STATE OF CALIFORNIA

CITIZENS REDISTRICTING COMMISSION (CRC)

In the matter of:

CRC BUSINESS MEETING

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 6, 2020

9:30 a.m.

Transcription by:
eScribers, LLC
APPEARANCES

COMMISSIONERS
Neal Fornaciari, Chair
J. Kennedy, Vice-Chair
Isra Ahmad, Commissioner
Linda Akutagawa, Commissioner
Jane Andersen, Commissioner
Alicia Fernandez, Commissioner
Antonio Le Mons, Commissioner
Sara Sadhwani, Commissioner
Patricia Sinay, Commissioner
Derric Taylor, Commissioner
Pedro Toledo, Commissioner
Angela Vazquez, Commissioner
Russell Yee, Commissioner

STAFF
Dan Claypool, Executive Director
Marian Johnston, CRC Legal Counsel
Wanda Sheffield, Office Technician

TECHNICAL CONTRACTORS
Kristian Manoff, AV Technical Director/Comment Moderator

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PRESENTERS
Rahmo Abdī, PANA
Jeanine Erikat, PANA
Tavae Samuelu, EPIC
Tho Vinh Banh, Strategic Partnerships and Community Engagement
Eric Harris, Strategic Partnerships and Community Engagement
Russell Rawlings, California Foundation for Independent Living Centers

Also Present

Public Comment
Deborah Howard, California Senior Advocates League
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CHAIR FORNACIARI:  Well, welcome back to the
November 4th through 6th meeting of the Citizens
Redistricting Commission.  I'd like to welcome the
commissioners back, the staff, and all the folks watching
our webcast.

So we'll get started with roll call.  Is Wanda going
to do the roll?

MS. SHEFFIELD:  Good morning.

CHAIR FORNACIARI:  Good morning.

MS. SHEFFIELD:  Commissioner Ahmad?  No.

Commissioner Akutagawa?  I can't hardly hear.  Yes?

CHAIR FORNACIARI:  We see you but we don't hear you,
Commissioner Akutagawa.  You're still -- we still can't
hear you.  Just -- she's here.

MS. SHEFFIELD:  Yes.  Commissioner Andersen?

COMMISSIONER ANDERSEN:  Here.

MS. SHEFFIELD:  Okay.  Commissioner Fernandez.

COMMISSIONER FERNANDEZ:  Yes.

MS. SHEFFIELD:  Commissioner Fornaciari.

CHAIR FORNACIARI:  Yes.

MS. SHEFFIELD:  Commissioner Kennedy.

VICE CHAIR KENNEDY:  Here.

MS. SHEFFIELD:  Commissioner Le Mons.
COMMISSIONER LE MONS: Here.

MS. SHEFFIELD: Commissioner Sadhwani.

CHAIR FORNACIARI: She -- she'll be joining us after lunch.

MS. SHEFFIELD: Okay. Commissioner Sinay.

COMMISSIONER SINAY: Here.


COMMISSIONER TAYLOR: Present.

MS. SHEFFIELD: Commissioner Toledo.

COMMISSIONER TOLEDO: Here.

MS. SHEFFIELD: Commissioner Turner. No Commissioner Turner?

CHAIR FORNACIARI: She's in Arizona. I'm not sure -- I thought she was going to join us this morning, but maybe not.


COMMISSIONER YEE: Here.


COMMISSIONER AKUTAGAWA: Are you able to hear me?

MS. SHEFFIELD: We have a quorum. Thank you.

CHAIR FORNACIARI: Yes, we could hear you there, Commissioner Akutagawa.

COMMISSIONER AKUTAGAWA: Okay. Great. I think I
realized why I wasn't able to speak out. Okay. Thank you.

CHAIR FORNACIARI: Okay. Director Claypool, I see you have your hand raised.

DIRECTOR CLAYPOOL: I just wanted to ask Commissioner Taylor is everything okay with you, and was everything okay last night?

COMMISSIONER TAYLOR: Yes. Everything's fine. Everything's still contingent on our election results, but we're on standby. Thank you.

CHAIR FORNACIARI: Okay. Well, yeah, thank you. Just, you know, let us know, you know, whatever you need from us to help out.

COMMISSIONER TAYLOR: Thank you. It's much appreciated.

CHAIR FORNACIARI: Well, okay. So we are back. We just have a few items left on the agenda. We have a few things to circle back. We have a -- our guest speaker's coming at 1:30, and so I'm going to make a hard stop for lunch at 12:15. So we can have fifteen minutes to, you know, get the meeting started again and have public comment after lunch and then -- so we don't have to interrupt our speakers -- our visitors.

We're -- there was a -- we were potentially going to have a speaker later in the afternoon from the Department
of Technology. Unfortunately, they had to reschedule. So they'll be coming -- visiting with us the week of -- during our next meeting which is the 16th through the 18th. So we'll hear from them then.

Okay. Let's see. We had a few things to circle back on. Commissioner Fernandez set out the revised policies that we had looked at last time. And we're going to vote on -- well, she revised the per diem policy as per the suggestions that were made. She created the travel policy as per the suggestion and then made the two revisions to the code of conduct for the commissioners. And we'd already voted to accept that.

So we need to look at -- I don't know if you guys -- I want to check in, see if you all have had a chance to look at the two new policies and if you're ready to go ahead and vote on those or you have some changes you'd like to see.

Commissioner Kennedy.

VICE CHAIR KENNEDY: On the personal expense policy in the third line of the first paragraph, I just think instead of pursuant to this act, because this isn't the act. This is our policy manual. We should just cite the act directly, rather than saying this act. Thank you.

CHAIR FORNACIARI: So did you catch that, Commissioner Fernandez? Okay. Okay.
Any other -- did you have something, Marian?

MS. JOHNSTON: I didn't have the policies, but Dan just forwarded them to me.

CHAIR FORNACIARI: Oh, okay. Okay.

So any other comments, feedback? Do people need a -- do folks need a couple minutes to review them?

Director Claypool?

MS. JOHNSTON: Do you want to do public comment?

CHAIR FORNACIARI: Marian?

MS. JOHNSTON: Do you want to do public comment?

CHAIR FORNACIARI: Well, I just want to make sure that all the commissioners have had adequate time to take a look and if they have any feedback, and then we'll -- we need a motion and a second, and then we'll take public comment. Oh, oh, I'm sorry. You're right. I need to take public comment first thing in the meeting. Yeah, sorry, operator error.

Yes, let's go ahead and take public comment.

Kristian, is Katy here today or --

MR. MANOFF: We've got Jesse (ph.) with us today, Chair.

CHAIR FORNACIARI: Okay. Jesse, if you could go ahead and --

PUBLIC COMMENT MODERATOR: In order to maximize transparency and public participation in our process, the
commissioners will be taking public comment by phone. To call in, dial the telephone number provided on the live stream feed. The telephone number is 877-853-5247. When prompted, enter the meeting ID number provided on the live stream feed. It is 93489457215 for this week's meeting. When prompted to enter a participant ID, simply press pound.

Once you have dialed in, you will be placed in a queue from which a moderator will begin unmuting callers to submit their comment. You will also hear an automated message to press star 9. Please do this to raise your hand indicating that you wish to comment.

When it is your turn to speak, the moderator will unmute you and you will hear an automated message that says, the host would like you to talk and to press star 6 to speak. Please make sure to mute your computer or live stream audio to prevent any feedback or distortion during your call.

Once you are waiting in the queue, be alert for when it is your turn to speak and again, please turn down the live stream volume. These instruction are also located on the website.

The committee is taking public comment at this time.

CHAIR FORNACIARI: So it looks like we have a caller in the queue at this point; is that correct, Jesse?
PUB LIC COMMENT MODERATOR: Yes, Chair.

CHAIR FORNACIARI: Yeah, we'll go ahead and take that call.

PUB LIC COMMENT MODERATOR: Callers, please press star 6 to unmute yourself please.

Chair, they are not responding to my request to unmute.

CHAIR FORNACIARI: Caller from 916, if you could press star 6 to unmute yourself and share your comment. Okay. They've hung up.

PUB LIC COMMENT MODERATOR: There are currently no more callers in the queue, Chair.

CHAIR FORNACIARI: Okay. Yeah, I want to wait for another minute or so. The instructions finished a minute or so ago, so make sure we give callers adequate time to dial in.

(Pause)

CHAIR FORNACIARI: Okay. So that's been another minute or so. Doesn't look like anybody's in the queue. And we will be taking public comment again when we return from lunch.

Okay. So sorry about that. Back to the policies. Did anyone else have a comment or feedback on that? Commissioner Ahmad, were you just going to remind me to take up a comment; is that why you raised your hand?
COMMISSIONER AHMAD: No, I just -- I think I figured it out. The highlighted sections are changes that were made, correct?

CHAIR FORNACIARI: Yeah.

COMMISSIONER AHMAD: Got it.

CHAIR FORNACIARI: Okay. Well, if there's no other comments or corrections -- excuse me -- can I get a motion to accept and a second?

Commissioner Fernandez?

COMMISSIONER AHMAD: Second.

COMMISSIONER FERNANDEZ: I will make a motion with the change that Commissioner Kennedy requested to the personal expense policy. So it's a motion to accept both the per diem policy and the personal expense policy.

CHAIR FORNACIARI: Okay. And then Commissioner Ahmad seconded.

COMMISSIONER AHMAD: Yeah.

CHAIR FORNACIARI: Okay. Thank you. So Wanda, can you call a vote please?

MS. JOHNSTON: Sorry. Now, you need public comment on this one.

CHAIR FORNACIARI: Oh, all right. Yeah, I'm sorry. I did not get my sleep last night. Okay.

Jesse, can you call for public comment on this
motion please?

PUBLIC COMMENT MODERATOR: In order to maximize transparency and public participation in our process, the commissioners are taking public comment by phone. To call in, dial the telephone number provided on the live stream feed. The telephone number is 877-853-5247. When prompted, enter the meeting ID number provided on the live stream feed. It is 93489457215 for this week's meeting. When prompted to enter a participant ID, simply press pound.

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Once you are waiting in the queue, be alert for when it is your turn to speak and again, please turn down the live stream volume. These instruction are also located on the website.
The Commission is taking public comment on this motion at this time.

(Pause)

CHAIR FORNACIARI: Okay. The live stream just caught up so we'll hang on for a minute to see if anybody wants to make a public comment.

(Pause)

CHAIR FORNACIARI: Okay. Doesn't look like there's anybody in the queue, right, Jesse?

PUBLIC COMMENT MODERATOR: There are currently no callers in the queue, Chair.

CHAIR FORNACIARI: Okay. All right. So I think we'll go ahead and call the vote.

MS. JOHNSTON: Commissioner Ahmad.

COMMISSIONER AHMAD: Yes.

MS. JOHNSTON: Then Akutagawa.

COMMISSIONER AKUTAGAWA: Yes.

MS. JOHNSTON: Commissioner Andersen.

COMMISSIONER ANDERSEN: Yes.

MS. JOHNSTON: Commissioner Fernandez.

COMMISSIONER FERNANDEZ: Yes.

MS. JOHNSTON: Commissioner Fornaciari.

CHAIR FORNACIARI: Yes.

MS. JOHNSTON: Commissioner Kennedy.

VICE CHAIR KENNEDY: Yes.
MS. JOHNSTON: Commissioner Le Mons.
COMMISSIONER LE MONS: Yes.
MS. JOHNSTON: Commissioner Sadhwani is not here.
Commissioner Sinay.
COMMISSIONER SINAY: Yes.
MS. JOHNSTON: Commissioner Taylor.
COMMISSIONER TAYLOR: Yes.
MS. JOHNSTON: Commissioner Toledo.
COMMISSIONER TOLEDO: Yes.
MS. JOHNSTON: Commissioner Turner's not here.
Commissioner Vazquez.
COMMISSIONER VAZQUEZ: Yes.
MS. JOHNSTON: And Commissioner Yee.
COMMISSIONER YEE: Yes.
MS. JOHNSTON: Thank you. The motion passes.
CHAIR FORNACIARI: Okay. Very good. Thank you all.
More policies to come down the road.
So I believe the next item that we needed to
continue with was -- I wanted to check in with the hiring
committee for the communications director. Are we ready
to make that announcement?
COMMISSIONER TAYLOR: I -- go ahead, Angela. Go
ahead, Commissioner Vazquez.
COMMISSIONER VAZQUEZ: I believe so. Yes. I
believe we have closed the loop with all of our
outstanding candidates, and we are excited to announce
that Mr. Fredy Ceja has accepted the position as
communications director, and he will be starting on
November 16th.

CHAIR FORNACIARI: Outstanding. So that's -- what's
that, ten days from now. Very good.

Well, we're very much looking forward to having Mr.
Ceja on board. And I do want to thank the subcommittee
for their work in managing the hiring process. And the
other -- I believe there was a separate two commissioners
who did the negotiations for that.

COMMISSIONER VAZQUEZ: No, it was Commissioner
Taylor who took the lead on --

CHAIR FORNACIARI: Oh, that's right, for that, okay.
Right, okay.

COMMISSIONER VAZQUEZ: -- on the offer and
negotiation. And thank you to Commissioner Taylor. It
was a pleasure working with you, sir.

CHAIR FORNACIARI: Yes, thank you both very much.
We appreciate all your hard work and we're all looking
forward to having a communications director on board.
He's -- we've already got a pile of work for him. All
right. Very good.

So Dan, do you want to -- sorry. Director Claypool,
do you want to talk about the press release for that
DIRECTOR CLAYPOOL: Yes. And so I have the two drafts from Commissioner Ahmad. Thank you very much. So that I can actually write that draft. I'll be doing that at lunch today, and then we'll send it out by our SurveyMonkey list of 4,400-plus emails.

I spoke yesterday with Micha Gutierrez (ph.) and Ogilvy and I also looked at the contract that we have Ogilvy as well as the statement of services that they provided as for the period of time that they were under contract with us.

The contract to start with was for a period of time. It didn't -- it just was for services that we requested during that time. And the list of services that they gave us included two press releases as well as a couple of public service announcements that were made, and a long list of other things that they provided. I can provide that to anyone who might wish to review it.

But the net result was that the contract was for a period of time and not for specific services rendered. That was up to us. Towards the end Ms. Gutierrez was constantly contacting us and asking us if there were other things that we needed to do, and we did add a couple of things under that, including the announcement for the New Mexico presentation that Commissioner
Fornaciari will be making.

They did not have a request for a press release for our communications director nor for our deputy executive director. So I'm going to work off the ones that we have and generate that one for review.

But they didn't have an obligation to produce those for us after the contract had closed, and so we're just going to move forward with it ourselves. And I'll take care of it. Any questions?

CHAIR FORNACIARI: No questions? Okay. Thanks.

Oh, I'm sorry, Commissioner Sinay?

COMMISSIONER SINAY: Two things. One is do we have the email mailing list that Shape California had? Have they transferred all those individuals who had been part of the process to us so that we're continuing to engage them? Because people don't realize that it's two different entities.

And so that -- and then second, I understand there was a limited time because that was the only way I think we're allowed to make those type of contracts or something. But can we understand how it fell through the cracks that the Commission-- the commissioners did ask staff to please get those press releases done and it was not? It's late now, and you don't need to -- I mean, it's too late now so there doesn't need to be a response
now, but we do need to understand how things are falling through the cracks like that.

DIRECTOR CLAYPOOL: So first of all, the Shape California's Future email list was consolidated with Ogilvy's constantly during that process. They were in fact one and the same. As the Shape California received requests for people to be part of that interested persons list, we moved it forward. And Ogilvy maintained it. When it was finished, Ogilvy gave us their -- or gave the state auditor the list. And so that's -- it's one and the same. We have the same list.

Falling through the cracks. I didn't see a request at any time that we put together a press release for the two positions that you're referring to, Commissioner Sinay. I don't believe that anything fell through the cracks. We weren't in a position to write those press releases early on.

And when Ms. Gutierrez asked us for any additional work that we might think we wanted, we gave her additional things to do. She created a piece for Commissioner Sadhwani. She, again, as I said, did the work for the New Mexico representation and in fact, approached us with it. So they were very proactive on asking us for these documents. I just don't believe we ever asked them to do those two press releases. And I
don't believe that they would have known what to do to
start with because we weren't releasing the information.

So I think that it's not a matter of falling through
the cracks. I just think we weren't prepared to ask for
the work at that time, and we didn't ask for the work.

CHAIR FORNACIARI: Commissioner Andersen.

COMMISSIONER ANDERSEN: Thank you for that, Mr.
Claypool, but unfortunately, that's not accurate. As
Commissioner Sinay said, the -- we did indeed request
that a rough draft be written up. In our meeting, we did
say could we have -- why don't we get them to write up a
rough draft. Don't put names in until we get to it. So
it's already done.

Now, I don't know if that's what was then given to
Commissioner Ahmad or something or another. And I
think -- I believe that's what Commissioner Sinay is
referring to, that in our meeting, we did indeed -- we
can check notes or transcripts or however we need to do
that, but we did request that staff ask Ogilvy to come up
with a rough draft, you know, again, not being complete,
but -- and so that's I believe what is being asked about.
Did a ball get dropped or something or another. So we
don't have that happen again.

Now I understand that, that said, it's just to
clarify that. But I believe our -- by the time our next
group comes around, we're now a new communications person. So this is a moot point, but just for clarification.

CHAIR FORNACIARI: Director Claypool.

DIRECTOR CLAYPOOL: So when was -- do you remember approximately when that meeting was, Commissioner Andersen, because I have absolutely no recollection of anybody asking to have Ms. Gutierrez do that function. And when we received her request for additional assist -- did we need additional assistance, I passed that email around to the Chair and the vice Chair and to several others, and that's how we generated the additional work for Commissioner Sadhwani, and how we generated the work for the New Mexico presentation.

So I'm a little -- I have no idea when that occurred. I would be curious as to -- if you have a recollection of when that specific request was made or a general time. I don't want to --

COMMISSIONER ANDERSEN: I'll go ahead and answer that. I don't -- I'd have to go back through my notes. Unfortunately, that's why -- which I know we're starting to add now minutes in, so we can go and quickly check when that happened. But at this point, I don't have that information. And I --

DIRECTOR CLAYPOOL: Okay.
COMMISSIONER ANDERSEN: I don't know if any other
commissioner has a good recall of -- and I believe, Mr.
Claypool, that that was before you came on board. It
could have been after we'd sort of hired you, but before
you came on board. Certainly that could have been in the
time frame.

But it was at some point we were discussing Ogilvy
and how their contract was going to be coming up --
ending. We said, well, what could we get them to do. So
I don't know if that's -- I would defer to other
commissioners and/or other Chairs to see if they had
thought had already happened or what exactly happened on
that.

CHAIR FORNACIARI: So I think -- go ahead, Director
Claypool.

DIRECTOR CLAYPOOL: Okay. And I appreciate that. I
just wanted -- as you said, and it's well stated, the --
we do have Mr. Ceja coming on board and this will become
a priority for him. I just was wanting to make sure that
we had accurately portrayed what occurred. That's all.
Thank you.

CHAIR FORNACIARI: Thank you. Yeah, I think -- so I
don't know when it all took place and how it fell through
the cracks, but now that we have someone keeping track of
the minutes and the actions and that kind of thing, you
know, I think we're all hoping that, you know, we can be a little more effective at tracking actions and ensuring that they get done down the road.

So okay, well, thank you for that. So I think at this point, we are on agenda item number 14. If there is -- unless there's anything that we needed to follow up on that I missed? No. Okay.

I think we're on agenda item number 14. So let me grab that document here.

I'm going to ramble a little bit here. I'm going to try not to ramble too much but I'm going to ramble a little bit here. And so I put this item on the agenda. I think that, you know, there had been -- it had come up a few times in prior meetings and, you know, I think some of the commissioners had some ideas about ways we can manage the meetings kind of more effectively. And I tried to capture those in the list. The lists are just ideas. You know, my ideas. You know, I recognize other folks have other ideas and I want to talk about those and, you know, I think I have a way that we can facilitate this somewhat effectively. It's difficult, obviously, on Zoom.

I might actually want to try to use -- what's the tool called Commissioner Sinay?

COMMISSIONER SINAY: Miro.
CHAIR FORNACIARI:  Miro.

COMMISSIONER SINAY:  Like the architect.

CHAIR FORNACIARI:  For the ground rules exercise because they get -- they have voting in there and we could do, like, those little sticky tab things but they call it voting.  It might be interestingly a more effective way to engage.  But I want to step back a little bit because being Chair has, you know, given me a different perspective on being Chair.  And so I'm struggling a bit.  And you know, I said I didn't sleep much last night because I spent a lot of time thinking about this.  And a little bit of background on me, I've never been involved in any commission, any public thing, anything like this, right?  No nonprofit work, nothing like that, right?  It's all been, you know -- I've always worked in an organization where there was a clear leader who was responsible, you know.  And even on the Grand Jury, I was foreperson of the grand jury.

So in that context, I was responsible, and when, you know, issues came up amongst the group, I felt it was clear that it was my role to help facilitate the group working through those issues.  And so when, you know, this -- when we decided that we needed to have kind of an outside meeting last time, I kind of took it upon myself as Chair to decide that we were going to do that, you
know, and set a time for it. But, you know, it's not clear to me what the group's expectation of the Chair is, and how -- kind of how we run this railroad with a rotating Chair.

You know, I mean I think we set some Chair roles. I tried to look through the documentation, email, if we've actually written down those roles for the Chair, and I couldn't find anything. And so did we ever write those down anywhere? Or, I mean, no? I'm getting no. So I've got the Chair roles as we've created them now is to create the agenda, run the meetings, Chair for at least three days, responsible for signatures and other approvals, acting as Chair from the beginning of the meeting that they are Chairing until the beginning of the next meeting when the vice Chair takes over. That's my recollection of what we decided the responsibilities of the Chair are. Is that everyone else's recollection?

Okay. Okay.

So I'm going to capture that and write that up in a document so we all have it. We'll put it in the policies and procedures, wherever, so we can find it. But so, you know, I mean, so we set up this meeting, you know, we feel we need to have some off-line conversations, you know, in this meeting on Thursday. So because I'm Chair, you know, I set that meeting up, and I feel like, you
know, because I'm Chair now, it's my role to facilitate that. But that's just my feeling. I mean, is that your guys think -- thought? I mean, how are we going to manage this process down the road? I mean, we're in, you know, a COVID environment. We're working on Zoom. I mean, if this were to come up, you know, and we were all together, we would have gone to dinner or gone to have a glass of wine and talk it through.

But you know, we're in an environment where, you know, it's more challenging. We have to, I think, be more deliberate to kind of work through, you know, the kinds of things that we would be -- that would be, you know, taken care of -- I mean, you know, taken care of at you know, some off time if we were all together. And so I just wanted to kind of throw that out there to you guys. I mean, I don't -- you know, I have some ideas. I mean, you know, maybe we can be very deliberate about setting up an hour and a half of lunch for every meeting that is a private lunch just so we can talk. I mean, maybe we can be very deliberate about -- and then the Chair for that meeting could be responsible for facilitating that conversation, whatever that conversation is, whether we just want to talk about our families, or we have other things to talk about.

But it seems to me that I think we need to be a
little bit deliberate about how we manage and how we spend time outside of these Commission meetings together, working through stuff, getting to know each other. But I don't know if that's just me who feels that way? You know, I don't know if it's just, you know, that I haven't done this kind of thing before. I don't know, maybe this is how it goes on these things all the time. I got no idea. And so I just -- I'd like some help here and some guidance in where's everybody at? I mean, I don't know. I just feel like this came up during my Chairmanship, and I kind of own it. So I'm going to own it, you know.

But you know, I'm -- Commissioner Yee, what are your thoughts? I'm going to put people on the spot because I want to have a conversation about this. I mean, if I'm off the rails here, tell me I'm off the rails and things are fine. If I'm not, I mean, I want to figure out what we're doing here. I mean, I feel lost.

COMMISSIONER YEE: Okay. Thank you, Neil, for sharing your thoughts and feelings and initiating this conversation. My first thought is simply just to appreciate all the Chairs so far. I mean, I've been quietly grateful for my name being low in the alphabet, and my turn as Chair coming up only a while from now. You know, I've been taking notes trying to learn but it's a tough job for sure. Yeah, and even tougher, I'm sure
when you're actually doing it. And you guys have been magnificent, you know. I mean, we've got a lot done. It's a huge challenge to get fourteen people, you know, from scratch started on such a task. So you know, I've really appreciated every one of our Chairs so far, including you Neil.

For sure we have been told and we've all sensed, I think, that we need to gel more and bond more, not just getting business done, but at a personal level and relationally and we just haven't had ways to do that very much, you know, a couple of social lunches. We've all interacted in different subcommittees, more individually. Yeah, we haven't been very intentional about that and systematic. So you know, maybe we start saying, you know, at least one social lunch per multi-day meeting, you know, and just start there.

CHAIR FORNACIARI: Okay. Anyone want to raise their hand or just wait till I call on you?

Commissioner Vasquez?

COMMISSIONER VASQUEZ: Appreciating all of our Chairs, for sure. And also particularly, you, Neil, for bringing this up in this way. Because I think there's an ask to have a specific conversation on the table. And I think, you know, we're going to have that specific conversation or attempt to next Thursday, but I do think
you're opening up space for a conversation that I think
several of us -- I'm remembering specifically
Commissioner Sinay, has asked in some form or another to
sort of get on the same page with each other about how we
want these meetings to work, how we'd like them
facilitated, or at least specific conversations
facilitated.

Because I think there is a challenge with both
facilitating a conversation and sharing a Commission and
those goals aren't always in alignment, I feel like. And
having been a facilitator and having, you know, having
some facilitation training, being a Chair, it was a whole
different ballgame than being a facilitator of a group
that maybe you're not even a part of. So there's that,
and I'm not sure I had a specific point with that piece.
But I also think this is also somewhat normal, or to be
expected. Some of you may have seen, at some point, sort
of the stages of group development forming, storming,
norming, and performing.

And so we're definitely in the second phase of group
dynamics, which is storming, you know. We're getting
more comfortable with each other. We're getting more
comfortable with -- or we think we are starting to see
people's personalities come out and ways of interacting,
and that necessarily sort of creates -- it creates
conflict, you know. And there's generative conflict. And there's -- I feel like, my belief is that there's generative conflict and then there's destructive conflict. And so hopefully, through this struggle and this back and forth, that we can make these moments generative conflicts where we create and sort of become greater than the sum of our parts.

But I think that does require some facilitation. And I also think, they're oftentimes where it feels really cheesy in other meetings that I've facilitated or have been part of, but I do think, because we have Robert's Rules of Order governing our structure to a particular purpose, we've skipped what I have found can be a really critical piece in group dynamics, which is setting up our ground rules. So in many organizing meetings, you know, one of the first things we do is put up the chart paper and have people put up suggestions for ground rules and collectively as a body we create a set of standards for each other.

You know, it's often a working document. You know, you go back to them and refer -- when you come up with areas of conflict, you go back to the ground rules and say, do these still work for us? Do we need to add? Do we need to amend or do we need to take some of these out? So we may, like you said, Neil, may need to use something
like Miro, so that we can come up with some ground rules for achieve -- how we make sure everyone feels heard, how everyone feels -- has their ideas respected, and that we continue to move us forward toward our ultimate goal of redrawing district boundaries. So yeah, those are my thoughts.

