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**TOWN OF HEMPSTEAD**

**REDISTRICTING MEETING**

**ONE WASHINGTON STREET**

**TOWN HALL PAVILION**

**HEMPSTEAD, NEW YORK 11550**

**January 19, 2023**

**2:30 P.M.**

**BEFORE: GARY HUDES, CHAIRMAN**

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**APPEARANCES :**

ALBERT D'AGOSTINO, ESQ., COMMISSION MEMBER

DOROTHY BRAZLEY, COMMISSION MEMBER

JOHN MACCARONE, HEMPSTEAD TOWN ATTORNEY

1            TOWN ATTORNEY MACCARONE: Good Afternoon,  
2            Ladies and Gentlemen.

3            We would like to start the next Meeting of  
4            the Town of Hempstead Redistricting Committee.    Page | 3

5            As was Noticed, this is a Public Hearing  
6            but there will be no public comment at this  
7            Hearing.

8            (Whereupon, "why not," was heard calling  
9            out from the audience. After, the following  
10            ensued.)

11            TOWN ATTORNEY MACCARONE: This will be a  
12            discussion between the Board Members and they will  
13            either make or not make certain recommendations to  
14            the Town Board.

15            At the Town Board, there will be a Public  
16            Hearing or two, that hasn't been determined, yet  
17            or three or four and you all will be allowed to  
18            speak, then.

19            So, at this time, I would like everybody to  
20            stand so we can recite the Pledge of Allegiance.

21            (Whereupon, the Pledge of Allegiance was  
22            recited by the Assembly. After, the following  
23            ensued.)

24            TOWN ATTORNEY MACCARONE: I would like to  
25            call the roll.

1 Chairman Hudes?

2 CHAIRMAN HUDES: Here.

3 TOWN ATTORNEY MACCARONE: Mrs. Braizley?

4 COMMISSIONER BRAIZLEY: Here.

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5 TOWN ATTORNEY MACCARONE: Mr. D'Agostino?

6 COMMISSIONER D'AGOSTINO: Here.

7 TOWN ATTORNEY MACCARONE: At this time, it  
8 is open to the Commission.

9 And, I believe because Mrs. Braizley has a  
10 little bit of a presentation with regard to what  
11 is up on the video board, she will go, first.

12 COMMISSIONER BRAIZLEY: Good Afternoon,  
13 community.

14 When I was asked to sit on the Commission,  
15 I was very limited at what I really knew about  
16 redistricting.

17 So, I needed to take the maps and put the  
18 data with them.

19 So, these are the worksheets that I have  
20 been using to try to figure this entire thing out.

21 So, this first map that is up, this is  
22 Skyline Consulting.

23 You will see the company's logo on the map.  
24 This is Skyline's map and this is the data, um,  
25 that they gave us.

1 So, for instance, District 1 - - ten  
2 percent of the proposed - - ten percent, White,  
3 forty percent Hispanic, forty-four percent Black,  
4 three percent Asian. Page | 5

5 And, for each District, from the  
6 information that they sent us, I was able to pull  
7 that and put it next to the map, that helped me  
8 tremendously.

9 So, I am just sharing with you what I have  
10 been looking at, okay.

11 The next map, this is the actual districts  
12 as they are drawn currently and this is the data  
13 that I was able to retrieve from what they sent  
14 currently, okay.

15 The next one is the Bluebird plan.

16 The Bluebird plan was the maps that were  
17 submitted by, um, Amir Pierre Johnson and so, I  
18 was able to take her maps and, again, I was able  
19 to manipulate and get the information.

20 So, from their plan, they were able to pull  
21 three minority/majority districts, um, from what  
22 the Town of Hempstead currently has and like I  
23 said, this is Bluebird.

24 They came up with three different  
25 scenarios, okay.

1 So, with the Bluebird plan, you see the  
2 data, District 1, has a - - I am sorry, my eyes,  
3 District 1 is 37.9 - - no, three thousand nine  
4 hundred and fifteen, which is 28.8 percent.

5 Um, Hispanics, twenty-seven thousand nine  
6 hundred and eighty-three which is 21.2 percent.

7 Black, forty-two thousand two hundred and  
8 ninety which is 32 percent, Asian, Native American  
9 and Pacific Islanders.

