2011 ILLINOIS STATE SENATE REDISTRICTING COMMITTEE
SUBCOMMITTEE ON REDISTRICTING II

PUBLIC HEARING

April 26, 2011
800 Game Farm Road
Yorkville, Illinois

Sullivan Reporting Company, by
Tracy L. Overocker, CSR
License No. 084-004439
PRESENT:

SENATOR MICHAEL NOLAND, Vice Chairperson

SENATOR MATTIE HUNTER, Member

SENATOR SUE REZIN, Member
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VICE CHAIRPERSON NOLAND: Good morning. I am State Senator Michael Noland from the Elgin area. We are going to go ahead and get the redistricting hearing under way. This is the Senate version of the redistricting hearings. We're going to have the clerk call the roll. We're going to make a few announcements and we are going to offer the opportunity for those of you in the audience to come and speak on the redistricting.

So with that, the clerk will call the roll.

MS. AMY BOWNE: Senator Raoul?
(No response.)

MS. AMY BOWNE: Senator Collins?
(No response.)

MS. AMY BOWNE: Senator Jones?
(No response.)

MS. AMY BOWNE: Senator Noland?

VICE CHAIRPERSON NOLAND: Here.

MS. AMY BOWNE: Senator Hunter?

SENATOR HUNTER: Here.

MS. AMY BOWNE: Senator Rezin?

SENATOR REZIN: Here.

VICE CHAIRPERSON NOLAND: Okay. Very good.
This being a subject matter hearing, there's no need for -- necessarily for a quorum. We do, for the record, want to make some announcements. First being substitutions of some of our senators so that we can conduct business here today. Substitution first would be Senator Raoul for Harmon. We have Senator Hunter for Martinez; myself, Senator Noland, for Senator Maloney and Senator Rezin for Senator Cultra.

Okay. With that, we'd also like to make a couple of motions. I think I'll announce when the next hearings will be at the end of our process here today.

SENATOR HUNTER: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I move that this hearing be transcribed by the court reporter so that the Committee can have a full transcript of this hearing which the Committee can approve at a future hearing once members of staff have had time to review the transcript and make any needed changes.

VICE CHAIRPERSON NOLAND: Is there a second for the motion?

SENATOR REZIN: Second.

VICE CHAIRPERSON NOLAND: Senator Rezin
seconds, and is there leave for attendance roll call? That leave is granted and the motion passes.

SENATOR HUNTER: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. In keeping with our past practice, I move that the Committee allow members of the public to take photos of the proceedings so long as they do not disrupt the proceedings.

VICE CHAIRPERSON NOLAND: Very good. Motion by Senator Hunter.

Is there a second?

SENATOR REZIN: Second.

VICE CHAIRPERSON NOLAND: Very well. Motion passes. Leave for attendance roll call -- thank you. Seeing no objection, leave is granted and the motion passes.

SENATOR HUNTER: Thank you, Mr. Chairman, and I have one more motion. I move that the Committee allow any media present to take still photos and record the proceedings.

VICE CHAIRPERSON NOLAND: Very good. There is a motion by Senator Hunter. Is there a second?

SENATOR REZIN: Second.

VICE CHAIRPERSON NOLAND: Seconded by Senator
Rezin. Is there leave for attendance roll call?

SENATOR HUNTER: Leave.

VICE CHAIRPERSON NOLAND: Leave is granted.

Very good. Thank you.

With that, we'll move on to the opportunity for folks here to be heard with regards to redistricting process. We didn't receive any witness slips that I'm aware of.

Has that changed at all, Miss Bowne?

MS. AMY BOWNE: (Nonverbal response.)

VICE CHAIRPERSON NOLAND: Okay. All right.

Then we'll make one other attempt and that is just to extend the opportunity to anybody here that may have not filled out a witness slip, but would like to reconsider and, perhaps, come up and speak.

Okay. Well, this is our opportunity -- I'll be brief here. I'm not going to offer a lot of commentary here, but we've tried to make every effort to make this process as transparent as possible and make it as accessible and participatory as possible. So we do urge you to take advantage of this opportunity to speak to our panel. We are kind of a roving and traveling contingent, if you will. We will be now traveling to -- also nearby
to Macomb, to Western Illinois University. We'll be there at 12:00 p.m. on April 28th, that will be in University Union, the Lincoln Room at One University Circle in Macomb, Illinois, and we urge you to attend that hearing as well. Also too on the 28th we will have a Subcommittee of the Redistricting Committee meeting at Governors State University 10:00 a.m., Sherman Hall, at One University Parkway at University Park, Illinois, as well.