CHAIR FORNACIARI: Okay, so what -- let me ask you, though, a question. So I 100 percent agree, you know -- you know, I'm familiar with these stages of forming on a team. I just, you know, back to the role of the Chair, you know, it's a rotating role. And so, you know, they're, you know, I mean, in my experience, so I can only share what my experience is -- you know, there's always been the Chair there as the sort of continuity through the thing, and so we're kind of passing the baton every meeting. And so how do we, you know, deliberately ensure the ball doesn't get dropped when things need to be addressed? I mean, I don't know.

So Commissioner Akutagawa?

Did you want to respond? I'm sorry, Commissioner Vasquez?

COMMISSIONER VASQUEZ: No, I think what you're noting there is, again, what I feel like is sometimes a conflict in objectives between Chairing a meeting which is more business and in some ways administrative. And
then there's this facilitation component of managing a
conversation, right? So also, for me, like, I feel like
facilitate -- part of a facilitator's job is sometimes to
cut off a conversation or to shift a conversation toward
a particular outcome or toward a decision point. Or
other times a facilitator is best to sort of fade into
the background and let a conversation bloom and evolve
and go where it needs to go. And that's always, like,
the art and the dance of facilitation. And it's hard to
do that when you're also trying to manage all the other
little things. We've got to take public comment. We got
to make sure that we write down these action steps and
sometimes they're in perfect alignment. And other times,
those roles are at cross purposes. And so that might
just be the nature of the beast of being a Chair of such
a large group. This is also a -- this is a large
commission. I mean, most boards, especially active
boards, you know, are more in the what, like five to ten
range.

You know, there's certainly nonprofit boards that
are this large, but they're also not often as engaged on
the administration and the business side of the org. So
this is a huge task for a Chair, I feel like, with
fourteen people, and that also creates its own
challenges.
CHAIR FORNACIARI: Right. And I think, I'm not a skilled facilitator so, you know, I can't speak for anybody else but you know, I'm not kind of -- I've been to meetings that have been facilitated, but I haven't done it myself a lot.

So I think we have Commissioner Akutagawa then Fernandez.

COMMISSIONER AKUTAGAWA: Thank you for bringing this up. Okay, now I'm thinking, where do I start? Let's see, around the idea of being able to have that continuity, I guess, having just come off of Chairing meetings, and I guess, each one of us are going to bring a different style. I think I've enjoyed all who have Chaired previously. I look to your styles to see -- not necessarily to replicate what's been done, but to also honor some of the things that I felt, you know, worked for me in terms of what I can do to bring to, I think Chairing a meeting.

My kind of background is more -- or my kind of work is centered around facilitation. So I tend to let conversations go and I want to make sure everybody wants to be heard. And I think on that note, it -- I hear, Neil, what you're saying that you have to keep focused also on the business end. And so, with that in mind, I think there's a couple of suggestions that maybe I can
make. One is just by circumstance, one, I had a chance
to step in on Commissioner Vasquez's behalf when she was
not feeling well that, like, very last day of the last
meeting where I ended up Chairing the whole meeting
instead of a portion of it. So I kind of got that trial
by fire without going into my official role as the Chair.
So I think that that helped. I'm not saying that that's
what we should do. But I'm just kind of just mentioning
that.

And I think that for me, there could be a
continuity. I think, because of the way the scheduling
was done, I was supposed to Chair two two-day meetings,
or something like that, of which then one extra day was
added to it. So my length of time of how many days I
actually Chairied was a lot longer. And I'm thinking that
that may be something -- and for those of you who have
yet to Chair, you may be kind of wanting to kill me if I
say this, but I'm thinking that it may be helpful from a
continuity point of view, to have each Chair, Chair not
by the number of days, but the number of meetings,
regardless of if it's two days or three days. I felt
like being able to Chair two meetings in a row enabled me
to think ahead in terms of what the agenda for the second
meeting would be. Because if I knew I couldn't cover it
all in the first one, it could be covered in the second
one. And then working together with Neil as my vice Chair, we were -- because he had the two meetings to prepare to think about his meeting, I feel like there were things that he was able to then continue on, or at least that's the sense that I got. And I think that that helps with some continuity as well, too. So that's just, you know, perhaps something to just think about in terms of creating that.

And then therefore, then whoever the vice Chair is going to be, then if they have at least two meetings to start preparing for, thinking about their meeting, you know, with this two week -- we have to post two weeks in advance, it gives them that much longer time to be thinking out a little bit further, you know about what they need to be thinking about for their meetings. And the two-week turnaround time can come really fast. So having those two meetings in a row, I thought was really helpful.

The other suggestion that I would make, and because each one of us is going to be different, I will say that trying to keep track of who wants to talk is kind of a whole thing in itself. And then trying to pay attention to the discussion and then writing notes and everything like that, maybe another -- I'd say practice that we could incorporate is, depending on the Chair, everyone's
going to be different. You know, I'm always happy to take on the role of keeping track of who's next in terms of hands raised. And perhaps using the chat box in the Zoom to just keep a running list so that then the Chair, all they have to do is just look at that list to know who's next. And they could stay focused on keeping the business of, you know, Chairing the meeting going and keeping the conversation going, if that helps. That's a another suggestion that I would give. You know, and again, I think some of these other ground rules that are being suggested may help move some of the business of Chairing the meeting along.

And so the last thing, Neil, I'm going to go back to what you started with in terms of just your role and owning, you know, the kind of conversations that need to go on. I would just say in terms of Thursday, I don't know if the others would agree, but I would just say I don't think that that's something that you have to own alone. I think that that's a responsibility that we all as commissioners need to own and that you shouldn't look at that this is something that you have to kind of, you know, bear the weight of. I think we all equally need to bear that weight together. And I think that's part of the purpose of having, you know, these get to know each other and really work through, you know, some of those
things that we need to work through.

I would also lastly suggest -- and this for the Lessons Learned Committee, that some of these conversations that we're having now would be something that we also put in place as a suggestion for the 2030 Commission. One of the things being, I think, Commissioner Vasquez, I thought you brought up a really good point. Normally, you know, to avoid or minimize or to make it a little less stormy when a group goes through its norming phases, going through the ground rules would be really important. And I feel like we were just given an agenda and told, okay, you're going to learn this, this, and this. And I think, just for the 2030 Commission, I would just say that one of the first things that they should also do, in addition to all the kind of training or educations that we'll get, is, you know, take the time to really establish what those ground rules are. And you could suggest, like, the tools. We know -- and acknowledge that tools might be different in 2030. But I think, you know, one of the first things that a group should go through in 2030 is the is establishing the ground rules so that everybody is on the same page. That doesn't mean that we're going to avoid the storming phases. I think we won't, but maybe hopefully, for 2030 It'll be a little less stormy. So that's kind of my
litany of suggestions.

CHAIR FORNACIARI: Yeah, thanks. I mean, just to share, I asked the, the county or the State Auditor's Office, the lead, Ms. Saxon (ph.), I think was her name, the legal counsel, who was setting up the agendas for the fourteen of us, to add those -- that kind of opportunity in the agenda. And I don't know why they didn't, but, you know, by the time the agendas were out, you know, we're a month later before we can even think about doing it. And we didn't even have time to talk about thinking about doing it, you know, unfortunately. So I think it needs to be cooked in up front.

So Commissioner Fernandez, I believe, had her hand up next.

COMMISSIONER FERNANDEZ: Commissioner Akutagawa just kind of stole a lot of my ideas. I wouldn't say stole, I'd probably say, I agree. Because the notes I had was as a Chair, you don't have -- you can delegate tasks. Like, you don't have to be the facilitator. You don't have to be the timer. You don't have to be the one that decides who goes next. And if there's an agenda item that someone else is more of an expert or they feel more comfortable with, it's okay to have them do it. And I think that's a sign of good Chair, is knowing who has strength in certain areas.
Because yes, it is very overwhelming to have to do it all. And I wish I would have thought of this when I was Chair. And I do agree with Commissioner Akutagawa. And I have brought this up at our very first combined meeting, that I had said, oh, you should have the Chair a month at a time. And everyone's like, ah, it's too long. I mean, at some point in time, we're probably going to go back to weekly meetings, and maybe the Chair for every two weeks would be great. Because what I felt was, you know, you get into it, and you're learning from the prior Chairs of okay, I'll do this, that. And then by the time you finally get it, you're done and then it's time for the new Chair. Now, here's a new learning curve. I would really support Chairing more than one consecutive meeting because it's true, you just feel like you're inheriting this stuff, and you're trying to carry some stuff forward but it's really not yours anymore. And I just feel that there would be more cohesion if you did something like that.

And what else was I going to say? I think that was it. And then I guess, at the end of the day, we've got to get to the point where we trust each other, and we trust our areas, and we trust that we're doing what we're supposed to be doing. And Zoom doesn't help that, obviously. So it's great to start the conversation. I
agree, it should have been done, but it hasn't been done. So let's do it now. Because if we keep putting it off, it's going to be six months from now and things are going to be unsettled still. So thank you so much for bringing that up. I appreciate it. And you know, whatever support or help you need, just please reach out.

CHAIR FORNACIARI: Okay. Thanks.

COMMISSIONER FERNANDEZ: And that goes to all Chairs, current, future Chairs.

CHAIR FORNACIARI: Okay. So I want to make sure I give everyone an opportunity to chime in. I started by putting Commissioner Yee on the spot there. You know, I don't want to -- I guess, that wasn't fair of me, but I appreciate you being a good sport. You know, I don't know if I don't -- I kind of feel bad about it now, so sorry about that. I don't want to put anybody on the spot if they don't want to share. That wasn't fair of me so thank you, Commissioner Yee.

Commissioner Kennedy?

VICE CHAIR KENNEDY: Thank you. Yeah, I want to start out by saying that every single meeting, I look at this zoom screen in front of me and I see all of you. And I am just really filled with admiration. And it really blows my mind that, you know, the ARP and the auditor's office and the whole process, including the
random process, you know, has as managed to come up with
such an incredible group of people. You know, that's
where I start every day.

Second, you know, having lead teams that included 65
nationalities, I have to say I'm pretty used to dealing
with diversity. And I really do recognize that people
have different styles, you know, and so I tend to, you
know, just kind of say, okay, that's this person's style,
that's that person's style.

And you know, yeah, occasionally I've had to go out
in the field and resolve some issues. But generally, you
know, I find that diversity is not the root of the
problem. And I celebrate the diversity in this group.

The groups that I've lead, I really have -- maybe
it's the privilege of working in the field of elections.
But you know, we know so clearly what our goal is and
what our timeline is. And so it's easier to keep people
focused. But you know, leadership really, in my mind and
my experience, leadership is about helping maintain
focus, establishing a culture of focus and cooperation
across many diversities, setting a mood in order to get
things done, and having a rotating Chair.

You know, I certainly recognize that, you know, I
don't think any of us would want to Chair for a year at a
time. I do agree with Commissioner Fernandez. You know,
I was supportive of a month at a time. I think that, you know, it does -- it is slightly disruptive to our rhythm to have such frequent changes because it makes it difficult for a Chair to promote a focus on the objective.

And finally, I'll say, you know, one of the great joys that I've experienced over the years in leading these groups, including sixty some nationalities, is going around and checking in. And so yeah, you know, the Zoom format is a real barrier to effective check-ins. And I found that my staff appreciated the fact that, you know, I was getting up out of my office and going around and physically checking in with them on a regular basis.

So I don't know how we replicate that, but certainly, you know, as Chair for the next meeting, my plan has been and continues to be to have a social lunch on one of those days. I'm still playing around with some of the timing, so I don't know which day yet, but I'll make sure and get that out. Hopefully we can continue to use those as opportunities to check in with each other.

Thanks.

CHAIR FORNACIARI: You can hear me better now. So does anyone else have anything that they want to add to this part of the conversation at this point?

Yeah. Commissioner Le Mons.
COMMISSIONER LE MONS: I just wanted to offer some
thanks and appreciation to you for the sensitivity and
approach by which you, taking this on. And your outreach
to me personally, which I appreciate and in the context
of you being the Chair. I don't have anything to add.

I think the comments made by the previous
commissioners, I support and agree with and on both the
challenges as well as, you know, what should have
happened and kind of where we are. And I think that
we've been having multiple conversations or alluding to
or insinuating for a period of time now about this
reality. And I think we're finally, as a group, tackling
it.

I agreed it is the group's responsibility and not
the Chair to foster this. And I shared that with you
before. And the same in terms of picking the time
yesterday when I said, no, that I didn't want -- I mean,
the day before yesterday -- I mean, on Thursday. It was
for that very reason that it wasn't up to me but when we
should meet that we as a group should have come to that.
And we didn't. I mean, you took charge and did it, and
that was fine, too. But what I would have liked to have
seen was more of an organic approach that, you know, we
got there as a group.

So I think that just how we got there kind of tells
us where we are as well. As someone who also has quite a
bit of experience in the realm of facilitation and group
dynamics, there are various approaches to getting there.
And I'm one of those, everything is grist for the mill.
So I'm comfortable with many roads to wherever it is that
we're trying to go. But what I am always focused on is
where we're trying to get to, and that's something that
is really, really important to me that we get there.

So I'm very happy that you raised this. I
appreciate it. And I just wanted to take a moment to
lift you up in that way. I think you -- whatever my
observations of you are, I think what you've done today
is consistent with that observation. So -- and I say
that to say this. I think we often think that people are
one way and then suddenly they are somebody else.

Nobody on this panel for me is different today, a
month and six weeks in, eight weeks, twelve weeks in.
That I think they're who they've always been. And I
think we are maybe understanding each other better. And
I think the more we engage, and I think these social
gatherings will help us engage as well, and we're going
to continue to do the good work.

I still think that we're one group and I have
nothing but confidence in our ability to do what we came
here to do and to do it well. And I think we're going to
be fine, as I said the other day. So again, Commissioner Fornaciari, thank you.

CHAIR FORNACIARI: Thank you, Commissioner Le Mons. Thanks, I appreciate that. Okay. So if I can kind of sort of circle back a little bit, I think, you know, I've heard from a couple of different commissioners, this idea of commissioners Chairing for a longer duration of time to keep some consistency. You've heard two meetings. I've heard a month. Looks like in the outer months, two meetings in a month are the same thing. But I just -- I want to throw it out there, do we want to have a specific proposal on that? And come to an agreement on extending the time, maybe. Or I'll just say two meetings at this point. Would that suffice for folks? I mean, do you want to make that decision at this point?

Commissioner Akutagawa

COMMISSIONER AKUTAGAWA: Just for clarification, can I ask when you -- when you would propose this take effect? Like beginning after Commissioner Kennedy?

CHAIR FORNACIARI: Yeah, maybe after. After. I mean, I would -- I would --

COMMISSIONER AKUTAGAWA: Or with Commissioner Kennedy?

CHAIR FORNACIARI: Well, I would ask Commissioner -- I mean, maybe with Commissioner Kennedy. I mean, look,
I'm not trying to pass the buck here, but you know, he's already put the agenda together for the next -- for the next meeting at this point. And I know I only Chaired for technically two days, but I've -- anyway, Commissioner Le Mons.

COMMISSIONER LE MONS: Yeah, I would -- I support that. I do think that it would be up to Commissioner Kennedy. And since I'm his vice Chair. It would affect, I guess, he and I, the most immediately if we make this change. So I guess I defer to him and ask him, how does he feel about it? We as a Commission make the change to do two meetings in a row or two meetings as the new standard as opposed to one meeting. Or move away from the three day. I think it's a three day right now.

CHAIR FORNACIARI: Commissioner Kennedy.

VICE CHAIR KENNEDY: So I mean, it just requires a little crank here to expand my thinking. I'm okay with it. I had not been thinking of that. And so you know, I'm going to want to sit down and have a chat with Commissioner Le Mons and with Director Claypool to kind of extend my horizon of my thinking as far as this. I'm okay with it, you know.

Another option is, I was trying to pull up the rotation schedule and wasn't finding it. But you know, we could wait until we get to the end of the rotation, as
it's currently set and then start. But either way, I'm fine.

CHAIR FORNACIARI: Yeah. So I have the rotation schedule. So we're on rotation 6 of 14. So I mean, it's a long, long way out by the time we get to circle back. So I mean, I would think we'd want to do something sooner.

Commissioner Andersen.

COMMISSIONER ANDERSEN: Yeah. I do have the list of -- the orders and stuff. And actually the way -- it even has some dates on it. And it actually does have -- it has Commissioner Kennedy doing the November 16 to 18 with Commissioner Le Mons as the vice Chair. And then it has -- and I believe it's because there is a misprint. It has December 1 and 2 and then 14 and 16 as Commissioner Le Mons as the Chair and Commissioner Taylor is the vice Chair. I would think, I -- it's almost like, it's easier to keep the month together as opposed to dividing the month. Because if we go -- if we do this now, Commissioner Kennedy would be doing November and the first part of December, but then Commissioner Le Mons would be doing the first -- the last part of December and then waiting over the two weeks until the first part of January. And then, because we have January set up sort of differently, I think it might be cleaner maybe to do,
you know, I don't know in terms of -- but would
Commissioner Kennedy just do the one? And then
Commissioner Le Mons do both meetings in December? You
know, kind of go to the, you know, the two -- try to keep
the two in a month.

But then I -- in January, we have -- remember we
have a day and then a week and then, like, three days and
then a day and three days. We penciled it in just in
case. So it's a little bit, like, do we want to have two
people -- one person in January or two people in January?

I think we need to kind of have a look and see how
we're breaking it down. If we want to go -- I agree with
the idea of, two meetings certainly helps. You know, I
like that. But I think we need to look at, do we need to
do a three-meeting and then a two-meeting type of thing
just to keep it consistent as opposed as how it breaks up
and continuity over time? Because if there's a huge --
my reason I'm saying that is that there's a big gap in
between.

That's clearly a good time for someone else to take
over as opposed to try to hang on to, you ran one meeting
and then your next meeting is until three weeks later.
That's a bit tricky. And I think that would be an easier
place for another Chair to take over in. There's enough
transition time is what I'm trying to say.
So I don't know if -- that said, so I don't know if
we if we want to do just Commissioner Kennedy and
Commissioner Le Mons or -- I'd almost like all of us,
like, those guys kind of have a look at it with January
and maybe come up with a plan. And maybe Commissioner
Taylor, since they're the immediate commissioners
involved.

We haven't -- we don't have anything scheduled past
January at this point. So -- and those are the three
commissioners involved in that. So that would be an
idea.

CHAIR FORNACIARI: Okay. I appreciate that, thank
you. I have Commissioner Yee and then Commissioner
Fernandez.

COMMISSIONER YEE: Yes. I think -- I think actually
December is correct because the standard is three days or
one meeting, whichever is longer. So the fact that
December 1, 2 is only two days is why Le Mons and Taylor
Commissioners Le Mons and Taylor have those two meetings
in December.

COMMISSIONER ANDERSEN: Let me just say, yes, except
that we actually scheduled it 1 to 3. I have a down on
my calendars that it was December 1, 2, 3 -- 1 and 2 -- I
believe you're correct, Commissioner Yee, in saying
that's why it was added that way.
COMMISSIONER YEE: Oh, I see, I see. We added it in.

COMMISSIONER ANDERSEN: There's a happy coincidence.

COMMISSIONER YEE: Oh, I see. Right. Okay. And just a reminder, Commissioner Sinay actually declined to serve as Chair in the rotation for now. So it's not all 14 of us. So the balance seems to be on one hand, having longer terms, you know, gives -- is better for planning for the current Chair. And kind of gets you -- gives us each a chance to, you know, once we're in the Chair mode to employ those skills, you know, a little more fully.

The flip side is it sounds exhausting, you know, and you can't pay full attention. And you know, that's a pretty big negative. So I think only the ones who've served as Chairs so far can speak to that. And you know, where they fall in that balance. And you know, it's pluses and minuses both ways, obviously.

CHAIR FORNACIARI: Well, I mean, for me, I'll just respond to that and then I'll turn it over to Commissioner Fernandez. I mean, I think for me, I think some of these other ideas that have come up where, you know, maybe the, you know, someone else can manage, you know, watching for hands and who's going to speak up. And also, I think turning over the facilitation role to other commissioners who are, you know, leading a given
topic would also be helpful. But I will say, you know, it's a work getting, you know, the agenda together and you know, I mean it's a -- it's work but you know, it's what we sign up for, I guess. So Commissioner Fernandez.

COMMISSIONER FERNANDEZ: Gosh darn it, I've lost my train of thought. Okay. In terms of the gaps, yeah, Commissioner Andersen was correct. We do have that gap in December. And we have to really think ahead because at some point in time we're going to have no gaps. So it's going to be week after week after week after week. So that may work out better.

We did in our first meeting together, I believe, it was Commissioners Yee and Toledo that put together a list. And I don't know, maybe an option would be to have them maybe go back and kind of take the information that we've talked about and then come up with another proposed rotation in terms of the meeting dates.

And then in terms of the -- in response to Commissioner Yee, in terms of it being exhausting. I think a better word for it might be, not necessarily exhausting, but you just really have to plan for it, like, the day before you're planning for the next day and that evening you're planning for the next day.

So in a sense, it is a little bit more work. But I, I don't think I'd call it exhausting. I think it's just
more of upfront work by the Chair. And again as -- and
if we delegate some of those duties, I think it'll be
easier to manage.

So thank you everyone for, I guess looking beyond
the one meeting per Chair, because I do think it'll be
better because we will have a Chair and we will have a
vice Chair that in essence will be connected for four
meetings, if you look at it that way. And they could
work together. And I really think that will be more
powerful and it'll lead to a smoother transition.

CHAIR FORNACIARI: Okay. We have Commissioner
Akutagawa, then Commissioner Vazquez.

COMMISSIONER AKUTAGAWA: Thank you. And I think
what Commissioner Fernandez said is right. I want to --
I'd like to weigh in on what Commissioner Andersen just
said about, you know, having it each commissioner take on
a month. I see the logic in terms of, you know, like,
yeah, I have this month. But at the same time, if you
have four meetings, you know, in a month, it's a lot of
work. I mean, I think that's really what it is. It's, I
think for me, I mean, and I think everyone's going to be
different, but I think they're -- to me, the Chair's role
is to make sure that we move the meeting along. And that
we accomplish all the kind of agenda items that we need
to do.
So part of that also means, as we're getting staff on, that your role as the Chair also means working with the staff to make sure that we're all in alignment with the things that are going to be discussed to understand what, in this case, Director Claypool is also going to be reporting on so that then we know and we can anticipate what is going to be happening for you as the Chair to also be prepared in terms of how you want to set things up.

I think those are all part of the pre-work that needs to be done. And I think that -- I think right now, December and January is kind of a different kind of animal because of the holidays. We're going to have a little bit more of the gaps. Whereas I think in the other months as we go forward, there's going to be less of those gaps because, basically, the whole entire month is going to be at play.

And so I think whoever is going to be the Chair and vice Chair will be very conscious of when it's their turn regardless of the month. And I think, you know, I think maybe I would just suggest that we try out the, you know, two meetings in a row, because I think -- I'm also thinking that if someone is working full time to try to really be focused in this way and doing all the pre-work, it's just, I mean, it almost does become a full-time job
on its own. And I just want to be respectful. And also that, you know, I think, you know, those who are working are trying to balance multiple things. And so I think we're all attempting to do our best, you know, as we can on a Zoom to be as focused as possible.

I think what's exhausting is being on Zoom all day. There are days after these meetings where I'm just, like, just physically tired because it's just like staring into the camera and into the screen and seeing focused. It's a whole other animal, I think that that -- many people have talked about as well, too, so.

I think I just want to weigh in for, you know, just perhaps keeping to every two meetings in a row. And I think whether or not it makes sense to then start with December as being the two meetings in a row, that means that would be Commissioner Le Mons. Or starting with Commissioner Kennedy.

And then so he would take over the first meeting in December and then Commissioner Le Mons would take over the second meeting in December and then share the first meeting in January. I think that's really going to be up to them whether or not, you know, what they feel is how they might want to do it, so. Thank you.

CHAIR FORNACIARI: Okay. I have Commissioner Vazquez and then Andersen.
COMMISSIONER VAZQUEZ: Yeah. I will say it is exhausting for a lot of reasons. It was exhausting for me. I think a big part of it is Zoom. And so all of these meetings that take a lot -- facilitation takes a lot. Managing the business side of it. Chairing takes a lot. And a lot of planning, you know, you don't just get to leave, especially as the Chair, you don't just get to leave the meeting, as Commissioner Fernandez says, and sort of go back to the regularly scheduled programing. Particularly if a Chair is on a subcommittee or more than one subcommittee, as I was. That is also, again, additional workload for Chairs.

So being mindful of that, I will say I'm, like, hesitant but will go with the group in terms of Chairing two meetings in a row. I will say, you know, my -- the learning curve is now over for me. So I feel much more confident going in. If I was going to Chair one week, I would feel as confident as I would going in for two weeks.

So we may also consider that in terms of, you know, maybe the rest -- maybe the first cycle finishes off doing these two meetings in a row. But maybe as -- once we've all had a chance to sort of experience it, that trial by fire, and have had a longer time of getting our feet wet with it, we might be able to move at a different
clip. Because also, we don't know how frequently we're going to need to be meeting once things really get cranking. And two meetings might actually be not enough in terms of just keeping some continuity.

So I will go with the group. But I did want to say that particularly if you're on a committee and are working and/or have family obligations, that Chairing really is -- expect to do 40 hours a week of Commission business.

CHAIR FORNACIARI: Okay. I think I'm going to go to you, Commissioner Andersen, in just a second. But I'd like to say, you know, I think we've all had a chance to provide our input and thoughts on this. We're up against a break. So Commissioner Andersen, if you could just be succinct for me, that would be awesome. And then we'll move it forward.

COMMISSIONER ANDERSEN: Yes. As the first Chair of the whole gang here, I was total trial by fire. And there are two -- as a Chair, there are basically two things. There's the administrative part and there's the agenda part. And on the administrative, what I believe we should do is create -- and this would basically be a task of the previous Chairs, of what are the administrative tasks? List them out. This is what happens. Bing, bing, bing, bing, bing. Assign several
of those to the vice Chair in terms of collecting who
goes next, that sort of thing. There's certain
delegation of tasks.

And then, as far as the agenda items to keep these
flowing all the way through and from one meeting to the
next into the next meeting, we need to be diligent about
keeping going, that agenda items list, which we have
created on a shared document. That should be kept up to
date. Therefore, you know what's coming. You can see
it.

We need to be diligent about adding to that because
the Chair then ultimately then can take that group and
know what they need to do because the Chair does have to
deal with the staffing, getting the things involved.
It's as Commissioner Akutagawa said. But having a list
of what the standards and procedures are per meeting in
terms of the public comment, when the breaks are, the
timing of all that stuff.

If you start out with a list of that, it takes away
the problems of the administrative and the headache part
of that. So I think we should put these -- put this
together in a process similar, you know, Commissioner
Fornaciari has said, let's try to write a few things down
and get -- and have that standardized. So every Chair
comes in does that.
And then I like the two meetings, it was two meeting. I didn't mean like per month because that is entirely too much. I meant by two meeting. It's just where we make the break, I think we have a look at. And then the other -- the only other item I would say is the one thing to move our meetings along is, as opposed to listing, now, who put their hand up next and next and next, we need to come back to follow up, because that will eliminate --

CHAIR FORNACIARI: Commissioner Andersen, can I stop you there because we're going to have that conversation after the break.