10 So, I was able to retrieve more  
11 information, um, from there because they included  
12 Native American, as well as, Pacific, South Asian  
13 communities.

14 The next map that the Cultural Center  
15 submitted is the Osprey Plan and that is the data  
16 that I used.

17 And, the final one was Chickadee.

18 So, those were the three maps that we could  
19 consider from the Cultural Center.

20 And, finally, the Legal Defense Fund  
21 submitted two maps and I did the same thing with  
22 those maps.

23 Um, so, I think that we have other things  
24 that we can consider based on the information that  
25 the communities work, that the community has put

1 in.

2 We have some other considerations.

3 Each one has some challenges.

4 None of them seem to address Baldwin's Page | 7

5 issue, which was loud and clear, they want to be  
6 kept whole but they are split in almost every map.

7 Hempstead, Uniondale separating the people  
8 from the real estate, I think, is the issue.

9 And, they are not address in all the maps.

10 So, we have Hempstead, as well. Hempstead  
11 is not whole either.

12 Um, and so, those are the challenges that I  
13 believe, as a Commission that we have to deal  
14 with.

15 So, I wanted you to know what I was looking  
16 at and the way I was looking at it and why I was  
17 looking at it.

18 I think that is very helpful that there are  
19 community organizations that really did a lot of  
20 work to come up with these maps, as well as,  
21 Skyline, who was commissioned to do the work.

22 And, that is pretty much it for me.

23 (Whereupon, applause from the audience was  
24 heard. After, the following ensued.)

25 TOWN ATTORNEY MACCARONE: Can we go one

1    more time through the proposed maps that are put  
2    up there.

3            This is the Town of Hempstead plan.

4            This is the Bluebird map. It is part of Page | 8  
5    the record and was submitted to the Commission.

6            This is the Osprey map.

7            This is the Chickadee plan and LDF  
8    Alternative Number 1, LDF Alternative Number 2.

9            Thank you.

10           Mrs. Braizley, any other comments you want  
11    to make at this time?

12           COMMISSIONER BRAIZLEY: Not at this time.

13           TOWN ATTORNEY MACCARONE: Okay, Chairman?

14           CHAIRMAN HUDES: Yes, my question would be  
15    this, as we are going to make a recommendation to  
16    the Town Board of all of these maps, is there one  
17    that you say that encapsulates everything that we  
18    have been listening to at these Hearings where you  
19    would say, I would like to recommend this map  
20    because it covers most or as much of or would you  
21    want to say that I would like to see a combination  
22    of this map and some sort of a meddling of a  
23    couple of the maps so that we can include that in  
24    recommendations?

25           COMMISSIONER BRAIZLEY: I think we would



1    have to meld the maps, like I said, all of them -  
2    - the closest one to my liking was the Bluebird  
3    but there was some issues with separating some of  
4    the communities. Page | 9

5            So, I think that we still have to look at  
6    everything and take different ideas from each map.

7            CHAIRMAN HUDES:    So, would it be fair to  
8    say that you like the Bluebird with tweaking?

9            COMMISSIONER BRAIZLEY: Yes.

10           CHAIRMAN HUDES:    Okay, Mr. D'Agostino,  
11    would you like to make some comments that we could  
12    include in our recommendations?

13           COMMISSIONER D'AGOSTINO:    If I could ask a  
14    question, first.

15           In terms of the additional maps, do we have  
16    any paper copies?

17           It is a little difficult, I listened to the  
18    presentation that was just made but in terms of  
19    melding, are there any paper copies that we have  
20    in distribution that I can look at?

21           COMMISSIONER BRAIZLEY:    I have I in my  
22    book.

23           COMMISSIONER D'AGOSTINO:    I don't want you  
24    to take your book apart.

25           First of all, perhaps, at some point we can

1 get copies of those but, first thing that I would  
2 like to say, we have been up, here and we have  
3 listened and I want to stress that we have  
4 listened.

5 And, I want to thank the members of the  
6 public who have appeared and made comments to us.

7 And, my feeling is that and I know we are  
8 dealing with many variables, here, but in terms of  
9 the splitting of communities, I listened to what  
10 was said by the public in that regard and, um, and  
11 in terms of my personal feelings, um, there were  
12 references made, for example, to North Valley  
13 Stream and North Valley Stream should not be  
14 split.

