN

Good morning.

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LIZ CARRASCO

For the record, my name is Liz Carrasco. I'm a staff person with the Progressive Leadership Alliance of Nevada, and what we are is a coalition of 38 different member organizations, representing different constituencies. And I'm here because I have some concerns that I'd like to bring to your attention.

I'm concerned with the fact that there has been little public participation in the whole process of designing the new wards. I'm aware of one public forum that was held on August 31<sup>st</sup> with Judge Kessler, but I'm especially interested in input from the people living in the new wards, the proposed wards. And I'm wondering, were there any other opportunities for substantial public input besides that meeting? For example, were there any town hall meetings that were held on the subject? Or were there any questionnaires sent out to the residents of the new wards? Were any of the community leaders consulted with and, if so, who were they? I'm -- just kind of concerned where community input has been in this whole process.

I'm also concerned with the diversity of the City Council candidates. Now, when I say diversity, I don't just mean Hispanic or African-American or Asian-American, or just any other ethnic minority, although, of course, it is very important to be diversified. But I also mean, with the word *diversity*, as having people from the community, not just people chosen within City Hall.

And I know you won't like what I have to say next, but I'll say it anyway. It appears that some individuals that have been chosen from within City Hall as the front-running candidates have received a lot of press lately, and I'm wondering is it fair to the people living in the new wards to have those people selected for them? And I'm wondering what record of community involvement these individuals have. Again, my problem is not with the individuals themselves, the selection of these individuals, but rather with the appearance that the process that this selection has caused. What it looks like is cronyism at best and inbreeding at worst.

There was even a recent letter to the Editor in the Review Journal from people, from a couple living in one of the new ward boundaries saying that they had never even heard of the top front-running candidates for these appointments, and I'm concerned about that as well.

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So, I would urge you to please implement a more open process for public input and to not forget the community, after all, it is because of your communities why each of you are here. Thank you very much.

MAYOR GOODMAN

Thank you for your comments. Would any of the Council like to respond to any of the questions at this time? Okay. Thank you very much.

COUNCILWOMAN McDONALD

And, Judge Kessler, I think, it might even be helpful, just for edification purposes, if you could just explain our, how the Nevada Revised Statutes, what some of the limitations are as far as keeping the ward numbers within, I guess, certain differentials of each other.

JUDGE FRED KESSLER

Generally, the US Supreme Court, when they set the population deviation limitations on municipal government and state legislative districts, have set a ten percent deviation as the maximum allowable. And so when you draw districts, it's always my belief to try to draw them even closer than the maximum ten percent, but not – hope not to set the new precedent, or hope not to write the new precedent determining redistricting plans. So I've tried to keep them closer than the ten percent, because I think that it's more likely to avoid litigation. But you do have the ten percent limitation on population, which is probably the major determination on – how, on maximum size of the districts.

COUNCILWOMAN McDONALD

And the reason why I bring that point up, I know that the Charleston Heights Neighborhood Preservation Association did have a town hall meeting as it relates to some of the precincts that will or will, that are currently in Ward 2 but will not be after the new configuration. And I know we looked at trying to keep some of those precincts, but, because of the population, it would have thrown us out of compliance. Could you just speak to that a little.

JUDGE FRED KESSLER

I would say this. I did receive and read the communications from the Charleston Heights, and I attempted to see if there was something I could do. The difficulty is it would have required changes at different ends of the district and would have affected the compactness of the district, and I felt that – and would have adversely had an affect on other neighborhoods. And so my sense was that the plan as originally drafted was still the better of the plans.

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I – appreciate the difficulty in breaking up traditional neighborhoods, but the population deviation requirements, I think, compel it sometimes in fashions that we otherwise would not have liked.

COUNCILWOMAN McDONALD

Thank you.

MAYOR GOODMAN

Okay. Thank you.

CHARLES McCARTY COVENEY

Yes. My name is Charles McCarty Coveney. I'm here with Amigos for Democracy as a staff member. Previously we objected to – the ward districting because it was diluting the Hispanic population from Ward 3 to Ward 5. We'd like to know, we think it's – Additionally, there's gonna be a dual representation of the downtown area. We think that's improper also. That if Ward 5 is responsible for the downtown area, then so be it. Let Ward 5 be responsible for the downtown area. It doesn't need – Both minority wards do not need to be supervised by – two different Council people.

Additionally, our -- main concern is that we had a meeting on Saturday or Friday at the CCSN. A coalition was formed between the African-American community and the Hispanic community regarding the potential candidates or nominees for the current Council position. And they're quite distressed, the African minorities are quite distressed because they've been unable to get either of the two leading candidates, or employees of the City of Las Vegas to attend any meeting to address the public. They refuse to address the public, 'cause they didn't wanna feel, it was their position to comment on City policy or practices or whatever.

Additionally, none of us in the Hispanic community, that I'm aware of, and I've talked to many of 'em, are aware of the Hispanic candidate that, that's supposed to be the leading candidate for that posi', that particular position.

We think it's an insult to our community that the community has not taken seriously with their recommendations, and that the City Council's avoiding the nomination process by not allowing both City employees to make appearances and speak to the community.