COMMISSIONER ANDERSEN: Oh, okay. Because that's the one thing I would add to --

CHAIR FORNACIARI: Yeah, okay.

COMMISSIONER ANDERSEN: -- recommend and then I'm done.

CHAIR FORNACIARI: All right. Thank you. And can you send me, like, a summary of what you just proposed?

COMMISSIONER ANDERSEN: Sure.

CHAIR FORNACIARI: Thank you. Okay. I'll go to Commissioner Vazquez and then I think. I think we've got our answer.

COMMISSIONER VAZQUEZ: Yes. Sorry, I was going to endorse Commissioner Andersen's plan. And also offer --
we might want to think about having a board -- or a
board -- a Commission secretary who is third in line for
Chairing and that person's sole job is tracking the
agenda items because they, you know, two weeks out is
their agenda. So again, in dividing some of the some of
the labor up that a Commission secretary on the
Commission could track those items.

CHAIR FORNACIARI: Okay. So it sounds like I think,
I mean, I just want to get some kind of thumbs up kind of
consensus. But it sounds like we're kind of thinking two
meetings would be appropriate kind of -- okay?

And so Commissioner Kennedy, do you want to, I mean,
We're -- about, you know, I guess it would be on you if
you want to start it or if we want to start with.
Commissioner Le Mons. Where are you?

Where are you at Commissioner Kennedy?

VICE CHAIR KENNEDY: I just go back and say, you
know, it wasn't in my plans. That in and of itself isn't
a problem. It just means that I have to kind of reopen
that part of my brain and start thinking, okay, what is
that agenda for the 1st through the 3rd of December going
to be? I don't know how far Commissioner Le Mons might
be in conceptualizing an agenda for that meeting. If
he's already, you know, making progress on, you know,
conceptualizing what he would like to do with that
meeting, I'm perfectly happy for him to proceed.

CHAIR FORNACIARI: Well, it sounds like he's shaking -- go ahead, Commissioner Le Mons.

COMMISSIONER LE MONS: I was just saying, no progress. But I'm more than happy to start it, if that's where you want to start it.

So whichever way Commissioner Kennedy wants to go because I am working with him. So I really am comfortable either supporting him in vice-Chairing two in a row or picking it up and starting it. So I really am very comfortable -- but I have made no progress on the agenda. Zero.

CHAIR FORNACIARI: Okay. So why don't -- how about this? We'll let you two figure it out, and then whatever you two decide, we'll go with, okay?

VICE CHAIR KENNEDY: Yeah, let's have -- let's have a chat over the weekend, if you have time.

CHAIR FORNACIARI: Okay. So we are up against a break at this point. And so it's 11:02. We went a little bit long. But -- so I'm -- I like round numbers, so 11:20, we'll come back.

(Whereupon, a recess was held)

CHAIR FORNACIARI: All right. Well, welcome back.

For Commissioner Sinay who had to step out for a meeting, we spent the entire time discussing the Chair and the
Chair role and came up with some ideas about how we might ease the -- you know, balance the administrative and the facilitative role that the Chair has. And we decided to change the duration of the Chair's responsibility to two meetings instead of three days, or one meeting. And so Commissioner Kennedy and Commissioner Le Mons are -- since they're Chair and vice-Chair at the next meeting, they're going to make a decision on how they want to move forward with that, whether Commissioner Kennedy takes two or it starts with Commissioner Le Mons.

So Commissioner Yee?

COMMISSIONER YEE: Yes. Thanks for that summary. Just to remind ourselves, the language of the rotation is "generally" and "normally", you know. So you know, we each have different outside Commission lives, and by personality, I think Chairing is more effortful or less effortful for different ones.

So it's perfectly okay, I think, going forward -- I mean, this could -- this will be our ordinary practice, but it's perfectly okay to opt to Chair only one meeting rather than two. Just make that known well ahead of time, right? Especially for us first-timers. I don't know, that -- I'm thinking maybe I'll -- I don't know. Maybe I might want to opt for just one meeting, at least...
the first time.

But there's no requirement that -- I mean, it -- you know, it can be different for each one, and it can -- you can drop out of the rotation as well or not -- or you know, drop in or out.

So also just want to -- since nobody's mentioned it, I just want to also say I think it really helps having different personalities Chair. You know, I -- you know, too much of any one of us -- I don't -- I don't want to listen myself on and on. So that is a real, real plus, I think, and another reason to not make it too long.

So I -- so the language can be generally two meetings, and we can just go forward with that. I think it can be a proposal and not -- it doesn't have to be a motion, I don't think.

CHAIR FORNACIARI: I don't -- I think we've -- I don't -- I don't think so. I think -- I mean, it's just, you know, how we're going to run our meetings, so I think it's fine.

Commissioner Sinay, did I -- did you have your hand up? Oh, I see Commissioner Vazquez. I'm not sure who was first. Commissioner Sinay?

COMMISSIONER SINAY: I just wanted -- I know that Commissioner Akutagawa volunteered to, you know, pay attention to who was next in line and use the chat. I
thought that was a great idea. And since I have not --
did not step forward to be on the -- on the -- on the
rotation, I'm willing to, you know, help with that as
well at any point, just keeping track for whoever's --
who's ever Chairing.

CHAIR FORNACIARI: Okay. Thank you. Commissioner
Vazquez?

COMMISSIONER VAZQUEZ: I do think Commissioner
Yee -- I appreciate the offer for flexibility for people
wanting to drop out. I had asked to drop out in the
middle of the rotation and was not able -- was not
allowed to by the Commission, and it would have really
helped me had I been able to sort of table my time for
when I was feeling better, because I was really sick last
month.

But I think if that option can be afforded to folks,
especially looking at their schedules, especially health
thing come -- health things come up, family things come
up. I think officially being able to -- ahead of -- if
you know ahead of time, being able to pull yourself out
of the rotation and have folks knowing that they're going
to be facilitating earlier.

Because I think also what happened with Commissioner
Akutagawa was that I just had to tap out after three days
and she was sort of shoved into facilitating a full day,
which I think was -- that was a less-than-ideal outcome for both of us. So I think especially if we afford grace and do so sort of in the out weeks, I would appreciate that.

CHAIR FORNACIARI: And -- well, thank you for that. Yeah. Thank you. And thank you for Chairing when you weren't feeling well.

Okay. I -- so the pre-read that I sent out for this action item was -- did I pull it out yet? I have it here. You know, just some thoughts that I had, and the way I've organized it was just kind of around general meeting -- around meeting procedures, a conversation around meeting procedures, and then a conversation around ground rules. And so I thought we'd go into the meeting procedure part of the conversation. We've already begun -- we've already touched on that.

And I just want to say, you know -- let's see -- I recognize that all of us are different and have different ways of learning and taking in information, and you know, this might be kind of looked at as an approach to get to maximum efficiency, and that might sacrifice effectiveness, if you will. And that wasn't my intent, you know. My intent -- I want to make sure everyone's heard. I want to make sure we're all on the same page.

I think, you know, the last -- or whatever it was,
Wednesday afternoon, when we were having the discussion about the roles of the different teams, I mean, I feel like I kind of got the conversation off the rails because I didn't -- I wasn't getting it. You know, I think I get it now. But I think -- I mean, I think it's important that we allow the space for people to be on the same page, but you know, while we balance, you know, moving things along. So I mean, it's kind of a tough -- kind of a tough -- maybe an impossible tradeoff. I don't know. But anyway, that's kind of what I was thinking.

I have the document here. I was going to share it, if you will, or -- but I'm going to have to ask for a volunteer to keep track of hands being raised. And again, I just threw this -- just throwing it against the wall and see if it sticks. It's just Neal's idea. So you know, whatever, you know, you guys -- I mean, we'll -- we need to own this together.

And I saw Commissioner Kennedy raise his hand.

VICE CHAIR KENNEDY: Just as vice-Chair, I'm volunteering to be spotter.

CHAIR FORNACIARI: Okay. Okay. So I'm going to share my screen, then, and if that would be -- oh, wait a minute here. That's not how I do it. I think I can do this, actually, too.

COMMISSIONER SINAY: You're sharing, in case you
were wondering. It worked.

CHAIR FORNACIARI: Okay. I'm also -- I put all of you all on my other screen, and it's completely at a different angle.

So on the -- in the -- so I want to give you guys just a little background, too. And so I kind of wanted to capture what I thought were sort of our general meeting procedures, and the second one is providing context. So I'll start with that.

You know, we've been wanting to have this conversation for a while. You know, we didn't have the space for it for a lot of meetings. And this was kind of the first meeting I thought that we could -- we could fit it in -- we could fit it in the agenda, so I did.

And again, so the conversation's going to be about meeting procedures and ground rules, if we want to do that. And so I just kind of thought we'd go through, you know, maybe section by section and have a little bit of a conversation, if there's things I'm missing, if there's, you know, other stuff folks have in mind that they want to put in or throw out or you know, if I -- if I caught the gist of what we have in mind here close enough, then, you know, we could move to the next session or whatever.

So -- but I -- you know, I think this needs to be a real kind of dialogue here somehow, if -- you know, it's
tough on Zoom. But you know, I just really encourage
everyone to chime in as best we can. Or you know, it's
such a brilliant document, we could just accept it as it
is. Probably not.

So the -- does anyone want to break the ice and kind
of chime in? Commissioner Fernandez.

Oh, sorry, Commissioner Kennedy, that's your role.

COMMISSIONER FERNANDEZ: Before you called on me, I
figured I should raise my hand. I'm not sure if you're
going to go over, like -- I didn't really have issues
with the general meeting procedures, but with the voting.
And I don't know, with present versus abstain, is that,
like, a common way to vote? Because I know when I was on
the board, we would just say abstain instead of --
because that's what you were doing, was abstaining. And
I'm trying to think of, you know, common language, but
maybe present is abstain.

But I'm trying to think for the public out there. I
didn't know that present meant abstain, and it might be
easier just to put abstain, because if we're -- once we
go out there into the -- if we ever go out to the
community or even at -- even our meetings, I don't want
there to be confusion. That was my just comment on that
piece.

CHAIR FORNACIARI: You're in charge, Commissioner
Kennedy, so you can call on yourself.

VICE CHAIR KENNEDY: Thank you, sir. Since I've been probably the one who's made most use of that, I will say that, you know, this is something that I clarified with Amanda Saxton when she was our temporary counsel. "Present" is the -- is the verbiage in Robert's Rules, which, you know, we were under and I always thought all of us were under. So that's why I've used it that way, and that may be why it appeared this way here.

CHAIR FORNACIARI: But we're okay with abstain? I think it's -- I think it's a good point. I think it's clearer. Okay.

MR. MANOFF: I'm sorry to interrupt, Chair. This is Kristian. If you make your zoom fit to width, it may be easier to read.

CHAIR FORNACIARI: Okay, yeah. It's -- yeah, okay. Zoom, okay. How do I do that? I don't -- I'm not --

MR. MANOFF: I think in the view menu of Word, you can do that.

CHAIR FORNACIARI: Oh, view. Okay, got you.

MR. MANOFF: And then under zoom. Much --

CHAIR FORNACIARI: Or I can just zoom a little more, too.

COMMISSIONER VAZQUEZ: That's much better, Chair.

CHAIR FORNACIARI: Okay. Yeah, good. Sorry. It
was good for me, but I appreciate the feedback.

VICE CHAIR KENNEDY: Commissioner Ahmad?

COMMISSIONER AHMAD: Thank you. This is great. I love that you put this together for us as a starting point for our discussion.

One thing, if we scroll back up to the meeting -- general meeting procedures, something that I've noticed that could be helpful for us as a group is the way we communicate direction to staff. I've seen several times that, you know, we tend to have a great idea and we want to get it to staff as soon as possible, and then we will just throw it out to staff rather than funnelling it through the Chair, and then following a recommendation or a direction, someone else will give an opposite recommendation or direction.

So I think it might be confusing in terms of how we are delivering what we need to staff and could be potentially a way to alleviate some of the miscommunication that happens. So my recommendation would be that us as a Commission communicate what we would like from staff to one person, probably the Chair, and the Chair make that direction to staff.

VICE CHAIR KENNEDY: Commissioner Andersen?

COMMISSIONER ANDERSEN: I said two -- but on clarification, that -- is that just events that occur at
a meeting that you're just saying this, Commissioner Ahmad? Because the reason I want a clarification is
subcommittees do work directly with staff, and that would
put another step in there, and I don't think that's what
you're implying. Is that -- could you clarify that?

COMMISSIONER AHMAD: That's a great question, if I
may answer that question. I -- this recommendation I
think is just for these open public meeting sessions. I
hadn't thought of the other avenue, which I think would
warrant a different conversation in terms of how we all
keep the Chair up to date, given our Bagley-Keene
requirements of less than two people communicating about
any item outside of a public meeting. So thank you for
asking that question and requesting that clarification.

COMMISSIONER ANDERSEN: And then my item is actually
on number 5, creating -- this is minutes. And this has
come up, and we were actually -- I believe Ms. Sheffield
is the person who is now going to be assisting us with
minutes. But in terms of -- I -- again, this is the
Robert's Rules of Order, which I'm pretty sure we are
supposed to be under a modified version of which. That's
a separate issue, but -- and minutes have a certain
requirement.

And the way we had been doing it is -- this, again,
with -- eight under much more rigid rules. But we had
minutes come out, and the edits -- that was all done in
open session. So in terms of, you know, edits will be
returned after -- that all happened at open session,
because the minutes came out to everybody and then were
modified.

Now -- and I might ask counsel if she might be able
to -- you know, who knows more about the Bagley-Keene
requirements and possibly how this works, if the proposal
here might not be in line with that. So that was my
issue, if you could -- thank you.

VICE CHAIR KENNEDY: Commissioner Yee is next,
followed by Commissioner Fernandez. Actually,
Commissioner Yee, could we have Marian first?

COMMISSIONER ANDERSEN: Perfect. Thank you.

MS. JOHNSTON: There is no requirement that you
follow Robert's Rules. That is totally up to you all.
Customarily, a lot of agencies and commissions decide to
follow them or follow them to some modified extent. But
whether or not you want to follow them or how much you
want to follow them is within your purview.

CHAIR FORNACIARI: So if I can just chime in --
sorry -- take the Chair's prerogative here, the -- you
know, just to let everyone know, we were informed by
counsel -- the first eight were informed by counsel that
it was a legal requirement for us to use Robert's Rules

And the other point is Ms. Saxton made it crystal clear in her instructions to us that a vote during the first eight, to use this lite Robert's Rules of Order, did not translate to the entire Commission, because the first eight could not take an action that encumbered the entire Commission, is my recollection of that -- of how that conversation went.

MS. JOHNSTON: And I just wanted to add about minutes, the only Bagley-Keene requirement for minutes is for closed sessions. So to the extent you want to have meetings kept of your open sessions, that's up to you to decide how you want to direct staff.

VICE CHAIR KENNEDY: Okay. So Commissioner Yee, Commissioner Fernandez, Commissioner Andersen, Commissioner Sinay.

COMMISSIONER YEE: Following up on that, and then a different point. So some minutes -- I mean, don't -- so Marian, minute -- or Counsel, minutes have -- don't minutes have a legal standing? I mean, number 5 is asking for basically notes, but those are not minutes, right? I mean, minutes have to be approved and all that
kind of thing.

MS. JOHNSTON: Well, if you're following Robert's Rules of Order, yeah. But again, minutes in Bagley-Keene only says you have to report actions taken -- first of all, to go into closed session, you have to notice what you're going to be talking about, and then you have to report out actions taken. If you want to have minutes, you decide what you want to have included in them and what form you want to have them in.

COMMISSIONER YEE: Right. But otherwise, there's no actual official record of actions taken, right? I mean --

MS. JOHNSTON: Well, we keep --

COMMISSIONER YEE: -- other than --

MS. JOHNSTON: We keep -- I keep the copies of all the minute -- of all the votes.

COMMISSIONER YEE: Right. Yeah, I'm just -- I'm just wondering -- yeah. And those are publicly accessible? You know, I mean --

MS. JOHNSTON: Well, no, because they're my notes. But --

COMMISSIONER YEE: Yeah.

MS. JOHNSTON: -- the video transcript is publicly accessible, and that has always been in lieu of particular minutes. But if you want to have minutes,
Wanda is certainly capable of doing that.

COMMISSIONER YEE: Right. So the question is how to document officially taken actions in a publicly accessible manner. Can they just be this basically memo, or do they need to be officially approved minutes?

MS. JOHNSTON: That is up to you all.

COMMISSIONER YEE: Okay. That probably bears further discussion. But quickly, can I also mention -- so with numbers 1 and 3, can we insert the word "generally" or perhaps "ordinarily", just so that we have a little more flexibility there?

CHAIR FORNACIARI: There?

COMMISSIONER YEE: Yeah, perfect. And then 3 as well, I'm thinking, because, you know, sometimes we just can't get it in two days before. Thanks.

VICE CHAIR KENNEDY: Okay. Commissioner Fernandez.

COMMISSIONER FERNANDEZ: Thank you, Commissioner Yee, for that in terms of the number 1, because when we've been in closed session, we haven't adhered to that. So thank you for bringing that up.

And then the other thing on the minutes -- so on the school board for many years. The first board secretary just took detailed minutes -- I mean, put everything out there. But then you kind of -- I didn't agree with that because you really -- it should really just be action
items that were taken.

So I think as a Commission, if we want minutes, my recommendation would be that the minutes would only contain action items. I mean, and what we did is it was similar to how the agenda is, and then if there was -- so there was -- normally, there weren't any comments on anything other than action items. And at that point, it was just, like, who made the motion and who seconded. So that's how we did it. I feel that's appropriate. If anyone wants additional detail, they can then go to the audio recording.

And then could I also get some clarification on what would be the difference of following Robert's Rules versus not following Robert's Rules? That would be helpful in terms of deciding if we're going to move forward with the simple Robert's Rules or whatever we're going to do. So I would just like some education on that piece of it. Thank you.

VICE CHAIR KENNEDY: Okay. Commissioner Andersen is next, but could I ask -- could I call on Marian first?

MS. JOHNSTON: Just in addition about what has to be required if you're -- if you are reporting actions taken, when it's a special vote, you have to indicate who voted for which item because that clarifies whether an action is legally taken or not, if a special vote is required.
VICE CHAIR KENNEDY: Okay, thank you. Commissioner Andersen?

COMMISSIONER ANDERSEN: I -- Commissioner Yee really sort of helped bring this to a line. I thought we did indeed say we would like some sort of minutes, and I think I -- rather than -- I understand the need to put -- to work out a procedure. I am always extremely cautious about writing everything down because then we are hung by these. So I'm -- I really like the adding generally, generally, generally.

These are -- these are ideas and proposals. I don't want us to have to, like -- you didn't do it this way, so therefore, everything you've done is invalid. I'm a little concerned about that overall and specifically on the minutes. We have talked about this several times before, and I would like us to decide what we do want to have and the implications.

And also, I think on that, we will have public comment because part of the idea where minutes came from is we've had other people who are watching our -- you know, who are following us but not watching every single day, and they wanted to see, well, what happened? And they had no way of looking unless they watched the entire, you know, video transcript. No way of knowing.

And so I'm a little concerned. I -- yes, actions
taken, but -- and I understand the -- I think we need a little bit more. Like, we need either actions taken, general -- you know, not -- topics are obviously an agenda. But just a short summary of what was discussed, you know, just, again, short, but just a little bit of -- you know, did -- because sometimes we discuss things and come to an idea, but we didn't actually vote on it, there's no action item.

And the idea -- so someone who was following us but doesn't have the time to watch all of it can, you know, quickly kind of understand what we actually did, which is part of the purpose of the minutes, to document, you know, all, obviously, actions taken and -- as well as a general idea of what we actually did as opposed to just the agenda.

VICE CHAIR KENNEDY: Okay. Commissioner Sinay.

COMMISSIONER SINAY: Thank you, Vice-Chair. Minutes to me are a pain for many different reasons. But I do believe in having a summary and an action item.

The -- where things have gone, the evolution, just so that people understand, is it used to be you wrote down everything. And then we were able to do video, and the public demanded video, and that's how -- and some school boards were like, we're not going to do it, and some city councils said, we're not going to do it. But
things moved on to video. What they didn't realize was
they were going to have to watch eight hours or three
days of video when they demanded that.

You know, and so I would -- I -- we need to be -- I
don't want -- the one thing I don't want is for us to
have to review the minutes in the meeting and correct
them in the -- in the meeting and take that hour to
debate everything again that took place last time,
because that to me is the big -- that's my big enemy with
minutes, is the amount of time people -- you're supposed
to -- the right -- if you're going to follow -- you're
supposed to write minutes, send it out to everybody right
away, everybody sends their comments back, and by the
time it's presented to the public, it's already gotten
all those corrections. But no one does it that way, and
I just don't want to spend our valuable time going
through the minutes when we've got the video of it.

I do see it would be helpful if we took the agenda
and we were able to say, at the -- you know, put the
agenda by time and date, you know, just -- so say this
item was discussed on Tuesday at 2:00, and people can
find it in the video quicker, and maybe a summary. And
that way, you can go to the video to Tuesday at 2:00 or
whatever it is, or at .1 whatever.

But I just -- I would like us to get away from
calling them minutes and maybe summary and action items
and -- so we stay away from that legal terminology of
minutes. Minutes can be -- you can be held all sorts of
things in minutes too, but I'm sure you can in any
writing thing. But I just don't want to spend time in
meetings talking about them.

VICE CHAIR KENNEDY: Okay. I'm next. I haven't
seen any -- and then Commissioner Vazquez after me.

I generally agree with Commissioner Sinay on this.
Something that is a summary and list of taskings -- we
had our discussion this morning and trying to come up
with, well, when did we ask, you know, that a draft press
release be prepared before the end of the Ogilvy
contract? It would be very handy to have a summary and
taskings list that we could quickly refer to and find out
when that happened, and I think it would help all of us
to have something very short, crisp, that lays out the
essentials for us.

My other concern is we understand that minutes have
been taken of closed session, but we've never seen them.
And so I, looking ahead, could anticipate a time when,
you know, for some reason the minutes became relevant,
and we read them, and somebody says, well, that's not how
I remember it. So I'm wondering if we should have the
opportunity to review the minutes of the closed session.
So Commissioner Vazquez.

COMMISSIONER VAZQUEZ: Generally in agreement with Commissioner Sinay and Commissioner Kennedy. I feel like with a summary -- I'm not really a fan of having a summary of discussions leading up to any next steps. Someone is always going to be unhappy about how the discussion -- how their portion of the discussion is going to be framed in the minutes and that's -- those are conversations that are probably not particularly valuable to be had given everything else we have going on, so. And I forgot where I was going with that. But yes, basically, I'm not super thrilled at the idea of summaries.

Oh, I would say if -- for these discussions, I think it comes back on the -- particularly the committees -- the subcommittees -- to have your board -- or your Commission reports and materials thoroughly fleshed out. And so with each of these agenda items, we'll have -- people have handouts and materials, and then any next steps that follow from that, and I just -- I don't think summarizing the discussions and the back and forth is especially valuable as long as we have appropriate meeting handouts and materials, and then next steps.

VICE CHAIR KENNEDY: Chair, I'm seeing no other hands.
CHAIR FORNACIARI: Okay.

VICE CHAIR KENNEDY: Marian's hand is up.

MS. JOHNSTON: Just to your comment, Commissioner Kennedy, about what -- what's transpires during closed session. That is the purpose of reporting out in open session any actions taken during closed session, and at that point, if someone disagreed with it, they could speak up. But other than that, the minutes are not publicly disclosed unless there's some litigation as to that requires them to be disclosed.

CHAIR FORNACIARI: So I just want to clarify that point. So minutes are being currently taken in closed session?

MS. JOHNSTON: That record actions taken, yes.

CHAIR FORNACIARI: Okay. So we're just recording actions taken in closed session?

MS. JOHNSTON: That's correct.

CHAIR FORNACIARI: Okay.

So Zack (ph.). Go ahead, Commissioner Kennedy.

VICE CHAIR KENNEDY: Do you have something?

CHAIR FORNACIARI: Who? Me?

VICE CHAIR KENNEDY: Yes.

CHAIR FORNACIARI: Oh, no, I just -- did you want to comment on that?

VICE CHAIR KENNEDY: Commissioner Yee has raised his
hand.

CHAIR FORNACIARI: Oh, I'm sorry. I lost you. Go ahead.

COMMISSIONER YEE: Yes, I did. That was a mistake. But I mean, generally, we want publicly-accessible records of actions taken and just some accessibility to what we're doing, right, without having to watch through hours and hours of video. I mean, that seems like a very desirable and obvious and uncontroversial part of our work, I would think.

CHAIR FORNACIARI: Okay. Well, so what I've got for item 5 now is staff will create, distribute, and post to the web a brief summary after the completion of each meeting that will include all actions taken; a summary of discussions with question marks because I think some people want that and some people don't, and we need to decide; a list of actions given who is responsible when they are due; dates and times when the agenda -- the dates and times when an agenda item was discussed; and then finally, edits by commissioners will be returned within three business days after the initial draft is distributed, so we will review it off-line and not during the meeting is the proposal. Did I catch it?

VICE CHAIR KENNEDY: Okay. Commissioner Andersen.

COMMISSIONER ANDERSEN: Just a quick -- I hear what
people are saying about this summary discussion, and I meant just a general summary, not a who did what, who -- no. This was talked about and -- like, it was tabled, you know, because that would never even come up if it wasn't -- only action items, or you know, just a general kind of idea is what I was trying to put in there.

And on item D, dates and times, I understand that would be very helpful, but that means someone has to go -- the staff person has to go through the video and then log all that at the time, and you know, I don't know if we want to do that. I mean, that strikes me as a lot. That's where I was kind of going at the summary of discussion is a quick -- it's a much -- a few lines is much easier than having someone go through the dates and times on the whole video. So that's what --

CHAIR FORNACIARI: So --

COMMISSIONER ANDERSEN: -- I was saying on that one.

CHAIR FORNACIARI: I mean, on that one, I would -- I mean, Wanda's in the room the whole time, and she's got the agenda in front of her, and I would think that she would just note as we're going along on her agenda when it happened.

COMMISSIONER ANDERSEN: I would ask on the video recording if that's how it's marked. I don't know. I think it might be beginning of time on the video, which
case, she'd have to have a stopwatch to do that.

CHAIR FORNACIARI: Well, I meant -- I thought we were thinking time of day, not time on video.

COMMISSIONER ANDERSEN: My interpretation was --

VICE CHAIR KENNEDY: That's correct.

COMMISSIONER ANDERSEN: -- time on video so someone could look at the video to kind of go, oh, this is where they were talking about that, so I'll go to that point in the video. That's where I thought that line was coming from. If it is just time of the day during the meeting, yes, that -- then I certainly let it stand.

CHAIR FORNACIARI: Well, that was my interpretation. Time of day. Our meetings start at 9:30, so you can fast-forward.

VICE CHAIR KENNEDY: Commissioner Yee, is your hand raised?

COMMISSIONER YEE: It is intentionally now, yes.

VICE CHAIR KENNEDY: Okay.

COMMISSIONER YEE: For summary of discussions, how about just topics discussed? Because I agree, we don't want all the back and forth.

And then I think I have a question for Kristian then. On the video, is it timestamped time of the day, or is it just timestamped the minutes into the video? Because it's just a matter of accessibility.
And then I would -- at minimum, I'd want time and
day -- some accessibility -- timing to make motions
accessible. And then if it's easy, if Wanda's always
there, if it's trivial to usually include other timings,
then sure, why not? But not if it's a big chore.