So, with that, I think we've taken care of all of the business that we absolutely have to with respect to the Redistricting Committee.

I would like to urge you just one last time, going once, going twice -- a gentleman who is standing up.

(Applause.)

VICE CHAIRPERSON NOLAND: Sir, all we ask is you agree to fill out a witness slip after you get done speaking. Please state your name.

MR. COREY JOHNSON: Corey Johnson.

VICE CHAIRPERSON NOLAND: Where do you live?

MR. COREY JOHNSON: From Yorkville.

VICE CHAIRPERSON NOLAND: Very good.
TESTIMONY

BY

MR. COREY JOHNSON:

Is there a proposed map of where there may
be a redistricting or is this completely in motion at
this time?

VICE CHAIRPERSON NOLAND: It's in motion. To
directly answer your question, it is a motion and
that's as good a question as any. What you can do
and those of you with pen and paper, please, if you
can, write this down. There are a couple of work
stations that you can draft, perhaps, your own map or
make your own suggestions, print out on your printer
at home or wherever electronically and sent to
whomever you like, including members of this panel,
okay, of the Senate Redistricting Committee. The Web
site for the Committee itself is
www.ilsenateredistricting.com. I'll read that again.
It's www.ilsenateredistricting.com and that's spelled
i-l-s-e-n-a-t-e-r-e-d-i-s-t-r-i-c-t-i-n-g, dot com.

Okay. There are public workstations
in Springfield and Chicago. I know those may be a
little difficult for folks to get to. I grew up in a
rural area myself, so I can understand the concern
you have in traveling to those. We have workstations, they're at the Capitol, they're also at the Thompson Center, is that correct, in the city? The Bilandic Building in Chicago, okay. Those are relatively easy to find if you're going on-line; but our telephone number for those who may not necessarily have access to the Internet and we need to respect that there is a digital divide today, the telephone number that you can call for more information regarding just that question, regarding maps and the development of maps is area code (217) 558-3036. I'll repeat that. That's area code (217) 558-3036.

SENATOR HUNTER: Mr. Chairman, I also would like to add that the Republicans have a workstation also in the Thompson Center and Ed Marshall is the person in charge at that location and his telephone number is (773) 844-6016. So we have those two buildings, the Bilandic Building and the Thompson Center are directly across the street from one another.

Thank you.

VICE CHAIRPERSON NOLAND: Does anybody need that repeated?
VICE CHAIRPERSON NOLAND: Okay. Very good.

All right. Mr. Johnson, thank you very much --

SENATOR HUNTER: Thank you.

VICE CHAIRPERSON NOLAND: -- for stepping up.

We appreciate that.

With that, I don't see anyone else stepping forward.

Sir.

I knew if we just hung in there long enough we might.

TESTIMONY

BY

MR. RYAN MORTON:

My name is Ryan Morton. I live in Yorkville. I'm a member of the media, but I'm also a resident. So...

VICE CHAIRPERSON NOLAND: Fair enough.

MR. RYAN MORTON: I would just like to urge the members of the Committee to have an another series of hearings, perhaps at different locations, once a map has been drawn so that people can actually look at it and give input based on that. I know that you're
required to hold hearings beforehand and if I
understand it, that's not a requirement after this
map is drawn to have hearings; correct?
VICE CHAIRPERSON NOLAND: Very good.
MR. RYAN MORTON: So I would just like to urge
you and the House Committee to do that.
VICE CHAIRPERSON NOLAND: Thank you very much.
We appreciate that. Just so you're aware, you're not
the first to request that.
MR. RYAN MORTON: Well, I just want to make
sure that was on the record at this hearing, too.
SENATOR HUNTER: Also -- I also would like to
go on record by stating that we will -- we'll do our
best in terms of holding hearings. I don't know if
you've looked at our General Assembly schedule for
May, but it is quit busy. I believe the only time we
have off during the entire month of May is Mother's
Day weekend, if I'm not mistaken, and so I'm sure we
will have some kind of hearings. But in terms of the
number of hearings that we're holding at this
particular time, it is going to be impossible. So
we're going to try to have as many hearings as we can
and I know most will probably be held in Springfield.
MR. RYAN MORTON: Okay. Rather than a city
like Joliet or Aurora, a large city around this area?