COUNCILMAN REESE

I – Excuse me, please. Your Honor, this – is not on the subject of what we're here for today. I think he's talking about the appointments and after this process has been

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approved and down the road a month or so from now. All we're looking at here today is the maps. We're not looking about the candidates or who's running for what or anything like that. My opinion.

CHARLES McCARTY COVENEY

One of our -- primary concerns is you're diluting the Hispanic, the large, one of the largest Hispanic areas to Ward 5. Why not dilute the white areas from Ward 3 to Ward 5? Why wasn't that considered? Judge?

JUDGE FRED KESSLER

Well, the -- I -- if Tom Perrigo's around. I know he had the -- one map that was very helpful to me that showed that the -- primary concentration of Hispanics in the community as a whole -- I work better if I have the map in front of me --

COUNCILMAN REESE

There's a map right there now.

MAYOR GOODMAN

Okay. I'm just telling you. It's the same thing (inaudible) deconsolidation.

JUDGE FRED KESSLER

I'll just go down to the podium.

MAYOR GOODMAN

Something happened in the community (inaudible)

JUDGE FRED KESSLER

The greatest difficulty is that the Hispanic community is literally pressed against the I-15 Corridor on the east side. The ward with the highest percentage of Hispanics is 4059, and then we start going into 4038, 2056, 4039. And given the fact that the wards all have to have a population of 77,000 people, and -- I'll show you that with this map here which I asked Mr. Perrigo to make at our public hearing. This, these are the major concentrations of Hispanics. And if you then take a look at the population of the City, there's 95,000 people living east of the I-15 Corridor. We have to cross the I-15 Corridor if you're gonna have districts of 77,000 people. And my dilemma is I either cross here or I cross here. But I'm gonna have to cross at one point or the other, and I'm gonna be crossing at one of the concentrations. The highest Hispanic popu'--

CHARLES McCARTY COVENEY

But the purpose -- of crossing is to allow joint Council seats to represent the downtown area; is that the --

JUDGE FRED KESSLER

No. That is not the purpose of crossing.

CHARLES McCARTY COVENEY

Is that necessary?

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VERBATIM TRANSCRIPT - ITEM 1: BILL NO. 99-56 - CREATES TWO ADDITIONAL WARDS, DESIGNATED AS WARDS 5 AND 6, AND DESCRIBES THE BOUNDARIES OF EACH OF THE CITY'S SIX WARDS BY REFERENCE TO THE ELECTION PRECINCTS CONTAINED THEREIN

JUDGE FRED KESSLER

The purpose of crossing was that there are 95,000 people here. And when you have five Council seats and you have the seventy-seven thousandth person averaged and with a deviation of no more than five percent, you're gonna have to cross some place. And unfortunately, by virtue of the census showing where the concentrations of Hispanic person live, it's either here you're gonna cross, or you're gonna cross up here. And we chose to cross up here. This has the highest percentage of Hispanics of any precinct in the community, and I felt that that was the more substantial base to maintain in - Ward 3.

CHARLES McCARTY COVENEY

So what you're saying, you diluted the Hispanics to Ward 5?

JUDGE FRED KESSLER

I, there's -- no --

CHARLES McCARTY COVENEY

There's no other alternative?

JUDGE FRED KESSLER

There, there's, there was no other option once this Legislature and the citizens voted to create a six-person Council. I suspect if they had created a five-person Council, five districts, then you would have ended up having African-Americans diluted to enhance the possibility of a Hispanic representation. But, with the numbers the way those are, that was the only option that I had.

CHARLES McCARTY COVENEY

That was the only option. The other thing is will this map be used for any election, with the Census coming out in 2001? Or is this a temporary redistricting map?

COUNCILMAN REESE

If I - could, Your Honor?

MAYOR GOODMAN

Certainly.

COUNCILMAN REESE

I think that once the Census comes out, whether it be probably towards the end of the year 2000 or 2000, the spring of 2001, that we'd probably have to redistrict again.

CHARLES McCARTY COVENEY

So there'll be more expense involved in redistricting again. And this may never be used for an election? Possibly?

COUNCILMAN REESE

No, I'm sure that it'll probably used for the election in, when, 2001?

CITY MANAGER VALENTINE

Your Honor and Council, we believe that it will be used for the 2001 election, 'cause we don't believe that we'll the census resolved --

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**VERBATIM TRANSCRIPT - ITEM 1: BILL NO. 99-56 - CREATES TWO ADDITIONAL WARDS, DESIGNATED AS WARDS 5 AND 6, AND DESCRIBES THE BOUNDARIES OF EACH OF THE CITY'S SIX WARDS BY REFERENCE TO THE ELECTION PRECINCTS CONTAINED THEREIN**

COUNCILMAN REESE

Yeah.

CITY MANAGER VALENTINE

-- and another redistricting opportunity before the, before that election. So in all likelihood, this will be used for the 2001 election and as soon as we have that Census data available, we will begin another redistricting.

