Albany County Redistricting Commission [Minutes: August 7, 2022]

Attendance

ACRC Commissioners	Interns	MMD
Joan Ramsey	Nick Glass (ACRC)	Marie Allen Campbell
Warren E. Hamilton	Nassim Ramdani (MMD)	Constance Graves
Larry Volk		Dona Bulluck
Patricia Sibilia		Dominic Mazza
Thomas Clingan	Guests:	Adrienne Kissee
Sita Subbaram	Jeffrey Wice	Larry Mauldin
Leif Hartmark	Priya Sankalia	
Julia Reeb	Ashley Tardif	Guests:
Mark McCumber	Marissa Zanfardino	Priti Mathur
	Lisa Handley	Sam Mathur

NOTE: THIS MEETING INCLUDED EXTENSIVE DISCUSSION THAT CANNOT BE FULLY CAPTURED IN THIS SUMMARY. INTERESTED PARTIES MAY WANT TO VIEW THE FULL VIDEO RECORDING FOUND at the following link: [https://youtu.be/w85FCPPiu6U]

Chairman Volk convened the meeting at 7:21 PM and called the roll (see above). The minutes from July 21st were approved (1 Abstention).

The commission began by discussing an MMD meeting that took place on August 6th in this meeting the MMD sub-committee decided after long discussion that they would not be making any changes to the proposed majority minority districts.

Commission members next discussed the possibility that the County Legislature could formally reject the map, which would require the Commission to prepare a revised map. Several commission members expressed the view that any such rejection be accompanied by guidance as to precisely where changes were needed.

The commission then discussed comments from the public hearing on August 4th pertaining to the non MMD districts. This discussion first focused on comments about Mereline Avenue in Albany, which is part of the border of the 1st district MMD. Any change to that border would have to come from the MMD subcommittee first. Next discussed were comments about northern Watervliet and the Maplewood area of Colonie. The commission discussed whether any changes could be reasonably accommodated or if it would create more problems than it would solve. After reviewing that area, the commission discussed other public hearing comments about the 27th, 28th and 29th districts. A mapping workshop was set for Monday August 8 to explore potential mapping solutions to address the concerns posed in all of those districts, and in Guilderland generally.

The commission then discussed the final report. Legal counsel updated the commission on talks he had with Albany County staff regarding a timetable for the final report. The commission then discussed the formatting for the report, primarily to what extent the ACRC and MMD reports were going to be integrated. The conclusion would be that each report would stand on its own, but that some elements of the MMD report (for example, descriptions of the MMD districts) would also be included within the Commission's report. A commissioner also made comments about what he wanted to see regarding the executive summary.

The commission then discussed best dates for future meetings to determine which dates would best accommodate the commissioners' schedules.

The next ACRC meeting will be on Monday August 8th at 4 pm, with the mapping workshop to follow.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:03 pm.

Meeting notes prepared by Nick Glass and reviewed by Tom Clingan