15 It should be whole.

16 That, um, North Valley Stream and Elmont  
17 should be brought into a single district.

18 There were comments as to that.

19 There were comments raising the problems  
20 and issues relating to splitting Baldwin.

21 There were comments that were raised as to  
22 splitting - - I always referred to the Merricks,  
23 plural, Merrick and North Merrick.

24 In fact, the Merricks, I know there is a  
25 sign as you are coming into Merrick and it

1    is welcoming people to the "Merricks," plural,  
2    similarly with East Meadow, in terms of splitting  
3    East Meadow, these are things that I found  
4    problematic, as well, the splitting of Franklin  
5    Square, um, West Hempstead by dividing across  
6    three districts.

7            Um, and I know there are many issues that  
8    we are looking at in terms of the communities  
9    which have developed in Nassau County since it was  
10   formed back in 1899.

11            There are distinct communities being  
12   divided and frankly my feeling was that we should  
13   consider recommendations to the Town Board that  
14   efforts be made to keep those communities together  
15   and not divide those communities.

16            I know we are dealing with populations,  
17   voting populations and there were many, many  
18   variables and what I heard a lot of - - I heard a  
19   lot of things but there were strong feelings about  
20   dividing communities and I think that is something  
21   that we should take into consideration in our  
22   recommendations to the Town Board for its  
23   consideration.

24            (Whereupon, applause from the audience was  
25   heard.    After, the following ensued.)

1            COMMISSIONER D'AGOSTINO: I don't know if,  
2            at what point, the Chair might be entertaining a  
3            Motion in that regard, but, I would be willing to  
4            encompass those recommendations in a Motion if one <sup>Page | 12</sup>  
5            of the Board Members might favor seconding it or  
6            continuing - - well, for purposes of discussion,  
7            it would have to be seconded.

8            CHAIRMAN HUDES: Well, I also want to thank  
9            those that are here and those that were here at  
10           previous Hearings.

11           We really sat, each one of us and it truly  
12           was a Hearing.

13           We listened. I have a saying that I say to  
14           people, "God gave you two ears and one mouth, so  
15           you can listen twice as much as you talk."

16           And, I happen to be a firm believer in  
17           that, that is very, very important.

18           And, I can tell you that I have got  
19           probably twenty or twenty-five pages of  
20           handwritten notes from those Hearings from the  
21           point that, um, Mr. Town Attorney, can I apply for  
22           carpel tunnel?

23           TOWN ATTORNEY MACCARONE: You need a  
24           Doctor's note.

25           CHAIRMAN HUDES: All right, we all have

1 a lot of notes.

2 We all listened quite intently. I happen  
3 to agree, I think in both cases there is a common  
4 thread that we are seeing and that is the idea of <sup>Page | 13</sup>  
5 keeping communities whole, making them more  
6 compact.

7 I can tell you that as for my retirement  
8 and as a Town Councilman, it was difficult when  
9 the communities were split because often you  
10 would run into somebody and they would say, they  
11 ask you for help and in my case, for example, in  
12 Merrick, I would say, "do you live North or South  
13 of Camp Avenue?"

14 If I said it once, I said it a thousand  
15 times.

16 So, I think the idea that there seems to be  
17 a common thread, here, we agree that the idea  
18 being that communities be kept whole, communities  
19 be kept compact.

20 And, I think that, um, while I don't want  
21 to speak for my two co-members of this Commission,  
22 that is the impression I am getting.

23 COMMISSIONER BRAIZLEY: Yes.

24 COMMISSIONER D'AGSOSTINO: Yes.

25 CHAIRMAN HUDES: So, if that is the case

1    and since we are in full agreement of that type of  
2    recommendation, um, I think that after we have  
3    reviewed this map, um, and we have listened to  
4    those four Public Hearings and listened very  
5    clearly and the opinions of the Public was  
6    overwhelming, including the written comments that  
7    were also sent into the Town, I would propose that  
8    we make a recommendation to the Town Board that  
9    they consider our common thread thoughts and that  
10    is the ide of combining, trying not to split  
11    communities and keep them as compact as possible.

12            And, if we agree on that, then, I would  
13    like for a second on that Motion.

14            COMMISSIONER BRAIZLEY:    I second the  
15    Motion.

16            CHAIRMAN HUDES:    All in favor?

17            (Whereupon, a vote of aye was heard by all  
18    Commission Members.    After, the following ensued.)