MAYOR GOODMAN

And, Mr. McCarty, I feel constrained to make a comment. And that is that there's a -- very dangerous phenomenon that's happening in our community over the last several weeks. And that is that rumors are taking on a life of their own. There is not leading candidate, as far as the City Council is concerned. To my knowledge, there has been no interchange of ideas. We've interviewed everybody who has asked to interview with us. We're going to select the persons that we believe are right. It's gonna be a matter for discussion at the time of the October 6<sup>th</sup> hearing, assuming that's when the persons are gonna be nominated.

So when I hear about leading candidates, I think that that's the same kind of misinformation, because it is picked up by the media as to far as deconsolidation is concerned.

So that's perfectly clear. On deconsolidation, I directed the City Manager when I came on board, with the acquiesces of my fellow Council members, to conduct an analysis of all City Departments, all people with whom we do business to find out whether the tax maker, the taxpayer is getting a bang for its buck. And -- now we're fading hundreds of phone calls of people who say, you're in favor of deconsolidation, when, in fact, that isn't even the issue of the particular study. It could be the result, depending on how the study turns out. But at this point in time, we just have a study. We haven't been given any document whatsoever. I'm -- not accusing you of anything, but I figure this is the -- forum where I can make that perfectly clear.

CHARLES McCARTY COVENEY

Well, and I appreciate that, Mayor, and we do support you and Mr. Reese a hundred percent on this issue, and there are many rumors floating around. And you, both organizations, the Amigos for Democracy and the Hispanic community as well as the African community that we attended the other day, are quite frustrated, because they're having public meetings with potential candidates to give their views, like they have an opportunity to be actually heard. And -- do they have an opportunity to be heard?

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MAYOR GOODMAN

If anybody calls up -- I'll speak for myself, and I feel that my fellow Councilmen have the same good interest at heart -- if anybody is interested in an appointment, my office will set up a -- meeting between that person and myself to discuss their interest. We -- value community participation. We want people who wanna serve. And I don't think anybody who's sitting up here would ever deny the opportunity of anybody to have a meaningful conversation as to whether or not they warrant the appointment.

CHARLES McCARTY COVENEY

And I appreciate that, and we was trying to get that clarified to stop the rumors. We've been trying to do that. And -- I understand the frustration that you're going through with this, because I can assume your -- phone is ringing quite extensively over the -- Metro situation. But thank you very much.

COUNCILMAN McDONALD

(inaudible) on that issue, the only people that got through on -- several, about every -- I don't know how everybody else was handling this. But the only people -- that got through my door were the meeting you and I had. Other than that, no leading candidate, or whatever the rumors were, I haven't interviewed anybody. And the only response my office has given out is we can't make a recommendation 'til the map's certified. That's the first step, and then we start (inaudible).

CHARLES McCARTY COVENEY

Right.

COUNCILMAN McDONALD

You know, there's been -- You know, it's just like picking Monday-Night Football. You know, take your best pick.

MAYOR GOODMAN

Well, don't say that. I mean --

COUNCILMAN McDONALD

Yeah. Well, you can. You know, he -- he's a good picker.

MAYOR GOODMAN

The Mayor's pretty good at that.

COUNCILMAN McDONALD

Yes, he is. But that, again, and it's the Mayor's pick, and this Council ratifies. So, for us, you know, no one's come through my office, as far as an appointment, because we can't put anything together until the map gets certified, then, if the map's certified today, then the process begins.

CHARLES McCARTY COVENEY

Right. Well, both communities are very concerned, and they are quite frustrated, because they feel that --, think what they're reading in the paper is actually accurate and these are the leading candidates. Yet when they're talked to --

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COUNCILMAN McDONALD

Charles, let me tell you, from the last week, nothing's been accurate in the paper. Trust what I'm telling you.

CHARLES McCARTY COVENEY

Right. No, no, and I understand that and appreciate your comment on that. And we will make sure, our community, I'll make sure our community sees a response to this in the paper this week.

MAYOR GOODMAN

Very good. Thank you.

CHARLES McCARTY COVENEY

Thank you very much.

COUNCILMAN REESE

If I could, Charles, before you leave. Also, I wanted to comment, make a couple other comments. I have interviewed anybody that's called my office. I've interviewed the replacement for the judgeship. Also, the potential candidates for the City Council seats. So I -- have interviewed.

Okay. What I wanted to comment, was you made a comment about the -- demarcation on Fremont Street. I have been part of trying to represent Fremont Street, and that's the one -- I looked at the map the Friday night before, or the night before it was presented, and that's the only thing that I asked. Is that, I think, my own personal opinion, and people that I have met with and dealt with down along Fremont Street, I think that it behooves us to have two representatives because of the amount of money that we are spending downtown. And I would hate to -- think that somewhere down the line that we might have people want to take the money and put it somewhere else, because then we would lose what we have on Fremont Street right now.

Fremont Street Experience, what we have right now, down there right now, to me, is a -- success, but is not a complete success. I think once we get the Federal building up, we get Neonopolis up, then we can start looking at maybe, you know, what we're gonna put over there on the UP property.