But Kristian, how are the videos marked?

MR. MANOFF: So to answer your question,

Commissioner Yee, the video is marked in time code and so
that is not associated with clock time. Now it is
possible to put a clock in the lower right-hand corner of
the screen, and I can explore options for that and report
back to the Commission.

CHAIR FORNACIARI: Okay. That would be great.

Thank you.

So I have a question for Commissioner Yee. How is
topics discussed different than the agenda items?

COMMISSIONER YEE: Because sometimes it's not
identical. I mean, of course, it needs to be in the
realm, but you know, agenda item might just be a
subcommittee report, and then, you know, it really
doesn't tell you that much, right? When the topic ends
up being a specific -- well, it will end up being
something specific, that it just makes it easier to tell
what actually -- what we actually talked about. Because
on subcommittee reports sometimes have specifics
associated with them, but they very often don't, so.

Just trying to think what makes it -- what makes our
meetings more publicly accessible? If somebody wants to
find out when we talked about this, I -- how can we help
them find it without making an onerous amount of overhead
for ourselves?

CHAIR FORNACIARI: Okay. I see.

VICE CHAIR KENNEDY: Commissioner Fernandez, did you
have your hand up?

COMMISSIONER FERNANDEZ: I did, but Chair Fornaciari
asked the question of what's the difference? I mean, I
can -- I still would prefer to just have agenda items and
not go into topics discussed or anything like that.
Thank you.

CHAIR FORNACIARI: Okay. Commissioner Akutagawa.

COMMISSIONER AKUTAGAWA: I think I was just going to
give an example. I think I'm of the school that, you
know, the simpler the better to just give, like -- for
example, I'll just use the current one. So we're on
agenda item number 14, and somebody could just say:
Discussion in agreement on ground rules for working
together and procedures for meeting management. And then
perhaps there could be a bullet point underneath that
that part of this discussion was that Commission
discussed and agreed to have Chair preside over two
meetings, and then second bullet point: Commission discussed ground rules. To me, it seems like that's good enough. I don't know if people -- if we're talking about more detail.

I mean, I think there's going to be -- I think what's going to be hard is there's going to be different schools of thought. I'm sure there's people that are watching right now that are saying, I want more detail, and then there are other people who are like, yeah, I just need the summary and what action was taken. I think this is kind of like it speaks to the different styles of how much information we want, what we prefer. I think what we're trying to do is make it as easy as possible.

I think to Commissioner Yee's question to Kristian, I think on the video recording versus time of day, I think what is going to be helpful having looked back through sometimes video recordings of other things, whatever the video time marker on the video is, I think that that's what's going to be most helpful because then if anybody wanted to go to that place in the meeting, it could just say go to video marker one hour, thirty minutes into the meeting or something like that, or whatever it is. So then they'd just know how far to fast-forward and then at what point do they start the -- watch the recording. So I think time of day isn't going
to necessarily be helpful; it's going to be what the
video marker is.

MR. MANOFF: This is Kristian again. Just to
interject to that point, it's a common practice to
provide time code the way that Commissioner Akutagawa is
suggesting. We see a lot of commissions do that. The
big question is, normally somebody is going to have to
review that video and come up with those time code
markers afterwards, and that's typically done by the
commission's secretary or whoever is monitoring those
different items.

CHAIR FORNACIARI: So I guess I just want to check
in. Do we feel comfortable enough with where we're at on
this item to just give it a try and then see how it
works? And we could -- so we'll try to just kind of very
brief topics discussed. And is that okay to give it a
try and see how it works?

VICE CHAIR KENNEDY: Commissioner Yee had his hand
up.

CHAIR FORNACIARI: Oh, sorry. You're muted.

COMMISSIONER YEE: Thank you, Kristian.

So right. And the other option would be having
someone start a timer at the end of each meeting to
collect those timings, which seems unworkable. I'm
wondering if it's close enough just to at least narrow it
down because -- so it'd just say morning or afternoon, so forth. Because if somebody really wants to find something, we're just trying to be reasonably helpful. It doesn't have to -- I can't imagine that we'd want someone to actually go through every single video and collect timestamps, you know? So what's a reasonable way to make our decisions and important discussions publicly accessible?

VICE CHAIR KENNEDY: Okay. I have Commissioner Ahmad, Commissioner Fernandez, Commissioner Sinay, Commissioner Le Mons.

COMMISSIONER AHMAD: Thank you. I can, first of all, volunteer myself to explore this, but I would like to offer a solution for this potential conversation. City of San Jose actually ties their agenda to video recording, so you can scroll through the agenda and click on whichever agenda item you want and it will bump you to that section of the video, so that kind of solution is possible. It is not something that doesn't exist or is a novel idea. I'm sure there's other local governing bodies who use similar technology or potentially even more advanced technology. And if that's something the Commission would want more information on, I would volunteer myself to go explore that and come back with more information on that if the Chair so wishes.
VICE CHAIR KENNEDY: Commissioner Fernandez.

COMMISSIONER FERNANDEZ: I think on a meeting if somebody is talking and they don't have -- if they have a mute button, I think it should be like a dollar into a bowl or something, you know what -- just kidding. Anyway.

A question for Kristian. Kristian, can you see the timestamp as it's going?

MR. MANOFF: The time code is generated in post-production. So --

COMMISSIONER FERNANDEZ: Oh, okay.

MR. MANOFF: -- the recording is taken, and then basically it starts at zero, but zero is relative. Like, if we start exactly at 9:30, then zero would be at exactly 9:30, but if we start at --

COMMISSIONER FERNANDEZ: Okay.

MR. MANOFF: -- 9:36, then zero is at 9:36, so. I hope that answers your question.

COMMISSIONER FERNANDEZ: Yes. I was trying to think of -- I don't know, I was trying to think of another way of doing that, but. Okay. Thank you.

VICE CHAIR KENNEDY: Okay. Commissioner Sinay?

COMMISSIONER SINAY: Thank you. Building on what Commissioner Ahmad said, we have talked about this so many times, and now we have some of the administrative
staff. So I'm wondering if we could please do something about our docket so that they're better put together, they're more professional, they're easier to access, they're stored somewhere in the cloud where we can go back to them. And it would be great if we could also have it the way Commissioner Ahmad had (audio interference).

Our meeting packets and -- it's -- are just a mess right now. They're very un -- they're hard to use. And so there's a lot of different programs out there; I don't think they're that expensive, and if we can find one that does what Commissioner Ahmad was saying, that would be great. But I wanted --

Chair, if you could ask staff if we have the right staff now to please explore this because we -- this is -- this was a top priority item when we first started several months ago.

CHAIR FORNACIARI: So what -- I mean, so what do you mean by -- you said, docket? What is that?

COMMISSIONER SINAY: A docket --

CHAIR FORNACIARI: What does that encompass?

COMMISSIONER SINAY: A docket is our whole meeting packet. So usually --

CHAIR FORNACIARI: Okay.

COMMISSIONER SINAY: Like, when I was on the school
board -- I know -- Commissioner Fernandez and I keep going back to our school board experience -- but you have the agenda, you click on an item on the agenda, and it takes you to all the background information and stuff, and then you click back, and it goes back to the agenda, and then you click -- so it goes back and forth, and we're not looking for all the different handouts; it's just very nicely put together. And then in the future when you need to go back to reading an -- a policy or something, it's there as well.

CHAIR FORNACIARI: Okay. I mean, so you click on an agenda item, it takes you to, like, another page where you have access to the video of that section of that video -- the list of documents that go with it that --

COMMISSIONER SINAY: Um-hum.


COMMISSIONER SINAY: Yeah, and so the docket would -- wouldn't have the video at the beginning, but the docket -- we -- instead of us having to go find the email that had the agenda, and then the handouts, and then this, it's just we go to one place that's just for the commissioners, and we hit -- so we click on the button "Meeting", and it's all there, and we can move back and forth very easily. There's plenty of programs
that do that.

CHAIR FORNACIARI: So you're thinking that's just for the commissioners and not for the public, too?

COMMISSIONER SINAY: It can be used both, but my --

CHAIR FORNACIARI: Okay.

COMMISSIONER SINAY: -- priority is we need a better docket for us, the commissioners, and we need a place where all our documents are, and we can find them quickly versus, this we each have to have responsibility of where everything is.

CHAIR FORNACIARI: Okay.

VICE CHAIR KENNEDY: Commissioner Le Mons.

COMMISSIONER LE MONS: Pass.

VICE CHAIR KENNEDY: Commissioner Velazquez.

COMMISSIONER VAZQUEZ: Yes. I believe I gave two possible services to Director Claypool a couple of weeks ago. BoardDocs is probably the one that is most used. It does all of the things several commissioners have talked about, including, I believe there is a video component where you can upload and then link timestamps to agenda items and the materials. So it's both public-facing, and there's also an internal-facing component so that things that are items for closed session remain sort of firewalled from public view. But it is a whole database and system that keeps everything organized. And
I agree, we really need that sooner rather than later, especially the more information we start to gather, the more we're going to need that super organized.

And if we were in person, I would expect that we would have printed board packets, but since we're not, we need -- and those -- I know because I have been staff for developing and putting those board packets together; it's a ton of work -- so since we're not doing that, I would hope sooner rather than later that we can get a process for digital board packets.

VICE CHAIR KENNEDY: Okay. Commissioner Fernandez.

COMMISSIONER FERNANDEZ: And along that same line, I would appreciate if we could go back to our prior meetings and also put -- have that also be under the same where you just click on it.

And then, as long as we're talking about prior meetings, I appreciate that this -- starting with this week's meeting we actually are noting who the Chair and vice Chair. I would also recommend that we go to the prior meetings' agendas and put who the Chair and vice Chair were because in the future we're going to forget who did what. But I would like to instill whatever we're going to -- whatever process we're going to use for these dockets moving forward, that we also go backwards with the prior meetings.
VICE CHAIR KENNEDY: Just wanting to touch base and see if Commissioner Taylor has anything that he wants to add to the discussion at this point.

Chair?

CHAIR FORNACIARI: Okay. As I mentioned before earlier, sir, we have a hard stop at 12:15, so we can have our lunch and be back in time for public comment into -- and then have time for our speakers.

So I've got three proposed actions. I wanted to have Director Claypool look at -- and his team -- look at tools to do what we're talking about, that one of those items -- or one of those potential tools is BoardDoc (sic) and how we might incorporate that into our system. And once we get that type of system, to go back and do the dockets for the prior meetings as well as the ones moving forward, and then adjust the -- or add to the prior agenda is who was the Chair and vice Chair because I think that captures the proposed actions that we would have the staff take care of.

So I just want to go back in and ask, does that change what we're looking at whether we need a brief summary or not? If we have that, is that -- does that suffice? Do we need a written summary of the meetings? Or does that suffice because it allows people to tie agenda items directly to documents and the video clip
where that was discussed?

Commissioner Ahmad. Oh, sorry.

COMMISSIONER AHMAD: I think for me that would suffice. I think it would just be redundant to put together a summary as well as having a more efficient way to reach the item on the agenda if that system existed. So I would propose -- my recommendation would be to eliminate the writing of summaries from our meetings and just leave it as that tool in which folks, including ourselves, can go back and revisit the videos.

CHAIR FORNACIARI: Okay. Can I get a feeling of support here?

VICE CHAIR KENNEDY: Commissioner Andersen?

COMMISSIONER ANDERSEN: One quick thing. Basically, we sort of decided we're not doing the summary, right? We're just listing topics. So rather than doing the summary, just say -- we'll just have a list after the -- I mean, it says -- number 5 says, write a brief summary after completion that includes these two items, but we're not really summarizing anything. We're just going to list the actions taken -- list of actions given -- who is responsible and what they are, and then there's this tool -- if it's a -- if we have access to it, and then we can reference the tool, and that's that.

VICE CHAIR KENNEDY: Commissioner Le Mons.
COMMISSIONER LE MONS: I was wondering if we're trying to move on this particular document that Commissioner Fornaciari has put forward, can we just table all number 5? Because it sounds like we're looking for a solution. And I think the question he had asked a little bit ago was what can we move forward with trying this out? I'm assuming he was referring to the various elements here and see how it goes. It seems like 5 is kind of the sticking point, and we don't really have a solution. So why don't we just take 5 off the table for right now? Like, table it for the recommendations that are put forward with the action items to staff so that we could at least make a decision as to whether or not we want to move forward with the items that we are comfortable with.

VICE CHAIR KENNEDY: Yeah, that -- or do the other. I don't care. I don't care.

CHAIR FORNACIARI: Does that sound like a reasonable approach? Kind of gives some heads up. I really want reactions. I want to know. Okay. Thank you.

Okay. We're going to take our lunch break at this point, and then we will take public comment, and then have our guests join us, so.

(Whereupon, a recess was held)

CHAIR FORNACIARI: Okay. Well, welcome back to the
after-lunch portion of our meeting today. And as is our
tradition, we are going to invite public comment --
general public comment -- at this time.

PUBLIC COMMENT MODERATOR: In order to maximize
transparency and public participation in our process, the
commissioners will be taking public comment by phone.

To call in, dial the telephone number provided on
the livestream feed. The telephone number is 877-853-
5247. When prompted, enter the meeting ID number
provided on the livestream feed. It is 93489457215 for
this week's meeting.

When prompted to enter a participant ID, simply
press pound. Once you have dialed in, you'll be placed
in a queue from which a moderator will begin unmute
calls to submit your comments. You will also hear an
automated message to press star nine. Please do this to
raise your hand indicating you wish to comment.

When it is your turn to speak, the moderator will
unmute you, and you will hear an automated message that
says, the host would like you to talk, and to press star
6 to speak.

Please make sure to mute your computer or livestream
audio to prevent any feedback or distortion during your
call. Once you are waiting in the queue, be alert for
when it is your turn to speak. And again, please turn
down the livestream volume. These instructions are also located on the website.

The Commission is taking public comment at this time.

(Pause)

CHAIR FORNACIARI: Okay. The livestream just caught up, so we'll wait another minute or so. Oh, looks like we have a caller in the queue.

PUBLIC COMMENT MODERATOR: Good afternoon. Caller, please state and spell your name for the record, please.

MS. HOWARD: Good afternoon. This is Deborah Howard, D-E-B-O-R-A-H H-O-W-A-R-D.

PUBLIC COMMENT MODERATOR: Thank you, caller. Your time begins now.

MS. HOWARD: Thank you.

Hi, Commissioners. Good afternoon. I am Deborah Howard, and I am calling on behalf of the California Senior Advocates League. I have a couple of messages -- two compliments, and one comment that actually may make your conversation slightly more challenging. I want to thank you again for stepping up, each of you, to tackle this humungous task of redistricting California. It is an enormous commitment -- personal commitment -- specific engagement, and the intensity and the seriousness with which you're approaching this is evident in every
My second compliment is to you for the conversation that you are having just before you broke before lunch about how you're going to work together as a Commission and approach some of these issues about relationship building. This is the part where I might make your conversations more difficult, and that is because I want to frame or suggest the opportunity that you frame that conversation as a -- that relationship building is in fact the work of the Commission. It is not something that happens outside of your meetings, outside of the purview of the public.

And so I don't exactly know how to tell you what that looks like from this end, but at the very least, I think it looks like as you make these conversations about how you work together, that you think through that in the capacity that there's a Chair at the Commission table for the public. In this really contrived environment where we have to meet by Zoom, you have to meet for the work that you're doing, we have to participate by not being seen. We're invisible voices over the telephone at prescribed times. That, I think, can be improved.

I noticed that you had already posted some of your videos from previous meetings online. I think getting those online faster is a conversation that you had just
before you broke about having your agendas link back to
the videos and being able to link to those handouts that
you have. As much as that benefits you and your
decision-making, that also will benefit the public, and I
mean the public with a big P and the small p, because
there's a whole constellation of organizations that care
about this as intently as you do and have made similar
commitments, and we're looking for ways to participate as
well. And so I want to leave that with you. And the
goal of all of that is it's just a really basic point
that fair lines create fair districts and fair districts
will create a responsive government, and I think that's
the end goal that we all want to get to.

I understand the hesitation of wanting official
minutes. And I know one of the comments right before you
all broke was there are some people that are going to
want official minutes and know exactly where on the video
this is, and others are just going to want, here's this.
Regardless of what most people want, I think the default
position of the Commission has to be what I think
Commissioner Yee was stating so articulately is we have
to make this as easy as we can to the public.

And I think I've gone over my two minutes, and I
thank you for your time and appreciate the opportunity to
comment.
CHAIR FORNACIARI: Thank you very much. We appreciate your comments and your participation in the process.

PUBLIC COMMENT MODERATOR: There are currently no more callers in the queue, Chair.

CHAIR FORNACIARI: Okay. So it's been a few minutes after the -- let's see -- after the video caught up, so I think we will move ahead. We're about at 1:30. And I don't see Commissioner Akutagawa.

Commissioner Fernandez.

COMMISSIONER FERNANDEZ: Yes, and we're still missing a couple of other presenters. We do have Eric here.

Hi, Eric. Thank you for coming. Hopefully you can hear me.

But we've got a couple more that should be joining us, hopefully soon, and hopefully, they're not having issues.

CHAIR FORNACIARI: Okay. And do you know if Linda is going to be joining us, too?

COMMISSIONER FERNANDEZ: Yes.

CHAIR FORNACIARI: Or are you going to be acting as host, or is Linda?

COMMISSIONER FERNANDEZ: So what we were thinking, if it's okay with you, is Linda was going to introduce
them all, and then when they're done, I could, like,
moderate it in terms of if anybody has questions.

CHAIR FORNACIARI: Okay.

COMMISSIONER FERNANDEZ: Unless you wanted to do
that in terms of, like, order and all that stuff. That's
fine.

CHAIR FORNACIARI: No, that would be great.

COMMISSIONER FERNANDEZ: Okay. Oh, and she's
getting -- Linda said she's getting -- just getting off a
call, so she'll be with us shortly.

CHAIR FORNACIARI: Okay. Very good.

COMMISSIONER SINAY: One of the other participants
was on, and then she dropped. I don't -- earlier before
Mr. Harris showed up, there was another participant.

CHAIR FORNACIARI: Oh, okay.

COMMISSIONER FERNANDEZ: Eric, is Russell and Tho
Vinh are still going to join us? Yes? I think so,
right? Eric Harris? I don't know if he can hear us.

Oh, there's Russell. Okay.

Can you hear me, Eric, okay?

MR. HARRIS: Yes, I can. Sorry.

COMMISSIONER FERNANDEZ: Oh, okay. And Tho Vinh's
going to come, too, right?

MR. HARRIS: Yes.

COMMISSIONER FERNANDEZ: Going to join us? Okay.
And then we still have Rahmo and --

COMMISSIONER AKUTAGAWA: Tavae.

COMMISSIONER FERNANDEZ: Yes.

COMMISSIONER AKUTAGAWA: And Jeanine.

COMMISSIONER FERNANDEZ: Yes. Yes, and Jeanine.

Yeah.

COMMISSIONER SINAY: Hi, Jeanine.


CHAIR FORNACIARI: Welcome. Thank you for joining us.

MS. ERIKAT: Thank you for having us.

COMMISSIONER SINAY: We're just waiting for one more participant.

COMMISSIONER ANDERSEN: Could I just ask which presentation happens to be going first? Or if that's too early, that's okay. Thank you.

COMMISSIONER AKUTAGAWA: Commissioner Andersen, I think we could go in the order that's on the agenda, so we'll go with Rahmo and Jeanine. We're waiting actually for two. We're also waiting -- we're waiting -- actually three. We're waiting for Rahmo, and then also Tavae and Tho Vinh.

COMMISSIONER FERNANDEZ: I think Tho Vinh's getting on right now. There she is.

COMMISSIONER AKUTAGAWA: Okay. Oh, there she is.
Okay. Great.

MS. BANH: Hi.

COMMISSIONER FERNANDEZ: Hello.

CHAIR FORNACIARI: Welcome.

MS. BANH: Thank you. Hope I'm not late.

COMMISSIONER AKUTAGAWA: Nope, you are on time.

We're just getting everyone on.

(Pause)

COMMISSIONER FERNANDEZ: I remember Rahmo saying that she had internet issues. I'm hoping she's not having any internet issues right now.

MS. ERIKAT: No, no, she's -- she went to the -- our office today so we -- we're on, like, an alternate schedule --

COMMISSIONER FERNANDEZ: Okay.

MS. ERIKAT: -- and so she should be -- she's just settling in.

COMMISSIONER FERNANDEZ: Okay.

Is that one yours, Tho Vinh? Wait.

MS. BANH: Whoops. Are you guys seeing my share screen?

COMMISSIONER FERNANDEZ: Yep.

COMMISSIONER AKUTAGAWA: We are.

COMMISSIONER FERNANDEZ: I don't know how to use it.

MS. BANH: I'm not the most techie, so I'm like, let
me make sure this thing works.

COMMISSIONER AKUTAGAWA: I mean, if it's easier
since you have it up, we could just go backwards, and
we'll start with you.

MS. BANH: Yeah, if you guys wouldn't mind that,
because I know we have a commitment at 3 as well.

COMMISSIONER AKUTAGAWA: Yes. And we'll be done
before that because we have another speaker coming in at
3 o'clock, so we'll be stopping at around 2:45 so we can
take a break for our sign language interpreters, and so
we'll be -- we will be wrapping up at 2:45 so we can take
that break and then be ready --

MS. BANH: Okay.

COMMISSIONER AKUTAGAWA: -- for a speaker.

MS. BANH: That's great. Let me stop sharing here.

All right. I know it works now. That's why I'm, like,
Raul, save me, okay, if I need help.

COMMISSIONER AKUTAGAWA: Okay. Looks like we have
Rahmo, who's just coming on, so we have almost everybody
here.

MS. ABDI: Hello, everyone.

COMMISSIONER AKUTAGAWA: Hi there.

COMMISSIONER FERNANDEZ: There we go.

COMMISSIONER AKUTAGAWA: Okay. Great. Looking
good. And I did promise everybody 1:30, so we have one
more minute. Hopefully Tavae will be joining us right at
that time. Perfect. Right on time.

Hi, Tavae. Thanks for joining us. You're just
perfect on time. Okay.

Chair?

CHAIR FORNACIARI: Yes, welcome. And thank you all
for joining us in sharing your knowledge and thoughts.
We appreciate your time. And I'll turn it back over to
Commissioner Akutagawa to kick things off.

COMMISSIONER AKUTAGAWA: All right. Thank you very
much, everyone. So just for everyone's just following
along, we're on agenda item number 13, the general access
panel. I'm pleased to be able to introduce our esteem
panelists. And just for the sake of our format, what
we're going to do is we're going to ask each of the
presenters to present first, and then we'll open up for
Q&A, and that will be moderated by Commissioner
Fernandez. Okay. So we're doing some tag-teaming here.

So let me first briefly introduce each of our
panelists, and then I'm going to -- I'll be asking our
presenters from the Partnership for the Advancement of
New Americans to start with their presentation first.
From PANA, as their acronym is known, we have Rahmo Abdi,
who is a community organizer, and Jeanine Erikat, who is
a community organizer also at the Partnership for New
America -- Advancement -- for the Advancement of New Americans.

We're then joined by Tavae Samuelu, who is the executive director of Empowering Pacific Islander Communities, or EPIC, as they are also known.

And then we're also joined by Tho Vinh Banh, who is special counsel, Strategic Partnerships and Community Engagement for the Disability Rights California. And we're also joined by her colleague, Eric Harris, who is special advisor for Strategic Partnerships and Community Engagement with Disability Rights California. They are also joined by Russell Rawlings, who's the statewide community organizer for the California Foundation for Independent Living Centers.

We're going to go ahead and we'll start with Rahmo and Jeanine with their presentation.

MS. ABDI: I'm on mute, sorry.

Okay. Thank you all. Good afternoon the Commissioners. Thank you for the opportunity for us to present to you today. My name is Rahmo Abdi, and I am community organizer with PANA, the Partnership for Advancement of New Americans. PANA, our mission is to fight and advance for full economic, social and civic inclusion of refugees in the San Diego region and throughout California and across the county -- country.
Our mission is to envision the world where refugees are connected global leaders building transcontinental movement, advancing meaningful freedom for all. There have been over 86,000 refugees or so in San Diego County since 1975. Recently, we had an increase of newcomers from Syria, and 2.6 of San Diegans are refugees.

A little bit about PANA. At PANA, we serve Arab, Middle Eastern, Muslim, South Asian, and African communities. We're also serving over thirty languages across the county -- San Diego County. The most common language are Somali, Swahili, Amharic, Tigrinya, Arabic, and Farsi.

So under Trump administration, we have seen the lowest number of refugees allowed in United States, and still, the largest population are coming from Africa with forty-two percent of Democratic Republic of Congo.

If I'm going too fast, please stop me, so. And as you can see on this chart, Swahili and African language are the fastest-growing language in United States. So as of 2019, 178,000 Black immigrant leaving California. There are over sixty languages that are spoken at home by Black immigrants in California, and Amharic has been the most spoken language by Black immigrants in California, followed by Crow, French, Swahili, Somali, Asian, and Arabic.
From this graphic -- this graphic shows how many Black immigrant leaving California. As you can see, the majority of East African immigrant live in Bay Area and San Diego. So dispute what -- despite what most people believe, Africa is a very diverse continent with fifty-four countries, with over 2,000 languages. For example, there's over eighty languages in -- excuse me -- in Ethiopia alone. Most of people in those countries speak multiple languages. For example, I speak four language -- four African languages. I speak Somali, Amharic, Oromo, and Swahili.

And this language are historical oral language. For example, Somali is the -- Somali is known as an oral society and also the nation of poet. Like, in Somalia back in days when they used to communicate, they used to communicate through poetry. Like, if you seen most of Somali writings, they really -- poet is number one headline for their entertainment. So the Somali language was not adopted into Latin text until 1972, meaning Somali language was not written until 1972. And our culture is rooted through community trust.

So as I mentioned earlier, majority of Black immigrant in California are East African and speak in different language. There are twenty countries make up of East Africa. As you can see on the map, these
1. countries include Ethiopia, Sudan, South Sudan, Somalia, Kenya, and et cetera. The language that those communities speak are Somali, Swahili, Amharic, Tigrinya, and Nuer. Excuse me.

   Generally, the African community -- generally, the African and immigrant refugee communities often looked because -- often overlooked because of when it comes to data, they're not marked as -- they're marked as Black and African American. For example, the city of San Diego has the second largest population of Somali people in United States -- about 20,000 people which are not represented the number you see on this slide.

   It is widely that the Census in American community service significantly undercount the Somali-speaking population and African population. This reflects on severe under -- underdog -- undercount communities and across the state of California.

   So I want to provide, like, some context on this next slide. I want to share these two graphs which shows that East African communities in San Diego have -- like, having a huge affordable housing crisis. We pay, like -- they pay almost more than fifty percent of their income on rent. And you can see also that forty-four percent of the East African population in San Diego do not have health insurance.
So next slide, I want to go through our community engagement work. As you can see on this slide, in this past year, the refugee and immigrants Census have fifteen partners who are able to translate and provide support -- whatever -- to help and provide and support for fifteen languages, including, like, we did flyers, videos, workshop from bankers who speak the same language as the community member.