19            CHARIMAN HUDES:    Okay, that is going to be  
20    our recommendation to the Town Board.

21            I again thank all of you for coming to this  
22    workshop.

23            And, I thank you for attending all of our  
24    Hearings so that we could get input from the  
25    community.

1 Thank you, again, and I appreciate you  
2 coming. I wish you all a very Happy and Healthy  
3 2023.

4 TOWN ATTORNEY MACCARONE: Chairman, I have <sup>Page | 15</sup>  
5 one question, the Chairman, you provided me with  
6 a proposal that you voted on that they consider  
7 certain things.

8 Would you like for me to make it part of  
9 the record?

10 CHAIRMAN HUDES: Absolutely, and we also  
11 have initial notes which I will give you  
12 afterwards, the notes that I made regarding the  
13 Bluebird and tweaking and so forth.

14 TOWN ATTORNEY MACCARONE: I know you gave a  
15 copy of that to Mr. D'Agostino and Mr. Braizley  
16 but I just thought that I would read to you what  
17 his proposal was.

18 So, you know, they are not making a  
19 recommendation for Skyline's Plan, rather they  
20 have taken in the public's input from four  
21 Hearings, the information provided by Skyline that  
22 said Skyline's proposal is problematic in that it  
23 splits Hempstead and Uniondale and there is a  
24 common theme in every one of the next things that  
25 I say, which members of the community said

1 should be together.

2 The next thing is in our Chairman's  
3 proposal is that the Skyline proposal is  
4 problematic and that it splits North Valley  
5 Stream.

6 The Skyline proposal is problematic in that  
7 it fails to keep the communities of North Valley  
8 Stream and Elmont together.

9 The Skyline proposal is problematic in that  
10 it splits Baldwin.

11 The Skyline proposal is problematic in that  
12 it fails to put the communities of Merrick and  
13 North Merrick in a single district.

14 The Skyline proposal is problematic because  
15 it splits East Meadow.

16 It is problematic because it splits  
17 Franklin Square.

18 It is problematic because it splits West  
19 Hempstead.

20 And, Skyline's proposal is problematic in  
21 that it is not sufficiently compact and  
22 compactness is an important redistricting criteria  
23 under the Home Rule Message.

24 So, and as I said, after each paragraph  
25 there was the same common thread which



1 members of the community testified should be  
2 together.

3 So, this Board, at this time, has not  
4 approved the Skyline proposal and is, in fact,  
5 issued a message to the Town Board that they  
6 should consider all of the testimony, all of the  
7 evidence that was presented and that they have  
8 these issues with the Skyline proposal.

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9 So, it is safe to say those are the reasons  
10 you haven't voted to approve the Skyline Plan?

11 CHAIRMAN HUDES: Yes.

12 (Whereupon, "You did not look at the  
13 changing demographics in making those decisions at  
14 all," was heard yelling out from the audience.  
15 After, the following ensued.)

16 TOWN ATTORNEY MACCARONE: It is absolutely  
17 incorrect and at the Meetings, I said the evidence  
18 presented to the Board and as you sat here, today,  
19 you have seen by Mrs. Braizley, those  
20 demographics, they are up there, just like Mr.  
21 Brewington's letter, which eloquently describes  
22 his opinions on those changing demographics.

23 So, yes, all of the evidence that is  
24 presented is part of the record and is going to be  
25 sent to the Town Board.

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Thank you all.

(Whereupon, "Why aren't you making a recommendation, a specific recommendation, that is the purpose of this Commission is to make a specific recommendation? You haven't accomplished anything," was heard calling out from the audience. After, the following ensued.)

TOWN ATTORNEY MACCARONE: Thank you very much. The Meeting is over.

The record speaks for itself. Thank you very much for coming. There will be future Public Hearings held by the Town Board.

Thank you.

(Whereupon, the meeting was concluded.  
Time noted: 3:00 p.m.)

CERTIFICATE BY COURT REPORTER

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I, do hereby certify that the foregoing  
testimony in the matter of the Hempstead  
Redistricting Commission held on January 19, 2023,  
consisting of pages 1 through 19 inclusive is an  
accurate transcription of my cryptic notes.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I SET MY HAND THIS DAY.



*CFM*

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