So, I think, right now, the way it sits, maybe even after the census that when we redistrict, it won't be as important. But, I think, today, it's really important that we have at least two Councilmen representing downtown. And whether it's marked on Fremont Street or -- where ever it's marked by, I think that we have to have that split up. And that was the

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one thing that I – looked for, and that I think is very important to us, and I – requested that. So, that's where we're at on that.

CHARLES McCARTY COVENEY

Right. Well, we were looking at the (inaudible) that the two minority wards were being divided --

COUNCILMAN REESE

Yeah --. Well, I – If it – really made a difference, see, but it doesn't. I mean, you know, if you, I don't think that it would really affect the Hispanic community or the African-American community if we did. But the way – it is now, we are gonna be representing, have two, possibly three representatives with the Mayor, on what happens downtown. And I think we have to have those voices downtown right now.

CHARLES McCARTY COVENEY

Well, I'm sure you're aware that you're viewed very highly in the Hispanic community in Ward 3 and will be continued to be viewed that way, as a – good representative of that community. Thank – you.

COUNCILMAN REESE

Thank you very much, Charles.

MAYOR GOODMAN

Okay. Mr. Peck.

GARY PECK

Good morning. My name is Gary Peck. I'm with the ACLU of Nevada. My address is 325 South Third Street, Las Vegas, Nevada.

MAYOR GOODMAN

Could you sign in, please.

GARY PECK

Yes, I will.

MAYOR GOODMAN

Thank you.

GARY PECK

It's a pleasure to be here with Councilman Reese not in a tie. I think this may be the first time I've ever been in a room in a tie when Councilman Reese was dressed casually. I --

COUNCILMAN REESE

Well, if I might. Now, see, the Mayor's been chewing me out here all morning. We're – supposed to be on this airplane, see, and we're gonna fly to New York. But I didn't wanna look like that flying to New York. I wanna – feel comfortable when I'm flying to New York.

GARY PECK

I thought you meant you didn't wanna look like the Mayor in general.

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COUNCILMAN REESE

No. I'm scared – of flying, see.

MAYOR GOODMAN

Very funny.

GARY PECK

I'll be very brief. I – actually have had some fairly lengthy discussions with Ms. Carrasco and with Charles about these issues. And Councilman Reese is of course right, we oughtn't be conflating the issue of how the boundaries are drawn with how the candidates are selected. But – in fairness, I think the public's view is it's all of a piece. It all fits together, and in a sense it does fit together, because, of course, how the boundaries are drawn affects who the viable candidates are and what's gonna happen in the next election probably.

So, I would just speak to the process. And – I think, with respect to the boundary, with respect to both pieces of the process I do think that the concerns that were raised by Ms. Carrasco are legitimate ones. As you all no doubt know and appreciate, there is no more important principle than representativeness and the idea that people's votes are supposed to count, and that the public's input is supposed to count, and that everyone's vote is supposed to count the same. So, how the boundaries are drawn and how the candidates are selected is profoundly important and an enormously important responsibility not only for the City Council, but for the entire community.

So, I – would say, just by way of echoing some of the comments you've already heard, I – think there is a real – problem at least with the perception that the process has not been open, that there has not been an encouragement for enough public participation and input in the process.

With respect to the boundaries, the Judge no doubt is very aware of all of the myriad laws that affect how boundaries can and can't be drawn and just how delicate these issues are. So I would implore the Judge, at the very least or City Council, to craft some sort of document or make some sort of statement that makes very clear to the general public what the criteria were that were used to – develop these boundaries, what the criteria and the facts were. Because now the public is feeling, and I get lots of calls. Probably, some of them unfair. But a lot of calls from people in the community either from just organizations or just individuals who say, here we go again. You know, it's the City Council up to their shenanigans. What we're getting is some, you

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know, version of cronyism that's closed. We don't know what's going on, and they think the motives are impure.

And I think that's bad for everybody. It's bad for City Council and particularly when you're dealing about, with these kinds of very sensitive issues, it's terribly bad for the community. So I think that kind of clear articulation of what the criteria and factors were, that we used to draw boundaries, which by everyone's acknowledgment does dilute the voting power of particular segments of the community would be very important.

With respect to how the candidates are selected, I would just implore you to ensure that the process is absolutely as open and po', as possible. And that means more than, at least to my mind, I'll speak for myself and ACLU members, but that it's more than just taking phone calls and interviewing candidates. I mean, the process really needs to be opened up. And I don't think I need to tell you --

COUNCILMAN REESE

Excuse me -- if I could, Mr. Peck, then --

GARY PECK

Sure.

COUNCILMAN REESE

What would be your suggestion, that we -- as a City Council, I mean, to me, I'm not gonna out here and say, I think you ought to come in, you ought to come in, you ought to come in, and you ought to come in. I mean if you live in this area and so on and so forth. I went through this process. I -- seen this process, to me, at it's worst when I tried to get the appointment four and a half years ago.

Okay, when I -- seen the results of the election, and we was gonna have to put in two more seats, the first thing I did is I went to my City Attorney and I says: Is there any way, is there any way that we can have an election, a special election to elect? That's the only fair way we can do it. Anything else is -- rhetoric; okay?

