

Albany County Redistricting Commission [Minutes: August 8, 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 Sibia		Dominie Mazza
Thomas Clingan	Guests:	Adrienne Kisse
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/Wp9e2LjzokM>]

Chairman Volk convened the meeting at 4:13 PM and called the roll (see above).

The commission began by discussing the final report for the commission. Legal counsel commented about the impact that the new state law reducing of the allowable deviation has had on redistricting everywhere in New York, making it much harder to keep communities and neighborhoods together within legislative districts. We are not the only ones facing this issue.

Another commissioner then brought up the draft of the “lessons learned” section, which currently includes possible changes to the local law that created the commission. He believed the lessons learned section should be geared towards helping the 2030 commission rather than towards changing the local law. A member of the MMD then detailed how she believed the lessons learned inherently needed to focus on the law because a lot of the limitations faced by both the Commission and the subcommittee stemmed from ambiguous language within the law. The commission then discussed what the exact parameters of the “lessons learned” section of the report should be. The subcommittee plans to include a similar section in its report, so ACRC’s “lessons learned” should reflect ACRC’s concerns. Several members voiced suggestions about starting the process earlier and making commission members more aware of Albany County’s procedures (e.g. procurement, hiring of staff.) Counsel cautioned that the Commission should recognize that Local Law 8 was likely the product of a number of compromises, which may make it unlikely that the County Legislature would revise the law to make it clearer and more specific.

The commission then discussed who was going to write the executive summary, which must summarize all the important points of the report itself. Mr. Clingan volunteered to draft this summary for review by other commissioners once the body of the report is finished.

The commission then discussed a general timeline moving forward including the mapping session immediately following this meeting, with the expectation of reviewing these minor changes at the next ACRC meeting, which was set for Wednesday August 10th at 7:30 pm.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:47 pm.

Meeting notes prepared by Nick Glass and reviewed by Tom Clingan