So as I mentioned earlier, the language of African immigrant refugees community have been overlooked, but as PANA -- and I'm so proud to share with you guys -- PANA and (indiscernible) has been successfully advocating for the Somali interpretation to be offered over the -- over the phone at all super poll in this past election. With over 178,000 black immigrants in California, we hope to see that at statewide level.

Now, I'd like to go over our recommendation. We understand that you are planning on providing interpretation, which is really great. As I mentioned it earlier, specifically Somali communities are oral communities. For example, we suggest that (indiscernible) workshop in Somali. And at PANA, we find that our most successful event, like when we educate the communities and get in deeper engagement, when we provide a live interpretation or informational video with their
own language. So as I mentioned, like, African
communities are all of this languages, so it would be
more helpful to set information videos in their native
language, along additional with the translated flyers.

And we ask the -- we ask you to partner with local-
based organization on more redistricting that's similar
to the Census. However, we recognize that Census was the
robot asking because it was -- the community was only to
complete nine surveys -- nine-question surveys. Asking
the community to be engaged in the redistricting is going
to be a lot more difficult because it's their first time.
Many of our new American will be engaged with
redistricting, and it required trusted messengers not
only to educate the community, but experience organizing
to get the community involved in this process.

So our next recommendation is to be expanding window
of public comments, allowing time for translation in
multiple languages. So organizations like PANA who are
trusted messenger and have been doing this work, have
tenough time to increase translation and support
communities through the public comment process.

And our final recommendation, that -- advance public
notice and outreach materials are accessible in multiple
languages, especially languages that African speaks. For
example, like, if you go to a San Diego city
redistricting website, it's difficult to navigate. So we hope that the California Redistricting Commission will advertise their meeting beyond the website and also have the materials translated in multiple languages, as well as providing informational videos to be accessed to our community.

And I want to thank you all for having here -- for having me here today. PANA is happy to give you guys a resource -- to be a resource for you not only within the community, but we're also working with you. And we also work with UCSD Professor Dr. Tom Wan (ph.) on mapping the AMEMSA community, which is Arab, Muslim, Middle Eastern, South Asian, African communities. And thank you.

COMMISSIONER AKUTAGAWA: Wonderful. Thank you very much. That was fantastic. I so appreciate that.

Jeanine, I'm going to assume that you'll be helping with the Q&A portion? Okay. Great.

All right. Great. Thank you very much.

Our next presenter is Tavae Samuelu from Empowering Pacific Islander Communities.

And Tavae, do you want to go ahead and share screen?

MS. SAMUELU: Yes, let me just pull up my presentation now.

COMMISSIONER AKUTAGAWA: Great. Thank you very much for joining us. I'm looking forward to this.
MS. SAMUELU: Okay. Hi, everyone.

Thank you, Commissioner Akutagawa, for the invitation to speak and present to you all.

I want to recognize that because we're talking about redistricting that we're inevitably talking about land and space, that I am Zooming to you all from Tongva land in Long Beach. My parents originally migrated from the villages of Leulumoega in Saleimoa in Samoa and settled here just over thirty years ago. So I looked up the names of Tongva land and Tongva nation recognizing that these are not an ancient people, that they continue to work alongside us, and with the full intention and belief that we should be giving these lands back.

So I have here a sort of head of the presentation from Oceania to California. What I put forth here in this image, this is something that we use throughout many of our presentations in EPIC, but in particular, why it's important to me is that what you see here is what's in Tongva referred to as (foreign language spoken), and right underneath it is (foreign language spoken). So these are significant, one, because (foreign language spoken), they're often -- they're created by groups and matriarchies of Tongvan women, and on the (foreign language spoken) you can see the stories of the villages that they come from and the families who create them,
that there's literal DNA in these (foreign language
spoken) in the storytelling.

And so they're given this gift, but they're also
laid out as (indiscernible) when people are going to
participate in Talanoa. So Talanoa means a lot of
different things: to talk story, to sort of untie a
knot, or to open things up. But in particular, I really
like the definition from Pacific Islander scholar Inoke
Hafoka, who talks about Talanoa as dialog in order to
each -- reach equilibrium, so understanding that between
two parties there may be an imbalance, and so that we
talk and share our stories so that we can better
understand each other.

I also offer this up because whatever I tell you is
with the utmost humility and the knowledge that I share,
and that it is both reflective of my own studying, the
communities I come from, and my own lived expertise, but
also welcome your knowledge and understand that we
participate in this together. So thank you.

So my organization Empowering Pacific Islander
Communities, EPIC, the origin stories really depend on
who you ask and when you ask them. But generally
speaking, we started in September of 2009, so we're about
eleven years old. And as an organization, we're really
focused on advancing social justice by engaging native
Hawaiian Pacific Islanders in culture-centered advocacy leadership development and research.

We want to make sure that things are culture-centered because we recognize that often in other spaces our cultures are depicted as deficit, as an impediment to our own progress as a people. We do advocacy work because we specifically want to make sure that we are building political power for our communities in order to influence policies so that decisions about us aren't made without us.

Our leadership development is recognizing that none of this work that we do offer community is sustainable unless we are developing the next generation of leaders, and that we do research. And you'll see some of the research that we've conducted in this presentation, but it's really about making sure that the knowledge that is disseminated about our communities is by and for us, knowing that much of what exists is actually not created by Pacific Islanders, and we see research as also part and parcel of storytelling.

So I love this quote; it is from one of my good friends and also a scholar/activist/poet, Terisa Siagatonu, and it says, "When people ask me where I'm from, they don't believe me when I say water." I think -- you know, and this could happen for many
communities of color, but in particular, for the Pacific Islander community, we're often faced with this very dehumanizing question of "what are you?"

And then even in responding, that there is not enough knowledge, representation of our communities to even grapple with the answer, right, so that I could say that I'm Samoan and be -- actually, the first time I told somebody I was Samoan in a college classroom, that their response was "like the cookie". So to be sitting and talking with you all is also -- much of my work is explaining who the Pacific Islander community is. So I want to offer up this quote as when Pacific islanders are faced with this notion of defining who are community is, that sometimes the definitions that we offer up are not honored or disseminated or often the ones that are propped up most often.

So because of the redistricting because they're talking about land in place, I also show this map. This map is because when you ask Pacific islanders where they're from this is the geography that matters most, that although we're speaking specifically to California, that this is where folks are tracing their lineage back to, and this often is the driver of many of their decisions.

I also offer up this map because in doing the work
that we do we also -- we believe and understand that
reaches a social construct, and so in thinking about the
social construction of native Hawaiians and Pacific
islanders as a category we know it's deeply shaped by and
formalized by relationships with the U.S., things like
militarization, interference, and so when I'm showing you
this -- oh, and colonization as well. I don't know why
that was an oh and not the first thing that came out of
my mouth.

So I'm showing you this map that you'll also see
what it marks is the relationships between our home
islands and the U.S., where you have folks who are U.S.
citizens, right, because Hawaii is a state or because
they're part of U.S. territories. You've got the Compact
of Free Association, which is also known as COFA
migrants, so these three island nations each have their
own compacts, and what is unique about the COFA nation is
that their agreements allow them to live, work, study,
and travel throughout the U.S. without a visa and without
any expiration.

However, that's done in exchange for strategic
military positioning and that although -- and this is,
you know, because it's -- we are still in sort of an
elections hangover, I also want to note that in some of
these spaces citizenship and relationship to the U.S.
does not formalize and mean voting or voter participation.

Until -- I note that, too, because I know that it also is -- goes hand in hand with conversations about redistricting. Also to say that the Compacts of Free Association are currently in renegotiation and are supposed to be renewed in 2023, so we are looking at how those compacts and those agreements could change and that what is sort of top line for many of the COFA communities that we work with are the fact that things that they were promised in the original compacts that were signed in the 1980s have been stripped.

So healthcare or access to Medicaid was taken away in about '96 under Welfare Reform which is particularly devastating for these communities who because of nuclear testing that was done in the 1950s and '60s by the U.S., that many of them have lands that are uninhabitable as well as generations of the highest rates of cancer. I don't want to say that casually, so I just want to have that sit.

I also want to note that you have American Samoa. We have U.S. nationals. American Samoa is the only U.S. land that you can be born on and not be born a citizen, that U.S. national is a unique -- is a unique status in and of itself.
Then you have regions that have zero formal relationship with U.S. which is not to say that they don't have any interaction. You will still see many markers of American imperialism in these lands, but it is not a formal relationship.

These are also the islands that tend to have higher rates of undocumentation when they are here in the U.S., and then as we are talking about language access that you'll see that LEP rates tend to be higher in these communities. So yes, we'll -- I'll be referencing back to this map throughout the presentation.

So zeroing in on California, California has the largest NHPI population on the continent. So there, as of 2017, are about 361,000 NHPIs living in California. The top five counties are LA, San Diego, Sacramento, Alameda, and Orange County.

So there are different things that drive these numbers that drive sort of the gathering of folks in these places. In particular we are clear that a lot of it does have to do with military and different industries. What is nuance and should be marked -- and I'll talk more as we talk about the ethnic breakdown of those populations, is that NHPIs are a majority mixed race population, where sixty-nine percent of native Hawaiians are mixed race, and fifty-five percent of
Pacific islanders overall.

The reason that this is worth noting is that often ethnic or racial breakdowns that include the NHPI community are either aggregated with Asian and Asian-Americans or were marked as some other racial category. So I wanted to show -- these are numbers from 2010. They are featured in the demographic profile that EPIC worked on and created in partnership with Asian-Americans Advancing Justice LA, but I note these things so that you could see the population or percentage of NHPIs who are foreign born as of 2010 as well as those who are limited English proficiency. So this was in 2010.

Now, I also want to show the breakdown of population by ethnic group where you'll see that the largest number of NHPIs is actually native Hawaiians which is to be expected given that they are a state -- or that Hawaii is a state and so that you often see an easier pathway or migration from Hawaii as a state to the continent. I'll just sort of sit with this here.

It's also worth noting to be really clear that the largest population growth amongst ethnic groups was for the Fijian community. Now, what's not clarified here -- so Fijian -- so there are Indo-Fijians but there's also indigenous Fijians, and so when we're talking about the Pacific islander community and when we as Epic say Fijian
we mean indigenous Fijians who also refer to themselves as iTaukei. Now, in being iTaukei we also see that in 2010 some about twenty-three percent were marked as LEP. So we're showing some of the highest translation needs.

Now, this data is a little more recent. It shows that the population growth for foreign born between 2010 and 2017, so you'll see a marked growth. We are expecting to update some of this data once 2020 census data has been released, but it's worth noting that you'll see that the growth for Pacific islanders overall is twelve percent.

Now, what I also want to note, is there is a distinction between when we talk about NHPI and when we talk about PI that NHPI as a category was created in '96 with the passage of OMB 15 which is a federal -- is a federal policy out of the Office of Management and Budget. And so with OMB 15 native Hawaiian or Pacific islanders category.

Now, when we talk about foreign born, when we talk about immigration, we're clear that we are really marking Pacific islanders in order to honor the indigeneity of native Hawaiians. That is not to say that there aren't native Hawaiians who are foreign born. It is just recognizing that Pacific islander is a separate category from native Hawaiian sometimes, although often aggregated
as NHPI, but we can go into more depth about that later.
That's complicated.
So then here you'll see the foreign born population
broken down by ethnic group where I've highlighted or
sort of write out the NHPI ethnic groups where you'll see
the largest are Samoan, Romania Chamorro, and native
Hawaiian. So some of this can be explained by
militarization. We also want to note that although
American-Samoa and Guam are U.S. territories, sometimes
in self-reporting people will still consider themselves
foreign born if born on these islands.
Now, NHPI foreign born population growth where you
see that the top states are California, Hawaii, and
Washington which is to be expected. You can ask
questions about that later. So coming to -- because this
is the language presentation I want to make sure I hit
this point that forty-five percent of foreign born
Pacific islanders show limited English language
proficiency. So this is as of the latest data that we
have. The top translation needs in California are
Marshallese, Tongan, and Samoan.
So this is a really important point because I think
it sort of flies in the face of myths that people may
have about the NHPI population; one, the notion that all
NHPIs are in Hawaii, and two, that because they're in
Hawaii they must all speak English which as you can see is not true, that nearly half of the population is actually LEP.

Now, I wanted to talk about this distinction between language access and language justice. This is really important for the Pacific islander community in particular because, one, as colonized people, we're often super good and we are English language proficient but only because so many of our languages were suppressed and that when we talk about language justice in relationship to access but also more than access it's about choosing the language that people are most comfortable speaking in, the language that actually communicates, right, that when we are interpreting things or translating we don't translate words. We translate concepts.

So one of the key studies that we have for this was our census work. So this most recent census the Census Bureau decided not to translate any of the materials or provide any support in NHPI languages, and their argument for not doing that is that we did not meet the threshold. What became very circular about that argument is that if you don't make the materials accessible then fewer NHPI folks will be able to actually participate.

So Epic in partnership with Asian Americans Advancing Justice, or AAJC, that's a DC based national
organization, we were able to translate and provide materials in Chamorro, Chuukese, Marshallese, native Hawaiian, Palauan, Tongan, Samoan and Vakaviti. Vakaviti is the indigenous language of the iTaukei or the indigenous people of Fiji.

So why so many languages, why so many things? We recognize that when we are talking about or trying to figure out how or why or when to interpret or translate things is that it is a matter of education, understanding, and motivation, that when you do translate something or have something in Samoan or in sort of in language for our people, that what it communicates is that that thing is for them, that it is culturally relevant, that it's not solely about understanding something or understanding in English. It's about them understanding that it's part of our culture. It's part of our community, that seeing something in Samoan tells Samoans that it is for them. Now, in saying that I do recognize there is a priority for Tongan and Marshallese communities where there is a gap in understanding in LEP or English language proficiency.

And that's all I've got for you. I'm sure we'll talk more during Q and A, but here is my contact information if you need it. Thank you.

COMMISSIONER AKUTAGAWA: Wonderful. Thank you,
Tavae. All right. Right on deck; I am pleased to introduce our next presenters, Tho Vinh Banh, Eric Harris, and Russell Rawlings, who are representing Disability Rights California and the California Foundation for Independent Living Centers. So --

MS. BANH: All right.

COMMISSIONER AKUTAGAWA: So I think you're going to be showing us your slides, right?

MS. BANH: I am.

COMMISSIONER AKUTAGAWA: Okay.

MS. BANH: Before I do that I want to say wow, what great presentation. I learned so much. And then also to Commissioners Akutagawa and Fernandez, thank you for the opportunities for us to present today.

We're going to -- you know, we're going to share things very broadly because I know time is limited. So let me -- there we go, slide show. So don't mind me. I am -- okay, can everybody see that okay?

COMMISSIONER AKUTAGAWA: Yes.

MS. BANH: Excellent. Okay. So we're going to speak about basic concepts and general areas so that the commissioners have a good sense around disability, just as an introduction. So topics for today -- so I'm Tho Banh.

The topics that we're going to hope to cover
today -- so you know, we tell you what we're going to cover, and then we're going to cover it, and then we'll tell you what we covered. We're going to go through the California disability population so you get a general sense of how big we are and who we are.

We're also going to talk about diverse types of disabilities. I think oftentimes people think of disabilities as deaf, blind, and perhaps don't go too much further out than that. So we want to kind of share all the different examples, the different types of disabilities.

We're also going to talk about building a culture of access so -- and in part of that conversation we'll share about accessible materials and communications and also accessible virtual and in-person meetings as part of that dialogue.

Then we're going to share about working with internal/external partners, who they are, so that you'll have resources that you can lean on, contact, connect with if you have any questions. If you have certain populations you want to connect with, we want to provide those resources to you.

And then we're also going to leave you with some general outreach ideas and in closing, in questions and answers, all the contact information. So we're going to
have three speakers today for you. So it's myself, Eric, and Russell.

So Eric is going to kick us off first. So Eric, if you're ready, all you.

MR. HARRIS: Yes. Hello, everybody. My name is Eric Harris. I am with Disability Rights California, and I'm really excited to be able to present to you today. First I wanted to give an introduction and let you guys know who we are, who Disability Rights California is and what our task is for people with disabilities in the State of California.

Every state and territory in the country has a protection and advocacy organization or protection and advocacy agency that advocates on behalf of people with disabilities. We advocate at several different levels in terms of with attorneys. We litigate. We have advocates who push for legislation on the -- at the statewide level in the state capitol, and we also have individual advocates who communicate directly with patients at state hospitals and in other -- in regional centers as well.

We have 300 staff members and about a hundred attorneys total, and we are located in different offices throughout the state. So we're a pretty big agency, pretty big nonprofit organization, and we are known and recognized as the largest disability rights organization
in the world. We have, as I said, offices throughout the
state from Southern California and San Diego, Los
Angeles, all the way up through the Central Valley,
through the Bay Area, Oakland, as well as in Sacramento.

One thing that I really -- and Tho mentioned it, and
I really wanted to -- and you'll see kind of throughout
our presentation the California disability population is
very diverse, and it is very expansive. It is difficult
to get an exact number, and we'll talk a little bit about
that later because people with disabilities do not
necessarily have to disclose if they choose not to
disclose that they have a disability.

So one of the things that Disability Rights
California has recognized as well as other disability
rights organizations throughout the country is that
people with disabilities, the numbers can range. There
have been numbers given by the American Community Survey
which is a well-recognized organization, and they've
given numbers as far as people with disabilities in the
State of California being somewhere around ten percent of
the state's population, and that would be about four
million people because, of course, the State of
California has forty million people.

On the other hand, the Center for Disease Control
and Prevention, the CDC, has given a much higher number,
a number closer to twenty-five percent of the state's population, which would, of course, be closer to around ten million people. So as you can see, the range is pretty big, and most of us because disability -- because there are so many different types of disabilities, we as advocates and -- disability rights advocates believe that the number is probably even higher just because, as I said earlier, many people might not disclose. Many people might not have been diagnosed with their disability at an early age, so there are a lot of different factors.

And just to give you a brief list of disabilities that people have, of course you have the sensory disabilities like being deaf and blind, but you also have, you know, mental health disabilities. You have learning disabilities, and just a wide range, mobility disabilities. I'm a wheelchair user. I was born with a dislocated hip, and I have nerve damage in my left leg, my right foot, my right ankle, so I use a wheelchair. There are different types, of course, mobility disabilities, spinal cord injuries, people who have amputations, and all the different ranges of mobility disabilities, and that's just lower limb.

Of course you have folks who have, you know, other forms of mobility disabilities, other forms of limb
impairments or disabilities. Developmental disabilities is another category. Traumatic brain injury is an interesting one because it is included as far as a physical disability, but it can also impact a person's cognitive response, and we talk about it all the time, and I'm sure we'll talk about it later in our presentation, but most people with disabilities actually have multiple disabilities.

People often do not just have one disability, but they develop more as they age, and it's especially true -- and I -- we can all speak to this. We all recognize this if we have older family members or as we age, developing more and more disabilities as we age, whether it's hearing loss or vision loss and other forms of disability. And it's important to recognize that these forms of disabilities can impact people in a lot of different ways.

MS. BANH: All right. Thank you, Eric. So I'm going to then speak a little bit about culture -- building a culture of access. So as the prior speaker, Tavae, she spoke about language justice, so in some ways this is about disability justice, right.

So we don't -- you know, we don't want it just be a means of accommodating -- a reasonable accommodations which is -- you know, you follow the law when you do
that, but we want -- we want the commissioners and we
want this Commission to go beyond that to think about
including people with disabilities because we are such a
big part of the California population. By not including
people with disabilities you're leaving a big group of
folks out -- out of the process.

So I appreciate the commissioners' interest in being
transparent, interest in reaching all these diverse
communities, inviting all these different diverse
communities to come speak. So for the disability
community, you know, I think what's going to be important
is that understanding is not monolithic. As Eric was
sharing, it's just a really broad, broad community.

So I think inquiring about access needs is going to
be important, but each person -- each communities may
have different needs, so there's not an understanding or
thinking that everybody needs the same thing. I think
what else is going to be really important to build this
culture of access for people with disabilities is
identifying dedicated staff for access provisions,
identifying a dedicated staff that would know how to --
you know, would know of the ins and outs of the
technologies, would be the one that you would designate
as a contact person if individuals with disabilities or
other communities have issues trying to get in or trying
to speak or needing more time to comment or
accommodations that might be needed. So I think
dedicating a staffer for that process is going to be very
helpful.

I think, of course, the Commission is going to have
an attorney that you guys will consult with and to ensure
that the attorney is aware of ADA, is aware of Section
504, is aware of civil rights -- the California
Government Code of Section 11135, the Unruh Civil Rights
Act, Disabled Person's Act, so there's diverse federal
and state laws that would apply to access. So we want to
make sure the Commission is at least aware of that,
touching on that, and ensure that the attorneys that you
consult with is aware of that and would, you know,
provide you with cogent advice around how to ensure to
include people with disabilities in a way that's not
discriminatory.

And then of course we want to let you know that
there are lots of disability agency -- lots of
disability-oriented advocacy groups and organizations
that are -- that are -- have deep ties with different
disability communities and would be more than -- more
than willing and available to provide assistance and
thoughts and ideas about how to reach certain communities
and thoughts and ideas about insuring that these types of
meetings and these types of processes are inviting and inclusive.

So with that I can speak about accessible materials and communications. So you'll hear some of this echo other organizations that share the same. Plain language, you know, different -- Asian American Advance of Justice I'm sure shares this dynamic. So does Malaya and the Latino communities. So plain language is going to come up over and over again and how it helps -- and how it's more accessible for people with disabilities. We have individuals with intellectual disabilities, individuals with mental health disabilities, individuals with prominent disabilities where I think just -- and just I think all of us generally, the American public in general. I think the reading level is, like, I think 6th to 9th grade, right?

So I think it's helpful for materials that are printed, spoken materials, any materials that you put out have it start be plain language. Have it start, be plain language before you translate it. Have it start, be plain language before you create other -- other formats for them so that you're starting at a good point already.

Accessible Chairs and communication also includes American Sign Language and captioning, and I know what I provided -- the input last time when I came on and spoke
very briefly, American Sign Language is what -- is the
sign language that is used in the U.S., but there are
also essentially Mexican Sign Language, Chinese Sign
Language, Japanese Sign Language, any number of countries
is going to have their own sign language. So we forget
about those intersections. So I -- you know, I really
appreciate -- I'm going to mispronounce her but Ramal
(ph.) and Kavahi (ph.) because they speak on all of these
diverse intersectional communities that may not be
thought about. So in that vein, ASL is in that umbrella.

And in captioning, there's closed captioning and
open captioning, so open captioning is you see that text
underneath that runs across and that everybody can see
whether they choose it or not, and closed captionings are
when individuals can choose, click on CC and then they
alone see it on their screen, not everyone else. So I
want to be mindful -- aware of that so that could be more
subsequent -- those who are deaf and hard of hearing.

Acceptable document formats, so just be mindful of
certain formats are more accessible than others.

So just plainly speaking today Word format tends to
be more accessible. PDF, if there's a screen meter
accessible also is okay. And there's these things called
RTFs, text documents that are very simple that are easier
to read when screen via technologies that helps people
who are blind or are low vision.

We would advise, you know, generally get printed materials that have it in fourteen point and Aerial is a type of font that is a sans-serif, so serif's all those squiggly things that goes on top of letters, on the side of letters, so sans-serif just means without all those squiggly things, so it's easier to see for those who have visual impairments who are blind or low vision. The screen would be easier, have easier opportunities to read it and also those who are visually impaired can actually read it more easily.

And then, you know, font materials as you can see, I tend to use pretty large font, so printed -- presentation materials we would recommend them to be twenty font so that folks with visual impairments can see it more readily. And not to forget, there -- there are individuals asking for other -- Braille is another way of providing informations for those who are blind, so just to be mindful of these -- of these different types of ways to ensure that different communities with disabilities can feel welcome and feel -- they think -- they're invited to this conversation and to these meetings.

In the descriptions -- so images shows up, just ensure that there's text of it so it describes it -- what
the image shows up so that -- because sometimes screen
viewers won't read images. And then auto description is
a person that speaks over a video that's being shown. Of
course individuals who are deaf are not going to be able
to hear it, right? I'm sorry, individuals who are blind
are not going to able to -- see, I get all my
disabilities -- individuals who are deaf are not going to
be able to hear it, right? Individuals who are blind may
not be able to see it.

So if anything you have visual you want to -- you
also want to describe it auditorily and anything you have
in audio you want to also ensure that there's visual
representation so that different communities can actually
access all.

And then the clear, slow communications is just
being mindful that -- like today we had an ASL
interpreter, so to make sure that we speak slowly enough
and clearly enough so that the interpreters can interpret
in time and the captioners can caption in time, and also
to be mindful to not speak over one another, so it's one
speaker at a time so that the captioners and the
interpreters would know -- so that the folks who are
following along could actually know who is speaking. So
that's assessable materials and communication.

So just to break it -- to break it down a little
further, I know that the Commission is going to have a
lot of -- because of the -- because of where we are now
with COVID-19, you're -- you'll likely find yourself
having virtual meetings like -- like now rather than in-
person meetings. So with that, we just want you to be
mindful of if folks are signing on to speak or signing on
to provide comments to really make the registration
process of get on these meetings and to provide those
comments to be as simple as possible. Maybe have it
tested it out, but ensure their simplicity so that more
people can access them.

Accessible platform. I mean, there's no platform
that's accessible in all realm and arena, but we find
that Zoom generally is relatively more accessible than
other web platforms. We spoke about ASL and captioning
obviously to be provided so that folks with different
disabilities can access it.

And we would recommend that when you have these
meetings and you have and -- there are individuals with
disabilities who are attending really to take a little
bit of time to explain all the accessible features. So
on the bottom, if you want closed captioning, please
click on the CC. If you're using ASL your -- and your --
and so please pin the ASL interpreter so that you can see
the ASL interpreter more -- bigger than -- than other
speakers. Provide them with copies of shortcuts to that if they aren't using a mouse and they using the keys, they can shortcut to go to comments, go to chat, go to a different functions.

Meeting agenda and time is just so that folks have a -- a chance to know where the breaks are and know when -- when they -- they can provide comments and so forth, if they're not able to sit for a long period of time or -- or their disability prevents them from being in one space for a long period of time.

And then plain language recovery rating, that includes not using jargon, if possible, not using acronyms as possible. So if we talk about describing visual content -- and then the thing that I want to really pay some attention to -- and I think this also is brought up by other -- other groups is the phone-in options.

So just like with other populations, people with disabilities, there may be some who may not have Wi-Fi. There may be individuals who may not be able to -- may -- may not be able to pay for Wi-Fi, may not have computers, may not have access. So a phone-in option may be their only means to get in to provide comments. So please to always have that option available. And again stressing the staff available to access support when it's needed.
And then the in-person meeting. So I'll -- I'll just share some of the pieces that might be different than the virtual meetings. So really make sure before you pick a location to ensure that they're not only ADA accessible but really it accommodates for folks who are or you're hoping to intend to come, right? So you want to make sure that people with disabilities -- disabilities still welcome. So making sure there are navigational spaces within the structure is -- is clear, that wheelchair folks who uses wheelchair, folks who uses scooters are able to navigate through all the different places, including the bathrooms, the entrance, the hallway and -- and so forth.

Being really mindful of parking, ensuring that there is accessible parking so that those who use accessible cars, accessible vans, and who need accessible parking spots have them available.

Public transportation. So some individuals with disabilities would need to use public transportation. So finding locations that are -- that are close to public transportation would help encourage more folks to be able to come.