I --, you know, the system may not be perfect. We didn't set the system. We're trying to abide by what the voters told us that we had to do by the referendum vote. And if we could have had a special election, I would of been in favor of it. But there again, the way that it was set up on the Legislative level, we couldn't do that. We have to appoint, then they have to be elected.

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And all we -- can do in my office, and my staff has been told anybody that comes in here, wants to talk to us about the appointment, the appointment process, what it takes, so on and so forth, they're more than welcomed to. And I don't know what we as a City Council can do.

GARY PECK

Well, what I -- think at the very -- First of all, what I would suggest is talking to leaders in those communities and in those wards about --

COUNCILMAN REESE

What -- But -- I appreciate it. But there again, though, you know, if -- the -- leaders, okay, if they want to get their candidates or one candidate, two candidate, whatever, and bring them forward, that's what they have to do. I can't go out here and say, I want you to bring this person forward or this group here, you know, you -- This is what the group, this is what they have to do not -- the Council. I mean, all we can do is sit back and wait for the candidates to surface. And if there's 25 in Ward 6 once these boundaries are approved by the City Council, the so be it, let these 26 people step forward, and then we have to go through that process of bringing it down to one or two or three and have the whole Council agree on 'em.

GARY PECK

Well, I -- would just encourage you to make that process, I mean, I think, at the very least, having some town halls would be a really good idea to hear what people from those communities have to say and how they feel about various possible candidates for these positions --

COUNCILMAN REESE

Well, I thought -- you was --

GARY PECK

But let me --

COUNCILMAN REESE

-- talking about the -- method that we have, see. And to me -  
-

GARY PECK

Oh, I agree with you. I think a special election would have been preferable to having the City Council appoint. Now that you're stuck with appointing, I think you ought to make that process as open as you possibly can, and you should take as much public input as you possibly can --

COUNCILMAN REESE

On --

GARY PECK

-- throughout that process --

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COUNCILMAN REESE -- on the candidates, though?

GARY PECK Yes. Absolutely. And I don't think I need to tell you, whatever your motives are, and I don't question your motives, it should be obvious to everyone, unless you live in a fantasy world, that it's the two candidates -- and I have no grief for any particular candidate -- but if it's the two candidates whose names are constantly bandied about as the leading candidates now, if those end up being the candidates who are appointed without the process having been opened up to as much public input as possible, I don't think there can be any question but that many people in the community will believe that that was a product of cronyism, rightly or wrongly. And, again, I'm not questioning motives.

MAYOR GOODMAN Let -- me say this, because I have a lot of respect for your intellect; okay? I made a statement before that there are no leading candidates. Secondly, as far as this concept of openness, my goodness, my office receives letters on a daily basis, I mean, ten, fifteen letters on a daily basis from community-oriented groups making suggestions, saying who they would like to see appointed, giving us reasons why. And I know we all read these and we're attentive to 'em, so I don't know how much more open the -- process could be. If Judge Kessler felt that it was necessary to have more public input, we certainly would have had another meeting. It's no sweat off us.

But, right now, I -- can't see any -- And I said, I say respectfully to you, as far as the process of openness, I think it's very open.

GARY PECK Well, I -- would simply note that that sense isn't shared throughout the community, and that's a problem. And so thinking about ways to create the feeling within the community that the process is more open, I think, would be good for everyone. And I don't think you or anyone else on City Council opposes that in principle, at least I would assume not --

COUNCILMAN REESE Okay. Let me --

GARY PECK So I would encourage you to -- work with folks, like Charles, like Liz, others from whom you have received correspondence or telephone calls --

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MAYOR GOODMAN

Well, not only that, but Charles and Marlene, they call up my office, they say, we'd like to talk to you about the -- process. We set up an appointment for 'em virtually immediately. They have as much time as they need. We talk about it. I find out what their needs and desires are, and I would hope that everybody feels that way. If they don't, shame on them.

GARY PECK

So, I -- would implore you that at the very least, and this is just coming from one person, again. I'd ask you to seek input from others in the community. I hold myself out, as no particular expert on this. But at the very least I would recommend some town hall meetings where people could talk about various potential candidates -- who they support, why they support 'em -- in a manner that permits some real dialogue.

MAYOR GOODMAN

Thank you very much.

COUNCILMAN REESE

And there again, that's, I guess, what I was trying to get across was that the doors are open. You know, I mean, I'm sure that any Councilman, once we approve this map and once the map is approved, they -- can come and talk to us two, three, four times, as often as possible, any group.

GARY PECK

Right. Again, I'm suggesting in an open and public forum rather than private meetings, though. I appreciate the fact that your doors are opened.

COUNCILMAN REESE

But there -- again, though, if you -- have an open forum, though, and you've got three or four candidates there, we can't have, because of the Open Meeting Law, we can't have two or three Councilmen there or -- the Mayor there. And what I've -- seen, even when I was trying to get the appointment four and a half years ago, it just turns into a barn burner and people calling people names and stuff. It has no -- input at all. It's --

GARY PECK

Name calling isn't bad, but being a barn burner isn't bad either. I think barn burners are good things.