SENATOR HUNTER: It's difficult for us to say right now because we're trying to get the budget passed and the map is actually legislation and that has to be done and we have other pressing items that we need to pass, getting our Bills out of Committee and out of the Senate and it's just going to be such a compact month. But your point is well taken, we hear you loud and clear and so we'll do the best we can.

MR. RYAN MORTON: You have till June 30th; right? That's the date that it needs to be drawn?

VICE CHAIRPERSON NOLAND: Well, technically, that would be -- that's an accurate statement. But the bill, at least the map itself, is nonetheless a piece of legislation and all legislation needs to be passed by May 31st, okay. Now, that's not to say that by -- under our Illinois Constitution and Federal Constitution that that is per se a drop-dead date with respect to the map and I will tell you that I am not an election lawyer and I'm not a Constitutional expert with regard to the remapping process. So I really can't inform you what happens after May 31st, but your point with regard to the
desire to see the map once it's configured is, again, well taken and one that is shared by a number of people. So...

MR. RYAN MORTON: Thank you very much.

VICE CHAIRPERSON NOLAND: Thank you very much, Mr. Morton. I appreciate you stepping forward.

Okay. That was two. Three is a charm. Now, anybody else?

MS. ROSE SPEARS: I'll be the charmer.

VICE CHAIRPERSON NOLAND: Okay. Very good.

MS. ROSE SPEARS: Good morning. My name is Rose Spears and I am also a resident of the City of Yorkville and I also --

VICE CHAIRPERSON NOLAND: Thank you, Ms. Spears. Very good.

TESTIMONY

BY

MS. ROSE SPEARS:

I also share a concern. I'm sitting here just -- I thought I would have more information like a current map of the districting and what you are proposing and without that information, I feel like why am I sitting here other than hearing motions and various rules and where you're going to be within the
next month. But I think it would have been truly
beneficial if we had the current map as well as what
the proposed map may be and then I think more people
would comment or would have more information to base
discussion on.

VICE CHAIRPERSON NOLAND: Well, thank you very
much. I just -- to let you know, if you weren't
aware, we received the Census information on the 1st
of this month, really, I think it was April 1st.
Is that right.

SENATOR HUNTER: No, but we had gathered it a
little earlier.

VICE CHAIRPERSON NOLAND: The end of February,
beginning of March, so we've had it about a month and
a half, okay?

Now, something that has to be taken
into consideration is that information has to be
digested, all across the state. And so it is a
significant task to do that and then to tell us what
that data actually means, that's one of the reasons
why we don't have any prospective maps at this point.
So we wish, we could accommodate you, even, we
members of the panel are not privy to any specific
boundaries that have been defined or contended at
this point.

So we share your desire for some kind of a rendering of a map and as soon as we have something, I'm sure you're going to be one of the first to know because I think the public should know much earlier given this process this time, this decennial period with respect to the current Census information that's been offered to us. As soon as we have that, it's bound to be published on these Web sites, so stay tuned and as you have any other concerns moving forward, please let us know. I mean, now you have a direct line to us.

MS. ROSE SPEARS: Yes.

VICE CHAIRPERSON NOLAND: And so we're anxious to hear from you as soon as you have an opinion about those maps.

MS. ROSE SPEARS: Well, thank you. And I appreciate all of you for coming to Yorkville and trying to educate us. Thank you very much.

VICE CHAIRPERSON NOLAND: Very good. Actually, the process has been for you to educate us. We're the ones asking the questions, okay.

MS. ROSE SPEARS: Right.

VICE CHAIRPERSON NOLAND: And hopefully we've
answered those questions. Have we done that for you?

MS. ROSE SPEARS: You have to an extent with
the information that you currently have --

VICE CHAIRPERSON NOLAND: Right.

MS. ROSE SPEARS: -- you did share with us, so
I do appreciate that.

VICE CHAIRPERSON NOLAND: We'll give you
everything we have.

MS. ROSE SPEARS: Thank you.

VICE CHAIRPERSON NOLAND: All right. Anyone
else?

(No response.)

All right. Very good. Any other
questions or comments from the Committee?

SENATOR HUNTER: No.

VICE CHAIRPERSON NOLAND: Seeing no further
business coming before the Senate Redistricting
Committee, the hearing is thereby adjourned.

(Which were all the
proceedings had.)

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COUNTY OF WILL  

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Certified Shorthand Reporter  
No. 084-004439

Subscribed and sworn to before me this ___ day of _____________ 2011.

Notary Public