Same with the meeting agenda. The thing that might be different also is developing process to request to speaks. So if there are of individuals who are attending
the meeting, please explain how they would engage to
provide comments, to really explain that. And in -- also
in-person meetings. Not here, but ensuring that there's
microphones, microphones for everybody so that people who
are hard of hearing can -- can hear.

I know oftentimes we go to meetings and we're like,
well, I speak loud enough, I don't need a microphone. We
would really discourage that because you may start loud,
but then you often drift and get softer and then people
can't hear. So we really would recommend there's a -- a
means of a microphone for everyone who's going to be
speaking.

So there it is. Assistive listening devices. So
people who are hard of hearing having devices that will
help them amplify sound, amplify the speakers, and help
them hear better.

The describing visual content we mentioned. So
that's all the same. So there's some things that are
shared between virtual and in-person meetings. But
overall, all these elements will help create spaces for
people with disabilities to feel invited, for people with
disabilities to feel -- to feel like they can engage as
everyone else.

So -- so I -- we want to leave you with all of those
specific ideas. I mean, there's more we can go in-depth
and there's a lot of resources. But with at least that, so that you can start thinking about accessible spaces. With that, I'm going to turn it over to Russell, who's going to speak about working with internal/external partners and outreach.

Russell.

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: And I --

MR. RAWLINGS: Thanks.

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: -- just wanted to -- I'm sorry to interrupt. I just want to be conscious of how much time we have left. And we want to make sure that we also give time for Q&A, too.

MR. RAWLINGS: Right. Thanks, (indiscernible).

My name's Russell Rawlings. I am the statewide community organizer at California Foundation for Independent Living Centers. I am a white male with glasses, a mustache, and brown hair. I'm wearing a green shirt. And I have cerebral palsy and use a power wheelchair.

Here we have a slide discussing our partners, some great resources. First of all, ourselves, Disability Rights California and California Foundation for Independent Living Centers.

Just very briefly, California Foundation for Independent Living Centers is a network organization of
California's twenty-eight independent living centers.

Independent living centers are not places where you live. They are service organizations that provide information and resources to California's disability population to help them live complete and fully integrated lives in the community.

And I'm already seeing all of the great work that the other organizations are doing, and really eager to partner with all of you, because as we said at the beginning, people with disabilities are truly intersectional and part of every community.

Next slide, please.

Here's two other really helpful links that we believe will be really helpful to commissioners. First of all, there is a list of disability organizations that we worked with through -- the through our census work. CFILC and DREDF were partners in the California Complete Count Committee state level and did a lot of really great census work. So some of your organizations may have seen some of the work that we did with the census.

And the second link here is Disability Access Services, which is a program of the Department of Rehabilitation. The Department of Rehabilitation is a great resource. This disability access services, if you have any like how do I make this particular document
accessible or I have a question about accessibility. They're a really great partner because they're available to you for free and can consult with you.

Of course, here at CFILC, we also do a lot of work in the community and have done a lot of training on Zoom on how to make meetings more accessible. And I'm really happy to see that there is an ASL interpreter here. But sometimes there's a little bit more consideration that has to go into making that fully accessible and making sure that the interpreter is always visible.

Next slide, please.

Couple of other additional outreach ideas. We recommend that you use disability resources to identify regional disability organizations. And again, here at CFILC, because we have a network of twenty-eight independent living centers in California, there is definitely one in every region of the state. In fact, an independent living center serves every county in California. So please use us as a resource to find local information and local connections to the disability community.

Also we recommend consulting with Disability Partners to develop outreach for virtual and in-person meetings and workshops. And here is a link that will help you find a independent living center in your
community. Can actually use by city, state -- city, county, or ZIP code.

And then finally, use social media. We often create hashtags. We were just using the Disability Counts 2020 hashtag quite widely and also using our partner hashtags, right? So it's important that we all look to amplify our own messages and understand that all of the work that we do touches every community.

Next slide, please.

And then finally, we're going to move on to Q&A.

And thank you so much for allowing us this opportunity to present to all of you.

MS. BANH: Great. Thank you so much to everybody who presented.

I'm going to go ahead and turn this over to Commissioner Fernandez.

COMMISSIONER FERNANDEZ: Yeah. So if you want to echo the same -- very good information for all of us. And so I'm going to open it up to my fellow commissioners, if anyone has questions?

Commissioner Kennedy.

VICE CHAIR KENNEDY: Thank you. I've been on the Riverside County Voting Accessibility Advisory Committee or advising them for the last five years. But I do have a couple of questions. One is, there was a mention of
screen readers, and I understand the basic concept of
screen readers. Is it useful for us to still provide
audio files on our site? Or are we okay just relying on
people who need materials in audio format using their own
screen reader technology? So that's question 1.

Second is, I'm -- I'm used to working overseas where
Braille literacy tends to be very low. So we can -- we
can invest in Braille materials but it'd be -- it'd be
good to have an idea of how high the Braille literacy
level is.

And third, I think we would really appreciate your
advice on where we can obtain plain language services. I
reached out to one organization in the state. I haven't
gotten an answer yet on who they would advise. But we
can make something as simple as we think it can be. But
I think it's good for us to send it out, particularly
some of our core public information resources. I really
want to -- to send them out to someone who specializes in
putting them in simple English or plain reading, those
sorts of formats before we start getting into the
translation part of it. So thanks.

MR. RAWLINGS: Thank you, Commissioner. I'll just
quickly recommend that The State Council on Developmental
Disabilities is a great place to go for assistance with
plain language. And I'm happy to provide a direct
contact with someone that I know would be happy to -- to
talk about plain language. Thank you for thinking of
plain language on the front end.

I think that that highlights one of the things
that's really common in the disability community is we --
we like to say disability is not a condiment that you put
on at the very end of a thought. It's the thing that you
start with at the very beginning. Accessibility is
really integral to a whole planning process.

And so thank you for thinking about how to structure
communication before thinking about making sure that all
of the types of communication are available.

MS. BANH: Like to ad is we may not know the answer
to everything, but we know where to go to get the answers
for almost anything. So we want to be that resource for
you.

So in terms of the screen reader, at least have
materials that are in Word or that are screen reader
accessible. So at least there's that option in the -- in
the things that are in PDFs and things that may not be
accessible on screen reader.

And I think also, I think that's what designating a
person is going to be so important so that if they're --
because everybody -- the needs may be different, right?
So that there's a person that has those needs that
there's someone that they can go to and say, hey, this is my need. And then -- and then their -- their needs can be met, right? So I think -- I think thinking ahead and having that person so that -- because you can't think the universe of things that can come up, right? I think it's great that we're having this conversation initially, right? But I think having that person is going to be helpful.

And then Braille, same thing with Braille. There's -- at least knowing that there's some individuals that may need the materials in Braille, right? And being cognizant of it so that if there's a request for it, there's a means that the Commission has already though of a means to provide it to them in that format.

So I think thinking ahead of all these things and these concepts and maybe identify a good person that can learn it up or that we can then partner with or that you as a Commission think through all these aspects so that we can help out.

But the resources -- Commissioner Kennedy, the resources that's on the list that we shared, is broken down by all the different disability groups, the deaf and hard of hearing communities, the blind committees, the intellectual developmental disabilities communities. So you'll find a wealth of organizations that can then
provide even more in-depth information and answers and
responses to -- to the questions that the Commission may
have. But we are -- we're there to help you all along
the way.

COMMISSIONER FERNANDEZ: Thank you.

Commissioner Sinay?

COMMISSIONER SINAY: I think when it comes to
accessibility, we're -- we've started there and we want
to make everything as accessible as possible. And I
really appreciate how you've all defined accessibility,
be it cultural language, are we an oral society or a
visual, all those things are really critical.

And I appreciate what Ms. Banh just said. We can't
meet everybody's everything. And so I wanted to check if
I heard correctly and here from Ms. Abdi and -- there you
are, Tave, sorry, if it's not necessarily that we have
everything at our fingertips right now completely
accessible, but that we are able to make it accessible if
it is asked of us.

Now, having said that, there is certain languages
and things that we should be doing, but with all the
different -- well, anyway, I just wanted to see if I
heard that correctly. I see some heads nodding, but I'd
love to get some input.

MS. BANH: EPIC and PANA want to share thoughts
first? And I can follow. I can follow.

MS. ERIKAT: Yeah, I can -- I can jump in. My
name's Jeanine. I'm a community organizer at PANA. I've
been working with Rahmo this presentation. Yeah, so
you're right. I mean, we mentioned specifically at PANA
the diversity in the African communities and cultures and
the variety in languages. We did emphasize that Amharic
is the most spoken language throughout California.

But I think for us at PANA, what's really important,
and I think others can speak on this, is for the
Commission to work with these local hubs of like ethnic-
based organizations who have been doing this work, right?
Like at PANA for our census outreach, which we partnered
with as part of the county 2020, the statewide campaign,
we were able to provide census materials in fifteen
languages. That includes Amharic, Oromo, Somali,
Swahili, Arabic, Farsi, Kurdish, Nuer, Haitian, like all
these languages.

So we understand that the state just didn't
necessarily have the capacity to do all of that. And
that's why we ask that you partner with us and we can
provide you with resources. Because I mean, as Tavae
shared, like when it's not in language, you're telling
those communities they don't matter, right?

So we really ask that you are -- that if it's not
something you can work on, you can provide. I mean, beside the languages where we have high, high numbers like Amharic and Somali, that you work with us to be able to fill that gap.

And like Rahmo mentioned, like for the African community specifically and amongst the community, it is a trusted messenger way, right? So it is that connection also. Like we're going to have to go in and do that work regardless to fill in the gaps in education with cultural nuance. And I'll cut my time short so others can jump in because I could go on, I mean, we all could, that's why we're here today. So thank you for bringing that up.

COMMISSIONER SINAY: Thank you.

MS. SAMUELU: Good. Agreed with all of the points that were made. And I think there's another piece of what I think I heard you say was like, if it's asked for, then you can do it. And that's a little bit --

COMMISSIONER SINAY: Yeah.

MS. SAMUELU: -- that puts a lot of onus on me as an organization to go ask you for it, but also to -- and -- and from my understanding of what PANA did, which is amazing work on the census, was also that it was heavily reliant on volunteers.

And correct me if this is wrong, so I understand that you all may not have the capacity, but maybe you
have the resources for us to go and make those
connections. Because I also don't expect you to know who
are the Samoan and Tongan and Marshallese translators in
our community.

Also worth noting is that the Pacific Islander
community doesn't really have ethnic enclaves. We're
not -- we're a highly dispersed community, right? That
although those numbers are the highest in L.A. County,
L.A. County is 500 square miles. So that's a huge space
that you can -- that we're sort of sprawled across. And
so that when there's a conversation about redistricting,
that there's the notion of like this is where this
community lives, that we are clear that when we want to
reach a community that like this is where this community
worships and how faith-based communities and those
networks are often the cultural institutions that we have
to turn to in order to reach as many people in one --
like efficiently, for lack of better terms.

There's also this piece, too, where, like everything
that we did as written material, we also had to do a
video for or a PSA because we can't assume what the
literacy level is in those communities. That just
because you can't read or understand English doesn't mean
that you can read and write in your native language. And
so that that pairing was also to make sure that in
addition to plain language, that you weren't making any assumptions about how people consume their information.

And then echoing the trusted messengers piece. But in knowing too, like, this is the statewide redistricting commission, that the languages that would be needed for different regions varies, right? So I say we prioritize Tongan, Samoan, and Marshallese, but that's also because of L.A. County that if I'm looking at Sonoma and Sacramento where the largest populations are Fijian that I would have prioritized (indiscernible). If I'm mostly in the Bay Area, I prioritize Tongan.

And so that's the other nuance that you actually may not even have data sources that show you that, that those are things that we know because we're on the ground and in the community.

COMMISSIONER FERNANDEZ: Is this the -- that's interesting that you bring that up because Commissioner Akutagawa and I were talking about that yesterday because we were reviewing various reports and it actually does show -- because we're going to come up with a recommendation and our recommendation will vary on what area we're in terms of what language we need.

Because it was very apparent that -- I think it was Armenian was very heavy in the Los Angeles area. But throughout the rest of the state it wasn't. So maybe we
just need it for that area. So I really appreciate you
sharing with us and -- and kind of just reinforcing that
information. So thank you.

Do you have any other question?

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: I -- I --

MS. BANH: I mean (indiscernible, simultaneous
speech) -- if I could --

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: -- I'm sorry --

MS. BANH: -- respond to the disability --

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: -- respond?

MS. BANH: Yeah, no worries. So for Commissioner
Sinay, I think that can -- that -- it -- we have to be
careful with that also because if you're waiting for
someone to say, I need the meeting space -- I need the
meeting space to be accessible, then you're in violation
of the law because really when you're picking out the
space -- so that -- that can only -- I mean, that can
work within certain context.

And also you may not know who's going to call in.

So having ASL interpreter, for example. And so I think
it's broadly thinking about language justice, disability
justice in that mind frame. And we're so glad we're here
today so we can share our thoughts.

And you may not know what you don't know. Just so
you can start thinking about all these different
populations so that we can share with you all the
different ways that could create a more inviting, more
inclusive space for — for Californians.
Commissioner Fernandez.

COMMISSIONER FERNANDEZ: Thank you.
Commissioner Sadhwani. And then Sinay.
COMMISSIONER SADHWANI: Oh, did Commissioner Sinay
just have a follow up? Oh, somebody said that. Okay.

So mine is to some extent a follow up of the
previous question.

But first, I just want to say thank you so much to
all of the speakers who came today. I really appreciate
you all being here and sharing all of this expertise.
And it definitely gives us a lot to think about in terms
of how to really create this access of culture. And I
kind of love that terminology because it covers so many
different kinds of access that we want to ensure.

And I definitely love the idea of having a dedicated
staff person whose kind of the point person for access
issues.

On the piece around working with you all and other
organizations also in terms of our outreach, this is
actually more of a comment/question. I think one of my
concerns is that we're on a very tight timeline. And so
I wonder I — and I guess this -- is is a question, how
nimble are your organizations to be able to kind of turn
around some of our requests?

I think as we move forward, things are going to
start moving very quickly on our side. That's just the
nature of our timelines, I think. And I mean, a typical
RFP process might last a couple months. There's time to
respond.

And I think that we do have subcommittees and
definitely looking at how can we get resources to
partners on the ground to help us with these kinds of
outreach components. So it's definitely something we
want to do. But I think that the turnaround time is
going to be fairly fast and quick. And so as a question
or comment, how able will many of your organizations
be -- to what extent will your organizations be able to
kind of work on those kind of tight timelines that we
very well might end up having?

MR. RAWLINGS: Oh, I was just going to quickly say
that I think that's why building the relationships is so
necessary. And Tavae really said something that's really
important to our community also is the concept of nothing
about us without us.

There's really I think an importance that -- that
the kind of a mantle that the Commission has to make
sure that everyone is included in as many spaces and as
many rooms as possible.

And I would even maybe look at, for example, the Secretary of State's office has really done some innovative work around voter education. And in doing so, they developed community-based voter accessibility advisory commissions and also language accessibility advisory commissions. And both of those exist to help the county registrars and elections offices produce culturally relevant information. And they're really highly effective bodies because they get to review every piece of communication that the county elections office puts together and think about strategically their own communities and how to reach them.

I understand what you're saying. And yes, it would be very difficult if we just became, I think, seen as dumping grounds for access. And I'm sure our partners that presented in front of us would also be different -- it would be difficult if we were seen as just translation services, which we don't want to be.

So I think maybe the answer to your question is build relationships now early, make sure that you're inviting those partners and us and others as it's appropriate. I would really, again, lean on the Disability Access Services at Department of Rehabilitation, maybe identify someone that could serve
as a partner to you all. But those are my
recommendations.

MS. BANH: I forgot to share that I'm a governor-
appointee -- appointee on the California Complete Census
2020 as well. And I would say, oh, my gosh, do not start
anything from scratch, right? Like reserve your
resources because they got a whole structure. A lot of
the -- a lot of us have worked on the census. So there's
a whole structure that we just got built that we built up
with the committee that you can tap into and find out
from them how certain things were done, which communities
they reached out to, what materials they may have
already, who did they consult to get the materials. So
don't start anything from scratch.

A lot of what you do has -- very similarly structure
has been done by (audio interference) --

MS. ERIKAT: Yeah. If I could add one thing really
quick, I think what Russell and Thou really like to
really uplift what they said not to reinvent the wheel.
But also just adding that piece of funding, right? Like
our organizations do have limited -- like there is a
capacity thing, but if we able to have funding -- and
that's why I think why our census work was so great is we
were able to partner with fifteen other organizations and
have PANA lead this refugee and immigrant census hub.
And we also know that we're still need to do
education, right? And I think the important part is,
yes, there's tight deadlines, of course, and a lot of
things are changing, are moving. But our people are
living in these -- like we're going to be most impacted
by the redrawing of these state and local lines. So we
don't want to be left out. That's why we're here talking
today. We don't think we should be left out. But
funding is a crucial piece.

And to build those relationships. I think now's a
good start. We have until January before it really picks
up. So if we could keep these channels of communication
open, I think that would be a great way to go too.

COMMISSIONER FERNANDEZ: Thank you.

And I have Commissioner Sinay, but Chair Fornaciari,
I think we're at the -- are we at the hour and a half
mark for a break?

CHAIR FORNACIARI: Yes, we are. We don't have a
speaker coming in at 3. We had to reschedule that. So
if our speakers are willing, we could come back and
continue this conversation. But we are at a time for a
required fifteen-minute break.

COMMISSIONER FERNANDEZ: Yes. I'm not sure if
they're able to sit. I think (indiscernible) And Eric
and Russell had another meeting. But I'm also not sure
if Rahmo and Tavae and Jeanine can stay until about --
we'll probably resume a little after 3?

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Is it possible to keep going
longer? Are -- are we -- are we ---

COMMISSIONER FERNANDEZ: I think we're required
because of the ASL interpreter.

CHAIR FORNACIARI: Yeah. We're required to take
a -- a fifteen-minute break every hour and a half.

But -- but again, the speaker -- the -- the planned
speaker for 3:00 is not -- has been rescheduled. So
it's -- it's up to our up -- up to our guests if they --
if they wish to remain with us over our fifteen minute
break.

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Sure. That's fine with me.

MS. ERIKAT: No, that's no problem. We --

MS. SAMUELU: Yeah, I can do that.

CHAIR FORNACIARI: Okay. Well, that would be great.

MS. BANH: We would love to.

CHAIR FORNACIARI: So --

MS. BANH: Oh, man, we would love to. We won't be
able to, but we would love to. We hope that Commissioner
Fernandez, Commissioner Akutagawa has our PowerPoint as
well, so please, reconnect.

CHAIR FORNACIARI: We will definitely do that, and
we really, really appreciate your time today, and the
information that you shared with us. You've given us an awful lot to think about, and some really good advice on how to get started, you know, on the right foot down this road we're headed. So thank you so much.

And with that, we will resume at 3:05.

(Pause)

CHAIR FORNACIARI: Well, welcome back. Thanks again to our presenters for sticking with us over the break. Just to provide some clarification, the breaks are for the captioners, because the captioners work alone, so they work for an hour-and-a-half straight and need a break, but we want to express our appreciation for all the folks who help us out, the ASL interpreters, the captioners, the video team, and thank you all. And I think all of us need a break after about an hour-and-a-half.

Anyway, I will turn it back to Commissioner Fernandez to continue to moderate the discussion. So thank you, Commissioner.

COMMISSIONER FERNANDEZ: Thank you.

(Indiscernible).

CHAIR FORNACIARI: Okay, you got really quiet all of a sudden.

COMMISSIONER FERNANDEZ: Did I?

Commissioner Sinay? Maybe I should pull it closer.
COMMISSIONER SINAY: Commissioner Sadhwani basically asked my question, which is, what do you all need to be successful in engaging in the redistricting. And I think we heard from everyone except for you, Tavae, and I apologize if I've said that wrong again.

But I -- if you -- and also if you thought of other things, please share them because this is the time to share what you all need to be engaged with us, or to help us engage your communities.

MS. SAMUELU: Thank you. It's Ta-VIE. So I think that there was also a specific question around how nimble our organizations can be, given your fast turnaround. And so I do want to acknowledge that the ability to move quickly on some of these things also requires trust and resources, and that for the Pacific Islander community in particular, in the ways that we serve and network with each other -- please excuse the ice cream truck in the background -- is that there is protocol in how we do things.

And so even the ways that we created the materials for census, like, that process took about seven months. Like, that is the reality for us of getting community buy-in, and in some cases, permission from elders in order to do things the way that we did, right? That like if -- I think and this is an Adrienne Maree Brown quote
of like, change moving at the speed of trust, is that we had to move really slow.

    I think now, as far as the capacity of the Pacific Islander community, another lesson learned, I do want to echo what Tho Vinh stated about there being infrastructure that was created by the census that can be leveraged for redistricting, but that is also an infrastructure that often disadvantage the Pacific Islander community, in particular because it relied heavily on CBOs, and Pacific Islanders don't have a CBO infrastructure in the State of California that's that deep, especially so in LA County, where our population is the largest.

    Where many of the CBOs are completely volunteer run, that EPIC is rare and unique, in that we're one of the few that has paid staff. And so I wonder if there's another equity piece to your process in understanding, like, the pacing of your involvement and engagement of folks is indicative of your understanding of, like, what the communities -- that you may actually need to move slower with the Pacific Islander community, and that our processes do tend to take longer; however, what they produce are long-lasting relationships.

    I also want to note, there's a whole pandemic still happening, and we also notice that COVID has
disproportionately impacted the Pacific Islander community, where in some places in California, Pacific Islanders are twelve times more likely to get COVID than their white counterpart.

Knowing this, and how that comes up in your redistricting process, is also going to dictate capacity and pace, not just of EPIC as an organization, but also the Pacific Islander community as a whole. That one of the goals of our work in census, and continues to be our goal, is like, how do we build out the infrastructure of the Pacific Islander community, knowing that everything that we do impacts this broader NHPI ecosystem that we function in.

COMMISSIONER FERNANDEZ: I love that background. I think they wanted to go to the ice cream truck.

Commissioner Toledo?

VICE CHAIR KENNEDY: Thank you. I mean, having lived in Fiji and the -- essentially, the North Solomons, Bougainville and PNG, I, you know, certainly have a good understanding of the pace of things.

The issue is that we have statutory deadlines, so you know, I have, as a member of the Lessons Learned subcommittee, I've already taken note that the 2030 Commission should probably be formed even earlier, so that there is more time to develop relationships and
develop materials for education and so forth, so that it
doesn't run headlong into this wall of deadlines that we
have to meet, and I appreciate Commissioner Vazquez's
enthusiastic support.

COMMISSIONER FERNANDEZ: Thank you.

Okay, I don't see any hands so I'm going to ask my
question now. I was hoping that --

COMMISSIONER SINAY: Commissioner Fernandez?

COMMISSIONER FERNANDEZ: Yes.

COMMISSIONER SINAY: It's very hard to hear you.

Oh, there we go. It's like --

COMMISSIONER FERNANDEZ: Oh.

COMMISSIONER VAZQUEZ: -- the way -- your mic
doesn't seem to quite pick up your voice unless you're
speaking directly at the computer.

COMMISSIONER FERNANDEZ: It's right --

COMMISSIONER VAZQUEZ: Oh, yep, there we go.

COMMISSIONER FERNANDEZ: Okay, thank you.

Oh, if you could both -- so what I was curious
about -- because I know that Tavae has brought up the
census for Oregon, and I'm hoping Rahmo and Jeanine have
also. If you could give us, like, your experience with
that effort, and in terms of the resources that you
needed. And then also maybe if you can talk a little bit
about, you know, coming off the heels of the census; can
we use maybe that momentum, in terms of trying to use
that network for the redistricting piece of it?

MS. ERIKAT: Yeah, I can speak -- thank you for that
question. I can speak upon our census work.

So as Rahmo mentioned, at PANA, we launched this
larger hub called the Refugee and Immigrant Hub in San
Diego, where we partnered with 15 other ethnic-based
community organizations. And so that worked -- and for
most of -- I'd like to say most of the communities that
we're working with, this is the first time they've
engaged with the census. It was the first time they'd
ever heard of the census; it was a completely new process
to them. So that required for us to do a lot of
background and education on what is the census; what does
it mean; you know, why are we doing it.

And we feel that yes, there's going to be a lot of
momentum with -- leading into redistricting, but again,
like Rahmo mentioned, a lot of our communities, this is
the first time that they've been experiencing that
process, and it's a longer process, right? And so we're
anticipating that we're going to need more education
materials.

And that's where, like, support from the state comes
in, right, is that we have access to these resources.
It's in plain language; it's something that we can easily
translate. It's things we can redirect to help our community, show them how does, like, the COI tool work, the app, and everything like that.

What worked really well was that we were able to, like Rahmo mentioned, we had workshops in language, right? It was directly, there wasn't, like, someone was coming and they had to wait for an interpreter. They got that information; they're able to answer their questions right at the moment. It was with people that they trusted, people that they knew, and that we were really able to support the other organizations that we worked with financially to be able to have staff who could carry this on, right, because it was a very long effort.

At PANA, we were able to pay for our twenty-team phone banker of youth who were calling community in language, explaining the census, helping them fill out the census right there on the phone with them, walking through the steps. It was creating informational videos in a variety of languages, and it was really building that trust and letting community know that they can ask us in a language that they feel comfortable in. We can explain it to them, you know, walk them through that process, explain to them why it's so important.

And that's why, I mean, I set -- not to keep going, but I think funding would be a really huge, huge way to
get other communities involved. Because all of our
ethnic-based, like, CBOs are really impacted. We're
doing direct services with the pandemic, right? Some of
our organizations are working on immigration cases.
We're working on just housing crisis, right? Like Rahmo
mentioned, East African communities, specifically in San
Diego, is spending upwards of 50 percent of their income
on rent, and a lot of our communities that -- I'm
speaking more broadly on the Arab/Middle Eastern/South
Asian/Muslim/African communities were in, like -- were
Uber drivers or Lyft drivers, or these gig workers who
lost their job, lost their income.
So there's all these other factors coming in, and
that's why I think being able to fund organizations like
PANA, which have those trusted messenger relationships,
would be really where we could work together, being able
to have more education material, in-language materials, I
think.
And really, like, explaining, like, if -- I think
if, like, for example, like Rahmo said, the State hosted
a -- like a mapping workshop in Somali, that would be
huge. I mean, right? Like, it would be something that
the community can ask questions, can learn, can
understand what is this process that they've never
engaged with before.
MS. SAMUELU: So I do, you know, and just I think there was a previous comment. I fully understand that there are a lot of statutory deadlines. This is also something that we run into a lot as EPIC in our, you know, our statewide and national advocacy work is that we're, you know, that a letter will go out to sign on to support a bill, or a resolution, and we'll have 24 hours to turn it around and get as many people signed in as possible.

So I think the internal mapping that I've done, as well as, like, power mapping the PI community is recognizing who are the elders who can move quickly, when as a younger person in the community, I can't. And so I think that's my own -- and this is also the partner -- where the partnership comes in of, like, that lived expertise and wisdom of like, all right, I know if I hand it off to this elder or this trusted messenger, that they can get people to move quickly on something.