COUNCILMAN REESE

What I went through --, I would not put anybody through, Sir.

JUDGE FRED KESSLER

Mr. Peck, if -- I could just -- This is Judge Kessler. If I could just respond to the additional portion of your question, and I think -- I've tried to, as you see with those two maps that I have. The one that shows the location of the Hispanic

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community and the other that shows the number of people living east of I-15. Geography is the big determinate on the way those Council lines looked. And I think that's a real important consideration, because there just is no more room on the east side, and that limits the flexibility that we have in drafting any Council districts. Once the decision was made to create six rather than seven, or rather than five, or rather than fifteen, once that decision was made, that determined to a great extent the boundaries in the two minority/majority areas.

I come at this as a long-time and current Milwaukee ACLU Chapter board member and former president of the Milwaukee Chapter. I come through into this with the personal goal of trying to make sure that Hispanics and African-Americans have a place at the political table. And the only restrictions that I have are the size of the Council and the geography of the community, otherwise, I would have done all that I could to try to see that there are more. But the population numbers of this community and the shape of the City are the determinants.

And I don't know, I brought those visuals out there so that people could understand that. I don't know what more I could do to present those real reasons and say that there were no hidden agenda, other than that which I just stated, in drafting this plan. And I hope that that can clarify it as best I can, or I hope that that helps clarify it better for where we --

GARY PECK

Well, I -- appreciate those comments, and I particularly appreciate the fact that you're a former chapter president of the ACLU, especially in Milwaukee 'cause I spent a fair amount of time there.

You know, I'm not accusing anyone of having a hidden agenda, frankly. I'm not questioning anyone's motives. I'm questioning the appearance of the process and the fact that many in the public remain in the dark. And you probably share, if I may say so, respectfully, maybe you don't -- I have a weakness. One of my weaknesses is an inability to craft comprehensible narratives that ordinary folks who aren't lawyers or judges or who work in the legal profession can understand. It would be nice if there was a way not simply to present a map, but to present a clear and concise statement that delineates what the criteria were that makes clear that you were sensitive to the issues you just alluded to, and that the reason the boundaries are drawn the way

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they are is because you into your mind had no alternatives. At least that would give people a way of looking at the process and understanding it better than they do now.

You no doubt can appreciate how sensitive and delicate an issue this is, particularly in black and brown communities, for a variety of reasons. Especially in a City like this that has a history of, you know, and I love Las Vegas. I've been here three years.

COUNCILMAN McDONALD

Mr. Peck --

GARY PECK

I love it --

COUNCILMAN McDONALD

-- hold on --

GARY PECK

-- but it has a peculiar history. You no doubt know that.

MAYOR GOODMAN

Mr. Peck --

COUNCILMAN McDONALD

And I think you have -- you hit that point three times, and I stand behind, and I think the Judge will be able to say the same thing. But the problem is what we're getting off on an issue -- and I remind the Mayor just brought this up. This is about the map --

GARY PECK

That's what we were talking about --

COUNCILMAN McDONALD

No. I'm just saying, but everybody seems to get off on a (inaudible) --

GARY PECK

No. We were talking about the map and boundaries.

MAYOR GOODMAN

Wait, wait --

COUNCILMAN McDONALD

Let me finish. Mr. Peck.

MAYOR GOODMAN

Mr. Peck.

GARY PECK

I think that's the colloquia we were having.

COUNCILMAN McDONALD

Right. But in the last part of your sentence, when you talked about the appointment process and leading candidates. There are no leading candidates. The Mayor makes the appointments. I agree with everything you said up to that point, but this is about the map. And that's --

GARY PECK

Right. I think the conversation that the Judge and I were

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having was about the map. But let me reiterate. It's very difficult to disentangle the two issues. In the public's mind, it's extremely difficult to disentangle the two issues, particularly when in the press a lot of the talk is about people moving around from district to district to position themselves to be candidates for the appointment. So --

MAYOR GOODMAN

Thank you. Thanks. Let's --

GARY PECK

You're very welcome. Thank you.

MAYOR GOODMAN

Thank you very much for your thoughts.

TOM MCGOWAN

Mr. Mayor, Tom McGowan with a corrective footnote. Very important correction. SB38, Councilman Reese, does not prohibit referendum ballot question. Quite the opposite, it makes it discretionary. What this Council did was discretionary. It could have done the other just as easily. Second thing is, having to do with public comment. There's a lot of opportunity for public comment if people really look for it. The only thing, what's really important, though, is because public comment is advisory only, non-directive. The important thing about public comment is the extent to which the Council responds to it or not. And the third thing is, good luck. You're in it up to your necks right now.

MAYOR GOODMAN

Thank you. Yes, Sir --

TOM MCGOWAN

And that -- last speaker, by the way, because the Chair did not call the meeting to order, was imbalanced. There was no (inaudible); okay? You don't give one person three minutes, everybody else twenty.

MAYOR GOODMAN

Thank you.

JOSE SOLORIO

Good afternoon. My name is Jose Solorio and a resident of the proposed Ward 5 in the City of Las Vegas. I know the issue today is -- the boundaries. I just have a couple of quick questions for Judge Kessler. First of all, I appreciate the work that you've done to look at the Hispanic population and to make these as fair as possible. You said you either had to go below or above and choose one or the other. One had a higher percentage. What were the total numbers like? Did you recall?

JUDGE FRED KESSLER

I'm sorry, I'm not gonna be able to proper --

JOSE SOLORIO

Were they about equal or --

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JUDGE FRED KESSLER                    They -- I could have done it either way and I could have eq'  
--

JOSE SOLORIO                            Either way.

JUDGE FRED KESSLER                    And in the various combinations I did try to do it equal.

JOSE SOLORIO                            Okay. And -- I appreciate the Mayor's comment, I guess, at the August 31<sup>st</sup> meeting is, if anybody had any additional comments, please see me or the Judge and, of course, there's been ample time to do that. So I think the process has gone through. I think it's time to go forward on the boundaries.

But I do have one question, because I think they are related, the boundaries and the appointments. I've heard, for example, Councilman McDonald says, you know, give me the lines first and then I'll talk to people. You know, that makes sense, 'cause you may live in a different district. The appointment process, is that gonna be done on the same day that you finalize the -- map, or will there be like another two weeks, or do you know at this point?

MAYOR GOODMAN                        In my opinion, unless something dramatic takes place, I would think that the appointments will be made on October 6<sup>th</sup>.

JOSE SOLORIO                            On the same day --

MAYOR GOODMAN                        The same day that we finalize the map.

JOSE SOLORIO                            Then since this is my only other opportunity to say something about the appointment process, first of all, I -- agree with Councilman McDonald as far as a person living in the district, knowing the district, representing the district. I also agree with Councilman McDonald II (referring to Councilwoman McDonald) -- on her -- comments about being a problem solver, basically having the qualifications to -- be a councilman.

And the -- third thing that I think is really important, and I think you guys will probably address, is that the reason that this came about was we wanted more representation from -- our Council people. And I think that a Council that looks like the districts they represent is probably going to be more effective. And in that, I'm hoping that for the first time -- I don't know if we've ever had an Hispanic council person --

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but if there is an Hispanic council person that comes before you that lives in the district, is well qualified, and can do a great job, then I think that you should, you know, try to balance out the -- board here. And thank you.

MAYOR GOODMAN

Thank you for your comments. Would anybody else like to be heard? Anybody else? Okay, seeing none, then we'll close the public hearing aspect. And before I entertain any motion, there's been a request of me that the City Attorney's office suggested an amendment to the Bill. It's merely to update the list of precincts as formulated by the County Election Department and does not alter any boundaries. So, Mr. Steed, please.

CHIEF DEPUTY CITY ATTORNEY  
VAL STEED

Yes. Thank you, Mayor Goodman. From time to time the County Election Department updates the list of precincts, principally by -- splitting precincts that are becoming larger. And so there are approximately 21 of the precincts that are listed in the Bill that have been split by the County. In most cases one becoming two. In a couple of cases one becoming three. And so we would like to suggest that the Bill be amended to simply insert the new precinct numbers. Again, the map won't change, the boundaries don't change; it just, because our ordinance reads in terms of precinct numbers rather than a map, that's the way to -- bring it current with what the County is doing.

MAYOR GOODMAN

Thank you very much.

COUNCILMAN McDONALD

Mr. Mayor, --

MAYOR GOODMAN

Yes.

COUNCILMAN McDONALD

-- on -- Your Honor, before we proceed, I'd also like also like to thank Judge Kessler and also the input we've had from Mr. McCarthy (sic) and -- the group that came up before. Gary Peck has made a couple phone calls. And some of the active groups out in Ward 4, the new Ward 6 that have been actively homeowners associations over the last four years for, I've had the honor to serve up here.

But, Mr. -- I'd like to thank the Judge. This is the second time we've gone through this process. It's always difficult because people that are represented now do not wanna be represented by someone else, and as well as someone else once represented them, someone might take a exception with the way the lines -- are drawn.

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But the Judge, this is my second time working with him, and I can tell you he's an honorable man. He has been able to relay communications, where, frankly, I thought they were, the doors were shut, and he's -- given time after time after time. I don't think we could ever put a price tag on the job he does, because it is difficult and it's long hours and I've had the honor to watch him operate twice now. And he is one of the fairest people I've ever met.

I -- think the boundaries are good, and I -- think there's other comments, but I'd -- make a motion to accept the -- boundary lines drawn, the map the way it's drawn, and First Amendment by our Mr. City Attorney.

MAYOR GOODMAN

All right, there's been a motion. Any discussion on the motion?