To that effect I think the other lesson learned from the census was -- one was this was the first time I've ever been counted. Two is that we were able to lean on elders who've been working with, you know, and doing census work since NHPI became a category in 2000. So this is the other thing to recognize, right, that we are a fairly new census community. And in that -- and that's
not that we were new to the U.S., right, we've been here, especially our Native Hawaiian folks.

But that as a newer community, it's also newer to these processes and navigating these systems, so whereas for the census, we were able to lean on elders who had long been in relationship to the bureau, to where, you know, partnership specialists; that's not true for redistricting. And in some ways, we would be starting from scratch with this information with understanding and translating that.

The census makes sense because there's this notion of resources, needing to count everyone. Redistricting is a little bit harder. I think what was also difficult is that many NHPIs who wanted to apply sort of in Long Beach City or in LA had been disqualified or ineligible because they worked for the City in the last five years, or they worked for the County, which, in a community as small as the Pacific Islander community, it's those who work in those positions who are the most civically engaged and are the most adept at the systems, right? And so that if you -- if those folks are those that are ineligible, you just disqualified the most engaged and the most equipped to participate in these processes.

And that's the difficulty, that for the Pacific Islander community, being as small as we are, those sort
In stating that, we were also -- and really able to identify the key translators, and also because we don't have ethnic media, better equipped and aware of where people are getting their information, and how to better leverage our channels of communication, that with the census and COVID and everything being shut down, our initial plans relied heavily on in-person outreach leveraging annual cultural festivals. And when all of those were canceled, we were forced to move to a completely digital strategy, which was hard to navigate.

I think what also put us at a bit of a disadvantage when coming to sort of state census efforts, is that it prioritized a geographic approach. Now, why that was an issue for the Pacific Islander community is because 70 percent of Pacific Islanders do not live in what are considered low response areas.

So what needs to be had and understood about the Pacific Islander community is the intersection of both race and place, when trying to reach out to and speak to our communities; also the intersections at which because we are not a concentrated population or have ethnic enclaves, how we talk about the intersections of, like, race and gender, age, if we're talking about
redistricting in schools, how we look at the other needs whether it's immigration status or healthcare needs, and how that impacts how our communities think of redistricting and place.

MS. ERIKAT: Yeah, and if I could just add on really quick, also just something that I forgot to mention that Tavae uplifted, is that something that was really challenging with the census for the AMEMSA community is that Arab and Middle Eastern do not have their own category, right? They're considered white, and they have to check white, and so they're completely left out of that. And so that was a lot of education, you know. The movement this year was to try to get Other, to get them to put Other. But there's a lot of, you know, a lot of confusion also just filling it out, like, them not seeing themselves, right? They don't -- I mean, when we're talking Syrian refugees, they're not seeing themselves as white, right? They're seeing themselves as displaced people from Syria.

And so things like that also made it really difficult; they're not showing up in the numbers. As Rahmo mentioned, a lot of African immigrants and refugees are putting black and African American, right, and they're not -- their numbers aren't -- their ethnic numbers aren't showing up, and that's a really important
thing to understand is that that's why they're often overlooked in the data; that's why we can't even -- there's, like, issues with finding the numbers, like, to be honest, finding the numbers for the language at, like, what were the highest African languages for today's presentation was extremely difficult because those numbers aren't out there, and our communities, right, are often ignored.

COMMISSIONER FERNANDEZ: Thank you for that.
I wasn't sure if Commissioner Sadhwani had her hand up, but if not, then Commissioner Akutagawa.
Oh, could you not hear me again?
COMMISSIONER AKUTAGAWA: We're not hearing you totally clearly; you came in talking.
COMMISSIONER FERNANDEZ: Oh, how about now?
Commissioner Sadhwani, did you have your hand up or no?
COMMISSIONER SADHWANI: Well, I mean, kind of just a comment. I love kind of hearing all of these things. Some of the takeaways I'm getting, and they're just kind of random thoughts, and we can do with them as we want, or do nothing with them.
So you know, to build off of the momentum of the census, I feel like we almost need, like, some sort of campaign kind of approach of like, first we count, then
we map, kind of approach that we could take to different communities.

I know in the past, there used to be campaigns around, like, first we naturalize, then we vote, right? And so kind of in a similar sense, because all of this amazing outreach has been done in the census, I feel like having something that would like really build on that momentum that we could use broadly across communities, with a quick and easy tagline or slogan might be really great.

What I'm also hearing, though, I think as of right now, we've been thinking a lot about our outreach as regional, but what might make sense for us to start thinking about is, like, overlaying that with some very specific kinds of access outreach as well, since we're still in the COVID time period, right? We could do, you know, sessions that are Zoom based anyway and focus in on one community and ensure that we have translation services and materials that are already ready to go before we do that kind of outreach, right? And that could be more statewide, as opposed to going regionally, could potentially -- especially if we're talking about ensuring that we have those kinds of resources for the interpretation, et cetera.

And then, in terms of the resources, I mean, I --
you know, we have a whole subcommittee that's already working on this, so I don't need to necessarily be a part of it, but I think some sort of community partners program makes total sense, that hopefully, you know, we can start moving on it quickly, because I think this is one of -- will be one of our greatest challenges, is our time frame and like, the statutory requirements that we have, and ensuring that we can do that relationship building and have a meaningful partnership with you all, as well as a bunch of other organizations, I'm sure, from around the state.

So those -- just some comments, in terms of everything I'm hearing and you know, things for us to be thinking about moving forward.

COMMISSIONER FERNANDEZ: Great.

Commissioner Akutagawa?

COMMISSIONER AKUTAGAWA: Yeah, and I just want to also just note that it's 3:25, and I know Tavae has to leave at 3:30. I just quickly wanted to ask, for me, what's a practical question. I know I'm hearing you, I -- you know, obviously as, you know, running a nonprofit, I am totally on board with what you mean about funding.

I think what I want to understand, and I think this will be helpful for all of us to understand is I -- I
know that we have money for outreach. I think outreach and access are kind of different things, you know. To do proper outreach, we have to also ensure proper access.

And so I'm hearing you about, like, the community partnerships. What would be your recommendations, like, what's your thoughts on, you know, how -- you know, how do we -- we have to make the money kind of spread throughout the State. What's your thoughts on how best can we do that where we can provide resources, you know, whether it's to your organizations -- I know that there's the different partnerships, you know. I think that's where I'm getting kind of also caught up in, like, yeah, we could do this, this, and this, but then at what point, like, how much is enough, and then what's the best way to ensure that the resources -- I mean, I'll just frankly say that I know that sometimes there's these kind of like umbrella organizations that then parse out money to a bunch of smaller organizations. Frankly, I think, you know, the small organizations are doing the work, so it just seems like it makes sense to give it to the organizations who are on the ground doing it, but then that's also, like, I'm also learning quite a bit about the bureaucracy of the State and I'm not sure if that's going to be workable. I mean, so many different questions that I have, but I just would love to hear your
thoughts on that, from either Janine, Rahmo, or Tavae, I mean. There may not be an answer.

MS. SAMUELU: No, there -- I mean, there definitely isn't an easy answer, and I appreciate the question because I think, you know, as you're talking about bureaucracy, I do understand it. So I know, you know, in private foundation philanthropy, some of that trickle-down economics of large -- also happens because foundations only want to know one organization.

But I think in government contracting, there's also the piece that like it costs a lot more to manage government contracts. That sometimes EPIC as an organization will take on the money because we know it'll cost 12 percent for us, versus the smaller organizations that we work with that are completely volunteer run, that the overhead will run anywhere from 30 to 40 percent to manage a government contract, right?

And that's the unfortunate part that like it costs a lot more to start something from scratch than to sustain an administrative infrastructure.

Now, there's the other piece where I think needs to be understood is that the way that equity gets understood and deployed in these sorts of funding situations where there's this notion that the most equitable way to distribute funding is that it would be a microcosm of the
communities, right? That if there's, you know, six percent, or what it is, APIs account for six percent of the State of California, then they should get six percent of the funding.

I do want to challenge that notion because I need there to be an understanding that like communities that are newer, it costs more do that work, right? That for the Asian-American community because of the huge diversity of languages, translation costs so much money that that takes a lot more of the resources, right? Because you're trying to cover, I think in working with AAJC, we provide resources in 22 languages. I can imagine that the statement is true for PANA, and so wanting to think about equity in a way where you understand one, covering full costs of the work; and two, this is Lavinia (ph.), say hi -- and two, that equity is understood that people have what they need as opposed to trying to create something that is a microcosm of the State, because frankly those are also the things that leave our communities out, as well as understanding that what are the requirements for some of these funding sources.

So that is my cue that I need to go, but thank you all so much. I really appreciate having this time with you. Please take care.
COMMISSIONER AKUTAGAWA: Thank you.

CHAIR FORNACIARI: Thank you for joining us. We really appreciated it.

MS. ERIKAT: Yeah, I can answer that. I mean, really, Tavae really just hit the nail on that, and I think I just want to echo that, right? That our communities take and require more investment, right? Like Rahmo mentioned earlier, at PANA we serve over 30 languages. We had to translate census material in 15 languages, and 15 languages being the minimum, to be quite honest.

So just even thinking, like, at the most basic level of translation, which I think with redistricting, translation is the basic level, right? It's not even talking more about the outreach and the education part, all of that, that we need -- we just -- that's where funding needs to come in, that we need more funding to translate in multiple languages to make sure everyone's engaged, and I think Tavae had a really good point about the overhead costs. I mean, that's even why we took an approach with census of -- PANA was, you know, we got the money from the State, State got it from the County, we got it from the County, and we gave it out to 15 partner organizations, right?

And so I don't know if I have anything new to add.
I don't -- I know you all have a very long day, long meeting, so I'll leave it at that.

COMMISSIONER AKUTAGAWA: Thank you.

COMMISSIONER FERNANDEZ: Thank you.

Commissioner Le Mons?

COMMISSIONER LE MONS: Thanks to everyone who presented. Wonderful presentation.

I guess my question is, and I don't know how comfortable any of you will feel with answering this question, but we understand the funding flows, and options, and challenges. We also understand that we have a limited amount of resources. And so when we start talking about dollar amounts, and certainly we wouldn't hold any of you to these dollar amounts, but what kind of price tags are we talking? Because that really is going to make the difference. Like so to do a certain range or scope of work, to say, 15 languages, you know, are we talking about $10,000, $50,000, a half a million dollars? I mean, I think us having some kind of sense of that kind of helps us do our planning as it relates to our budgeting.

So again, and I know that one person or two people speaking to that question is not going to necessarily represent the fiscal realities of every organization. So I just want to put that caveat out there right away, and
by no means would we be trying to hold you to any
numbers, but I think that us getting some more tangible
price tags really gives us something to talk about more
intentionally.

MS. ERIKAT: Yeah, thank you for that question,
Commissioner. And to be quite honest, I don't have an
answer to you in this moment, but I actually think that
what you're bringing is so important, and I understand
how crucial it is to your work and our work, and actually
encourage you all to set up an additional meeting where,
you know, we can come back, like PANA and other
organizations who presented, and I know you've had
multiple presentations, can come back and give you more
tangible and realistic numbers, because I feel like it'll
be a disservice right now for me to throw out a number
and it be way off point, either too low or too high. So
I would rather we have a more fruitful conversation where
we can come and present, like, what -- we can give you an
example of what our budget was with census, for example,
with the 15 languages, you know, and other organizations
across the state could do the same.

COMMISSIONER FERNANDEZ: Marian? I can't hear you,
Marian.

COMMISSIONER JOHNSTON: Do you have any experience
with Google Translate for documents? I know they're up
to, I think over 100 languages that they use now. I know several years ago they were barely adequate. I don't know if they've improved any.

MS. ERIKAT: I would say Google Translate works in the short-term, in the quick moment, you know, if you need it on the spot. But it's definitely not the way to go with government documents, right, or even education materials, right? There's a lot of nuance that Google Translate doesn't pick up on. It doesn't even account -- like, it doesn't even account for the formal languages properly, let alone all the different dialects, like if we're just -- and I'm speaking my experience as an Arab speaker, right? When I've used -- been on the opposite -- when I've seen it translate in Arabic, formal Arabic, it's -- I don't want to say inaccurate, because it gets the point across, but I wouldn't recommend it for something so important like redistricting, where we're really making -- want to make sure that everyone is involved. I don't -- it wouldn't be feasible in my opinion.

COMMISSIONER FERNANDEZ: Do we have any other questions? Commissioner Kennedy?

VICE CHAIR KENNEDY: Yeah, I mean my -- my experience, and I've you know, worked in Jordan and elsewhere, and seen materials that have been produced
through Google Translate. And sometimes, not only does it not convey the nuance, sometimes it conveys exactly the opposite meaning of what you're trying to get across, so you know, it -- sometimes in some of their languages, it can give you a head start. It might cut down on the time that it takes, but you know, there's no -- you cannot rely on it, you know, for 100 percent of the solution.

COMMISSIONER FERNANDEZ: I'll just talk from personal experience, not with Google Translate, but -- can you not hear me? Oh, my goodness. I think -- Christian, what did you do to my computer?

CHAIR FORNACIARI: Commissioner Fernandez, we can only hear you when you are looking directly at the screen like you are right now.

COMMISSIONER FERNANDEZ: Okay.

CHAIR FORNACIARI: When you put your head down, we can't --

COMMISSIONER FERNANDEZ: All right, I can't put my head down. All right, here we go.

When I've used some of the translation services, it's interesting some of the words they use, and I'm sure, like some have mentioned, speaking a second language, it tends to be more of a formal type of translation versus, like, the normal speak. So I -- I
would hesitate to use some sort of formal translation.

And Commissioner Sinay?

COMMISSIONER SINAY: So I used it just yesterday to
translate a whole thing for a parent focus group next
week. And I do cheat, where I do the Google and then I
go back and fix it all, and so you have to be a native
Spanish -- I mean, for me it was in Spanish. You have to
be a native speaker to be able to catch the nuances and
the jargon, just little things, you know, to be
consistent.

But it is a great tool. It's better than nothing,
so if you're trying to learn something, you know, it
plays an important role. And I think -- but for
redistricting as Janine was saying, there's so many
nuances that we're going to have to be careful.

I did want to follow up on one of Commissioner
Sadhwani's point. One of the things that we did in San
Diego -- hi, I'm from San Diego. One of the things we
did in San Diego was we connected with the census -- the
census CBO there, and when Michelle sent out her last
newsletter, she actually at the bottom, it said thank
you, census, everyone who did the census; this is us from
the Redistricting Commission inviting you to be part of
it. And so we were able to get that blurb in there, and
it went out to all the CBOs and asking them to sign up on
our website, because that was the only action we really
had right now.

And so as you're talking to your CBOs, if there's
that opportunity, we can send you a copy of the
newsletter so you can see what the language is, but we
are -- and having the director of the census come in
next -- to our next meeting, so we are building on that.
So thank you for confirming some of our thoughts.

COMMISSIONER FERNANDEZ: Thank you.

Do we have any other questions? Okay.

Well, thank you again to Janine and Rahmo for coming
today. This has been very helpful. We appreciate you
taking the time to be with us today.

CHAIR FORNACIARI: Yes, thank you very much. It's
been very, very helpful and enlightening. We really
appreciate your partnership with us, thank you.

COMMISSIONER AKUTAGAWA: Thank you, Rahmo and thank
you, Janine. We appreciate it.

MS. ABDI: Thank you, Commissioners, for your time.
We really appreciate, and we're looking forward to
working with you all.

MS. ERIKAT: Yes, thank you so much for the extended
Q and A session.

CHAIR FORNACIARI: No problem.

MS. ERIKAT: Thank you for our --
COMMISSIONER AKUTAGAWA: Thank you for giving us the extra time and thank you for the fantastic presentation. That was great.

MS. ERIKAT: Thank you, all. Have a great rest of your evening.

CHAIR FORNACIARI: Well, thank you, Commissioners Akutagawa and Fernandez for putting that together for us and for all of the presentations that we've had. Really, really helpful and lots of great information.

I think -- did Commissioner Le Mons, did you have a -- want to speak? Yeah.

COMMISSIONER LE MONS: Yeah, what I wanted to say is, I wanted to share some of my experience in terms of tackling this issue of trying to get messages and materials and information out to the community.

When I was the Deputy Director of the California AIDS Clearinghouse, which was back in the '90s, actually, before we had a lot of the technology we have today, but we were the state repository of all HIV, AIDS-related prevention materials for the entire state.

And so just a quick little history, when the AIDS epidemic first started, there were no organized government agencies, groups, et cetera. Everything was really done at community level. And as it became a systemized operation, government intervention, funding,
et cetera, all of that kind of shifted.

And what happened in that process is, when you created something like the California AIDS Clearinghouse, who our primary customer were the Health Departments and community-based organizations in every county in the state, including Pasadena and Long Beach.

And so what happened is, you can only have so many different materials; you could only have them be -- they got so watered down because it had to serve 40 million people, right? So by the time you tried to create something that potentially does that, it becomes ultimately ineffective for the majority of people. And that was even securing materials from commercial producers like Channing Betes and places like that, who have enormous budgets to do R and D and all of these different things, but they still go for that sort of neutral, in the middle, vanilla, for lack of a better term, outcome.

And so actually, one of the things that I recommended, and we wouldn't probably need this piece, was first I created a pilot program, where we taught local organizations how to vary, you know, fly-by, one-on-one, how to develop materials. So -- because we thought it was best that we provide training, and then we provide support. And so rather than flipping it, my idea
was to flip it. And rather than us approach it from how do we find a product or suite of products that can pass the scrutiny of all of these different counties who have very, very different needs, et cetera; let's flip it and let's teach local communities how to develop materials, and those were both video product, print product, et cetera.

And because some of my background was in production, I decided that we use a multi-city training that was done via video. So we had camera, not like Zoom; this was pre, you know, the Zoom days, but you know, we had four camera crews in both San Diego, Los Angeles, and then in the Bay Area. And then that way, people who lived close to some of those communities could go to those particular hubs, and then those hubs were also broadcasting out to some of their neighboring communities for the training.

The key piece was the supporting it with resources, because you can give training all day long, and then if people can't really develop or have the resources to develop, and what we used was a mini-grant model. And I don't -- I think we should explore that. So it's not a contract; we're giving them a grant and calling it a day. And it really changes the game in all of the contract management that's required.

Certainly they couldn't be huge amounts, which was
sort of why I was trying to get a sense of price tags, if you will, because that's a very different model than -- we're talking about contracts for larger amounts of money. I believe that at that time, those mini-grants were around 10, $15,000 a pop, but we were able to give out a lot of them.

And then, the flip part that I was talking about, at that point, we allowed them to be developed on the ground in service of the communities themselves, and then we had -- part of our agreement was they submitted to us their final product. And then that way, we could take -- we had this whole potpourri of types of materials that we could then look at and see how we could make them available in their original form for other parts of the state who had similar communities to the community that developed it, and how we could do minor tweaks with our resources to make them have a broader appeal, and extend the life of that product a little bit further.

So I think in this case, if we're doing something similar, we know what basic education we're going to want to get out, we can come up with those prongs of what information we want distributed across the state, and then work with these local organizations to be able to use the method that they want to use to communicate it as well.
So they would have the freedom to say this is the best way to take this information that the Commission wants to communicate to our community. They may decide to do a drum circle and communicate it. They may decide to do a piece of material, but whatever the case may be is that we would support the best mechanism for transferring the information, as opposed to trying to come up with a model that everybody has to figure out.

So I'm sharing this story primarily from a philosophical perspective in how we might be creative and look at how we do this.

And I'm happy to say that the State of California, based on the pilot, year two they were very impressed with our outcomes, and as a result, gave us $1.2 million that second year to support another round of just going to the community. All that money went directly to the community, whereas in the past, that money would've sat with us to do the work.

So I just wanted to put that out there, and that wasn't -- hopefully that was just, you know, fly-by, but detailed enough to give you a sense of where I'm coming from on that. And I think the critical piece here would be for us to be able to explore whether there are other mechanisms for us to distribute this money outside of these big contract models, or RFP models.
So that's what I wanted to share.

CHAIR FORNACIARI: Thank you, Commissioner Le Mons.

I -- you know what, and I apologize, I don't want to interrupt. But we did -- I did forget to ask for public comment after speakers. Do we want to do that now and then -- so I'll ask for public comment for the -- from Jesse for public comment on our presenters that we just had. So if you could read the instructions, and then we'll come right back to this. I apologize; I didn't mean to -- I don't mean to interrupt, but I did want to do that part.

COMMENT MODERATOR: In order to maximize transparency and public participation in our process, the Commissioners will be taking public comment by phone. To call in, dial the telephone number provided on the live stream feed. The telephone number is (877) 853-5247. When prompted, enter the meeting ID number provided on the live stream feed. It is 93489457215 for this week's meeting. When prompted to enter a participant ID, simply press pound.

Once you have dialed in, you will be placed in a queue, from which a moderator will begin unmuting callers to submit their comments. You will also hear an automated message to press star, 9. Please do this to raise your hand, indicating you wish to comment.
When it is your turn to speak, the moderator will unmute you, and you will hear an automated message that says the host would like you to talk, and press star, 6 to speak.

Please make sure to mute your computer or live stream audio to prevent any feedback or distortion during your call. Once you are waiting in the queue, be alert to when it is your turn to speak. And again, please turn down the live stream volume.

These instructions are also located on the website.

The Commission is taking public comment on the presenters at this time.

CHAIR FORNACIARI: Thanks, Jesse. You know, we'll give a minute for the folks to call in, but I think Commissioner Sinay wanted to -- do you want to wait, or do you want to go ahead and start your comment, and then if someone calls in, we can take their comment?

COMMISSIONER SINAY: Let me start -- thank you, Commissioner Le Mons. I've been getting pings from different people at different times, and I'm sure Commissioner Vazquez is as well. And we have been taking in all these different ideas and thoughts, and we will be presenting, you know, that straw -- that straw plan that's been asked, that includes a lot of these things. And Commissioner Le Mons, we're completely on the
same page of trying to figure out -- that's why we keep asking direct -- the direct, you know, Director Claypool, what does he mean by grants and what does that -- and we've been trying to explore that option with him, but we've also been talking with Philanthropy California and others to see, how do we create the most simple -- I don't know if simple's the right word, so you all can provide a better one, but the best way to reach the most vulnerable communities. Not vulnerable, hard-to-reach communities, I don't know. Excuse the words, the exact words, but the theme is the same.

So keep sending us your ideas and thoughts, and we'll -- and even during the presentation, I was putting in things. So we are taking everything plus our experiences and putting it together so that we can share with you all at the next meeting and start moving on this.

But the key piece that's missing is that information from Director Claypool.

CHAIR FORNACIARI: Any other thoughts, comments?

Okay, very good. We don't have any callers in the queue at this point. But any other -- Commissioner Andersen?

COMMISSIONER ANDERSEN: Since we're sort of pausing here, I just really wanted to -- and she took off before I could say it. I really wanted to uplift Tavae -- Te-
VEE, Ta-VEE?

CHAIR FORNACIARI: Ta-VIE.

COMMISSIONER ANDERSEN: Tavae. Thank you. Tavae.

Her bringing up its Samoa. It's not Samoa, as many Americans think and all different -- it is Samoa. And I really appreciate that because it's something that's misspoken most of the time.

Also, she did address the idea that yes, Samoans can be conscripted or, you know, join the military, but do not have the right to vote. But I just want to say for the general public, do not worry; that is not part of our redistricting process. In California, who is eligible to vote, who is not eligible to vote; that does not matter. We must count and redistrict all Californians. So that is something to bring up, in terms of justice, particularly language justice, but in terms of our redistricting, not only are we listening to people, but we're looking for people.

So I just wanted to really appreciate all the speakers, and I really appreciate the language access to bring in these different groups of people who often, in terms of the general public, don't know about, or don't necessarily quite even understand how to pronounce the name, so great job. Thank you.

CHAIR FORNACIARI: Thank you, Commissioner Andersen.
Any other thoughts? Okay.

So let's see, we left off on item number 14, we didn't get too far along on the list. Just want to kind of take everybody -- sort of a pulse of the Commission. I mean, we have to spend some time talking about future agenda items; that's also on the list. And then take final public comment.

So you know, it's 4 o'clock. I just want to check in with everyone; do we want to jump back in and work on item 14 for another half hour or so, and then follow up with -- then go on to discussion of future agenda items, although I think at this point, Commissioner Kennedy, your agenda is out?

VICE CHAIR KENNEDY: It is out, but it has a couple of flexible elements, and particularly given the discussion with the presenters just now, if we wanted to have some of them back to have this discussion of what sort of financing would they need to carry out what sort of scope of work, the global access topic says, you know, to be updated as speakers are confirmed. I, you know, I'm happy to entertain bringing some folks back and having that conversation, because I think that it is a conversation that we need to have, and one that we need to have sooner rather than later. So I'm, you know, I'm certainly amenable to making some adjustments and using
times flexibly and intelligently, so.

CHAIR FORNACIARI: Good, so what --

VICE CHAIR KENNEDY: I would appreciate a good
discussion on future agenda items because, you know, I --

CHAIR FORNACIARI: Okay, well, let's --

VICE CHAIR KENNEDY: -- await the responses.

CHAIR FORNACIARI: Let's do that now. Just we -- we
got to make sure we get that done.

And so I saw Commissioner Fernandez and then
 Commissioner Sinay.

Can't hear you.

COMMISSIONER FERNANDEZ: Not -- still, oh. I wasn't
looking down this time; I was actually looking straight.
I feel like I can't move now.

CHAIR FORNACIARI: It's really more, like, leaning
forward is --

COMMISSIONER FERNANDEZ: Okay.

CHAIR FORNACIARI: -- required.

COMMISSIONER FERNANDEZ: I'll move my computer
closer to me.

For the global access, Commissioner Akutagawa and I
are -- we have at least, I think two speakers; we're
trying to get four total, because that'll be our last, I
think, presentation, and then we also want to discuss
some of our recommendations. So based on how long we
went today, if we try to fit something else in, it might make us go over. So I was just trying to give you a little forewarning right now.

CHAIR FORNACIARI: Perfect, thank you.

Commissioner Sinay?

COMMISSIONER SINAY: I think it's difficult to invite just specific organizations to come and have that conversation because organizations are so different and the needs are so different. And in the sense of equity, you also have, you know, it's -- I can't remember how many millions of nonprofits we have in California.

What I would like us to think about is, as you're speaking in your regions, as you're doing the outreach and looking into the different groups, maybe that's a question to ask.

I can tell you that Philanthropy California, the grants they just made in their regions -- or they're making in their regions, are at $75,000. And those are -- they're not local based -- they're based, you know, a region like the Bay Area or Sacramento or that type. So we -- so that's just a -- I kind of thought that using the -- you know, the census had millions more money -- millions more dollars than we all had. And so it's how do we complement what Philanthropy California's already funded, which is some of the statewide
organizations to do the -- how to use the tool workshops
for nonprofits, and they're doing some of those things,
and creating the material, and then how that, you know,
so -- so there's a lot of different pieces, but I think
it would be difficult to say, okay, let's invite the same
groups we already had because there's so many groups out
there, and the answers are going to be all, you know,
varied, as they were explaining to us, based on the cost
of start -- you know, starting up to --

CHAIR FORNACIARI: So do you know how much the
census, what their budget was? I mean, the State Census
office? How much did they spend? You're muted.

COMMISSIONER SINAY: I have it somewhere, but it was
over 100 million.

CHAIR FORNACIARI: Oh. So I can order
(indiscernible) that we have. Okay.