COUNCILMAN BROWN

Mayor, I'm gonna offer a second amendment. Do you have the -- There's a -- precinct that is currently located in Ward 2. I've spoken to Councilwoman McDonald on this. It actually goes in -- the western portion of our City when they did the redistricting or the precinct back in the '90-'91 period. There were no homes up there, so there's a couple of precinct lines that literally go through neighborhoods and cut through actual homes. This one in particular has eight hundred and eighteen registered. The population number's 18. I've talked to Judge Kessler and -- the Councilwoman. I think, just from a sense of continuity, this would certainly help if it was taken out of Ward 4 and placed in, taken out of Ward 2 and placed into Ward 4, and I'd like to offer that up as a second amendment. It's, precinct number is 3006, total population of eight hundred and eighteen people.

And if I could put that onto the record, and I'd also make a couple brief comments. One, I was going to, while this was being raised earlier, as far as this public perception. It's well documented that in a -- perfect world, if this process was truly pure, then the people would vote to expand our Council and the people would vote to elect those seats. But it hasn't been a pure process. I think timing wise there was some obstacles presented. But I do disagree with some of the comments made about public participation and this being process being opened. I have over the last four or five months been inundated with emails and calls to the office, but not only on the appointment process, but just on the expansion of the Council.

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And this, when it was passed at the State level, those that represent the various communities in Las Vegas certainly are aware of that, and those that have a keen interest that started participating in that process upwards of 18 months ago. Certainly in the City process for the last three to six months there's been tremendous participation. So, I do think there's been a lot of interaction between the constituents and – City Council. We're gonna be back – and I think Councilman McDonald brought it up. We're gonna be back in less than two years going through this process again. If this is an opportunity now to take the lessons learned from this last go around and push them to this process that's gonna be occurring in the next 18 months to 2 years, let's take the things that we did well and expand on those. And the things that real or perceive that we didn't do well let's gear up and – correct it for the next go around, because I think that will be as substantial of a political process as we'll find. Obviously the Census comes every decade.

But we are going to be, I'd also ask the City Manager's office to work on some type of community plan, a communication plan, because, even with the – redistricting and the expansion of the wards, there are scores of precincts that now are going to, even on the interim, people are gonna be represented by new Council people, and then the appointments likewise. So if we could prepare something in the next 30 days, or so, to best communicate to those people that may not know. Some may not know who their Council person is now. But certainly when the districts are finalized and the appointments take place, that we're able to get out there and – communicate to the people – and -- Mr. Peck brought up a great point – and communicate the criteria from which this process goes through. I think that would be a valuable piece of information.

And finally, to echo Councilman McDonald's comments. I was very interested in how Judge Kessler goes about this. And it's not – as easy as I thought, as far as taking a big, black marker and just kind of making them look pretty with different colors. There's a tremendous amount of time that goes in, not only on the legal precedent that has been set throughout this nation, but also just from a common-sense perspective. We're unique in Las Vegas in that we can attempt to increase the opportunity for minority candidates, but the flip side of that coin is Las Vegas has become a community where assimilation is – so predominant that it's

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very difficult, in comparison to, say, Eastern cities, where there's some real generations of minority pockets. Here we have a – tremendous population of Hispanics and African-Americans throughout the community. I just, and I just ask for some numbers just to throw out that in the current proposed Ward 3 there's 24 percent Hispanics, but that's not even 40 percent of the Hispanics located throughout the City. So I think it'd be very difficult to achieve a situation where we truly have a majority/minority precinct – ward, and I think Judge Kessler has spoken to that publicly on it.

I'd also like to be naive enough to think that this community has gotten to the point where, first and foremost, we could elect a candidate or appoint a candidate based on qualifications first, and then try to be sensitive to the diversity that we all hope to achieve on this Council. But sometimes in all the rhetoric we lose sight of the fact that there's a lot more criteria than just the color of one's skin or cronyism or an appointment process that is perceived to be different from what we intend to do.

I -- still feel strongly that we need to go out and find the best candidates to sit on this Council, especially as we enter the new millennium.

With that said, I will offer up that second amendment.

MAYOR GOODMAN

Any other discussion?

COUNCILMAN REESE

Well, I'd just like to make one comment. This is just Recommending – Committee hearing. This won't be voted on for real until, October the 6<sup>th</sup>?

COUNCILMAN McDONALD

Sixth.

COUNCILMAN REESE

So there will be -- if there's anybody wanting to make other comments or look at the map further, we can still do that also.

I also would like to thank Judge Kessler for his time and effort. That's all.

COUNCILMAN McDONALD

Also, Your Honor, I'd – make the second amendment, make my **motion to include the second amendment for a “do pass” toward the City Council on the lines that were drawn.**

And also before we leave, I think it would be remiss – Did I

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forget something? I'd be remiss if I didn't thank City staff – Virginia, Steve, you've done a wonderful job. Tom, you've always been there for the Judge, from what he says, so --

JUDGE FRED KESSLER

Now, if I could take the occasion just to say Tom Perrigo has been absolutely terrific. And, you know, when I needed something on short order, Tom Perrigo produced it on short order. And he deserves a lot of help, a lot of credit for the – success of this job.

COUNCILMAN McDONALD

Good job, Tom. That's it, Your Honor.

MAYOR GOODMAN

All right, vote on the motion to recommend. All those in favor? Vote. Post. Motion carries. **(Motion carried unanimously)**

**(END OF DISCUSSION)**

/gpb \