COMMISSIONER SINAY: Yes, but they want us to be
able to use a lot of their infrastructure, and that's why
the director's coming to talk to us about it and see what
we can build on, you know. They have certain things they
already created that we can build on. But yeah, their
budget was a whole different world than what ours is
right now.

CHAIR FORNACIARI: Wow, okay. All right, so any
other input to Commissioner Kennedy for the agenda for
the meeting on the 16th or, I think it's the 16th, or
even the following -- are there items for the agenda on
the following meeting that we want to make sure get on
there offhand.

Commissioner Fernandez?

COMMISSIONER FERNANDEZ: Not that I want -- wait,
here I go. Get close. We're just going to continue to
do the policies, right? So like, a couple at a time?

CHAIR FORNACIARI: Yeah, so you know, we --

COMMISSIONER FERNANDEZ: Okay, so if we can just get
on the agenda for that so that there's action items.

CHAIR FORNACIARI: Yeah, definitely.

VICE CHAIR KENNEDY: And could I ask about the VRA
training that we agreed to remove from the agenda for the
16th through the 18th; is that something that we need to
put on the agenda for early December?

COMMISSIONER SADHWANI: So we haven't been able to
confirm anyone as of yet for the November 16th through
18th; however, we do anticipate sharing with you all an
RFP for review.

If we can possibly keep space on that agenda, if
there is space, we would still love to have at least an
introductory training so that before your -- before the
full Commission has to approve of an RFP, that at least
there's some kind of background of what we should be
looking for here. And so we do have a request out to
Justin Levitt. We had a couple others out, and we
haven't been able to confirm them.

I think a lot of the folks who do this kind of
training and analysis are extraordinarily -- have been
extraordinarily busy with the election. I think we'll be
able to get more folks later, but I do -- if it's
possible to maintain even just like an hour, you know,
and assuming we can confirm, hopefully Justin Levitt,
that would be ideal.

I understand, though, that we have packed agenda.
So if it's not possible, I do understand. But my
preference would be that all Commissioners have a little
bit of training before you have to approve of an RFP so
that you understand what's at stake.

COMMISSIONER YEE: So this is for the VRA council,
the outside council for later litigation, and we also
need some discussion about VRA and RP -- voting rights
act and racially equalized voting analysts, and we need
some discussions, decisions about how to approach that,
those hires.

CHAIR FORNACIARI: Okay, so you got four that you're
bringing forward. Then we have the line drawing one
probably that we'll be reviewing, so that's five. And is
that all five? There's no other ones? Okay.
Okay, Commissioner Sinay?

COMMISSIONER SINAY: I just looked up my notes. I'm terrible with numbers; I always told my students, only quote my numbers if it's on a slide. It was $187 million that the census had.

CHAIR FORNACIARI: Wow, okay. That's a pretty good budget.

Okay. Well, if there -- and if any other subcommittees think about needing an action, then get that to Commissioner Kennedy. It's probably a -- it's a little late for the 16th, but for the following meeting, if you feel like you're going to have a decision point at that time, then get that to Commissioner Kennedy as soon as you can frame it. That would help him a lot, too.

All right, very good. Okay. So it's 4:05. We have a -- we have to break at 4:45, but so what I would propose is let's go back to item number 14 until 4:30, and we'll get as far as we can. Then we'll take public comment, and we'll call it a day. Does that seem like a reasonable approach? Okay.

Are you okay, Angela? I mean, Commissioner -- are you okay?

COMMISSIONER VAZQUEZ: Yes, sorry. Sorry, I've had a migraine all day, COVID gifts that keep on giving.

CHAIR FORNACIARI: Sorry about that.
Okay, well, we'll carry on then. So let me share my
screen again. Okay, can you all see that? Okay.

So the next topic was voting options. I mean, we
touched on that already a little bit, but the real point
here I wanted to just bring up was, you know, we've been
doing it alphabetical and starting with the same person
every time. And you know, I'm not -- so I mean, one
option is to do alphabetical, but switch to the next
person and so we end up going around and everybody gets a
chance to be first and to be last. But we do have the
pass option. But you know, that gets little awkward and
then, random. I mean, I kind of like the idea of just
alphabetical switching every time, just so the same
people aren't going first all the time.

Does that sound reasonable? I mean, it'll be easier
to track. We did random. I don't know how we managed
that. Okay.

Commissioner Ahmad?

COMMISSIONER AHMAD: Just on that as a person who is
voting first a lot by nature of my last name, I'm fine
with keeping with alphabetical. Just so that it's easier
for whoever is calling roll for votes, trying to keep
track of the order from meeting to meeting, or from item
to item, might get confusing.

So I'm just -- I'm okay with that if that was a
point of consideration.

CHAIR FORNACIARI: Well, I mean, it definitely was. You know, I'm throwing it out there. If we're happy with the way we're doing it now, let's just stick with it and move on, okay? We're happy? Stick with it and move on? Yeah, I've got -- okay. All right, All right. Good deal.

Okay. So I added this --

COMMISSIONER SINAY: Kennedy is trying to get your attention.

CHAIR FORNACIARI: I'm sorry, who is?

Oh, you're in charge --

VICE CHAIR KENNEDY: I was.

CHAIR FORNACIARI: But you're in charge of the speaker so you can speak when you want.

VICE CHAIR KENNEDY: I mean, I'm okay with it as it like it is. And particularly since people do have the pass option and I, you know, I don't see awkwardness in the pass option. But another option if we did want something else is that, we start with the person after the Chair so that the Chair always votes last.

CHAIR FORNACIARI: That would definitely rotate it around.

Do you want to comment, Commissioner Andersen?

COMMISSIONER ANDERSEN: Yes. Now, let's say
Commissioner Yee, who is at the bottom and always has to go last, I'd like to hear from him. Because, you know, being an A all my life, you know, you're ready. Like, oh, my God, I've got to come up with an answer. No matter, you know, they're going to call on me. And so you're kind of already attuned to that, in terms of that stress.

In terms of it being -- is it not being fair, if that's the issue, then let's hear from people who are lower in the alphabet to see. But otherwise, you know, does it really matter? You know, just stick one way, and then we're done. Let's -- next, essentially, you know?

Next item. So let's hear from Commissioner Yee.

CHAIR FORNACIARI: Commissioner Yee?

COMMISSIONER YEE: I'm getting called on today. It matters to me. I mean, you get a sense of how the votes going, which is you know, if you're later, that's something you get that others don't. But that doesn't seem to matter to everyone equally either. I like it but you know, very happy to share the blessings of that.

And I mean, pretty sure Kennedy's proposition would be probably the easiest to implement and would ensure, you know, circling around fully, whereas to just go down to up, up to down, you know, then everyone in the middle is always in the middle. But don't feel strongly about
it, yeah. But yeah, I feel that it does give me a slight advantage of knowing how the wind is blowing.

CHAIR FORNACIARI: Does anyone with the letter V in their last name have a comment?

Commissioner Vasquez?

COMMISSIONER VASQUEZ: Yeah. I like being last in this case. It drove me nuts in school when I always had the right answer. But yeah, I like it. And so I would be happy for others to experience that. I rarely experience the Commissioner Andersen and Ahmed problem of getting called on first. And I do think Commissioner Kennedy's proposal would be the easiest to implement if we wanted to do something different. So yeah, I think trying to make it easy and not particular challenging for whomever is calling the roll is also a priority. Because I don't think this that much of an issue whichever way we go.

CHAIR FORNACIARI: Okay. Well, how would you guys feel about -- let's try Commissioner Kennedy's suggestion and if we feel like we need to do something different down the road, we can revisit it; is that okay? Okay. And we'll add that to the list. Beautiful. I don't know that this next part is controversial. I just want to kind of capture it. I just thought it was important that we -- because we had a few times where
we -- the break we had to take was right in the middle of
our speakers. And today, we went long and you know,
didn't have a choice. But you know, I'd like to see if
we can try to sync up our breaks with our speakers.
Commissioner Fernandez?
I'm sorry. Commissioner Kennedy, I'm stepping all
over you.
COMMISSIONER FERNANDEZ: Oh, it's fine, yes.
CHAIR FORNACIARI: Are you -- okay, go ahead.
VICE CHAIR KENNEDY: I'm just a spotter. He called
on you more than letting me talk.
COMMISSIONER FERNANDEZ: No. I do like that number
2 and that's what Commissioner Akutagawa and I have been
working with. So we were trying, you know, plan out when
the breaks would be so that they're going to make a 15
minute beforehand. And I think that's a really good idea
because it, you know, they are going out of their way to
come to speak to us. I appreciate you putting that in
there.
CHAIR FORNACIARI: Commissioner Le Mons?
COMMISSIONER LE MONS: I just wanted to say that I
support that as well. And Commissioner Kennedy and I's
discussion about planning the upcoming agenda, we talked
about the importance of having them come so that they're
not in the middle of breaks and things like that. So I
think that it's respectful. At least it's thought
trough, you know, in the front end. Sometimes we will
go a little over, whatever. But if we're thinking about
it, we'll minimize that kind of disruption or having them
just waiting.

CHAIR FORNACIARI: Okay. I don't think it's
controversial or anything. So I just propose that we
move on. Okay.

All right. So this is where I've kind of captured
some ideas that I heard from the fellow Commissioner on
kind of have managed discussion. You know, again, I
certainly don't want to -- it's important that everyone
is heard. I'm not sure how everyone kind of feels about
these ideas or not. But I want to kind of throw it out
there because it's come up and some folks have suggested
some ideas.

So thought we could just go by and through them one
at a time. So I think this was -- one was from
Commissioner Kennedy the other day. Although, this
meeting we kind of plowed through the subcommittee
reports. I think that was partly due to the fact that it
was two days, you know, we had two days between meetings.
So nothing really happened.

Now, that we're going to be having two weeks between
meetings, you know, this might be valuable. I think it
just helps folks really focus on what's important. But
you know, again, I don't want to be in a place where
we're limiting -- people feel like they're limited.

So Commissioner Kennedy and Fernandez?

VICE CHAIR KENNEDY: Yeah. I mean, just to say that
at five minutes per and we -- I think I counted. We
actually have thirteen but we'll soon have twelve once we
are finished with the Deputy Executive Director
subcommittee. But twelve subcommittees at five minutes
each, that's an hour.

And you know, for the foreseeable future, the
Lessons Learned subcommittee isn't going to have much to
say, other than, keep the lessons learned coming. You
know, others will have more. But you know, I think once
we spend -- if we need to spend more than an hour on
subcommittee reports, people need to let the Chair know
that they're going to need additional time.

It's not necessarily or I wasn't necessarily
proposing that only those subcommittees requiring a vote
on something would need to schedule additional time. My
idea was that anybody who needs more than five minutes
should, you know, just let us know whether there's a vote
involved or not.

CHAIR FORNACIARI: Yeah. Okay, thank you.

I have something to say after, I think Fernandez,
who's going to go and then, Sinay.

COMMISSIONER FERNANDEZ: Yes. I'd to visit them.

It makes it easier to determine how many items you can have. Also, maybe if we just -- I just looked down, sorry -- if we just change it to stay along that kind of five minute, unless approval of an action item is required? Is that what you meant, like unless approval of an action item is required?

VICE CHAIR KENNEDY: No. I think any subcommittees that feels like it's important to have a discussion on a subject, that it's going to last more than five minutes, have that opportunity. But I would propose that we schedule those separate from subcommittee reports.

CHAIR FORNACIARI: Oh, I see.

COMMISSIONER FERNANDEZ: Oh, okay.

VICE CHAIR KENNEDY: Discreet items.

CHAIR FORNACIARI: Okay.

COMMISSIONER FERNANDEZ: I just want to run it out there. I like the way they did it in this agenda, where if it was -- an approval was like on the policies and procedures, that it was discussed then, instead of making it a separate action item. I don't know.

CHAIR FORNACIARI: I'm just writing it down. It's not etched in stone or not.

COMMISSIONER SINAY: Is it okay if I go?
CHAIR FORNACIARI: Yeah. I don't really like the way I'm facilitating this discussion. But yes, you can go on.

COMMISSIONER SINAY: You're doing fine.

CHAIR FORNACIARI: No, I'm not.

Go ahead, Commissioner Sinay.

COMMISSIONER SINAY: I just want to remind us that this is the area that is our flexible area and it's actually where we do the most work. And the reason we set up the agenda this way is so that we could bring things that we might have been able to -- we didn't know two weeks ahead of time.

So my concern is, I think people have really, actually managed this piece really well. And that just said, okay, we have nothing, or we'll talk about it. I haven't seen this be the area where we have the most problems. And I do see, as we were talking on Wednesday, there is a lot of intersection between the subcommittees. And so this is a time to actually to have some of those intersection conversations. And I would, you know, it would great for us to bring up those, you know -- think about, hey, we're thinking about this but we know that it's part of over here. So to me, this is the heart of our work, is what all the subcommittees are doing.

And this is when the committees -- subcommittees get
to bring it to the full commission, and get a little bit
of input or a lot of input, and take it back, work on it
a little more. So I would -- I'm kind of opposed to
putting that time limit on it.

CHAIR FORNACIARI: Okay.

VICE CHAIR KENNEDY: The intent is not to limit it.
The intent is to facilitate the Chair in building the
agenda knowing how much time is going to be needed. So
let me rephrase this and say, not schedule it as a
separate item. But if a subcommittee needs more than
five minutes, I think it's important for the Chair of the
meeting to know beforehand, while the agenda is being put
together so that, you know, it can be planned
accordingly.

CHAIR FORNACIARI: So are you --

VICE CHAIR KENNEDY: May I -- okay.

CHAIR FORNACIARI: So can I follow up with
Commissioner Sinay, first?

VICE CHAIR KENNEDY: Yes.

CHAIR FORNACIARI: So are you thinking that -- so I
could envision that you might be thinking that there's a,
you know, we're having a cross conversation with two
committees that have intersecting responsibilities and we
don't know that it's going to be an extra time that we're
going to need to do that or not? Okay, yeah. I can see
that.

Marian?

MS. JOHNSTON: The reason for having the agenda with
the notice requirements is to give the public advance
notice of what's going to be discussed. And if it's just
a comment update from whatever committee, that really
doesn't give much notice. If it's just a brief
announcement, that's fine. But if you're going to be
having a substantive discussion or anything, that topic
really needs to be identified in the agenda to give the
public notice.

CHAIR FORNACIARI: Okay. All right. So what I
don't like about the way I'm facilitating this
conversation is I said, this is just my list. And then,
I'm going through my list. I haven't left space for
anybody to provide kind of input on this and, you know,
and thoughts on this. And I don't think that's a very
good idea.

And I saw Commissioner Andersen and then,
Commissioner Vasquez, and I don't think -- I don't know
who had their hand up first.

COMMISSIONER VASQUEZ: Go ahead, Commissioner
Andersen.

COMMISSIONER ANDERSEN: Okay. I can't actually see
you because of the shared screen. So I apologize. I was
just going to say, the way Commissioner Kennedy is
describing it is basically, it's a time -- assume five
minutes per subcommittee report. And if deeper
discussions are warranted, please notify a Chair.

And you know how we've been putting a little bullet
under? And it says something as simple as, you know --
where is one of them -- you know, report on, or potential
approval of, or action, maybe, or it could be something
else. But it's generally five minutes because I totally
agree with Commissioner Sinay, that usually like in a
case, I actually did that specifically.

I connected with other subcommittees. So I think it
was very fruitful. But I did have a bullet, like a
little bullet below my item, thinking it's going to be
more than five minutes. And that sort of incorporated
different ideas. And I think the -- sometimes it might
go seven, eight because you know, something happened and
people wanted to talk about it a little longer.

I think that's okay because several items, as
Commissioner Kennedy just said, usually say Lessons
Learned said the idea is coming. Great, next. So I
think it allows for -- the idea here is, we know it's
about an hour. And if we have bullets, it's going to be
more than an hour.

And so it's the idea of the Chair can come up with
what they think. So then, I think in terms of typing up
the actual wording here, that's slowing us down. Maybe
we could just sort of say, unless, Commissioner
Fornaciari, you're okay with the way this is happening
but I think you're not.

So I would sort of recommend let's have a quick
discussion. Well, we can't really come back with -- and
then, can we come back with this on next meeting, in
terms of just then approving everything? Or if that's
too long, we can continue. But --

CHAIR FORNACIARI: No. This is obviously a much
longer than we have time for at this time. And again, I
mean, I don't to want to ram my thoughts down the
Commissions' throats. You know, I'd like to provide an
opportunity for folks to maybe think about this a little
more and provide their thoughts, if they're so inclined.
I mean, we're not going to have time to get through this
today, you know? We're just not. And so you know, I
think we made a good start here. But I would just
suggest at this point, since we're, you know, just a few
minutes before 4:30 anyway, that we table this at this
point and add it to, you know, a future agenda.

Commissioner Fernandez -- I am sorry. Commissioner
Vasquez and then Commissioner Fernandez.

COMMISSIONER VASQUEZ: I was actually just going to
actually offer that we do that, Commissioner Fornaciari,
because I do think this is a larger conversation. And
I'll just say, my impression of this managing discussion,
I think I'm of sort -- I'm of the mind of that we -- I
would like to allow the space for the Chairs to
facilitate and manage the discussion how they see fit.

That's sort of the Chair's prerogative. And I think
that's also part of why we should continue to rotate the
Chairship. Because some of us like the discussion, and
the style, and how we feel most -- discussions are most
productive, or when they're sort of -- they develop
organically.

Some have a more structured facilitation style and
some want to make to make sure a thread of conversation
gets closed out before we open a new one. And then,
there are others who are going to be very, you know,
business like. And we're going to give this discussion
twenty minutes and everyone's going to have a chance to
do a round robin.

And then, we're going to vote and we're going to
move on, right? And so I don't know. Maybe this is the
notion that facilitation is an art. And so we should let
each Chair define and discover what works best for them.
And we're all going to have preferences and opinions.
And we're going to like people's styles better than
others.

But I'm comfortable with that ride. Because we're going to have moments where we're uncomfortable and where we're jiving. So -- where we're like in alignment with other people's style. So I think we should --

CHAIR FORNACIARI: Okay.

COMMISSIONER VASQUEZ: -- allow space for that.

CHAIR FORNACIARI: Okay. And then -- thank you for that.

And then, Commissioner Fernandez?

COMMISSIONER FERNANDEZ: At the end of today, I appreciate (indiscernible) --

CHAIR FORNACIARI: Put your --

COMMISSIONER FERNANDEZ: I'm sorry.

(Indiscernible).

CHAIR FORNACIARI: Look right at us.

COMMISSIONER FERNANDEZ: Okay. I like having ground rules. I like the business model of it. And what I was going to suggest is because it is a lengthy document, if we could all maybe go back, look at it, and then maybe provide you with feedback.

That way when we come back, and if we choose to discuss it again, at least it's not the first time that we're really looking at it per se, that it would include everybody's opinions, instead of going through and having
everybody give their separate opinion. I don't know, just trying to think of a more efficient, effective way of doing this.

CHAIR FORNACIARI: Yes, Commissioner Vasquez?

VICE CHAIR KENNEDY: Commissioner Yee?

CHAIR FORNACIARI: Oh, Yee?

COMMISSIONER VASQUEZ: Yeah. Commissioner --

VICE CHAIR KENNEDY: Yeah, Yee had his hand up a while ago.

COMMISSIONER VASQUEZ: A while ago, yeah. I do remember that.

CHAIR FORNACIARI: Commissioner Yee?

COMMISSIONER YEE: I'll pass.

CHAIR FORNACIARI: Commissioner Vasquez?

COMMISSIONER VASQUEZ: I agree with Commissioner Fernandez. Although, I will say for our ground rules, I like a lot of what is here. But what I have found works best for groups, is if we start with a blank sheet of paper, we can all refer to these, and put what we want. But I do think, particularly, the ground rules, it really -- there is something to be said about starting with a blank paper and having people put, you know, make suggestions with a blank slate for these particular things. And so that --

CHAIR FORNACIARI: Right.
COMMISSIONER VASQUEZ: -- feels like a discussion we should make space for.

CHAIR FORNACIARI: So what I was thinking of doing in that case, although, I won't be the Chair at that time but I could still lead it or whatever, was getting that Post-it board with Nero. And just have everybody write five of them or something. Because -- yeah, I mean, something like that, we have to own it, right? We can't just adopt another list.

And I just, frankly, I'll just tell you. I've plagiarized this list from two years of grand juries. So it just was ideas. But I agree a hundred percent. This is something we need to develop and own ourselves. But I thought it would be kind of more interactive and more kind of interesting maybe if we did the post note thing.

And then, we can do -- there's a voting option there. And you can pick the ones you like, and we can kind of narrow it down that way, and do something more like we would be doing if we were all sitting in the same room. So okay, I appreciate that.

So -- yeah, send me your feedback on this and thoughts. And I'll continue to sort of mull it over. And we'll bring this back probably meeting after next, unfortunately, at this point.

So at this point, unless there are other
comments -- oh, Commissioner Le Mons?

COMMISSIONER LE MONS: Is it possible to segregate out the managing discussion portion and just adopt the stuff that we went over earlier so that that doesn't have to wait a couple weeks to be --

CHAIR FORNACIARI: Yeah, yeah. We can definitely do that.

COMMISSIONER LE MONS: -- implemented?

CHAIR FORNACIARI: Yeah, yeah. I was -- yeah, great idea.

Okay. I kind of felt like as we went along, we've adopted these things. So I was going to write them up, capture them in a document -- stand-alone document. And then, I was thinking we're going to work the rest.

Is that good, Commissioner Le Mons?

COMMISSIONER LE MONS: I guess, the part that confused me is, you said that we'd see this probably in a couple weeks. So like not the next meeting but the next meeting. So I didn't understand what -- I'm confused now.

CHAIR FORNACIARI: So --

COMMISSIONER LE MONS: Because if we've adopted the other things, then why do we have to wait for two more meeting to whatever that is you're describing as a process to put it forward, when it sounds like the
managing discussion portion is the portion is requiring additional -- and think, number 5 earlier are requiring additional discussion.

So I would think that we are agreeing to adopt it now and it's effective next meeting. That would be my thought. So that's why I'm confused because you said, you'll work on it, except ideas, and then you'll bring it back, not next meeting but the next meeting. So that just says to me that this won't get revisited for a couple meetings. I could have just misunderstood.

CHAIR FORNACIARI: So yeah, I kind of felt like the parts that we've already agreed to above, that we agreed to that. I felt like the managing discussions part and the ground rules part, we haven't talked about, and that we would talk about those two parts in a later meeting. That's what I meant.

Does that make sense?

COMMISSIONER LE MONS: Yes. So is there going to be some distribution under there with some edits earlier.

CHAIR FORNACIARI: Right.

COMMISSIONER LE MONS: This is like a working document. So I guess, is that part going to be segregated out and distributed to us?

CHAIR FORNACIARI: Yes.

COMMISSIONER LE MONS: And then we know -- so that
was the part that I didn't understand before.

CHAIR FORNACIARI: Yeah, I'm sorry. Yeah, I wasn't clear. Okay, yes. Okay. All right, great. Thanks everyone.

Jesse, can you read the directions for general public comment, please?

PUBLIC COMMENT MODERATOR: In order to --

CHAIR FORNACIARI: Did you have something Commissioner Ahmad?

Okay.

PUBLIC COMMENT MODERATOR: In order to maximize transparency and public participation in our process, the Commissioners will be talking public comment by phone. To call in, dial the telephone number provided on the live stream feed. The telephone number is 877-853-5247. When prompted, enter the meeting ID number provided on the live stream feed. It is 93489457215, for this week's meeting. When prompted to enter a participant ID, simply press pound. Once you have dialed in, you'll be placed in a queue, from which a moderator will begin unmuting callers to submit their comment.

You will also hear an automated message to press star 9. Please do this to raise your hand indicating you wish to comment. When it is your turn to speak, the moderator will unmute you and you'll hear an automated
message that says, the host would like you to talk, and
press start star 6 to speak. Please make sure to mute
your computer or live stream audio to prevent any
feedback or distortion during your call.

Once you are waiting in the queue, be alert when it
is your turn to speak. And again, please turn down the
live stream volume. These instructions are also located
on the website. The Commission is taking general public
comment at this time.

CHAIR FORNACIARI: Thanks for that.

We will -- sorry, my dog is having a something. I
don't know. Anyway, we'll wait till the instructions are
done then, wait a minute or so.

COMMISSIONER VASQUEZ: Chair?

CHAIR FORNACIARI: Yes, Commissioner Vasquez?

COMMISSIONER VASQUEZ: While we're waiting and in
the spirit of our wonderful presentations today, and for
transparency with the public, you may have seen me here
in this meeting and also in previous meetings, I'm doing
a lot of rubbing of my head and rolling, you know,
rolling my neck. And that this merely a hundred percent
because of some neurological and painful conditions I've
developed from COVID. And so as our speaker said, most
folk -- many folks don't acknowledge or aren't forthright
about their disability. And I've been -- I think I've
been pushing myself to be more appearing of normal, but
my pain is coming through. And my challenges on my
nervous system are coming through. And I think again, in
the spirit of being transparent both for the public, it is
not a manifestation of my emotional state or how I'm
responding to a discussion. It is just that being on
Zoom is -- it can be physically painful and
physiologically really stressful on my body. And so I
actually may -- it means that I should probably be more
mindful of my own stress level, and will probably be more
off camera if there are discussions I'm not trying to
actively participate in. Because laying down actually
eases a lot of my symptoms. So spending all day upright
is also especially challenging for me. So just as a flag
for my colleagues and for the public, that is often what
is happening is that, I'm just in a lot of pain and
physiologically run down.

CHAIR FORNACIARI: Thanks, Angela for sharing that.
I appreciate it. And, you know, sorry about your pain.
That's not fun. Well, I'll just share too, since you
shared.

I keep doing this because I'm trying to take the
weight -- I'm in a wheelchair. Most I guess, you guys
all know that but maybe the public doesn't.

But taking the weight off just sitting here, you
know, for six hours a day really is a pain in the you
know what. And so with that, thank you all for this
meeting. And I appreciate it.

We have no callers in the queue. And so at this
point, I'm going to adjourn this meeting and we will be
together -- who's --

VICE CHAIR KENNEDY: Commissioner Sinay had her hand
up.

CHAIR FORNACIARI: Oh, I'm sorry. I didn't see.

COMMISSIONER SINAY: Oh, I just wanted to check in
on Commissioner Toledo because we haven't heard a peep
from him today.

COMMISSIONER TOLEDO: No. I'm just --

COMMISSIONER SINAY: I'm just calling people out.

COMMISSIONER TOLEDO: I've just been having little
migraine the last couple of days so.

CHAIR FORNACIARI: Oh. Well, sorry about that.

COMMISSIONER TOLEDO: Oh, thank you.

COMMISSIONER SINAY: I'm sorry to hear that. But I
just want you to know that we did see you.

COMMISSIONER TOLEDO: Thank you.

CHAIR FORNACIARI: Yes, yeah.

Okay. All right. Well, thank you all. And we'll
call this meeting adjourned and see you all in a couple
weeks.
And I'm sure we'll be talking in the meantime.

COMMISSIONER ANDERSEN: Nice job, Chair.

(Whereupon, the CRC Business Meeting adjourned at 5:33 p.m.)
CERTIFICATE OF TRANSCRIBER

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LORI RAHTES, CDLT-108

May 30, 2022
DATE